



Sensible talk

Kritika Kamra says she doesn't find nepotism debate productive as, in the end, it's the audience that decides an actor's fate

LEISURE | P2



Tougher approach

In her first interview, Kamala Harris vows tougher approach to migration and says she will not withhold weapons to Israel

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Investors richer

Investors' wealth went up by ₹10 lakh crore in nine days of rally where the BSE Sensex surged over two per cent

BUSINESS | P11



Unique feat

Preethi Pal becomes first Indian athlete to win a sprint event medal at the Paralympics by winning the bronze

SPORTS | P12

SJTCM approves ₹413cr budget for Srimandir

AGENCIES

Puri, August 30: The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTCM) Friday approved a budget of ₹413 crore for the financial year 2024-2025 and also decided to set up a dedicated FM Radio station for spreading Jagannath culture.

"The SJTCM has approved a budget of ₹413 crore for 2024-25 fiscal. This is ₹103 crore surplus budget," Shree Jagannath Temple Administration chief administrator Arabinda Padhee told reporters here. Padhee said that the temple's budget this year will be around ₹913 crore after the state government contributes ₹500 crore as corpus.

Referring to mismanagement during the Pahandi (procession) of Lord Balabhadra during Rath Yatra, Padhee sought an apology and said decisions are taken in the meeting with a focus on smooth and hassle-free conduct of rituals and darshan of the sibling deities. He said the inquiry report on Lord Balabhadra's procession mishap during Rath Yatra was found 'incomplete' and the 3-member committee was asked to submit another report fixing specific responsibilities.

It has also been decided to launch an FM radio station to spread Jagannath culture, he said.



ON WARPATH: Water cannon being used by the police to disperse Mahila Congress workers protesting against actors Mukesh and Siddique, accused of sexual assault, in Kochi, Friday. Multiple FIRs have been registered against many Malayalam film personalities after the Justice Hema Committee report revealed instances of sexual harassment and exploitation of women in the industry

AP CM orders probe into hidden cams in girls' washroom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Krishna District, August 30: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Friday ordered an inquiry over allegations of hidden cameras installation in a girl students' washroom of an engineering college here.

Hundreds of students have been protesting at SR Gudlavalluru Engineering College in Krishna district since Thursday midnight over the incident. "Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu ordered an inquiry on girl students protesting over hidden cameras in their hostel at Gudlavalluru Engineering College in Krishna district," said an official release.

The CM also directed State Mines Minister K Ravindra, Krishna District Collector and Superintendent of Police to visit the college. Meanwhile, police registered a case over the alleged incident but noted that there were no such hidden cameras in the girl students' washroom. "No hidden cameras were found in the girls' hostel. No evidence of the allegations was found. There is no need for the girls to worry over this issue," said an official statement.

GDP growth slows to 15-month low of 6.7%

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: India's economic growth slowed to a 15-month low of 6.7 per cent in April-June 2024-25, mainly due to poor performance of the agriculture and services sectors, government data showed Friday.

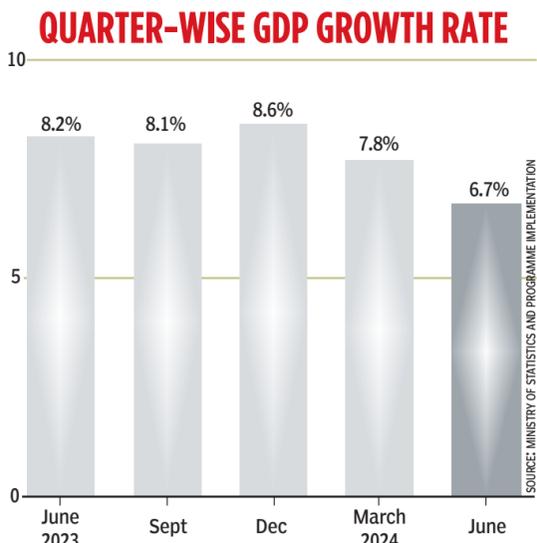
The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 8.2 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2023-24. India, however, remained the fastest-growing major economy, as China posted a 4.7 per cent growth in April-June 2024.

The previous low of 6.2 per cent was recorded in the January-March quarter of 2023.

"India's GDP growth expectedly slowed down in Q1 FY2025 relative to Q4 FY2024 (to a five-quarter low of 6.7 per cent from 7.8 per cent), even as the GVA growth surprisingly accelerated between these quarters (to 6.8 per cent from 6.3 per cent). This divergent trend was led by the normalisation of the growth in net indirect taxes, and the slowdown in the GDP growth is not a cause for alarm, in our view," said Ica Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, Aditi Nayar said.

According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data, the agriculture sector gross value added (GVA) growth decelerated to 2 per cent from 3.7 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2023-24.

The expansion in 'financial, real estate and professional services' GVA too slowed to 7.1 per cent from 12.6 per cent in the year-



ago quarter. However, the GVA in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 7 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to 5 per cent a year ago.

"Real GDP or GDP at constant prices in Q1 of 2024-25 is estimated at ₹43.64 lakh crore against ₹40.91 lakh crore in Q1 of 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 6.7 per cent," NSO said in a statement. It further stated that nominal GDP or GDP at current prices in Q1 of 2024-25 is estimated at ₹77.31 lakh crore against ₹70.50 lakh crore in Q1 of 2023-24, showing a growth

rate of 9.7 per cent.

As per the data, the output (GVA) in 'mining and quarrying' accelerated to 7.2 per cent in the first quarter from 7 per cent a year ago.

Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services grew by 10.4 per cent from 3.2 per cent. The construction segment also grew by 10.5 per cent from 8.6 per cent a year ago.

Trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting slowed to 5.7 per cent from 9.7 per cent a year ago.

PM apologises for Shivaji statue collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palghar, August 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday apologised to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and those hurt by the collapse of the warrior king's statue in coastal Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is not just a name or a king. For us, he is our deity. Today, I bow my head at his feet and apologise to my deity," Modi said, after laying the foundation stone of the ₹76,000 crore Vadhvan Port project in Maharashtra's Palghar district.

"Our values are different. For us, nothing is bigger than our deity," Modi said. "Some people keep abusing Veer Savarkar but are not ready to apologise for insulting him," he said.

"The moment I landed here, I first apologised to Shivaji Maharaj over the statue collapse. I also apologise to the people who were hurt by the collapse," he said.

Modi had unveiled the statue in December last year during the Navy Day celebrations in Sindhudurg district. The statue was aimed at honouring the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj towards maritime defence.

The collapse of the statue sparked a state-wide outrage, with the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) targeting the government and accusing it of insulting Shivaji Maharaj.

Following the incident, the police registered a case against the statue's artist Jaydeep Apte and arrested its structural consultant Chetan Patil.

Avani retains gold



Avani Lekhara (R) with her coach Suma Shirur poses for photos after winning the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle (SH1) shooting event at the Paralympics 2024 in Paris, Friday

AGENCIES

Chateaux, August 30: Shooters got India in the Paralympic Games medal tally by winning three medals here Friday. The incredible Avani Lekhara became the first Indian to claim successive Paralympic gold medals with a record-shattering top finish in the women's 10m air rifle (SH1) shooting event.

Avani, 22, shot a superb 249.7 to erase her own Paralympic record of 249.6 set in the Japanese capital three years back. The 37-year-old Mona, who dabbled in several sports including shotput, powerlifting and wheelchair volleyball before settling on shooting, notched up 228.7 for the third-place finish. This is the first time in India's Paralympic history that two shooters have pulled off medals in a single event.

Avani endured a tough buildup to the Paralympics. She grappled with a host of health issues, including a gallbladder surgery, which forced her to take a recovery break of one-and-a-half months. But the committed shooter did not let health concerns distract her from her aim of Paralympic glory.

Avani lost quite a bit of weight following the surgery but the determination to overcome all odds was all too evident during the national camp at the Karni Singh ranges in New Delhi, where she worked hard on regaining her strength and mentally steeling herself for Paris.

In a nerve-racking final, Avani was trailing her rival Lee Yunri by a few decimal points but the South Korean wilted under pressure and had an awful last shot of 6.8, while Avani kept her cool to shoot a superb 10.5 to clinch the gold with a Paralympics record. The SH1 category is for athletes who have movement affected in their arms, lower trunk, legs or have no limbs.

P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't ask what your son can do for you... ask what you've done for him

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VIATION
SENSEX	82365.77	↑ 231.16
NIFTY	25235.90	↑ 83.95
DOLLAR	83.84	↓ ₹0.04
EURO	92.80	↓ ₹0.12
GOLD	₹71,729	↓ ₹459
SILVER	₹83,455	↓ ₹1,417

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.2°C	33.0°C
Min Temp	25.8°C	24.5°C
Humidity	89%	79%
Rainfall	0.4mm	Nil

Partly cloudy sky with possibility of one/two spells of rain

State reported 7 rapes, 3 murders a day in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Odisha reported at least seven rape cases and three murders a day during 2023, according to a White Paper tabled in the Assembly Friday.

The state witnessed 2,826 rape cases and 1,362 murder cases in 2023, the White Paper, circulated by the Home department among members of the Assembly, said.

It also stated that a Crime

Against Women & Children Wing (CAW & CW) is functioning in Bhubaneswar.

Besides, the state government has set up women and children desks at 619 police stations.

In the year 2023, the Odisha Police registered 1,868 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and arrested over 2,410 accused, the White Paper said.

A total of 2,348 cyber crimes were reported during the year under review, it added.

Indians deficient in iron, calcium, folate intake: Lancet

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: People across all age groups in India, both men and women, are consuming inadequate amounts of micronutrients critical for health, including iron, calcium and folate, as per estimates in a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

The study is the first to provide estimates of insufficient consumption of 15 micronutrients across 185 countries, taken through diets without the use of supplements, according to an interna-

tional team, including researchers from Harvard University, US. The findings suggested that around the world, almost 70 per cent, or over five billion, people do not consume enough iodine, vitamin E, and calcium.

The researchers also found that within a country and an age group, more women were consuming inadequate amounts of iodine, vitamin B12 and iron, compared to men, whereas more men were consuming inadequate amounts of magnesium, vitamin B6, zinc and vitamin C, compared to women. In India, while more women



consumed insufficient amounts of iodine, compared to men, more men consumed inadequate

amounts of zinc and magnesium, compared to women, the team found.

The authors said that the findings could be used by public health professionals to target populations in need of dietary interventions.

Meat, poultry, legumes — such as beans, lentils and chickpeas, and dark leafy green vegetables — such as spinach, silver beet and broccoli are rich in iron.

Similarly, cheese, yogurt, beans and lentils, almonds, and leafy greens are rich in calcium.

Likewise, legumes, eggs, leafy greens, beets, citrus fruits, nuts and seeds, papaya and bananas are rich in folate.

leisure



JOLIE 'NOT DATING' RAPPER AKALA

Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie is reportedly 'not dating' rapper Akala despite recent speculation. A source told *People*: "She and Akala are not dating. She is friends with him and his partner, Chanelle, who was also there."

TERRORISTS PLOTTED TO KILL 'THOUSANDS' AT SWIFT SHOW

The terrorists had plotted to kill 'tens of thousands' of people at Taylor Swift's concert in Vienna, a CIA official has revealed. The 34-year-old pop star was forced to cancel three dates on her *Eras tour* in the Austrian capital earlier this month due to an alleged planned attack.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You have to take care of your health, and at last you realise the importance of diet and exercise. However, today you may wish to eat something new, or try some different cuisine. Ganesh says go out with some old friends whom you have been neglecting of late.

TAURUS
Things will tend to get very difficult and complicated, says Ganesh. Be prepared for setbacks and challenges today. No matter how big the issue, your competence, your resourcefulness will see you through. Try to remain focused and alert. Be cautious and circumspect. Act coolly and sensibly.

GEMINI
You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You can improve your finances with your mental capabilities. Ganesh says that you will get success in both private life and career. You will be entrusted many tasks and responsibilities. Yet by evening, you will spend time in your pursuits.

LEO
A lot of people will sing your praises, however you will not be satisfied with whatever is occurring. The answers to some questions that have been bothering you will remain elusive. You may become emotional owing to feelings of personal loss. You will also be bothered about the near future, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh foretells that your writing abilities will help you give vent to your emotions without hurting others. You will finish all your incomplete tasks successfully. Ganesh says that you will experience success in everything that you choose to do today.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a good day to renovate your home. You will be able to decorate your home artistically because of your designing skills. The atmosphere at your home will be a happy one with the arrival of guests. You will make plans to go for a picnic with close friends or relatives. Ganesh wishes you all the very best for your future.

SCORPIO
It's time to influence people and win their hearts whether it's your crush, love or your boss. You may be eager to express your feelings for them. At work, you are likely to work actively and kick start the projects in the pipeline. Ganesh, advises you to keep your eyes and ears open.

SAGITTARIUS
For you, appreciation and recognition for the efforts you put in may be delayed, but it's not denied. There's no point losing heart and getting disappointed. This may only affect your work, instead, wait for a better tomorrow, Ganesh says giving you hope.

CAPRICORN
Your accomplishments may take you on cloud nine today. Success may come easily to you, but don't try your luck too much, advises Ganesh. Make the most of today as tomorrow may not be the same as today. You will be popular today, especially in your social circle as you'll impress everyone with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS
You will be able to strike a balance between the emotional and rational side of your personality. You will find pleasure in your work and may successfully mix your personal life into your professional life. Financially, there are no major issues, but negligible matters may keep your mind occupied, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
Just as melting ice caps on faraway mountains can swell the oceans, concerted efforts you make now will have far-reaching beneficial consequences, says Ganesh. Do not be disheartened in the face of obstacles and keep soldiering on.

No time for feelings: PC

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra is on a roll, and she has no time to sit with her 'feelings'. In a recent interview with *Vogue India*, the actor who's conquering Hollywood, spoke about her grueling schedule and how she reminds herself of her 'privilege' whenever she feels like 'complaining'.

Given that Priyanka has been married to American singer Nick Jonas since 2018 and the couple shares a child, Malti Marie, who is 2 years ago, the actor was asked if she's always in 'control'. She candidly responded that unlike the 'smiles, glitz and glam' on Instagram, she finds it 'difficult' to work in stressful conditions but is thankful she has a job she loves.

She added, "I have bad days just like everyone else, but I remind myself what a privilege it is to have all that I do, and I stop complaining and go do my job. I put my feelings aside and deal with them when I get home."

After all, the actor admits she's focused on producing female-led films to 'amplify women's voices' in a patriarchal industry and is hoping for the day Indian talent takes over entertainment.

Priyanka also revealed that she's 'waking up at 5 am, working on set for 12 hours' before heading home to her mom Madhu and daughter.

AGENCIES



Rimi's ₹50cr suit against Land Rover

Mumbai: Rimi Sen has taken legal action against car manufacturer Land Rover, seeking Rs 50 crores in compensation for what she describes as a 'faulty' vehicle, according to a report by news portal.

According to Rimi's complaint, the car was purchased from an authorised dealer for Jaguar Land Rover, and came with a warranty valid until January 2023. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns meant the car was seldom used until restrictions were lifted. Once she began using the vehicle regularly, Sen claims she encountered multiple defects, including problems with the sunroof, sound system, and rear-end camera.

One of the most significant incidents occurred on August 25, 2022, when the allegedly malfunctioning rear-end camera led to a collision with a pillar. Despite reporting these issues to the dealer, Sen contends that her complaints were not taken seriously. She was reportedly asked to provide evidence of the defects before any action would be taken, leading to a cycle of repairs where one issue was supposedly fixed only for another to emerge.

She claims the vehicle has been sent for repairs over ten times, yet the issues persist. This, she argues, has caused her considerable mental harassment and inconvenience.

As a result, the actress is demanding Rs 50 crores in compensation for the distress she has endured, along with an additional Rs 10 lakh to cover her legal expenses. She is also seeking the replacement of the defective vehicle.

IAN S



'Nepotism debate not productive'

Mumbai: Actress Kritika Kamra said that she doesn't subscribe to the never dying debate around nepotism in the Hindi film industry. She said she does not find it productive as in the end, it's the audience deciding an actor's fate.

"I have always believed in letting my work speak for itself. I didn't get here because of any connections or family ties. Every opportunity I've had has been the result of years of hard work and persistence," Kritika said.

She added: "I don't think it's productive to get caught up in the nepotism debate because, in the end, it's the audience that decides your fate. I'm grateful for the incredible roles that have come my way, and it's a testament to the fact that you can make it as an outsider in this industry."

The actress was recently seen in *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, a fantasy thriller series, which is an adaptation of the Korean drama *Signal*. It also stars Raghav Juyal, Dhairya Karwa, and Aakash Dixit.

She will also next be seen in National Award-winning filmmaker Nagraj Manjule's *Matka King*.

IAN S



Showbiz's richest self-made woman

Mumbai: Juhi Chawla is not only a successful actress but also a co-owner of the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), one of the most popular teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Now, the actress has bagged the sixth position in the top 10 self-made women list, richest among actresses, released by the 2024 Hurun India Rich List.

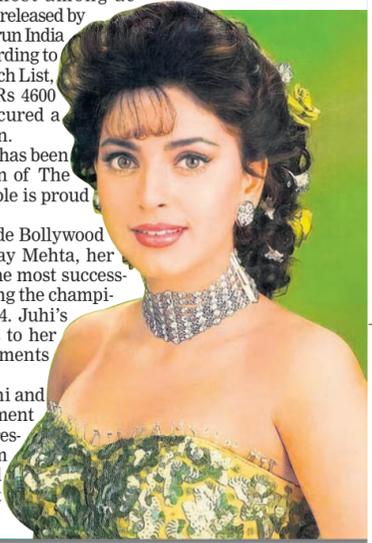
Rich List. According to the Hurun India Rich List, Juhi has boasted of Rs 4600 crore wealth and also secured a place, next to Shah Rukh Khan.

According to a GQ report, Juhi has been married to Jay Mehta, the Chairman of The Mehta Group, since 1995. The power couple is proud owners of ultra-expensive assets.

The actress co-owns the team alongside Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and Jay Mehta, her husband. KKR has been one of the most successful franchises in the IPL, winning the championship twice, in 2012 and 2014. Juhi's involvement with KKR adds to her diverse portfolio of achievements beyond her film career.

The report revealed that Juhi and her family reside in Jay's family-owned apartment building in Malabar Hill, one of Mumbai's most prestigious neighbourhoods. She co-owns the IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders along with Jay Mehta and Shah Rukh Khan. As of 2022, Forbes values KKR at \$1.1 billion (approximately Rs 9,139 crore).

IAN S



PEANUTS



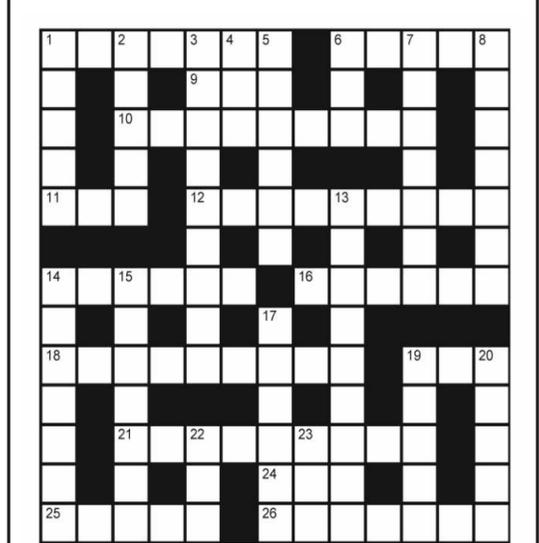
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



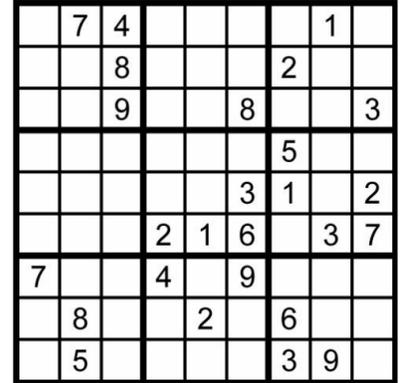
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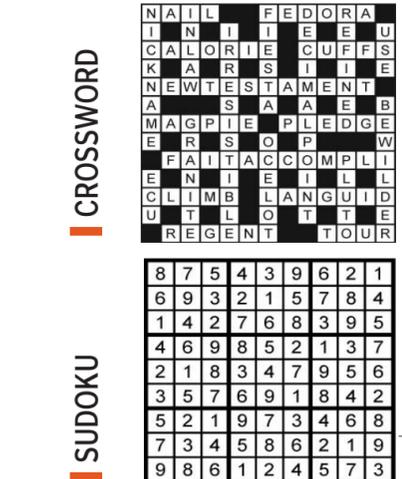
- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Defraud
 - 6 Talisman
 - 9 Consume
 - 10 Groundless
 - 11 Regret
 - 12 Preacher
 - 14 Like some vows
 - 16 Joke subject, at times
 - 18 Bullfight, perhaps
 - 19 Steering implement
 - 21 Zephyr (3,6)
 - 24 Weep
 - 25 Sofia Coppola, to Talia Shire
 - 26 Constructed
 - Down**
 - 1 Tea or coffee additive
 - 2 Harden
 - 3 Inadequate
 - 4 Asian language
 - 5 Musical compositions
 - 6 Heel
 - 7 Exercise target
 - 8 Day play
 - 13 James Bond movie
 - 14 Wedding party member (4,3)
 - 15 Supervise
 - 17 Meager
 - 19 Blatant
 - 20 Speedy
 - 22 One in a suit
 - 23 Misjudge

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



A colourfully illuminated BMC headquarters in Satya Nagar area of the Capital city on the eve of the Local Self Government Day, Friday

downtown

Odisha will be the growth engine of India by 2047: CM



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Odisha will contribute significantly to India's growth and will become a growth engine of India by 2047.

Majhi said this while inaugurating 'Resurgent Odisha 2024', a business conclave organised by the Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited (UCCIL), in collaboration with the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) department of the state government here at Janata Maidan Friday. The conclave will continue till September 1.

The chief minister said that the state's economy is expected to reach ₹41 lakh crore by 2036 when the state will be 100 years since its formation. "We also desire to reach a 1.5 trillion-dollar economy by 2047," he said, adding that the state government is moving fast with these ambitions.

Majhi emphasised the state's commitment to industrialisation, which will create em-

The state also desires to become a 1.5 trillion-dollar economy by 2047, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi while speaking at the Resurgent Odisha 2024 business conclave at Janata Maidan grounds

ployment opportunities for the youth. He highlighted that the state being an agrarian state with three-fourths of its population dependent on agriculture, must balance industrial growth with the needs of its agricultural sector.

Majhi, also noted that the state government is focusing on both large-scale industries and small and medium enterprises, including agro-based industries.

"If industrialisation progresses, it will provide ample employment opportunities for our youth, ensuring they no

longer have to worry about earning a livelihood," said Majhi.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to the 'Purvodaya' development initiative, ensuring that Odisha leads in this endeavour.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo urged industries to focus on value addition to agriculture produced within the state.

Singh Deo mentioned the government's initiative to offer land leases at no cost to companies willing to set up industries, highlighting the state's potential to become a leading industrial hub in the country.

Odisha Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain informed about the upcoming Utkarsh Odisha Investors' Summit, where the state aims to secure ₹2.5 lakh crore in investments by 2029.

Additionally, the state is going to set up an FDI Park targeting USD 2 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), he said.

Swain emphasised Odisha's goal to increase its contribution to the country's exports to 2.5 per cent and eventually reach the third position by 2047. He also mentioned the government's focus on attracting investments in green hydrogen, semiconductors, and IT sectors.

China's Consul General Xu Wei highlighted Odisha's rapid growth and its rich mineral resources. He emphasised the importance of strengthening trade ties between India and China, particularly with the eastern states of India, as bilateral trade between the two nations currently stands at USD 130 billion.



READY TO WELCOME: The Netaji Memorial Park at Old Jail Ground in Darghabazar area in Cuttack is all set to be inaugurated on the Local Self Government Day, Saturday

6 of syndicate held, 31 bikes recovered

DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The Commissionerate Police Friday claimed to have busted a motorcycle-theft gang with the arrest of six persons from Puri. As many as 31 bikes have been recovered.

The accused are history-sheeters who were in the habit of lifting bikes each time after being released from jail, said Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda. One motorcycle engine, five master keys and three mobile phones have been seized from the possession of the accused, he said.

The accused were identified as Krishna Kandi, 24, Sudarsan Das, 36, Rama Chandra Behera,



operandi of the accused, Panda said they would mainly target two-wheelers at office parking lots in prime locations such as Utkal Kanika Galleria, Bhubaneswar Court and Tankpani Road. While Kandi would open the bike's lock using master keys, Dilu and Akash kept a close watch on the owner's movement

in order to commit the theft at ease. On each occasion, the trio would visit the City on one bike and return to Puri with two additional stolen bikes. The rest gang members used to scout for potential buyers for the stolen bikes, he added.

"With a view to eliminate suspicion among buyers, the gang members would cite 'financial issues' owing to pending hospital bills that compelled them to sell their bikes. On several occasions, they dismantled the bikes and sold their spare parts in the open market," said Panda.

The accused men were booked under Section 303 (2) of BNS and were produced before a local court Friday for remand.

Govt to discontinue NUA-O scholarship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The state government has decided to discontinue the 'Nutan Unnata Abhilasha, Odisha' (NUA-O) scholarship scheme for college students, Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj told the state Assembly Friday.

In a written reply to the House, the minister informed that the state government is not going to make any budgetary provision from the current financial year for the NUA-O scholarship scheme, which was launched by the previous BJD government.

The government is taking steps to roll out a new scheme, "Financial Assistance to UG & PG Students" from this year. The department is preparing the guidelines of the scheme, he said.

The government has also decided to bring an amendment in the Odisha University (Amendment) Act 2020 brought by the previous BJD government, the minister said.

While replying to a question of BJD legislator Ganeswar Behera, the minister said, "As you are seeking rectification in the Act enacted by the BJD government, we will definitely do it."

Suraj said that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had written a letter to the Odisha government in this regard.

On the appointment of vice-chancellors in public universities at Jeypore and Baripada, the minister said the institutions are functioning under the supervision of officers on special duty. Once the Odisha University Act will be amended, the issues of appointment of VC along with teaching and non-teaching staff will be resolved, he said.

The previous BJD government had enacted the Odisha University (Amendment) Act bringing many extensive amendments to the original Act of 1989.

The provisions contained in the prevailing Act regarding selection of chancellors, and recruitment of teaching staff in universities are deviating from the regulations of UGC, the minister said.

Govt to set up breastfeeding cabins in offices

This is a part of the measures taken by the new BJP state government after sanctioning one day's paid menstrual leave for the women employees August 16



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The state government has asked all senior officials to set up breastfeeding cabins in offices and public places, an

official said. The additional secretary of the Women and Child Development Department, Reena Mohapatra, in a letter to all the department secretaries, directors and

district Collectors asked them to set up breastfeeding cabins in all offices to boost the practice, and also enhance the standard of governance in the state.

While the secretaries and directors will look after the setting up breastfeeding cabins in offices, the district Collectors will ensure setting up the cabins in public places and private institutions, the official said.

This is a part of the series of measures taken by the state's new BJP government after sanctioning one day's paid menstrual leave for the women employees August 16. The state has also announced Subhadra Yojana to provide financial assistance of ₹50,000 to women.

The scheme will be launched September 17, the official said.

Meanwhile, sources in the family welfare department said that as per National

Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), 68.5 per cent of infants are breastfed within the first hour of birth which is significantly higher than the national average of 41.8 per cent.

The rate of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months is 72.9 per cent in Odisha, compared to the national average of 63.7 per cent.

The recent government order was issued after observation of the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) from August 1 to August 7.

"Breast milk is crucial as it contains protective antibodies that help infants defend against diseases and is their first source of nutrition," said Sanjukta Sahoo, Director of Family Welfare. "Breastfeeding benefits both mothers and babies, promoting their lifelong health and development," Sahoo said.

Toll-free 'Subhadra' number launched

Bhubaneswar: The government Friday issued a toll-free number (14678) to help beneficiaries of Subhadra Yojana, a flagship scheme for the welfare of women between 21 and 60 years of age. It also said that the Anganwadi workers, helpers, ASHA workers, and community resource persons can now apply for the Subhadra Yojana under which the beneficiary woman will get ₹10,000 per annum for five years. According to the guidelines, the applicant should be covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) / State Food Security Scheme (SFSS). Any woman from a family without an NFSA or SFSS Card can apply under SUBHADRA if her family income is not more than ₹2.50 lakh per annum. The Women and Child Development (W&CD) department issued the toll-free number (14678) before rolling out the scheme in the state September 17. An official statement said people can get detailed information on the Subhadra Yojana by calling the number between 6 am and 10 pm.

2 in 3 deaths among obese linked to heart diseases

Cardiovascular-disease is responsible for deaths among two in three people with a high body mass index, according to a study.

The study comes as the global prevalence of obesity more than doubled over the past four decades, currently affecting more than a billion individuals.

"Notably, 67.5 per cent of deaths related to high body mass index (BMI) are attributable to cardiovascular disease (CVD)," said Professor Emeline Van Craenenbroeck, Antwerp University in Belgium.

Obesity raises the risk of CVDs like atherosclerotic disease, heart failure, thromboembolic disease, arrhythmias, and sudden cardiac death.

Despite the link, "obesity has been under-recognised and sub-optimally addressed compared with other modifiable cardio-



vascular risk factors," Van Craenenbroeck added.

The team called for raising awareness of obesity as a major risk factor and providing guidance for implementing evidence-based practices for its prevention and optimal management within the context of primary and sec-

ondary CVD prevention. Obesity not only contributes to well-established cardiovascular risk factors like diabetes, dyslipidemia, elevated blood pressure, and arterial hypertension but also has direct adverse effects on cardiac structure and function and leads to the

development of CVD -- both atherosclerotic and non-atherosclerotic.

Obesity also negatively affects various organs and is a risk factor for several chronic diseases. The study also showed that diabetes and obesity are closely associated. Eighty to eighty-five per cent of diabetes patients are obese or overweight. On the other hand, the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes in obese people is about three times higher

than in normal-weight people (20 per cent vs. 7.3 per cent respectively).

Weight loss therapies have demonstrated beneficial effects on glycaemic management, including remission to a non-diabetic state, in patients with established type 2 diabetes. High BMI is assumed to be the cause of 78 per cent of the risk of hypertension in males and 65 per cent of the risk in women between the ages of 20 and 49. Treatments for obesity include pharmaceutical, dietary, behavioural, and physical therapies. Obesity is avoidable. Management of obesity has, however, gotten less attention than other risk factors for CVD. The findings will be presented at the ongoing European Cardiology Congress, London (August 30-September 2).

Highlight 'lies, false promises' of BJP: Patnaik urges students

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Former chief minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik, Friday asked students to remain active on social media and fight against 'misinformation and lies' spread by the ruling BJP.

Patnaik said this while addressing the members of the Biju Chhatra Janata Dal at the party's state headquarters here.

"Be active on social media and fight with vigour against misinformation, BJP's false promises and lies," Patnaik said.

The Leader of Opposition in state Assembly told students that they should inform people regarding 'BJP's lies' like free electricity up to 300 units and ₹3,000 pension to all social security beneficiaries. He said these promises were made by the BJP during the election time.

Patnaik said though the BJP promised to give ₹50,000 to all women, now they have announced ₹10,000 in a year under the 'Subhadra Yojana'. "This is indeed disappointing. You should make people aware of these issues," he said.

Patnaik also suggested the students to involve themselves in social activities like blood donation, environment protection, serve the disadvantaged and fight for Odia Swabhiman (pride). "Your committed work will cer-



tainly pave the way for a strong and empowered Odisha," he said.

Stating that BJD is a regional party and has been serving the people of Odisha for the last 27 years, Patnaik said now it has become a social movement with the active participation of all sections of society, particularly students, youth, women, farmer and labourers. "Our ideology is Seva (service), Swabhiman (self-esteem), Sangram (struggle) and Sachatenata (awareness)," he said.

The former chief minister said victory and defeat are parts of the elections. "In the last elections, the BJD secured 41.02 per cent votes. In terms of absolute number of votes we are also ahead of others. The love and affection of the people of Odisha is our greatest strength," he said.

Patnaik said BJD has been working for the creation of a knowledge society. In the past

24 years, many educational institutions of higher learning including new medical colleges, and technical institutions have come up making the state the education hub of eastern India.

"A record number of scholarships have been instituted. Besides reservation for students of government schools in medical, engineering and professional colleges have started yielding results," he said.

Patnaik also mentioned the case of Bonda tribe boy Mangala Muduli from a remote village of Malkangiri, who cracked NEET to become a doctor. "This indeed gives me great satisfaction. It became possible because of our inclusive approach to higher education. Our high school and college transformation under 5T initiative has given wings to the dreams of our students, especially from poor families and rural areas," he said.

19 private FM radio stations in state soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

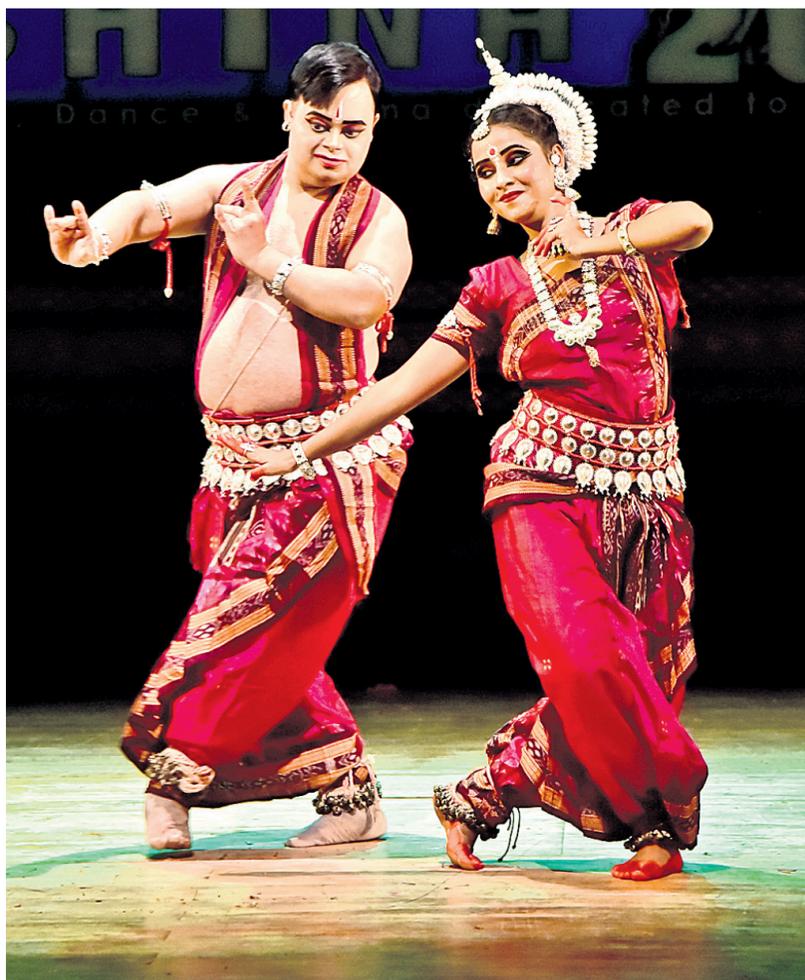
Bhubaneswar, August 30: In an attempt to meet the unmet demands of private FM radio channels and provide diverse local content, the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its green signal to open private FM radio stations in 234 new towns/cities in the country, including 19 in Odisha.

According to sources, Balasore, Baripada, Bhadrak, Puri and Sambalpur will have three private FM radio stations each, while Berhampur will have four channels.



Subrat Kumar Pati, head of Outreach and a radio expert, lauded the decision by underscoring the potential of FM radio stations in enhancing local content and creating employment opportunities in the state. "This was long overdue and we are happy about the Cabinet's decision," Pati added.

The rollout of private FM radio in these new areas is expected to support the government's 'Vocal for Local' initiative, promoting local dialects and culture, said sources. The Cabinet also approved an annual licence fee of 4 per cent of gross revenue, excluding GST, for the new stations.



ENCHANTING POSE: Artists perform on the concluding day of 19th Guru Dakshina cultural programme organised by Kalashrama at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PICTURE BY BIKASH NAYAK

FireNet sets up new branch in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: FireNet, a prominent fire safety provider, launched a new branch in the Capital city, Friday. The event was attended by the company's founder Sudhanshu Panda, and directors Prateek Verma and Rohit Mahapatra.

Located at Saheed Nagar here, the new branch office reflects the company's commitment to enhancing safety standards in the rapidly developing city. With existing branches in Indore, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, and Pune, and headquarters in Mumbai, the Bhubaneswar branch marks a significant milestone in the company's growth.

Speaking at the launch, Panda emphasised FireNet's mission to prioritise safety over profits. "We bring not only state-of-the-art fire safety solutions, but also

a strong commitment to on-going maintenance and service," he said.

The company offers 3 to 6 year maintenance plans for fire hydrant projects, along with free monthly services for retail clients, aiming to foster a culture of safety here.

Speaking on the occasion, Verma highlighted FireNet's core values and stated, "Our vision is to build a safer tomorrow by ensuring that every product and service we deliver is of the highest quality. The safety of our clients is paramount."

"Currently, our company serves over 50,000 clients with a technically proficient team of more than 200 employees. The company's expansion into Bhubaneswar aligns with the City's growth, addressing the increasing demand for robust fire safety solutions," he added.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of wholesale fish market in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of a state-of-the-art hygienic wholesale fish market at Bahra (Basta), Balasore in virtual mode Friday.

Prime Minister inaugurated and laid foundation of various fisheries projects worth ₹1200 crore under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund. He also launched the rollout of vessel communication and support system worth ₹364 crore Friday at Palghar, Maharashtra.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lallan Singh, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of State Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying SP Singh Baghel and George Kurian, and Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur were present in the programme.

Attending a function organised at Bahra, Fisheries and ARD



Minister Gokulananda Mallik said, "The wholesale fish market will facilitate trading of marine, brackish and inland fish in a single window to promote export potential."

Describing it a unique flagship project in the state, Mallik noted, "Odisha is the 4th largest fish producing state having 7.07 lakh inland and 4.81 lakh brackish water areas. The project with an estimated cost of 78.25 crore will be completed within June 2026."

The fish market, under centrally sponsored scheme of PMMSY will have facilities of

laboratory, vendor shops, rest and packing room, loading and unloading bay, blast room, chiller plant, security barrack, parking, solar and power system and fire safety arrangement. The market stretching 20 acres of land will be of 2500 MT capacity.

Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Balasore MLA Manas Kumar Dutta, Basta MLA Subasini Jena, Balasore District Magistrate Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas, and state Fisheries department director Md Saddique Alam, were also present in the programme.

SAI Angan integrates sign language in curriculum

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: With the mission to foster inclusivity and empathy among young learners by equipping them with the necessary skills and sensitivity, SAI Angan Play School here, recently announced the integration of sign language classes into its regular curriculum.

The initiative has significantly enhanced the listening abilities of students, and deepened their sense of empathy. "This will help the students to connect with others in more meaningful ways, fostering a sense of unity and understanding that transcends verbal communication," a teacher said.

SAI International Education

Group chairperson Silpi Sahoo said, "Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, the founder had always focused on holistic education of children and through this initiative, we are following his vision. Nowadays, knowing sign language is incredibly valuable for many reasons, especially regarding enhancing communication, fostering inclusivity, and improving accessibility."

"This curriculum will enhance language development, improve vocabulary, and reduce frustration in early communication stages. This will not only help the kid to connect with the broader community in the future but also to help them build friendships and networks that might otherwise be limited by language barriers," she added.



Experts delve into governance at Utkal event

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The Postgraduate Department of Public Administration at Utkal University here, in collaboration with World Bank-supported Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence and Equity (WB-OHPPE), Friday began a two-day national conference on 'Governance in India: Priorities, Policies, Prospects'. The event brought together distinguished scholars, professors, and students to discuss the evolving ecosystem of governance in India.

The session opened with remarks from Pratima Sarangi, head of the department of Public Administration, who highlighted the significance of the conference. Similarly, chairperson of the university PG Council and the conference pa-



tron Navaneeta Rath spoke about the foundational aspects of governance in India.

Director of CDC and coordinator for the varsity's OHPPEE Nigamananda Das, who attended the conference as guest of honour, emphasised on the importance of academic discourse in shaping public policy. Chief

Speaker E Venkatesu of Hyderabad Central University provided an in-depth analysis of governance in India, with special focus on the three standards of governance: Priorities, Policies, and Prospects.

Panelists and session chairs included former vice-chancellor of Ravenshaw University

Prakash Chandra Sarangi, former PG Council chairman Brahmananda Satapathy, Niranjan Pani, Swarnamayee Tripathy, Director General of Fire Services and Commandant General of Home Guards and Director Civil Defence Sudhanshu Sarangi, former Indian Ambassador to Norway, Chile, and Angola Debraj Pradhan and Pratip Mishra.

Hemant Kumar Dash, organising secretary of the conference, expressed gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organisers, and acknowledged the support of WB-OHPPEE and Utkal University.

The conference is expected to provide insights and recommendations towards contributing to the development of governance in India, while also serving as a platform for networking and exchange of ideas.

Rain alert for next two days

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The low-pressure area over west central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha moved west-northwestwards and became a well-marked low pressure Friday.

Regional Meteorological Centre director Manorama Mohanty said, "The well-marked low pressure is likely to move further west-northwestwards towards north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts."

"It will further intensify into a depression over west central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal during the next 36 hours," she added.

Under its impact, heavy rainfall will occur at several districts in the next two days. The IMD had already issued red, yellow,



and orange warnings to various districts in the state.

The fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea along and off the coast from August 30 to September 1.

IMD sources said squally weather with surface wind speed reaching 35 to 45 kmph and gusting to 55 kmph is very likely to prevail over central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Bay of Bengal along and off the state coast till September 1.

OPF urges to reconsider exam pattern change

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Odisha Parents Federation (OPF) Friday addressed a letter to chairman of Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), requesting to reconsider examination pattern changes and implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

OPF president Basudev Bhatt, in a letter said, "We would like to bring your kind attention and respectfully request you to reconsider the recent decision to change the examination process from 100 marks to 80 marks, with 24 marks as the passing criterion. While we appreciate the intent to reform the evaluation system, we have several concerns regarding the proposed changes. Immediate implementation of a new pattern will confuse our students during examination."

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Fire breaks out at child care ward of SLNMCH in Koraput



KORAPUT: A fire broke out at SLN Medical College and Hospital in Koraput Friday, triggering panic among patient parties, police said. Officials said the fire was triggered by a short circuit in the special newborn care unit. No injury or loss of life was reported, officials said. "At least 42 infants admitted at the SNCU were shifted to other wards and the situation was brought under control," said Sushant Kumar Sahu, superintendent of the hospital.

Woman attempts suicide outside Sundargarh court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 30: A woman lost her consciousness and was hospitalised Friday after she consumed multiple paracetamol tablets in a bid to commit suicide on the premises of a local court in Sundargarh district. It is believed that she attempted the extreme step after the court's verdict went against her. Sources said the woman, who is currently on bail in the murder case of her husband, had levelled a rape allegation against her male partner Ashwini Nayak. The legal proceedings went on for quite some time

in the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Sundargarh and the final verdict was pronounced Friday. She attempted suicide by consuming around eight paracetamol tablets protesting the acquittal of Nayak after the hearing. The woman, who allegedly killed her husband in 2021, accused her male partner of instigating her to commit the crime. Later on when she got bail in the murder case, she filed a rape complaint against Nayak. Sundargarh SDPO Himansu Behera said that the woman's condition was stable in the hospital.

Two hardcore Chh'garh Maoists surrender before cops in Bargarh

PNN & AGENCIES

Bargarh, August 30: Two hardcore Maoists of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit from Chhattisgarh surrendered before the Odisha Police in Bargarh, Friday. The two Maoists surrendered here before the Inspector General (IG) of Police, Northern Range, Sambalpur, and the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Bargarh district. They have been identified as Amila alias Paro alias Puja Tati from Parnell village in Gangapur district in Chhattisgarh, and Raghu alias Saitu Padam from Tolad village in Sukma district in the neighbouring state. Amila was an Area Committee Member (ACM) in Chhattisgarh and the Platoon Commander of the Bargarh Local Organising Squad (LOS) operating under the Bolangir-Bargarh-Mahasamund (BBM) Division of the CPI (Maoist). Saitu Padam was also an ACM in Chhattisgarh and served as a Platoon Commander of the Bargarh LOS, operating under the same division.



They witnessed the extensive developmental activities in the area and realised the futility of the path of violence. The constant fear of police action, due to increased operations in the interior areas, further emboldened their decision to surrender, as evidenced by the recent encounters in the Gandhamardan Reserve Forest area, according to Himansu Kumar Lal, IG (North).

Amila, who had a cash reward of ₹4 lakh on her head, was active in the Gandhamardan Reserve Forest area since 2010 and was trying to expand Maoist activities in the Bargarh and Bolangir districts. Similarly, Saitu Padam, who carried a cash reward of ₹3 lakh, was active in the same area since 2012, also attempting to expand Maoist influence in these districts. Police stated that the surrender of these two hardcore Maoist cadres is a significant blow to Maoist activities in the Gandhamardan area. The two surrendered after realising that the Maoist outfit had lost its ideological commitment and was no longer working for the poor and oppressed. Instead, the group was engaging in meaningless unlawful activities such as extortion and attacks on innocent civilians and security personnel. The surrendered Maoists also revealed that Chhattisgarh cadres, particularly women, were subjected to continuous physical, psychological, and sexual harassment within the outfit.

They witnessed the extensive developmental activities in the area and realised the futility of the path of violence. The constant fear of police action, due to increased operations in the interior areas, further emboldened their decision to surrender, as evidenced by the recent encounters in the Gandhamardan Reserve Forest area, according to Himansu Kumar Lal, IG (North). Both surrendered Maoists were involved in several heinous crimes, including the murders of Raj Kishore Panda, Krushna Punji, and Bijay Sahoo. They were also involved in at least five exchanges of fire with the police in the Gandhamardan Reserve Forest area and the burning of Kendu leaf godowns. Bargarh SP Prahalad Sahai Meena, while welcoming their surrender, stated that they would be rehabilitated under the existing Surrender &

Rehabilitation policy of the government. The surrendered Maoists will also receive financial assistance for building houses, pursuing education, and receiving vocational training in a trade of their choice. The Odisha Police has also formulated strategies and plans under the guidance of the ADG (Operations) to eliminate the Naxal threat within the timeline set by the Union Home Minister. The IG (North) appealed to the Maoists to abandon violence, join mainstream society, and lead a decent life. He also emphasised that the Odisha government is determined and resolute in its efforts to eradicate the Maoist threat from the state, and more aggressive actions will be taken against the Maoists in the coming days.

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI



JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024 INVITES SUGGESTIONS ON 'THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024'

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, as introduced in Lok Sabha has been referred to the Joint Committee of Parliament for examination and report. Considering the wider implications of the proposed Bill, the Committee under the Chairpersonship of **Shri Jagdambika Pal, M.P.** have decided to invite memoranda containing views/suggestions from the public in general and NGOs/experts/stakeholders and institutions in particular.

2. Those desirous of submitting written memoranda/suggestions to the Committee may send two copies thereof either in English or in Hindi to **JOINT SECRETARY (JM), LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, ROOM No.440, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI-110001, TEL.No(s) 23034440/ 23035284, FAX NUMBER: 23017709** and mail the same to **jpccwaqf-iss@sansad.nic.in** within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Text of 'The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024' is available on the Lok Sabha website (link for English version- <https://sansad.in/ls/legislation/bills> and link for Hindi version- <https://sansad.in/hi/ls/legislation/bills> (Bill No. 109))

3. The memoranda/suggestions submitted to the Committee would form part of the records of the Committee and would be treated as 'confidential' and enjoy privileges of the Committee.

4. Those who are desirous of appearing before the Committee, besides submitting memoranda, are requested to specifically indicate so. However, the Committee's decision in this regard shall be final.

CBC/31201110004245

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Dinalipi Bhawan, A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha (India) CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264
E mail: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com, Website: <http://www.suryofoods.com>

NOTICE is hereby given that the **35th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the Members of **SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED** will be held on **Monday, 23rd September, 2024 at 11.30 A.M.** at the registered office of the company at Dinalipi Bhawan, A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751003 to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of 35th AGM. The Annual Report of the Company for the Financial year 2023-24 along with the Notice of AGM has been e-mailed on 30th August, 2024 to the members whose e-mail address have been made available by the Register and Transfer Agent or are registered with the Company and sent by permitted mode on 30th August, 2024 to Members who have not registered their e-mail address.

Members are hereby informed that the notice of the 35th Annual General Meeting and 35th Annual Report of the Company are available on the website of the Company www.suryofoods.com and the Notice & Annual report can be viewed directly on the following links: <http://suryofoods.com/annual-report>

Click- Annual Report for the F.Y. 2023-24-SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED
The Notice & Annual Report are also available for inspection at the registered office of the Company on all working days during business hours of the Company.

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015 Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM using remote electronic voting system from a place other than the venue of the AGM ('remote e-voting'), provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. In order to enable its Members, who do not have access to e-voting facility, to send their assent or dissent in writing in respect of the resolutions as set out in the Notice of AGM; the Company has also enclosed a ballot form with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

Members can opt for only one mode of voting, i.e., e-voting or ballot form. In case members cast their votes through both the modes, voting done by e-voting shall prevail and votes cast through ballot form shall be treated as invalid.

The e-voting period commences on Friday, 20th September, 2024 at 10.00 A.M. and ends on Sunday, 22nd September, 2024 at 5.00 P.M. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter.

The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on 16th September, 2024 ('cut-off date'). Any person, who is a Member of the Company as on the cut-off date is eligible to cast vote on all the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using remote e-voting or ballot form or voting at the AGM.

In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at www.evotingindia.com, under help section or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or may call on 18002005533.

The Company has appointed M/s. Saroj Ray & Associates, Company Secretaries, Bhubaneswar-751015, as the scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting process as well as voting at the AGM through ballot paper in a fair and transparent manner.

The facility for voting, either through electronic voting system or ballot or polling paper shall also be made available at the AGM and Members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

A person who has acquired shares and become a member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at www.evotingindia.com. However, if the person is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then the existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

Every member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of himself/herself and such proxy need not be a member. Proxies in order to be effective should be duly completed, stamped (if applicable) and signed and must be deposited at the registered office of the company not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Annual General Meeting.

Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Tuesday, 17th September, 2024 to Monday, 23rd September, 2024 (Both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd/- Manisha Satapathy
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 30th August 2024

2 get life term for raping woman during robbery

BARIPADA: A court in Mayurbhanj district Friday sentenced two men to life imprisonment after convicting them of raping a woman during a robbery in 2018. The Fast Track Special Court Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak also slapped a fine of ₹25,000 each on the two convicts. Two other accused were yet to be arrested. Four men committed robbery in a house at a village under Baisinga police station September 8, 2018. They also raped a woman by threatening that they would kill her 7-year-old son. The dacoits also took photographs of the act using their mobile phones. The judgment was based on the statement of 10 witnesses and several documents, Special Public Prosecutor Manaranjan Pattnaik said.

2 poachers arrested from Sonepur forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur/Ulunda, August 30: A team of Forest department personnel arrested two poachers while conducting a raid in a reserve forest area of Ulunda forest range under Subarnapur forest division in this district, Thursday night. Forest officials also seized a country made rifle and a pipe from the possession of the accused. The arrested poachers were identified as Sharat Mahant, 19, and Manali Barik, 25, residents of Sulia village under Ulunda police station limits. A case has been filed by the Forest department and the accused duo forwarded to court, Friday.

According to reports, the protected forest is home to many wild animals like deer, barking deer and boars. Poachers regularly enter into the forest to hunt these wild animals and then sell the meat in nearby villages secretly. The Forest officials were monitoring the movement of the poachers since long. Sharat and Manali were caught red-handed by the forest officials Thursday night as they entered the reserve forest in order to hunt the wild animals. On the instruction of Ulunda forester Sanjib Kumar Raut, Sulia forester Binod Bihari Sahu, Jaloe forester Pradeep Kumar Jena, forest guard Rajeev Sahu and the staff of elephant squad participated in the raid.

UCO BANK

Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building,
2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar,
Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **UCO Bank, Cuttack Main Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **UCO Bank, Cuttack Main Branch** for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon.

CUTTACK MAIN BRANCH / Name and Address of the Borrower/Guarantor	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: M/s. Mahabir Food Products, Prop.: Mrs. Dimple Sharma / Guarantor: Mr. Basudev Joshi, Both are At/PO: Uttampur, Near Tentulinali UP School, Gopalpur, Cuttack Sadar, Cuttack	₹1,46,93,708.94 as on 31.03.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	30.05.2024 29.08.2024	An Area of Land admeasuring 5227.20 Sq.ft. with Building situated in Mouza: Uttampur, Plot No.: 74/11543, Khata No.: 247/385, P.O.: Gopalpur, Thana: Cuttack Sadar No.: 37, Near Tentulinali UP School, Dist.: Cuttack, KISSAM: Gharabari, Standing in the name of Ms. Dimple Sharma, W/o.: Late Brij Mohan Sharma, Bounded by North: Road & S K Panda (V.L), East: Gochar & Road, South: Mr. Mohapatra, West: Mr. Niranjana Nayak

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 30.08.2024
Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Baripada
Infront of MKC High School, Lal Bazaar, Baripada,
Odisha, PIN- 757001

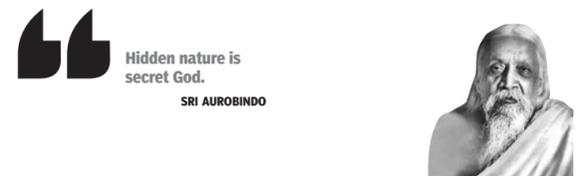
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS / ARTICLES

It is hereby brought to the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments. Articles and general Public that inspite of repeated reminders/notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notices are hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including up-to-date interest and all costs charges/expenses) by **4.00 PM DATED: 18.09.2024** then from **11.00 AM TO 2.00 PM of 19.09.2024**, their pledged gold/ ornaments/articles will be put up for public auction through open bidding in the branch premises. For this, Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Persons interested to take part in the bidding should deposit **Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)** with the Branch Manager before the scheduled time/date towards earnest money. Persons having taken part in final bidding must be able to deposit full amount to the bank within 24 hours, failing which their earnest money, deposited with the bank will be forfeited. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at, is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to charge the date, time or place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers	Gross Wt. (In Gms.)	Net Wt. (In Gms.)	Total Dues as on 29.08.2024 (excluding unapplied intt., Charges, Cost & Expense)
BASTA BRANCH, BASTA ROAD, DIST- BALASORE, PIN- 756029					
1	535277610001630	Topei Khilar, W/o.: Abiram Rout, At/PO.: Chakulia, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757020	8.35	6.68	₹ 23,761.66
CHINCHALGADIA BRANCH, AT/PO-CHINCHALGADIA, VIA- AMARDA, DIST- MAYURBHANJ, PIN- 756030					
2	547877610001203	Minakhi Behera, W/o.: Ajay Kumar Behera, At.: Majanadiha, PO.: Chinchalgadia, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN- 756030	11.75	8.30	₹36,776/-
SORO BRANCH, AT/P.O- SORO, STATION ROAD, IN FRONT OF SATYASAI MANDIR, DIST- BALASORE, PIN- 756045					
3	536277610000314	Dinesh Kumar Nayak, S/o.: Manaranjan Nayak, At: Panada, PS.: Soro, Dist.: Balasore, PIN-756046	5.00	4.50	₹15,745.49
4	536277610000758	Jyotshnaranani Jena, W/o.: Ananta Charan Jena, At: Gopalpur PO.: Radhaballavpur, Dist.: Balasore	16.17	13.74	₹68,584.16
5	536277610000583	Basanta Biswal, S/o.: Paikunth Biswal, At: Khirkoni, PO.: Chakabarhapur, PS.: Soro, Dist.: Balasore, PIN- 756055	7.60	6.46	₹30,472/-
6	536277610000383	Ajay Kumar Shaw, S/o.: Pitambar Shaw, At/PO.: Mulsing Via/PS.: Soro, Dist.: Balasore, PIN- 756045	9.76	7.80	₹31,378.83
BALASORE BRANCH, O.T ROAD, NEAR HOTEL BHOJAN, BALASORE, PIN- 756001					
7	535077610001714	Ramanath Mishra, C/o.: Barun Kumar Ghosh, At: Katchery Road, PO.: Nayabazaar, Dist.: Balasore, PIN- 756001	95.21	85.58	₹3,62,869/-
8	535077610001733	Sandip Das Mohapatra, S/o.: Banbihari Das Mohapatra, At: Darjipokhari, PO.: Nayabazaar, Dist.: Balasore, PIN- 756001	36.74	32.50	₹1,54,527.60
9	535077610001696	Sandip Das Mohapatra, S/o.: Banbihari Das Mohapatra, At: Darjipokhari, PO.: Nayabazaar, Dist.: Balasore, PIN- 756001	79.10	70.60	₹2,60,855/-

Place: Baripada
Date: 30.08.2024
Zonal Manager
Bank of India



Railways' U-turn

As if the Railways didn't have enough problems following a spate of deadly accidents and mishaps, the Railway ministry has hit the pause button on filling top positions, including Chairman/Member, Railway Board, and General Managers. The decision apparently stems from growing discontent among officers who entered the service through the Indian Engineering Services (IES).

Sources have informed DKB that recently the Ministry issued a notification inviting eligible officers from the 1989 and 1990 batches to apply for these top posts within the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS). But a few days later, that notification was suddenly withdrawn.

So, what's causing this backtrack? The main issue seems to be the resentment brewing among IES officers. They're frustrated that only a handful from their cadre are considered eligible for these coveted positions. In contrast, most of those qualifying for the top posts are from the Civil Services Examination (CSE) stream.

The Indian Railways has traditionally recruited officers through three main channels: CSE, IES, and the Special Class Railway Apprentice (SCRA). These officers then join various departments like Traffic, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Personnel, Accounts, and Stores, each of which operates independently from top to bottom, headed by a Member of the Railway Board.

To address internal friction, the Union government introduced the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS), a unified service meant to streamline operations and promote a cohesive vision. However, since direct recruitment through IES and SCRA was halted, and with delays in placing indents to UPSC, no new direct recruits have joined Railways in a working post since 2019. The first IRMS batch is still awaiting postings.

The delay in empanelment has only added to the confusion, especially since officers who joined via CSE have advanced quickly, leaving their IES counterparts trailing.

Key role to Chahal
The Maharashtra government has just made a significant move, appointing I.S. Chahal, a 1989 batch IAS officer, as the additional chief secretary of the home department. Chahal, who has been working closely with the Chief Minister as the additional chief secretary in the CM's secretariat, also served as Mumbai's municipal commissioner.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

This appointment is raising eyebrows, especially as it comes amid mounting criticism of the Home Department's handling of recent atrocities against young girls in Badlapur. It seems the government is under pressure to show that it's taking things seriously.

Earlier, Sujata Saunik held the role of home secretary before her promotion to Chief Secretary in June. Even after her promotion, she continued to oversee the home department alongside her new responsibilities. With Saunik moving up, several names were floated for the now-vacant additional chief secretary position. Sources say that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde threw his weight behind Chahal, while Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also serves as home minister, had other ideas. There was talk of appointing V. Radha from the General Administration Department, but her 1994 batch status made some worry about her seniority as well.

In the end, the need for dedicated leadership in the home department seems to have tipped the scales in favor of Chahal. The view was, if the government hadn't acted now, the Election Commission might have stepped in once the code of conduct kicked in.

Chahal is expected to retire in 2026, and there's already speculation that he might be next in line for the chief secretary position after Saunik. But with elections looming, one must wonder—is this appointment a bold move or just rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic?

Is the PM preempting Rahul's moves?
Has Prime Minister Narendra Modi outmanoeuvred Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi by addressing one of his criticisms before it gained traction? The latest bureaucratic reshuffle certainly suggests so.

By appointing Nagaraju Maddirala as Secretary of the Department of Financial Services, Modi seems to have taken note of Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks in Parliament. Gandhi pointed out the absence of SC and ST officers during the Halwa ceremony, a traditional event that marks the beginning of the budget process. Maddirala, a Tripura cadre IAS officer from the reserved category, is now likely to be present at the next ceremony. This move appears to be a direct response to Gandhi's criticism, ensuring that the issue he raised is no longer valid.

This appointment is part of a broader reshuffle, marking the first major bureaucratic changes in Modi's third term. Along with Maddirala, new secretaries have been appointed to key departments, including expenditure, banking, corporate affairs, and defence.

While it's unclear if this move will resonate with the public or deflate Rahul Gandhi's momentum, it certainly adds an interesting twist to the ongoing political narrative.

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

WISDOM CORNER

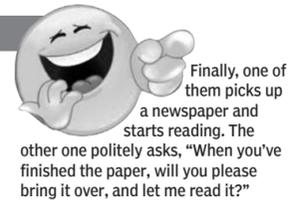
- “We cannot solve problems with the kind of thinking we employed when we came up with them.” —ALBERT EINSTEIN
- “Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow.” —MAHATMA GANDHI
- “Stay away from those people who try to disparage your ambitions. Small minds will always do that, but great minds will give you a feeling that you can become great too.” —MARK TWAIN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1751:** Robert Clive of Britain seized Arcot, India, and then withstood a 53-day siege that began a few weeks later.
- 1850:** King Kamehameha III officially declared Honolulu a city and the capital of his kingdom.
- 1864:** During the American Civil War, the Confederate evacuation of Atlanta began this day in 1864, shortly before Union troops led by William Tecumseh Sherman occupied the city, providing a much-needed victory for the North.
- 1980:** Polish labour activist Lech Wałsa and Mieczysław Jagielski, Poland's first deputy premier, signed an agreement that conceded to workers the right to organize freely and independently.

LOL

ANGRY DRIVERS MEET
In a very small alley two trucks driving in opposite directions meet. As the drivers are equally stubborn, neither of them wants to reverse. They angrily look one at the other.



FOCUS ECONOMY

SAVINGS DIP, PRICES SPUR

The country's banking sector deposit crisis symbolises grave ailments afflicting the economy hitting many sectors, including manufacturing, the automobile and industry severely with about ₹73000 crore unsold car stockpile with dealers and severe sales crunch in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. The bank crisis reflects the hardships across the country hitting individuals to industry -- severe slowdown that affects livelihoods.



Shivaji Sarkar

INDIA NEEDS A DRASTIC CHANGE IN ITS MARCH TOWARDS GROWTH IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, NOT 20 YEARS FROM NOW

Sales growth of FMCG slumped by both value and volume during the first two months of the June quarter compared to a year ago, an early indication that demand has not recovered, according to NielsenIQ. To add to it, exports of 30 commodities including rice, gems and jewellery, marine products declined steadily. Exports of these items are almost stagnant at \$31.83 billion indicating a grim global situation.

Food inflation has impacted the spare people have for spending on other necessities. The Economic Review for July says confidence in the general economic situation, sentiments about current employment and income also worsened. The RBI survey finds decline in manufacturing. Even households are less optimistic about economic conditions, the Consumer Confidence Survey of July 2024 indicates. Considering the food inflation as crucial, the RBI rejects calls to exclude food from inflation targets.

Another significant concern for the banks is the severe decline in household savings that has been the mainstay of the India growth story since Independence. It hits a low of 14.16 percent in three years in 2022-23.

One of the main reasons for car sales decline is stated to be 10-year-old cars being forcibly junked by government orders. Instead of benefiting auto-makers, the rule has harmed them. The automobile industry finds that this has led to the shrinking of the second-hand car market, a factor that boosted new



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's concern for the falling bank deposits and asking banks to improve operations is a signal to the country of an abnormal situation needing immediate correction

sales. The lack of opportunities to sell the old cars prevents average citizens from buying a new car as they can't make up for the loss of the old. A new car is prohibitively priced. Though a 10-year-old car has the same emission level as the new cars, junking it against international norms of 40 years leads to deprivation of wealth. Inflation and continuous price hikes pose problems of financing.

As of June 14, 2024, deposits decreased by 3.5 lakh crore, or 1.6 per cent, year-to-date over last year, as per RBI data. The July 26 figures, however, show an increase of 10 per cent but non-food credit rose by 13.7 per cent. This shows deposit growth remains a significant challenge not only for the banking sector but overall health of the economy.

Deposits fall with incomes squeezed, purchasing power reduced and demand slowdown. In 2022-2023, the total deposits in scheduled commercial banks were ₹18,145,238 crore, a 6.7 per cent increase from the previous year. Actually, it is a marginal increase since the demonetisation when total currency circulation was around ₹17.77 lakh crore. The saga of deposit fall started in 2016 itself.

Despite the upcoming festive season, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations

(FADA) has announced that passenger vehicle inventory has seen a significant increase at dealerships across the country. As per latest reports, this stockpile has reached over 7 lakh units, valued at around ₹73,000 crore. However, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) estimates that it is around 4 lakh units.

This unprecedented stock levels have caused automakers in India to mull slowing down of production and Maruti Suzuki becomes the first to make such an announcement to scale back production. Even pricey Honda has gone slow and cut capacity. Some of the Honda dealers have sold their shops to competitors. Vehicle financiers are feeling the heat as auto loan growth declines by 15 percent. The auto price rise with high GST of 28 percent has muted the demand in the mid-segment, largely comprised of the salaried class and average traders.

The production glut and issues of financing is feared to lead to lay-offs in the industry. If it becomes cyclic across the industry, it could aggravate the problems with a further squeeze in the market. The fears are backed by business growth slipping in manufacturing as reflected by the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). It fell to a three-month

low in August to 60.5 from 60.7, according to S&P Global.

As per government data, net household savings in India declined sharply by ₹9 lakh crore to ₹14.16 lakh crore in the three years to 2022-23 (FY23). Overall, India's household savings rate has fallen from 22.7 per cent of GDP in FY21 to 18.4 per cent in FY 23.

Almost 48 per cent households across the country say they are increasingly facing a decline in earnings and savings. They elaborate saying they are facing rising costs related to food, school education, rent, transportation, cost of electricity, etc., the basic expenses incurred by a middle-class family. The big concern is a declining earnings scenario for many and the need to dip into savings, ancestral property/land, or take loans, just to make ends meet, a survey conducted by research agency Local Circles revealed.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's concern for the falling bank deposits and asking banks to improve operations is a signal to the country of an abnormal situation needing immediate correction. It means the overall financial structure, including years of infra funding, policies like car junking, tolls, less investment in education and health, high GST, municipal and other taxes need reversal.

It is a tough decision. Manmohanomics, high taxation and utopian decisions such as car-tractor junking to benefit car makers and indiscriminate road constructions for high tolls are hitting the well-being. The NDA government has not changed the basic Congress policies that had led to major economic problems till 2014.

India needs a drastic change in its march towards growth in the next two years, not 20 years from now. The policies must turn pro-people, stop unnecessary construction of devastating roads, rail and infra projects. A low inflation, as RBI suggests repeatedly, is the sine qua non for happiness and growth of the households, key to the success of the country in the global commune.

SPECTRUM INFLATION

Obstinacy in India's monetary policy



Satya Narayan Misra

RBI HAS TO SUPPLEMENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES THROUGH ITS REPO RATE POLICY WHILE KEEPING A CLOSE VIGIL OVER FOOD INFLATION

For the last fourteen months, most of the Monetary Policy Committee members (mostly members from within the RBI) have been resisting a cut in the repo rates, despite clear indications that the headline inflation is within the price rise band of 4+-2%. The constant dissenter Prof Varma of IIM (A) believes that India's growth journey is getting dented by 1% by taking such an ostrich-like stance. Prof Asima Goyal believes that it's time that dissent within the RBI should bring greater sanity to the discourse of policy rate decisions. As well known, the MOU signed between the Ministry of Finance and the RBI, managing inflation in the country in the range of 4-6% is the primary remit of the RBI. In this exercise, the RBI is guided by the Consumer Price Index and not the Wholesale Price Index as per the recommendation of the Urijit Patel Committee (2014) since the committee was of the view that food and fuel account for 57% in CPI. Mr. Nageshwaran, the Chief Economic Advisor, has put the cat amongst the pigeons by suggesting that the Central Bank

should reexamine its inflation-targeting framework by excluding food items. He has argued that food inflation is driven by supply-induced issues, not demand-induced ones. The short-term monetary policy tools like the Repo rate which the RBI uses are meant to contain price pressure originating from excess aggregate demand. In a strong rebuttal, Michael Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI has brought out how higher food inflation is spilling over into inflationary expectations of households and consumer confidence. The wedge between headline and food inflation has been widening 'stalling the alignment of the former with the latter'.

In his defense, the CEA has brought out how the headline and core inflation has been declining from 2021 to 2024 while food inflation has increased from 3.8% in 2022 to about 7.5% in 2024 as against core inflation of 4.3% and headline inflation of 5.4%. The RBI, on the other hand, in the last MPC meeting brought out how average food inflation from January 2020 has increased to 6.3% - an increase of about 3%

over previous years. Food inflation affects input costs and output prices, putting pressure on core inflation. Since the RBI has to maintain headline inflation at 4.5%, it makes sense to be cautious.

Apart from the debate between the Ministry of Finance and the RBI regarding food inflation as part of policy targeting, there is a raging debate within the RBI regarding the right kind of repo rate that should be adopted by the Monetary Policy Committee. It may be recalled that the RBI increased its repo rate from 6.25% to 6.5% in June 2023 since the food inflation had gone up from 3.8% to 7.8%. Prof Varma is of the view that given the massive infrastructural investment that the government has been undertaking, a slew of tax reforms like GST, and massive digitization, the potential of India achieving growth of 8% is realizable. Monetary policy, the other wheel of a country's growth chariot should therefore ensure that the cost of credit is reasonable. Besides, the real interest rate in India is around

2.1% (6.5% - 4.4%) which is much higher than an ideal real interest rate of 1.5%. He has, therefore, recommended in the last MPC that the repo rate should be reduced by 50 basis points. Prof Goyal, while agreeing with the above logic, has suggested that the repo rate should be brought down by 25 basis points.

It is time that the Reserve Bank of India abdicates its ostrich-like approach to only looking at food inflation and overlooking the potential increase in our GDP and bolstering employment. It should use the short-term lending rate as an effective instrument in galvanizing credit, particularly to the MSME sector which is acutely in need of finance from formal sources. Monetary and fiscal policies are like two wheels of a country's growth chariot. RBI has to supplement government initiatives through its repo rate policy while keeping a close vigil over food inflation. Cost-push inflation is as much a concern as demand-pull inflation.

The writer teaches Macro Economics

Bad precedent

Sir, The Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is accused in the murder case of Renuaswamy, has been jailed at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. When the shocking video clippings revealed recently that the actor was smoking and making calls exposed the preferential treatment, and now that the actor has been transferred to the Central Prison in Bellary. If one would recall that the same Parappana Agrahara became infamous when the alleged preferential treatment was given to the former TN CM's close aide Sasikala and her sister-in-law J Ilavarasi during their jail term in their disproportionate assets case. In 2017, the then-former DIG (Prisons) D Roopa had released the pictures as against the alleged accused. When jail is supposed to rehabilitate the prisoners instead of giving them the preferential treatment, as VIPs call for rehabilitation of certain jails before housing the inmates, it is the need of the hour not only for equal treatment but also to stop planning for involving them in further offences.

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI.

End of authoritarian rule

Sir, This refers to the editorial writup by Kaushik Basu. The recent turmoil in Bangladesh has laid bare the consequences of prolonged authoritarian rule. While a strong, centralised government can provide stability, it often stifles dissent and hinders progress. Sheikh Hasina's tenure exemplifies how authoritarianism, when unchecked, can lead to significant national unrest. Hasina's leadership, though marked by impressive economic strides, increasingly veered toward intolerance of opposition and criticism. Her policies, such as suppressing free speech and restricting political freedoms, alienated large segments of the population. These actions eroded public trust and led to the current unrest. Moreover, her economic decisions, particularly the lack of support for small businesses during inflationary periods, exacerbated poverty and unemployment. The centralisation of power in her administration also resulted in the weakening of democratic institutions, making the country vulnerable to extremist forces. While a firm hand can be beneficial in guiding a nation, it should never come at the expense of democracy and individual freedoms. Bangladesh's current predicament serves as a stark reminder that authoritarianism, even with good intentions, can lead to instability and chaos.

Vishesh Shukla, LUCKNOW

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
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

of the day quote

We have identified Kottappadi and Kalpetta as the two sites where those affected by the landslides will be completely rehabilitated in a community living-style township

K RAJAN | MINISTER FOR REVENUE, HOUSING OF KERALA

It is true that before 2017, Uttar Pradesh did not have an environment where we could ask an entrepreneur to set up an industry here. The government also did not have a vision

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CHIEF MINISTER

The unsavoury remarks on the northeast by the West Bengal CM are highly irresponsible and show her desperation. It exposes her politics of anarchy and goes against the spirit of unity in our country. I strongly condemn this

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Resident dies in crocodile attack

Vadodara: As floodwaters begin to recede in Vadodara, a 30-year-old man was killed in Gujarat's Dabhoi after a crocodile dragged him into the Orsang River. An official said that the victim - Amit Poonambhai Vasava - was a labourer from Rajpura. "Amit was attempting to set a fishing net when the crocodile attacked him and dragged him to the river," the official said. He added that despite efforts to escape, Amit slipped and the crocodile dragged him into the water.

Heavy rains lash parts of Kerala

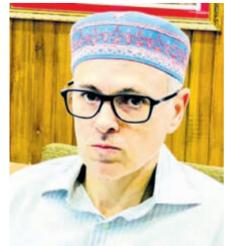
Thiruvananthapuram: As heavy rains lashed several districts of Kerala Friday morning, leading to waterlogging of roads and traffic snarls in various parts of the state, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) sounded an orange alert in seven districts. The IMD issued an orange alert in Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod districts of the state for the day. It also issued a yellow alert in the remaining districts except for Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam.

Labourer rapes minor; detained

Palghar: A labourer has been arrested for allegedly raping a four-and-half-year-old girl in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said Friday. The police Thursday arrested the 19-year-old accused in connection with the incident that occurred in Jawhar taluka Wednesday. The child's parents were at work, and she was home with her grandparents when the accused allegedly entered her house and sexually assaulted her, an official said in a statement.

Court grants bail to Sukesh

New Delhi: A Delhi court Friday granted bail to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar in a bribery case related to the AIADMK's "two leaves" election symbol, noting that he had undergone detention for a period more than the maximum jail term specified for the offence he was accused to have committed. Special Judge Vishal Gogne granted the relief to him on a personal bond of Rs 5 lakh. Sukesh has been accused of acting as a middleman for AIADMK leader T T Dinakaran.



That is why we joined hands with the Congress, even as it was not an easy decision for us, (because) we had to sacrifice those seats where we knew only the NC can give a tough fight

OMAR ABDULLAH | FORMER MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA

PM TO VISIT BRUNEI, S'PORE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Brunei and Singapore in the first week of September, the Ministry of External Affairs said Friday. The Prime Minister will travel to Brunei on September 3-4, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced at his media briefing. This will be the first bilateral visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Brunei, he said

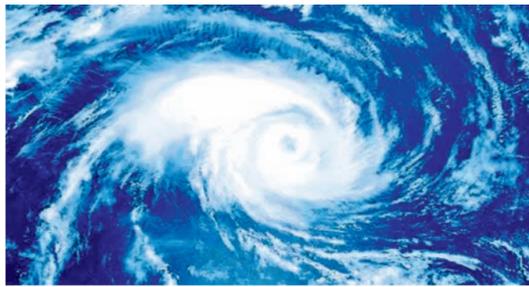


Deep depression over Arabian Sea intensifies

This is the first cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea in August since 1976. The name Asna, given by Pakistan, means "the one to be acknowledged or praised"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: A deep depression that triggered torrential rains and floods in Gujarat Friday intensified into cyclone Asna off the coast of Kachchh and the adjoining areas of Pakistan, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.



This is the first cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea in August since 1976. The name Asna, given by Pakistan, means "the one to be acknowledged or praised".

Between 1891 and 2023, only three cyclonic storms formed in the Arabian Sea during August (in 1976, 1964, and 1944), according to the IMD.

The 1976 cyclone originated over Odisha, moved west-northwestward, entered the Arabian Sea, followed a looping track, and weakened over the north-west Arabian Sea near the Oman coast. The 1944 cyclone intensified after emerging into the Arabian Sea before weakening. In 1964, another short-lived cyclone developed near the South Gujarat coast and weakened near the coast.

The deep depression over Kachchh coast and adjoining areas of Pakistan and Northeast Arabian Sea moved westward with a speed of 6 kmph during the past 6 hours, intensified into cyclonic storm 'Asna' (pronounced as As-Na) and lay centered at 1130 hours over the same region, 190 km west-northwest of Bhuj (Gujarat).

It will continue moving nearly west-northwestwards over the northeast Arabian Sea, away from the Indian coast, over the next two days, the weather department said.

A deep depression is a low-pressure system with wind speeds ranging from 52 kmph to 61 kmph, while a cyclone has wind speeds between 63 kmph and 87 kmph.

A sea surface temperature of 27 degrees Celsius and above is needed for a low-pressure system to intensify into a cyclone.

Currently, the sea surface temperature in the Bay of Bengal is 28-30 degrees Celsius. It is around 27-28 degrees Celsius in the Arabian Sea. It's colder (below 26 degrees Celsius) in the west-central Arabian Sea and very warm (above 32 degrees Celsius) in the Gulf of Aden. The Tropical Cyclone Heat Potential is high in the central Bay of Bengal but low in the northern and central Arabian Sea.

The IMD Thursday said these sea conditions suggest that the system will encounter colder waters in the Arabian Sea, so it's unlikely to intensify much. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, former secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said it was surprising to see the weather system over the North Arabian sea intensifying into a cyclonic storm.

"During our training we learnt from our teachers and textbooks that the North Arabian sea becomes colder during the monsoon season due to ocean upwelling and no weather system can intensify over there," he posted on X.

Friday Namaz break ends in Assam Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 30: The Assam assembly will discontinue with the two-hour break provided Fridays to facilitate Muslim legislators to offer 'namaz', Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The rule will be implemented from the next session, the state's Parliamentary Affairs Minister said. In a post on X, Sarma said, "By doing away with the 2-hour Jumma break, @AssamAssembly has prioritised productivity and shed another vestige of colonial baggage. This practice was introduced by Muslim League's Syed Saadulla in 1937." "My gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker Shri @BiswajitDaimar5 dangoriya and our legislators for this historical decision," he said. For the last time, this break was provided Friday, the final day of the autumn session of the Assembly. A statement from the Speaker's office said the House used to resume proceedings after lunch Fridays, after the Muslim members came back from 'namaz'. On all other days, the House conducted business without any such adjournment for religious purposes, it said.

The proposal to do away with this provision in the Rules of Procedures of the assembly was placed before the Rules Committee, headed by the Speaker, which unanimously agreed to drop the practice. "Accordingly, today, the House adopted a motion to amend this rule so as to provide for sitting of the House for conduct of its proceedings Fridays like any other day," the statement said.

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS CASE

Court orders to frame charges against Tytler

The court found that the trial against Tytler could proceed under sections 143, 147 153A, 188, 295, 436, 451, 380, 149, 302 and 109 of the Indian Penal Code



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Forty years after the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, a Delhi court Friday ordered framing of charges for murder and other offences against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in a case related to the killing of three people in north Delhi's Pul Bangash area during the violence.

Citing a witness, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had said in its charge sheet that Tytler came out of a white Ambassador car in front of Gurdwara Pul Bangash on November 1, 1984 and instigated a mob by shouting "kill the Sikhs, they have killed our mother." Three Sikhs were then killed by the mob. Special CBI judge Rakesh Siyal said there was sufficient evidence against Tytler, a former union minister, to put

him on trial.

"Sufficient ground is there to proceed against the accused person," the judge said. The court ordered framing of charges for several offences, including unlawful assembly, rioting, promoting enmity between different groups, house trespass and theft.

The court has listed the matter for September 13 when the judge is likely to ask Tytler whether he pleads guilty to the charges levelled against him. If Tytler pleads not guilty and claims trial, the judge will formally frame the charges against him.

Anti-Sikh riots had erupted in several parts of the country in the aftermath of the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards October 31, 1984. A sessions court had in August last year granted anticipatory bail to Tytler in the case.

Champai Soren joins BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, August 30: Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren joined the BJP Friday, two days after he resigned from the JMM citing dissatisfaction with the party's current style of functioning and "bitter humiliation".

Soren, along with a large number of his supporters, crossed over to the saffron party at a ceremony attended by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here. The veteran politician visibly became emotional after he was welcomed into the saffron fold.

After joining the saffron camp, he said, "After I was put under surveillance by the Jharkhand government in Delhi and Kolkata, my resolve to join BJP strengthened." He also said the BJP can save the tribals' identity and check infiltration in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana. Alleging that the tribal identity was put "at stake"

by the Congress, Champai Soren said, "I am committed to delivering justice to the people." "I nurtured JMM with my sweat and blood but was humiliated and insulted. I am compelled to join the BJP. I am now proud to be a member of the world's largest political party. I was not in a position to tolerate humiliation and snobbing," Champai Soren said.

The joining of the 67-year-old leader to the BJP is seen as a significant boost for the party's efforts to strengthen its connection with the Scheduled Tribes, a strong support base of the JMM. He was a close aide of JMM supremo Shibu Soren. Champai Soren, known as 'Jharkhand's Tiger' for his pivotal role in the fight for statehood, was appointed as chief minister February 2, following Hemant Soren's resignation and subsequent arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. He left the post July 3, clearing the way for Hemant Soren to resume office July 4 after being granted bail.



A flooded area at Kothara village in Kutch. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned that a deep depression over the Kutch region might turn into a cyclonic storm

PM MODI TO FLAG OFF THREE VANDE BHARAT TRAINS TODAY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually flag off three new Vande Bharat trains Saturday as part of the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' visions, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said Friday.



The state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express trains will improve the connectivity on three routes -- Meerut-Lucknow; Madurai-Bengaluru; and Chennai-Nagercoil.

The Meerut City-Lucknow Vande Bharat will help passengers save around one hour in comparison to the current fastest train between the two cities. Likewise, the Chennai Egmore-

Nagercoil and Madurai-Bengaluru Vande Bharat trains will cover the journey saving more than two hours and around 90 minutes, respectively.

These new Vande Bharat trains will provide the people with world-class means to travel with speed and comfort, catering to three states - Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

The introduction of these new trains will herald a new standard of rail service to meet the needs of regular travellers, professionals, and business and student communities in immense measure, the PMO said.

India's first-ever indigenously designed and manufactured, semi-high speed Vande Bharat trains provide modern and comfortable rail travel experience to the passengers.

The Vande Bharat trains have a faster acceleration and semi-high speed operation up to 160 KMPH. They are fitted with the anti-collision device KAVACH and have a fully-sealed gangway for free passenger movement with automatic plug doors.

75% corneal blindness untreated due to lack of eye donors

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Faridabad, August 30: A whopping 75 per cent of corneal blindness cases in India are untreated due to lack of eye donors, said an expert Thursday.

Corneal blindness is the second leading cause of visual impairment in India with a current burden of 1.1 million people.

However, only 25,000 out of these requirements are met each year. "This makes it feasible for only one out of every four individuals with corneal blindness to avail of the required surgery, while 75 per cent of the cases are left untreated," said the ophthalmologist at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad.

A growing ageing population, higher incidence of corneal infections and injuries are some of the reasons why corneal blindness is rising in India.

"Vitamin-A deficiency in children, degenerative conditions like keratoconus and corneal dystrophies, congenital opacification of the cornea and post-surgical complications are some other causes of corneal blindness worldwide," said Dr. Meenakshi Dhar, HoD, Ophthalmology, Amrita Hospital.

"The symptoms can vary based on the underlying cause of the corneal damage. Most patients experience blurred vision in the affected eye. Eye infections usually cause significant



eye pain, watering, redness and severe photophobia in the acute phase. Visible scars on the cornea are often detectable during an eye

examination," she added. Certain regions in India are more prone to corneal blindness due to various factors like healthcare ac-

Corneal blindness is the second leading cause of visual impairment in India with a current burden of 1.1 million people

cess, environmental conditions, and socioeconomic status.

States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh have reported higher rates of visual impairment, including corneal blindness, the doctors said. These regions face challenges such as inadequate eye care facilities, lower rates of eye donation, and higher exposure

to risk factors like agricultural injuries and infectious diseases. Corneal blindness is also common in agricultural regions where eye injuries may lead to fungal infections.

While corneal transplantation is the most definitive option for advanced cases, other treatments include laser therapy, scleral contact lenses, amniotic membrane transplants, and stem cell therapy.

Preventive measures such as proper eye hygiene, prompt treatment of infections, vaccination, and health education can significantly reduce the risk of corneal blindness. Early diagnosis and treatment of corneal conditions are vital, the doctor said.

national



If Indians, Indian women, can become CEOs of Pepsi and run banks in India and lead commercial organisations in India, why should not women lawyers working in law firms dealing with complex legal issues, not be absorbed and brought to the judiciary so that they can be appointed in different high courts

SHARAD PAWAR TURNS DOWN CERTAIN Z+ SECURITY MEASURES Nationalist Congress Party-SP (NCP-SP) chief Sharad Pawar, accorded Z-plus protective cover recently, is learnt to have turned down certain measures suggested by security agencies



POST OF THE DAY

No apology for Morbi bridge collapse No apology for farmers protest where 100+ lives were lost No apology for Ghatkopar hoarding collapse No apology for countless train accidents under his regime But look at the acting of apology just because Maharashtra has elections

Why can't PM visit Manipur: Congress



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of what the chief minister has said which needs to be investigated, Ramesh said. "I don't see on what strength the CM is claiming normalcy. This is absolutely contrary to the facts on the ground," he said. The Congress leader said 15 months after getting a huge majority in the assembly elections, the state began burning and "it was made to blow up". "This is not accidental what has happened. The fact of the matter is that the prime minister has gone to Ukraine, the prime minister has gone to Russia, he has gone to Poland, he has gone all over the country, he has gone to other countries of the world but he has neither found the time nor the inclination to visit Manipur even for a few hours," Ramesh said.

New Delhi, August 30: The Congress Friday wondered why Prime Minister Narendra Modi can't be the peacemaker by visiting violence-hit Manipur when he is going "all over the world" trying to play that role. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also asserted that Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has "lost all credibility" and things cannot improve under him. Ramesh's remarks came in response to Biren Singh's interview to PTI in which the chief minister has promised to fully restore peace in the state in six months with the Centre's help, and also ruled out stepping down, saying he has neither committed a crime nor spawned a scandal.

In his remarks, Singh said, "PM coming or not coming has been made an issue by people. The PM may not have come but he has sent his home minister. And PM has so often spoken about Manipur, even from Lal Qila on Independence Day...and whatever is being done here in terms of security, funding etc, is under his leadership only. In a complex situation a PM coming was not necessary."

"Has the PM met the elected representatives of Manipur, he has not. The answer that the people of Manipur gave to all these bogus claims being made by the CM is the fact that in both Inner Manipur and Outer Manipur, the Congress has won and the BJP has lost (in the Lok Sabha polls) and they have lost by a good margin," he said.

"I think the prime minister must go to Manipur. That is the most important requirement. The prime minister must go and begin the process of sending the healing touch, the process of reconciliation," he said. Ramesh said it is not enough to speak for a few minutes in Parliament or outside and the prime minister must visit the state. Modi has to show he means business, he has to reassure all communities of Manipur - the Meiteis, the Kukis, the Nagas and all the tribal communities, he added. Modi has to show that the agony of Manipur is the agony of India, Ramesh said. He said that one consequence of the PM not being able to go to Manipur is that he is not being able to go to Mizoram. Ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities has claimed more than 200 lives in Manipur since May last year.

SHORT TAKES

NIA conducts searches in Punjab

New Delhi: The NIA Friday carried out searches in Punjab in connection with its probe into VHP leader Vikas Prabhakar's murder, allegedly engineered by foreign-based Khalistani terrorists, officials said. Prabhakar alias Vikas Bagga was shot dead in his confectionary shop in Nangal in the state's Roopnagar district April 13. He was the Nangal president of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP). The National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the case from the state police May 9.

5 Naxalites surrender

Sukma/Bijapur: Two Naxalites were arrested and five ultras laid down arms in Sukma in Chhattisgarh, while three improvised explosive devices were recovered in Bijapur, police officials said Friday. Woman ultra Dudhi Bhime as well as her associates Vetti Raja, Vanjam Ganga, Dudhi Pojja alias Bokke alias Baira and Kawasi Bhima surrendered in Sukma, an official said. "They were involved in various acts of violence, including attacking police teams. Two Naxalites, identified as Veko Hidma and Madkam Nanda, were arrested near Potkalli village under Kistaram police station limits," the official said.

SAD sends legal notice to CBFC

New Delhi: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) here has sent a legal notice to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) seeking to prevent the release of Kangana Ranaut's upcoming film 'Emergency', claiming it may "incite communal tensions" and "spread misinformation". It alleged the trailer of the film depicted "erroneous historical facts that not only misrepresent the Sikh community but also promote hatred and social discord."

Jharkhand: 3 die after fainting during physical test of recruitment exam

Medininagar (Jharkhand): Three of the 25 aspirants, who were undergoing treatment after they fainted during a physical test of a constable recruitment exam in Palamu, have died, police said Friday. Two candidates died during the course of treatment at Medinirai Medical College and Hospital at Medininagar in Palamu district since Thursday night, while one succumbed at RIMS, Ranchi, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Manibhusan Prasad said. They died of breathlessness, as per preliminary findings, and "we also suspect use of sedatives to increase stamina", Superintendent of the hospital, Dr R K Ranjan said. "We are examining the exact cause of the deaths," he said. The deceased were identified as Amresh Kumar (20), Arun Kumar (25) and Pradip Kumar (25). Around 100 candidates, who took part in the physical test involving running, in the constable recruitment exam of the excise department in Palamu district, have so far fainted, police said. The recruitment process will continue till September 9, officials said. In view of the development, the authorities have decided to conduct the physical test from 4.30 am. Previously, it was at 9 am. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Hemant Soren has directed officials to take immediate cognisance of the matter.

Mamata writes to Modi again

Banerjee, who wrote to Modi a few days ago on the issue following nationwide uproar over the rape and murder of a doctor at R G Kar Hospital, sought mandatory provision for time-bound disposal of cases of rape/rape and murder



disposal of cases of rape/rape and murder.

Banerjee had Wednesday said an amendment to existing laws will be passed in the state assembly next week to ensure capital punishment to convicted rapists. Stating that she is yet to receive a reply from the PM on the issue flagged by her, Banerjee wrote that she has, however, received a communication from the Union Women and Child Development minister. Maintaining that the letter by the WCD minister "barely attends the gravity of the issue" raised by her, Banerjee wrote, "The seriousness of the subject and its relevance to the society have not been adequately ap-

preciated while sending out this generic reply." The CM wrote that 10 exclusive POCSO (Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act) courts have been approved by the state government. She further mentioned that 88 fast-track special courts and 62 POCSO-designated courts are already functioning in West Bengal on state funding. Banerjee wrote that helpline numbers 112 and 1098 are functioning in the state and additionally, Dial-100 is extensively used in emergency situations.

WCD Minister Annapurna Devi had Wednesday said the situation of women in West Bengal has been "deteriorating" and slammed the Mamata Banerjee government for failing to implement central schemes such as fast-track courts and emergency helplines to deal with crimes against women. Devi claimed that the fast-track special courts (FTSCs), which were allocated to West Bengal, are yet to become operational in the state.

The WCD minister also said that the state "failed" to implement key emergency helplines - the Women Helpline (WHL), Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) and Child Helpline.

EAM talks tough on Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Friday said the "era of uninterrupted dialogue" with Pakistan is over even as he noted that India is "not passive" and whether events take a positive or negative direction, either way New Delhi will react. In his address at a book launch here, Jaishankar also said for any country in the world, neighbours are "always a conundrum", and so are "major powers". Major powers will be a con-

undrum because they are major, because of the breadth of their interests. They will always have an agenda, which will overlap with us, but to differing degrees, also diverge, he said. In the case of China, you have a "double conundrum", because it's a neighbour and a major power. So, the challenges with China fits this double definition, he added. The book "Strategic India's Foreign Policy" by former diplomat Rajiv Sikri talks about India's relationship with its neighbouring countries and the accompa-

nying challenges. Jaishankar also said there is debate in the neighbourhood about SAARC and BIMSTEC, and "all of you know the difference". That is a contrast which illustrates some of the challenges and opportunities of "regionalisation", he said. "The real issue is that of overlapping identities versus forging new ones. So, everywhere there is history at play, but there is politics that often con- tests history and this in a way is a perennial challenge for India's relationships with all its neighbours," Jaishankar said. On India's relations with Pakistan, he said, "I think the era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over. Actions have consequences, and in so far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, I think (Article) 370 is done."

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-232 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARIAPADA

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ଜୟପୁର ପୌରପାଳିକା, ଜୟପୁର MUNICIPAL OFFICE, JEYPORE Phone: 06854-231098 & 231214, ulbjeyapore@gmail.com

business



We need to brand India, we need to support each other. Industry needs to be a partner not only with international players, but also be a partner with each other. All of you need to support each other

RISING DEMAND: BPCL PLANS NEW PLANT

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is exploring setting up an oil refining and petrochemical complex over the next 5-7 years as it steps up capacity to meet India's rising energy demand, chairman G Krishnakumar told shareholders Friday



SHORT TAKES

APSEZ acquires 80% Astro Offshore stake

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) Friday said it has entered into an agreement to acquire 80 per cent stake in Astro Offshore for \$185 million in an all-cash deal.

NCLT okays merger of Viacom 18, Star

New Delhi: The NCLT Friday approved the scheme of merger of Reliance Industries-owned Viacom 18 Media -- the holding company of the group's media and entertainment assets -- with Star India.

STELLAR BULL RUN

Investors richer by ₹10 lakh crore in nine days of rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Investors' wealth went up by ₹10 lakh crore in nine days of rally where the BSE Sensex surged over 2 per cent.

Markets have been rallying amid renewed US rate cut hopes and buying support by domestic investors.

In nine days of rally, the BSE benchmark soared 1,941.09 points or 2.41 per cent.

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty marched higher to scale fresh lifetime closing peaks Friday, tracking a largely firm trend in global markets and renewed foreign fund inflows amid the US rate cut hopes gathering momentum.

Rallying for the ninth straight session, the 30-share BSE benchmark climbed 231.16 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,365.77. During the day, it jumped 502.42 points or 0.61 per cent to hit a record intra-day peak of 82,637.03.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped

Global markets are currently resonating with the US Fed's pledges of a rate cut in September. The US & Indian markets have regained the recent highs, reflecting the continuation of this optimism

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJOIT FINANCIAL SERVICES



₹10,00,028 crore to ₹4,64,39,993.77 crore (\$5.54 trillion) in nine trading days.

"Benchmark indices scaled new highs in a positive trading session on the back of broad-based buying support, as hopes of a rate cut by the US Fed next month after last week's Jackson Hole meeting has made investors more confident." Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,279.56 points or 1.57 per cent, and the Nifty soared 412.75 points or 1.66 per cent.

Meanwhile, in its best winning streak since its launch in 1996, the NSE Nifty soared 83.95 points or 0.33 per cent to hit a new lifetime closing high of 25,235.90, taking its victorious run to the 12th day in a row. During the day, it surged 116.4 points or 0.46

per cent to hit a new record intra-day peak of 25,268.35.

On Friday, a total of 2,228 stocks advanced, while 1,701 declined and 116 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel and Power Grid were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, Tata Motors, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra and ITC were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.75 per cent, and the midcap index climbed 0.53 per cent.

All indices ended higher: Realty surged 1.88 per cent, healthcare jumped 1.41 per cent, utilities (0.77 per cent), commodities (0.70 per cent), teck (0.63 per cent) and services (0.61 per cent).

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹3,259.56 crore Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors lapped up equities worth ₹2,690.85 crore.

Infra sector growth slows to 6.1% in July

The growth rate, however, is up from 5.1% in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The growth in production of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed to 6.1 per cent in July this year due to a decline in the output of crude oil and natural gas, according to official data released Friday.

The growth rate, however, is up from 5.1 per cent in June.

The growth of core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 8.5 per cent in July 2023.

During April-July this fiscal, the output of core sectors rose by 6.1 per cent against 6.6 per cent in the same period last fiscal.

The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which measures overall industrial growth.

Crude oil and natural gas output contracted by (-) 2.9 per cent



and (-) 1.3 per cent, respectively, in July.

The growth rate in the production of coal, steel, cement and electricity decelerated to 6.8 per cent, 7.2 per cent, 5.5 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.

However, the production growth of refinery products and fertiliser rose by 6.6 per cent and 5.3 per cent, respectively.

FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 2024

Fiscal deficit at 17.2% of full-year aim: CGA

In absolute terms, fiscal deficit was ₹2,76,945cr as of July-end



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first four months of the current fiscal touched 17.2 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed Friday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit -- the gap between expenditure and revenue -- was ₹2,76,945 crore as of July-end, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). The deficit stood at 33.9 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of 2023-24.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at ₹16,13,312 crore during the current fiscal.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union gov-

ernment for the first four months of 2024-25, CGA said the net tax revenue was ₹7.15 lakh crore or 27.7 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal.

The net tax revenue collection was 25 per cent at the July-end 2023. The central government's total expenditure in the four months through July stood at ₹13 lakh crore or 27 per cent of BE. The expenditure was 30.7 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period.

Of the total expenditure, ₹10,39,091 crore was in the revenue account and ₹2,61,260 crore was in the capital account.

Out of the total revenue expenditure, ₹3,27,887 crore was towards interest payments and ₹1,25,639 crore on account of major subsidies.

CGA said ₹3,66,630 crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by the Centre up to July, which is ₹57,109 crore higher than the previous year.

A fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowing that is needed by the government.

Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the Centre's fiscal deficit more than halved to ₹2.8 lakh in April-July FY25 from ₹6.1 lakh crore in the year-ago period, led by a contraction in capital expenditure during the election months as well as the substantial dividend received from the RBI.

Sebi amends rules to regulate influencers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Markets watchdog Sebi has amended norms in a bid to regulate unregistered financial influencers or finfluencers amid growing concerns about potential risk associated with such unregistered persons.

In three separate notifications, the regulator has restricted associations between its regulated entities and unregistered individuals.

This came after the board of Sebi approved a proposal in this regard last month.

As per the notifications, the persons regulated by Sebi and the agents of such persons will not have any association like any



transaction involving money, referral of a client, interaction of information technology systems with any other person who, directly or indirectly, provides advice, recommendation or makes explicit claim of return.

"No person regulated by the Board (Sebi) or the agent of such a person shall have any direct or indirect association, with another

person who provides advice or any recommendation, directly or indirectly, in respect of or related to a security or securities, unless the person is registered with or otherwise permitted by the Board to provide such advice or recommendation; or makes any claim, of returns or performance expressly or impliedly, in respect of or related to a security or securities, unless the person has been permitted by the Board to make such a claim," the regulator said.

By requiring finfluencers to register with Sebi and adhere to specific guidelines, the regulator is setting a standard for accountability and expertise in the sector, market experts said.

Forex kitty swells to hit fresh high



Mumbai: India's forex reserves jumped by \$7.023 billion to touch a new high of \$681.688 billion in the week ended August 23, the RBI said Friday.

The overall reserves had jumped by \$4.546 billion to \$674.664 billion in the previous reporting week. The previous all-time high for the overall reserves was recorded at \$674.919 billion as August 2. For the week ended August 23, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$5.983 billion to \$597.552 billion, the data released Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by \$893 million to \$60.997 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$118 million to \$18.459 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was up by \$30 million to \$4.68 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

ଘୋର ପରିଷଦ, ପାରଳାଖେମୁଣ୍ଡି

ନିଖୁଳ ଭାରତ ସ୍ଵାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ-୨୦୨୪ ଆମର ନିବେଦନ

- ୧. ଘର ବିକସ ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ ପୈଠି କରନ୍ତୁ ।
୨. ରାସ୍ତା ଓ ନାବକ୍ ସେବାରେ ଉନ୍ନତ ସୁବିଧା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେଉ ।
୩. ଚାକରୀ ଲାଭରେ ଉନ୍ନତ ସୁବିଧା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେଉ ।
୪. ସୁସ୍ଥ ଉପାଦାନ ସହିତ ଅଧିକା ଆବେଦନ ନାମରେ ନ ପାଇ ଚାହାନ୍ତି ଅଭାଗ ଅଭାଗ କରି ପୈଠି ପରିଷଦର ଅଧିକା ସଂଗ୍ରହକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
୫. ସୁସ୍ଥାବସ୍ଥାରେ ପଶୁ ଯତ୍ନ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରନ୍ତୁ, ଯୁକ୍ତି, କୁଳପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ସହ ନୟାଗ୍ରାହ୍ୟ ହାତକୁ ନାହିଁ ।
୬. ସାହାର ନିରାକାର ନ କରି ନିଜ ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭର ପାଇଁ ଯତ୍ନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
୭. ପାଠ୍ୟ ପୈଠି ପରିଷଦକୁ ସମ୍ମତ ଓ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଉତ୍ସାହରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
୮. ପରିଷଦ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ପାଇଁ ସହଜ ଉପାଦାନରେ ଆମକୁ ସହାୟତା କରନ୍ତୁ ।
୯. ନିଜ ପାଇଁ ଯତ୍ନ ନେଇ ନିଜ ନିଜ ଉପରେ ନିର୍ଭର ପାଇଁ ଯତ୍ନ ନେବାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ବେସ୍ତୁଳ ନାମରେ ସଫଳତା ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରିତ ହେଉ ପାଉ ।



ବଲାଙ୍ଗିର ପୌରସଭା, ବଲାଙ୍ଗିର

ନିଖୁଳ ଭାରତ ସ୍ଵାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ ଓ ପଞ୍ଚମ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀ ପୂର୍ବ ଉତ୍ସବ ପୂର୍ବାହାର ୨୦୨୪ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ବଲାଙ୍ଗିର ପୌରପରିଷଦ ଉପକ୍ରମ କରାଯାଇଛି ।



Vistara set to fly into sunset

GOVT CLEARS SINGAPORE AIRLINES' FDI IN AIR INDIA GROUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The nearly 10-year-old Vistara will fly into the sunset November 11 as part of the merger with Tata Group-owned Air India, with the deal moving closer to completion after the Indian government approved Singapore Airlines' ₹2,058.5-crore foreign direct investment in Air India Group.

The merger, announced in November 2022, will see Singapore Airlines snapping up a 25.1 per cent stake in the Air India Group, and will create one of the world's largest airline groups.

On Friday, Singapore Airlines (SIA) said the Indian government has approved its proposed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the enlarged Air India Group as part of the ongoing merger of Air India and Vistara.

The approval marks a significant development towards the completion of the merger, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year, SIA said in a release.



tween Tatas and SIA.

With regulatory approvals in place, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson told the employees Friday that November 12 has been set as the date for the movement of aircraft and crew of Vistara to Air India.

"Starting 03 September 2024, customers will, progressively, no longer be able to make bookings with Vistara for travel on or after 12 November 2024," Vistara said in a release.

Thereafter, Vistara aircraft will be operated by Air India and bookings for the routes operated by these planes will be redirected to Air India's website. "Vistara will continue to take bookings and operate flights as usual till 11 November 2024," the release said.

SIA's ₹2,058.5-crore FDI is the last major clearance for the merger that was announced in November 2022.

While announcing the merger in November 2022, SIA said it would be investing ₹2,058.5 crore in Air India as part of the transaction and overall, the airline would have a 25.1 per cent stake in an enlarged Air India Group with a significant presence in all key market segments.

The merger, which will create one of the biggest airline groups, was approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in June. In March, Singapore's competition regulator CCCS gave a conditional nod for the proposed deal.

Prior to that in September 2023, the deal received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), subject to certain conditions.

Wilson Friday said that for Vistara flights on or after November 12, the flight numbers will change to Air India ones, even though in nearly all cases the aircraft, schedule and operating crew will be unchanged until early 2025.

ଘୋର ପରିଷଦ, ପାରଳାଖେମୁଣ୍ଡି ନିଖୁଳ ଭାରତ ସ୍ଵାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ-୨୦୨୪ ଆମର ନିବେଦନ

ପୌରପାଳିକା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳ ନିଖୁଳ ଭାରତ ସ୍ଵାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ, ୨୦୨୪ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳ ପୌରପାଳିକା ତରଫରୁ ସହଜତାପାଇଁ ନିବେଦନ

ଭବାନୀପାଟଣା ପୌର ପରିଷଦ ନିଖୁଳ ଭାରତ ସ୍ଵାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ, ୨୦୨୪ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଭବାନୀପାଟଣା ପୌରପାଳିକାର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତ ନିମନ୍ତେ ସହଜତାପାଇଁ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ପୌରପରିଷଦ, ମାଲକାଙ୍ଗିରି OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, MALKANGIRI Odisha, Pin-764045, Ph: 06861-230244, e-Mail: eomalkangiri@gmail.com

Preethi bags historic bronze

Ist Indian to win a medal in a sprint event of the Paralympic Games

AGENCIES

Paris, August 30: Preethi Pal won a bronze medal in the women's T35 100m event with a personal best time of 14.21 seconds at the Paralympics here Friday. In the process, Preethi created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win a medal at the Paralympics in a sprint event. The 23-year-old Preethi's bronze is India's first medal from para-athletics in the Paralympics. China's Zhou Xia (13.58s) and Guo Qianqian (13.74s) won the gold and silver respectively.

T35 classification is meant for athletes who have coordination impairments such as hypertonnia, ataxia and athetosis, as well as cerebral palsy.

Preethi was born to a farmer's family in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. She faced significant physical challenges, when she was born, her lower body was plastered six days after birth for months. She underwent various traditional treatments to strengthen her legs.

However, the bronze at the Paralympic Games here is not Preethi's first international success. She had won two bronze medals in the 100m and 200m at the World Para Athletics Championships earlier this year. Preethi has dedicated her success to her coach Gajendra Singh. Earlier she had stated that sprint is her favourite event. "I love to run as it keeps me fit," Preethi had once stated.

Paddlers beaten

Indian para table tennis players Bhavinaben Patel and



PROUD MOMENT: Preethi Pal poses with the Tricolour after her bronze-winning feat in the 100 metres Friday PHOTO X

Sonalben Patel bowed out of the women's doubles WD 10 contest with a 1-3 quarterfinal loss against A Young Jung and Sunghya Moon here Friday. The eighth seed Indians went down 5-11, 6-11, 11-9, 6-11 in a 39-minute contest to their South Korean opponents at the South Paris Arena.

Both Bhavina, the Tokyo Paralympics silver medallist, and Sonalben will be in action in their respective singles event.

Bhavina, who became the first-ever Indian table tennis player to win a medal at the Paralympics during the Tokyo Games in 2021, was diagnosed

This was my first Paralympics and I am still yet to believe that I have won a medal and I am feeling proud that I have won India's first track medal in Paralympics

PREETHI PAL

with polio when she was 12 months old. She competes in Class 4 category.

Like Bhavina, Sonalben was also diagnosed with polio when she was six months old, which later affected both her legs as well as her right hand, leaving

her with 90 per cent disability. She competes in the Class 3 category.

Rowers finish fifth

The Indian mixed pair of Anita and Narayana Konganapalle managed a fifth-place finish in their Mixed PR3 Double Sculls heat at the Paralympics.

The Indian duo completed the race with a time of 8:06.84 seconds, behind Australia (7:11.30s), France (7:24.25s), Ukraine (7:26.31s) and United States (7:44.88s). The Indian pair had won a silver medal at the Asian Para Games last year in the same category.

Avani 'breaking barriers'

SECOND SUCCESSIVE PARALYMPICS GOLD MEDAL FOR SHOOTER

AGENCIES

Paris, August 30: A modest but supremely confident Avani Lekhara acknowledged Friday her feat of winning a second consecutive gold medal in the Paralympics by declaring it has 'broken the barrier' for women athletes in India.

"I never really thought... I was just thinking of doing the best that I can do that day," Avani told reporters when asked how she felt becoming the first Indian woman to win two Paralympics gold medals.

"I am happy that I was able to win the gold for my country. It broke the barriers for other women in the country, they can look up and see 'okay, women can also win gold in India', and I am grateful that I was the first one to achieve that," added the double gold medallist.

Avani said while she has already shifted her focus on the next events - women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 and mixed 10m air rifle prone SH1 - she had to overcome the challenge of a surgery earlier this year. "I had a surgery in March and I was off the range, I was not practicing... mentally (it) hampered me because I was not training months away from the Paralympics," Avani said, talking about her gall bladder surgery.

"Even though it's a small surgery, a lot of core muscles weren't working the way they were before and so I had to work on that more. My team worked heavily



TERRIFIC DUO: Avani Lekhara (left) and Mona Agarwal pose with their gold and bronze medals Friday PHOTO X

to get me back on track for Paris," informed Avani. "I have four more matches to go so and I am going to give my best in all so let's see how it goes," she added.

Avani also said that like always Abhinav Bindra has always been her inspiration. "I am happy to win a medal for my country, thankful to my coaches and parents," she stated.

Manish Narwal was once again on the podium Friday in the men's 10m air pistol (SH1) final, clinching the silver medal after his gold in the Tokyo Games.

The 22-year-old, however, appeared to be overwhelmed by

emotions when he recalled celebrating his gold medal win with his brother Manjeet Singh, who died in 2022 in a road accident.

"When I won in 2021, I remember that we had danced all night. I am recalling all of that now. Yes, he is gone but his memories will always be with me. I only thought of giving my best," Manish said.

Manish said he had no regrets of missing the gold as he gave his 100 per cent. "I don't have even one per cent regret. I gave my 100 per cent. I was close to the gold but there is no sorrow that I couldn't get it," Manish asserted.

SHORT TAKES

Pooja qualifies for high jump final

Lima (Peru): India's Pooja Singh rewrote the national U20 women's national record in high jump to qualify for the final with a ninth-place finish in the qualification round at the ongoing World Athletics U20 Championships here Thursday. The 17-year-old, who hails from Fatehabad district of Haryana, cleared a height of 1.83m to finish second in qualification round Group B and ninth overall and qualify for the final to be held Saturday. Daughter of a mason, Pooja broke her own national U20 record of 1.82m set last year in Korea while winning a silver medal at the Asian U20 Championships.

Martinez keeps CR7 for Nations League

Lisbon: Portugal coach Roberto Martinez has included Cristiano Ronaldo in his squad for the first two Nations League matches despite the veteran forward's disappointing Euro 2024. Martinez announced the squad Friday for their home games against Croatia September 5 and Scotland September 8. The 39-year-old Ronaldo holds the record of 130 goals for international men's soccer. But he went scoreless in all five of Portugal's games at Euro 2024. Martinez said after Euro 2024 his team are starting 'a new cycle for the 2026 World Cup'.

Good start by Indian golfers

Greater Noida: Tournament host Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa shared third spot as the best-placed Indians after day one of the India Legends Championship, at the Jaypee Greens Golf Course here Friday. Brazil's Adilson Da Silva was alongside Singh and Randhawa on 4 under par 68, three strokes behind event leader Joakim Haeggman, who fired home eight birdies against one bogey to sign off for a 7 under 65 card at the inaugural USD 5,00,000 event, co-sanctioned by the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

Sran retires

New Delhi: Left-arm seamer Barinder Sran, who played six ODIs and two T20Is for India in 2016, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket Friday on social media. "As I officially hang up my cricket boots, I look back at my journey with a heart full of gratitude. Since switching from boxing in 2009, cricket has gifted me innumerable and incredible experiences," he wrote in an Instagram post. He took seven wickets in ODIs and six in T20 Internationals.

CUTTACK, SUNDARGARH IN TITLE-ROUND CLASH



Cuttack women's team after their win Friday OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, August 30: Cuttack and Sundargarh entered the final of the Senior Women's Inter-District football tournament for the PC Behera Trophy with hard-fought victories in the semifinals played here Friday. While Sundargarh defeated Keonjhar 1-0, Cuttack edged out a battling Jagatsinghpur 2-1. The final will be played Sunday.

The Sundargarh-Keonjhar game saw both sides giving it their all to achieve victory. Both sides attacked and defended vigorously. However, ultimately the tenacity of the Sundargarh eyes paid off as they got the only goal of the match scored by Pramila Kishan in the 66th minute. Keonjhar had a couple of chances to restore parity, but their play-

ers were not alert in front of the opposition goal. In the first half too, both sides missed easy sitters.

The second game between Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur saw all the three goals coming in the first 15 minutes of the game. It was Jagatsinghpur who took the lead when Ankita Naik scored in the eighth minute. However, the joy for Jagatsinghpur eyes was short-lived as Cuttack hit back through Laxmi Priya Lenka within two minutes. In the 15th minute Barsha Mahakud got the winning goal for Cuttack after a combined move down the middle.

After getting their second goal, the Cuttack eyes defended dourly and did not allow the opposition to have a look at their goal. The second half was a boring affair with both teams failing to build any constructive moves.

3 Indian shuttlers in semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 30: Tokyo Paralympics silver medallist shuttler Suhas Yathiraj and Nitesh Kumar continued their impressive run to secure spots in the men's singles SL4 and SL3 semifinals, respectively, at the Paralympics here Friday.

Suhas, a 2007 batch IAS officer, defeated Korea's Shin Kyung Hwan 26-24, 21-14 in his second match. In the process he topped the three-man Group A in the SL4 category.

Nitesh, a 29-year-old IIT Mandi graduate, dominated China's Yang Jianyuan with a convincing 21-5, 21-11 victory, ensuring a top-two finish in the four-man Group A of the SL3 category.

Murugesan Thulasimathi also made it to the women's singles SU5 semifinals after topping Group A. She beat Beatriz Monteiro of Portugal 21-12 21-8 for her second win in the group.

In the SL4 class, the group toppers advance to the last four, while in the SL3 class, the top two players from each of the two groups qualify for the semifinals of the event.

Nitesh, who suffered permanent leg damage due to an accident in 2009, will next face Thailand's Bunsun Mongkhon in his final Group A match.

However, it was a disappointing day for Manasi Joshi, Palak Kohli and Manoj Sarkar, as they suffered their second consecutive defeats. It ended their chances of reaching the semifinals from



Suhas Yathiraj kept India's medal hopes alive in badminton by reaching the semifinals Friday at the Paris Paralympic Games

their respective groups.

Manasi, the 2019 World Champion, narrowly lost to Ukraine's Oksana Kozyna 21-10, 15-21, 21-23 in her second women's singles SL3 Group A match. She had previously lost her opening match Thursday to Indonesia's Qonitah Ikhtiar Syakuroh.

Tokyo bronze medallist Manoj also faced another setback, losing 19-21, 8-21 to Bunsun in his second Group A match. Manoj had earlier lost to compatriot Nitesh. Palak meanwhile lost to

Indonesia's Leani Ratri Oktila 21-18, 5-21, 13-21.

The SL4 class is designated for athletes with lower limb impairments and minor balance issues in walking or running, while the SL3 class is for players with more severe lower limb disabilities, requiring play on a half-width court.

Nitesh and Thulasimathi were defeated by the Indonesian pair of Ramdani Hikmat and Ratri 15-21, 8-21 in their second mixed doubles SL3-SU5 group.

OFC women eye 2nd win

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: After a thrilling 4-1 win against Singapore's Lion City Sailors in the AFC Women's Champions League 2024-25 the eves of Odisha FC (OFCW) will have to tackle the challenge of Jordan's Etihad Club in an away game Saturday.

With an impressive win in the first match, the OFCW team showed remarkable resilience, particularly in the second half, where they scored three goals. Lynda Kom stood out with a brace, supported by strong performances from Pyari Xaxa, Grace and newly-recruited defender Ibrahim Maryam. They will look to maintain the same momentum.

Etihad club also come with a strong momentum, having secured a dominant 5-0 victory over Lion City Sailors. Maysa Jbrah was the star of the show, netting four goals to lead her team to a comprehensive win. With the advantage of playing on home ground and in front of their local supporters, Etihad club will definitely be a formidable opponent.

The stakes are high, as the winner of this match will advance to the group stage of the AFC Women's Champions League. Head coach, Crispin Chettri's team will be eager to secure their spot and continue their journey in the prestigious tournament.

Alcaraz suffers stunning loss

3RD-SEEDED SPANIARD KNOCKED OUT BY UNKNOWN DUTCHMAN IN STRAIGHT SETS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 30: Carlos Alcaraz's 15-match Grand Slam unbeaten run ended at the US Open with a sloppy 1-6, 5-7, 4-6 loss to 74th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands in the second round.

The 21-year-old from Spain came in with a 16-2 record at the US Open, where he never had been eliminated before the quarterfinals in three previous appearances. This also was Alcaraz's earliest loss at any major tournament since bowing out in the second round of Wimbledon in 2021 as a teenager.

The opening set Thursday was unbelievably lop-sided. With Van de Zandschulp's powerful forehands and serves at up to 132mph finding their marks, Alcaraz never seemed to get comfortable - even



MILESTONE WIN: Botic van de Zandschulp acknowledges the applause of the crowd after defeating Carlos Alcaraz at the US Open Thursday AP PHOTO

though he had won in straight sets their two past encounters.

Meanwhile Iga Swiatek and Jannik Sinner flashed their No.

1 form with powerful performances that moved them into the third round. Swiatek raced by Japanese qualifier Ena Shibahara

Bopanna, Ebden in cruise control

New York: Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden moved into the second round of the US Open men's doubles with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Netherlands's Sander Arends and Robin Haase here Thursday night. The match lasted 64 minutes. Bopanna and Ebden initially struggled, losing their serve in the third game. However, they quickly regained their composure, breaking their opponents' serve twice to win the next four games.

6-0, 6-1, finishing off the match in 65 minutes. Earlier, Sinner downed Alex Michelsen 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 in 99 minutes. However, Naomi Osaka's forehand ditched her as she lost to Karolina Muchova 3-6, 6-7(5-7).

Triple crown for Aahaan, Safza

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Aahaan Mishra of Odisha bagged triple crown in the boys' segment, a feat which was also achieved by compatriot Safza Sheikh in the girls' category in the AITA-OTA under-14 and under-16 tennis tournament which concluded Friday at the Kalinga Stadium tennis complex here.

In the boys' under-14 final Aahaan defeated Aarav Patel 6-1, 6-1. He followed it up with an equally-dominating win against Aditya Bikram Acharya in the

under-16 boys final. Aahaan won 6-0, 6-1. Aahaan bagged his third title by winning the boys' doubles crown. He and Sutavya Karmakar defeated Aditya and Aniket Sahoo 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.

In the girls' under-14 final Safza defeated Zara Haider of West Bengal 7-6 (7-5), 6-2. She then played the under-16 final against state-mate Sanrachana Das and won the match 6-3, 6-0. In the under-16 girls' doubles final Safza and her partner Prerana Santra defeated Suhani Bhasin (TN) and Sudiksha Banerjee (WB) 6-1, 6-3.

