

METTLE MEET KICKS OFF; SUMMIT CLASH TODAY

Shah showers praises on CM



WELCOME TO THE GRAND FINALE: Eight winning teams from Junior category (left) and as many teams from the Senior category (right) in the Prelims round pose with Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, the newspaper's Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and quizmaster Ajay Poonia at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The fifth edition of Odisha's biggest quizzing extravaganza, **Orissa POST Mettle Meet-2023**, got off to a spectacular start amid an overwhelming participation of students representing 69 premier educational institutions in Junior and Senior categories of the state, at Hotel Swosti Premium here, Saturday.

A total of 16 teams from Odisha's top educational institutions won the tough preliminary round battle and qualified for the finals to be held Sunday. The top eight teams each in Junior and Senior categories will sweat it out to bag the prestigious trophy Sunday.

Welcoming participants at the outset, **Orissa POST** Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy said, "We thought of starting Mettle Meet because we realised quizzing needs more attention and wanted to give a platform to brainy minds, a chance to shine. I wish all the participants the best of luck and wish to see you again in 2024."

Editor, **Orissa POST** Tathagata Satpathy said, "A slight amount of nervousness and stress is necessary in life. It will make you great human beings. Also, for me, all are winners here today and I hope this quizzing experience will help you in life."

The venue was abuzz with activities since the early morning

hours as batches of participants started pouring in from across the length and breadth of the state.

Many teams coming from as far as Rourkela in the north, Koraput down south to Sambalpur in the west endured the overnight travelling gruel to reach the venue on time to feel and witness their dream unfolding before their own eyes.

The quiz event began with the Junior round wherein eight teams were chosen for the Grand Finale. They are: ODM Public School, Blessed Sacrament High School, Loyola School, DAV CDA,

SAI International School, DAV Kalinganagar, DPS Rourkela and DAV Pokhariput.

The preliminary for Junior category was based on 35 questions with no negative marks with the rider benefit of double marks of 15 selected questions wherein the teams were sure of the answer.

In Senior category, the leading teams who made their presence felt represented institutions of engineering, medical and other disciplines. The colleges which were selected for the Grand Finale are: NIT Rourkela, IIT

Bhubaneswar, XIM Bhubaneswar, SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, National Law University of Odisha, Cuttack, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, VIMSAR Burla and NISER.

Quiz wizard Ajay Poonia left no stones unturned to ensure that the budding talents lived every moment during the intense battle of nerve and wit.

Poonia said, "In comparison with 2019, I hoped participants to be better prepared and ready. I am happy and overwhelmed by the response of students."

The finalists, however, are waiting with baited breath for the next round scheduled for Sunday. Three DAV schools from the state DAV, CDA Cuttack, DAV

Kalinganagar and DAV Pokhariput and five other teams have made it to the finals under junior category.

The questions posed at the Mettle Meet preliminary round ranged from diverse subjects relating to politics, sports, culture, international affairs, health and others. Use of audio-visual questions by the quizmaster made the competition more interesting.

Rishabh Roy Choudhury of SAI international School said, "We were confident of being selected for the finals. We were very alert and most of the questions have clues for the answers which we took advantage of. Our school had won in 2017 and we will try to retain that glory."

Bhubaneswar, August 5: In the backdrop of the ruling BJD's announcement that it would oppose the no-confidence motion against the NDA government at the Centre, BJP stalwart and Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday called Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as "popular" and hailed him for becoming the CM for five times in a row.

Shah, who in 2019 had referred the BJD government as a "jala hua transformer" (burnt out transformer), while sharing dais with Patnaik in an official programme said, "Patnaik has created the record of becoming the Chief Minister of Odisha for five times in a row. He is a popular Chief Minister."

He also praised the CM and the BJD government for the decline in naxal violence and Maoist influence in the state. "Odisha government and Naveen Babu have always supported the Centre to combat naxals," Shah said, adding the Centre is committed to root out naxalism from the country.

Shah launches Kamakshyanagar-Duburi 4-lane section of NH-53

16 TEAMS MAKE IT TO THE FINALS; 'EVERYONE IS A WINNER'

FRESH VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR; 3 KILLED

Imphal: Three persons including a father-son duo were killed by militants in Manipur's Bishnupur district late Friday night, police said. The three were gunned down while they were asleep and later slashed with swords at Kwakta in the district, police said Saturday morning.

CHANDRAYAAN-3 IN LUNAR ORBIT

Bangalore: Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) maneuver for Chandrayaan-3 was successfully completed Saturday. With this, Chandrayaan-3 has been successfully inserted into a lunar orbit. The next orbit maneuver is scheduled for Sunday.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



"Who after Modi?" is an easy question. Can we answer the more challenging one-Who after Sanjay Mishra?"

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 33.7°C	32.2°C
MIN 26.8°C	25.0°C
Humidity 90%	81%
Rainfall 33.2mm	Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky with light rain	

Smuggling (f)ire singes police

Irate locals enter Phiringia police station, ransack the furniture and set the PS on fire; some cops were injured in the incident

PNN & AGENCIES

Phulbani, August 5: Peeved at the inaction by higher-ups of Odisha police in connection with the alleged involvement of an IIC and two of his colleagues in smuggling of ganja, irate locals set Phiringia police station on fire during a protest in Kandhamal district Saturday.

Some police personnel were injured in the incident that took place at Phiringia police station when the local people went there, accusing some inspectors of "being involved in the smuggling" of contraband, and torched the police station.

They ransacked the police station's furniture and burnt down several documents, Southern Range inspector general (IG) Satyabrata Bhoi said.

Locals also blocked Phulbani-Phiringia-Baliguda road for several hours, demanding action against the inspector-in-charge (IIC) of the police station and some other personnel allegedly "being involved in the smuggling of ganja", a narcotics substance.

Some police personnel, who went to the road blockade site to talk to the agitators, were also chased away, another officer police said.

Bhoi said, "A group of people entered the Phiringia police station, ransacked furniture there and set the police station on fire. Some police personnel were



A car on the Phiringia police station premises was set ablaze by the protesters, Saturday

injured in the incident." The allegation against the local IIC and two other policemen will be properly probed, he said.

A large contingent of police was sent there to control the law and order situation and Kandhamal SP along with force was on his way to Phiringia, he said.

"Some ganja peddlers are suspected to have been involved in the violence at the Phiringia police station. The situation is now under control," Bhoi said.

The agitators claimed that smuggling of ganja was brought to the notice of senior police officers but "no action was taken against the IIC and two other police personnel who were caught by villagers of Kambaguda along with the smuggled ganja from a police van."

The allegation against the IIC and two other policemen will be properly probed, said Southern Range IG Satyabrata Bhoi

Breaking into homes, fondling ladies' feet

The 26-yr-old accused Mark Anthony Gonzales allegedly entered two Stateline resort condominiums in the early morning hours between July 1 and 3 to commit the crime and get arrested

AGENCIES

California, August 5: A man was arrested in Nevada, United States, on charges of breaking into homes and fondling women's feet while they slept.

According to the Douglas County Sheriff's department in Nevada, the 26-year-old suspect Mark Anthony Gonzales is also accused of committing similar crimes in the past.

Between July 1 and 3, Gonzales allegedly entered two Stateline resort condominiums by opening unlocked screen doors in the early morning hours, the sheriff's department said on Facebook.

"Once inside, he positioned himself at the foot of the bed and rubbed the feet of two separate adult females. Each female awoke from their sleep as the subject was rubbing their feet.



Mark Anthony Gonzales

area and was the suspect of numerous crimes, including the theft of women's shoes, trespassing, and sexual self-gratification during some of these incidents. It appeared to DCSO Investigators that Gonzales' crimes were escalating in nature.

"I am extremely pleased that my investigators were able to identify, locate, and arrest this individual," said Douglas County Sheriff Dan Coverley.

"These types of crimes are especially alarming to a community, and being able to make an arrest allows the victims and community to feel safe again," he added.

August 1, 2023, officers arrested Gonzales at his residence. Gonzales was booked into the Merced County Jail for two counts of Burglary and two counts of Battery.

OrissaPOST PRESENTS

METTLE MEET 2023

Reviving Quizzing A Quiz Extravaganza

BHUBANESWAR

JUNIOR FINALISTS	SENIOR FINALISTS
1 ODM Public School (Bhubaneswar)	1 AIIMS (Bhubaneswar)
2 Blessed Sacrament High School (Puri)	2 NLU (Cuttack)
3 Loyola School (Bhubaneswar)	3 IIT (Bhubaneswar)
4 DAV Public School (CDA, Cuttack)	4 SCBMCH (Cuttack)
5 SAI International School (Bhubaneswar)	5 XIM (Bhubaneswar)
6 DAV Public School (Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar)	6 NIT (Rourkela)
7 Delhi Public School (Rourkela)	7 VIMSAR (Burla)
8 DAV Public School (Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar)	8 NISER (Jatni)

GRAND FINALE TODAY

2 PM ONWARDS

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RITA, TAIKA SHARE DETAILS OF THEIR INTIMATE WEDDING

Singer Rita Ora and her Hollywood director husband Taika Waititi have finally shared details of their wedding, a year after the intimate ceremony. The singer-actress married Waititi back in August 2022, in an impromptu wedding, marrying after having known each other for four years and dated for one.

SWIFT STOPS SHOW TO HUG KOBE BRYANT'S DAUGHTER

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has proven that she has a huge heart as she made a heartwarming gesture to Kobe Bryant's daughter Bianka. While performing on her Eras tour, the *Blank Space* singer ran over to Bianka in the crowd to give her a hug.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Curl, massage, clip, tweeze, polish, gloss, condition... today, will you attempt to shed your old skin. A dream date may have you in jitters but Ganesh suggests that you take it easy. True relationships are not sealed by glossy kisses alone!

TAURUS
Your romantic relationship will be working on an over-drive today, says Ganesh. You will discover answers to the finer aspects of your love life. Overall, you will have a refreshingly creative outlook all through the day. It is a favourable day for those who cherish unrequited love, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to rack your brains to get things done. But your modesty will not do you any good. You will have to show that you are the boss, even if you are not. Your extraordinary brilliance will translate into exceptional performance and will save the day. Never forget that your family is the foundation of your success, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture. In short, life will teach you priceless and precious lessons today, predicts Ganesh.

LEO
The friends we make go a long way in making us who we are, says Ganesh. Over the years, with your natural instinct to be a social charmer, you have built a fine circle of dedicated friends on whom you can bank with confidence under any circumstance.

VIRGO
Today, your soul mate will both give and demand pleasant surprises, says Ganesh. Your business partners may bring in some good news. Take responsibility of your past mistakes and make plans for the days to come. Do not be shy of the advice of loved ones, as it will help you more than hinder.

LIBRA
Today, you will be in a mish-mash of emotions and feelings. Also, there are chances of accumulated feelings finding an outlet. Your capacity for emotional display may take people by surprise. However, you will also enjoy the higher responsibilities reposed on you, predicts Ganesh.

SCORPIO
While not the Trot, you shall, however, trot on the lines of radicalism today, predicts Ganesh. Learn to think as you would, and always have, but act as others would have you to, advises Ganesh. Be the maverick that you are only with those who are closest and dearest, cautions Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Setting for a new, better employment will help you fast-track your career growth. A telephonic interview might ring in a new offer. A lucrative deal with an MNC would serve well. Your dedication and devotion to work will also peak today, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
It's going to be a day of pleasant surprises. You will try your level best to help people around you, and will find it exceedingly frustrating when the results won't be as expected, says Ganesh. In fact, this may even dampen your spirit and shake your self-confidence. But try and transform your weaknesses into strengths – it will help you develop a more positive approach to life.

AQUARIUS
Eat, drink, and make merry. But watch out: don't empty your pockets in one go. Also, guard your reputation. A lot depends on your behaviour, and the big daddies may be watching you. You have a lot at stake, and there should be no regrets later.

PISCES
You are likely to be grinding yourself under at the workplace today. A turning point will arise in romantic liaisons, though if the evening awaiting you is anything to go by, it is something you should welcome wholeheartedly, says Ganesh.



Nassar: Odisha is like heaven

Mumbai: Veteran actor M. Nasser, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming streaming show, *The Jengaburu Curse*, India's first cli-fi series, shared that he would like to spend some quality time with his family in the state of Odisha where the show has been shot.

After spending months away from the comforts of a familiar city and his home, the Bombay actor cannot seem to get over the spell bounding experience they had while filming in the deep forests of Odisha.

Talking about the experience of shooting in Odisha, he said: "My visit to Odisha for the shoot took me to the heart of India. I was absolutely in awe. When we were shooting there, I realised why it is called the best hidden secret of India, it is so beautiful and extremely meditative to be in Odisha. The place is like heaven."

He further mentioned: "It makes you feel as if you are in the lap of mother nature. In all honesty, I had a very shallow knowledge

about Odisha, but once I got to live there, spend time with the locals and native people, and got familiar with their art and culture. The people are so innocent and filled with humility. I have travelled all over India, but Odisha is different."

Set in a small town in Odisha, *The Jengaburu Curse* delves into the repercussions of mankind's never-ending need for nature.

Produced by Studio Next, the show is created and directed by Nila Madhab Panda.



SHRADDHA WANTS TO PLAY LATA, PADMINI

Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor expressed her interest in playing the role of her aunt Padmini Kolhapure and legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar if she had to be part of a biopic. She made the comment while interacting with fans at a media portal event.

Shraddha Kapoor has very successfully carved a niche for herself in the industry with her choices of films and performances.

Recently, at a fan event hosted by one of the leading media portals, she interacted with fans, and also answered a list of questions by them. Among many, was one interesting question asked about who she would like to play if she had to be part of a biopic.

A fan retorted and mentioned the actress's aunt, Padmini Kolhapure to which Shraddha felt excited and said 'Best answer. Best answer! I think that bohot achha suggestion mila hai. Padmini kolhapure meri jo masi hai. I would also like to say Lata Mangeshkar. I mean it's a big big aim but you never know. So my masi and Lata Mangeshkar.'

Meanwhile on the work front, she has recently wrapped the first schedule of the film in *Chanderi*.

'Never used star-kid card to get work'

think I've ever used the star kid card to get work. For me, my journey has been pretty much organic." She went on to add, "Honestly, of course, when you come from a family of actors, and especially actors like my parents who have so much experience, their experience itself is something that's invaluable to me. So, yes, there is an edge in terms of experience, in terms of understanding the nature of the business, and the sort of guidance that they've given me to build emotional strength is more important than anything else."

But her entry into the film industry has not been based on her lineage, because that's just not the route she has taken, shared Shriya.

Mumbai: Whether OTT series *Guilty Minds* and *The Broken News* or movie *Ishq-e-Nadaan*, actress Shriya Pilgaonkar is dishing out one impressive performance after another. In a conversation with a portal, the actress opened up about the perks of being a star kid among other things.

Asked if she ever felt an edge for being a star kid, Shriya said, "I've never operated from an entitled space. I don't



Samantha schools 'reckless' media

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who has been on a break and has been treating her fans with beautiful pictures from her holiday, has refuted the claims of her taking Rs 25 crore from a Telugu superstar for her treatment of Myositis. The actress also called out the media for false reportage.

Saturday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram and penned a note in which she outrightly denied taking any kind of financial help.

She wrote, "Rs 25 crores to treat Myositis!? Someone got you a pretty bad deal. I am glad I am only spending the smallest fraction of that. And, I don't think I was paid in marbles for all the work I've done in my career".

She further mentioned that she is capable of taking care of herself and her medical expenses given her work in the industry during all these years.

"So, I can easily take care of myself. Thank you. Myositis is a condition thousands suffer from. Let's please be responsible with the information we put out regarding the treatment," she added.



FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9			
10			11		
12		13			14
15	16			17	18
			19		
20		21		22	23
24					
25			26		
27				28	

- Across**
- 1 Specific task
 - 4 Quartz variety
 - 10 Consultant
 - 11 Luminous
 - 12 Lock site
 - 13 Like a marsh
 - 15 Modus operandi
 - 17 Overacts
 - 20 Shellfish
 - 22 Humorous
 - 25 Back tooth
- Down**
- 2 Any port in a storm
 - 3 Clear up
 - 5 Lake Volta's country
 - 6 Fan palm
 - 7 Caustic remark
 - 8 Light refractor
 - 9 Wise one
 - 14 Ids
 - 16 Suppress
 - 18 Old World monkey
 - 19 Built for speed
 - 21 Twilled fabric
 - 23 Wavelike design
 - 24 Down Under bird

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

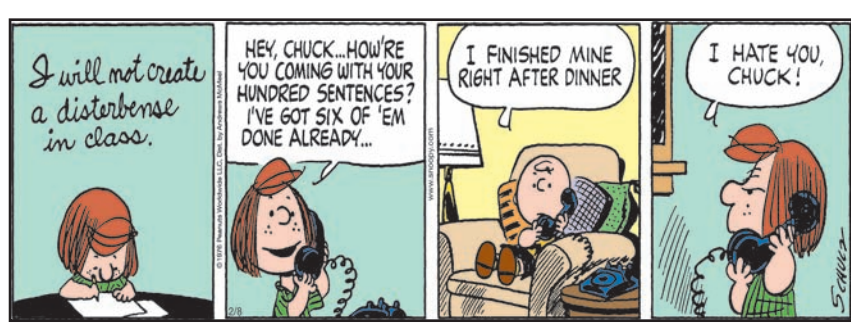
S	T	O	L	E	P	A	P	A	Y	A
C	A	A	C	U	N	D	E	C	O	R
I	N	C	O	U	T	H	D	E	C	O
T	I	X	R	I	P	E	N	E	D	
I	F	R	E	N	N	B				
E	N	E	E	L	E	S	C	Y	T	H
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A	V	A	R	I	C	E	A	G	O	G
O	I	T	T	J	R	L				
M	A	O	R	T	E	L	U	S	I	V
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R	E	S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

SUDOKU

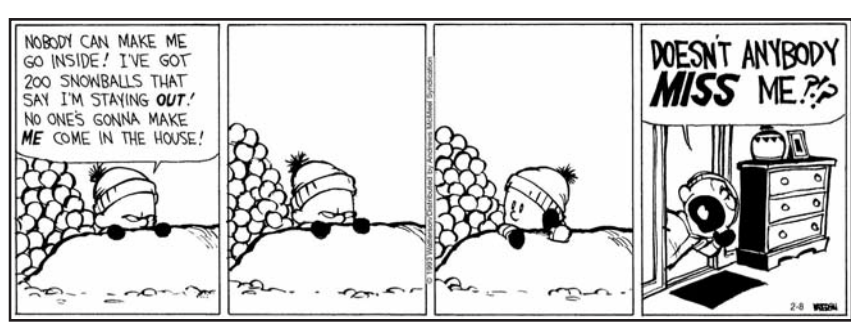
6	8	5	2	4	9	7	1	3
9	1	3	6	8	7	5	4	2
2	7	4	5	1	3	6	9	8
5	6	9	1	3	4	2	8	7
1	2	8	7	9	6	3	5	4
4	3	7	8	2	5	9	6	1
7	9	2	4	5	8	1	3	6
3	4	6	9	7	1	8	2	5
8	5	1	3	6	2	4	7	9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

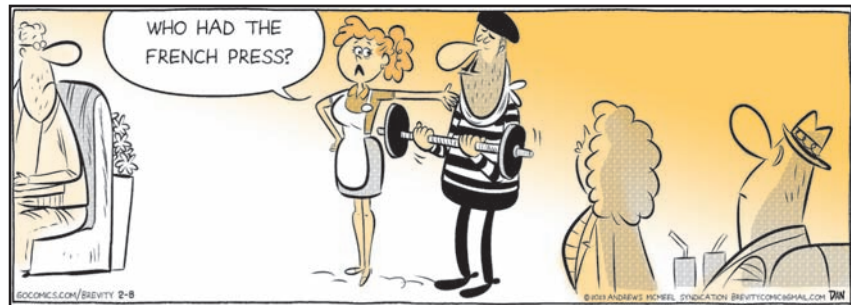
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



JUNIOR POOL



ODM PUBLIC SCHOOL



BLESSED SACRAMENT HIGH SCHOOL



LOYOLA SCHOOL



DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL (CDA, CUTTACK)



SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL (KALINGANAGAR)



DPS (ROURKELA)



DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL (POKHARIPUT)

SHOW BEGINS

THE FIFTH EDITION OF **ORISSA POST** METTLE MEET, 2023, KICKS OFF IN ALL ITS GLORY AS 16 TEAMS – 8 EACH FROM JUNIOR AND SENIOR CATEGORIES – MAKE IT TO THE GRAND FINALE



Participants sharing a light moment at the event

NIT Rourkela, DAV CDA shine

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 5: NIT Rourkela and DAV Public School CDA, Cuttack secured maximum points in the preliminary qualifying rounds at Orissa POST Mettle Meet 2023 in the Senior and Junior categories, respectively here Saturday.

While NIT Rourkela secured 51 points out of 70 in the Senior category, DAV Public School CDA

Cuttack bagged 35.5 points out of 50.

DAV Public School CDA, Cuttack topped the Junior category with 35.5 points, followed closely by SAI International School (35), Blessed Sacrament High School, Puri (34.5), ODM Public School and DAV Kalinganagar tying at 34, Loyola School (32.5), DPS Rourkela (31) and DAV Pokhariput (30.5).

The Senior category, which was dominated by

premiere colleges of the state, was led by NIT Rourkela with 51 points, followed by IIT Bhubaneswar and AIIMS Bhubaneswar with 48, National Law University, Cuttack (44), XIMB (40.5), VIMSAR, Burla (40), SCBMCH (37) and NISER, Jatni (36.5).

The stage is set for the exciting finals Sunday when 16 teams will slog it out to secure the championship in their respective pools.

POONIA AND HIS PUZZLES

The job of a quizmaster becomes interesting as he gets on the stage; the inquisitiveness he builds within the participants comes from his research and diligence.

Quizmaster Ajay Poonia led and moderated sessions today by playing a crucial role in creating an engaging and entertaining atmosphere for the participants.

Poonia posed many a challenging and thought-provoking trivia questions that prompted participants to think critically throughout. Rudra Pratap Mishra from DEMS Rourkela said, "As a team, we really did put up a contest and were positive about qualifying, but the knotty questions of the quizmaster made it a challenge for us. Although we couldn't qualify this year, we are sure to bounce back in 2024".

Poonia who has been a known face in Mettle Meet since 2019, took the stage with questions which made the students delve into their bank of knowledge. The opening session of Mettle Meet saw Poonia grilling the participants with their grasp of knowledge about Dakota Aircraft and roundels used by the Indian Air Force. The mythological awareness of participants went through a litmus test with questions about structures of Jagannath Temple and Konark Sun Temple that are named after brothers.



'Inter-college quizzing a new experience'

The fifth edition of Mettle Meet saw many participants who had proved their mettle in the previous editions. Some of those who had taken part in the 2019 edition were back this time.

"Effective communication, team-based competition and collaboration with the teammates has complemented our individual strengths and improved overall performance", said

Sandip Mishra from Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar English Medium School who had participated in the 2019 edition. "This is my second time in Mettle Meet. Last time my preparation was not satisfactory. This time I am better prepared," he said.

Divyanshu Mohanty from NIT Rourkela said, "We are a bit nervous for day-two as we have qualified for the finals. As I

was here in 2019 and won in the school category, I can tell the difference in the jump from schools to college is huge." Anshuman Panda from AIIMS Bhubaneswar said, "Mettle Meet felt nostalgic in school days, but inter-college quizzing is a whole new experience. We have regained our confidence after qualifying for the finals."

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

SENIOR POOL



AIIMS-BHUBANESWAR



NLU-ODISHA



IIT-BHUBANESWAR



SCBMCH



XIM (BHUBANESWAR)



NIT-ROURKELA



VIMSAR



NISER

FOCUS EDUCATION

A WELL-BEING AGENDA



For the more than one billion children worldwide who live in multidimensional poverty – lacking access to adequate nutrition, health care, safety, and sanitation – the barriers to learning extend far beyond the school gates

donors in global education, the report classifies school meals as an “effective, but ... relatively expensive” way to deliver learning outcomes. In the panel’s view, “education systems face budget constraints, and they need to allocate scarce resources toward whatever interventions will deliver the most learning gains for the most children and youth on a given budget.”

In fact, providing school meals – a form of transfer to households – is less of an economic cost to society than a direct fiscal cost to government. Moreover, spending on programmes with multisectoral benefits does not necessarily have to be constrained by the education budget. By the same token, some donors are fixated on the false dichotomy between intervention in early childhood and during school attendance. UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, for example, notes that feeding children before the age of two is more effective than feeding school-age children. Apart from the moral issue at stake, it is unclear how allowing school-age children to go hungry can be cost-effective from an educational perspective. When examining the evidence, it makes little sense to separate educational, nutritional, and safety-net benefits of school meals for children and their families.

Breaking through such conceptual silos in governments and donor bureaucracies could be the first step toward adopting a much more holistic approach to education policy and resource allocation. More fundamentally, better learning outcomes requires greater comprehension of the realities of school life for poor children. Like all children, they will learn best when they are free from hunger, illness, and violence.

Biniam Bedasso is a senior research associate and Susannah Hares is a director at the Center for Global Development.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

There is growing concern that children in developing countries are not learning enough in school. Even before pandemic-related school closures, 57% of ten-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries were unable to read and understand a simple text – the definition of “learning poverty.” The COVID crisis only exacerbated the situation, leading large donors and global institutions to launch a programme aimed at improving foundational skills. But if well-intentioned efforts to tackle learning poverty do not account for the complex and interrelated challenges that prevent children in poor countries from achieving academic success, they risk reproducing existing inequalities in educational outcomes.

For the more than one billion children worldwide who live in multidimensional poverty – lacking access to adequate nutrition, health care, safety, and sanitation – the barriers to learning extend far beyond the school gates. They may suffer from the psychological stresses of poverty or be hungry at school, both of which impede learning. Perhaps violence threatens them inside or outside the classroom, or they are at risk of being married off young and dropping out of school. Overreliance on technical solutions designed to address the proximate causes of learning poverty from the supply side could leave many of these children behind.

Policy-makers in low- and middle-income countries and aid organisations tend to decouple education policy from the underlying issues of poverty and social vulnerability. This can partly be attributed to the fact that the Washington Consensus advocated small government in developing countries, limiting their ability to implement broad-based social policies in conjunction with expanding schooling. The advent of New Public Management reforms, which emphasised quantifiable per-

formance based on narrowly defined organisational objectives, also likely discouraged education ministries from addressing well-being more broadly or encouraging intersectoral collaboration.

As for donors, their laser focus on channeling resources to cost-effective projects with specific and measurable outcomes has seemingly diverted attention from more complex problems that extend beyond the classroom. An overview of the education strategies of major multilateral and bilateral aid organisations shows that their inclusion and well-being agendas are too often limited to girls’ education and children in fragile states or marginalised regions, leaving other forms of deprivation unaddressed.

Consider, for example, school meals, an area where education policies and anti-poverty measures intersect. Since the start of the pandemic, lower-middle-income countries have expanded their school-meal programmes by an average of 12% – three times higher than their wealthier counterparts. This contrasts sharply with the 4% contraction, on average, in school-meal coverage in low-income countries, which usually have the

neediest children but lack the fiscal space to expand meal programmes. The prevailing view in Uganda, a low-income country where the provision of school meals is patchy, is that the government has only a narrow role to play in education – a view enshrined in the country’s legislation. As Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the minister of state for primary education, puts it, “Education is a shared responsibility. The government and parents have different roles to play. The government ensures that there is a conducive environment for learning by providing infrastructure, teachers, and learning materials. Parents have the core responsibility of sending learners to school, ensuring the learner is appropriately dressed, and that the learner is well fed, even at school.”

This narrow view of the state’s role in education prevails among donors and policy-makers and has been ingrained by the neoliberal notion of minimal government intervention. The tendency to draw an artificial boundary between a child’s education and overall well-being is also evident in the “smart buys” report. Produced by a panel of high-profile international experts and sponsored by many of the largest



Biniam Bedasso & Susannah Hares

POLICYMAKERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND AID ORGANISATIONS TEND TO DECOUPLE EDUCATION POLICY FROM THE UNDERLYING ISSUES OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY



Aakar Patel

The internet ban solves the problem. Kashmir showed us the way and if Manipuris and Haryanvis are discovering it now it is because there was a model

The Kashmir Model

Four years ago, when the Kashmir move was made (what a different time that was: before CAA, before the farmers protest), the columnist Pratap Bhanu Mehta wrote: “The BJP thinks it is going to Indianise Kashmir. But, instead, what we will see is potentially the Kashmirisation of India: The story of Indian democracy written in blood and betrayal.”

The Indianisation of Kashmir happened in the regular way, through the eviction of locals. I wrote a book two years ago in which this is what was revealed about who was running Kashmir’s higher bureaucracy under the local chief Manoj Sinha.

Home and revenue: Shaleen Kabra; finance: Arun Kumar Mehta; general administration and industries and commerce: Manoj Kumar Dwivedi; law, justice and parliamentary affairs: Achal Sethi; agriculture and cooperatives: Navin Kumar Choudhary; transport: Hirdesh Kumar; public works: Shailender Kumar; estates: M. Raju; science and technology and social welfare: Bipul Pathak; information and public relations: Rohit Kansal; labour and employment: Saurabh Bhagat; housing and urban development: Dheeraj Gupta; food, civil supplies, consumer affairs, information technology: Simrandeep Singh; hospitality and protocol: Indu Kanwal Chib; education: Bishwajit Kumar Singh; forests, environment and ecology: Sarita Chauhan.

The Kashmiris had been given tribal affairs: Rehana Batul; floriculture, gardens and parks: Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad; health and medical education: Atal Years Dulloo; stationery and supplies: Abdul Majid Bhat; rural development: Qazi Sarwar; civil aviation: Rukhsana Ghani; culture: Sarmad Hafeez; fisheries: Bashir Ahmad Bhat and horticulture: Ajaz Ahmad Bhat.

For this column, I went back to the same website and found the same thing four years after 2019. The names were Arun Kumar Mehta, Achal Sethi, Santosh Vaidya, Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar, Piyush Singla and so on. You get the picture.

Of course, this takeover by outsiders was not commented on or reported or even noticed except by a very few in the media. When a Kashmiri man, part of a civil society delegation in 2021, said he had no expectations from non-local officers, he was jailed on the orders of the Krittika Jyotsna, deputy commissioner of Ganderbal, who was angered by the comment. When I had checked in July 2021, the link to the election department – ceojammukashmir.in – was not only a dud but the browser produced the warning: “This website may be impersonating ceojammukashmir.in to steal your personal or financial information. You should go back to the previous page.”

Today, in August 2023, the website still does not open and nor does the one for Kashmir’s home department, https://www.jkhome.nic.in, which produces the error “this connection is not private.” More signs of good governance are available for reporters who take the trouble to examine what is going on there.

Meanwhile, the Kashmirisation of India happened also as Mehta had predicted. Part of it is malice but part of it was simply that Kashmir showed the way. Democracy is messy and governance is hard even if there is the will for it, which there often isn’t. Good governance requires following the rules and applying rule of law, and this is not easy to do even for the most competent of governments, which this one is not. What is substituted instead of governance is then the removal of democracy as was done in Kashmir.

Take Manipur or Gurgaon or Uttar Pradesh. Prosecuting cases is difficult because there are more acquittals than convictions. It is easier to then punish people outside the justice system. That is why bulldozers are now preferred to courtrooms. In Uttar Pradesh, the accused is often kneecapped, meaning shot through the leg, and this is shown as a form of justice. Accused are shot dead in custody including those who moved the Supreme Court for protection. This is rule of law in New India, but Kashmiris have long been used to this.

The mother of democracy leads the world in internet shutdowns and has led in this field for each of the last six years, going from only six in 2014 to regularly over 100. Giving citizens access to what the Supreme Court has called ‘a fundamental right’ is a nuisance. Often the laziness and complicity of the State is revealed by a video that the government did not want you, or the courts, to see. The internet ban solves the problem. Kashmir showed us the way and if Manipuris and Haryanvis are discovering it now it is because there was a model.

Internet in Kashmir was blocked for 17 months after the 370 move (Kashmiri children were from the only part of the world to be banned from online education during COVID). But this was fine for the rest of us because it concerned them. Elsewhere, banning your opponent from Parliament is seen as the most efficient way to eradicate democratic opposition. And then avoiding debate in the Lok Sabha is easier than following democratic process. Imagine the British Prime Minister, our beloved Rishi, being able to duck Question Time, about anything, leave alone total mayhem in a state of the Union. It is impossible to conceive of such a thing happening there but it is so casually accepted here as to become the norm. Why should Prime Ministers be accountable to Parliament for their job?

The beauty of the enterprise is that it has come upon us so quickly and yet it is not noticed. We carry along like nothing has changed and nothing has happened. New India comes with no definition about why it is new but it comes with a set of instructions for use which the State has given itself that Kashmiris witnessed first.

WISDOM CORNER

- Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it. CHARLES R. SWINDOLL
- Either you run the day or the day runs you. JIM ROHN
- If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. MILTON BERLE

WORDSWORTH

Mesmerise

This perpetuates the name of the eighteenth-century physician Franz Mesmer of Vienna. He believed that a magnetic force flowed from the stars to act on us all and that diseases were caused by blockages stopping the magnetic fluid flowing through the body. He called the force “animal magnetism”, a term we still sometimes use for people with strong personalities. He tried acting on this force with magnets – he persuaded one of his early patients, for example, to swallow iron filings and then passed a magnet over her legs. Later – he’d moved to Paris by then – he created his baquet, a large tub filled with iron filings and magnetised water that 20 people could sit round. Projecting iron rods were provided for the patients to grasp or press to the affected spot. In his salon, quiet music played and perfumes scented the air. Dr Mesmer would enter, dressed in a long robe of lilac-coloured silk, richly embroidered with gold flowers, holding a white magnetic rod in his hand.

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

US rating downgrade: Rationale & impact



Sourajeet Pradhani

ON A MORE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS, THE DECLINING GLOBAL CENTRAL BANK LIQUIDITY IS A MUCH BIGGER CONCERN AMID ELEVATED VALUATIONS

Fitch Ratings downgraded the United States’ long-term foreign currency issuer default rating to AA+ from AAA on Tuesday, pointing to “expected fiscal deterioration over the next three years,” an erosion of governance and a growing general debt burden. The reasons for this downgrade in ratings, as per the rating agency, can be attributed to multiple factors. There has been a steady deterioration in standards of governance over the last 20 years, including on fiscal and debt matters. The repeated debt-limit political standoffs and last-minute resolutions have eroded confidence in fiscal management. In addition, the government lacks a medium-term fiscal framework, unlike most peers, and has a complex budgeting process.

The general government (GG) deficit is expected to rise to 6.3% of GDP in 2023, from 3.7% in 2022, reflecting cyclically weaker federal revenues, new spending initiatives and a higher interest burden. Additionally, state and local governments are expected to run an overall deficit of 0.6% of GDP (surplus of 0.2% of GDP in 2022). The GG debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to rise to 118.4% by 2025.

Market observers recall the Aug 2011 episode when the US rating was downgraded by Standard & Poor on pending resolution of debt ceiling. The US economy was in a very different situation at that time. The then unemployment rate was elevated at 9% and the Federal Reserve would unveil ‘Operation Twist’ just a month later at the September 2011 Federal Open Market Committee meeting. Also, the European debt crisis was already shaping up. Since there was no previous precedence of the prevailing scenario, that led to high volatility in the market.

The key lesson of 2011 episode was that contrary to popular view, US dollar appreciated by 9% from downgrade date (by S&P) till end of 2011. And ensuing risk aversion meant that US 10Y treasury bond yield actually declined from 3% to 2% by year end rather than rising (i.e. US treasury bonds gained in price rather than witnessing any decline).

This time it is indeed different as unlike the previous episode, there is precedence now. Then there aren’t any meaningful holders of government securities who will be forced to sell due to

a downgrade. Because government securities are such an important asset class, most investment bankers and advisers mandate having exposure in it in terms of safety and its innate risk-free nature.

Also, Fitch did not adjust its “country ceiling” parameter, which it affirmed at AAA. If Fitch had also lowered the country ceiling, it would have had negative implications for other AAA-rated securities issued by US entities. This rating action does not appear to have any implications for securities issued by government-sponsored entities, nor for municipal issuers.

Thus, while the rating action is a ‘wake up’ call for the US government in its debt management, the downgrade is unlikely to lead to major impact in debt, currency and commodity markets. The previous rating downgrade for US debt in 2011 by S&P had then led to steep stock market declines and rising bond yields. Yet there has been and will be some more market adjustment given that there has been widespread rally in most asset prices – equities, bonds & currencies. This is an excuse for market participants to allow

some downward adjustment to asset prices, some temporary risk off, some positional changes but no major correction.

On a more fundamental basis, the declining global central bank liquidity is a much bigger concern amid elevated valuations. Admittedly though, markets have a template now to deal with this phenomenon.

Currently some correction is witnessed in equity markets globally due to risk off sentiment and minimal impact on bond yields, currency and commodity markets. This recent rating downgrade could lead to a rise in US treasury yields and decline in risk assets. The dollar and gold could strengthen as investors shift assets towards safe havens. This could also weigh on emerging-market assets due to a rise in US yields.

For India, there is some continued possibility of tactical shift of FIIs flows, since China is gaining tactical traction as it targets consumption and soft confidence boosting measures. A strong Q2 performance from top Indian corporates can still attract inflows from FIIs.

The writer is an investment banker.

Dialogue is defunct

Sir, India-Pakistan dialogue, thanks to the rogue ways of Islamabad, is all set to become defunct. But Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif seems to think otherwise as he has “called” for talks between the two neighbours while addressing a summit in his country. Sharif has said that war is not an option. But the Pakistan Prime Minister should know that New Delhi has never been in favour of a war. In the past, whenever India opened up to its neighbour for a dialogue, bang came an ambush on the Indian Army or a cross-border terrorist attack, orchestrated by Islamabad. That, indeed, is the problem because as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India cannot “normalize” terrorism for the sake of a bilateral dialogue. India taming the “wild horse” Pakistan on more than one instance, via diplomacy and military, has brought the latter to its knees.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Rising from the ashes

Sir, August 1945 will ever be remembered as one of the most dramatic months in the history of mankind when the nuclear weapons were used in warfare for the first time by the United States of America. Known as ‘Little Boy’ and ‘Fat Man’, the two atomic bombs completely destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9 respectively during the Second World War. The massive blasts that wreaked havoc on these two small, yet beautiful cities of Japan changed the way war is waged and heralded the dawning of the “nuclear age.” While the exact number of deaths from the bombings of these two cities are still not known, or perhaps will never be, as per World Nuclear Organization at least over two lakh civilians had died from the immediate blasts or from the effects of radiation sickness. However, as the times rolled by, both Hiroshima and Nagasaki have flourished in many ways. Though the two cities preserve and portray glimpses of destruction, they don’t have the traces of tragic victims of the atomic bombs anymore. These two cities are an open book about a revived Japan – an example of rising from the ashes while embracing history.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

OrissaPOST

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CM: Connectivity key to progress of state

UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH AND CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK LAUNCH FOUR-LANE SECTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY-53 ON EPC MODE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday inaugurated the much-awaited 51km Kamakshyanagar-Duburi four-lane section of National Highway-53 on EPC (Procurement and Construction) mode here in presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Shah said the Centre has spent ₹761 crore for four-laning the 51km section of the national highway. The road links the coal belt in Talcher and the steel hub at Kalinga Nagar.

"This road will link the mineral rich Angul and Dhenkanal

districts with the NH and will act as an economy booster for the region," he said.

Describing the national highways as the "fate-line" of the nation, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always stressed on infrastructure development projects as they change the fate of a country.

Shah along with Patnaik also laid the foundation stone for the widening and strengthening of Moter to Banner via Ladugaon Road in Kalahandi district. The programme was held at the convention centre in Lok Seva Bhawan, the state secretariat, in Bhubaneswar.

The Kamkhyanagar-Duburi stretch has two major bridges, seven minor bridges, seven underpasses, two animal underpasses, and a 1.73km-long bypass.

For safe passage of wild animals through the stretch, a 160-metre and other 80-metre animal underpasses have also been constructed.

Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Patnaik said, "My government believes that connectivity is the key to progress of the state and empowerment of our people."

Later in the day, while reviewing the disaster management and left-wing extremism (LWE) situation in Odisha, the Union Home Minister appreciated the state government's skill in handling natural calamities such as cyclones and floods. He suggested the state administration to train 'Aapda Mitras' and disaster warriors in handling chemical and nuclear disasters. He also suggested that home guard volunteers be also trained in disaster response.



DANGER IN WAITING: Oblivious of the risk involved, children having fun in swelling Mahanadi river in Sambalpur as Hirakud dam discharged floodwaters through its 20 sluice gates, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Man gets 4-year jail term for raping minor tribal girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 5: A local court sentenced a man to four years of imprisonment after convicting him for rape of a minor tribal girl during the last panchayat elections under Jambu Marine police limits of Mahakalapara block in

Kendrapara district.

The convict was identified as Ramakant Rout under the police limits. The additional sessions court judge Tribikram Keshari Chinnara also slapped a penalty of ₹15,000 on Rout. He has to undergo an additional six months of imprisonment, if he fails to pay the fine, Special pub-

lic prosecutor Manoj Kumar Sahu informed Saturday.

Sahu said that the survivor is from tribal community. The incident occurred when her parents had gone to polling booth to vote in the panchayat elections leaving behind their daughter alone in the house. Taking advantage of the situation, Rout barged

into victim's house and raped her. He also threatened her of dire consequences if she disclosed the matter.

The girl narrated her ordeal before her mother after she returned home. Later, her mother lodged a complaint in the police station leading to the arrest of Rout.

PROBLEMS PLAGUE THE LONE NURSING COLLEGE



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 5: The students of the lone government nursing college of the district at Sundargarh were on the road. The students were left with no other options than to resort to demonstration as their just demands were neglected continuously. They handed over a memorandum to the CDMO Sundargarh Friday, their authority at this moment.

CDMO Sundargarh Saroj Kumar Mishra said, "All their demands are being taken care off with immediate effect and will be resolved in a day or two. And some decisions have to be taken by the government for which we have already communicated and are hopeful for an early solution."

Leaving their hostel rooms, the girl students were on the road demanding proper water supply to their hostel. "For the last four days, we don't have water in the hostel and no one is listening to us," they said.

"As a result, we were left with no option than to demonstrate and come to the street," said a hostel inmate without naming herself. Most of the girls were explaining their problems in the hostel. "We complained to the hostel authorities and there was no result," said a girl.

Mishra informed that the faulty pump at the hostel has been replaced thus restoring water supply to the hostel. The students had a long list of problems in the memorandum including maintenance hygienic, lack of furniture in the hostel and college, non-disbursal of identity cards and uniforms to the first year students, unnecessary workload on the students, permanent cook in the hostel, regular changes in the scholarship amount, collection of ₹150 towards snacks from the students etc.

Mishra said, "we have requested the government to post a permanent principal and not someone who is just in charge as this is causing lots of problem. Besides, we have also requested the government to hand over the college to the Government Medical College so that it can be managed properly."

Focus on green hydrogen project viability: Sharma



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 5: Joining a convention here Saturday, state Industries principal secretary Hemant Sharma urged all stakeholders of the green hydrogen sector to work on viability of projects, as for the sector to thrive in the long run, he explained, it's essential for everyone involved to generate profit.

Value unlocking is the key to success of all green hydrogen projects, added Sharma while addressing the Green Hydrogen Convention 2023, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Odisha chapter in the Capital, Saturday.

He elaborated, "Technology is there and we need to execute at industrial scale basis. A state

like Odisha, which is more energy intensive, has more requirement of green energy to decarbonise its industries. Green energy is a thrust sector for the state government. To encourage stakeholders of the industry, we are providing 30 per cent capital investment subsidy without any upper limit for all costs required, sans cost of land, rebate on electricity bill etc, which will increase the EBITDA by 7.2 per cent as per our calculation."

Sharma further added that the state government is open to all kinds of investment in the sector, including electrolyser production. "We will provide investors best facilities. Our government has already spread red carpet for investors in these sector. We aspire to be Saudi

Arabia of hydrogen and green ammonia," he said.

Informing about initiatives taken by NITI Aayog, deputy adviser (energy) Manoj Kumar Upadhyay said, "NITI Aayog established a climate and modelling unit for long-term projects to achieve a healthy energy mix and to prepare a sectoral road map to achieve net zero target by 2070."

Similarly, IREDA chairman Pradip Kumar Das urged government and financial institutions to handhold and support emerging energy sector to thrive, saying, "As per our anticipation ₹22 lakh crore will be required to fund development in energy sector by 2030. Both banks and non banking financial institutions need to play equal role in funding."

EOW arrests 3 more in ₹8cr bank fraud case

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 5: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state crime branch Saturday reportedly arrested two persons, who in connivance with a senior official of the State Bank of India (SBI), misappropriated ₹8 crore through illegal disbursements of 85 fake loans.

The accused will be forwarded to court Sunday, said EOW sources.

The accused persons were arrested in connection with a case (14/23) registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Regional Manager, SBI, RBO, Phulbani April 3, 2023.

The EOW had earlier arrested prime accused, Asutosh Acharya, the Dy. Manager-cum-Field Officer of SBI's Phulbani Branch from Cuttack April 5, 2023.

Acharya during the period from September 2021 to September 2022 disbursed 59 Xpress Credit Loans worth ₹6, 77, 30,000, meant exclusively for the salaried persons, to the non-salaried persons.

Similarly, as many as 26 pension loans to the tune of ₹99, 82,795 meant for the pensioners were illegally processed and recommended by the accused in favour of the non-pensioners those include his father, mother and father-in-law (dead).

The accused banker later trans-



ferred crores of rupees to the accounts of his relatives and others including Samaresh Ranjan Das and Srikant Kumar Biswal.

Sources further revealed that EOW has reportedly succeeded in arresting the above accused along with an official of a City-based Multipurpose Cooperative society.

As per the complaint, Acharya had allegedly transferred ₹1.40 crore and ₹53.92 lakh to the account of both the accused persons.

"The involvement of Samaresh Ranjan Das, Srikant Kumar Biswal and one Sarojini Das in fraud is quietly evident and apparent from the aforementioned facts as the amounts so defrauded have been continuously transferred to their accounts by Acharya," the complainant had earlier alleged in his complaint.

Innovation Yatra flagged off at RSC

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 5: To promote science among the public and to inspire grassroots innovations through village meetings and exhibitions, National Innovation Foundation (NIF) has launched in Odisha an 'Innovation Yatra' in collaboration with Culture Ministry and the Science and Technology department.

In partnership with NIF, the Regional Science Centre here Saturday flagged off this Innovation Yatra. A unit of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), RSC is the first regional level science centre to have been established in Odisha. As part of the Yatra, a vehicle is set to travel covering several regions of Odisha and neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Students of many City schools attended the inauguration programme and got an opportunity to learn about the grassroots innovations and their importance by interacting with the innovators. The inauguration event started with a welcome address by Kiran Rawat of NIF.

8 more held in question paper leak for JE (Civil) Main Exam



The Odisha Staff Selection Commission had cancelled the main examination for junior engineers (Civil) after the police confirmed that the question paper was leaked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasure, August 5: Eight more people were arrested Saturday from Balasure district for allegedly being involved in the leak of question paper for the JE (Civil) Main Examination, 2023, a senior officer said.

With these arrests, overall 25 people have been ap-

prehended in the case, Balasure Superintendent of Police Sagarika Nath said. The Odisha Staff Selection Commission had cancelled the main examination for junior engineers in civil after the police confirmed that the question paper was leaked. The test was conducted July 16.

"These arrested people contacted several candidates to supply question papers of the JE (Civil) Main Examination before the scheduled date and time of the test," the SP said. The Balasure police have written a letter to authorities concerned for departmental proceedings against some accused persons who have been working in the government sector, the officer said. "A preliminary investigation reveals that some middlemen contacted several candidates," she added.

CDPO IN VIG NET OVER BRIBERY CASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 5: Vigilance sleuths Saturday arrested the Jharsuguda child development project officer (CDPO) on charge of accepting illegal gratification of ₹40,000 from a women SHG group to release their outstanding bill of ₹40,000 towards 'sattu' supply.

The accused was identified as Sarojini Ekka, CDPO (Urban) of Jharsuguda district. She was apprehended by the Vigilance personnel while demanding and accepting bribe of ₹40,000 from a complainant, president of a self-help group, for release of pending 'sattu' bill of previous four months.

She demanded bribe of ₹40,000 when the SHG women members urged her to release their bill. Left with no option, they lodged a complaint with the Vigilance following which she was arrested.

Vigilance official said that simultaneous searches were undertaken at Ekka's Rourkela residence and her official quarters to probe the disproportionate assets. The total bribe amount was seized from her possession and a case was registered under Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Further investigation is on.

Metals Major takes the global leap

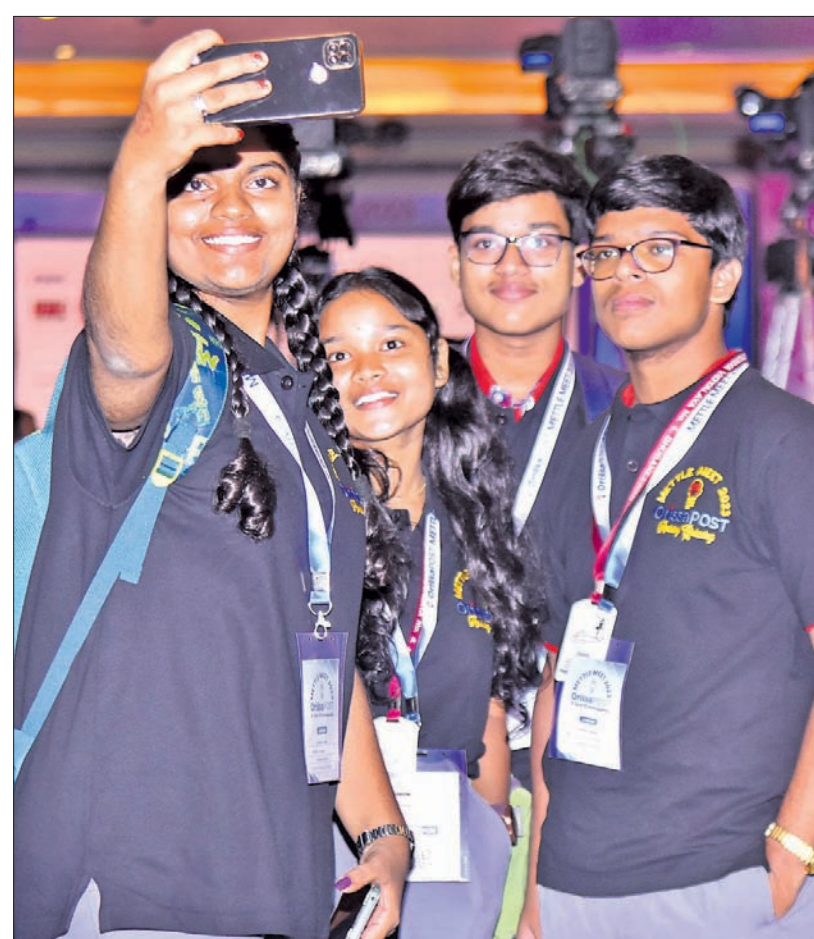
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MOODS & MOMENTS

After a hiatus of three years, Mettle Meet-2023, the biggest quiz competition of eastern India, organised by Odisha's only home-grown English daily, Orissa POST, made a spectacular comeback at the chosen venue, Hotel Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Needless to say, the participants were in high spirits and more than eager to be part of the spectacle. Here're a few candid moments from the Prelims.

BRAINSTORMING



Meet K'taka CM, AIADMK tells Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 5: The opposition AIADMK Saturday demanded Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin to negotiate with his Karnataka counterpart and secure 86.380 TMC Cauvery water due for the state. Accusing the Congress government of creating a problem for Tamil Nadu's farmers, AIADMK general secretary K Palaniswami said the Chief Minister should hold parleys with his counterpart Siddaramaiah and deputy chief Minister D K Shivakumar and obtain the Cauvery water.



statement here.

He said the Cauvery water issue resurfaced after DMK's ally the Congress, came to power in Karnataka.

The AIADMK had since the era of later Chief Ministers: M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa and even when he was CM, safeguarded the interests of the state, Palaniswami said and recalled the hard-won

legal battle leading to Tamil Nadu obtaining its due share from the Cauvery water.

Taking exception to the DMK government for dashing off a missive to the Centre seeking its intervention to obtain the Cauvery water from the neighbouring state, Palaniswami said whenever he wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, in his capacity as Chief Minister, Stalin

ridiculed it.

"But, he is writing letters on this issue. What's the mystery behind his letters to the Prime Minister and Central Ministers? Is he prostrating before them?" Palaniswami asked.

It was reprehensible that Stalin wrote to the Central government instead of exercising Tamil Nadu's rights. Karnataka, the former Chief Minister said, was duty bound to implement the Supreme Court order on releasing the water to Tamil Nadu.

"It is also the duty and responsibility of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to rebuke his ally and ensure it released the water," Palaniswami said in the statement. Claiming that media reports indicated that Karnataka Deputy CM ordered a land survey to construct the Mekeledatu dam across the Cauvery river, the AIADMK general secretary called upon the DMK government to take steps to immediately stop the work and prevent Tamil Nadu from turning into a desert.

Medical services hit in MP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 5: Emergency and OPD services in all state government-run hospitals in Madhya Pradesh were affected as the junior doctors, along with members of medical teachers association, went on a protest Saturday.

The junior doctors and teachers of Bhopal's Gandhi Medical College (GMC) have been in protest after the death of Dr Bala Saraswati on July 31.

Extending support to GMC doctors, the junior doctors of all major cities – Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Sagar, Rewa and others have gone on strike affecting medical services especially in OPD and emergency wards. The protest is being carried out under the banner of Junior Doctors Association (JUDA).

Adequate infrastructures, grievance redressal system, health working environment, resolution of seat-leave bonding and some others have been constant demands of junior doctors associated with medical colleges in the state. They have staged protests for pushing their demands several times in the past, however, the state administration was yet to come out with any concrete steps to re-

ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURES, GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL SYSTEM, HEALTH WORKING ENVIRONMENT, RESOLUTION OF SEAT-LEAVE BONDING AND SOME OTHERS HAVE BEEN CONSTANT DEMANDS OF JUNIOR DOCTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MEDICAL COLLEGES IN THE STATE

THE JUNIOR DOCTORS AND TEACHERS OF BHOPAL'S GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE (GMC) HAVE BEEN IN PROTEST AFTER THE DEATH OF DR BALA SARASWATI ON JULY 31

January 24 this year, a 27-year-old junior doctor Akanksha Maheswari, a resident of Gwalior, had died by suicide and she had also blamed toxic culture at GMC.

Dr Nishit Vadaviya, president of JUDA of Sagar Medical College talking to IANS said, "Situation in almost all medical colleges are same in Madhya Pradesh. We can't even complain about harassment. The government would do nothing except pressuring us to work at any condition. And if we raise our voices, they would threaten us to ruin our future. This is the way medical colleges and government-run hospitals in Madhya Pradesh are operating."

Dr Ashay Dwivedi, head of junior doctors in Sanjay Gandhi Medical College (SGMC)-Rewa, said the doctors have to bear work in a toxic culture day and night. "Situation in Rewa is worse as we have to work in acute pressure. SGMC caters the patients from five to six adjoining districts.

"Besides departmental pressure, we also have to handle political pressure here. Every local politician would come and harass the doctors. This toxic culture needs to be stopped now," Dr Dwivedi added.

TEN ARRESTED FOR FOREST CRIMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sheopur, August 5: Ten persons have been arrested for their alleged involvement in forest crimes, including hunting and tree-cutting, near the Kuno National Park (KNP), the home of cheetahs, in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, officials said Saturday.

These persons were arrested from the Karahal forest range, some 40 km from KNP boundaries, officials said. The accused, including four from Rajasthan, were taken into custody in connection with tree-cutting, en-

croachment and hunting, the forest department said in a press release.

Two axes, a 'gofan' (sling) and five nooses that are used in hunting were seized from their possession, it said. Karahal's Forest Range Officer Satyendra Singh Dhakad said that the accused have been booked under Indian Forest Act and Wildlife (Protection) Act. They were presented before a court before being sent to jail, he said.

KNP has been under the spotlight ever since eight Namibian cheetahs – five female and three male – were released into en-



closures there last September under the Cheetah Reintroduction Project. In February this year, 12 more cheetahs arrived at KNP from South Africa.

Later, four cubs were born to the Namibian cheetah 'Jwala'

in March, though three of them died in May due to extreme heat. KNP's Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) PK Verma said that the 10 people allegedly involved in forest crimes were nabbed from a jungle, about 40 km from the protected park's boundaries.

Fourteen cheetahs – seven male, six female and a female cub that is being hand-raised – are kept in enclosures in Kuno, while one female is in the open at present. A team comprising wildlife veterinarians from Kuno and a Namibian expert regularly monitors their health, officials said earlier.

FM lays foundation stone for museum



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and DMK MP Kanimozhi during the foundation stone laying ceremony of an archeological museum at Adichanallur in Tuticorin district

Adichanallur was one of the five archaeological sites declared to be developed as 'Iconic Sites' in the Union Budget 2020-21

from administration spaces. As part of the development plan, fresh exploration/excavation of archaeological remains has been taken by the ASI, Trichy (Tiruchirappalli) Circle.

"The extensive urn burial site at Adichanallur was first discovered by Dr Jagor of Berlin Museum in 1876. Englishman Alexander Rea excavated a good number of urns during 1910s and discovered gold diadems with parallels from Mycenae, bronze objects, notably lids with exquisite finials depicting many animal forms, iron objects besides thousands of potsherds," her office said.

The excavation was resumed during 2003-04 and 2004-05. "Carbon dating of samples excavated in 2004 from the Adichanallur site has revealed that they belong to the period between 1000 BC and 600 BC. In 2005, around 169 clay urns containing human skeletons were unearthed that date back to at least 3,800 years. The archaeological excavation at Adichanallur again commenced on October 10, 2021 as part of Iconic Site development," it added.

Meanwhile, an official release quoted Sitharaman as saying that as part of a concerted effort to preserve India's rich cultural heritage, the government was working tirelessly to repatriate artefacts belonging to Adichanallur from abroad with a focus on items currently held in Berlin, Germany.

So far, the government's efforts have resulted in the return of over 350 ancient artefacts and items of historical importance to India.

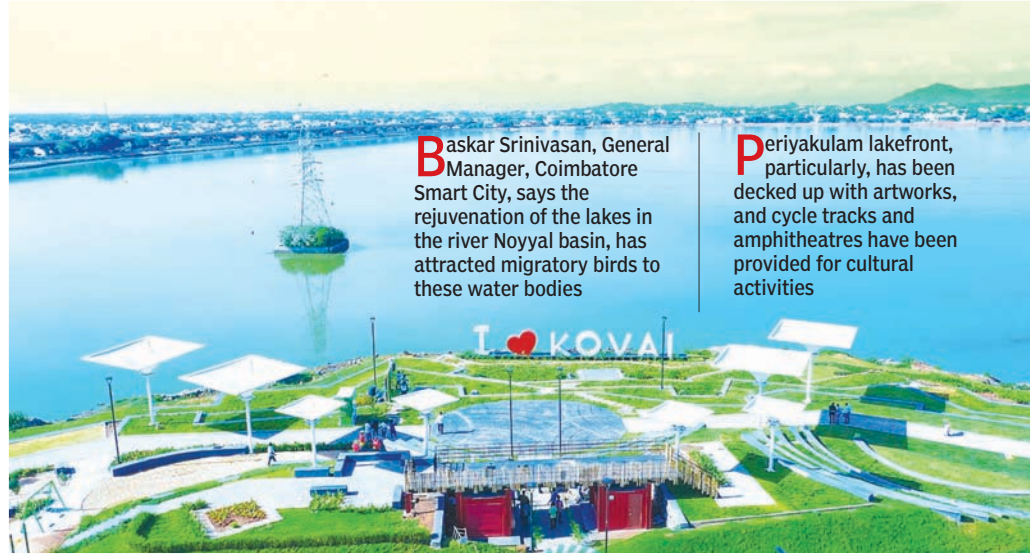
7 lakes in Coimbatore revived under Smart City project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore, August 5: The gigantic Periyakulam Lake spread of 300 acres in the heart of Coimbatore was polluted, encroached upon and reeked of filth till a few years ago, but now it shimmers in the sun and has become a major recreational space in the historic city.

This transformation has been brought through a smart city project to revive and rejuvenate seven of the city's centuries-old lakes which were historically used as part of the irrigation system in the area.

"Cleaning and rejuvenation of this cascading system of lakes is the biggest project under the Coimbatore Smart City since our city was selected for the initiative. Work on it began in 2017 and we picked up revival of these seven lakes as a major and ambitious project under the smart city to not only rejuvenate the natural ecosystem, but also create more recreational spaces in this fast-developing city," Coimbatore's Municipal Commissioner M



Drone view of the redeveloped Periyakulam Lake, in Coimbatore

Prathap said. Prathap, who is also the CEO of Coimbatore Smart City, on Friday gave a PowerPoint presentation on the various projects being undertaken under the initiative for which the city was selected in 2016, at the Integrated

Control and Command Centre (ICCC), the nerve centre of the control and monitoring of various IT-driven projects.

Later in an interaction, he shared that "nearly 92 per cent of the work" on projects under the Smart City are over, and rest

of the work is expected to be completed by September this year. Asked about the cost of the lakes revival project, Prathap said about Rs 350 crore has been spent on this key project.

"Since the revival of these lakes which were built during the

Periyakulam lakefront, particularly, has been decked up with artworks, and cycle tracks and amphitheatres have been provided for cultural activities

Cholas rule, the lakefront as well as the main lakes have become a hub of recreational activities, and as Coimbatore is growing rapidly with a lot of IT and other professionals in the city, this will offer them a great place to relax and unwind while enjoying the beautiful nature," he said.

Baskar Srinivasan, General Manager, Coimbatore Smart City, says the rejuvenation of the lakes in the river Noyyal basin, has also attracted migratory birds to these water bodies. Periyakulam lakefront, particularly, has been decked up with artworks, and cycle tracks and amphitheatres have been provided for cultural activities.

"These lakes were built by the Chola kings in the 8th century, and Periyakulam Lake, the biggest lake in Coimbatore, is part of the cascading system of about 30 lakes, which was used for irrigation in ancient times. Over a period of time, these lakes got neglected, polluted and encroached upon. And, sitting reduced the water holding capacity," Srinivasan said here.

9th century king Mihir Bhoj dragged into caste dispute

Both the Kshatriyas and Gurjars claim that Mihir Bhoj belonged to their community or caste and a dispute over this had reached the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2021

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 5: A dispute over the legacy of 9th century king Mihir Bhoj between the Kshatriya (Rajput) and Gurjar communities which started in northern India, has gradually started taking a larger shape for the last few years.

Both the Kshatriyas and Gurjars claim that Mihir Bhoj belonged to their community or caste and a dispute over this had reached the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2021. Although, the debate over Mihir Bhoj's legacy was centuries old as reports suggest, a fresh controversy in Madhya Pradesh began after a life-size statue of the king was installed in Gwalior city in 2019. The dispute escalated after

the Gwalior Municipal Corporation (GMC) prefixed "Gurjar" with the inscription of Mihir Bhoj's name on a plinth of the life-size statue, which did not go down well with the people of Kshatriya community and they unanimously stood to oppose it.

On their part, the Gurjars argued that Mihir Bhoj belonged to the community and therefore the word "Gurjar" needed to be added with his name on all his statues across the country.

Upon receiving a bunch of petitions from both the communities, the Gwalior bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court had appointed an expert committee to examine the issue and present its recommendation in 2021. As the appointed committee is yet to submit its report, the matter is currently subjudice.

Fresh tension prevailed last week after some people attempted to remove the "Gurjar" prefix from Mihir Bhoj's statue, despite the area having been earmarked as prohibited due to back-to-back clashes between the two communities since the statue was installed. The police



claimed to have arrested two persons who attempted to erase the word.

The dispute over Mihir Bhoj's legacy is also because the two communities have a sizeable population in the Gwalior-Chambal and Malwa-Nimar re-

gions of the state and they have a strong hold over the local politics as well.

As the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh are just four months away, the dispute over Mihir Bhoj's legacy has started to escalate again. Whether Mihir

Bhoj was a Kshatriya or Gurjar, different historians have their own opinions and views on this issue.

Sushil Dwivedi, a senior professor of history in Thakur Ranmat Singh Singh (TRS) College Rewa, said that although researchers have different views over the legacy of Mihir Bhoj, many historians have claimed that he belonged to the "Gurjar Pratihara" dynasty, which had established its kingdom in Kannauj (in what is now Uttar Pradesh) and Ujjain (in what is Madhya Pradesh).

"Pratiharas were Kshatriyas and they ruled in Madhya Bharat's Malwa-Nimar and part of (what is now) Uttar Pradesh. But, many writers mentioned Gurjar-Pratihara, and perhaps this is the reason a dispute started on Mihir Bhoj's legacy. Nagabhata-1 was the founder of the Gurjar-Pratihara dynasty in Ujjain between 730BC to 760 BC," he said. He also said that some historians have also suggested that Gurjar-Pratihara dynasty had its origins in Gurjratra, a part of Rajputana in the present day Rajasthan.

national

of the day quote

In sectors such as airports, ports and cement, companies competing with the Adani Group for prized assets have faced CBI, ED and Income Tax raids that have dissuaded them from proceeding with their bids and the assets have ultimately gone to Adani

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

The state government is thinking about introducing a law to curb love jihad but will study similar legislations in other states before taking a decision

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

People with a criminal mindset misbehaving with women will not be tolerated in the state

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist killed

Rajouri/Jammu: A terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh said. The encounter started during a cordon and search operation by the police and the Army at Gundha-Khawas village in the Budhal area following information about the presence of terrorists there, officials said.

Tremors jolt Delhi

New Delhi: A 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan which shook parts of north India, including the national capital, on Saturday night. The tremor hit the mountainous regions of Afghanistan at 9:31 pm and residents of the national capital region felt the tremors soon after. The epicentre of the earthquake was located at 36.38 degrees north on the latitude and 70.77 degrees east on the longitude in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, the National Centre for Seismology said.

ASI conducts Gyanvapi survey for second day



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP), Aug 5: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Saturday examined the central hall of the Gyanvapi mosque on the second day of the scientific survey to determine if the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

Five members from the Muslim side were also present during the survey, after having stayed away on Friday. Government counsel Rajesh Mishra, who was with the ASI survey team a day before as well, on Saturday said the team started work in the morning and completed it by 5 pm. The survey work was stopped between 1 pm to 3 pm for lunch.

ASI officials said that the survey work will resume again at 8 am Sunday. According to ASI officials, the team examined the central hall of the mosque where Namaz is offered. The team also surveyed a few basement areas in the complex.

Advocate Tauheed Khan for the Muslim side said two lawyers of the Intezamia Masjid Committee accompanied the survey team. A lawyer for the Hindu side Sudhir Tripathi claimed, "Not idols, but fragments of idols have

been found in the debris. We are quite hopeful that idols will also be recovered... The Intezamia Masjid Committee is cooperating... They gave the keys which they were not giving earlier."

Another lawyer of the Hindu side Subhash Nandan told reporters that the ASI team examined the central hall under the main dome. Late on Friday night, joint secretary of the Intezamia Masjid Committee Muhammad Yasin said in a letter that they would cooperate in the survey work, honouring the order of the Supreme Court.

"Keeping in mind the Supreme Court's orders refusing to stay the survey work, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid has unanimously decided that while honouring the orders of the Supreme Court, it will cooperate with the ASI in the survey work," he said.

"It is hoped that the orders of the honourable court will be impartially complied with, and our mosque will not be damaged. Along with this, our religious rights will remain protected as per previous orders of the court," Yasin said, appealing to people to maintain peace.

A team of experts from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) is assisting the ASI in the survey work. IIT-K Director Abhay Karandikar said that a team from the institute's Earth Sciences department is in Varanasi and Professor Javed N Malik of the department will join soon after returning to the country.

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the Allahabad High Court order on the ASI survey of the Gyanvapi mosque, an exercise that the Muslim side says will "reopen wounds of the past".



They (the BJP) have done a lot of fake encounters. Now people will encounter the BJP government in 2024

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

HEAVY RAINFALL LIKELY

The India Meteorological Department Saturday said that isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Uttarakhand, north Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next 4-5 days, while an increase in rainfall activity is expected over the northeast in the coming five days



Fresh violence in Manipur



Tyres and articles being burnt by protestors to block a road during a protest against the killing of three persons by militants at Kwakta in Bishnupur district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, August 5: Three persons including a father-son duo were killed by militants in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Friday night while another three sustained bullet wounds following heavy exchange of fire between state forces and armed men in the same district even as the 24-hour general strike called by the coordinating committee of 27 assembly constituencies paralysed normal life in Imphal valley, police said.

The three were gunned down while they were sleeping and their bodies were later slashed with swords at Kwakta in the district by unidentified men, police said Saturday morning, adding that the assailants came from Churachandpur.

"The three used to stay in a relief camp but had returned to their residences at Kwakta on Friday after the situation im-

THE THREE WERE GUNNED DOWN WHILE THEY WERE SLEEPING AND THEIR BODIES WERE LATER SLASHED WITH SWORDS AT KWAKTA IN THE DISTRICT BY UNIDENTIFIED MEN, POLICE SAID SATURDAY MORNING, ADDING THAT THE ASSAILANTS CAME FROM CHURACHANDPUR

EYEWITNESSES SAID SEVERAL HOUSES WERE BURNT AT UKHA TAMPAK IN BISHNUPUR DISTRICT BY A MOB IN RETALIATION OF THE MURDERS

proved," police said. Soon after the incident, an irate mob gathered at Kwakta and wanted to head towards Churachandpur but was stopped by security personnel, they said.

Eyewitnesses said several houses were burnt at Ukha Tampak in Bishnupur district by a mob in retaliation of the murders. In another incident, three persons including one police-

man were injured following heavy exchange of fire between state forces and militants near Kwakta on Saturday morning, police said.

"The policeman sustained splinter injuries on his face. All the three were taken to Raj Medicity in Imphal for treatment. They are out of danger," they said. Across Imphal valley, women protesters came out on the streets and burnt tyres to block the movement of vehicles.

In the wake of renewed violence, the district administration clamped curfew from 10.30 am in the twin Imphal districts. "Instead of curfew relaxation from 5am to 6pm in the twin Imphal districts, it has now been shortened to 5am to 10.30am," an official said, adding fierce gunfights have been reported in Kwakta and its neighbouring areas since morning.

In a statement, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) asked the state government on the steps being taken to stem the violence. "The ITLF would like to know what government agencies are doing to address the security threat posed by frequent looting of guns and ammunition by mobs and why security forces are still unable to safeguard government-issued weapons three months into the ethnic conflict in Manipur," it said.

According to the forum, more than 4,000 weapons and lakhs of ammunition were "looted" from different police stations and armouries by mobs in Imphal and the surrounding valley in May.

It said if the central government and security forces do not take cognisance of the risk posed by the circulation of such huge quantities of arms and act to retrieve the weapons, "we are afraid that Manipur could witness a bloodbath, the kind of which the country has not seen in decades."

Mehbooba under 'house arrest'

ARTICLE 370 ANNIV



Security personnel check a scooter rider during high alert on the fourth anniversary of abrogation of Article 370 in Srinagar, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 5: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti Saturday claimed she and some senior leaders of her party were placed under house arrest while several others were detained on the fourth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

"I've been put under house arrest along with other senior PDP leaders today. This comes after a midnight crackdown where scores of my party men are illegally detained in police stations. GOI's false claims about normalcy to the SC stands exposed by their actions driven by paranoia," she tweeted.

She said on one hand, giant hoardings calling upon Kashmiris to "celebrate" the abrogation of Article 370 have been put up across Srinagar, whereas brute force is being used to choke the actual sentiment of the people.

"Hope the Hon'ble SC takes

cognisance of these developments at a time when Article 370 has come up for hearing," the former chief minister said in another tweet. The Centre revoked Article 370 granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories -- J-K and Ladakh -- on August 5, 2019.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said after denying permission to the party for organising a peace-keeping programme on the fourth anniversary of Article 370 abrogation, a massive crackdown was carried against the party leaders during the night.

A party spokesman alleged that former ministers Abdul Rehman Veeri, Nayeem Akhter and Asia Naqash, PDP general secretary Gulam Nahi Lone Hanjura, general secretary (organisation) Mehboob Beg, and district president Budgam Mohammad Yasin Bhat were put under house arrest.

The PDP said after denying permission to the party for organising a peaceful programme on the fourth anniversary of Article 370 abrogation, a massive crackdown was carried against the party leaders during the night

Third INDIA meet in Mumbai: Raut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 5: The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) will host the third meeting of the opposition bloc INDIA in Mumbai on August 31-September 1, party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said Saturday.

Speaking to reporters after a Maha Vikas Aghadi meeting in this connection, Raut said Thackeray will host visiting opposition leaders, including five chief ministers, for

dinner on August 31.

The two-day deliberations, which will be held at Grand Hyatt in the suburbs, will begin in the evening of August 31 and from 10 am on September 1. The meeting will be followed by a press conference, Raut informed.

MVA leaders will talk to the state government on issues of logistics and security for the visiting leaders, including Congress' Rahul Gandhi, he said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH
Email: rd_bgh@yahoo.co.in, Gmail: rwd.bgh@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH-03 OF 2023-24

1	Name of the work	Road works during 2023-24 in the district of Bargarh			
2	EMD	@1% of the estimated cost put to tender			
3	Other details	As per DTCN			

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bargarh	ONLINE-BGH-03 OF 2023-24	16.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	25.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	24.08.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.	29.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bargarh
OIPR-25062/11/0003/2324

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRMI/Engg/KUR/23-24/E-Tender/58 Dt. 31.07.2023

(1) Tender No. eTender-SPLKUR-168-2023, Dtd. 26.07.2023

DESCRIPTION 1 | PROPOSED COMPLETE TRACK RENEWAL (CPR PRIMARY) OF MCLSIDING (DB-1, SPUR-5 ANANTA SIDING & SPUR-9 BALARAM SIDING FOR 2.626 TRACK KM.) UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME BY KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 124.97 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,12,500.00, Completion Period : 06 (Six) Months.

(2) Tender No. eTender-HQKUR-169-2023, Dtd. 27.07.2023

DESCRIPTION 2 | SUPPLY OF 30,000 CUM. OF HARD STONE MACHINE CRUSHED BALLAST OF 50 MM SIZE AT KHURDA ROAD DEPOSIT & LOADING THE SAME INTO ANY TYPE OF RAILWAY WAGON FOR KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 470.00 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 3,85,000.00, Completion Period : 11 (Eleven) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 18.08.2023 (For both the Tenders.)

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.irps.gov.in>

Notice : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Khurda Road
PR-418/O/23-24

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARGARH
Email: eerwss_bgh@nic.in, Ph. (O): 06646 233220, Fax: 06646 234626
No. 3211 Dt.01.08.2023

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 08 of 2023-24

No. O-546: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites tenders from the reputed licenced Electrical contractors, having valid H.T. Licence with experience in similar nature of works to be eventually drawn up in P1 Contract Form for the work as per terms and condition noted below.

- Name of the Work: External Electrification to the Pump House in different Rural piped water supply schemes under Padampur, Jharbandh and Paikmal Block.
- Approx. Estimated Cost: Varies from Rs.5.11 to 11.79 lakhs
- Date and time of availability of document in the portal: Dt.10.08.2023 to Dt.23.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt.23.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M. Date & time of Opening of Tender: Dt.24.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh, District. Bargarh.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersorissa.gov.in". The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh
OIPR-25157/11/0010/2324

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHADRAK (ROADS & BUILDINGS DIVISION)
A/P.O./Dist.: Bhadrak, FAX No.: 06784-250321, Contact No.: 06784-250321
E Mail Id: bhadrakrnbdivision@gmail.com

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) BDK - 5/2023-24
Office Order No. 4456 Dt.13.07.2023

No. B-595: The bid invited vide Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) BDK - 05/2023-24 Dt.07.07.2023 modified in respect of the scope of the work, estimated cost, date of bid documents to be available in Website, received and opened as mentioned in the following table due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sl. No.	Item	Provision as per NIT	Modified as per Corrigendum
1	Bid to be available in Website	From 11.00 A.M. of 14.07.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 21.07.2023	From 11.00 A.M. of 07.08.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 17.08.2023
2	Bid to be received on 'Online'	Upto 5.00 P.M. of Dt.21.07.2023	Upto 5.00 P.M. of Dt.17.08.2023
3	Bid to be opened on 'Online'	Upto 11.30 A.M. of Dt.24.07.2023	Upto 11.30 A.M. of Dt.18.08.2023

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Bhadrak (R&B) Division
OIPR-34079/11/0007/2324

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra
पुणे शाखेत का उद्देश एक धीरेचा एक बँक

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX, Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022, Email Id: dzmbsr@mahabank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule - 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Maharashtra for an amount stated below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH/ Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession / Type of possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
PURI BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) SR Electronics and Variety Store, Prop.: Mr. Ratnakar Das, 2) Mrs. Sanjukta Das, W/o.: Mr. Ratnakar Das / Guarantor: Miss. Rashmita Das, D/o: Mr. Ratnakar Das, All are At: Sadar Thana Road, P.S.: Kumbharapara, Puri	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building situated at CTS/Survey No.: 126/18, Plot No.: 270, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.09 Dec. Mouza: Anatrishri, Tahasil/P.S.: Brahmagiri No.: 113, Dist.: Puri, Standing in the name of Mr. Ratnakar Das, Bounded by East: Satyapriya Pradhan, West: Das Pradhan, North: Road, South: Das Pradhan / Physical	₹6,76,968/- as on 18.10.2022 + interest & other charges thereon	18.10.2022 / 03.08.2023
SAMBALPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Birupakshya Behera / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Radha Mohan Behera, 2) Mrs. Rojalini Behera, All are At: Gunderpur, Sambalpur, Odisha - 768005	1) Equitable Mortgage of Landed property in the name of Mr. Radha Mohan Behera & Mrs. Godavari Behera, situated at Mouza: Gunderpur, P.S.: Dhama, P.S.: No. 1, Tahasil: Maneswar, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha - 768005, in the Registration Dist.: Sambalpur, Sub-Dist.: Sadar, consolidation Khata No.: 291/156, Non consolidable Plot No.: 659/1743, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.04 Dec., Bounded by North: Gochar Land, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 658, West: Property of Plot No.: 659 (P) / Physical, 2) Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building bearing Plot No.: 687/2389, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.040 Dec., Plot No.: 692/2390, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.050 Dec. of Khata No.: 291/899, situated at Mouza: Gunderpur, P.S.: Dhama, P.S.: No. 1, Tahasil: Maneswar, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha - 768005, in the Registration Dist.: Sambalpur, Sub-Dist.: Sadar, Standing in name of Mr. Birupakshya Behera, Plot No.: 687/2389 is Bounded by North: Plot No.: 692, South: Plot No.: 1617, East: Plot No.: 687(P), West: Plot No.: 687(P), Plot No.: 692/2390 is Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 687, East: Plot No.: 692(P), West: Plot No.: 692(P) / Physical, 3) Equitable mortgage of Land and Building bearing Plot No.: 692/1772, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.050 Dec., Plot No.: 687/1771, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.050 Dec. of Khata No.: 291/841, situated at Mouza: Gunderpur, P.S.: Dhama, P.S.: No. 1, Tahasil: Maneswar, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha - 768005, in the Registration Dist.: Sambalpur, Sub-Dist.: Sadar, Standing in name of Mr. Birupakshya Behera, Bounded by North: Road, South: Self Property, East: Self Property, West: Canal / Symbolic	₹47,51,117.55 as on 03.02.2023 + interest & other charges thereon	03.02.2023 / 03.08.2023

Sadar, consolidation Khata No.: 291/156, Non consolidable Plot No.: 659/1743, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.04 Dec., Bounded by North: Gochar Land, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 658, West: Property of Plot No.: 659 (P) / Physical, 2) Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building bearing Plot No.: 687/2389, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.040 Dec., Plot No.: 692/2390, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.050 Dec. of Khata No.: 291/899, situated at Mouza: Gunderpur, P.S.: Dhama, P.S.: No. 1, Tahasil: Maneswar, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha - 768005, in the Registration Dist.: Sambalpur, Sub-Dist.: Sadar, Standing in name of Mr. Birupakshya Behera, Plot No.: 687/2389 is Bounded by North: Plot No.: 692, South: Plot No.: 1617, East: Plot No.: 687(P), West: Plot No.: 687(P), Plot No.: 692/2390 is Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 687, East: Plot No.: 692(P), West: Plot No.: 692(P) / Physical, 3) Equitable mortgage of Land and Building bearing Plot No.: 692/1772, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.050 Dec., Plot No.: 687/1771, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.050 Dec. of Khata No.: 291/841, situated at Mouza: Gunderpur, P.S.: Dhama, P.S.: No. 1, Tahasil: Maneswar, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha - 768005, in the Registration Dist.: Sambalpur, Sub-Dist.: Sadar, Standing in name of Mr. Birupakshya Behera, Bounded by North: Road, South: Self Property, East: Self Property, West: Canal / Symbolic

Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 06.08.2023

Authorised Officer Bank of Maharashtra

international



Turkey and Russia agreed that the grain should be transferred to the countries in need, without elaborating further
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

SLOVENIA SUFFERS ITS WORST-EVER FLOODS
Slovenia has faced the worst-ever natural disaster in its history, Prime Minister Robert Golob said Saturday, after devastating floods caused damage estimated at half a billion euros (\$550 million). Devastating floods Thursday and Friday killed three people and destroyed roads, bridges and houses in the small Alpine country

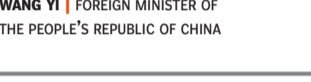


of the day quote

I strongly condemn all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror. It applies to all use of excessive force, and obviously in this situation, there was an excessive force used by Israeli forces



ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN
China and Australia's relations have stabilised, improved and developed under the joint efforts of both countries



WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
The US considers building strong economic and security ties with Vietnam a priority



JANET YELLEN | US TREASURY SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

China renews typhoon alert

Beijing: China's National Meteorological Centre on Saturday renewed a blue alert as typhoon Khanun, the sixth typhoon this year, continues to move northeast on the East China Sea. From 8 a.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. Sunday, strong winds with speeds of 39 to 74 km per hour are expected in most parts of the South China Sea, the Beibu Gulf, the Taiwan Strait, the Bashi Channel, areas to the east of China's Taiwan island, the East China Sea and the waters near the Diaoyu Islands, as well as the coastal areas of Guangxi, Taiwan island, the western coast of Leizhou Peninsula of Guangdong and the western coast of Hainan, with wind gusts surpassing 100 km per hour, the Centre said.

Son of Colombia's President freed

Bogota: A Colombian judge Friday night ordered President Gustavo Petro's son freed from detention while he is investigated on allegations of illicit enrichment and money laundering. Nicolás Petro was arrested early Saturday, and this week was charged with the two crimes. He agreed to cooperate in the probe, and prosecutors said he acknowledged Thursday that his father's 2022 election campaign received money of dubious origin.

One killed in fatal shooting

Sydney: Police in the Australian state of Victoria said on Saturday that a man has died after being shot in Melbourne's inner-city suburb South Yarra overnight. According to a statement released by Victoria Police, emergency services were called after a number of shots were fired at a man walking along a street on Friday at about 11:40 p.m. local time, Xinhua news agency reported.

TOSHAKHANA CASE

Imran sentenced to 3 years in prison

IMRAN KHAN IN A PRE-RECORDED VIDEO SAID THAT HIS ARREST WAS "EXPECTED" AND ASKED HIS SUPPORTERS "NOT TO SIT SILENT" AND STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM

AGENCIES

Islamabad, August 5: In a major development, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Saturday issued its verdict in the Toshakhana case against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, sentencing him to at least three-years imprisonment and imposing a fine of 100,000 PKR. The IHC, which has been hearing the case on a daily basis, announced its verdict after hearing versions of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Khan's lawyer, concluding that the former premier was found guilty of corrupt practices in acquiring gifts from Toshakhana, misusing his public office to tailor procedures, evaluation and settlement of gifts, given to him as premier by different countries and delegates.

Khan was accused of opting to corrupt practices to not only acquire gifts, jewellery and other items worth billions of rupees, but also using his office to tailor the procedures, get undervalued assessments done and later pay 20 per cent of their under-valued price through undeclared accounts. The Islamabad trial court declared PTI chief as guilty of corrupt practices and conceal-



The former Prime Minister is not the first Pakistani premier to end up in jail, the country has numerous unenviable examples of the treatment meted out to elected leaders in its sordid history

ing details of Toshakhana gifts. "Imran Khan deliberately submitted fake details to the Election Commission of Pakistan and is found guilty of corrupt practices," the trial court verdict said. Shortly after the IHC order, Khan was taken into custody from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore. The former Prime Minister was indicted in the case May 10 on a criminal complaint file against him by the ECP, which was then challenged by Khan. However, Khan and his lawyers had been trying their

best to ignore and stay away from the proceedings and investigations of the Toshakhana case, which many believe was because he was aware that he would fail to defend himself. The lawyers had also raised concerns over the Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Humayun Dilawar for being biased against Imran Khan and pleaded for the case to be heard in another judge's court. However, this plea was rejected. Khan had also reached out to the Supreme Court of

Police arrest PTI workers

Lahore: Police in Pakistan's Punjab province Saturday arrested 10 PTI workers for protesting a trial court's conviction and sentencing of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in a corruption case. Only a handful of PTI supporters Saturday took to the streets in Lahore to protest Khan's arrest, they said. The ruling PML-N workers gathered at Jauhar Town and celebrated the arrest of Khan Saturday. PML-N Lahore president Saif Khokhar and other officer bearers of the party distributed sweets among the workers. Security has been beefed up and heavy police contingents have been deployed on all main roads and buildings in Lahore.

Pakistan, asking on the apex court to issue a verdict to stop the proceedings of Toshakhana case in the trial court. The apex court rejected his request as well. The ruling party's spokesperson and special assistant to the Prime Minister, Atta Tarar said Imran Khan has finally been caught red handed for not only lying but also for stealing in the Toshakhana case.

India hands over INR 450mn to SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 5: India has handed over INR 450 million in advance to Sri Lanka to fund its unique digital identity project, the most crucial step in the island nation's digitalisation programme being implemented through the Indian grant assistance.



Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office here said that the fund from the government of India was given Friday. During a meeting at the Presidential Secretariat, key stakeholders, including Presidential Senior Adviser on National Security and Chief of Presidential Staff, Sagala Ratnayaka, State Minister of Technology, Kanaka Herath, Indian High Commissioner, Gopal Bagley, and First Secretary of the Indian High Commission, Eldos Mathew and others engaged in extensive discussions on the project's execution. "Signifying the Indian government's commitment to the initiative, the Indian High Commissioner handed over a significant contribution of Indian Rs 450 million to Minister Kanaka Herath (State Minister of Technology), constituting 15 per cent of the total funds required for the successful implementation of the project as an advance payment," a statement from the President's Office said.

Suez Canal tugboat sinks after collision with tanker

AGENCIES

Cairo, August 5: A Suez Canal tugboat has sunk after colliding with a Hong Kong-flagged LPG tanker in the strategically important waterway, the Suez Canal Authority said Saturday, without specifying whether there was any disruption to shipping traffic. Seven people were on board the tugboat "Fahd", the canal authority's head, Osama Rabie, said in a statement, adding that



rescue work was underway with a crane dispatched to recover the sunken vessel.

Rabie said the collision had occurred while the tanker, "CHINAGAS LEGEND", was in the Ballah area, heading south on its journey from Singapore to the United States. "The tanker is currently waiting in Port Said until the completion of the procedures related to the accident," Rabie said. The tanker is 230 meters long and 36 meters wide and carries a cargo of 52,000 tons of LPG.

Ukraine hits Russian tanker with sea drone near Crimea Bridge



In this image from video made available Saturday, a seaborne drone approaches a Russian tanker on the Black Sea. Ukrainian drones have hit a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea, according to Russian officials

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 5: A Ukrainian sea drone full of explosives struck a Russian fuel tanker overnight near a bridge linking Russia to annexed Crimea, the second such attack in 24 hours, both sides said Saturday. No one was hurt, but the Crimean Bridge and ferry transport were suspended for several hours, according to Russian-installed officials in Crimea, which Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014. A Ukrainian intelligence source told Reuters that the drone with 450 kg of explosives hit the SIG vessel as it transported fuel for the Russian military in Ukrainian territorial waters. Kyiv says destroying Russia's military infrastructure inside Russia or on Russian-controlled territory in Ukraine is crucial to its counteroffensive after the February 2022 invasion. Another sea drone attack on Russia's navy base at Novorossiysk damaged a warship on Friday, the first time the Ukrainian navy had projected its power so far from its shores. And a Ukrainian government agency warned on Saturday that six Russian Black Sea ports - Anapa, Novorossiysk, Gelendzhik, Tuapse, Sochi, and Taman - were in "war risk area". Moscow has bombed Ukrainian ports since its with-

drawal last month from a U.N.-brokered deal to let Ukraine export grain. **FUEL FOR TROOPS** The SIG tanker had been supplying oil to Russian troops in Syria, according to Vladimir Rogov, a Russian-appointed official in Ukraine's southeastern region of Zaporizhzhia. The United States imposed sanctions on the tanker and its owner, St. Petersburg-based Transpetrochart, in 2019 for helping provide jet fuel in Syria. Vasyly Malyuk, head of Ukraine's SBU security service, did not directly confirm the latest attack but said any incident with Russian ships or the Crimean bridge was "an absolutely logical and efficient step towards the enemy". Russia's Novorossiysk Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre was quoted by the RIA news agency as saying there was no fuel spill from the SIG, as the ship had been carrying only technical ballast. Recovery work was underway with two tugboats nearby. Rogov posted an audio clip on Telegram in which the SIG requested a tow. He also posted pictures of what he described as shattered fixtures and equipment inside the vessel. The Moscow-installed authorities in Crimea said the bridge, which was completed by Russia in 2018 and has come under serious attack twice in the war, was not targeted.

Russian ships hit twice in 24 hours
Ukraine says 'completely legal' to hit occupiers
Russian authorities say Crimean Bridge unscathed

Heat, wildfires put southern Europe's tourism at risk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rhodes (Greece), August 5: Tourists at a seaside hotel on the Greek island of Rhodes snatched up pails of pool water and damp towels as flames approached, rushing to help staffers and locals extinguish one of the wildfires threatening Mediterranean locales during recent heat waves. The quick team effort meant that "by the time the fire brigade came, most of the fire actually was dealt with," said Elena Korosteleva from Britain, who

was vacationing at the Lindos Memories hotel. The next morning, some unsettled guests cut their holiday short — but most stayed on as the resort wasn't damaged in the small brush fire outside its grounds. The Greek island known for sparkling beaches and ancient sites is nursing its wounds after 11 days of devastating wildfires in July. After thousands of people were evacuated during the height of travel season, Rhodes is weighing how the crisis will affect its vital tourism sector,

which fuels most of its economy and some 20 per cent of Greece's. It's the same for other Mediterranean destinations, like Italy and Spain, where the tourism sector also is being hit by heat waves and wildfires. Greece, Italy, Algeria and Tunisia combined lost more than 1,350 square kilometres (520 square miles) to blazes that affected 120,000 people in late July, according to European Union estimates. And Greece is expecting even more extreme heat in the coming days. The mayor of Villardeciervos village, in part



of northwestern Spain ravaged by fires last summer, said hikers are still coming. Fires have chased away tourists in hard-hit parts of

Heat records foreshadow changes ahead as the planet warms, scientists say, including more flooding, longer-burning wildfires and extreme weather events that put people at risk

Greece and Italy. Rhodes saw mass cancellations of flights and the trend is similar in Sicily, said Olivier Ponti, vice president of insights at ForwardKeys,

a travel data company with access to airline industry ticketing data. While travel to Greece overall has not been hit too hard, Italy isn't as lucky. Wildfires "have caused a slowdown in bookings for many Italian destinations, even places not close to the fires," he said. Even without the flames, summer heat intensified by climate change can be a turnoff for travelers. Hoteliers are worried in southeastern Spain's coastal resort city of Benidorm, a longtime favorite for British and Scandinavian tourists.

Pope Francis visits Portuguese shrine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fatima (Portugal), August 5: Pope Francis visited the Portuguese town of Fatima on Saturday to pray for peace at a shrine known for apocalyptic prophecies of hell, peace and Soviet communism that have found new relevance with Russia's war in Ukraine. But for the third time of his trip to Portugal for World Youth Day, Francis ditched his prepared remarks and didn't even recite a prayer written for the occasion pleading for peace. The prayer had been expected to be a highlight of Francis' visit to Fatima, given the shrine's century-old affiliation with exhortations of peace and conversion in Russia.



Francis instead "prayed silently for peace, with pain", while meditating for a long period before a statue of the Virgin Mary, Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunetti said. And the Vatican later tweeted the prayer: The unusual morning unfolded at the shrine where, according to legend, three young peasant children in 1917 saw visions of the Madonna. The apparitions turned the small town nestled in the fields of vineyards, olive groves and fruit orchards north of Lisbon into one of the most popular Marian pilgrimage sites in the world, drawing millions of visitors each year.

business

of the day quote

Illicit trade inflicts significant harm on individual industries and has a substantial negative impact on employment generation and economic growth. Illicit trade also poses a dual challenge for the government

ANIL RAJPUT | CHAIRMAN, FICCI CASCADE

Indian MSMEs are experiencing a golden opportunity era. All they need to do is to focus on their core expertise and deliver their products and services with the best possible quality

NARAYAN RANE | UNION MINISTER

The decision to increase the flat registration fee with immediate effect will impact the government and homebuyers more than the developers. The hike will affect property buyers who have already purchased the flat but have not yet registered

S SIVAGURUNATHAN | PRESIDENT, CREDAI CHENNAI

RESULTS CORNER

BoB net rises 88%

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda Saturday reported an 88 per cent jump in net income at Rs 4,070 crore in the June quarter boosted by healthy interest income on the back of asset repricing and higher loan sales. Net interest income (NII) grew 24.4 per cent to Rs 10,997 crore, coupled with robust growth in non-interest income that grew 2.8 times. Sustained NII growth was buoyed by an 18 per cent growth in advances coupled with a traction in net interest margins (NIM), which grew 25 basis points (bps) to 3.27 per cent, the bank said in a statement.

PSB profit plunges

New Delhi: Public sector lender Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) Saturday reported a 25 per cent decline in net profit to Rs 153 crore for the June 2023 quarter, partly due to the provision of wage revision and fresh slippages. The lender had reported a net profit of Rs 205 crore in the April-June quarter of 2022-23. The total income increased to Rs 2,494 crore in the first quarter of 2023-24 against Rs 1,915 crore a year ago, as per a regulatory filing. During the quarter, the bank earned an interest income of Rs 2,316 crore compared to Rs 1,800 crore in the year-ago period.

BENCHMARKS PEAK

FPIs buy Indian shares for fifth month in July

REUTERS

Bangalore, August 5: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought Indian shares worth Rs 466.18 billion (\$5.63 billion) on a net basis in July, data from the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) showed Friday.

This is slightly less than inflows of Rs 471.5 billion in June 2023, the highest monthly FPI inflow since August 2022.

Sustained FPI inflows have powered the uptick in the blue-chip Nifty 50 and S&P BSE Sensex, driving the benchmarks to record highs. The Nifty 50 rose 2.94% in July.

Between March and July, FPIs have been net buyers of Indian equities in each of the five months, purchasing shares worth Rs 1,553.08 billion and triggering a 14.15% rise in Nifty 50 index.

"The rally to record highs in July was predominantly driven by foreign inflows," said Samrat Dasgupta, CEO, Esquire Capital Investment Advisors. "If you see local mutual funds, there have been substantial profit bookings over the last few months."



Analysts attributed strong macroeconomic fundamentals, steady earnings as well as concerns over recovery in China as key drivers of foreign inflows into India.

Earlier in the week, global brokerage Morgan Stanley upgraded its view on India to "overweight" from "equal weight" and termed it the most-preferred among emerging markets (EMs) on macro-stability and positive earnings outlook.

FPIs purchased equities worth Rs 115.14 billion in the financial services sector in July, after buying Rs 192.29 billion worth of shares in June. FPIs were also net buyers in the sector in April and May.

Musk's X unable to pay verified creators on time

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 5: Elon Musk-run X Corp (formerly Twitter) will not be able to pay verified creators on time as part of its ad revenue-sharing programme, saying it is currently flooded with requests for payments.

In an update, the X Support account said that since its "Ads



ONDC is meant for collaboration, not competition. It started with a limited number of merchants in 5-6 cities, but it now has thousands of merchants across categories onboard

THAMPY KOSHY | CEO, ONDC

World rice prices peak after India ban

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 5: The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) All Rice Price Index increased by 2.8 per cent on the month and 19.7 per cent on the year to reach its highest nominal level since September 2011, as India's 20 July prohibition of non-parboiled India exports fostered expectations of greater sales in other origins, amplifying upward pressure already exerted on prices by seasonally tighter supplies and Asian purchases.

This upward pressure of rice prices "raises substantial food security concerns for a large swathe of the world population, especially those that are most poor and who dedicate a larger share of their incomes to purchase food," FAO warned.

In the current environment, these types of restrictions are likely to exacerbate volatility on food prices in the rest of the world. They could also lead to retaliatory measures

PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCHAS | CHIEF ECONOMIST, IMF

The UN agency added that export restrictions can bear adverse consequences on production, consumption and prices that last beyond the duration of their implementation and risk exacerbating high food domestic inflation in many countries.

Moreover, erratic weather conditions in some rice-producing countries have also led to lower yields, which has further tightened the supply.

It is to be noted that India, which accounts for 40 per cent of world rice exports, last month ordered a halt to its largest rice export category to calm domestic prices, which climbed to multi-year highs in recent weeks.



GRIM FIGURES

- FAO rice index rises 2.8% in July
- Food prices jump 1.3% from June
- Vegetable up 12.1% after 7 months of dip
- Wheat surges 1.6%, 1st monthly rise in 9 months

The rising price of rice is likely to have a significant impact on food security in many countries. Rice is a staple food for millions of people around the world, and the higher prices could make it more difficult for

people to afford this essential food.

Global food prices

Global food commodity prices rose in July, influenced by the termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and new trade restrictions on rice.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of globally-traded food commodities, averaged 123.9 points in July, up 1.3 per cent from the

previous month while 11.8 per cent below its July 2022 level.

The increase was driven by a sharp jump in the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index, which rose 12.1 per cent from June after seven months of consecutive declines.

International sunflower oil prices rebounded by more than 15 per cent in the month, due mostly to renewed uncertainties surrounding the exportable supplies after the Russia's decision to end implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

World prices for palm, soy and rapeseed oils increased on concerns over output prospects in leading producing countries.

International wheat prices rose by 1.6 per cent, their first monthly increase in nine months, due to uncertainty over exports from Ukraine as well as continued dry conditions in North America.

IT HARDWARE PLI 2.0

Top PC firms to make in India

The government has fixed August 30 as the last date for manufacturing IT hardware under Rs 17,000-crore PLI scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: As many as 44 IT hardware manufacturers including global PC makers have registered for manufacturing laptops, tablets and personal computers in India, an official source said Saturday.

The official, without naming any company, said that IT hardware production in the country is expected to repeat the success that has been achieved in mobile phone manufacturing under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

"Leading laptop companies have registered for PLI and some of them are ready to start manufacturing in India any time. Global server companies have said that they want to make India an export hub for servers," the official said.

The government has fixed August 30 as the last date for manufacturing IT hardware under Rs 17,000-crore PLI scheme.

According to Counterpoint Research, Lenovo, HP Dell, Apple and Acer were the top five companies in the personal computer segment in the June 2023 quarter.

Research Director of Counterpoint Research Tarun Pathak said the total laptop and PC market size in India is close to \$8 billion annually, and approximately 65 per cent of the units are imported.



Lava International co-founder, Chairman and Managing Director Hari Om Rai said the decision to restrict import via valid permit is a great move by the government.

"It will add 10 billion dollars to laptop manufacturing, billions of dollars of components and mil-

The pull to manufacture IT hardware, especially laptops and tablets, in India, started during PLI 1.0, and it bloomed further with PLI 2.0. We expect local production of IT hardware devices in India will meet 60-65 per cent of domestic demand in the next 2-3 years

A GURURAJ | MD, OPTIMUS ELECTRONICS

lions of jobs. It is also a very big milestone in building the much-needed scale of the supply chain of electronics in India," Rai added.

He said the government has ensured that there is no disruption in the supply chain so that the companies will have no issues with the "ease of doing business" and the consumers will continue to get the products at the same price.

According to the latest Canalys data, the Indian PC market (desktops, notebooks and tablets) suffered a major year-on-year decline of 35 per cent, with 3.9 million units shipped in the March 2023 quarter.

Import curb on PCs, laptops from Nov

New Delhi: The government Friday deferred the implementation of the import restriction order on laptops and computers (including tablet computers) by about three months till October 31, a move that gives more time to electronic companies to import these devices without a licence. Now, these companies would need to take a licence from the government to import these devices from November 1. On August 3, the government put the import of these devices under a licence regime with immediate effect. Subsequently, industry raised issues with the government on the notification. The move will offer a breather to the companies that have been on tenterhooks following Thursday's order.



payout and hope to get all eligible accounts paid as soon as possible," said X Corp. Musk had announced the ad revenue-sharing plan in

February, and the platform paid some creators with Blue badges in the first round of payments.

As he rolled out its ads revenue programme for creators globally including in India, one now needs to be subscribed to X Blue (earlier Twitter Blue), have at least 15 million impressions on cumulative posts within the last three months and at least 500 followers.

Govt clears broadband connectivity for villages

CABINET APPROVES RS 1.39 LAKH CRORE FOR CONNECTING 6.4 LAKH VILLAGES WITH BROADBAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 5: The Union Cabinet has approved a last-mile broadband connectivity plan for 6.4 lakh villages across the country under the BharatNet project with an outlay of Rs 1.39 lakh crore, according to sources.

Around 1.94 lakh villages have been connected under the BharatNet project at present, and the balance is likely to be connected in two and a half years, they added.

"The Cabinet in its meeting, held on Friday evening, has approved Rs 1,39,579 crore for providing last mile optical fibre-based connectivity to homes in all villages of the country," one of the sources said.

The last-mile connectivity will be provided by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), an arm of state-owned BSNL, in partnership with village level entrepreneur (VLE).

"The model to take fibre-to-the-home, with the help of a local entrepreneur, was finalised after the successful completion of a pilot project. The pilot project was initially carried out to connect villages in four districts and then expanded to 60,000 villages across most states," as per sources.

Customer premise equipment and additional fibre required for connecting homes are pro-



vided by BBNL, and local entrepreneurs have been tasked with maintaining the network.

"Around 3,800 entrepreneurs were involved in the pilot project that was carried out for 60,000 villages, who provided 3.51 lakh broadband connections. Average data consumption per household has been recorded to the tune of 175 gigabytes per month," one of the sources said.

The project is being rolled on a 50 per cent revenue-sharing basis between BBNL and VLE, and the monthly broadband plan price starts from Rs 399 onward.

According to sources, there are 37 lakh route kilometres (rkm) of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid in the country, out of which BBNL has laid 7.7 lakh rkm.

"The broadband connection has started empowering rural areas where people have started getting treatment with the help of global doctors, some businessmen have started providing tutorials on YouTube, families are saving money on preparation for competitive exams, and many other use cases are coming up," a source said.

The project is expected to create 2.5 lakh jobs in the country.

El Nino a major threat to emerging market economies

INDIA AND EGYPT ARE AMONG THE ECONOMIES THAT ARE OVERALL MOST VULNERABLE TO EL NINO'S IMPACT THIS YEAR

REUTERS

London, August 5: Countries around the world are battling heatwaves and floods fuelled by El Nino, a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that has a 90% probability of persisting in the second half of 2023, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

The worldwide impact can be enormous, but the stakes are higher for emerging markets, which are more exposed to swings in food and energy prices and production and often have smaller fiscal buffers that limit their ability to cushion the impact.

Below are five charts showing the impact El Nino - when waters in the central and eastern Pacific are warmer than usual - could have on key emerging markets.

MOST VULNERABLE

India and Egypt are among the economies that are overall most vulnerable to El Nino's impact this year, according to an index by Standard Chartered Bank, taking into account the weight of the primary sector,

the share of food in inflation baskets and a country's ability to offset through fiscal support.

Ghana, Kenya and the Philippines are also high up on the list while countries such as South Africa and Chile are among the least vulnerable - together with most of the developed market economies such as Germany or the United States.

"We believe that the countries most at risk from an El Nino event this year are those that have relatively weak economic fundamentals and that experienced relatively weak agricultural production during the 2014-16 El Nino period," said Eugene Klerk, head of ESG Research at Standard Chartered Bank.

AGRICULTURAL PRESSURES

Sudden changes in rainfall or temperature can wreak havoc on crops. With agriculture accounting for a larger share of the economy and employment in Africa and South Asia than elsewhere, these regions are especially vulnerable to the El Nino fallout.

"A sharp reduction in the volume of crops that can be exported could result in balance of



A strong El Nino could push emerging market food inflation back into double digits in 2024

DAVID REES | SENIOR EMERGING MARKETS ECONOMIST, SCHROEDERS

payments strains for some economies," according to a research note led by Jennifer McKeown, chief global economist for Capital Economics.

India has banned exports of a key variety of rice, cutting overall supplies to world markets by a fifth. Nearly 90% of rice is produced in Asia, and threatened by dry El Nino weather, with the Philippines and Thailand also at risk. Other produce in focus in-

cludes cocoa from Ivory Coast and Ghana, sugar from India and Thailand and coffee from Vietnam and Indonesia.

There are, however, exceptions - Argentina had a record soy harvest in previous El Nino episodes, according to Morgan Stanley. "El Nino tends to be negative in EM, though Argentina is an exception," the bank's Fernando Sedano wrote in a note, adding "Argentina is likely the only net winner of El Nino."

FRAGILE FOOD

Food prices make up a larger share of the CPI baskets of emerging markets - as much as 40% in many low income economies - so El Nino's sever-

PRANNOY enters final

India aim for improved show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Providence (Guyana), August 5: India's most sought after IPL stars will have a reputation to defend and parity to restore when they take on a quality West Indies side in the second T20I of the five-match series here Sunday.

A boundary was the difference between the two teams in the opening game in Tarouba where West Indies prevailed on a slow batting track with an impressive bowling effort at the back-end.

The T20I series is of little consequence in an ODI World Cup year but skipper Hardik Pandya along with his deputy Suryakumar Yadav would expect to put a far improved batting show – both individually as well as collectively.

The duo along with Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill and Sanju Samson are all looking at the ODI World Cup but no one would mind a few good knocks which will give them some confidence ahead of the Asia Cup.

Save debutant Tilak Varma, who looked ready for international cricket during his knock of 39, the Indian batting with IPL prima donnas earning fat pay cheques, flattered to deceive.

However, with five T20s being played in a period of nine days, involving three countries (Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and United States), it is also imperative that the likes of skipper Hardik, openers Gill and Kishan, spinner Kuldeep Yadav get adequate rest keeping the big picture in mind.

Playing so many T20 games on the bounce with little rest and lot of travelling won't do them any good even if one considers that this is not an ageing team like the ODI outfit.

This T20 series against the West Indies gives India the best chance to check out their shortest format options as it would become important next year with



The World Cup being held in the Americas (West Indies and United States).

Hence, trying out last IPL edition's sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal during the series if not the second game wouldn't be a bad option.

A better batting effort in the back-10 would be top priority at a venue where the West Indies haven't had a great T20I record. Out of 11 matches played at this ground, three didn't produce result due to rain and in the remaining eight, West Indies lost five games.

But despite their declining standards in the two traditional formats, West Indies in T20 cricket remain a force to reckon with as they produce the maximum premium 'Guns for Hire' in the franchise market after Australia.

The Nicholas Poorans, Kyle Mayers, Shimron Hetmyers, Rovman Powells, Romario Shepherds are on even keel, at least in this format and hence the

Indian team will find this particular outfit toughest to beat in current circumstances.

Among bowlers, Yuzvendra Chahal has fallen off a bit in ODI pecking order and he will have a point to prove if he gets an opportunity in all five games.

Arshdeep Singh is a work-in-progress as far as death overs bowling is concerned while Mukesh Kumar is reaping rewards for his good show throughout the tour. But at some point, both Avesh Khan and Umran Malik, the two tearaway quicks need to be given an opportunity and see if they can become the X-factor on docile tracks.

MATCH SCHEDULE

India vs West Indies (2nd T20I)

Time: 8 pm

Telecast: DD Sports

Stream: Jio Cinema & Fan Code



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, August 5: Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy stormed into his second final of the season with a comprehensive straight-game win over young compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat at the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Saturday.

The 31-year-old Prannoy rode on his power and precision to outwit the 21-year-old Rajawat 21-18, 21-12 in the men's singles semifinals.

"It is very satisfying (to win), because it is always tough to play continuously against the top 10 players and beating them and if you look at the men's singles section, somebody from 30s and 40s are also very tough these days," Prannoy said after the win.

"Last two years have been good for me, I have been con-

sistently able to pull off matches and this year has been special and I hope I can do something similar to what I did in Malaysia," he said.

The World No.9 Indian will square off against China's Weng Hong Yang in the summit clash Sunday. Interestingly, World No.24 Weng is the same opponent whom Prannoy had defeated in the final of the Malaysia Masters to win his first individual title in six years in May. It was also their only meeting so far in the international circuit.

With the loss, Rajawat's impressive run this week ended with a first-ever Super 500 semifinal finish. Prannoy has looked in supreme touch throughout the week with his stunning come-from-behind win over world number 2 and top seed Anthony Ginting in the quarterfinals being the highlight.

Prannoy once again showed his capability to draw errors from his younger opponent Rajawat, who is known for his fast hand and leg speed and quick net play.

Rajawat began on a positive note with his service earning him a 2-0 lead but Prannoy slowly started constructing his points and pushed his young challenger to err, registering four straight points to move ahead.

Rajawat tried to step up the attack and two good-looking jump smashes helped him to draw parity at 7-7, but unforced errors continued to undo his good work as Prannoy enjoyed a two-point cushion at the interval.

The 21-year-old from Madhya Pradesh tried to stay in the rallies and grabbed four out of five points after resumption to keep snapping at his senior rival's heels. Prannoy slumped into a pool of errors after the interval

as Rajawat levelled the score at 14-14. The youngster managed to move neck-and-neck till 18-18.

However, a patient Prannoy grabbed two game points after unleashing a lethal smash and a backhand return and then sealed it comfortably to earn the bragging rights.

Nothing much transformed after change of sides as Rajawat continued to struggle with his unforced errors, making life easy for Prannoy, who kept a high tempo and used his attacking play to open up a 5-2 lead early on.

Rajawat produced some good smashes but couldn't sustain the attack as his efforts often ended at the nets or wide of the court.

The youngster, however, never stopped fighting and managed to claw back at 7-7 after winning four straight points, including a 41-shot rally.

It was when Prannoy sent one wide, found the net once and landed a cross court smash out while Rajawat produced a down-the-line smash. But such moments were too few as the senior Indian once again broke off to take an 11-7 advantage at the breather.

Prannoy maintained his four-point lead when Rajawat again went wide. The youngster kept breathing down his opponent's neck with a few more points, making it 11-13.

But Rajawat couldn't keep up the work against the experienced Prannoy, who produced a late burst with a flurry of smashes to jump to 18-11 and soon grabbed eight match points and converted it at the first attempt.

Aditi youngest ever World Champ

Malaysia challenge awaits India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berlin, August 5: Aditi Swami Saturday became the youngest-ever senior World Champion at 17 years when she secured India's first-ever individual title at the World Archery Championships with women's compound gold here.

Later in the day, Ojas Deotale also became the world champion when he bagged the compound men's title with a sheer perfect score of 150 as India recorded their best ever finish in the showpiece with four medals – three gold and one bronze.

A calm and composed Deotale, who hails from Nagpur in Maharashtra, defeated Lukasz Przybylski of Poland by one point in a thrilling finish en route to the men's title. The Olympic discipline

recurve archers, on the other hand, came a cropper, returning empty-handed.

Incidentally, both Aditi and Deotale train at the same academy in Satara under coach Pravin Sawant. Hailing from Maharashtra's drought-prone Satara, Aditi shot a near perfect score of 149 out of a possible 150 points to prevail over Andrea Becerra of Mexico by two points.

The class 12 student also became a double world champion in less than two months, having won the U-18 title in Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland July 8. She is now the first individual World Champion in archery from India, across any discipline and gender.

Aditi along with Parneet Kaur and Jyothi Surekha Vennam had secured India's first ever World

Archery Championships gold by winning the compound women's team final Friday.

In the individual final, Aditi was up against the Mexican giantkiller, the 16th seed, who had knocked out reigning champion Sara Lopez in the pre-quarterfinals. But Andrea faced a tougher challenge against the Indian sixth seed who started off with a bang, drilling in all her first three arrows closer to the centre (X) to take a 30-29 first round lead.

Aditi was on target in all of her 12 arrows in the first four rounds to extend her lead by three points. It was only in the final end, she shot one 9 out of the three arrows, but by then she had already sealed India's second World Championship gold ever.

Aditi earlier defeated the Netherlands' Sanne De Laat in a tense quarterfinal shoot-off and came up against her idol and senior teammate Jyothi Surekha Vennam in the semifinals, who was hoping to upgrade to gold, having won bronze in 2019 and silver in 2021.

But she ousted her 'idol' and the most successful Indian compound archer Jyothi 149-145 in an all-Indian semifinal. Jyothi went on to win a bronze medal when she shot a perfect 150 to defeat Ipek Tomruk of Turkey by four points in the third-place playoff.

Later in the afternoon session, Deotale gave the icing on the cake by becoming the men's compound world champion.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 5: Tournament favourites and three-time champions India would look to work on their penalty corner conversion rate when they take on Malaysia in their next Asian Champions Trophy match here Sunday.

India struggled visibly when it came to penalty corner conversion rate against Japan Friday at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here.

The Indians earned as many as 15 penalty corners but converted just one despite having a potent force in skipper Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas and Jugraj Singh.

India were lethal with their penalty corners in the 7-2 win over China in their opening match as six of the goals were scored through set pieces. However, it was a complete contrast in the 1-1 draw against Japan Friday. Harmanpreet converted one of the 15 penalty corners India had secured in the hard-fought draw against Japan.

India's chief coach Craig Fulton is visibly concerned but said the team is not far from attaining its full finishing potential.

"It's every coach's concern if you are not converting your chances, whether corners or field goals," he said. "It's not



that we are not playing in our system. We are playing the way we want to play, and even tonight (Friday), we had two-three really good counters. We are one phase away from finishing the way we want to," he had said after the Japan draw.

India's over-reliance on extracting corners is also a matter of concern, as during the game against Japan, the players were seen refraining from going for field goals from inside the box.

Therefore, Harmanpreet has a task at hand to ensure that the

MATCH SCHEDULE

S Korea vs China (4 pm)

Pakistan vs Japan (6:15 pm)

India vs Malaysia (8:30 pm)

Telecast: Star Sports channels

team utilises clear scoring opportunities to the fullest and not be selfish in terms of earning enough penalty corners. "We will try to attack the areas that gave us goals in the opening game (vs China). We would also

try something new," Harmanpreet had said.

Next for India is Malaysia, a team which has surprised all with their performance, having trounced Pakistan (3-1) and China (5-1) in their opening two contests. Malaysia would be riding high on confidence after being at the top of the table.

Also, with Firhan Ashari being the top goal-scorer in the tournament so far, scoring four goals and all of them coming through field goals, the Indian defence will have a tough time.

Pakistan-England WC match could be rescheduled

YOUNG SHREYAS HAREESH DIES IN RACING INCIDENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/New Delhi, August 5: The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Saturday requested the ICC recon team to reschedule the World Cup match between Pakistan and England November 12 which coincides with Kali Puja, citing security concerns raised by the local police.

If BCCI and ICC have to accommodate another date change, then Pakistan will have a third change in schedule.

This is after rescheduling of India vs Pakistan game (October 14 instead of 15 in Ahmedabad) and Sri Lanka vs Pakistan game (now October 10 in Hyderabad instead of October 12).

The Ahmedabad Police had told the BCCI that it would be difficult for it to take care of security October 15 which happens

to be the first day of the Hindu festival of Navaratri.

The ICC and BCCI had released the schedule at a grand ceremony June 27 but now the revised schedule is yet to be published as it has completely gone haywire.

Kali Puja is the second biggest festival in West Bengal, and thousands of local clubs organise festivities with a large police deployment required to maintain law and order situation across the length and breadth of the city.

While CAB president Snehasish Ganguly denied of any "official request" for a change in schedule, senior office-bearers in CAB are well aware that Kolkata Police has already raised this issue.

"Kolkata Police has cited concerns to provide security for the match slated on Diwali. We have informed the ICC and BCCI to



reschedule it and if it does not happen we would inform this to the chief minister," a senior CAB office-bearer, who was part of the meeting with the 17-member ICC and BCCI inspection team, said.

In such a scenario, it remains to be seen whether ICC agrees for another schedule change. The CAB chief gave a guarded response, while talking to reporters after the ICC's inspection and meeting that lasted for more than three hours.

"We have not yet got anything officially from the Kolkata Police," Snehasish, elder brother of former BCCI president and India captain Sourav Ganguly, said. "Unless we get something officially, we can't inform the ICC. Security issue is being taken care of by the Kolkata Police. That is not our look-out. As I

said, we have not got anything officially, if we get anything we will inform ICC."

The CAB top-brass, incidentally, had gone to meet Kolkata Police officials at their Lalbazar headquarters a couple of days back. Snehasish, however, termed it a "courtesy call".

"We went to Kolkata Police for a courtesy visit two days ago, we had a discussion with them. The schedule, plan and how we are preparing the stadium were discussed," he said.

However with multiple changes in schedule, the question that has cropped up is that whether the local security agencies were taken into confidence while setting the dates for the World Cup.

The CAB is learnt to have requested for a rescheduling of the fixture in a letter to BCCI secretary Jay Shah Friday.

Chennai, August 5: Coppam Shreyas Hareesh, a 13-year-old prodigy from Bangalore, succumbed to injuries that he had suffered following a crash in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Madras International Circuit, here Saturday.

Shreyas was being hailed as a rising star, as he had won several races at the national level, including four in a row, competing in the rookie category of the Petronas TVS One-Make Championship.

Exiting turn-1, Shreyas, starting from pole, fell following a crash and suffered grievous head injury. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.