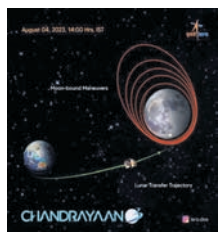




## GLOBAL GLORY

Mrunal Thakur to be honoured with prestigious Diversity in Cinema Award at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

LEISURE P2



## CRUCIAL MANOEUVRE

In a crucial manoeuvre, Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft will be injected into the Moon's orbit, today

INTERNATIONAL P10



## HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT

Women's compound team secure India's first-ever gold medal at World Archery Championships

SPORTS P12

# Stay for Rahul

Supreme Court relief paves way for Congress leader's return to Parliament

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, August 4: The Supreme Court Friday stayed the conviction of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case for his 'Modi surname' remark made at an election rally in 2019.

A three-judge bench comprising Justices BR Gavai, PS Narasimha and Sanjay Kumar held that the trial court judge failed to give a single reason for awarding maximum punishment of two years to Gandhi in the defamation case. The bench also observed that the Gujarat High Court too skipped to address this aspect in its 'voluminous 120 page' judgement.

"When an offence is non-cognizable, bailable and compoundable, the trial court is expected to give some reasons why it felt necessary to award a maximum sentence," the bench said.

Significantly, the apex court ruling has paved the way for Rahul's return to the Parliament. Rahul can even participate in the no confidence motion brought against the Narendra Modi government if the Lok Sabha secre-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at AICC headquarters during a meeting, Friday.

PTI PHOTO

tariat restores his membership.

The apex court observed that Gandhi's membership of Parliament was annulled under Section 8(3) of the Representation

of People Act solely due to the two-year sentence.

"Had the duration of the sentence been a day less, provisions of the Act would not have been

attracted," the bench observed.

The bench further held that the disqualification not only affects the rights of the individual but also that of the electorate who

## 'Truth always triumphs'

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday said truth always triumphs and thanked people for their support, soon after the Supreme Court stayed his conviction in a defamation case. "Truth always triumphs, if not today then tomorrow or the day after. I thank people for their support," Gandhi said at a press conference. He said, "My path is clear to me (as to) what is my work, there is clarity in my mind about that. I thank the people who helped us and the people for their love and support that they extended."

have elected him to represent their constituency.

The top court also observed that a person in public life is expected to exercise a degree of caution while making public speeches. Rahul Gandhi ought to have been more careful while making public speeches, the bench said.

Rahul Gandhi, former MP from Wayanad, was charged over a remark made by him during a political rally in 2019 - "Why all thieves share Modi surname."

# Ratna Bhandar inspection during next Ratha Jatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, August 4: The inner chamber of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar will open during the 2024 Ratha Jatra for assessment of its structural stability by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), said Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) deputy chief administrator Samarth Verma after the 12th century shrine's managing committee meeting at Niladri Bhakta Niwas here, Friday.

According to Verma, ASI will assess the structural stability of the temple treasury when the presiding deities will be away at their aunt's place during the car festival. "If required, the ASI will carry out necessary repairs of the inner treasury," added Verma, who is also the Puri Collector.

Verma said the matter was discussed in the managing committee meeting following a letter by the ASI in this regard.

In April 2018, a similar attempt was made to open the inner treasury of the temple. However, the inspecting team had to return as the key to the inner chamber of the treasury was missing. The issue evoked sharp reaction from various



quarters, compelling the state government to appoint a commission of inquiry by a High Court judge.

The committee meeting resolved that the inspection will be conducted under the supervision of a committee led by a retired SC or HC judge, Verma said, adding that a resolution in this connection will be sent to the state government for approval.

Meanwhile, a technical team comprising engineers of ASI and some managing committee members will examine the exterior portion of inner Ratna Bhandar using laser imaging to assess the condition of the structure and file their report before the next managing committee meeting, Verma pointed out.

The meeting also discussed over the demand to open all gates of the 12th century shrine for devotees. The committee decided to continue the present system.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



What permission!? We are going to spread hate, not have a love marriage

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	65721.25 ↑ 480.57
NIFTY	19,517 ↑ 135.35
DOLLAR	82.59 ↑ ₹0.34
EURO	91.15 ↑ ₹0.47
GOLD	₹59,589 ↑ ₹157
SILVER	₹72,604 ↑ ₹82

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.7°C	32.5°C
TEMP MIN	24.2°C	25.0°C
Humidity	72%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	moderate rain or thundershower	

# 4 lakh affected by floods; 2 dead

51,678 people evacuated; water level in all rivers except Baitarani below danger mark

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 4: More than four lakh people in 21 districts were affected and two people died in floods and heavy rainfall in the state due to the recent deep depression.

According to sources in the office of Special Relief Commission (SRC), a total of 4,11,338 people in 1,889 villages of 667 panchayats under 136 blocks have been affected due to the natural calamity.

About 11,000 people in 10 districts—Bargarh, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Nabarangpur were affected due to heavy rainfall. As many as 739 houses in these districts were damaged due to heavy rain and 2804 people evacuated to safer places.

Similarly, nearly 4 lakh people in Angul, Boudh, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Balasore, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Nayagarh, Cuttack and Kendrapara districts were affected due to floods.

A total of 48,874 people have been evacuated from marooned villages to safer places in the above mentioned 11 districts. About 1590 houses were damaged in these districts.

Due to floods, two casualties were reported from Keonjhar (wall collapse) and Jajpur (drowning) districts.

Bhadrak and Jajpur districts were severely affected by floods. Over 1.81 lakh people in 326 villages were affected in Bhadrak alone, while more than 1 lakh people of 201 villages and one civic body were affected in Jajpur district.

Dry food and free kitchen services along with drinking water were being provided to the evacuated people.

Mahanadi is flowing below danger level at Naraj and is on a declining trend. Except Baitarani, all other major rivers are flowing below danger level. Baitarani is flowing at a water level of 17.94 metres at Akhuapada against the danger level of 17.83 metres. However, the river is also on a declining trend.

The overall flood situation in Mahanadi, Baitarani and Brahmani is under control, said engineer-in-chief of the Water Resources department, Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty.

There have been no reports of any untoward incident other than two small breaches - at Rasulpur and Teramanpur. The breaches will be repaired as soon as the water recedes, the engineer-in-chief said.

The water inflow into Hirakud dam is over 4.78 lakh cusecs and its level stood at 617.93 ft at 6 pm, Friday. Over 1.55 lakh cusec water is being discharged through 12 gates now.

# Oceans break heat record

AVERAGE DAILY GLOBAL SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE REACHES 20.96 DEGREE CELSIUS, FAR ABOVE THE AVERAGE FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR

AGENCIES

London, August 4: The oceans have hit their hottest ever recorded temperature, a development that is going to have widespread ramifications for the planet, the BBC reported.

The average daily global sea surface temperature beat a 2016 record this week, according to the EU's climate change service Copernicus. It reached 20.96 degree Celsius, far above the average for this time of year.

Oceans are a crucial climate regulator: They soak up heat, produce half of Earth's oxygen and drive weather patterns. Warmer waters have less ability to absorb carbon dioxide, leading to more of greenhouse gases staying



in the atmosphere. This can accelerate the melting of glaciers, leading to more sea level rise.

Besides, warm oceans and heatwaves disturb marine species like fish and whales as they move in search of cooler waters, upsetting the food chain. Experts warn that fish stocks could be affected.

Some predatory animals including sharks can become aggressive as they get confused in hotter temperatures, they say.

"The water feels like a bath when you jump in," says Dr Kathryn Lesneski, who is monitoring a marine heatwave in the Gulf of Mexico for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "There is widespread coral bleaching at shallow reefs in Florida and many corals have already died."

"We are putting oceans under more stress than we have done at any point in history," says Dr Matt Frost, from the Plymouth Marine Lab in the UK, referring to the fact pollution and overfishing also change the oceans.

Orissapost PRESENTS

# METTLE MEET 2023

A Quiz Extravaganza

BHUBANESWAR

## PRELIMS TODAY

Reviving Quizzing

**SPONSORS**



# leisure



## BILLIE PAYS TRIBUTE TO ANGUS AT LOLLAPALOOZA

Singer Billie Eilish paid a heartfelt tribute to late actor Angus Cloud, who passed away unexpectedly Monday at the age of 25. The *What Was I Made For?* singer took out a moment from her headlining set at Lollapalooza Thursday night to sing the number *Never Felt So Alone*, reports Page Six.

## TAYLOR SWIFT GRANTS CANADIAN PM'S WISH

Pop singer Taylor Swift has added six additional dates to her Eras Tour at the request of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Taking to her social media, the singer wrote, "Turns out it's NOT the end of an era, Miami, New Orleans, Indy and Toronto: The Eras Tour is coming back to you in 2024 with @graceieabrams!"



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You're finally impressed by the yogis. A degree course in Art of Living? Ganesh approves. You may even fulfill a desire to begin lessons in music or dance, or something that has interested you since long. A good, good day, and it smells of sweet success.

**TAURUS**  
You need to be very and practical and realistic in all that you do today, urges Ganesh. You are known to be pretty emotional and sensitive and generally go by your feelings. Your mind, your reason do not normally feature in your decision making. Even minor problems, complications get you worked up. Try to remain focused and down to earth this day.

**GEMINI**  
Your long-term goals seem to be shaping up well. You may also expect some good news, which will change the course of your life. Play a waiting game in matters of auctions and sealed tenders. And remember these words: Prevention is better than cure.

**CANCER**  
Today, you may focus your entire attention on your relationships - your ties with your parents, spouse, children, siblings and even neighbours. However, all that effort and energy may not get its due, and you may get a cold response from one or more of your relatives.

**LEO**  
The bourgeoisie feasted on cake, while the masses starved for want of a mere loaf of bread. Ganesh foresees something similar for you today, as you show the propensity to indulge in unwanted expenses. Whether it is impulsive decisions or compulsive buying, they shall not serve as an excuse on a later date when the milk is already spilt.

**VIRGO**  
You will be cool as a cucumber today. Nothing that happens will unsettle that composure, says Ganesh. Your loved ones will stand tall and strong behind you, and inspire you to overcome obstacles. Your work will reflect dedication, says Ganesh. Go ahead and ask for work that is intellectually taxing.

**LIBRA**  
Sit back and think hard - think about what is it that you really want when it comes to your business enterprises, because there are many ways to go about things at work, and they all shall lead you somewhere different. The stars favour you today with a golden touch, so take it in your stride and make hay while the sun shines. Learn to take charge and take initiatives, says Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
Today, Ganesh is in the mood to give you health tips. Cultivate healthy eating habits and exercise regularly to stay away from disorders like obesity. Irregular eating habits and unhealthy lifestyle may lead to many other troubles. Eat healthy, stay happy.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your friend base is slated to multiply today. At work, additional responsibilities will be thrust upon you, and you will also be given charge of new resources. Ganesh predicts you taking up the challenge and emerging triumphant in all spheres today.

**CAPRICORN**  
Overcome with feelings, you may take decisions that may stand in the way of success. Don't let your sentiments ruin your future prospects because the damage done will be beyond repair, warns Ganesh. Today, there are also chances that your down-to-earth nature and amiable approach will win the hearts of many.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will come out top in whatever you choose to do, and success will smell honeysuckle sweet! Naturally, recognition and rewards await you. Take your friends to that trendy cafe; you needn't wait for a reason to party, says Ganesh.

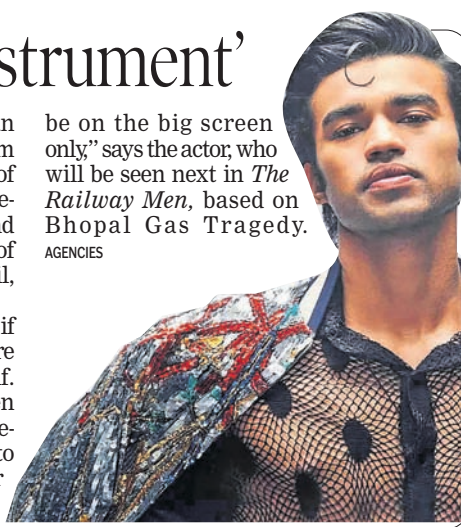
**PISCES**  
Major expenses are coming your way, but the good news is a lot of them can be avoided simply by drawing a line between your needs and your wants. Exercising a little restraint now will go a long way in boosting your savings later on, says Ganesh.

## 'In acting you are your instrument'

**Mumbai:** Actor Babil Khan talks about not having a big screen launch, and says he has no qualms about the medium people see him on.  
"I never had the desire *ki mujhe theatre mein ya big screen par hi aana hai*. I just wanted to work as an actor. I want to reach the audiences and their hearts. Now, whether it's through OTT, computers, phone, theatre, I don't care," he says.  
"Mujhe jo mila mene kar dia. I don't get scripts every day. Mujhe bharr bharr ke-

*fers nahin aate hain* that I can choose and decide which medium I want to work on. I give a lot of auditions and whenever I get selected, I just read the script, and if I like it, I do it irrespective of where it will release," says Babil, son of late actor Irrfan.  
"Acting is a profession where if you don't get work, it is hell. There is no medium except yourself. You are your instrument. When you are not getting work, it becomes torturous. So, I wanted to be a successful actor; but it never occurred to me that I wanted to

be on the big screen only," says the actor, who will be seen next in *The Railway Men*, based on Bhopal Gas Tragedy.  
AGENCIES



## Nora's resentment

**Mumbai:** Actress-dancer Nora Fatehi recently said that she does not think that because of her dance numbers filmmakers don't want to cast her in lead roles. In a new interview, she blamed filmmakers for not looking past 'four girls' and casting only them in their films.  
"I don't think because I dance is why they don't want to cast me. Our main iconic heroines in Bollywood have been dancers who perform beautifully. And they excel in dance numbers, right? That was just a part of the package of being like an iconic heroine. I don't think it was because of that. I think it was always, oh, I don't know. It's almost like let's see who will take the chance on me and if she delivers in all the categories, meaning, the acting skills, the presence, the aura, the ability to express the language skill, then we'll all jump on the opportunity," Nora told media.  
The *Street Dancer* actress added, "In today's highly competitive film industry, there are only a few opportunities for filmmakers. To succeed, one must think creatively and go beyond the limited options. By breaking into the small group of successful individuals, the chance of getting more projects increases."  
AGENCIES



## Kajol opens up on pay parity

**New Delhi:** Actress Kajol has been a part of the movies for over 30 years and for a large part of her career, she has been one of the most sought after actors in the Hindi film industry, recently responded about the pay parity of industry.  
At the Jagran Film Festival held in Delhi, the *Tribhanga* actress, who was asked about pay parity, responded, "When you start making a 'Wonder Woman' for India and it does equally well as a 'Pathaan', then maybe there will be pay equality." The mention of Shah Rukh Khan starrer *Pathaan* has grabbed eyeballs yet again. But it is to be noted that Kajol was only referring to the huge budget at which Siddharth Anand mounted the action drama, which went on to become the highest grosser of Hindi film industry in 2023.  
Many actresses in the past have demanded equal pay as their male colleagues. Kareena Kapoor Khan was unfortunate to have received backlash over allegedly demanding huge pay-to-play Sita in the *Ramayana*. Priyanka Chopra Jonas also revealed how she struggled all these years but was finally paid an equal sum as her

co-star Richard Madden in Russo Brothers' *Citadel*. Deepika Padukone recently revealed rejecting a movie because she wasn't getting an equal salary as the producers had to 'accommodate the male lead.'  
AGENCIES

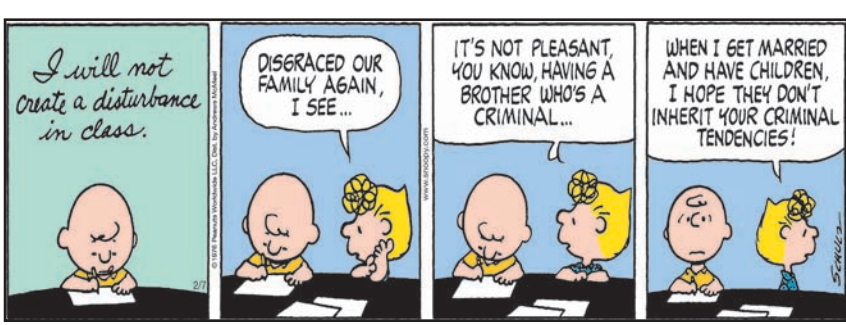


## Mrunal gearing up to push boundaries

**Mumbai:** Actress Mrunal Thakur is set to be honoured with the prestigious Diversity in Cinema Award at the upcoming Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.  
Speaking on this, the *Jersey* actress said, "I am truly honoured and humbled to receive the Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. This recognition reaffirms my belief in the

power of storytelling that transcends languages and cultures."  
She added, "As an artist, I've always aimed to explore a wide spectrum of characters, and this award motivates me to continue pushing boundaries and taking up roles that challenge and inspire me. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had and excited for what the future holds in this incredible journey of cinema."  
This recognition comes as she marks a pivotal milestone in her career - one year of successful foray into the world of South Indian cinema.  
From the impactful portrayal of *Sonia in Love* to her captivating performance as Sita Mahalakshmi in her debut Telugu film, Mrunal has effortlessly crossed linguistic boundaries to make her mark. Her cinematic journey has transcended linguistic barriers, with notable contributions in Hindi, Telugu, and Marathi cinema.  
IANS

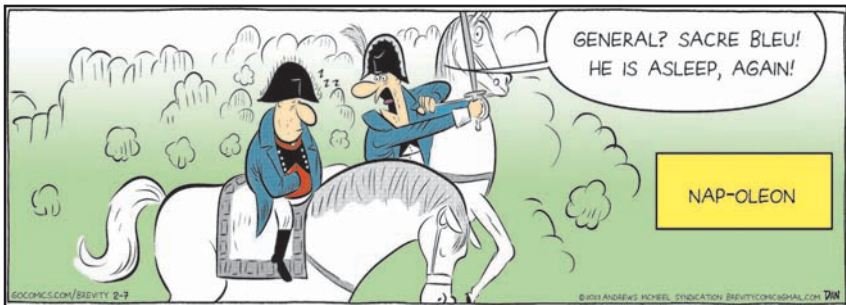
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

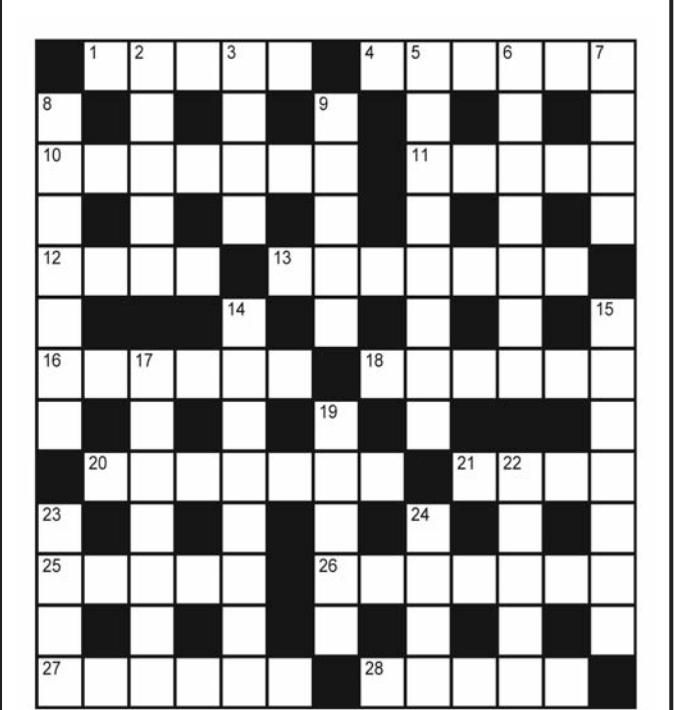


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



- Across**  
1 Winter warmer  
4 Tropical fruit  
10 Vulgar  
11 Designer's concern  
12 River of Hades  
13 Matured  
16 Tease  
18 Edge tool  
20 Rapacity  
21 Wide-eyed
- Down**  
2 Tasteless  
3 Glorify  
5 Gallery  
6 Antediluvian  
7 Ambience  
8 Gastronomic delight  
9 Certain singers  
14 Coquetry  
15 Hound dogs  
17 Jealous  
19 Larkish combo  
22 Cookbook direction  
23 Poet Khayyám  
24 Martial art

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

A	M	G	S	M	S
D	I	V	I	N	E
F	A	C	T	A	R
J	A	U	N	D	I
A	S	K	U	I	C
P	L	A	C	E	M
T	O	U	E	H	A
A	T	O	L	L	S
E	D	K	N	S	I

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Students during a science exhibition at Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir in Rasulgarh area of Bhubaneswar, Friday



# downtown

## Stay prepared for post-flood issues, health officials told

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** The state government has asked chief district medical and public health officers (CDM & PHOs) in districts to stay prepared for prevention and containment of post-flood public health issues, snakebites and likely breakout of waterborne diseases.



Public Health director Niranjan Mishra has sent a comprehensive guideline to CDM & PHOs of all districts in this regard.

As per the guideline, control room with nodal officers and contact details should be made fully operational at district and block levels.

"Block/GP/and village-wise

vulnerability maps should be kept ready for immediate operation. Essential drugs, ORS, halazone tablets, ASV and disinfectant to be prepositioned at suitable places, particularly in vulnerable areas," it said.

Arrangements should be made in advance for alternative power back up in health institutions. "Besides, planning must be done in advance for safeguarding ILR points, vaccines, stock and store, particularly in the institutions and facilities likely to be affected by rain and flood. Make alternative power arrangements in such places," the guideline to CDM & PHOs read.

The state government asked the CDM & PHOs to ensure maintaining list of pregnant women with estimated date of delivery (EDD) in near future so as to ensure safe referral to delivery points or Maa Gruhas as per the situation for vulnerable areas.

"Have regular coordination with district administration for management of any untoward situation. PHED or RWSS need to ensure supply of portable water through water tankers," the guideline said.



**RICH TRIBUTE:** People from different walks of life, including Utkala Sammilani members, pay homage to Odisha's only woman chief minister Nandini Satpathy on her 17th death anniversary near LIC office Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## APPLY FOR WSC PROG BY AUG 15

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** The World Skill Center (WSC) Bhubaneswar is offering admission in seven advanced skill development programmes in two sectors which are meant to make students industry ready.

An announcement to this effect was made by the WSC Friday, inviting on-line application from aspirants for its September, 2023 session, latest by August 15.

The two departments where the programme would be conducted include the School of Engineering and the School of Services.

Five modern programmes fall under the School of Engineering namely; Mechatronics, Electrical Technology, Mechanical & Electrical Services, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration and Vertical Transportation.

Students who have passed 2-year ITI or 3-year diploma from any government or private industrial training institute of the state can apply for admission.

Similarly, two market-oriented courses - 'Hair Fashion and Design' and 'Beauty Wellness and Spa' - are offered by the School of Services.

The minimum educational qualification for this training program is Plus II or diploma in any subject.

## WAIT IS OVER, WAR OF WITS KICKS OFF

Fifth edition of Orissa POST Mettle Meet begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** Curtains will be raised over Odisha's most coveted quiz competition 'Mettle Meet' at Hotel Swosti Premium here at 10am Saturday where students converging from 74 top educational institutions of the state will engage in a war of minds in the preliminary rounds.

The top eight teams each in Junior and Senior categories will be elevated to the summit clash which is scheduled for Sunday. The winners in each category will receive ₹1 lakh cash prize, while the first runners-up will get ₹50,000 and second runners up ₹25,000.

Renowned quizmaster Ajay Poonia will be conducting the fifth edition of Orissa POST Mettle Meet for the second time.

Like in previous years, this year too, the participating schools and colleges have been categorised in two segments. Students up to Class XII (Junior) comprise the first category, while the second category (Senior) will be for those in Plus III and other streams, including Engineering, Medical and Management.

The August 6 finals will be livestreamed on YouTube and other social media platforms. Mettle Meet started in 2016



with a view to reviving the art of quizzing in Odisha.

Eighteen of state's top institutions took part in the first edition and, in 2017, there were 45 teams. Since then, the numbers have grown manifold and, in 2018, there were over 75 educational institutions from across all districts of Odisha which took part in the mega quiz event. The teams had four participants each.

Orissa POST is the state's only home-grown English daily. Since its launch in 2011, the English daily has slowly but steadily carved a niche for itself among the readers. It has been the leading source of intelligent information for people. The publication is known for its pro-people and youth-oriented approach.

## 57 state rly stations to be redeveloped under ABSS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** As many as 57 railway stations in Odisha have been identified to be taken up for redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at a cost of ₹531.8 crore. East Coast Railway (ECoR) general manager Manoj Sharma said here Friday that in the first phase, work for some major stations have already been started.

Sharma said at present 25 rail-



**According to East Coast Railway general manager Manoj Sharma, work for some major stations have already started in the first phase**

way stations under ECoR in the state have been selected for redevelopment under ABSS adding that ECoR is committed towards infrastructure development in

the region. "Work for different infrastructure projects is going on in war-footing basis and some have been completed recently," he said.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme has been launched for development of railway stations across the country.

Presently, the scheme envisages to take-up a total of 1,309 stations for upgradation and modernisation works.

Notably, under the scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations through video conferencing from New Delhi August 6.

## INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE PREVALENCE UP



**P**revalence of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) has increased to more than 5 per cent compared to 0.1 per cent in 2006, new Telangana-based research published in The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia journal said.

IBD accounted for more than 5 per cent of patients presenting lower gastrointestinal symptoms such as abdominal chronic pain, bowel habit changes and chronic diarrhoea, the study conducted by the IBD Center of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG), Hyderabad, found.

The figure of 5 per cent remained unchanged between urban and rural populations, the researchers said, after evaluating nearly 31,000 patients displaying lower gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms from March, 2020 to May, 2022.

A previous rural survey conducted by the same institute in 2006 estimated IBD prevalence at 0.1 per cent, the study said.

Urbanisation could be a likely cause behind the trend, say the researchers, citing Asian countries like Japan and Korea which have reported a rising prevalence, and both of which experienced rapid industrialisation after World War II.

The last two decades have seen an increasing incidence and prevalence of IBD in the Asia-Pacific region and that India appeared to be in an accelerated industrialisation phase, with a rapidly increasing IBD incidence, they said in the study.

If the trend continued, then the number of affected could likely exceed those in the West in the next decade, and this could have

"significant implications for healthcare policy and expenditure in the region," they wrote in the study.

For the study, patients attending urban out-patient clinics or specially conducted mobile rural health camps (in the villages of Ranga Reddy, Sangareddy and Vikarabad districts of Telangana) were assessed. Of these, 67 per cent were males and 21 per cent from a rural setting and the median age of the sample was 44 years.

Overall, 5.4 per cent were diagnosed with IBD and included cases of both ulcerative colitis, which is a chronic inflammatory disease of the large intestine and rectum, and Crohn's disease, which is a chronic inflammation of the ileum in the small intestine.

Infectious colitis (inflammation in the colon) was the diagnosis in 4.6 per cent of the study sample, while colorectal cancer and intestinal tuberculosis was the diagnosis in 1.6 and 1.2 per cent of the sample, respectively.

The symptoms predominantly prevailing in the sample were chronic abdominal pain (55 per cent) and changes in bowel habits (45 per cent), the study said.

Other symptoms exhibited by the patients were rectal bleeding (16 per cent), chronic diarrhoea (13 per cent), un-intended weight loss (9 per cent) and anaemia (3 per cent), the study reported.

The research evaluated all the patients using basic laboratory parameters, abdominal ultrasound and colonoscopy. For analysis, patients' data included demographics, symptom profile, rural/urban residence and final

## Protest over rail project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** A protest was held at Jantar Mantar Friday demanding the approval and implementation of the new rail line that is proposed to connect Jajpur Road with Dhamara Port via Jajpur town and Aradi in Odisha.

A multi-party popular platform named Jajpur-Road-Dhamara Railpath Sangram Samiti organised the programme. The agitators alleged that the Ministry of Railway is discriminating against Odisha.

They questioned why the project is shelved when it is calculated to provide a rate of return (ROR) of 27.43 per cent, much higher than the minimum requirement of 10 per cent.

## Subroto Bagchi appointed chief advisor to govt

**Bhubaneswar:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday appointed Subroto Bagchi as the chief advisor to the government for institutional capacity building across all civil services training institutions of the state. He is given the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. Earlier, he had served as the chairman of Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA). In the new role, he will work towards creating a futuristic vision for the civil services training institutions. He will provide a unified direction to these institutions for building leadership capabilities for both entry level and in-service civil servants of the state, it said.

## BJP gets new office bearers

**Bhubaneswar:** State BJP president Manmohan Samal appointed several office bearers, including 10 vice-presidents, Friday. Samal, who took charge as the president of the Odisha BJP four months ago, announced the name of 35 office bearers.

Aparajita Sarangi, Golak Prasad Mohapatra, Nauri Nayak, Kusum Tete, Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra, Rabi Nayak and Lekhashree Samantsinghar were among those appointed as vice-presidents. Avilash Panda was named president of the BJP Yuva Morcha, and Aishwarya Biswal the chief of Mahila Morcha. The office bearers were selected from different districts and assigned tasks accordingly, party sources said.



**FOLK DANCE:** Members of All Odisha Yadav Progressive Organisation perform during an event organised at OUAT in Bhubaneswar, Friday

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# MKUY catalyst in promoting agri-entrepreneurs: Swain

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** The Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY) has been a catalyst in promoting agri-entrepreneurs in the agriculture and allied sector throughout the state, said Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, while attending the Sectoral Event on Fisheries - 2023, organised by Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd (API-COL) at Krushi Bhavan in Bhubaneswar Friday.

Swain advised APICOL, the implementing agency of MKUY, to work in tandem with line departments to cover all sectors. Encouraging integrated farming with fisheries will not only benefit the entrepreneurs but also contribute to the overall growth of agriculture and allied sectors, he added. He said that the state has



achieved success in fish production, producing 10.52 lakh MT of fish in the year 2022-23, ranking us at the fourth position in the country. This sector offers ample opportunities in terms of export potential; our state has exported seafood amounting to Rs 4,807 crore in the year 2022-23.

Swain said, "We have set ourselves a target of 10,000 crore from exports."

He said that 480 KM of vast coastline provides a favorable environment for the growth of fisheries sector. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has increased the budget outlay for the fisheries sector from Rs 552 crore in 2022-23

to Rs 662 crore in 2023-24, a significant growth of around 19.76 per cent currently import around 30 per cent of our fish seed requirements from other states, he informed.

MKUY can play a major role in establishing large-scale fish seed hatcheries in different parts of our state, reducing dependency on external sources and encouraging local entrepreneurship, he opined.

The Minister urged to conduct awareness and outreach campaigns in coastal areas and other districts to educate potential entrepreneurs about the opportunities and benefits available under MKUY.

He also said that entrepreneurs should be encouraged to explore diverse product options beyond fresh fish. Promote the processing of fish into value added products. Introduce support mechanism under MKUY to encourage entrepreneurs to establish small-scale fish factories in different districts.

## Min: Sincerely address problems faced by PwDs



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** Speaking at a state level review meeting of district social security officers (DSSOs), Social Security and Empowerment of PwDs (SSEPD) Minister Ashok Chandra Panda asked all field officials Friday to sympathetically and sincerely address problems faced by persons with disability (PwD) benefitting from various government schemes.

The minister ordered the officials to coordinate with their respective lead district managers (LDMs) for efficient delivery of pensions and to supervise Aadhaar enrollment and updation of the pension database.

At the meeting, Panda highlighted recent initiatives of the government including specific schemes such as cash disbursement under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana, transformation of special schools under the 5T initiative and introduction of a vi-

sion plan for skill upgradation of destitute women.

"It has been decided to make the integrated infrastructure complex (IICs) operational as they have been constructed in the first phase. The second phase IICs will be constructed on war footing in 12 districts," he said.

SSEPD principal secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani instructed the officers to execute schemes properly, submit UCS on time and bring issues to notice of the department for guidance in case they face any constraints. He also asked the senior officers to visit districts and interact with the DSSOs periodically to review the implementation of schemes.

"It has been decided to prepare month-wise action plan for organising camps under Bhima Bhoi Bhinnakhyama Samarthyaa Abhiyan in consultation with the line department officers after the rainy season to ensure maximum turnout," Panda informed the senior officials.

## Training for scribes on climate change reporting

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** To equip regional journalists with tools and knowledge about climate change to enhance the quality of reporting on the subject, the US Consulate General in Hyderabad hosted a workshop on climate change here Friday.

The two-day workshop, starting Friday, is being organised in partnership with the non-profit organisation 'Views' for vernacular journalists of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to train them in technical skills for covering climate change.

The workshop is fifth in a series of 10 workshops being hosted in Bhubaneswar, Vishakhapatnam and Hyderabad with the goal of increasing reportage around climate change.



"The prime objective of these workshops is to provide tools and techniques to Odia and Telugu language journalists that will help strengthen their reports and analysis on climate change issues," said Consul

General Jennifer Larson. "Journalists can provide in-depth analysis and investigative stories with facts and figures which bridge the information gap for the public regarding climate change," she

added.

Down to Earth managing editor Richard Mahapatra, Stella Paul of Earth Journalism Network, along with editors and journalists from various regional media houses, participated in the workshop on the first day. The multiple sessions covered many aspects of climate change and its impacts, as well as topics related to fact-checking and audience engagement.

Executive director of Views India S Bheema Rao said, "We are pleased to be the implementing partner for the US Consulate General in Hyderabad in this initiative. These workshops will help sensitize media houses to increase their coverage of climate issues, leading to greater public awareness of climate concerns."

## Sofia Firdous elected president of Credai

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** The state chapter of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), in a recently held general body meeting here, elected managing director of M/s Metro Garden Estate Pvt. Ltd Sofia Firdous as the president for the two year term (2023-2025).

The other office bearers elected on this occasion were vice-presidents M/s. Somy Engineers & Construction Pvt. Ltd. Managing Director Soumyajeet Mohanty and M/s. Sriyam Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. Managing Director Bobbili Satyanarayana, secretary M/s.



Dharma Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd. Managing Director Jagat Kumar Kar, joint secretary M/s. JB Assets Pvt. Ltd. Managing Director Sri Jyoti Ranjan Behuria

and M/s. Suravi Builders Pvt. Ltd. Director Manmohan Agarwalla and treasurer M/s. Surnag Builders Pvt. Ltd. Director Ashok Kumar Patro.

The newly formed committee members include M/s. Dugar Reality & Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. Director Ronak Dugar; M/s. SHARP Nirman Pvt. Ltd. Director Rajendra Kumar Patro; M/s. My Space Homes Pvt. Ltd. Director Sheikh Mairajul Haque, M/s. KPL Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. Managing Director Kamal Lochan Patra. Managing Director of M/s. GS Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd. Sangram Keshari Sahoo was nominated as chairman of the team.

## CUO VC hails Indian knowledge system

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, August 4:** Central University of Odisha, Koraput vice-chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi spoke on the inherent values of ancient Indian knowledge system, thought and philosophy joining Unmesha (festival of expression), 2023, as a guest in Bhopal, Friday.

Tripathi said, "Indian knowledge system, Indian philosophy, Indian culture inspire for the welfare of the whole world. Our philosophy believes in one world and one family."

## Frequent headaches linked to bullying, suicidal tendencies in teens

Teenagers who have been bullied by their peers, or who have considered or attempted suicide, may be more likely to have more frequent headaches than teenagers who have not experienced any of these problems, according to a study.

The study, published in the online issue of the medical journal Neurology, does not prove that bullying or thoughts of suicide cause headaches, but show an association.

"Headaches are a common problem for teenagers, but our study looked beyond the biological factors to also consider the psychological and social factors that are associated with headaches," said Serena L. Orr, from the University of Calgary in Canada.

"Our findings suggest that bullying and attempting or considering suicide may be linked to frequent headaches in teenagers, independent of mood and anxiety disorders."

The study involved more than 2.2 million teenagers with an average age of 14 years. Of the total participants, 0.5 per cent self-reported being gender diverse, meaning being transgender or self-reporting as being gender diverse including being gender nonbinary.

Of the participants, 11 per cent reported having frequent, recurring headaches, defined as headaches occurring more than once a week.

A total of 25 per cent of the participants reported being victims of frequent overt bullying, including physical and verbal ag-



gression, being called names or insulted, and being threatened virtually; and 17 per cent reported being victims of frequent relational bullying, including having rumours spread about them, being excluded, and hav-

ing harmful information posted about them on the internet.

Also, 17 per cent of participants reported considering or attempting suicide in their lifetime.

Researchers found that those

who had frequent headaches were nearly three times more likely to experience bullying than their peers.

Teenagers who had been bullied or had suicidal tendencies were nearly twice as likely to have frequent headaches as their peers, while those with mood and anxiety disorders were 50 per cent and 74 per cent more likely, respectively, to have frequent headaches as their peers.

Researchers also found that 34 per cent of teenagers with frequent headaches reported being victims of relational bullying at least once a month compared to 14 per cent of teenagers who had headaches less than once a week.

They found that 34 per cent of teenagers with frequent headaches had made one or more

suicide attempts or had suicidal thoughts compared to 14 per cent of teenagers with headaches less than once a week.

"These results should compel future research into interventions for bullying and a better understanding of how gender diverse youth are at a higher risk of headache disorders," Orr said.

"These findings should urge policymakers to increase efforts towards bullying prevention and should encourage doctors to screen children and teenagers with headache disorders for bullying and suicidal tendencies."

A limitation of the study was that participants self-reported their headaches and other information and they may not have remembered all the information accurately.

### CLASSIFIED

#### AFFIDAVIT

I am Achyutananda Nayak(51), F/o- Saikrishna Nayak. My name is spelled Achyutananda Nayak instead of Achyutanada Nayak. At/Po- Ichhapur, Via- Dolasahi, Dist- Bhadrak, Odisha, Pin- 756127

#### LOST

I Binapani Mohapatra, W/o- Upendranath Mohapatra, Sarasudha, Jagatsinghpur had lost Original ROR of Binapani Mohapatra, Khata No.- 468/1 while travelling from my residence Sarasudha to Biridi Tahasil Office on 31.07.2023 FIR has been lodged in Biridi Police Station vide S.L. No.-23. Please inform about the said document within 7days in the below mentioned mobile Number- Dipak Kumar Sahoo, 9937058785.

I Binod Kumar Dalmia, S/o. Hari Shankar Dalmia, R/o.6 (2), Dhubapada lane, Marwaripada, Dist- Sambalpur declare that the 510nos. of bonus share Certificate from Reliance Industries Ltd i.e. 170 share vide Certificate No.62603928. Distinctive No.2218366630- 2218366799 issued in the year 2009 and 340 share Certificate No.67078080 Distinctive Nos. 6909753336- 6909753675 in the year 2017 having Folio No.028318359 name of the holders Manoj Kumar Dalmia and Binod Kumar Dalmia which has been misplaced while rearranging documents. Any person who has any claim in respect of said Certificates should lodge complain with Company's Registered Office Address at 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021 within 15 days of publication of this notice. Date: 04/08/23 Place: Sambalpur.

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SUNDARGARH LOK SABHA SEAT

# Jual BJP's face; BJD, Cong undecided



So, the party will definitely bank on his winning ability despite odds," said a party cadre. Even the general mood is in favour of Jual, he added.

"The BJD, on the other hand, seems to be in confusion. No name is doing the rounds in political circle as the probable candidate for the crucial Lok Sabha seat.

"The party is really in confusion. Don't go by the oft-repeated saying that Naveen plays with cards closer to his chest," said a Congress leader. Even BJD insiders are not sure whose name will appear on the horizon.

At this moment, the name of Dilip Tirkey, former captain of the Indian Hockey Team and

current president of Hockey India, comes to the minds of many because of the hockey factor dominating the district. Tirkey had given a tough fight to Jual in 2014 as he got defeated by a margin of just 18,829 votes. Then there is another name - Prafulla Majhi, former MLA from Talsara. However, his chances of getting back the ticket look bleak as Binay Topo is the front-runner after the loss of Stephen Soreng to BJP's Bhabani Bhoi. The party may give him the last chance this time.

For Congress, the party is going through a 'find a face saver' (FAFS) situation. As long as George Tirkey was there the party had at least some face to

## RUN-UP TO BATTLE 2024

FOR BJP, JUAL ORAM HOLDS THE TINA FACTOR AND THE SAFFRON PARTY WILL DEFINITELY BANK ON HIS WINNING ABILITY DESPITE ODDS

IN CASE OF BJD, NO NAME, AS OF NOW, IS DOING THE ROUNDS IN POLITICAL CIRCLE AS THE PROBABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE CRUCIAL LOK SABHA SEAT

FOR CONGRESS, THE PARTY IS GOING THROUGH A 'FIND A FACE SAVER' (FAFS) SITUATION

show, though the vote difference between him and Jual was huge. While Jual secured 5,00,056 votes, Tirkey got only 2,68,218 votes to secure the third position as BJD's Sunita Biswal got 2,76,991 votes. Neither the scribes nor the political observers/pundits or even Congress cadres, no one is sure as to who will be the party's face.

"The party will get at least 15 seats as our PCC said and the ground reality is another factor," said an old party cadre.

# 'AMRIT YUVA KALOTSAV' TO SHOWCASE YOUNG TALENT

EVENT WILL SHOWCASE THE CONTINUUM OF THE MYRIAD PERFORMING ART GENRES, TRADITIONS AND EXPRESSIONS BY PRESENTING YOUNG ARTISTES DURING THE THREE-DAY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA FOLK & TRIBAL ARTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 4: A youth-centric festival 'Amrit Yuva Kalotsav' to celebrate the 75th year of Independence' in collaboration with SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi is going to be held at Civic Centre, Rourkela from August 7 to 9, 2023.

The three-day extravaganza will showcase the rich diversity of India's performing arts, showcasing the blossoming young talent of the country.

Under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi is organising a series of events. It will showcase the continuum of the

myriad performing art genres, traditions and expressions by presenting young artistes during the three-day festival of music, dance, drama, folk & tribal performing arts, and allied arts, and, workshops on Art Critique and multifarious facets of performing arts in which distinguished practitioners, scholars and experts will share their acquired knowledge and experience.

Amrit Yuva events have been organised in major cities across several states garnering a lot of recognition and appreciation.

The performances in the festival will include performances of Carnatic vocal and instrumental, classical dances such

as Kathak and Kathakali, folk and tribal performing arts such as Sansai dance and Purulia Chhau, puppet and theatre performances.

There will be Odissi music from Ramharidas Odishi Gurukul, Ranpa Dance of Odisha from Ganjam, among others. During the festival, workshops will also be organised such as a play writing workshop 'Kala Srijan', a workshop on Art Critique (Kala Sameeksha) and Kala Dharohar with school children by eminent artistes.

The festival and the workshop are an opportunity to expand and integrate the dissemination of the performing arts among connoisseurs and the younger generation.

The three-day festival and the workshops are open to all interested audiences, artistes, scholars, practitioners, cultural troupes, and institutions.

More information about the festival can be obtained from Sanjay Kumar Choudhury, Member (General Council), Sangeet Natak Akademi through his mobile 8210882356.

Rourkela, August 4: Election to Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat next year is going to be quite interesting with BJP is stated to be having an edge while the other two parties - BJD and Congress - are in confusion as to who would be their faces for the crucial battle.

"BJP is serious because Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat is a prestige issue for it. For BJD, though the party claims it will win 20 LS seats, which is impossible, it is happy to rule the state. And for Congress, everybody knows there is not much hope," opined a political observer.

Jual Oram, the incumbent MP, is hyperactive in the district and is undertaking whirlwind tours by reaching out to voters especially those in far-flung areas.

"Jual is confident about the urban voters. Now, we are concentrating on rural and interior pockets," said a party insider, who is constantly with him these days.

"For BJP, Jual bhai holds the there is no alternative (TINA) fac-



KHARIF SEASON: A farmer carries bundles of paddy seedlings for transplantation as rain continues to pour, at Chaurnpur under Sambalpur Municipal Corporation Friday

# Makeover for Koel Nagar sewerage system

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 4: Koel Nagar sewerage system is being revamped in a phased manner while most of the manholes are being fixed and some troubling major underground pipes are being replaced, said sources.

Altogether 80 chambers or manholes are being reconstructed. The chambers that are being reconstructed are in bad shape as they pose threat to the lives of both human beings and stray animals. There had been instances wherein fire brigade had to be called in to rescue small calves that accidentally fell into these open manholes.

"The workers who entered the chambers to clear the choked drains refused to do so because of the condition of the cham-

bers. They feared that the entire inside wall may cave in on them," said Aunp Samal former councillor of Ward No-35. Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) is functioning without an elected body for the last eight years, ever since it was declared as a corporation. So, all complaints go to the former elected members who, keeping their political future in mind, try to address the issues.

Koel Nagar boasts of having the first underground sewerage system in any housing colony of the state. This was constructed by Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) for its retiring employees. Currently, the underground pipelines are in dilapidated condition. Regular incidents of congestion in the drains during the monsoon and

other seasons too are causing immense problems for the residents. Keeping this in mind, these underground systems are being replaced with new ones in a phased manner.

"At our request, the RMC has been kind enough to take up the reconstruction and repair job for the benefit of the residents," Samal said. At present, tender for 17 individual lines has been floated and a work order has been issued. For A, D and E

blocks eight pipelines are being replaced while in B and C blocks nine are in line. Of these, eight have been completed.

JE RMC Bibhuti Tripathy, who is still in charge as his replacement is yet to take charge, said, "Of the 17 lines, eight have been completed. The rest will be completed soon as torrential rain is delaying the work."

The second phase of work will begin during winter, informed one official in RMC.

# One killed, 7 injured in Maithan plant mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/ Kalinganagar, August 4: In a tragic incident, a man died and seven others sustained injuries as molten iron reportedly fell on workers at Maithan Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop (SMS) located at Kalinganagar area in Jajpur district, late Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Nitin Yadav, 27, of Uttar Pradesh. Out of the seven injured four are stated to be critically injured with 40 per cent burns. The injured persons were identified as Dhaneswar Naik, 24, of Bhadrak, Shyam Sundar Naik, 33, Amulya Chatamba, 25, and Pabitra Sahu, 25, of Dhenkanal. Identity of the remaining three is not available. The injured were undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack when the last report came in.

According to the reports, the molten metal which was being



shifted with the help of a crane fell on the workers. While one of the workers succumbed to severe burn injuries on the spot, seven others were grievously injured in the incident.

Tension ran high on the factory premises after the mishap. The company authorities allegedly tried to hide the incident. No FIR was registered with police till the last report arrived. One platoon of police force was deployed in front of the factory and the police station to avoid any untoward incident.

## Child drowns in village pond

Malkangiri: In a tragic incident, a 2-year-old child drowned in a pond at Champakhari village under Sadar block in Malkangiri district Friday. The deceased was identified as Subham Khil, 2, son of Hemanta Khil of the village. As per information, the family members had stepped out for some work leaving the child alone at home. On their return, they did not find Subham at home and began a frantic search in the village. However, they found Subham floating in the pond at the backyard of their house. They rushed him to the Malkangiri district headquarters hospital (DHH) where doctors declared him brought dead. On being informed, Malkangiri police reached the spot and handed over the body to his family members after conducting a postmortem.

## Over 2qtl ganja seized; 3 held

Berhampur: Excise sleuths here Friday arrested three persons for smuggling ganja and seized 210kg of the contraband along with a car at Kukudakhadi Chowk in Ganjam district. The accused were identified as Antaryami Das, 32, of Begunadiha village, Satyajit Gochhayat, 20, of Udali village and Harikrushna Naik, 26, of Unchadiha village under Bangiriposi police limits in Mayurbhanj district. A case (249/23-24) was registered and accused were sent to court. As per reports, a team led by deputy superintendent of Excise Intelligence Kuber Sethi was checking vehicles at Kukudakhadi Chowk in Berhampur when a Toyota Fortuner bearing registration number OR-03-1045 came towards Berhampur. It was stopped and after checking, 210 kg of cannabis was found from that car. Three smugglers were also arrested. During interrogation, the accused told the police that the contraband was brought from Kandhamal through Daringbadi.

# Child marriage continues unabated in Ganjam district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 4: Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 has failed in Ganjam district as frequent incidents of child marriage are being reported from various parts of the district in recent times.

This comes on the backdrop of a directive issued by the Women and Child Development (W&CD) department to the district Collectors to remain vigilant about the malady. A week-long awareness programme was undertaken by the district administration from April 17 to 23 in this regard.

Although Ganjam district was declared 'child marriage free' January 3, 2022, the district administration prevented 331 such marriages in the district on that year only.

As per reports, the administrative team swings into action when-

ever it gets the report of a child marriage in any area of the district. It immediately stops the marriage and convinces people about the ill effects of the practice. However, there is no let-up in such cases, said a source. Altogether 36 cases of child marriage have been prevented by the administration till March end this year.

Various programmes are being taken up through the help of voluntary organisations, self-help groups, clan societies, village welfare committees, Mission Shakti department, public representatives and child welfare committee (CWC). A programme called 'Nirbhaya Kadhi' is being implemented in the district to prevent child marriages.

It has been announced to provide an award money of ₹50,000 to the person who gives information about child marriage. However, the mal-

ady is still prevalent, snatching away the rights of innocent children.

As per sources, a child marriage was foiled by the Childline team a few months ago when reports about such an incident at Rangunibandha Sahi in Old Berhampur area came in. The Childline officials raided the spot but the families involved in the act had fled the place along with the minors as they had got the prior information about the raid.

Some local intellectuals pointed out that massive awareness campaigns can be the only weapon to end the social malady of child marriage.

A total of 851 child marriages have been prevented by the district administration during the last six years. Of them, the highest 331 cases were foiled in 2022, 201 cases in 2021, 228 cases in 2020, 45 in 2019, 22 in 2018 and 24 in 2017, said the report.

**NOTICE**  
5th August, 2023

To,  
1. Maple Furniture Private Limited, Plot no. 21, 1st Floor, Janpath, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009.  
2. Mr. Shishak Rath, Managing Director, Maple Furniture Private Limited, Plot no. 21, 1st Floor, Janpath, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009.  
3. Mrs. Madhulata Rath, Director, Maple Furniture Private Limited, Plot no. 21, 1st Floor, Janpath, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009.  
4. Mrs. Uttara Rath, Director, Maple Furniture Private Limited, Plot no. 21, 1st Floor, Janpath, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009.  
RE: ARBITRATION BETWEEN TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED .....Claimant

-VS- MAPLE FURNITURE PRIVATE LIMITED & OTHERS .....Respondents (Arising out of AP 372 of 2022) My Client: Tata Capital Financial Services Limited Srs/Mesdames,

Pursuant to the Minutes of the 9th sitting dated 28th July, 2023 passed by the Ld. Arbitrator, Mr. Bishajit Ghosh in the captioned matter, I have been directed to make substituted service on the Respondents by way of a notice in two newspapers, one in an English Daily and one in a vernacular newspaper of wide circulation in the local jurisdiction where the Respondents reside and/or carry on business. Accordingly, this is to intimate you that the aforesaid matter is scheduled for 14th August, 2023 at 4.30 P.M. at Bar Library Club, High Court, Calcutta, for filing supplementary affidavit, when please attend.

This is for your information, record, and necessary action.

Yours Sincerely,  
Avishak Gupta,  
Advocate, High Court at Calcutta  
Office at: Guha & Co, Advocates  
7C, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, Hastings Chambers Ground Floor, Room No. GD/1, Kolkata-700001  
Ph: 09830956258 / 08420424501

**Rail Wheel Plant/Bela**  
(Distt.- Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.- S/RWPE/13/2023-24 dated: 03.08.2023, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender", through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in), for supply of following Stores Item at RW/P/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. SN: 1. Tender No.: 02235177. Short Description of Item : Spare Paris, Quantity : 01 set. Date of Tender Closing/Opening : 21.08.2023 at 14:00 Hrs. 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in). 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers.

For PCMM/RWP/Bela RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2023-24/44

**Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.**

Marketing Division - Odisha State Office  
Advertisement Number: OSO/IB/BDA/38062  
(To be Read in conjunction with the Application Form)

**APPOINTMENT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (BDA) FOR BITUMEN MARKETING**

Indian Oil Corporation Limited, a Maharatna Company, solicits applications for Expression of Interest for appointment of Business Development Associates (BDA) for marketing Bitumen/ Bituminous Products under Odisha State Office.

The complete details including eligibility criteria, application Guidelines etc. are mentioned in the BDA document (Annexure-A) of the application form.

Application form can be downloaded through link <https://spandan.indianoil.co.in/BSP/HomePage.jsp> from 05.08.2023 till 26.08.2023. The filled application forms to be submitted on or before 1500 Hrs on 28.08.2023 at the respective Divisional Offices.

- Sambalpur Divisional Office - Kainsir Road, Athinapali, Sambalpur.
- Bhubaneswar Divisional Office - IndianOil Bhavan, A/2, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar

Normal working Hours- Monday to Friday, 0945 Hrs to 1730 Hrs

G20  
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

e-mail: [eerwss\\_kpt@rediffmail.com](mailto:eerwss_kpt@rediffmail.com), Ph.No.06852-250281(Off), Ph.No.06852-250680 (Res), Fax No.06852-251098

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT**  
Phone:06852-250281, e-mail: [eerwsskpt@rediffmail.com](mailto:eerwsskpt@rediffmail.com)

**1st CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.07/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/13.07.2023**  
CORRIGENDUM No.2475, Date:21.07.2023

No.O-541:Due to some unavoidable circumstances the following alternations have been made in the time schedules of this office e-procurement NOTICE NO. 07/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/13.07.2023.

Sl. No.	TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 07/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/13.07.2023	As per Scheduled		As per Rescheduled	
		As per Scheduled	As per Rescheduled	As per Scheduled	As per Rescheduled
1	Availability of Bid document in the website	Dt. 24.07.2023 at 17.00 hours to 02.08.2023 upto 17.00 hours.	Dt. 05.08.2023 at 17.00 hours to 14.08.2023 upto 17.00 hours.		
2	Date of Seeking clarification.	During the Office hours of 24.07.2023 to 01.08.2023	During the Office hours of 05.08.2023 to 11.08.2023		
3	Date of Opening of Bid.	Dt. 03.08.2023 at 11.00 hours	Dt. 16.08.2023 at 11.00 hours		

All other terms and conditions are remain unaltered.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, RWSS & S Division, Koraput  
OIPR-25034/11/0015/2324

**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

**RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR ASSISTANTS, SENIOR ASSISTANTS AND JUNIOR EXECUTIVES IN VARIOUS DISCIPLINES UNDER ADVERTISEMENT No. 03/2023**

Airports Authority of India invites applications from eligible candidates to apply Online through AAI website [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero) for the following posts:  
(NO APPLICATION THROUGH ANY OTHER MODE WILL BE ACCEPTED)

Post Code	Name of Post	Number of vacancies and reservation									
		Total	UR	EWS	OBC (NCL)	SC	ST	(Included vacancies)			
								PwBD			
			(A)	(B)	(C)	(D & E)					

01 Jr. Assistant (Office) 09 06 00 02 01 00 00 00 00 00 01

02 Sr. Assistant (Accounts) 09 06 00 02 01 00 00 00 00 00 01

03 Junior Executive (Common Cadre) 237 99 23 63 35 17 05 05 02 05 00

04 Junior Executive (Finance) 66 30 06 17 09 04 03 02 00 01 00

05 Junior Executive (Fire Services) 03 03 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

06 Junior Executive (Law) 18 10 01 04 02 01 02 00 01 00 00

The number of vacancies is tentative and may increase or decrease at sole discretion of AAI.

Abbreviations used: UR= Unreserved, EWS= Economically Weaker Section, OBC(NCL)= Other Backward Classes (Non-Creamy Layer), SC= Scheduled Caste, ST= Scheduled Tribe, PwBD= Persons with Benchmark Disability, ExSM= Ex-servicemen

PwBD Category (A), (B), (C), (D) & (E). Please refer suitable categories of Benchmark Disabilities against respective post code in detailed advertisement

EVENT	DATE
Opening date for On-line Applications	05.08.2023
Last date for On-line Application	04.09.2023
Tentative Date of On-line Examination	Will be announced on AAI Website- <a href="http://www.aai.aero">www.aai.aero</a>

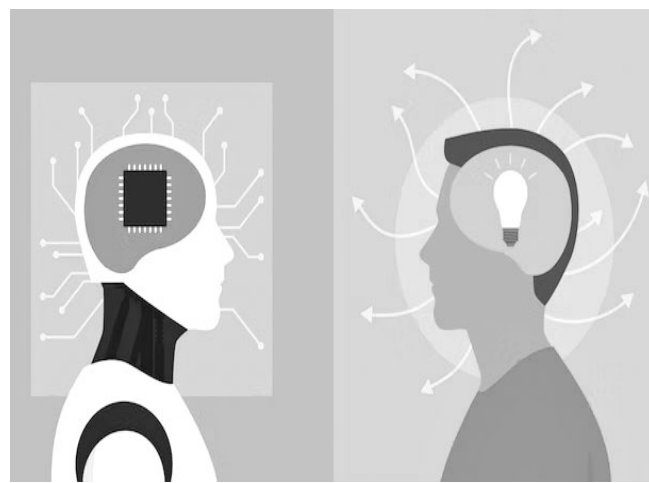
For details, please refer AAI's website [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero) under Careers Section and Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar of 19.08.2023

CBC 0311/12/0002/2324 Executive Director (HR)



FOCUS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# TECHNOLOGY VS CREATIVITY



Companies are rushing to showcase how they will be using new generative AI models, and the media is full of stories about the technology's transformative potential

There are grounds for thinking that the WGA strike could be more important even than the struggles for union recognition at Ford and GM's factories a century ago. For starters, Hollywood's creative workers are uniquely well-organized and powerful compared to workers in other industries. If they fail, other knowledge workers will stand even less of a chance of shaping the future of work and technology.

The choices ahead of us are epochal, because there is an obvious temptation for movie producers to choose the low road of "just automate everything you can." This approach may be profitable in the short term if it allows for more shows to be cheaply produced, with fewer screenwriters, actors, and other staff. But studio profits and high-quality output are not the same thing. There still is no substitution for human ingenuity and creativity. Look past the hype, and it should be clear that predicting the next word in a sentence and aggregating the "wisdom" available on the internet are unlikely to generate superior artistic output - even if large language models could produce mediocre sitcoms.

The low road is especially costly because of what it misses. Generative AI could become a tremendously beneficial tool in the hands of creative artists, by helping with research and the development of new ideas. If we can find our way to this high-road, AI could drive further technological progress and bolster the returns from human ingenuity.

Much is riding on the writers' strike. Knowledge workers - and, indeed, all workers - should hope that the WGA and its members succeed in showing how technology can be used to support creativity, rather than simply displacing it.

*Daron Acemoglu is Institute Professor of Economics at MIT while Austin Lentsch is a policy fellow at MIT's Blueprint Labs.*

© PROJECT SYNDICATE

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is big business' new flavour of the month. Companies are rushing to showcase how they will be using new generative AI models, and the media is full of stories about the technology's transformative potential. There is no denying that it could significantly increase productivity. But who stands to benefit? The ongoing Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike may offer an answer.

Hollywood screenwriters are confronting a future that all knowledge workers will soon face - and without the benefit of union representation. At issue is how AI will be used, and by whom. Will TV and movie producers see AI as a way to replace writers and cut costs, or will they use it to create higher-quality content, empowering creative workers to be more productive and earn higher incomes?

We have been down a similar road before. In the early twentieth century, rapid improvements in manufacturing technologies such as moving assembly lines and electrical machinery led to a sharp increase in productivity. Henry Ford, a pioneer in applying these technologies, estimated that motor-enabled machinery "alone has probably doubled the efficiency of industry," while also making it possible to build much larger factories. But workers did not automatically share in these gains. On the contrary, that did not happen until new tasks had been created, and until workers had acquired enough bargaining power to demand higher wages. These are the two pillars of shared prosperity.

While Ford and his contemporaries certainly did automate some processes, their improved factories also introduced a lot of new activities that required human labour - from material preparation and machine maintenance to coordinated operations. These tasks expanded workers' contribution to production and translated into a big increase in the demand for labour. By 1929,

Ford and GM were each making 1.5 million cars annually, and the industry employed more than 400,000 people.

The second pillar is bargaining power. The famous sit-down strike at GM in 1936-37 was a key step in achieving union recognition, improved working conditions, and higher compensation for workers. Over several decades, the new balance that developed between management and workers in automobile manufacturing contributed to rapid wage growth. Part of what made this possible was an emphasis on continually training and up-skilling workers to handle new tasks. Both employers and employees benefited from the productivity gains.

By the 1960s, US auto production had doubled since the 1920s, with the four largest manufacturers employing 1.3 million workers - more than three times the industry's employment four decades earlier. Moreover, inflation-adjusted profits for the dominant firms, GM and Ford, were around five times higher than in previous decades.

The rise of organized labour in the auto industry also es-

tablished a model of capital-labour negotiations for other industries to follow. Imagine what would have happened if manufacturing companies attempted to adopt "worker-less factories" in the 1950s, as some had started advocating. Productivity growth (not to mention shared prosperity) would have suffered greatly as the human contributions to technical work, design, maintenance, inspection, and creative problem-solving were undermined or lost.

Today, we are confronting equally revolutionary changes, now that executives are considering how to apply generative AI to all components of knowledge production and distribution. Leading tech-focused companies face many of the same choices that car manufacturers had to make at the beginning of the twentieth century. Should powerful new technologies be used to automate knowledge work and sideline workers? Or could AI become a tool to boost worker productivity and creativity? Much will depend on whether workers have a voice, and on how such choices affect productivity and product quality.



Daron Acemoglu, Austin Lentsch

**GENERATIVE AI COULD BECOME A HUGE BENEFICIAL TOOL IN THE HANDS OF CREATIVE ARTISTS BY HELPING WITH RESEARCH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW IDEAS**

There is a great beauty in simplicity

THE MOTHER



## Data Discomfort

The suspended Director of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), KS James is the most highly rated demographer in the country and among the leading ones in the world. So, naturally, his suspension has become the talk of Delhi's babu corridors.

The official reason cited for the suspension of James was his alleged involvement in unauthorised research activities and financial irregularities at the IIPS. But those in the know say that James was already facing fire for 'unflattering' data. Under James, the institute, which is an organisation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, conducts the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) and other sensitive topics such as the impact of government policies on population dynamics, public health and socio-economic inequalities.

The NFHS-5 survey, the cause of James' ouster, showed that anaemia had risen, and open defecation was still prevalent in all states despite the Swachh Bharat boasting.

The survey also showed that more than 40% of households did not have access to clean cooking fuel - thus questioning the claims of success of the Ujjwala Yojana. It said in rural areas, more than half the population, 57%, do not have access to LPG or natural gas. Clearly, none of these findings will bring cheer to the Centre, as they bring to light certain inconvenient truths. The discomfort within the sarkar can be gauged from the fact that some recent reports say that it was mulling to drop the anaemia measurement for NFHS-6.

James' suspension is being viewed by many as a message to those who may wish to challenge official narratives: rebel at your own risk. Point taken?

### Importance of being SK Mishra

The Modi sarkar has gone to unprecedented lengths to retain Sanjay Kumar Mishra as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The government moved a special application in the Supreme Court citing 'extraordinary and unusual' circumstances to allow his continuation in the post. Although few observers buy the excuse that Mishra's continuation is needed for the ongoing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review, the apex court obliged and extended Mishra's tenure till September 15, citing 'public and national interest' even though earlier it had noted that the previous extension of tenure was 'il-legal'. Clearly, Mishra is a special case, according to the government.



**BABUDOM BYTES**

Dilip Cherian

The thing is that under Mishra's tight control, the ED has acquired more powers and its investigations of Opposition leaders and critics of the government have led to allegations of 'indiscriminate use' of the agency by the government against its detractors, even if the conviction rate in money laundering cases probed by ED remains dismal.

But what perhaps makes Mishra the 'ideal' babu in the eyes of the ruling party is that he maintains a low profile while making himself indispensable to those in power. Observers noted this trait in the officer even during the UPA days when he was reportedly close to the late Congress leader Ahmed Patel and Pranab Mukherjee. Apparently, during Pranab's tenure as Finance Minister, Mishra was more powerful than even the then Revenue Secretary. Since then, he's come a long way and the ED has never been the same.

### Strategic move or political manoeuvre?

The recent appointment of former Karnataka DGP Rupak Kumar Dutta as security advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee has stirred much interest and debate. His illustrious career as an IPS officer, having served in different capacities, including as Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), adds intrigue surrounding his new role in the state.

Sources have informed DKB, that Dutta's impressive credentials apart, the appointment assumes even greater significance given the recent security breach near Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee's residence. The arrest of an individual carrying weapons and narcotics, and possessing fake identity cards of multiple security agencies, has heightened concerns about the state of security preparedness in West Bengal.

Some critics, however, view Dutta's appointment with scepticism. His sudden transfer to the Ministry of Home Affairs as Special Secretary, just before the selection of the CBI director, followed by his return to his home state of Karnataka to assume the role of state DGP, they say, point to a likely political motivation behind the decision. Although Dutta had been offering advisory services to the West Bengal government even before the panchayat polls, his formal appointment comes at a critical juncture. It is hoped that given his extensive background in the CBI, Dutta will bring a unique perspective that enables the state government to tackle security-related issues effectively.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

### WISDOM CORNER

The constant assertion of belief is an indication of fear. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**

The two most powerful warriors are patience and time. **LEO TOLSTOY**

It is a waste of energy to be angry with a man who behaves badly. **BERTRAND RUSSELL**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Bafflegab

Bafflegab is incomprehensible or pretentious verbiage. It hit the newspapers and public notice on 19 January 1952, the day after a plaque was presented to its inventor to mark his creation of this invaluable word. He was Milton A Smith, assistant general counsel for the US Chamber of Commerce. It was presented by Michael V DiSalle, the head of the Office of Price Stabilization, who rejoiced in the title of Price Stabilizer. (Where are people like this when you need them?) How the award was reported in the Salt Lake Tribune on 19 January 1952. Milton Smith coined the word in a piece he wrote for the Chamber's weekly publication, Washington Report, which criticised the OPS for the bureaucratic language it used in one of its price orders. This was picked up by the Bellingham Herald in Washington State, which wrote an editorial about it, saying "Gobbledegeok is mouth-filling, but it lacks the punch of bafflegab. The inventor of that one deserves an award." The newspaper made sure he got one by paying for the plaque to be made and organising its presentation. The inventor said he had spent a maddening day trying to explain the OPS order to a colleague and decided a special word was needed to describe its special blend of "incomprehensibility, ambiguity, verbosity and complexity". He tried legalfusion, legalprate, gabalia, and burubble before settling on bafflegab. There's nothing mysterious about the make-up of the word, and that's part of its appeal. But it's the stress on those plosive consonants that really makes it fly. It might well have succeeded even without the publicity associated with the award. At the presentation, Milton Smith was asked to briefly define his word. It was, he said succinctly, "multiloquence characterized by consummate interfusion of circumlocution or periphrasis, inscrutability, and other familiar manifestations of abstruse expatiation commonly utilized for promulgations implementing Procrustean determinations by governmental bodies." Just so.

### SPECTRUM NET ZERO

## World falling far short of target



Dr. Oishee Mukherjee

**WARMING WILL INCREASE IN THE COMING YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN THE TROPICAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING INDIA, AND THE POOR AND IMPOVERISHED SECTIONS WILL BE GREATLY AFFECTED IN VARIOUS WAYS**

Heat temperature has emerged as the invisible engine of planetary chaos according to a recent book titled 'The Heat Will Kill You First: Life & Death on a Scorched Planet' by Jeff Goodell. The temperature climbed to 40 degrees in London, 47 in British Colombia, 50 in Phoenix and, of course, over 45 in India. But what is more astonishing is that reports had indicated that July will be the hottest month ever recorded and may even be the hottest month in 120,000 years.

Temperatures in Europe have been recorded at 45 degrees in parts of Greece, Spain and Italy. This year's extreme events in Europe bear doleful and evocative monikers.

Reports from the US stated that nearly 200 million or 60 per cent of the population are under a heat advisory.

As regards India is concerned, Kolkata and Delhi are among the top 10 cities worldwide with the largest population exposures to heat and humidity, according to research findings (way back in October 2021) that flagged dif-

ferent drivers of exposure for the two cities. The study estimated that population growth contributed to 74 per cent of Delhi's increase in exposure but only 48 per cent in Kolkata.

The increased heat has a severe effect on human beings, mainly on declining food productivity. For every degree of increase in temperature, corn yields drop by 7 per cent, wheat by six per cent and rice by over three per cent at a time when population has been increasing. Too much heat causes plants to 'sweat' and lose water, changing the season of their blooming, putting them out of sync with pollinators. Animals are even more harmed by heat exposure. 30 million people live in extreme heat today but by the year 2070, that number is likely to be two billion.

Though the world is decarbonising much faster than expected and clean energy and fossil fuels are costing more or less the same, climatologists are still apprehensive about the looming environmental crisis. The challenge to global warming has to be met through a variety of

measures.

Obviously global warming has generated a lot of anguish among experts as the collective pledges may decrease the emission only by around 12 per cent by 2030. Ideally, global net anthropogenic CO2 emissions need to decline by about 45 per cent from the 2010 level by about 2030 and reach net zero around 2050 to limit the warming by 1.50 degrees. Similarly for limiting warming to around 2 degrees, the emissions need to decrease by around 25 percent by 2030, which also does not appear to be realistic.

It is quite evident that the world is falling far short of the target needed to avoid the worst climate outcomes. This trend is unlikely to be reversed in the coming years but even the minimum requirement to check the ravishing heat from not increasing is not being seriously adhered to by many nations and India is no exception.

The attitude of the human individual towards nature, environment and natural resources has been that of wanton exploitation. Available figures are

quite startling as one crore forests are destroyed every year by cutting and burning them, resulting in huge loss of biodiversity due to deforestation.

Meanwhile, according to a recent report, 40 per cent of amphibians and 33 per cent of aquatic mammals have become extinct or are about to become extinct. The dryness in the atmosphere has increased; there has been a huge and very harmful increase in global warming. Added to this, glaciers are melting continuously and rapidly causing an alarming rise in sea levels.

It is indeed naive to suggest that renewable energy would solve the problem. There are many others that need to be adopted which possibly most nations do not want to do.

What then is going to happen in the coming years is nobody's guess. But warming will increase in the coming years, especially in the tropical countries, including India, and the poor and impoverished sections will be greatly affected in various ways.

©INFA

### Riots no solution

**Sir,** Recent sectarian violence in Nuh Hararyana has taken the political circle by storm. Fissiparous forces are hell-bent to destroy communal peace and amity. Manipur violence is condemnable. Attackers are the enemies of national integration and brotherhood. Whatever the case may be it is illegal to incite communal passions and spread hatred between communities. The Delhi riot in 2020 was an eye opener. India is a peaceful country, and it believes in pacifism. Riots are not the solution to any problem. Neighbouring countries of India might be benefitted by communal violence in our country. Divisive forces are raising their ugly heads before the general election. As soon as the attackers are behind the bars, peace and harmony will come at the end. Fast track courts are equipped to deal with sectarian violence and communal disharmony. It is well said that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty".

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

### Curb on import

**Sir,** The Union government's curbs on importing laptops, computers, and tablets could hit the short-term availability of import-dependent brands and see their prices go through the roof. Importers of these products will need government permission and a valid licence. But there's no bar on importing one unit of the restricted items or bringing one from abroad. The government also exempted devices imported for research and development from any curb. The move could be a shot in the arm for the 'Make in India' initiative.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

### Rahul's return

**Sir,** The Supreme Court's big relief to Rahul Gandhi has paved the way for his re-entry into Parliament. The big questions now are how long the Lok Sabha secretariat takes to restore his membership and whether he will be able to participate in the debate on the no-confidence motion against the government, which is scheduled to begin on Tuesday. On the legal front, the Congress leader has challenged the March order of a Surat trial court in the 2019 criminal defamation case, which had led to his disqualification. The Sessions Court in Surat will hear his appeal against the ruling - which had convicted him and sentenced him to two years in prison - on August 21.

Jayanthi Subramaniam, MUMBAI

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# Ayodhya: Roof-top cafes to provide view of Ram temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ayodhya (UP), August 4:** Cafeterias will be built on the terraces of houses encircling the Ram Jannabhoomi Mandir here to offer people a roof-top view of the magnificent temple complex, officials said.

In the run-up to making Ayodhya a state-of-the-art city, the areas surrounding the temple site will be decorated with artefacts of historical significance, while also considering modernity by developing roof-top cafes in



nearby houses on Janmabhoomi Path and Bhakti Path, Ayodhya

Commissioner Gaurav Dayal told PTI Wednesday.

## The grand Ram temple is likely to be opened to the public in January next year

"Interested house owners will be encouraged by the Ayodhya Development Authority through a contractual arrangement with agencies to survey their homes and construct roof-top cafeterias," Dayal said.

"The necessary permissions and related processes will be

simplified through the ADA panel. From these roof-top cafeterias or open-to-sky restaurants, the devotees coming to Ayodhya will be able to witness the enchanting view of the Sri Rama temple," he added.

Along with the construction of the Lord Ram temple, Ayodhya is also being adorned in accordance with its legendary glory. Various developmental activities are being carried out here, the officer said. The grand Ram temple is likely to be opened to the public in January next year.

# AAI to manage U'khand's Naini Saini airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun, August 4:** The Naini Saini Airport in Pithoragarh will be operated and managed by the Airports Authority of India.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard between the Uttarakhand government and the AAI in the presence of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, an official release issued here said.



The chief minister had earlier requested Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to hand over the maintenance and management of the Naini Saini airport to the AAI in view of its strategic importance. It was being managed earlier by the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority.

The MoU signed Thursday was part of the hand-over process. Speaking on the occasion, Dhama said he hoped the AAI will speed up flight operations from the airport.

# FLASH FLOOD NEAR KEDARNATH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rudraprayag, August 4:** Four people died and 15 were missing after a flash flood in a rain-fed waterfall swept away three shops near Daat Puliya close to Gaurikund on the way to Kedarnath, officials said Friday.

The district administration had earlier said nine out of a total of 13 people were still missing after the recovery of four bodies but district disaster management officer Nandan Singh Rajwar later revised the figure of those missing to 15.

Rajwar said the latest figure includes a man, his wife and daughter from Nepal who ran a dhaba at the spot and three customers, also from Nepal, who had come to the eatery for dinner.

The additional missing people include Bir Bahadur, his wife Sunita, their daughter Nisha and customers Dharma Raj and Sukhram Rawat.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama reached the Disaster Control room at the secretariat here to take stock of the situation. He instructed officials to speed up the ongoing relief and rescue work on the spot.

He said an alert should be issued at all the places where there is a threat of flood due to an increase in the water levels of

FOUR BODIES HAVE BEEN RETRIEVED AND THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING PEOPLE IS UNDERWAY

THE SHOPS, LOCATED ON THE BANKS OF A RAGING MANDAKINI RIVER, WERE SWEEPED AWAY BY THE FLOODWATERS COMING FROM ABOVE

THE FLASH FLOOD OCCURRED ON THE INTERVENING NIGHT OF THURSDAY AND FRIDAY FOLLOWING HEAVY RAINS



rivers and streams and directed officials to evacuate people living in landslide-prone areas.

Four bodies have been retrieved and the search for the missing people is underway, Rudraprayag District Magistrate Saurabh Gaharwar told reporters.

A family of 'dandikandi' (palanquin) operators from Nepal who ferry pilgrims to the Himalayan temple was among those who are missing.

The shops, located on the banks of a raging Mandakini

river, were swept away by the floodwaters coming from above. The flash flood occurred on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday following heavy rains, they said. Gaurikund is about 16 km from the Himalayan temple.

Relief and rescue operations were launched by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel, Circle Officer Vimal Rawat told PTI from the spot.

Heavy rains coupled with boulders falling intermittently from

the hillsides are hampering relief and rescue efforts, the officials said.

Earlier, the administration released a list of people who had gone missing and it included those who had died in the incident. Those missing were identified as Vinod (26), Mulayam (25), Ashu (23), Priyanshu Chamola (18), Ranbir Singh (28), Amar Bohra, his wife Anita Bohra, their daughters, Radhika and Pinki Bohra, and sons Prithvi Bohra (7), Jatil (6) and Vakil (3), officials said.

# Postal dept selling national flags in UP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, August 4:** The postal department has started selling national flags at all post offices in Uttar Pradesh to help promote the

'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2.0 under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav being held to mark 75 years of Independence.

"The Tricolour is the identity of every Indian and the campaign to hoist the flag through the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan that began last year continues this year through Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan 2.0," Postmaster General, Lucknow (HQ) region, Vivek Kumar Daksh, said.

"To make it a success, we have started selling national flags at post offices to motivate people to participate in the government's Har Ghar Tiranga campaign," he added.

The department on August 1 started selling national flags

-- measuring 20 inches by 30 inches -- priced at Rs 25 each. "We have received positive responses from the public and have seen a rise in demand for flags. We are making all efforts to ensure their availability at every post office, including those located in rural pockets," said the officer.

One can also order the national flag online on the postal department portal and get them delivered at home. The officer said one can order a maximum of five flags online and receive them with no extra delivery charges.

Programmes to make people aware of the initiative are also being organised by the postal department at the General Post Office, Lucknow, and other post offices.

The postal department sold 13 lakh national flags in Uttar Pradesh last year during the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, the officer added.

The department August 1 started selling national flags -- measuring 20 inches by 30 inches -- priced at Rs 25 each



GREAT EXPECTATION: A farmer ploughs his paddy field during the monsoon season in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

# Yogi calls for fast disposal of govt cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, August 4:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Thursday stressed the need for speedy disposal of the cases of government departments pending in various courts, and directed officials to create a panel of noted advocates for the purpose.

"Speedy disposal of pending cases of government departments in various courts of the state is very necessary as this affects the work of the departments," he said.

The Chief Minister said that a strong judicial system is the basis of good governance. "In view of this, encourage Gram Nyayalayas.

It should be our priority to get affordable, simple, accessible, and quick justice to the common man at the tehsil level



In view of this, the Chief Minister asked officials to create a panel of expert advocates, in addition to government advocates, and appoint them for effective handling of the matters in courts

Adityanath, who reviewed the working of the Justice Department, also asked for fixing a fee for these advocates, according to an official release

itself," he said.

Adityanath said the corpus of Rs 220 crore meant for the Advocates Welfare Fund should be increased to Rs 500 crore.

The families of advocates who pass away unexpectedly will receive financial support from this fund, he said. Yogi

issued these instructions while taking stock of the department of justice at his official residence, said a government statement.

The CM said keeping in view the convenience of the common man, integrated court complexes are being developed in 10 districts.

# More fall prey to 'click farm' frauds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, August 4:** 'Click farm' frauds are growing by the day in Lucknow where a 45th victim was reported.

As per rough estimates, Lucknow residents have lost Rs 15 crore to click farm frauds, wherein people are hired for giving good online ratings to commodities and services.

The latest victim, identified as Harshit Gupta of New Ganeshganj, was hired by fraudsters to give good ratings to some hotels and was promised Rs 10 lakh.

Gupta was asked to give a rating to 28 hotel images and details. He was asked to deposit Rs 11,300 for registration.

"However, I got stuck at the rating work after I had completed 13 ratings due to a technical glitch. I contacted the person who had given me the task. I was asked to deposit Rs 84,112 to proceed. But I got stuck again in the 22nd task and 26th task and paid Rs 2.23 lakhs and Rs 4.25 lakhs respectively to continue," he said.

He was promised the money would be refunded. However,



when even after several reminders for a refund he got no response, Gupta complained to the cyber police. Gupta also added that he later realised that the technical glitch was deliberate to extract more money from him.

An officer of Lucknow cyber cell, Saurabh Mishra, who has been tasked with such cases, said that a preliminary probe suggests that the operators of such frauds originate in the Middle East, especially Dubai and they are changing the flow of money to bitcoins in cryptocurrency so that it becomes almost impossible to trace them.

SP of the Uttar Pradesh Police Cyber Cell, Triveni Singh said the

scammers contact users (on Telegram and WhatsApp) saying that they are looking for a part-timer who can earn up to Rs 5,000 per day.

"After users accept the offer, they are added to a Telegram channel which is operated by the 'task manager', who assigns them the 'work'. Then victims are asked to hit the 'Like' button on some YouTube videos and send a screenshot to the 'manager'. The accumulated earnings are shown on the 'job app'. These earnings are only for display and the scammer does not send any money to the user. Instead, the cybercriminals ask users to 'invest' some amount to get their accumulated earnings," said Singh.

"Once the money is transferred, scammers block the users on WhatsApp and Telegram," he said. Catching click farm fraudsters is difficult for the police because they operate from foreign lands. Recovery of money is nearly impossible because of their modus operandi.

In such a situation, prevention is the key to checking the crime.

# Expert committee formed to examine water leakage in Tambakhani tunnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Uttarkashi (U'khand), August 4:** An expert panel has been set up to examine the water leakage problem inside the Tambakhani tunnel on the Gangotri National Highway and suggest measures to prevent it.

Uttarkashi District Magistrate Abhishek Ruhela Wednesday said steps will be taken to address the problem on the basis of the panel's recommendations.

The committee consists of experts from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and the public works and the irrigation departments, he said.

Despite crores of rupees being spent to address the problem, leakage of water inside the tunnel continues unabated. Dirt and mud accumulate in and around the tunnel, causing inconvenience to locals and pilgrims alike.

Since the tunnel's construc-



tion 10 years ago, more than Rs 15 crore has been spent on the lining and drainage work but huge quantities of water continue to leak from the walls.

The 380-metre tunnel was constructed under a package provided for the treatment of the Varunavat Parvat. Rs 19 crore was sanctioned for the tunnel's

construction and the work assigned to the irrigation department. The department started work on the project in 2006 and got the tunnel ready in 2013.

However, upon its completion, many technical flaws came to light inside the tunnel and improvements such as correcting the drainage and water trap sys-

Despite crores of rupees being spent to address the problem, leakage of water inside the tunnel continues unabated

Dirt and mud accumulate in and around the tunnel, causing inconvenience to locals and pilgrims alike

Since the tunnel's construction 10 years ago, more than Rs 15 crore has been spent on the lining and drainage work but huge quantities of water continue to leak from the walls

tems were done at a cost of Rs 15 crore. Despite this, the condition of the tunnel did not improve. Water continues to seep from the tunnel walls at many places after excess rain. The leakage causes mud to be scattered everywhere, causing problems for locals and pilgrims on the Char Dham Yatra.

The committee is likely to submit its report after conducting an on-spot investigation, the district magistrate said.





Special steel spans installed on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor, at Kondli in New Delhi. The steel spans are being installed where the corridor will cross Ghazipur drain from Ashok Nagar towards Anand Vihar



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak with his wife Akshata Murty and daughters at Santa Monica Pier, in Santa Monica, California, during their summer holiday



Preparation underway for the last rites of film art director Nitin Desai at ND Studio in Karjat



Women police personnel deployed after a protest that erupted following a road accident in which a student of the Barisha High School was killed by a speeding truck in Kolkata



A visitor looks at an installation displayed at the inaugural day of the flower show at Glass House in Lalbagh as part of the 76th Independence Day celebrations in Bangalore



College students dance to celebrate 'Teej festival' in the holy month of 'Shravan' in Amritsar



Workers during the preparation for the SUCI (Socialist Unity Centre of India) rally to observe the birth centenary of Marxist philosopher comrade Shibdas Ghosh on its eve, at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata



# national

## of the day quote

Heartening to see Mr Kapil Sibal's strong defence of Article 370 which is inexorably tied to J&K's aspirations & future. PDP is looking forward to arguments put forward by our legal team led by Ms. Nitya Ramakrishnan. We are hopeful that the Constitution of this country will be upheld & not subverted to fulfill the ruling party's agenda

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

Don't give empty threats. I want the BJP and Hon'ble Home Minister to know that AAP is not cut from the same cloth as other parties. You can put as many agencies behind us as you want

RAGHAV CHADHA | AAP RAJYA SABHA MP

India suffered due to the socialist model of economy adopted after independence, but now the country is experiencing a 'revolutionary transformation' under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

RN RAVI | TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR

## SHORT TAKES

### SC junks PIL against Goel

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday dismissed a plea challenging the appointment of bureaucrat Arun Goel as election commissioner, saying the constitution bench of the apex court had already dealt with the issue in its verdict dated March 2. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bharti said the five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice (now retired) KM Joseph had perused the file related to Goel's appointment but refused to quash it even though it made certain observations.

### Ajay Bhalla's tenure extended

New Delhi: Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was Friday given another one-year extension, his fourth in the post, till August 22, 2024, according to a Personnel Ministry order. Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed home secretary in August 2019. He was to retire in November 2020 after attaining 60 years of age.

### President to visit TN, Pondicherry

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will visit Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry from August 5 to 8, according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan Friday. The President will visit the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and interact with mahouts of Tamil Nadu Saturday, it said. On August 6, President Murmu will address the 165th convocation of the University of Madras in Chennai. On August 7, President Murmu will inaugurate the Linear Accelerator of Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry.

### Girl gangraped

Deoria (UP): A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three men here, police said Friday. Based on the complaint of the girl's mother, a rape case has been registered against three youths and one of them has been arrested, they added. According to the woman, her daughter was on the way to her school on Thursday and had reached the culvert outside her village around 8 am when three men caught hold of her and took her to an adjacent sugarcane field where they took turns to rape her, Tarkulwa SHO Dilip Singh said.

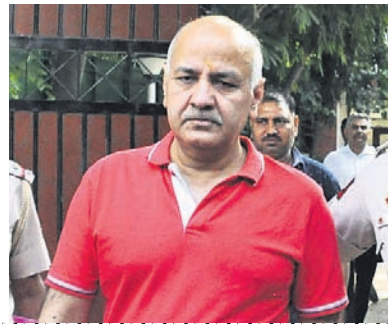


**Honourable Supreme Court's judgement on Rahul Gandhi is commendable. But for this shock, the BJP's network thriving on slander would have continued with the conspiracy to eject many other opposition leaders from the legislature**

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

## SC ADJOURNS SISODIA'S INTERIM BAIL PLEA

The Supreme Court Friday declined to pass any direction on the interim bail plea moved by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with the corruption and money laundering cases related to the now-scrapped excise policy



# SC declines to stay Gyanvapi survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: The Supreme Court Friday refused to stay the Allahabad High Court order allowing the ASI to conduct a scientific survey at the Gyanvapi mosque complex to determine if the 17th century structure was built upon a pre-existing temple, notwithstanding the assertion by the Muslim side that the exercise will "reopen wounds of the past".

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, however, asked the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) not to take recourse to any invasive act during the survey.

The bench took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ASI and the Uttar Pradesh government, that no excavation will be carried out during the survey nor any destruction caused to the structure.

"It is clarified on behalf of the ASI, represented by the solicitor general, that as a matter of fact, the entire survey will be completed without any excavation at the site and without causing any destruction to the structure," the bench said.

"The order of the learned trial judge passed under Order 26 Rule 10A of the CPC (Civil Procedure Code) cannot be prima facie at this stage to be said as without jurisdiction," the bench said. The top court said the ev-



Tight security arrangements as a team of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducts a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises in Varanasi. ASI began survey to determine whether the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple

identary value of the scientific survey of the ASI was open to be tested in the lawsuit and is open to objections, including cross-examination. Consequently, the report of

the ASI, by itself, does not amount to determination of the matters in dispute. "Having regard to the nature and ambit of Court-appointed commissioners, we are unable to differ with the view of the High Court..." it said.

The apex court bench ordered the survey to be carried out through "non-invasive" processes. The report of the ASI will be remitted to the trial court and the decision on that will be taken by the district judge, it said.

During the hearing, Muslim body Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee said the ASI survey at the Gyanvapi mosque intends to go into history and will "reopen wounds of the past". Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque management committee, contended before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that the exercise by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is "digging into history", violating the Places of Worship Act and impinging upon fraternity and secularism.

"You can't oppose every interlocutory order on the same ground and your objections will be decided during the course of hearing," said the bench.

# 'INDIA' HAILS SC RELIEF TO RAHUL



A Congress worker celebrates after the Supreme Court stayed the conviction of party leader Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 criminal defamation case over his 'Modi surname' remark, restoring his status as an MP, at AICC headquarters in New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: Top leaders of opposition bloc 'INDIA' Friday hailed the Supreme Court order staying the conviction of Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case and asserted that the decision reinforced people's trust in the Indian judiciary and democracy and it will further strengthen the resolve of the alliance to unitedly fight and win against the BJP.

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed Gandhi's conviction in the 2019 defamation case over his Modi surname remark, paving the way for revival of his Lok Sabha membership.

Applauding the stay by the apex court, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said it was a victory of the judiciary. "I am happy with the news about the MP-ship of @RahulGandhi. This will further strengthen the resolve of the INDIA alliance to unitedly fight for our motherland and win. A victory of the judiciary!" Banerjee tweeted.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal welcomed the SC stay in the case and said it reinforced trust in the Indian democracy. "I welcome Hon'ble Supreme Court's intervention in an unjust defamation case against Rahul Gandhi. It reinforces people's trust in Indian democracy and the judicial system. Congratulations to him and to the people of Wayanad," the AAP national convener said in a tweet.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin hailed the Supreme Court verdict saying it affirmed belief in the judiciary. "Justice prevails! #Wayanad retains #RahulGndhi!" he said in a tweet.

This is the victory of the common people. This is not just Rahul Gandhi's victory, this is the victory of all the people of the country, victory of democracy and of constitutional principles

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav said that by staying the sentence, the SC has boosted people's faith in the Indian democracy and judiciary. "The arrogant flag of BJP's negative politics should bite the dust," he said in a tweet.

Back in Wayanad, Congress workers welcomed the Supreme Court verdict staying the conviction of Rahul Gandhi and expressed hope that the Lok Sabha secretariat would soon reinstate Rahul Gandhi as their MP.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah congratulated the people of Rahul Gandhi's constituency. "Congratulations to the people of Wayanad upon having their representation in the Lok Sabha restored. #RahulGandhi #SupremeCourtofIndia," he said.

Another former chief minister and PDP president, Mehbooba Mufti, said she was glad that Gandhi will be back in the Parliament fighting for the "idea of India." "I welcome the SC verdict staying @RahulGandhi's conviction in a case that had no legs to stand upon. Glad that he will be back in Parliament fighting for the idea of India," Mufti said in a tweet. The CPI termed the stay on the defamation case "victory of truth against forces of deceit."

## Lok Sabha passes IIM (Amendment) Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: The Lok Sabha Friday passed a Bill seeking to entrust the management accountability of the IIMs with the President, who will be a Visitor and have powers to audit their functioning, remove directors and nominate a member in the selection committee.

Piloting the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, in the Lower House, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the government has no intention to take away the academic accountability from the institute but the Bill will only ensure its management accountability as the Centre has spent over Rs 6,000 crore in setting up the IIMs.

Under the existing dispensation, the President of India is also a visitor at IITs and NITs, but no questions are being raised on the academic autonomy of these institutes, Pradhan said. The Bill, which was introduced on July 28, was passed by the Lower House by a voice vote amid disruptions by opposition members over the recent violence in Manipur.

According to the Bill, which seeks to amend the IIM Act of 2017, the President will be a Visitor to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) with powers to audit their functioning, order probes and appoint as well as remove directors.

"The Visitor may appoint one or more persons to review the work and progress of any institute, to hold enquiries into affairs thereof and to report in such manner as the Visitor may direct. The board may also recommend to the Visitor an enquiry as deemed proper against the institute which has not been functioning in accordance with provisions and objectives of the Act," it stated.

# Bunkers destroyed in Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, August 4: The Manipur Police Friday said joint forces have conducted search operations in vulnerable and fringe areas of the strife-torn state and destroyed seven illegal bunkers after fresh violence broke out across various districts.

The state government, however, relaxed the curfew in Imphal East and West districts for seven hours from 5 am to facilitate common people to purchase essential items, officials said. "Security Forces conducted search operations in the vulnerable and fringe areas of the State. Joint security forces conducted operation in Koutruk hill range and destroyed 07 (seven) illegal bunkers," the state police said on Twitter.

Following the violence in several districts of the ethnic riot-hit state, the administration had



on Thursday imposed a total curfew in the twin districts of Imphal as a precautionary measure, withdrawing relaxations announced earlier.

The curfew was relaxed on Friday from 5 am to 12 pm "to facilitate the general public to purchase essential commodities, including medicines and food items", according to orders issued

# HARYANA VIOLENCE: NUH SP, DC TRANSFERRED

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, August 4: Nuh Superintendent of Police Varun Singla and Deputy Commissioner Prashant Panwar have been transferred, an official order said Friday.

Singla was on leave when communal clashes broke out in the district on Monday. Six people, including two home guards and a cleric, died in the clashes that erupted in Nuh over an attempt to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession and spread to Gurugram and other places.

Singla will now be the superintendent of police, Bhiwani. Narendra Bijarniya, who was holding the additional charge in Singla's absence, will be the new SP of Nuh, according to a government order issued on



Additional DGP (law and order), in addition to his present duties to assist her in maintaining the law and order situation in Nuh and surrounding areas, has been transferred and posted as SP, Nuh, it said.

The order said Panwar, Deputy Commissioner, Nuh, and CEO of Mewat Development Agency, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to Fisheries Department. Besides, he will also be Administrator, Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran,

## 250 shanties demolished

Gurugram: Nuh authorities bulldozed about 250 shanties allegedly encroaching upon government land in Tauru town, a police official said Friday, days after communal riots erupted in the district. The official said the occupants of the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) land were illegal Bangladeshi immigrants who were earlier living in Assam and the shanties were demolished Thursday evening.

Rohtak, and Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Rohtak. Khadgata, who was at present Special Secretary, Environment, Forests and Wildlife Department and Administrator, HSVP, Rohtak, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Nuh, and CEO, Mewat Development Agency, Nuh, the order said. Khadgata will also hold the charge of Special Secretary, Environment, Forests and Wildlife Department.

## 1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

### Tytler granted anticipatory bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 4: A Delhi court Friday granted anticipatory bail to Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in a case related to the Pul Bangash killings during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull also imposed certain conditions on Tytler, including that he will not tamper with evidence or leave the country without its permission. The judge granted the relief on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and one surety of the like amount.

Three people were killed and a gurdwara was set ablaze in the Pul Bangash area of the national capital on November 1, 1984, a day after the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

A city court had on July 26 summoned Tytler on August 5 after taking cognisance of a May 20 charge sheet filed by the CBI in the case. While seeking the relief, Tytler's lawyer had told the court his client was anticipating arrest and he should be granted bail. "The exact time of the crime was not ascertained by the probe agency and multiple closure reports were filed in the case... Delhi Police twice and CBI once said nothing was found against Tytler," Tytler's advocate Manu Sharma told the court.

# HC judge quits, says 'can't work against self-respect'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, August 4: Justice Rohit Deo, a judge of the Bombay High Court, on Friday said he had resigned due to personal reasons.

Making the announcement in his courtroom here - the high court has a bench at Nagpur - Justice Deo also said that he could not compromise on self-respect, according to a lawyer who was present.

Following the announcement, the matters listed before him for the day stood dis-

charged. "Those who are present in the court, I apologise to each one of you. I scolded you because I want you to improve. I don't want to hurt anyone of you because you all are like family to me and I am sorry to tell you that I have submitted my resignation. I can't work against my self-respect. You people work hard," Justice Deo was quoted as saying in the court by the lawyer.

Speaking to reporters later, the judge said he had quit due to personal reasons, and sent his resignation letter to the President

of India. In 2022, Justice Deo had acquitted former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba in an alleged Maoist links case, setting aside the life imprisonment awarded to him and noting that the trial proceedings were null and void in the absence of valid sanction under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The Supreme Court later stayed the order and ordered the Nagpur bench of the High Court to hear the case afresh. Last week Justice Deo stayed the operation of a Maharashtra



Government Resolution (order) of January 3 through which the state was empowered to cancel punitive proceedings initiated by the revenue department related to illegal excavation of minor minerals by contractors engaged in the construction of the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway.

Deo was appointed as a judge of the Bombay High Court in June 2017 and was due to retire in December 2025. Before that, he had worked as Advocate General of Maharashtra in 2016.



# international

## of the day quote

To best utilise this Council's time, I suggest the concerned delegation (Pakistan) concentrate on addressing their internal matters and restoring order within their own borders, rather than indulging in frivolous allegations against my country

R MADHU SUDAN | COUNSELLOR IN INDIA'S UN MISSION

Occupiers came to our land, killed, tortured, kidnapped Ukrainian children, separated them from their families and tried to teach them hatred

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

I believe our position is substantially the same. We want to stop illegal immigration

GIORGIA MELONI | PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY

## SHORT TAKES

### Over 50 injured in festival clashes

Stockholm: More than 50 people were injured as violent clashes broke out at an Eritrean cultural festival in the Swedish capital of Stockholm with at least 100 detained, according to local authorities. Fifteen of the injured have been taken to hospital, including eight in serious condition, Swedish broadcaster SVT reported, citing Region Stockholm, the healthcare and public transport authority in Stockholm County. Three police officers were also injured, Xinhua news agency quoted SVT as saying. Around 1,000 anti-Eritrean government protesters on Thursday stormed the festival event and threw stones at police officers, according to local media.

### New Cov variant spreading in UK

London: A new Covid variant which has descended from the rapidly spreading Omicron and was first flagged in the UK last month is now said to be spreading quickly in the country, according to health authorities in England. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said EG.5.1, which has been nicknamed Eris, makes up one in seven new Covid cases. It was classified as a variant July 31 after its prevalence was recorded in the country due to increasing cases internationally, particularly in Asia.

### Four astronauts set to reach ISS

Washington: A group of four astronauts is set to fly to the International Space Station (ISS) on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket aboard the company's Dragon spacecraft August 25. NASA's SpaceX Crew-7 mission to the International Space Station is set to depart at 3:49 am EDT (1:19 pm India time) Friday (August 25). Additional time was required for teams to complete pad readiness after SpaceX's recent Falcon Heavy mission lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the US space agency said in a statement.

### Wildfire raging in California

Los Angeles: A wildfire raging across the US states of California and Nevada since July 28 has so far spread to 94,009 acres of land. The fire, dubbed York Fire, was first reported on private property in the New York Mountain Range inside California's Mojave National Preserve (MNP) and crossed the state border lines into Clark County of Nevada Sunday, reports said.



There is no such thing as abstract love. It doesn't exist  
POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PAKISTAN PASSES KEY BILL TO AVOID FATF GREY LIST

In a bid to avoid the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) forever; Pakistan's National Assembly has passed a bill titled "National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Authority Act, 2023"



# Trump pleads not guilty to '20 election charges

AGENCIES

Washington, August 4: Former US president Donald Trump has pleaded not guilty before an Indian-American judge to four charges that he plotted a criminal conspiracy to remain in power despite losing the November 2020 election.

Trump, 77, entered his plea Thursday before Magistrate Judge Moxila Upadhyaya at a Washington, D.C., federal courthouse not far from the US Capitol, where the alleged conspiracy he's accused of orchestrating turned violent January 6, 2021.

After he arrived at the court, Trump was arrested and arraigned on four felony counts outlined in special counsel Jack Smith's indictment: conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding, attempting to obstruct an official proceeding, and conspiracy against rights.

Upadhyaya read the charges to Trump accusing him of conspiring against the United States to overthrow his election loss to Democrat Joe Biden, now the US president, and listed the lengthy

prison terms he would face if convicted.

The 45-page indictment was filed in Washington, DC earlier this week by Smith, who has led investigations into the former president on behalf of the US Department of Justice. "As to counts one to four, how does Mr Trump plead?" Judge Upadhyaya asked the former president in the courtroom. Trump, flanked by his lawyers, said: "Not guilty."

Trump spoke little during the hearing, answering questions about his name and age, while rarely glancing at prosecutors. When asked whether he understood that his words could be used against him, he replied in the affirmative.

The judge told Trump that he would be released but there are certain conditions that he has to abide by and appear in the court as and when required. Trump's next scheduled appearance is on August 28 before US District Judge Tanya Chutkan. But he has the option not to appear in person. The indictment was issued by a grand jury of citizens in the District of Columbia and sets forth the crimes charged in detail. It caps an inquiry into events surrounding the January 6, 2021 riot at the US Capitol.

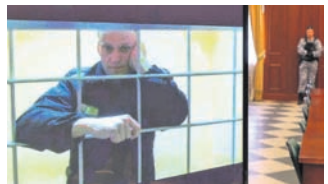


## Navalny sentenced to 19 years in prison

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melekhovo (Russia), August 4: A Russian court convicted imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny of extremism changes and sentenced him to 19 years in prison Friday.

Navalny is already serving a nine-year term on a variety of charges that he says were politically motivated. The new charges against the politician relate to the activities of Navalny's anti-corruption foundation and statements by his top associates. In 2021, Russian



authorities outlawed the foundation and the vast network of Navalny's offices in Russian regions, calling them extremist organisations and exposing anyone involved to possible prosecution. Navalny's allies say the charges retroactively criminalise all the foundation's activities since its creation in 2011.

Navalny, 47, is President Vladimir Putin's fiercest foe and has exposed official corruption and organised major anti-Kremlin protests. He was arrested in January 2021 upon returning to Moscow after recuperating in Germany from nerve agent poisoning. He blamed that poisoning on the Kremlin, which denied involvement. The authorities previously sentenced him to 2 1/2 years in prison for parole violations and then to another nine years on charges of fraud and contempt of court.

# Ukrainian drones hit key Russian port

AGENCIES

Kyiv, August 4: Ukrainian sea drones attacked a major Russian port on the Black Sea on Friday, damaging a naval ship, according to a Ukrainian official, the latest in a series of strikes inside Russia as Kyiv vowed to bring the fight home to them. Moscow claimed it repelled the attack.

The strike on Novorossiysk marks the first time a commercial Russian port has been targeted in the 18-month war.

The port — which hosts a naval base, shipbuilding yards and an oil terminal and is key for exports — lies just across the Black Sea from Crimea, where Russia's Defence Ministry said it thwarted another attack



SHIP MOVEMENTS AT PORT BRIEFLY SUSPENDED BEFORE RESUMING

overnight, taking down 13 drones. The Security Service of Ukraine and the country's navy carried out the attack on Novorossiysk, according to an official with the security service, and the landing ship, Olenegorsky Gornyyak, suffered a serious breach. As a result, the ship is unable

to carry out its combat missions, the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to give the information to the media.

Ukrainian news agencies carried footage from social media channels that they suggested showed the Olenegorsky Gornyyak listing to one side.

# Mutinous soldiers in Niger sever French military ties

THE JUNTA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON STATE TELEVISION LATE THURSDAY DEEPENS THE POST-COUP ISOLATION FOR WHAT HAD BEEN THE UNITED STATES' AND ALLIES' LAST MAJOR SECURITY PARTNER IN THE SAHEL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Niamey (Niger), August 4: Niger's military junta says it is severing military agreements with France, its former colonial ruler, firing some of the previous government's key ambassadors and warning citizens of the West African nation to watch for foreign armies and spies. A regional delegation's efforts at negotiation quickly deadlocked.

The junta's announcement on state television late Thursday deepens the post-coup isolation for what had been the United States' and allies' last major security partner in the Sahel, the vast region south of the Sahara

Desert that Islamic extremist groups have turned into the global centre of terrorism. With two days remaining before a deadline set by the West African regional bloc to release and reinstate President Mohamed Bazoum or face possible force, Bazoum in a plea published in a Washington Post opinion piece said, "I write this as a hostage" and urged the US and partners to help.

Niger's mutinous soldiers face a Sunday deadline set by the regional bloc known as ECOWAS, whose envoys arrived Thursday for talks. But those discussions stalled, with the delegation unable to meet the coup leader,



Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, or go into the capital, Niamey, according to a person with close knowledge of the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity be-

cause they weren't authorised to comment.

The junta's announcement brought further scepticism about any deal. It said it was termi-



FLOOD WOES: A flooded area is seen in Ravne na Koroskem, some 60 km (38 miles) northeast of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Friday. Heavy rains caused flash floods and landslides in parts of Slovenia, blocking roads and bridges, flooding buildings and forcing evacuations. Slovenia's environmental agency, ARSO, raised the weather alert to the highest level after a month's amount of rain fell within 24 hours in northern, northwestern and central parts of the country

# 2 US Navy sailors charged with selling military secrets to China

AGENCIES

San Diego, August 4: Two US Navy sailors were charged Thursday with providing sensitive military information to China — including details on wartime exercises, naval operations and critical technical material.

The two sailors, both based in California, were charged with similar moves to provide sensitive intelligence to the Chinese.

But they were separate cases, and it wasn't clear if the two were courted or paid by the same Chinese intelligence officer as part of a larger scheme. Federal officials at a news conference in San Diego declined to specify whether the sailors were aware of each other's actions. Both men pleaded not guilty in federal courts in San Diego and Los Angeles. They were ordered to be held until their detention

US officials said the cases exemplify China's brazenness in trying to obtain insight into US military operations

hearings, which will take place Aug. 8 in those same cities.

US officials have for years expressed concern about the espionage threat they say the Chinese government poses, bringing criminal cases in recent years against Beijing intelligence operatives who have stolen sensitive government and commercial information, including through illegal hacking. The pair of cases also comes on the heels of another insider-threat prosecution tied to the US military, with the Justice

Department in April arresting a Massachusetts Air National Guardsman on charges of leaking classified military documents about Russia's war in Ukraine and other sensitive national security topics on Discord, a social media platform popular with people playing online games. US officials said the cases exemplify China's brazenness in trying to obtain insight into US military operations. "Through the alleged crimes committed by these defendants, sensitive military information ended up in the hands of the People's Republic of China," said US Attorney Randy Grossman for the Southern District of California. US Attorney Grossman said the charges reflect that China "stands apart in terms of the threat that its government poses to the United States."

# 17 dead as bus with 6 Indians onboard plunges into ravine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mexico City, August 4: Six Indians were onboard a passenger bus, which plunged into a 164-foot-deep hillside in the western Mexican state of Nayarit early Thursday, killing 17 people and injuring 23 others.

A source from Nayarit's fire-fighting service said six Indian citizens had been aboard the bus, part of the Elite passenger line, which departed from Mexico City Wednesday, the Daily Mail reported.



The bus's destination was Tijuana, the border town across from southern California.

An official list with the names of survivors published by Mexican newspaper El Financiero identified four of the India nationals as Rajan Singh, 21; Mandip Kumar, 22; Adama Kane, 46; and Hanidou Kane, the British daily reported.

The driver, identified as Francisco, survived the crash and was taken into custody as part of the investigation. He told investigators that he fell asleep behind the wheel and eventually lost control of the vehicle before it crashed through a guardrail.

Footage showed first responders trekking down the slope in search of survivors. Jorge Rodriguez, the security and civil protection secretary for the state of Nayarit, told reporters that the rescue mission was "extremely difficult" because of how deep the ravine was, the Mail reported.

nating the military agreements and protocols signed with France and announced the end of functions for Niger's ambassadors to France, the United States, Togo and neighbouring Nigeria, which is leading ECOWAS efforts on dialogue.

Mali and Burkina Faso have said such an intervention would be a declaration of war against them. France's Foreign Ministry responded that Paris only recognises "the legitimate Nigerien authorities", dismissing the move by coup leaders. France reiterated its call for "the re-establishment of the democratic institutions of Niger", the ministry said.





It was painful to learn that Blackstone, the world's largest private equity fund, is negotiating to acquire the entire 33.47% promoter stake in Cipla, India's oldest pharmaceutical company  
**JAI RAM RAMESH** | LEADER, CONGRESS

## MAJOR RELIEF FOR SAHARA INVESTORS

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah Friday started the process of returning hard earned money of crores of depositors of four cooperatives of Sahara Group by transferring the first tranche of Rs 10,000 each to 112 small investors. Shah said so far 18 lakh depositors have registered on the 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal', which was launched July 18



## of the day quote

You know we did hit a June quarter revenue record in India and we grew strong double digits



**TIM COOK** | CEO, APPLE

Would it surprise you to know that the second largest investor in India is Singapore? We are within pole-vaulting distance of being able to replace China as the factory to the world



**ANAND MAHINDRA** | CHAIRMAN, MAHINDRA GROUP

We continue to focus on strengthening our balance sheet and cash generation. Strong collections led to a further reduction in net debt during the quarter. Consequently, our net debt now stands reduced to the lowest ever at Rs 57 crore



**VIVEK ANAND** | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DLF GROUP

## RESULTS CORNER

### SBI net jumps 2X

**New Delhi:** The country's biggest bank SBI Friday posted over two-fold jump in standalone net profit at Rs 16,884 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year, helped by decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income. State Bank of India (SBI) had reported a net profit of Rs 6,068 crore in the April-June quarter of 2022-23. The bank's total income increased to Rs 1,08,039 crore in the first quarter of 2023-24, as against Rs 74,989 crore in the same period a year ago, as per the regulatory filing. During the quarter, the bank earned interest income of Rs 95,975 crore, as against Rs 72,676 crore in the same period a year ago.

### M&M PAT surges

**Mumbai:** Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd Friday reported a 56.04 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 3,683.87 crore for June quarter 2023-24, riding on strong performance of its automotive segment. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 2,360.70 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations stood at Rs 33,406.44 crore as compared to Rs 28,412.38 crore in the year-ago period, up 17.57 per cent, it added. Total expenses were higher at Rs 30,492.08 crore as against Rs 26,195.01 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

### Amazon shines

**San Francisco:** Amazon posted strong financial results for its second quarter ended June 30, with net sales increasing 11 per cent to \$134.4 billion and net income at \$6.7 billion, compared with a net loss of \$2 billion in the year-ago quarter. Its Cloud arm AWS segment sales increased 12 per cent year-over-year to \$22.1 billion. AWS segment's operating income was \$5.4 billion, compared with operating income of \$5.7 billion in the second quarter of 2022.

### BHEL loss widens

**New Delhi:** State-run engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) on Friday reported the widening of its consolidated net loss to Rs 343.89 crore in the April-June quarter compared to the year-ago period mainly due to higher expenses. The company had reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 187.99 crore in the quarter ended on June 30, 2022, a BSE filing showed. Total expenses of the company rose to Rs 5,595.47 crore in the quarter from Rs 5,006.50 crore in the same period a year ago.

# NEW NORMS SOON

## Tablet, laptop import curbs to wait

THE IMPORT RESTRICTION, AN EXAMPLE OF INDIA'S SUDDEN POLICY SHIFTS, ADDS TO LONGSTANDING MEASURES DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE BRINGING IN FOREIGN ELECTRONICS

REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 4:** India will provide a transition period before a new licensing regime for imports of laptops, tablets and personal computers comes into effect, a minister said Friday, after the surprise move prompted calls for a delay.

In a shock decision, India Thursday said it would impose a licensing requirement for imports of laptops, tablets and personal computers with immediate effect.

"There will be a transition period for this to be put into effect which will be notified soon," Deputy IT and Electronics Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on the X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter. Another government official, who did not want to be named, said the proposal could be deferred by at least a month and the notification will be issued by later Friday.

Chandrasekhar's comments come after another government official told Reuters earlier Friday that industry had requested a deferral of the new import licence order by three to six months.

"Industry has sought a 3-6 month transition period. We are examining the suggestions made by the industry and may soon issue an additional notice with



clarifications if needed," the second government source, who also did not want to be named, told Reuters.

The government in its notification Thursday gave no reason for the action, which could affect technology companies such as

Apple, Dell and Samsung and potentially see them boost local manufacturing.

The move was aimed at addressing the trade imbalance with China, a third government official, told reporters.

The Deputy IT Minister had

The new rule will ensure India's tech eco-system uses only imports that are trusted and verified systems

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR** | DEPUTY IT MINISTER

GOVT LIKELY TO DEFER PROPOSAL BY AT LEAST A MONTH

INDUSTRY SEEKS 3-6 MONTH TRANSITION PERIOD

earlier said that the move to restrict imports was to "ensure trusted hardware and systems" and reduce dependence on imports.

India's Electronics and IT ministry said New Delhi will issue licences for companies to import laptops and tablets within two days. Licences can be obtained online.

The second unnamed government official said India will allow imports of laptops and tablets without licences where the shipment was ordered before August 3. The official said customs has been told to clear "some consignments" that are stuck at the ports due to confusion over the new import licence order.

To apply for the import licences companies will have to provide information on consignment origin, number of pieces and past import history.

## Apple, Samsung, HP halt laptop imports

Apple, Samsung Electronics and HP are among the biggest names freezing new imports of laptops and tablets to India after the South Asian country abruptly banned inbound shipments without a license. Laptop makers had been bracing for some government measures aimed at reducing reliance on imports and boosting local production, but the sudden licensing imposition caught the industry off-guard, people familiar with the matter said, declining to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue. Tech firms are now engaging with New Delhi on how to most quickly obtain licenses at a period of heightened consumer interest with India's Diwali shopping season and back-to-school period approaching, the people said. It's unclear how long it would take for Apple et al to get licenses, but the halt is already disrupting a multibillion-dollar trade in foreign PCs at a crucial time.

## Smartphone market dips 6% in Q2

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 4:** The Indian smartphone market declined by 6 per cent (year-over-year) in the second quarter (Q2) of 2023, while the overall mobile market in India declined by 2 per cent (year-over-year), with 5G smartphone shipments growing 45 per cent (year-over-year), a new report showed Friday.

According to CyberMedia Research (CMR), Samsung (18 per cent), Vivo (15 per cent) and Xiaomi (15 per cent) captured the top three spots in the smartphone leaderboard in Q2 2023, followed by Realme (12 per cent)



and OPPO (10 per cent).

With a 24 per cent market share, Samsung dominated the 5G smartphone market in the country, followed by OnePlus with a 20 per cent market share.

While the value-for-money smartphone segment (Rs 7,000-Rs 25,000) was the largest contributor with a 72 per cent share, its shipments declined by 16 per

cent (year-over-year) due to slow demand. The affordable smartphone segment (less than Rs 7,000) recorded significant growth of 51 per cent (year-over-year), driven by Redmi A2 and Infinix 7 HD, according to the report.

The premium segment (Rs 25,000-50,000) recorded 9 per cent (year-over-year) growth, the super-premium smartphone segment (Rs 50,000-Rs 1,00,000) and the uber-premium segment (greater than Rs 1,00,000) shipments saw remarkable growth of 95 per cent and 133 per cent (year-over-year), respectively, leading to the increase in overall smartphone ASP by 17 per cent.

# Oil India gets Maharatna status

ONGC Videsh becomes Navratna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** The Finance Ministry has approved the upgradation of Oil India Ltd to the category of 'Maharatna', a move which will impart enhanced powers to the OIL board while taking financial decisions.

Post the upgrade, the state-run oil major has become India's 13th Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE).

"Finance Minister approved upgradation of Oil India Ltd (OIL) to Maharatna CPSE. OIL will be the 13th Maharatna amongst the CPSEs. OIL is a M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas CPSE with annual turnover of Rs 41,039 crore and net profit of Rs 9,854 crore for the Year 2022-23,"

the Department of Public Enterprises said in a post on Twitter, now branded as X.

In another post, the Department of Public Enterprises shared: "Finance Minister has approved the upgradation of ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) to Navratna CPSE. OVL will be 14th Navratna amongst the CPSEs. It is a M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas CPSE with annual turnover of Rs 11,676 crore and net profit of Rs 1,700 crore for the Year 2022-23".

The other companies included in the Maharatna list are Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Coal India Limited, GAIL India Limited, Hindustan Petroleum

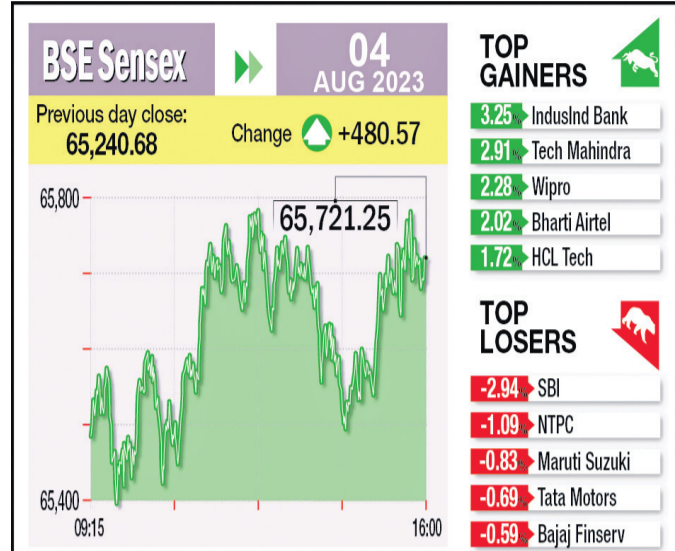


Corporation Limited (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, NTPC Limited, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Power Finance Corporation, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

To be eligible for the grant of the Maharatna status, the company should have an average turnover of over Rs 25,000 crore,

# Sensex, Nifty end nearly 1% higher

MARKETS SNAP 3-DAY LOSING RUN



The market had been falling for three consecutive sessions, and a relief rally was already expected, which came in on the back of a rating upgrade by Morgan Stanley as India remains a bright spot in an otherwise tepid world economy

**AMOL ATHAWALE** | VP (TECHNICAL RESEARCH), KOTAK SECURITIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 4:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty snapped their three-session losing streak to close nearly 1 per cent higher Friday, buoyed by gains in HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Infosys amid a largely firm trend in global markets.

After three days of decline, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 480.57 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at 65,721.25. During the day, it jumped 558.59 points or 0.85 per cent to 65,799.27.

The NSE Nifty advanced 135.35 points or 0.70 per cent to end at 19,517.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark fell by 438.95 points or 0.66 per cent, and the Nifty dipped 129.05 points or 0.65 per cent.

"Markets witnessed respite after the recent fall and gained over half a per cent. After the gap-up start, Nifty hovered in a band throughout the session and finally settled at 19,517 levels. Meanwhile, a mixed trend on the sectoral front kept traders busy, wherein IT, pharma and banking posted decent gains. The broader indices too partic-

ipated in the move and gained nearly a per cent each," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

IndusInd Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.25 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, RIL, TCS, L&T and Infosys.

In contrast, State Bank of India, NTPC, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors and Power Grid were among the laggards, slipping up to 2.94 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.66 per cent, and the midcap index advanced 0.65 per cent. Among the indices, IT rallied 1.47 per cent, telecommunication jumped 1.45 per cent, teck (1.39 per cent), financial services (0.83 per cent), capital goods (0.66 per cent) and bankex (0.66 per cent).

Utilities, auto, oil & gas and power were the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 317.46 crore Thursday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.62 per cent to \$85.67 a barrel.

## PRICES FIRM UP

### Govt mulls import duty cut on wheat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** Wheat prices have firmed up and the government is considering all options, including a reduction in import duty, to contain the rise, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said Friday.

In the case of rice, he said India has so far received a request from Bhutan for 80,000 tonne of rice supply on a government-to-government basis.

Last year, the government banned wheat exports to boost domestic availability and rising prices in the retail markets. It has been offloading wheat stocks to flour millers and other traders in the open market to control the prices of wheat and atta (wheat flour).

"Wheat prices have risen since last auction. The government is considering all available options and will take an appropriate decision," Chopra said.

Under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), the government has decided to offload 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from the central pool to flour millers, private traders, bulk buyers and manufacturers of wheat products till March 2024 to check prices.

The country's wheat production had fallen to 107.74 million tonne in the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) from 109.59 million tonne in the previous year due to heat waves in a few growing states. Consequently, the government's procurement fell sharply to 19 million tonne this year from around 43 million tonne last year.

## SERIOUS CHALLENGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 4:** Losses worth \$110 billion occur every year in India due to corrosion in projects across sectors, industry body ISSDA said Friday.

As India moves towards a \$5 trillion economy goal, dealing with a challenge like corrosion in projects should be a key focus area, Rajamani Krishnamurti, president of Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) said.

ISSDA is the apex body of the stainless steel sector in India which engages with stakeholders and the government to iden-

tify the challenges in the sector and works on solutions.

"Corrosion is a serious issue. Corrosion leads to various other problems that weaken the infrastructure structures. As a result, many projects like road over bridges, footover bridges at railway stations, real estate projects fail to complete their estimated life cycle," he said.

"If you calculate, losses worth \$110 billion are happening every year in India," Krishnamurti said at the first India Stainless Steel Expo (ISSE).

Compared to carbon steel, stainless steel is more ductile, cor-



rosion free, maintenance free, aesthetic and has longer life, he said.

The per capita stainless steel

Corrosion is a serious issue. Corrosion leads to various other problems that weaken the infrastructure structures. As a result, many projects like road over bridges, footover bridges at railway stations, real estate projects fail to complete their estimated life cycle

**RAJAMANI KRISHNAMURTI** | PRESIDENT, ISSDA

consumption in India is at 2.8 kg as against the world average of 6 kg. The installed capacity of stainless steel in India is 6.5 mil-

lion tonne (MT). In 2022-23, the country produced 4 MT stainless steel.

Highlighting the issue of dumping in India, he said the industry wants that the government check the rising imports and take measures like imposing countervailing duty (CVD) or antidumping duty (ADD) on such imports.

"It has been witnessed that the industry could not utilise its installed capacity at optimum level due to huge dumping from China at predatory pricing, which has eaten up over 33 per cent of domestic demand," Krishnamurti said.



# Prannoy, Rajawat to face off India, Japan share points



HS Prannoy

Indian eked out an 11-7 advantage. Prannoy extended his lead to 15-8 when Ginting scripted a fine recovery with five straight points to make it 13-15 but the Indian squashed the mutiny and soon shut the door on his top-seeded rival.

Prannoy will go into the semi-final with a 1-0 advantage against World No.31 Rajawat, having beaten him at the Syed Modi International in 2022.

However, Rajawat, the 21-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, who had joined Pulela Gopichand's Gwalior academy at the age of 8, has improved by leaps and bounds in the last 12 months, having stretched Ginting, Japan's Kodai Naraoka and compatriot Lakshya Sen to three games this season.

In a battle between a senior pro and one trying to find his place in the international circuit, Rajawat gave ample display of his talent as he slowly grabbed a 11-6 lead at the interval against Srikanth.



Priyanshu Rajawat

The second game started on an even keel with the duo fighting close before Prannoy broke off at 9-9 to take a slender two-point lead at the break. He jumped to a 14-9 advantage before Ginting cut the deficit to 12-15. The Indian shuttler moved to seven-game points but squandered four of them before taking the contest to the decider.

In the third game, Prannoy galloped to 4-0 lead but Ginting managed to make it 7-8 before the

On resumption, the former World No.1 narrowed down the lead to 11-13 after winning five of the next seven points, but Rajawat broke off with a four-point burst to create a 19-13 gap which Srikanth couldn't bridge.

The young Indian was faster and more precise in his return and maintained his momentum to zoom to an 11-3 lead after the change of sides. He kept a hold on the match to eventually close out the match without much ado.

**Chennai, August 4:** A profligate India missed chances galore to be held to a 1-1 draw by a determined Japan in their second match of the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here Friday.

While Ken Nagayoshi scored for Japan in the 28th minute, India drew level through skipper Harmanpreet Singh's penalty corner conversion in the 43rd minute. India had defeated China 7-2 in their opening match Thursday.

It was an engaging first quarter, with India starting off in an attacking fashion. However, despite some positive possession-based play and scoring chances, both the teams failed to find the back of the net.

While Japan saw a player being substituted with an injury, India received as many as seven penalty corners in the quarter, but failed to successfully convert one.

While Vivek Sagar Prasad earned a green card in the eighth minute, nothing separated the two sides in the opening quarter.

The intensity remained the same for both the teams in the following quarter, before Jugraj Singh was green-carded in the 27th minute. The following minute resulted in a penalty corner for Japan, and Nagayoshi successfully converted it to put his side ahead.

After the change of ends, India played technical as well as relentless hockey and engaged in aerial balls as well. With Japan continuing to be ruthless in its defence, the Indians eventually



India's Harmanpreet Singh in action against Japan, Friday

managed to earn a penalty corner in the 43rd minute, and Harmanpreet made no mistake this time to flick it hard into the net to draw level.

In the final quarter, both the teams switched to attacking hockey. India earned a penalty corner in the 55th minute, but a successful video referral from

Japan got the decision to be overruled, while Mandeep Singh saw a yellow card a minute later.

India earned as many as 15 corners compared to Japan's two, but to no use. After a day's break, India will take on Malaysia Sunday, while Japan will play Pakistan on the same day.

## Malaysia thrash China 5-1

**CHENNAI:** Malaysia continued their winning run in the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament with a convincing 5-1 victory over China at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here Friday. China were the first to put their nose ahead in the fourth minute, with Chongqong Chen scoring a field goal. However, seven minutes later, Faizal Saari successfully converted a penalty corner to draw level. In the 15th minute from another corner Abu Kamal Azrai put Malaysia ahead. Towards the end of the third quarter, Azrai (45th minute) scored the third for Malaysia through a field goal. In the 49th minute, another field goal from Firhan Ashari made it 4-1 for the Malaysians, while in the 57th minute, Najmi Jazlan made it 5-1 through a penalty corner. With this win, Malaysia have

risen to the top of the table with six points and they play India next.

## South Korea hold Pakistan

**CHENNAI:** Pakistan remained winless in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy after being held to a 1-1 draw by defending champions South Korea at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here Friday. Pakistan had lost 1-3 against Malaysia in their opening match Thursday. While Abdul Shahid opened the scoring for the Men in Green in the ninth minute, Jihun Yang pulled back the equaliser for the Koreans from a penalty stroke in the 53rd minute. Before the start of the encounter, Pakistan skipper Umar Bhutta was felicitated by Hockey India for featuring in his 200th international match.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, August 4:** Star shuttler PV Sindhu bowed out but HS Prannoy and young Priyanshu Rajawat notched up contrasting wins to set up an enticing all-Indian men's singles semifinal clash in the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Friday.

Orleans Masters champion Rajawat will make his maiden appearance in a semifinal of a Super 500 tournament after knocking out compatriot Kidambi Srikanth 21-13, 21-8 in a lopsided men's singles quarterfinal.

World No.9 Prannoy came out victorious after a slugfest with World No.2 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia, bouncing back from an opening game reversal to notch up a gritty 16-21, 21-17, 21-14 win in a 73-minute battle.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu, who has slipped to World No.17 following a series of early exits, was looking to make her fourth semifinal of the season. However, she found it tough to tame USA's World No.12 Beiwen Zhang, losing 12-21, 17-21 in 39 minutes.

In their 10 past meetings, Sindhu had won six times against

her opponent. The last time she faced Zhang, the Indian had beaten her in straight games in the 2020 All England Championship.

But Sindhu just couldn't get going on Friday against the 33-year-old China-born American, who showed better control to come up trumps.

Sindhu, the 2019 World Champion, had beaten compatriots Ashmita Chaliha and Aakarshi Kashyap in the first two rounds but her loss to Zhang would come as a big disappointment ahead of the World Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark, to be held from August 21 to 27.

Both Prannoy and Ginting came into the match with a 2-2 head-to-head record with the Indonesian having the last laugh in their previous encounter at the All England Championships in March this year.

Sixth seed Prannoy fell behind right from the start with Ginting dominating the rallies, leading 11-6 at the break. The Indian had his moments but it was too little as the Indonesian kept a firm grip on the match, maintaining a four-point lead. At 14-19, Prannoy reeled off two quick points before Ginting prevailed to take a 1-0 lead.

## Double delight for Jyothi at WUG 2023



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chengdu, August 4:** Star athlete Jyothi Yarraji won India's first ever 100m hurdles medal – a bronze – at the World University Games (WUG) 2023 while smashing her own national record time, here Friday.

Another national record holder sprinter, Amlan Borgohain also won India's first ever 200m medal at the World University Games as he picked a bronze medal with a season's best time of 20.55 seconds. Before Friday, India has won just four medals in track and field events at the World University Games.

In sprint races, only Dutee Chand had won a medal – a 100m gold in 2019 edition – in the World University Games before Yarraji and Borgohain's bronze medals on Friday.

The 23-year-old Yarraji clocked 12.78 seconds to finish third in the women's 100m hurdles final, bettering her earlier national mark of 12.82 seconds which she had recorded in October 2022.

Viktoria Forster of Slovakia won the gold medal, clocking 12.72, while Yanni Wu of China took the silver with a time of 12.76.

The 25-year-old Borgohain missed his own national record of 20.52 by a whisker. Tsebo Isadore Matsoso of South Africa won the gold with a time of 20.36 while Yudai Nishi of Japan was second in 20.46.

With the two medals on Friday, India now has won 11 gold, 5 silver and 9 bronze, placed at fourth spot in the standings. China is on top of the medals tally, followed by Korea and Japan.

Indian athletics' first medal at the World University Games came in the 2013 edition in Kazan, Russia, where shot putter Inderjeet Singh won a silver. Inderjeet went on to win a gold in the 2015 edition in Gwangju, South Korea.

In the 2017 edition in Taipei, Sanjivani Jadhav won a silver in 10,000m race before Dutee clinched a 100m gold in 2019 in Naples, Italy.

## Historic gold for women archers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Berlin (Germany), August 4:** The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami won the gold medal at the World Archery Championships 2023, here Friday. It was India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category.

The Indian trio defeated the Mexican team of Dafne Quintero, Ana Sofia Hernandez Jeon and Andrea Becerra 235-229 in the final.

In the semifinals, the second-seeded Indian women's compound team defeated defending champions Colombia 220-216. The team overcame the challenge of Chinese Taipei and Turkey in the quarterfinals and the pre-quarterfinals respectively after receiving a bye in the first round.

Before this Berlin meet, India had won 11 medals – nine silver and two silver – at the World Archery Championships.

This gold was India's fourth consecutive medal in the compound women's team at the world



championships, after silvers in 2017 and 2021 and a bronze in 2019. Jyothi Vennam has been a part of all four medal-winning teams.

On the other hand, the Indian compound men's team featuring Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar lost to the Netherlands 230-235 to bow out from the quarterfinals.

In the mixed compound team

## YOUNGSTER GOES PAST ANAND

### Gukesh becomes highest ranked Indian in Live Rating

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, August 4:** The 17-year-old D Gukesh won two games in his second-round match with GM Misratdin Iskandarov in the first round of the FIDE World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan to surge past Viswanathan Anand in Live Rating and become the highest-ranked Indian chess player in the World. Currently, in Live Ratings, Gukesh is ranked 9th in the World with a rating of 2755.9 with Anand (2754) at 10th.

The win in the first round Thursday evening against Iskandarov (Elo 2559) helped him rise to 2755.9 in the live rating, taking him past Anand's rating of 2754, making him the second Indian player after P Harikrishna in March 2016 to overtake Anand in live rating as India's No.1 chess player, a position the five-time World Champion has held for 37 years since 1986. Harikrishna was India's No.1 chess player for just

one day as Anand won his game the next day and took back the position.

That would be the first time since 1986 that an Indian will overtake Anand in the 'published' FIDE Rankings. With Anand, rarely playing in the chess circuit for the last few years, there are chances that Gukesh will maintain become India's No.1 player for a long time and maintain that position for many years.

Gukesh, the youngest player to reach the 2750 rating in the World breaking the record held by Magnus Carlsen, will now have to maintain his rating above 2754 when FIDE publishes the rankings next September 1.

Gukesh, who became the youngest Indian Grandmaster at 12 years, 7 months, 17 days in March 2019 missed becoming the youngest GM in the World and falling short of the record held by Sergey Karjakin by just 17 days.

## Divorce of Sania-Shoaib subject of speculation again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 4:** The celebrity couple – Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik – has possibly separated if the recent activity on their social media accounts is any indication.

The rumours about their divorce have been going around since last year but the two reputed athletes have not made any public comment on the issue that has been a topic of discussion on social media.

The wedding of Sania and Shoaib in 2010 had generated huge interest among the fans in the two countries and so has their speculated separation.

Despite the hullabaloo around their divorce, the two athletes

came together for Pakistani reality TV show – The Mirza Malik show – where they played hosts, interviewing Pakistani celebrities. They have a son, Izzaan Malik, who was born in October 2018.

However, Friday, the status of their relationship yet again became a subject of intense discussion when Malik removed the reference about Mirza from his Instagram bio.

The 41-year-old Pakistani all-rounder removed 'Husband to a superwoman Sania Mirza' reference from his Instagram bio, triggering reactions from fans. Now it says, "Father to One True Blessing."

The 36-year-old Sania, who retired from professional tennis by playing an exhibition match



Malik removed 'Husband to a superwoman Sania Mirza' reference from his Instagram bio, while Sania has deleted Malik's pictures from her Instagram account

in Hyderabad in March, has also deleted Malik's pictures from her Instagram account.

"Sania and Shoaib both believe that since it's their personal life, they don't wish to make any official statement either separately or jointly. We would appreciate if their privacy is respected," said a family source adding that their priority is their son Izzaan.