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THE PERFECT



HC order against bandh slap for Opposition: CM ... pg 3



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YOUR OPINION, OUR EFFORTS

Ban on Anil Ambani for fund diversion SEBI calls Ambani kingpin of fraud

By Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred industrialist Anil Ambani and 24 others from the securities market for five years on charges of diversion of funds from Reliance Home Finance Ltd. Additionally, SEBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from serving as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company or Sebi-registered entity for five years.

The capital markets regulator has called Anil Ambani the kingpin of the fund diversion. In its order, SEBI has stated that it had warned Ambani led RHFL of extending loans to unworthy creditors. SEBI had noticed significant irregularities in RHFL's loan approval process, including deviations from the company's credit policy and incomplete documentation

Besides, a fine ranging Rs



Bapna, Ravindra Sudhalkar

and Pinkesh R Shah -- have

orchestrated a fraudulent

scheme to "siphon off" funds

from RHFL by disguising

them as loans to entities

rectors of RHFL had issued

strong directives to stop such

lending practices and review

Although the board of di-

linked to him.

21 crore to Rs 25 crore have been levied on 24 entities. Also, the regulator barred RHFL from the securities market for six months and slapped a fine of Rs6 lakh on it.

An email sent to Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group company remained unanswered

After receiving multiple corporate loans regularly, complaints alleging diverthe company's management sion/siphoning of funds of ignored these orders. This RHFLtd, SEBI conducted an suggests a significant failure of governance, driven by investigation for the period of FY 2018-19 to ascertain certain KMPs under the inany regulatory violations. In fluence of Ambani. Given its probe, SEBI found that these circumstances, the Anil Ambani, with the help company RHFL itself should of RHFL's KMPs -- Amit not be held equally responsi-

ble as the individuals involved in the fraud. SEBI stated that Ambani

has used his position as 'chairperson of the ADA group' and his significant indirect shareholding in the holding company of RHFL to orchestrate the fraud.

In its 222-page order on Thursday SEBI noted the cavalier approach by the company's management and promoter in approving loans worth hundreds of crores to companies that had little to no assets, cash flow, net worth, or revenue. This suggests a sinister objective behind the 'loans'. The situation becomes even more suspicious when considering that many of these borrowers were closely linked to the promoters of RHFL.

Eventually, most of these borrowers failed to repay their loans, causing RHFL to default on its own debt obligations. This led to the company's resolution under the **RBI** Framework, leaving its public shareholders in a difficult position.

No bandh 27 from Jalgaon killed today in Nepal accident By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has called off its proposed bandh on Saturday following an order by the Bombay High Court. While the Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) have announced to call off the bandh the Congress has said that the workers will protest with black bands tied around their mouth across the state. The strike was called over sexual abuse of two minor girls in a

school in Badlapur. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday expressed disagreement with the Bombay High Court order restraining political parties from calling a bandh, but asserted the MVA has withdrawn its proposed shutdown.The former CM. whose party is a constituent

of the MVA, said he will also ioin the protest. "We don't agree with the High Court order on bandh," Thackeray said.

Earlier in the day, the HC restrained political parties or individuals from proceeding with a Maharashtra bandh over the sexual assault incident, on August 24 or any future date, saying such a protest will paralyse normal life. The NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Friday had appealed for withdrawal of the bandh. In a post on X, Pawar said he judiciary also needs to be respected.

Kathmandu/Mumbai: At least 27 people were killed and 16 others injured after tourist bus veered off the highway and fell 150 metres into the fast-flowing Marsyangdi River in central Nepal on Friday, authorities said. The deceased are from Bhusaval taluka in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.

The bus from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh was heading towards Nepal's capital Kathmandu from the resort town of Pokhara when it drove off the highway in Aaina Pahara in the Tanahun district. There were 43 people, including the driver and the co-driver in the bus.

The passengers onboard the bus were part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra in three buses two days ago for a 10-day tour of the Himalayan nation, MyRepublica news portal reported. After visiting Pokhara for two days, all three buses left for the capital Kathmandu on Friday morning.

Madhav Prasad Paudel, chief of the Armed Police Force (APF), Kurintar, said that most of the passengers travelling in the three buses were families and relatives.

"An Indian tourist bus travelling from Pokhara to Kathmandu with around 43



Indians fell 150 metres into Marshyandi River today,' the Embassy of India said in

a post on X. The mission is coordinating with local authorities undertaking relief and rescue

According to Deputy Superintendent of Police of the APF Shailendra Thapa, 14 bodies were retrieved from the crash site and 16 injured were rushed to a local hospital.

The bus that fell on the river bank has been badly damaged.

An MI 17 helicopter of the Nepal Army has left for the accident site at Anbu Khaireni in Tanahun district with a medical team for the rescue operation. MyRepublica reported.

The Gandaki Province Police Office, Pokhara, said

15 of those rescued can speak. Meanwhile, the Uttar

Pradesh government has sent an SDM to the incident site in Nepal where a bus carrying over 40 Indian passengers plunged into a river. An ADM has also been appointed to coordinate the

relief work. Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar in a press statement said, "As per media reports and further confirmed from the MEA Nepal Division, today at about 11:30 am, a bus with registration number - UP 53 FD 7623 carrying approx 41 passengers from Maharashtra, including the driver and one assistant, fell around 150 metres into river Marshyandi in Ambukhereni region in the Tanahu District of Nepal."

India says ready to play active role Ukraine, Russia need to engage Kyiv: Ukraine and Russia need to engage with each other to find a solution to

Zelenskyy's Instagram post a big hit

Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Instagram post with pictures of Narendra Modi became his most liked post on the social



A farmer runs with his bulls during the 'Nangrani' festival, the traditional bull racing event, in Ratnagiri.

ween them, india said on Friday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wideranging talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy here under the shadow of the raging war.

In the discussions, Modi reiterated the need for "practical engagement" between all stakeholders to develop an innovative solution that will help build broad acceptability and contribute towards peace and stability in the region. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the prime minister conveyed to Zelenskvy India's willingness to contribute in "all possible ways" to facilitate an early return of peace to Ukraine.



PM Narendra Modi being greeted by the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, Ukraine

It was a very detailed, open and in many ways constructive discussion, he said, adding the talks revolved around to some extent the military situation, on concerns like food and energy security, and on "conceivable pathways to peace".

The Ukrainian side wanted continued involvement of India with the

Global Peace summit, he said

> Jaishankar said there was also a discussion on what could be effective ways of taking the discussions forward.

"It is India's view that the two sides (Ukraine and Russia) need to engage with each other to find a solution," he said. The external affairs min-

media platform within a few hours of being uploaded on Friday.

Sources noted that Zelenskyy's most liked post had 7.8 lakh likes before his "Insta Collab" with Modi. His pictures with Modi received over 1 million likes within hours.

ister said the two leaders both of the ground situareiterated their readiness to continue cooperation to uphold principles of international law such as respect for territorial integrity and protect the sovereignty of states.

Modi also spoke about his discussions recently with President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Jaishankar said the

prime minister sought the president's assessment

tion as well as the diplomatic scenario and Zelenskyy spoke on both issues. The external affairs minister described Modi's visit to Kyiv as a "landmark" trip. The prime minister ar-

rived in Kyiv on a special train in the morning and he was received by the first deputy prime minister of Ukraine.

- PTI

School dropout's book now taught in universities

By K Praveen Kumar

Thiruvananthapuram: Dhanuja Kumari spends her days walking through the narrow streets of Ravi Nagar in Ambalamukku here, calling out to the residents: "Chechi, we've come to collect plastic waste."

Dressed in a green overcoat over a pale yellow churidar, she carries a plastic sack as she visits each doorstep.

At 48 years, Dhanuja looks much older with stress marks etched on her face, but she always wears a happy smile.

Dhanuja dropped out of school in the 9th standard when her parents married her off to a 19-year-old 'Chenda' (a famous Kerala percussion instrument) artist

She spent years living in Chengalchoola, a slum in Thiruvananthapuram, fac-

ing many struggles. But these challenges would later shape her journey as

a writer. She penned a book re-

counting her struggles as a slum dweller, and it is now part of the curriculum for BA students at Kannur University and MA students at Calicut University.

The book, "Chengalchoolayile Ente Jeevitham" ("My Life in Chengalchoola"), is now in its fifth

edition. "I am not an imaginative

writer. What I have written is what life gave me in Chengalchoola. I do not think it is literature, but my life," Dhanuja Kumari told PTI, sitting in her oneroom house in Rajaji Nagar, earlier known as Chengalchoola.

Her house is built using tin sheets erected on four rows of cement hollow bricks, with a roof made of similar tin sheets. The house has no win-

dows and has a small area for cooking and washing.

An automatic top-loading washing machine is the most expensive piece of equipment in her house.

Sitting on her queen cot, which occupies almost 90 per cent of the space in her one-room house, Dhanuja recalled how she became a

writer. "Our colony was notorious at that time, and we will be writing police petitions almost every day. They used to call me to write petitions, as I used to write them elaborately. That is what helped me sharpen my language," Dhanuja said, with a smiling face as always.

Dhanuja had a troubled childhood, with her parents quarrelling between them regularly.



"They had small issues, but sometimes they stopped seeing each other for a year or more. So they had sent me to a Christian convent, where I stayed and studied," she said, recalling that a practice the convent insisted all students follow was her introduction to writing.

"The convent teachers asked us to write down whatever we had done during the day in a small note-

book. The bad things we did and the good things we did. Those were my first writings," Dhanuja said.

She continued doing the same when she moved into the present single room house along with her husband at the age of 14.

"My husband was just 19, and we were not mature enough to run a family. There were so many problems, and the discrimina-

tion we faced on the basis

of caste and our life in the colony was too difficult to bear. I wrote all my pains, experiences, and little happiness we had in between," Dhanuja said.

As she grew up, she continued to be active in society and wanted people to have a different view of her colony and its people.

She fought fiercely for the rights of the colony people to have a dignified life.

"I used to tell everyone--the social workers, the researchers who visited our colony--that they were only interested in their study materials and not in our lives. I used to give public speeches. Hearing this, a noted writer, Vijila, prompted me to compile my writings as a book.'

She published the book when she was 38 years old, which was very well accepted by the readers, and the universities have now included it in their

curricula. Dhanuja is writing the second part of her book.

"This book again would be my experiences. I do not know how to write in the language of literature," Dhanuja said

Apart from newspapers and children's books, Dhanuja never got a chance to read Malayalam literature.

"I had no opportunity to get those books, and my language is still the language of a class 9 dropout," she said.

Now Dhanuja is heading a women's collective in Rajaji Nagar called 'Wings of Women', where they have their own library and engage in social activities.

Dhanuja, though now known to many as a writer, has no issues in her profession as a 'Haritha Karma Sena' worker, who collects

waste from houses "It is my profession, and

I do it with passion. It is my livelihood. There are different kinds of people, and their attitudes would also be different. I go to their houses as a worker, so I behave accordingly," Dhanuja said as she continuously

directed her team members at work.

Dhanuja, though happy that many now accept her as a writer, still believes that her caste and her upbringing may not let people treat her equally to other well-known writers in Malavalam.

"The most painful experience I had was when my

son Nidheesh was discriminated against, humiliated, and ousted from Kerala Kala Mandalam. They called him names and treated him very badly,' Dhanuja said.

MAHARASTHRA

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 **MUMBAI**

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constitutional responsibilities which they should abide

by," Saraf said. The court

asked Saraf what preven-

tive steps the government

has taken, and if any preventive arrests have been

Saraf said notices have

Advocates Jha and Sad-

They also cited the exam-

a lot of public property was

destroyed.Maharashtra

Congress president Nana

Patole on Friday said MVA

Nepal bus accident **Efforts on to bring back** survivors, says Fadnavis

By Correspondent

2

Mumbai: Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the passengers onboard the bus that fell 150 metres into a river in central Nepal were from Jalgaon district in the state as per preliminary information, and efforts are on to bring them back

In a post on X, Fadnavis condoled the deaths of 27 passengers and said the state government has communicated with the Indian embassy in Nepal.

The passengers are from Jalgaon. The district collector is in touch with the Maharajganj collector in Uttar Pradesh to bring back the victims and survivors,' he said. At least 14 people were killed and 16 others injured after an Indian tourist bus veered off a highway and fell 150 metres into the Marsyangdi river in central Nepal, authorities said.

The bus from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh was heading towards Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, from the resort town of Pokhara when it drove off the highway in Aaina Pahara in the Tanahun district. There were 43 people, including the driver and the co-



driver, in the bus with the registration number UP 53 FT 7623. Maharashtra Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Anil Patil said the state government is in touch with the relief commissioner of Uttar Pradesh and the Indian embassy in Kathmandu to bring back the victims and survivors of the accident.

Talking to PTI, Patil said, "It is reported that most passengers are from Jalgaon district. We are trying to confirm. We are in

touch with the relief commissioner of Uttar Pradesh and the Indian embassy in Nepal and have told them that the district collector will ensure the return of the victims and survivors." he said. Senior NCP (SP) leader Eknath Khadse said the passengers were part of a group of 80 people from Varangaon in Jalgaon who had travelled to Ayod-

hya four days ago. Talking to PTI, Khadse, who hails from the district, said he

visited the families of the victims and survivors. Khadse said the toll in the accident may rise to 30 as per information he received from authorities in Nepal.

Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar, in a press statement, said, "As per media reports and further confirmed from the MEA Nepal Division, today at about 11.30 am, a bus with registration number -UP 53 FD 7623 carrying approx 41 passengers from Maharashtra,

Eknath Khadse said his daughter-inlaw, Union Minister Raksha Khadse, will be travelling to Kathmandu as she has received permission from the PMO to oversee the return of survivors.

including the driver and one assistant, fell around 150 metres into river Marshyandi in Ambukhereni region in the Tanahu District of Nepal.

The statement added, "The UP government has sent SDM Maharajganj to the incident site. The MEA is coordinating the search and rescue operations with local authorities

As per MyRepublica, a news portal, the passengers were part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra in three buses two days ago for a 10-day tour.

HC restrains from calling for bandh

By Correspondent

Mumbai: he Bombay High Court on Friday restrained political parties or even individuals from calling for a Maharashtra bandh. The opposition Maha-

made. rashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance had called been issued to a few perfor a shut-down across the sons, but no arrests have state on August 24 to protest been made yet. against the alleged sexual assault of two kindergarten avarte pointed out a judggirls at a school in Badlapur ment of the Kerala High

Court which held that no in Thane district. A division bench of Chief political party can call for a Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and state-wide bandh, and an Justice Amit Borkar said HC has ample powers to inthe Maharashtra governtervene in such matters. ment shall take all necessary steps to prevent a ple of the Maratha reservation agitation during which

bandh. They would pass a detailed order shortly on two petitions filed on Friday through advocates Subhash Jha and Gunaratna Sadavarte challenging the call for bandh, the judges said. "We are restraining any political party and/or any individual from calling for a bandh. The state shall take all preventive steps," the HC said. State Advocate General Birendra Saraf told the court that the call for general strike was illegal.

"The state government will take all steps to ensure there is no damage or destruction of human lives or property. The state will do its duty but everyone has

leaders and workers will protest against the Mahayuti government with black flags and black band tied around their mouth at different locations in the state. "Respecting the court's view, we will peacefully protest against the government between 11 am and noon with black flags and black bands tied around our mouth," Patole said. He said the decision was taken after consulting NCP (SP) state

Girl commits suicide Palghar: An 18-year-old

tribal girl allegedly committed suicide in the hostel of a

president Jayant Patil and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray.

Ladki Bahin scheme Two women fall unconscious in Nandurbar

Mumbai: Two women fell unconscious in a stampede-like situation outside a nationalised bank, where more than 100 people gathered to submit docu-

ments for the Maharashtra government's "Majhi Ladki Bahin" scheme in Nandurbar district, police said on Friday. The incident occurred outside

a branch of the State Bank of India in Dhadgaon around 1 pm, an official said. More than 100 people, the majority of them women, had gath-

ered outside the bank since morning to furnish documents for the e-KYC process for the Majhi Ladki Bahin scheme, he said. A stampede-like situation ensued in the afternoon, and two women fell unconscious, the official said. The police rushed to the spot, and the women were sent for medical treatment, he said

said.

People had come from tribal villages, travelling around 20 to 30 kilometres to Dhadgaon, he

government-run ashram school in Palghar district. Shubhangi Pagi, a Class 10 student, was found hanging from the ceiling at the hostel in Sakur in Jawhar.

One booked for inflicting burns on toddler's body

Mumbai: Police in Maha- eyes. The child's parents

commits suicide Palghar: A man allegedly killed his three-and-halfyear-old daughter by mak-

Man kills

daughter,

(UBT)'s push for the opposition MVA to declare its chief ministerial candidate in Maharashtra, National-

The Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SP), along with the Pune: Amid Shiv Sena Congress, are part of the MVA, a state-level alliance

of opposition parties. Replying to a question on Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray insist ing on the MVA projecting a CM face before the assembly polls, while the Congress taking a different stand on the issue, Pawar maintained as far as his party was concerned, no one was interested in being projected as the candidate for the top post. "No one is interested (in being projected as CM face) from our party. No one is being projected from our party. We just want to bring a change in the government. We want to give a better administration to the people of the state by remaining on one page (with other MVA

allies)," he argued. Before the polls, Pawar asserted focus should be on providing an alternative to the ruling Mahayuti which consists of the BJP, the Shiv

None from NCP keen on CM face, says Pawar

Sena and the NCP. As far as I am con-

rashtra's Thane district have registered a case against the director of a private 'ashram' (shelter) for allegedly inflicting burns on the body of a two-and-a-half-year-old girl, an official said on Friday.

The alleged crime, committed between May and July, came to light after the toddler's grandmother recently met her at the shelter for children, managed by accused Datta Gaisamudhre.

The grandmother noticed burn-like wounds on her abdomen, back, behind the ears and near the

are beggars, the official said. On the grandmother's complaint, police sent the child to a government hospital where experts confirmed that she had been branded with a hot object.

The Bhoiwada police on Thursday booked Gaisamudhre under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) section 118(1) for voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means and under the Juvenile Justice (Care and

Protection of Children) Act, said senior inspector Ajay Afle. - **P**TT

ing ner consume rat poison and committed suicide over a dispute with his wife in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred at Mokhada on August 20, and the man died after battling for his life at a hospital on Thursday, an official said. The accused, Adhinath Rokde (34), worked with his wife at Chinchola in neighbouring Nashik district. The couple had frequent quarrels as the accused suspected his wife of having an affair, assistant inspector Premnath Dhole of the Mokhada police said.

ist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Friday insisted no one from his party was interested in getting projected for the top post and instead they were focused on effecting a change of government in the poll-bound state.

By Correspondent

He informed that seatsharing talks among Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents for the upcoming assembly polls were delayed due to the August 20 protest in Thane district's Badlapur over alleged sexual abuse of two minor girls in a school, and they will now be held on August 27.

cerned, I am out of question and that is why there was no need to raise this issue (of CM face) now. Today, people want an alternative and let's focus on how to give that alternative to them." contended the veteran politician who has served as Maharashtra CM multiple times.

Pawar said the MVA constituents should finalize seat-sharing at the earliest. He said a meeting to discuss seat allocation among the allies was postponed due to the Badlapur incident and it will now take place on August 27.



NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar with Kolhapur MP and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's descendent Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. Pic: PTI

PSI killed in hit-and-run

Nagpur: A 56-year-old police sub-inspector was killed in a hit-and-run accident in Sadar area of Nagpur, an official said on Friday.

The incident took place when PSI Deepak Chorpagar, attached to Dhantoli police station, was returning to his house in Godhni Road area late Thursday night, the official said.

"A speeding four-wheeler hit Chorpagar's motorcycle, leaving him severely injured. The driver fled from the scene. Passersby rushed the PSI to hospital where he was declared dead on ar-

rival," the Sadar police station official said. A case was registered un-

der section 106(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, while efforts are on to nab the offending driver. he said. - PTI

QUOTE OF THE DAY



Sharad Pawar, chief, NCP (SP)

"A home ministry official told me that the government has decided to give three persons Z plus security and I was one of them. I asked who the other two were. I was told RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Union home minister Amit Shah. Maybe since elections are approaching, this can be an arrangement to get authentic information (about me)."

Words in emails, posts lowering dignity of woman an offence, says HC

Mumbai : Written words, either through email or on social media, that could lower the dignity of a woman constitutes an offence, the Bombay High Court said while refusing to quash a case against a man.

A division bench of Justices A S Gadkari and Neela Gokhale dismissed the petition filed by a man seeking to quash the 2009 case lodged against him under section 509 (insulting the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code

The man had allegedly written offensive and insulting emails to the complainant who lives in the same south Mumbai society as he does.

The emails, as per the complainant, made comments on her character and were forwarded to several other society members too.

The man sought quashing of the FIR contending that, as per section 509, the word 'uttered' would only mean 'spoken words' and not words 'written' in an email or social media posts and so on.

The HC, however, dismissed his arguments observing courts must adopt a purposive approach of



interpretation.

"Advent of modern technology has opened up a wide spectrum of means to communicate an insult. When an e-mail containing objectionable content likely to outrage the modesty of a woman stares at her, can we permit the perpetrator to walk away undaunted, simply because the insult is written and not spoken," HC said.

Interpretation must correspond to societal transformations and reevaluate legal principles to ensure fairness, justice and equity, the HC said.

"As the society evolves, the interpretation of the law too must be evolved to address emerging challenges and promote social progress. The law is a dynamic entity capable of reflecting and adapting to a society's changing needs and values," the bench said, adding the word 'utterance' in the law must not be given a "pedantic interpretation".

"If such a narrow interpretation is accepted, many men will walk away, unhindered by consequences merely by shooting emails or using social media platforms to malign and insult a woman and outrage her modesty. Modern technology makes such manner of perpetrating the of-

fence verily real," it said. The bench said the contents of the emails are "undeniably defamatory and aimed to lower the image and reputation" of the complainant in the eves of society.

The court refused to quash the case. It, however, deleted the charges invoked against the man under IPC section 354 (assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage modesty). - PTI

Mumbai: The pensioners from the state government and semi government organizations have threatened to boycott assembly elections if their demands are not met. This was decided at their meeting on Wednesday.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public that RASHMI PRAFUL PATIL is an owner of Shop Ground Floor, BHARAT SMRUTI CHS. LTD., B. P. Road Bhayander (East), Tal. & Dist Thane 401105. The said shop was gifted to her by Gift Deed of dtdt. 25 Feb. 2021. The said shop is in her possession. She has applied to BHARAT SMRUTI CHS. LTD., for membership of the said shop and ner application is in consideration

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Woman, **HC order against** paramour kill her bandh slap for

By Correspondent

Nashik: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday said the Bombay High Court's order restraining any person or party from calling for a Maharashtra bandh over the Badlapur incident was a "slap" for the Opposition, and the government will implement the directive

The Opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi alliance of the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress has called for a bandh on Saturday.

But the high court, in a directive in response to petitions challenging the call for a general strike, restrained any person or political party from issuing such a call, and asked the state government to take preventive steps

Speaking at a gathering here to launch the `Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme, Shinde said the Badlapur incident --where two kindergarten girls were allegedly sexually assaulted in the school washroom "blot on was a

humanity. "It also impacted the hap-

piness we derived from transferring Rs 1500 in accounts of beneficiary women under the Laadki Bahin scheme. But, the Opposition



(UBT) chief Uddhav Thack-

eray by adding that some

people were so eager to get

the CM's post that they were

This was perverse, Shin-

Deputy Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis, in his

speech at the function, also

slammed the Opposition for

did not take a stand against

the Mamata Banerjee gov-

ernment over the rape and

murder of a woman doctor

in Kolkata. But here you are

calling for a bandh for your

"This is for politics. You

calling for a bandh.

indulging in such politics.

de said.

has been politicising the incident and maligning this scheme," he said.

Opposition: CM

The high court's order was "a slap across the Opposition's face", Shinde said, adding that his government will implement

the directive. The accused in the Badlapur case was booked under stringent provisions of law, and the government will seek capital punishment for him, the CM said. The Opposition is doing

politics but the government is committed to keep `bahin' (sisters/women) in the state safe. he said. The Opposition should

selfish interests," said Fadnavis, who also holds the not take people for granted, Home portfolio. the chief minister said, and

husband Thane: Police have ar-

rested a 25-year-old woman and her 23-year-old lover for killing her husband and dumping the body in a creek in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said on Friday.

While the body is yet to be traced, the Bhiwandi police on Thursday arrested the accused Anubhav Ramprakash Pandey and Radha Balram Mishra after gathering intelligence and technical inputs and speaking to the victim's family members, the official said.

According to the police, victim Balram, alias Shekar Laxman Mishra (27), lived with his wife Radha at Durgesh Park in Bhiwandi. But Radha maintained a romantic relationship with Anubhav, the official said.

Police said the accused killed Balram with sharp weapons on August 7 after which they packed his body in a bag and threw it in the Kasheli creek.

The Narpoli police had registered a case and launched a probe after the victim's family complained saying he had gone missing, said senior inspector Bharath Kamath. Anubhav and Radha

have been booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 103(1) for murder and 238 for causing the disappearance of evidence, the official added.

Withdraw cases against protesters

THE PERFECT VOICE

MUMBAI

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday demanded the withdrawal of cases against those who had protested in Badlapur against the alleged sexual abuse of two kindergarten girls, warning that the opposition would have to hit the streets if it is not done

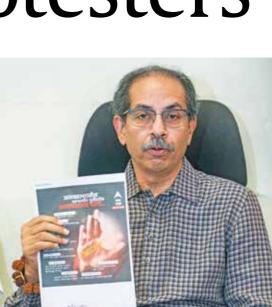
Thackeray said the August 24 'Maharashtra Bandh' called by the opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is not political but against "perversion" and urged people cutting across caste and religion to participate in it.

He claimed the bandh would be observed on behalf of the people of the state.

Slamming the Eknath Shinde government's action over the Badlapur protest, Thackeray said, "Arrests are still taking place in Badlapur. The cases against the protesters must be withdrawn or else we have to hit the streets.'

A massive protest rocked Badlapur town in Thane district on Tuesday after thousands of people hit the streets and spilled onto railway tracks to protest the alleged sexual assault of two four-year-old girls by a male

- **PTI** attendant at a local school.



words between Uddhav

Thackeray and Chief Min-

ister Eknath Shinde over

the protests in Badlapur.

While Shinde alleged that

the protest was politically

motivated as the protes-

tors were seen opposing

the state government's

scheme, Ladki Bahin. On

the other hand, Thacker-

ay refuted the allegation

saying the protest was

spontaneous and there

was no pollical motive be-

vandalised the school and

halted train movement for

more than 11 hours pressing

for their demand of stern

action in the sexual abuse

The angry protestors had

hind it

case.

At least 25 police personnel were injured in the incidents of stone-pelting at the railway station and other parts of Badlapur during the protest. Police have arrested 72 persons in connection with the violence during the stir.

The former chief minister said even the Bombay High Court, which has taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged sexual assault of the young girls in Badlapur, has slammed the government.

During a hearing on the matter on Thursday, the HC said, "Unless there is a strong public outburst, the machinery won't move.' There was a war of

Life of 17 year old saved

MUMBAI

Mumbai: Wockhardt Hospitals in Mira Road, saved the life of a 17-yearold college student who was diagnosed with Myasthenia crisis, a critical and potentially fatal variant of Myasthenia Gravis.

The young woman who had a history of symptoms including breathing difficulty, double vision, inability to swallow food, and weight loss of 30 kgs over 2 years. She would hardly eat a biscuit dipped in milk with great difficulty as her meal. She received effective treatment through IV Immunoglobulin therapy combined with steroids and immunosuppressants. resulting in her full recovery.

Dr Pavan Pai, a Consultant Interventional Neurologist and Dr Aklesh Tandekar a Head **Consultant Critical Care** at Wockhardt Hospital along with their team administered this treatment. Gavatri Suta. a resident of Mira-Bhayander presented with a 3-year-old history which began after the left eyelid style, after which she developed double vision as the first symptom. However, it recovered after some time. Two years ago, after the demise of her Father, her family shifted to Bikaner where she started having difficulty swallowing both liquids and solids which resulted in inadequate oral intake followed by weight loss of 30 kg in two years and inability to attend college for further studies.

THE PERFECT INTERVIEW Had police acted promptly, the outcome could have been very different

Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC), a statutory body established in 2001 to protect and promote human rights in the state has been on the front foot under the chairmanship Justice K.K. Tated, whose team has left no stone unturned to safeguard its mandate. Under his wings, the Commission has made significant strides in protecting and promoting human rights in Maharashtra. His initiatives like awareness programs, workshops, training sessions, internships and public outreach campaigns have set a precedent. At a time, when country is boiling over the ever-increasing rape cases, inept handlings of such cases by the police have added fuel to the fire. The Perfect Voice representative Anand Mishra, spoke to him on various issues with regards to human rights issues and its handling. Excerpts...

Recent incidents in Kolkata and Badlapur have highlighted not just the horrific crimes themselves, but also the police's unprofessional handling of these cases. What do you think are the reasons behind the police's frequent failures in managing such sensitive cases?

In the Badlapur case, the police waited for 8 to 10 hours before taking action. It is the responsibility of the police to respond immediately in such situations. Had they acted promptly, the outcome could have been very different. This highlights the urgent need for regular police sensitisation programs, which they are not paying heed into. Our Commission has written to top police officials, urging them to conduct workshops, seminars at regular intervals. Staff from the Commission can attend these sessions to explain the importance of human rights to the police force.

How would you assess the Maharashtra government's performance in protecting the human rights of its citizens? Are they doing enough?

When we issue summons or notices to officers, they generally respond promptly and file their replies within the stipulated time. The government complies with approximately 70-80 per cent of the advisories we issue, whether it involves paying compensation or following our directives and suggestions. This has happened despite the fact that we have taken suo motto cases with free hands. Our commission took only 5 cases in year



2021, then 197 cases in 2022, 212 cases in 2023 and 102 cases till July this vear.

Could you shed some light on the

receive 10 to 15 correspondences daily. This number has now increased to 250 to 300. We have been very proactive in addressing complaints and have been open to taking suo moto cases based on various media reports. Additionally, we have initiated training programs for students from different faculties, encouraging them to visit police stations, jails, and other institutions, and submit their reports.

How does the Commission manage to address human rights violations in the more remote areas of the state where access to news and reports is limited?

That is really a challenge for us. We don't have our presence or men or branches in the remotest part of the state, therefore, we feel difficulties to take suo motto cases from those areas. But when any complaint is filed from such places, we prioritize it and check its merit.

When you took charge of the commission, there were 32,000 pending cases. Now, that number has been reduced to under 7545 by the end of July 2024. What strategies or approaches did you employ to achieve this?

We chalked out a plan to hear the

cases in a time bound manner. Our team streamlined the case handling processes by introducing rigorous case tracking systems and ensuring that cases were prioritised based on their merit, urgency and impact. Collaboration and transparency within the commission, fostered a culture where all team members were actively involved in the resolution process. This proactive stance not only helped in addressing critical issues promptly but the number of pending cases has been reduced to less than 7.5 thousand.

Despite your repeated requests. the state government has yet to fill the vacancies in the Commission. How are you managing the workload with this shortage of staff? Yes, we are facing a severe manpower shortage, and we informed the government about this issue two years ago. Our role is to make them aware of our challenges, but it's ultimately up to the government to address them. Besides the shortage of personnel, we are also dealing with a lack of space. Only one-third of our staff is permanent, while the majority are on temporary contracts, which makes it difficult to hold anyone accountable for specific tasks or targets.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



Chandrashekhar Bawankule, President, Maharashtra BJP

"We would like them (Ghatge and Patil) to wait, but if they have already decided (to switch sides) then we can't stop them from leaving. There are many leaders from the MVA as well who will be coming to us from there. It does not mean they will get a ticket."

<u>Right backs Left in TISS</u> **ABVP opposes ban on student body PSF**

Mumbai: The RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad has come out in support of its ideological rival and Left-leaning student group at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) which has been banned by the premier deemed university. contending educational institutions should be bastions of free speech and democratic participation.

The ABVP said on Thursday that the "abrupt and irrational" banning of the student group risks causing significant unrest among such bodies.

suo moto cases that the commis-

sion has initiated under your

When I took over as Chairman in De-

cember 2021, the Commission used to

leadership?

Such a step could severely impact the integrity of future student council elections, a cornerstone of democratic process, noted the campus wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak



Sangh (RSS) On August 19, the TISS, a premier institute under the Union Ministry of Education, banned the Progressive Students Forum (PSF-TISS).

It said the PSF has been engaging in activities that obstruct the institute's function and defame it.

The TISS also warned any attempt by the PSF to organise or participate in unauthorised events will be met with "immediate intervention and consequences".

The PSF has had several run-ins with the TISS administration in the past.

believes educational institutions should be bastions of free speech and democratic participation. The presence of various student organisations is essential for fostering a healthy discourse and ensuring that the diverse views of the student community are represented.

The ABVP said it firmly

BUSINESS

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 **MUMBAI**

myperfectvoice@gmail.com 🔰 @my_perfectvoice WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

BRIEF aynes opens India, US ink two key deals

Kaynes opens electronics manufacturing facility

Kaynes Technology has inaugurated its electronics manufacturing facility in Hyderabad that will position the company at the forefront of this industry in India and globally. This facility is equipped with the latest manufacturing technologies, including high-precision electronic assembly, 3D optical and Artificial Intelligence enabled state of the art inspection systems, and lead-free/RoHScompliant processes. The plant will cater to various sectors such as industrial. automotive, medical electronics, aerospace, and telecommunications. underscoring Kaynes Technology's versatility and expertise.

Washington: India and the (MoD) shared in a post on X US have signed two key on Friday, along with some agreements as Defence Minister Rainath Singh began his official visit to Washington to further boost the comprehensive global strategic

countries

of Liaison Officers.

ment of Liaison Officers,"

the Ministry of Defence

photographs of the event. Singh arrived here on Thursday on a four-day visit to the US. The US and India entered

partnership between the two into a "bilateral, non-binding Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA)", the US The agreements signed on Thursday pertain to the Se-Department of Defence curity of Supplies Arrange-(DoD) said in a press release ment (SOSA) and a Memoon Thursday. randum of Agreement

Through this SOSA, the regarding the Assignment US and India agree to provide reciprocal priority sup-"Two important docuport for goods and services ments have been signed in that promote national de-Washington DC as Raksha fence. The Arrangement will enable both countries to Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh's visit to the United States acquire the industrial rebegins. Senior defence offisources they need from one another to resolve unanticicials from both sides concluded the Security of Suppated supply chain disruptions to meet national secuplies Arrangement (SOSA), and Memorandum of Agreerity needs, it said. ment regarding the Assign-The SOSA was signed by

Dr Vic Ramdass, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

According to a statement

"The government of Ma-

of Defence for Industrial Base Policy, on behalf of the US, and Samir Kumar Sinha. Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisitions), on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

"This Security of Supply Arrangement represents a pivotal moment in the US-India Major Defence Partner relationship and will be a key factor in strengthening the US-India Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)," said Ramdass.

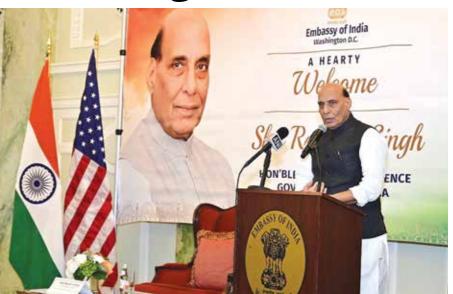
"I look forward to OUSD(A&S) hosting the next DTTI meeting this fall to deepen cooperation between our respective defence industrial bases and pursue bilateral co-development, co-production, and cosustainment initiatives," he said

In the Arrangement, the US and India commit to sup-

port one another's priority delivery requests for procurement of critical national defence resources.

The US will provide India assurances under the US Defence Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS), with programme determinations by DoD and rating authorisation by the Department of Commerce (DOC). India will in turn establish a government-industry Code of Conduct with its industrial base, where Indian firms will voluntarily agree to make every reasonable effort to provide the US priority support, the release said.

With an expanding global supply chain for DOD. SO-SAs are an important mechanism for DoD to strengthen interoperability with US defence trade partners. The Arrangements institute working groups, establish communication mecha-



nisms, streamline DoD processes, and proactively act to allay anticipated supply chain issues in peacetime, emergency, and armed conflict. They are also a useful tool in developing invest-

ment strategies to ensure redundancy and security, it said.

partner of the US. Other

SOSA partners include Aus-

tralia, Canada, Denmark,

India is the 18th SOSA

Estonia, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

Reliance,

-PTI

EaseMyTrip ropes in Jacqueline

EaseMyTrip has roped in Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez as its new brand ambassador to increase its brand presence by featuring her in campaigns to promote the company's diverse travel offerings. Through this partnership, EaseMyTrip will gain the visibility of Jacqeline's 70.5 million Instagram followers and millions of other fans across the country.

Sun Pharma launches drug for skin infections

Sun Pharmaceuticals has introduced Tedizolid Phosphate tablets 200 mg in India under the brand name Starizo for treatment of acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections. Sun has obtained rights from MSD to develop, manufacture and commercialise the drug in

issued by the organisers, Mumbai: Maharashtra the minister speaking on this occasion said. "Fintech minister for industries has revolutionized the fi-Uday Samant promised to roll out red carpet for pronancial services sector and jects of small and medium it has the potential to support MSMEs and startup businesses and startups at par with ultra mega prosectors. Our government jects, as the state looks to will fulfill the vision of the transform Mumbai into a Prime Minister to transglobal fintech hub. form Mumbai into a global Samant inaugurated an fintech hub".

exhibition at the 9th Global Economic Summit on 'Finharashtra will provide red tech: Accelerating the Digicarpet to MSME and starttal Revolution' organised up projects, at par with the by World Trade Center treatment given to ultra Mumbai and All India Asmega projects as micro, sociation of Industries small and medium enter-(AIAI) from August 8-10, prises are the pillars of our 2024 at WTC Mumbai. economy. If India aims to be

the USD 5 trillion economy in the next few years, Maharashtra will contribute significantly to this target with the goal of USD 1 trillion economy vision," he said.

He expressed the government's intention to revive sick industries, especially the MSME units in Maharashtra and he sought the support of WTC Mumbai and AIAI in this initiative.

"Given the large population, the sector witnessed rapid surge in the last five years, attracting significant investment and global attention; Our country is the world's 3rd largest fintech service provider with fin-



tech adoption of 87 per cent compared to the global average of 64 per cent. India received 15 per cent of global fintech funding," said V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India.

The digital lending market was valued at USD 270 billion in 2022 and it is expected to have reached USD 350 billion last year, Nageswaran added.

In her address, Nidhi Choudhari, CEO - Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Innovation Society said "Maharashtra has the maximum fintech startups in India, especially in Mumbai, which provides fertile ground for fintech startups

"Our Innovation society

Maharashtra's red carpet for MSMEs, startups Clarks terminate JV supports startups in gaining national and interna-New Delhi: The country's tional patents, quality certileading retailer Reliance fication; there are many Retail and British Shoe incubation centers in Mumbai and over 28 of them are maker Clarks have termisupported by us. We provide inated their two-year old grants of up to Rs 5 crore for joint venture, an industry incubation centers.' ource said.

In the incubation facilities, startups get seed capital grants and accelerator support.

"We have got two funds exclusively for startups Maharashtra Innovation and Transformation Capital with the support of IDBI Capital and another Rs 100 the support of the World Bank," Choudhari said.

partners have emerged regarding certain terms of engagements, following which they have decided to part ways, said the source. While an e-mail sent to Reliance Retail seeking comments remained unan-

Differences between both

swered by the time of filing crore fund with SIDBI with of the story, Clarks Global declined to comment on the development.

DGCA imposes 90 lakh penalty on AI

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has imposed a penalty of Rs 90 lakh on Air India for operating a flight with non-qualified crew members.

Besides, the watchdog has



post holders of the airline were provided an opportunity to explain their position through show cause notices issued on July 22.

The reply submitted by the concerned entities failed to provide satisfactory justi

By Correspondent

India. Skin and soft tissue infections are the most common type of infections constituting around 29-32% of all infections in 2018-2019 in India.

ICICI Bank in pact with Tata Power to lend for solar panels

Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) has joined hands with ICICI Bank to provide loans to finance the purchase of solar panels/ units for residential and corporate customers. Under this collaboration, ICICI Bank will offer tailored financial solutions with attractive interest rates, for the purchase of solar panels from TPSSL. Customers can avail of loans up to Rs 90 lakh with collateralfree options and tenure extending up to 5 years and avail higher amounts of loans with collaterals with tenures of up to 20 years.

Mumbai: The Mumbai Port on Friday launched several key projects and signed investment proposals worth Rs 4,000 crore in areas including sustainability and green fuel. The proposals along with several other initiatives are expected to generate 1.45 lakh person-days of employment, the port operator said

The Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in this regard were signed in the presence of Union Minister

Kannada actor and model Nisarga Gowda checks out handmade jewelleries during the inauguration of 'Artisans Bazar - Arts, Crafts and Handloom' exhibition, at Chitrakala Parishat in Bengaluru on Friday.

slapped lines of RS 6 lakn and Rs 3 lakh on Air India's Director of Operations and Director of Training, respectively, for the lapse.

In a release, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the pilot concerned has been warned to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences in future.

"Air India Ltd operated a flight commanded by a nontrainer line captain paired

with a non-line-released first officer which has been viewed by the regulator as a serious scheduling incident having significant safety ramifications." the release said.

After the incident came to its notice through a voluntary report submitted by the airline on July 10, the regulator investigated the operations of the carrier, including examination of

documentation and spot fication. As such, DGCA has check of the scheduling initiated enforcement action facility in terms of provisions of the

"Based on investigation, it extant rules/ regulations was prima facie revealed that there are deficiencies and multiple violations of the regulatory provisions by several post holders and staff, which could signifi-

lease said. DGCA also said the Training. flight's commander and the

cantly affect safety," the re-

and imposed the above penalty, the watchdog noted. For the violations, DGCA has imposed a fine of Rs 90 lakh on Air India, Rs 6 lakh on the airline's Director of

Operations and Rs 3 lakh on the carrier's Director of

-PTI

Mumbai Port signs projects worth Rs 4,000 cr

in a statement.

for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowalduring his visit to the port. One MoU was signed between Mumbai Port Authority, Mumbai Port Sustainability Foundation (MPSF) and HPCL for developing a green fuel ecosystem, while the other was between Det Norske Veritas and MPSF for collaboration on emission

management, decarbonisation, digitisation and safety in port and shipping operations.

The Norway-based DNV provides services related to quality management, risk assessment and sustainability. Sonowal earlier virtually inaugurated several key projects, including the launch of testing operations for the newly-constructed 3rd chem-

ical berth at Pir Pau jetty. The minister during his visit to the Mumbai Port also inaugurated an automation system and programmable logic controller (PLC) at the Marine Oil Terminal as well

as at the MPSF, among others

Sonowal also laid the foundation for the shore protection and reclamation project at Jawahar Dweep. Mumbai Port also said that it handed over land transfer documents for various leas-

ing agreements, including leasing of two plots to Mahanagar Gas Nigam Ltd. and two plots at Pir Pau to Aegis Logistics for liquid bulk storage.

MoCA.

Commission of Railway Safety shifts HQ

New Delhi: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has shifted the office of Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety from Lucknow to New Delhi. an official memorandum said.

According to sources, the decision has been taken to have better and efficient coordination with the various government departments and agencies.

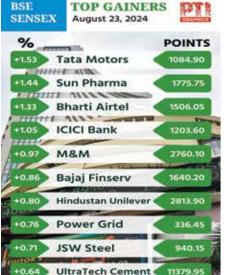
The Commission comes under the authority of the -PTI

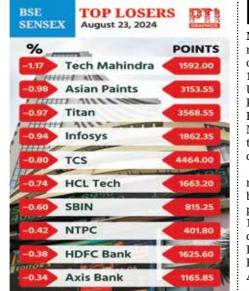
New Delhi: Beverages ma-2024, according to a compa jor Coca-Cola on Friday said ny statement. Before this, Singh was Greishma Singh has been

Coca-Cola gets new market head

Vice-President of Customer and Commercial Leadership (C&CL) for the INSWA Operating Unit.

Singh will succeed Arnab She has been with The Rov. who was recently Coca-Cola Company for over named the Global Category 15 years and held roles of President, Coca-Cola Trade across marketing, strategy mark. Her appointment will and C&CL in Australia and be effective September 1, India markets, it added.





Foxconn infuses 1,200 crore

New Delhi: Electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn has infused about Rs 1,200 crore -- approximately USD 144 million -- into its Karnataka-based Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd, the company said in a recent regulatory filing.

The iPhone contract manufacturer's Singaporebased arm Foxconn Singapore Pte has bought over 120.35 crore stocks of Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd at Rs 10 per share on August 21.

The Karnataka govern-

ment in a statement last week said Foxconn is planning to invest Rs 25,000 crore to establish a massive manufacturing plant near Dodda Ballapur that will create 40,000 jobs.

"The unit in Karnataka will soon become the second-largest Foxconn plant after China's unit. It will create 40,000 direct jobs, especially for middle-level educated individuals, and our investment will not stop here: in the future, we plan to explore other sectors also," Foxconn Chairman Young Liu was quoted as saying in the statement.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

appointed as the new market

head for India Southwest

Asia (INSWA) Operating

Unit.



Ashish Shah, Director, International Trade Centre, Geneva

"Mumbai has the

second fastest growing fintech ecosystem in the world and Mumbai is poised to become the global fintech hub. I am confident that the city will produce more fintech unicorns in the coming years."

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 MUMBAI

NATIONAL

Govind Mohan new

Doctor Murder and Rape Broken door bolt under CBI scanner



Social activists from Jharkhand protest at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor inside the hospital, in Kolkata on Friday

Kolkata: The CBI, probing the rape-murder of a woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital here, is concentrating on how the crime was executed without any hindrance in the facility's seminar hall where the door's tower bolt was found broken, an officer said.

CBI officials are also trying to find out if someone was stationed outside the

A special court in Kolkata on Friday allowed a polygraph test to be conducted on Sanjay Roy, the main accused in the rape and killing of a trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, officials said. The court has already given its nod to

conduct the lie-detection test on Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the medical college, and four other doctors who were on duty at the hospital in the intervening night of August 8-9, they said.

CCTV footage and a bluetooth device found near the medic's body resulted in the arrest of Roy, who was seen entering the seminar

Section 479

retrospectively

to apply

seminar hall to ensure that ing whether anyone was the crime went undisturbed, stationed outside to act as a he said, adding that the inguard while the crime was committed," a CBI officer vestigators are analysing CCTV footage to confirm it. told PTI Initial findings indicate The investigating officers

wondered why nobody could hear any sound from inside the seminar hall when the victim was being tortured

"The tower bolt was broon August 9. A doctor on ken, which caused the door duty reported seeing her to malfunction. We are probasleep inside the hall, the of-

ficer said.

"Interviews with doctors, interns, and junior doctors revealed that the door's malfunction had been a known issue, which prevented the victim from locking the door that night," he added.

On Friday, the agency continued questioning Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in connection with the case.

COURT ALLOWS POLYGRAPH TEST ACCUSED

that the door, due to the bro-

ken tower bolt, had been

malfunctioning for some

time. The victim entered the

hall between $2\,\mathrm{AM}\,\mathrm{and}\,3\,\mathrm{AM}$

hall of the college where the body was found. Roy (33) joined the Kolkata Police as a civic volunteer in 2019. Police have alleged that

he was married at least four times and was a known "womaniser" The accused, who is a trained boxer, got

close to a few senior police officers over the years, following which he was moved to the Kolkata Police Welfare Board and posted at the police outpost at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

A team of experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Delhi will

conduct the tests, the officials said. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is

also awaiting Roy's DNA and psychoanalysis reports, which will give further direction to its investigation, they said.

The CBI told the Supreme Court on Thursday that there was an attempt to cover up the rape and killing of the post-graduate medic by the local police as the crime scene was altered by the time the federal agency took over the probe

The rape and killing of the junior doctor in a seminar hall of the hospital has sparked widespread protests.

SC defers Kejriwal's plea New Delhi: The Supreme

Court on Friday deferred till September 5 hearing on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas seeking bail and challenging the arrest by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the CBI to file its counter affidavit in the matter and gave two days' time to Kejriwal to file a rejoinder.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said the CBI filed a counter affidavit in only one of the pleas and it was served upon them at 8 pm on Thursday.

ASG SV Raju said they will file the counter in another plea in one week. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing on September 5.

New Delhi: Senior IAS official Govind Mohan on Friday took charge as the Union home secretary following the retirement of incumbent Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

Mohan, a 1989-batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, was serving as Union culture secretary before being appointed as Union home secretary last week.

A B.Tech from Banaras Hindu University and PG Diploma from IIM, Ahmedabad, the senior bureaucrat has a wide experience of serving both the Sikkim and the central governments in various capacities.

Mohan is considered to be one of the brilliant officers presently serving in the government and known for his diligence

He had earlier served the fully launched two flagship



home ministry as addition-

al secretary handling sev-

A seasoned bureaucrat,

Mohan was also the govern-

ment's key officer during

the COVID-19 pandemic and

tasked with overseeing im-

plementation of decisions

taken for various protocols

As Union culture secre-

tary, Mohan has success-

gress are adamant. There

will be meetings today as

well and we will try to sort

out the rest of the seats so

as to announce our candi-

The former chief minis-

Asked when the party

ter of the erstwhile state of

J-K, however, refused to

been working for the last

ten years. So, why are you

after our lists, ask them."

share further details.

dates," he added

is no hurry.

and ensuring smooth coor

dination with states.

eral key divisions.

programmes of the Modi government -- 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Har Ghar Tiranga movement'.

The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence of the country and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

Hosting of the national flag in every home, 'Tiranga Yatras', 'Tiranga' rallies and 'Tiranga' runs are key initiatives under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga movement'.

After the launch of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga movement', job opportunities were created for thousands of women associated with self-help groups (SHGs), which have increasingly taken over flag production to meet the massive demand, officials said.

- PTI

NC-Cong seat-sharing almost final

Srinagar: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said seat-sharing arrangement with the Congress has been finalised for a majority of assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir, and that parleys were underway to reach consensus over the remaining constituencies. The NC and Congress on

Thursday announced a prepoll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which is going to polls for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"Consensus has been reached to a large extent. I can tell you that we have reached a consensus on the maximum seats out of the 90," Abdullah told reporters

in Kulgam district of south Kashmir

Abdullah, who is accompanying party's candidate from D H Pora constituency Sakina Itoo for filing of nomination, said discussions over the rest of the seats were going on and the alliance partners will soon finalise the seat-sharing arrangement.

"On few seats, we are adamant and on some others, the local leaders of the Con-

Shah slams Congress

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed the Congress for its alliance with the National Conference for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls, accusing the party of repeatedly risking the country's unity and security in its

while listing several of

the manifesto promises

of the regional party.

would announce its candigreed for power. dates for the rest of the The Congress has once seats going to polls in the again "exposed its ulterifirst phase, Omar said there or motives by allying with the Abdullah family's Na-"Which party has antional Conference," the nounced its candidates so BJP leader said on X and far? A party has cleverly posted 10 questions for named people as constituthe national party and its ency in-charges, our conleader Rahul Gandhi, stituency in-charges have

Jignesh Mevani evicted from Assembly



New Delhi: The Centre told the Supreme Court on Friday that the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023's section 479, which relates to the "maximum period for which undertrial prisoner can be detained", would apply retrospectively to undertrials across the country Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, told a bench of justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta that section 479 of the BNSS, which replaces section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, will apply to all undertrials irrespective of the fact that the crime is registered before July 1, 2024.The BNSS, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinivam came into affect on July 1, replacing the British-era Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code, and Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

Pramod Sawant has conveyed his government's concern to the Centre over airlines shifting their operations from the old international airport at Dabolim to

Panaii: Goa Chief Minister



Goa CM concerned over airlines cated around 50km in the

northern part of the state. Sawant also discussed various issues related to aviation operations at the Dabolim airport, which is part of an Indian Navy base,

it said.

Wife praises Modi, man pronounces talaq

Bahraich (UP): Police have

booked a man and seven

members of his family for

allegedly pronouncing tri-

ple talaq to her after she

praised Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and UP

Chief Minister Yogi Adity-

anath for the development

Earlier, he had also beat-

en her and hurled hot 'dal'

at her, Maryam alleged in

her complaint to police in

Bahraich where her par-

ents live. She said she had

praised the beautification

The family of the hus-

band, who lives in Ayodhya,

allegedly also tried to stran-

gle her on the day the man

pronounced instant triple

works in Ayodhya.

talaq.

of Ayodhya.

the new one in Mopa in Pernem taluka which became functional early last year.

Sawant raised the concern during a meeting with Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu in New Delhi, an official statement said here on Thursday

The statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Sawant, accompanied by his cabinet colleagues, including Mauvin Godinho (transport) and Rohan Khaunte (tourism). interacted with Naidu and

junior civil aviation miniscapital.

ter Murlidhar Mohol. The statement said the Civil aviation secretary CM raised concern over the Vumlunmang Vualnam and shifting of operations by Airports Authority of India airlines from the Dabolim (AAI) chairman M Suresh aerodrome in South Goa to the Manohar International were also present at the meeting in the national Airport (MIA) at Mopa, lo-

While the Dabolim aerodrome is a state-run facility, MIA is a greenfield project operated by GMR Goa Inter-

national Airport, a private

company. Union minister Naidu assured full support to Goa, a major tourist state, towards further strengthening and

incentivising the Dabolim airport, said the statement. There is no official figure on how many carriers have

moved operations to the new airport. - PTI

Gandhinagar: Gujarat Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani was evicted from the state assembly on the direction of Speaker Shankar Chaudhary for creating a ruckus and entering the well of the House during a debate on the last day of the monsoon session on Friday.

Mevani was escorted out of the assembly by sergeants without using any force after the Speaker or dered his eviction.

During a debate on drug seizures by Gujarat police, Mevani stood up and started shouting at treasury benches and challenged the BJP government to debate on other "burning" issues

such as rapes. Mevani, a working president of the Gujarat Congress, rushed towards the well and dared Minister of

State for Home Harsh Sanghavi to have a debate on live television on tragedies such as the Raikot game zone fire, Morbi bridge collapse and Vadodara boat capsize incident.

Despite repeated requests by the Speaker to maintain decorum, the MLA, while standing near his seat, kept demanding a debate and walked into the well, prompting the Speaker to evict him.

Condemning Mevani's behaviour, Chaudhary said the Congress MLA disrespected the Constitution through such acts.

BJP MLAs Ramanlal Vora, Jitu Vaghani and Minister Rushikesh Patel termed Mevani's behaviour "unacceptable" and said he was only interested in getting publicity.

Protests in Assam after minor's gang-rape

Guwahati: Massive protests were witnessed in Assam after a 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three persons in Nagaon district, police said on Friday.

The incident took place in Dhing area when the girl was returning home from her tuition on Thursday evening.

The minor was found in an unconscious state by the roadside and rescued by locals, who informed the police. She has been admitted to a hospital for treatment.

Two persons have been detained for interrogation and a search is underway for others, a police officer said. - PTI



QUOTE OF THE DAY



Mayawati, Chief, Bahujan Samaj Party

"It is very sad and worrying that the (BJP-led) Centre has not yet taken any concrete steps to restore the old system as per public expectations against the Supreme Court's decision of August 1, 2024, to implement the new rule of classification and creamy layer in SC/ST reservation."

Nani says Hema report 'alarming'

Mumbai: Telugu superstar Nani says the Hema Committee report on women's exploitation in Malayalam cinema is alarming and every single person working on movie sets has to set an example on how people are treated in the profession.

The 233-page report, perhaps the first such for any film industry in India, details the power nexus in the Malayalam cinema industry and lays bare the multiple levels of exploitation faced by women in it. In the aftermath of an as-



sault case on an actress involving actor Dileep in 2017, the Kerala government appointed a panel to study issues of sexual harassment and gender inequality.

"When I read this thing, it breaks my heart. But I don't see this happening on my sets or anywhere around me. I'm sure it's the same case with a lot of

mainstream films (as) everybody's working towards something very serious.

"There might have been something, but it never came to my notice on the location or everybody's a little careful around us. So, when I read something like this, I'm like, 'Where is this happening?'," Nani told PTI in an interview.

The actor, who is in the city to promote his upcoming film "Surya's Saturday", said, "Every single person has to set the right example of how it should be at the workplace or anywhere."

Nani, however, said the new generation of actors, wether men or women. come with a different attitude in the business and hopefully they will bring about a positive change.

"I see a lot of change in the next generation. When I see these young ladies or someone who's newly joining the cinema, they are not like the ones who have been around for 20 years. I'm seeing a lot more maturity, a lot more professionalism and I'm hopeful that things are going to get better from here," he said. - PTI

ECOLOGY

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 MUMBAI

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Prez concerned over space debris

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday voiced concern over increasing space debris as a result of numerous satellites being placed in orbit and lauded ISRO for setting itself a target to make future space missions debris free by 2030.

Murmu was speaking at the celebration of the maiden National Space Day celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 project.

'Space debris can cause problems for space missions," she said during the event at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi that was attended by Union minister Jitendra Singh, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath, engineers, ISRO scientists and representatives of the country's nascent space industry.

The president appreciated the ISRO System for Safe & Sustainable Operations Management facility, which ensures continuous progress of space research activities."I am also happy to note that India is moving forward to make all its space missions debris free by 2030," Murmu said.The president presented awards to winners of the Robotics Challenge and the Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon on the occasion.



President Droupadi Murmu presents a certificate to a winner during an event celebrating India's first National Space Day, in New Delhi. Pic: PTI

than a hundred satellites at

once, we have made many

The president said space

exploration had increased

the capabilities of human

beings and transformed im-

a challenging task. Re-

search conducted to solve

the problems during space

exploration accelerates the

development of science and

improves human life," she

said. The president said

many sectors, including

health and medicine, trans-

portation, security, energy,

environment and informa-

"But space exploration is

agination into reality.

impressive achievements,

Murmu said.

The president said ISRO had made remarkable achievements in the space sector as well as invaluable contributions to the country's social and economic development.She appreciated the dedicated scientists who placed India's space programme among the best

in the world by using minimum resources. Murmu also expressed confidence that the country would make continuous progress in space science and continue to set new standards of excellence. The president said the

progress of India's space sector was extraordinary. "Be it a successfully completed Mars mission with

WASTE TO BEST

tronic articles, gift items

tion technology, had benefited from developments in limited resources or the the space sector. successful launch of more

Rs 350 cr package for rain affected farmers

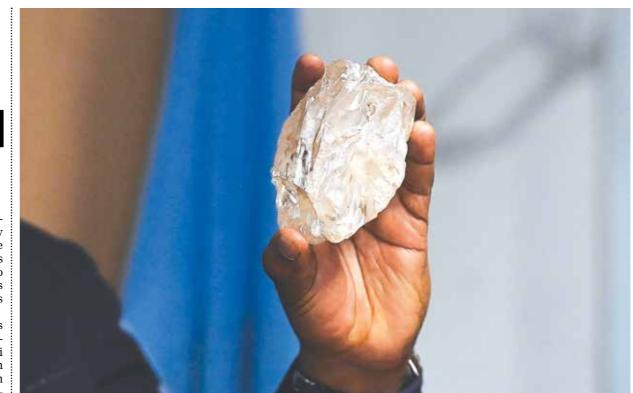
Gandhinagar: The Gujarat government on Friday announced a relief package of Rs 350 crore for farmers who suffered losses due to heavy rains in several parts of the state in July this vear.

The relief package was announced by state agriculture minister Raghavii Patel in the assembly on the last day of monsoon session after a loss assessment survey was carried out in 45 talukas of Junagadh. Porbandar. Devbhumi Dwarka, Rajkot, Anand, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari and Tapi districts.

Incessant and heavy rains were recorded in these nine districts between July 18 and 24, which resulted in damage to standing crops, horticulture produce and fruit trees such as mango on an area of nearly 4 lakh hectares, Patel said.

Under the relief package, farmers who lost 33 per cent or above of their total non-irrigated Kharif crop will get assistance of Rs 11,000 per hectare in the limit of two hectares, while the compensation will be Rs 22,000 per hectare, in the limit of two hectares, for damage to irrigated crops. For annual horticulture

crops, the government has fixed a compensation of Rs 22,000 per hectare in the limit of two hectares if the loss is equal or above 33 per cent. The compensation will be Rs 22,500 per hec-- PTI tare.



A person holds a 2,492-carat diamond, the largest diamond found in more than a century, in Gaborone, Botswana on Friday Pic: PTI

NASA on new Boeing capsule safety

Cape Canaveral: NASA said Thursday it will decide this weekend whether Boeing's new capsule is safe enough to return two astronauts from the International Space Station, where they've been waiting since

June. Administrator Bill Nelson and other top officials will meet Saturday. An announcement is expected from Houston once the meeting ends.

Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams launched aboard Boeing's Starliner on June 5. The test flight quickly encountered thruster failures and

helium leaks so serious that NASA kept the capsule parked at the station as enstation. gineers debated what to do.

SpaceX could retrieve



the astronauts, but that would keep them up there until next February. They were supposed to return after a week or so at the

If NASA decides SpaceX is the way to go, Starliner the U.S. Western desert. The results, including updated risk analyses, will factor into the final deci sion, NASA said.

Boeing said earlier this month that extensive testing of thrusters in space and on the ground demonstrated Starliner's ability to safely return the astronauts.

It was the company's first astronaut flight, delayed for years by a multitude of capsule problems. Two previous Starliner test flights had no one on board.

NASA hired Boeing and SpaceX a decade ago, after the space shuttles retired, to ferry its astronauts to and from the station. SpaceX has been at it since 2020.

- AP

Kumaraswamy hails CPSEs

view of the stunning natu-Bengaluru: As the counral phenomenon that has become a key tourism

"We just thought that it was the northern lights,"

try celebrated its first ever National Space Day commemorating the soft landing of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar

Where does all that trash come from? new fissure on the Rey-

large volume of waste.

Sunita had bought very

limited items and hence

she generated very little

waste. But she didn't dis-

pose it off in the dustbin.

Instead, she kept it think-

ing that it can be reused

repeatedly. Anita, on the

other hand, didn't even

bother to think and sort

out the things which could

be reused or at least could

be kept aside for some oth-

These two characters

that is discarded after pri-

mary use, or is worthless.

defective, and of no use. It

can also be described as

unwanted or unusable ma-

terial and is also known as

garbage or rubbish. Waste

can be either in the solid or

in the liquid form. More

mental expert. Views

personal)

- PTI

Grindavik: A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted Thursday evening for the

An Iceland volcano erupts again

sixth time since December, spewing red lava through a





e, the humans have been gener-ating the trash or waste or garbage since centuries. However, the volume, composition and the kind of waste in those days was such that it did not create any hazard for the environment or for human health. But in modern days, all over the globe, nature, composition and the volume of waste has been increasing day by day through various human activities. Let us try to understand how we end up in generating loads of waste at the individual, household level to begin with. Two friends Anita and Sunita went on a shopping spree in a localmall with lots of money in their wallets and in their bank accounts.

They both got lured at the dazzling array of commodities like clothing lines, cosmetics and beauty products, bags, footwear, elec-

and many more. Anita visited and bought several things from almost all the shops. Each item she purchased was neatly packed in a box that was further covered with a sparkling gift wrap. At the end of the day, Anita had a huge pile

of such large and small 'gift wrapped' cardboard boxes at her disposal. She couldn't have car-

ried those boxes in her er purpose. So she loaded hand. So obviously at the her dustbin with all this cash counter in every shop. trash whereas Sunita did she was generously given a not generate any trash at couple of plastic bags to all put those boxes in. In comparison, Sunita bought just are representatives of bila handful of articles very lions of such girls and thoughtfully according to boys, men and women all over the globe. People buy what exactly she needed to carry on her daily routine. things even though they They eventually reached are not much needed and home. Sunita had very litfinally end up in generating substantial amount of tle to unpack. So she decided to help Anita unpack trash. Technically, 'trash' her load. They started or 'waste' is any substance

opening the boxes one after another. Gift wraps were removed plastic wraps were removed and items were retrieved from the cardboard boxes. Next thing was to dispose off this 'unnecessary' packaging material. So, the gift wraps, accompanying plastics, card-

about this in the next article. boards everything went (The writer is an environinto dustbin. It is obvious that Anita generated a



kjanes Peninsula.

The eruption began shortly after 9 pm following a series of strong earthquakes and within the hour a 4-kilometre (2.4-mile) fissure cut through the Sundhnúkur crater.

Iceland authorities say the eruption's effects remain localised with road closures but do not threaten the population.

Halldór Björnsson, head of weather and climate at the Norwegian Meteorological Agency, told the Icelandic news portal Vísir, that



unlike previous eruptions, the lava flow is not heading for the town of Grindavik that was largely evacuated in December when the volcano came to life after being dormant for 800 years. Magnús Tuma Guðmundsson, a geophysicist, who flew over the eruption centers this evening told the website that "if this continues like

this, Grindavík is not in danger because of this. Of course, we don't know what will happen in the near future, but it is likely that this has reached its peak and then it will start to subside like the other eruptions."

As news of the eruption spread, hundreds of curious onlookers drove to nearby vantage points for a

said Mannoor All, visiting from Maryland in the US. "It's like the coolest thing I've seen in my whole life, honestly." Friends Ameerul Awalludin from Malaysia and Shohei Miyamito from Japan were with an Icelandic friend when they heard the news and quickly rushed to near the eruption.

would return to Earth emp-

a new computer model for

the Starliner thrusters and

how they might perform as

the capsule descends out of

orbit for a touchdown in

Engineers are evaluating

tv in September.

"We have like a volcano as well," said Miyamito, but "we cannot see lava like this." The eruption is not expected to impact air travel.

surface on Friday, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy recalled the contributions of four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) in making India's lunar mission a success.

"Four CPSEs under MHI-Instrumentation Ltd. (IL), FCRI, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), and Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT)-supplied essential products that were integral to the success of

- AP 🗄 Chandrayaan-3."

Improved reservoir levels across India

New Delhi: The overall water-storage levels across the country's major reservoirs have improved significantly compared to last year but certain areas, particularly in the northern region, are facing lowerthan-normal storage levels, which could impact water availability in the coming months, according to official data

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has released its latest report on the live storage status of 155 reservoirs across India, revealing that the overall water-storage levels have improved significantly compared to last year.

According to the bulletin released on Friday, the live storage available in these reservoirs is 130.800 billion cubic metres (BCM), which is 72 per cent of the total live storage capacity.

However, the report also notes that certain areas, particularly in the northern region, are facing lower-than-normal storage levels, which could impact water availability in the coming months. This marks a notable in-

crease from the 114.657 BCM recorded during the same period last year, indicating that the current storage is 114 per cent of last year's level and 112 per cent of the average storage over the last 10 years.

The report highlights regional variations in waterstorage levels, with some areas experiencing better storage than others. In the northern region, which includes Himachal Pradesh. Punjab and Rajasthan, the storage levels are below normal, with reservoirs holding only 53 per cent of their capacity.

This is a significant drop from the 84 per cent recorded last year.

Conversely, the southern region, covering states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. shows a more positive trend, with reservoirs at 80 per cent capacity, a substantial improvement from the 52 per cent recorded during the corresponding period last year.



The eastern region, comprising states such as Assam, West Bengal and Bihar, also reported an increase in the water-storage levels. The reservoirs in this region are currently at 60 per cent capacity, a marked improvement from the 43 per cent recorded last year. Similarly, the western region, which includes Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa. has seen an increase in the storage lev-

els, with reservoirs now at 74 per cent capacity, up from 69 per cent last year. In the central region, which includes Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the reservoirs are currently holding 76 per cent of their total capacity, reflecting a moderate improvement from the 73 per cent recorded during the same period last vear.

This region's storage is

also higher than the 10year average, which stood at 68 per cent.

The CWC report concludes that the overall storage position across the country is better than both last year and the 10-year average, which is a positive sign for water availability in various sectors, including agriculture, hydroelectric power generation and drinking water supply.

- PTI

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THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 MUMBAI

GLOBAL

Cash-strapped Pakistan seeks USD 4 bn loan

By Sajjad Hussain

Islamabad: Cash-strapped Pakistan is in talks with banks in the Middle East to borrow approximately USD 4 billion to meet its external financial commitments for the current fiscal year. as part of the USD 7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) currently pending for IMF's approval.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team had a virtual meeting with Dr Adnan Chilwan, Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank, on Thursday, the Dawn newspaper reported on Friday.

On Wednesday, a similar

interaction was held with mate, about USD 4 billion is Mashreq Bank President and targeted to be arranged Group CEO Ahmed Abdethrough foreign commercial laal. Both meetings had been borrowing during the curarranged to "discuss the ecorent fiscal year and another nomic outlook and explore USD 1 billion in internationinvestment opportunities in al bonds Pakistan"

Separately, The Express For the current fiscal year. Tribune newspaper reported Pakistan has pitched about that Pakistan begins seeking USD 20 billion in foreign borcommercial loans from Middle Eastern banks to bridge rowing in the budget, besides another USD 3 billion rollothe external financing gap, ver from the UAE that was as the IMF indefinitely postreported separately for the poned the approval of a USD balance of payments. With 7 billion EFF this week after Islamabad failed to secure this much borrowing, Pakithe additional USD 2 billion stan's reserves are estimated to grow to about USD 19-20 in financing and the rollover billion by the end of the curof USD 12 billion in cash derent fiscal year. posits from Saudi Arabia. China, and the UAE.

Of the USD 20 billion esti-

The finance minister now hopes that the IMF may approve the new EFF next month.

Pakistan has also intensified its engagement with foreign commercial banks. though high financing costs and a low credit rating from international agencies remain significant hurdles.

Pakistan's current credit rating stands at CCC+, which is below investment grade, leading to higher interest rate demands from commercial banks

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) briefed the Senate Standing Committee on Economic Affairs about Pakistan's engagements with the IMF since 1958.

Qader Bakhsh, an executive from the SBP, informed the parliamentary forum that Pakistan's last Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF had an average interest rate of 5.1 per cent, making it a costly deal. He also noted that the new IMF loan is expected to carry similar rates unless global interest rates decline.

explained. The IMF interest rate is determined by the Special The SBP official further Drawing Rights (SDR) basdetailed that if a country

borrows more than 187.5 per ket price, plus a 1% base rate and two additional surcent of its IMF quota, a 2 per cent surcharge applies. Adcharges linked to loan volditionally, a 1 per cent sur-

ume and duration, he

charge is levied if the bor-

rowing period exceeds three vears. he said. Traditionally, lending by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the

IMF was considered afford-

able. However, due to Pakistan's increasing borrowing needs and limited capacity to sustain such debt, the WB and ADB have also raised their interest rates. -PTI

Israel's orders have displaced 90 per cent of Gaza residents

Jerusalem: Successive Israeli evacuation orders in Gaza, including 12 just in August, have displaced 90 per cent of its 2.1 million residents since the Israel-Hamas war began in October, the top UN humanitarian official for the Palestinian territory says.

US Vice President Kamala Harris says she and President Joe Biden are working to end the war in Gaza, where the International Rescue Committee says the polio virus has been circulating for the first time in a quarter-century because of the destruction of hospitals and water infrastructure, along with overcrowded living conditions.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Office says a delegation from the

country has arrived in Cairo to resume efforts to salvage a cease-fire deal. The talks are being mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar. A crucial sticking point involves Israel's demand for lasting control over two strategic corridors in Gaza.

The war began on October 7, when Hamas and other militants stormed Israel,



were militants or civilians.



Jerusalem: The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital received the bodies, including the remains of a woman and three children, after strikes overnight and into Thursday. An Associated Press reporter at the hospital counted the bodies.

A man held the body of a child wrapped in a white shroud as a woman next to him wept, saying: "My love, my soul."

The Israeli offensive launched in response to Hamas' October 7 attack has killed over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the local Health Ministry, which does not say how many were militants or civilians.

Hamas and other militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7 attack and abducted around 250. Around 110 hostages are still inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

The Israeli military says it has killed over 17,000 fighters, without providing evidence. It blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militants fight in dense, residential areas

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to broker a cease-fire deal and hostage release but major gaps remain.

Dutch leader bans phones fearing espionage

The Hague (Netherlands): The new Dutch prime minister has banned cell phones and other mobile devices from the weekly meetings of his Cabinet in a move aimed at dialling back the risk of digital eavesdropping by spies.

"The threat of espionage is timeless. Electronic devices, a telephone, iPad, are all little microphones and countries are interested in decision-making also in the Netherlands and you want to prevent that. It's a very simple measure — all the phones in a safe," Dick Schoof, a former head of the national intelligence agency, told reporters on Friday.

Phones were not banned under Schoof's predecessor, Mark Rutte.

Singapore starts screening passengers

By Gurdip Singh

Singapore: Temperature and visual screening will be carried out at Changi and Seletar airports from Friday onwards as a precautionary measure against mpox, after one confirmed case of a potentially more serious variant each was reported in Sweden and Thailand.

The Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Transport and Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said they will enhance Singapore's surveillance capabilities against the infectious disease at the borders

Similar screening measures will also be implemented at sea checkpoints for crew and passengers arriving on ships from mpox-affected areas, reported The Straits Times. The MOH said that

while there are no direct flights between Singapore and any country with an mpox outbreak, there will be temperature and visual screening at Changi and Seletar airports for inbound travellers and crew arriving on flights from places that may be exposed to outbreak of the viral disease

Health advisories have also been put in place at air checkpoints, so that travellers will take the necessary personal precautions to avoid being infected.

Travellers are strongly advised to follow the advisory, especially if they are travelling to and from affected countries. Those found to have fever, rash and/or symptoms compatible with Mpox will be referred for medical assessment.

-PTI

Hasina's diplomatic passport revoked Dhaka: Bangladesh's inter-

India to gift four BHISM cubes to Ukraine

Security stepped up at NATO air base

Berlin: Security at a NATO

im government has revoked ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's diplomatic passport along with all members of the former Cabinet. over two weeks after she resigned and fled to India following a student-led uprising against her government.

A statement by the Security Services Division of the Home Affairs Ministry on Thursday said diplomatic passports received by the former prime minister, ex-PM's advisors, ex-cabinet members and all members of the recently dissolved Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) and their spouses would be revoked immediately, the official BSS news agency reported.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin in August dissolved the 12th Parliament after Hasina, 76, fled the country. Currently, an interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus is running the country. Diplomatic passports of the officials would also be revoked immediately upon termination of their tenure or appointment, it said.



New Delhi: India has decided to gift four Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISHM) cubes, a mobile hospital aimed at providing emergency medical care, to Ukraine, officials on Friday noted

Under the umbrella of Project Aarogya Maitri, a programme to provide essential medical supplies to developing countries as humanitarian assistance, the government has created the

said.

BHISHM initiative, which provides the means to deliver all basic facilities and equipment for providing emergency medical care in an easy to use and rapidly deployable manner, they The decision to gift four

such cubes to Ukraine was taken prior to the visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ukraine, which is locked in a protracted war with Russia.

The mobile hospital is

made through packing all essential medicines and equipment in cubical boxes (15 inches each) in a wellorganised manner, and arranged according to the types of injuries and medical issues that could be encountered in a war or natural disaster.

They said these mini cubes are then positioned on a framework that is adjustable, strong and permits multi-mode transport (by air, sea, land and drone). In fact, the mini cubes can be carried by a person as their maximum weight is 20 kg.

One cube, the officials said, has the ability to handle about 200 cases of diverse nature in emergency situations such as trauma, bleeding. burns, fractures, shock, apart from managing initial triage and classification.

It also has the ability to support basic surgeries and can also generate its own power and oxygen in limited amounts and duration, they added.

air base in western Germany has been raised because of intelligence information pointing to a "potential threat," and all staff not essential to missions have been sent home as a precaution, NATO said

The Geilenkirchen air base, near the border with the Netherlands, is where the alliance's Airborne Warning and Control System, or AWACS, aircraft are based.

A post on the NATO AWACS fleet's account on social media network X late Thursday night announcing that "we raised the security level" did not elaborate on the nature of the potential threat. It said that "operations continue as planned.'

German news agency dpa said a reporter saw police cars on the grounds of the air base. Police confirmed a deployment Thursday night but gave no details, and offered no information on Friday

-PTI morning.



Promise to be president for all Americans: Kamala

People watch Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speak during Democratic National Convention on the big screen at Soldier Field on Thursday. Pic: PT

watching tonight. And I

want you to know: I promise

to be a president for all

unites us around our high-

est aspirations. A president

who leads -- and listens. Who

is realistic. Practical. And

has common sense. And al-

ways fights for the Ameri-

"I will be a president who

Americans...,' she said.

Chicago: Promising that she will be a president who unites the people of the country, Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday said that the upcoming presin the excerpts of her nomiidential election is a chance nation acceptance speech to chart a new way forward, Thursday night. "I know there are people not as members of any one party or faction, but as of various political views

Harris, 59, is the first ever Indian-American and Black woman to be nominated as presidential candidate of the either Democratic or Republican parties.

Americans.

"With this election, our nation has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past. A can people. From the courthouse to the White House, chance to chart a new way forward. Not as members of that has been my life's any one party or faction, but work," Harris said. as Americans." Harris said Recalling an incident

when she was in high school, Harris said she started to notice something about her best friend Wanda. "She was sad at school. And there were times she didn't want to go home," said the vice president.

"So, one day, I asked if everything was alright. And she confided in me that she was being sexually abused by her step-father. And I immediately told her she had to come stay with us. And she did," she said. -PTI

QUOTE OF THE DAY



Vivek Ramaswamy, leader, Republican Party, US

"She's a cog in the wheel, she's a puppet. The reality is she's staying away from policy because the more she talks about policy, the less popular she becomes and that I think is the winning strategy for our side."

'Desi President': Indian-Americans launch website for Kamala

By Lalit K Jha

Chicago: Electrified by the fact that someone among their community has become the Democratic presidential candidate, a group of enthusiastic Indian-Americans have launched a new website – DesiPresident.com, with the tagline 'Kamala Ke Saath".

Harris, 59, is of mixed parentage; her mother immigrated to the United States from Chennai and her father moved to the country from Jamaica. "The coming months are



filled with excitement and promise as we rally together to make history. Your

participation and enthusiasm are key to our success. and we can't wait to embark on this journey with you," the website said.

The Desi President, a project of the Indian American Impact Fund, has launched a T-shirt with the tagline "Kamala Ke Saath: Vote Kamala", which has become an instant hit on social media platforms.

Among other activities, the group is organising a weekly virtual phone bank "Kamala Ke Saath" to canvass voters and supporters over the phone. A T-shirt was presented to Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi by the

This is not for the first time that a Hindi slogan is used by a presidential campaign. In the 2016 elections, the Trump campaign had used the slogan "Ab Ki Baar Trump Sarkaar". "The Indian American Impact Fund supports Ka-

Indian American Impact

Fund at an event this week.

mala Devi Harris for President. We're mobilizing South Asian voters to help elect the first Indian-American president. Kamala Harris stands for our values and communities," it said. -PTI



OPINION

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 MUMBAI

tional financial networks.

Achieving this goal will require

substantial investment in digital

infrastructure and regulatory

frameworks. With BRICS offer-

ing an alternative to the U.S. dol-

lar and the SWIFT network, it is

challenging the status quo and

asserting its economic independ-

ence. The system's impact on

global trade and finance is im-

mense, particularly as more

countries seek to join the bloc

and adopt its new financial ar-

chitecture. However, the success

of the BRICS payment system

will depend on several factors,

including the readiness of mem-

ber states to implement the system, the integration of new

members, and the ability of the

NDB to support the bloc's broad-

cisions made by BRICS leaders

will have far-reaching implica-

tions for the global economy. If

successful, the BRICS payment

system could pave the way for a

more diversified and resilient

financial landscape, reducing

the dominance of the U.S. dollar

In the coming months, the de-

EDITORIAL An Overdue Partnership

The visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Poland, the first in 45 years, signals a potential deepening of Indo-Polish ties and a move towards a strategic partnership.

In the Nehruvian era, Polish economists like Oskar Lange had enormously influenced India's first PM. However, since the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Poland has looked towards China when engaging with Asia, while India has traditionally focused on the Western European capitals.But a shift in global dynamics—exacerbated by Brexit, the pandemic, the ongoing Sino-American rivalry and the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war— has now opened a unique opportunity for Warsaw and New Delhi to redefine their relationship. This would not only accelerate cooperation but also enhance Poland's influence within the broader European Union-India strategic partnership, first established in 2004, shortly after Poland's accession to the EU.

To build this partnership, Poland must prioritize several key areas. Increasing the resources of its embassy in New Delhi and opening additional consulates in South India would be a necessary first step. Additionally, boosting the budget for public diplomacy and cultural exchange programs would help foster deeper understanding and stronger ties between the two nations.

Poland's approach to this partnership should be pragmatic and mutually beneficial. Military equipment, food supplies, and other products in demand in India would likely form the basis of increased trade. There are tremendous opportunities for both nations in research and development, green technologies, and the agri-food sector. Both nations could benefit from closer cooperation in security, defense, IT infrastructure, and even aviation, where Poland's aspirations to become a central European air hub could align with India's growing passenger traffic.

India's historical ties with the Soviet Union have long influenced its foreign policy. Throughout the Cold War, New Delhi maintained a careful neutrality, refusing to be drawn into the geopolitical tussles of the time. Over the years, India became heavily reliant on Russian military hardware—a legacy that continues to this day. Despite increasing defence ties with the West, it will take at least a decade for India to wean itself off Russian supplies. Poland must navigate this complex relationship delicately, encouraging India to align more closely with the democratic world while understanding its historical ties to Moscow. As India seeks to expand its global influence, Poland will probably advocate for New Delhi to take a more assertive stance on international issues, such as Russia's actions in Ukraine. Poland's support for India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council is another area where collaboration could be fruitful.

Will BRICS payment system end Dollar dominance?



Kaswar Klasra

The BRICS alliance comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—has been increasingly proactive in pursuing collective

The BRICS payment system, set to be a key topic at the October 2024 Summit in Kazan, aims to challenge U.S. dollar dominance and enhance financial sovereignty. With over 159 countries interested, it could significantly impact global finance, though the success depends on effective implementation and integration of new members.

economic goals. Its new payment system has been designed to operate independently of the U.S. dollar and the SWIFT network. With interest from over 159 countries, it marks a major step towards de-dollarization and financial sovereignty, with a broad global impact.

Elvira Nabiullina, Russia's Central Bank Governor, has emphasized the system's potential as an alternative to SWIFT with ongoing discussions to integrate it with similar platforms in other countries

The BRICS payment system will be a key topic at the BRICS 2024 Summit in October in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan. Viktoria Panova, head of Russia's BRICS Presidency Council, highlighted its role in enhancing cooperation among BRICS nations and supporting a multipolar financial order.

The BRICS payment system could quickly benefit the bloc, especially as more nations join, strengthening the bloc's economic influence and reducing global reliance on the U.S. dollar. The drive for de-dollarization gained momentum after Western sanctions were imposed on Russia, highlighting the vulnerability of relying on the dollar and SWIFT. By promoting local currencies and alternative settlement methods, BRICS aims to insulate itself from similar economic pressures in the future.

The BRICS payment system, a viable alternative to SWIFT and modelled after Russia's System for Transmitting Financial Messages (SPFS) is the key component of this strategy. BRICS Bridge, the payment platform transaction will be in the national currencies of the member states, with the New Development Bank (NDB) acting as a platform for integration, conver-

sion, and clearing.

This system supports the bloc's de-dollarization agenda by enabling member states to make settlements in local currencies, reduce exposure to Western economic sanctions, and enhance their financial sovereignty. Developing countries in the Global South, vulnerable to dollar fluctuations and U.S. monetary policy will benefit significantly.

Over 30 countries are interested in joining BRICS, but integrating new members presents opportunities and challenges. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has emphasised the need for careful deliberation on accession modalities. The summit in Kazan will likely address these issues and the implications for the alliance's long-term goals. As Jim O'Neill, the economist who originally coined the term "BRICs," has pointed out, BRICS expansion should follow clear criteria to maintain the bloc's cohesion and effectiveness.

The bank, which has already welcomed Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, and Egypt, must now determine how to integrate new members into its operations. As the NDB evolves, its effectiveness in supporting BRICS' goals of de-dollarization and sustainable development will be closely examined. The NDB, an alternative to institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, plays a critical role in the BRICS economic agenda. It has focused on funding infrastructure and sustainable development but faced scrutiny over its low profile and limited investments.

As BRICS advances its dedollarization strategy, the NDB will serve as its central hub, facilitating transactions and inte-



gration across member states. Additionally, the NDB will promote the use of local currencies, reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar.

However, the NDB faces significant challenges. Scholars like Gregory T. Chin have expressed concerns about the bank's governance and agenda, questioning whether it has fulfilled the original vision of its founders. As the NDB seeks to expand, it must also address these concerns by adopting a more proactive and ambitious approach to its operations.

As the global economy becomes increasingly digital, BRICS must navigate the complexities of digital markets and establish a regulatory framework for digitalization, particularly for antitrust regulation and consumer protection. The digital economy offers BRICS opportunities for growth and efficiency but also presents regulatory challenges, especially in fair competition. Balancing innovation and regulation will be crucial for advancing the digital economy.

economy. and giving rise to a new global financial order. ogies, the BRICS payment system could facilitate faster and more secure transactions, reducing the bloc's reliance on tradi-

er economic goals.





Devendra Fadnavis emerges as the strategic game-changer

BY INVITATION

"Consequences of putting Trump back in White House are extremely serious"

United States Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday night accepted her the Democratic Party's nomination for the post of the President at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The 59-year-old, who is of Indian and African heritage, became the second woman to do so for her party after former first lady Hillary Clinton.

Here are the excerpts of her speech.

On behalf of the people, on behalf of every American, regardless of party, race, gender or the language your grandmother speaks, on behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey on behalf of Americans, like the people I grew up with, people who work hard, chase their dreams and look out for one another, on behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest na-



tion on earth, I accept your nomination the United States.

Our nation with this election has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past. A chance to chart a new way forward. Not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans.

I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations. A president who leads -- and listens. Who is realistic, Practical and has common sense. And always fights for the American people. From the courthouse to the White House, that has been my life's work.

In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man, but the consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the White House are extremely serious. Donald Trump tried to throw away your votes. When he failed, he sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol where they assaulted law enforcement officers. When politicians in his own party begged him to call off the mob and send help, he did the opposite. He fanned the flames. He was found guilty of fraud by a jury of everyday Americans, and separately found liable for committing sexual abuse. America, the path that led me here in recent weeks was no doubt unexpected. But I'm no stranger to unlikely journeys.

Instead, he fights for himself and his billionaire friends. He will give them another round of tax breaks that will add five trillion dollars to the national debt.



Anoop Raghav

In the election season all eyes are turning towards Maharashtra, where the political landscape is intensifying as the state eagerly awaits its own Assembly election dates. Maharashtra's elections are expected to be a litmus test for the ruling and opposition alliances, reflecting broader trends that may shape the national political narrative leading up to the general elections. The outcome of these elections is likely to hinge on several factors, with infrastructure and development emerging

Maharashtra's political landscape is heating up as the state anticipates its upcoming Assembly elections. The contest between the ruling Mahayuti Alliance and the opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi is intensifying, with infrastructure and development emerging as key issues. Devendra Fadnavis's leadership and influence remain central to the state's electoral dynamics.

as critical determinants for the key players.

A central figure in Maharashtra's infrastructure transformation has been former Chief Minister and current Deputy Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis. During his first term, Fadnavis faced several challenges as his government encountered criticism on multiple issues, particularly regarding farmer distress, rising unemployment, and insufficient relief efforts during severe droughts. However, despite these hurdles. Fadnavis was instrumental in reshaping the state's infrastructure landscape. He is credited with not only initiating and advancing major projects like expressways, highways, and metro systems but also with establishing a dedicated office to track and expedite these developments. His office focused on both large-scale projects and urban infrastructure, reflecting his commitment to comprehensive state development.

Under Fadnavis's leadership, key infrastructure projects such as the coastal road, the trans-harbour link, and the metro network have been fasttracked. His efforts were pivotal in reviving the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), a project dormant for over five decades, and advancing the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor, India's first high-speed rail project. Additionally, he played a crucial role in garnering support for the Versova-Virar Sea Link and overcoming challenges related to the Mumbai Metro Line 3.

"Fadnavis model of governance" turned Maharashtra into an investment hub, attracting both domestic and international business through initiatives like the "Magnetic Maharashtra Summit" and "Make in Maharashtra." These efforts, combined with youth-centric policies like the "Skill Development Mission" and the "Startup Policy," boosted economic growth and job creation.Fadnavis's strategic approach has left a lasting impact, with the current government continuing to follow the blueprint he established. This dedication to adcornerstone of his leadership and has solidified his position as a towering figure in Maharashtra politics.

Recent attacks from Uddhav Thackeray highlight Fadnavis's growing influence and the opposition's recognition of him as a major threat. His growing influence has prompted calculated moves by opponents who fear his popularity and effectiveness as a mass leader. His strategic actions and grassroots mobilisation have been pivotal in shaping the BJP's success in Maharashtra, especially since 2014 when the party, under his leadership, won 122 seats in the assembly elections.

During Eknath Shinde's swearingin as Maharashtra's Chief Minister in June 2022, Devendra Fadnavis initially stated that he would not be part of the new administration. Nevertheless, following a directive from the central leadership and in the interest of maintaining party unity, Fadnavis agreed to serve as Deputy Chief Minister. His decision to abide by the party's decision, despite facing personal and political challenges, underscores his deep commitment to the party and its broader goals. Fadnavis's sense of responsibility and loyalty to the BJP has been evident in his efforts to stabilise the newly formed Mahayuti government and redirect the state's development agenda, which had stalled during the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi administration.

Both the RSS and the BJP's central leadership believe that, if the BJP is to win the upcoming assembly election, Fadnavis remains central to the party's strategy. His leadership, popularity, and organisational skills are seen as crucial assets as the BJP prepares for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections. Projecting Fadnavis as the face of the party— the "Vikas Purush" is considered essential for navigating the challenges ahead and regaining power in the state.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Mumbai. Views personal)

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THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 MUMBAI









- 1. A soldier salutes to the fallen as they commemorate the 66th anniversary of deadly attack by China on Kinmen Island, Taiwan on Friday.
- 2. Indian Army personnel evacuate people from a flood affected area during their rescue operation in Tripura.
- 3 A vehicle moves through a flooded road after heavy downpour, in New Delhi on Friday.
- 4. A woman police personnel checks candidates as they arrive at a centre to appear in Police Constables Recruitment Examinations, in Meerut on Friday.
- 5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a visit to 'Martyrologist' Exposition to honour the memory of children, in Kyiv, Ukrain on Friday.



9



POLITICS AND PROSE

Russo-Ukraine: Endless War and Identity Struggles

EXPLAINER Why Bangladesh floods



Value of the second word war in the second word war in 1945 – has now taken on the nature of the fictional endless war described in George Orwell's 1984.

The Russo-Ukrainian conflict has destroyed the European security structure built since the Helsinki Accords of 1975. While the Ukrainian resistance and the advance into Russian territory has surprised the West, fundamental questions persist: What made this war of aggression possible and what made the Ukrainians resist as they did and are continuing to do? What differentiates Ukrainians from Russians?

To grasp the origins of the conflict, one should begin with historian Serhii Plokhy's *The Gates of Europe and The Russo-Ukrainian War* — both exemplars of clarity and conciseness.

Plokhy presents the longue durée

Serhii Plokhy's superb The Russo-Ukrainian War shows how the current conflict is a continuation of a prolonged struggle over identity, sovereignty, and territorial control in the region. history of Ukraine from Herodotus to the fall of the USSR and the current conflict. Located at the western edge of the Eurasian steppe, Ukraine has been a gateway to Europe for many centuries, being a meeting place and a battleground of empires - Roman, Habsburg, Ottoman.

He emphasizes Ukraine's pivotal role in global history: The disintegration of the Soviet Unionin December 1991 was precipitated by the Ukrainian referendum on independence.

The ongoing conflict is not just a contemporary geopolitical struggle but one deeply rooted in history, particularly the contentious legacy of 'Kyivan Rus', a medieval polity founded by the Grand Prince Volodymyr (958-1015), a Scandinavian Viking.

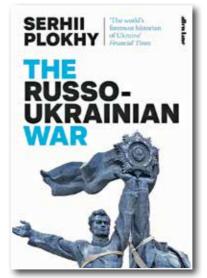
As Plokhy observes, most Russians believe that their nation originated in Kyiv, the centre of the medieval Kyivan Rus' polity, that encompassed most of today's

Ukraine, Belarus, and European Russia. Kyivan Rus' existed between the 10th and mid-13th centuries before disintegrating under the Mongol storm.

Volodymyr's Christianization of Kyivan Rus' (cited by Putin as the Russian world's founding moment) culturally connected the region to Byzantium and Eastern Christianity, underpinning Russian claims to Ukrainian land for centuries.

In a 2021 essay, Putin fixated on foreign interference in Russian history, yet ironically, Volodymyr himself was a Scandinavian Viking who imposed Christianity on the Slavs.

The Kyivan Rus' myth originated in the mid-15th century, with Ivan III of Moscow asserting his dynasty's Kyivan roots to legitimize his conquest of Novgorod. Ivan's victory marked the rise of an independent, authoritarian Russian state inherited by his grandson, Ivan IV ('The Terrible') who was defeated in the Livonian War (1558-83) by a coalition including Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, and Denmark. Moscow was captured by the Poles and their al-



lies, the Ukrainian Cossacks.

During this time, Muscovy separated itself from Kyiv and the Ukrainian lands both politically and in religious terms with Muscovites no longer regarding Kyivans as fellow Orthodox believers, claiming that they had been 'corrupted' by the rule of Catholic kings and becoming open to the West.

In 1648, Ukrainians, led by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, sought Russian Tsar's aid against the Poles, reviving the myth of the Kyivan heritage to protect Orthodox Cossacks from Polish Catholics. But the incorporation of the Ukrainian Cossack state into Moscow again sparked Cossack resistance in 1708, when Hetman Ivan Mazepa allied with Sweden's Charles XII against

Tsar Peter 'The Great' only to be defeated at Poltava in 1709. At the time of the 1991 referendum, neither Gorbachev nor Yeltsin had imagined the Soviet Union without Ukraine, its second-largest republic and a key element of Russian history and mythology.

Plokhy masterfully illustrates how Ukraine's past has been manipulated by Russian leaders to justify territorial claims, making the conflict a continuation of centuriesold tensions rather than a modern anomaly.

sparked tensions with India?

The recent floods in Bangladesh, which hit more than 1.5 million and caused five deaths, have reignited tensions between the country and India, particularly concerning the release of water from the Gumti River which flows through both nations. As floodwaters submerged large areas of Bangladesh, a wave of misinformation circulated, blaming India for exacerbating the crisis.

All Picture PTI AP

The India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) provided a detailed clarification to set the record straight.

According to the MEA, the flooding in Bangladesh was primarily caused by unusually heavy rainfall in the catchment areas downstream of the Dumbur dam, which is located in Tripura, India. The Gumti River, which originates in Tripura and flows into Bangladesh, has witnessed its heaviest rains of the year over the past few days. The MEA emphasized that the Dumbur dam, situated over 120 kilometers upstream from the Bangladesh border, is not directly responsible for the flooding. The dam, which is relatively low in height, plays a crucial role in generating power and supplies 40 MW to Bangladesh, a fact that underscores its importance to both countries.

Along the 120-kilometer stretch of the Gumti River between the Dumbur dam and the Bangladesh border, there are three water-level observation sites-Amarpur, Sonamura, and Sonamura 2. These stations monitor water levels and provide real-time data to Bangladesh as part of a bilateral protocol. This data-sharing arrangement is designed to help both countries manage the risks associated with heavy rainfall and potential flooding. However, recent heavy rainfall in Tripura, beginning on August 21, has led to automatic releases of water from the dam, contributing to the rising water levels downstream.

The Indian ministry also highlighted the challenges posed by ongoing communication disruptions, primarily due to power outages, which have complicated the transmission of flood data to Bangladesh. Despite these difficulties, India has continued to share critical information with its neighbour, reaffirming its commitment to cooperation and transparency in managing shared water resources.

This situation underscores the complexities of managing transboundary rivers, particularly in a region where monsoons are becoming increasingly unpredictable.

As climate change intensifies, such challenges are likely to become more frequent, necessitating even closer collaboration between the two nations to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on their populations.



THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 MUMBAI

Tirop's Angels

% UBS

WANYONYI runs **4TH FASTEST 800 meters** all-time had not trained in the previous

SPORTS

Lausanne (Switzerland): Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi ran the fourth-fastest 800 meters time in history Thursday at the first major track meet after the Paris Games

10

Wanyonyi clocked 1 minute, 41.11 seconds — 0.08 faster than his winning time in Paris two weeks ago — to tie Wilson Kipketer's mark in 1997 that was a world record then. Only Wanyonyi's fellow Kenyan David Rudisha has run the 800 faster.

"I'm so happy to have run that crazy time here in Lausanne," Wanyonyi said. "I really loved the crowd here.

It was a fast early start to the storied Athletissima meet as the global Diamond League circuit resumed after a pause for the Olympics.

Jakob Ingebrigtsen regained his authority in the men's 1,500 — after a shocking fourth place in Paris – to beat Olympic champion Cole Hocker by more than two seconds.

In the men's 200, Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo kept his form despite a return trip home to Botswana to win in 19.64 seconds easing into the line.

"It was a great race for me here today," said the 21-year-old Tebogo, who said on the eve of the race he week

Tebogo still finished 0.14 ahead of Errivon Knighton, who placed fourth in Paris. Noah Lyles, who took bronze in 200 in Paris after becoming the Olympic champion at 100, skipped the Swiss meet.

The standout performance was by the 20-year-old Wanyonyi, who surged past Marco Arop on the back straight and finished 0.61 clear of the Olympic silver medalist from Canada.

Wanyonyi was 0.20 off Rudisha's world record of 1:40.91 set winning the first of his back-to-back Olympic titles in 2012 in London.

Ingebrigtsen's winning time of 3:27.83 was a meet record in Lausanne though still would have been fast enough only for fourth place at the Olympics.

"For me, a lot of it has been mental including going home, taking some easy days and then getting back to work," said Ingebrigtsen, who did win Olympic gold in the 5,000. "Tonight's race gave me good answers.

Hocker acknowledged it had been "a new challenge being announced as Olympic champion," though the American's 3:29.85 time

was second fastest in his career behind his 3:27.65 in Paris.

women's 100 clocking her season-best time of 10.88. That would have won a bronze medal in Paris where the British star failed to make the final.

"After the Olympics I took some time to refocus and now I'm just enjoying running, feeling fit and injury free," Asher-Smith said.

Olympic champions Yaroslava Mahuchikh in women's high jump and Miltiadis Tentoglou in men's long jump both took repeat wins.



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Rising from the debris

Club thrower Pranav Soorma eyes Paralympic glory

By Saumojyoti S Choudhury

New Delhi: It's not often that a person paralysed by a life-altering accident would describe that tragedy as a "blessing in disguise" or "an opportunity" to carve an identity. But then soon-to-be-Paralympian Pranav Soorbuilt ma is different.

> He was 16 when the roof of his house fell on him in 2011, leaving him a quadriplegic. Restricted to a wheelchair,

the Faridabadbased para-athlete couldn't have been faulted if he turned bitter with life but to everyone's surprise, he felt the

tragedy gave him a sense of purpose. "I was always a sports enthusiast but never took

sports as a career option but I always wanted to do something worthy in my life and the irony is I got it after I got paralysed. I treat it as a blessing in disguise," Soorma, who is also a banker by profession, told PTI in an interview.

Soorma is the reigning Asian Paralympics champion in men's club throw F51 event with an Asian Games record of 30.01m. Little surprise then that he is being seen as a bright medal prospect for India at the upcoming Paris Paralympics, to be held from August 28 to September 8

portunity to create my own identity," he said. "After 2016 Rio Paralym-

pics I got to know about para-sports. In 2018, I read a lot about para-sports. I got to know about para swimming but given my medical condition it was not possible, table tennis also I liked but I didn't get a good coach to train

me," said the 29-year-old, a commerce graduate from the prestigious Delhi School of Economics. "Then came Narsi Ram

sir (a para-athletics coach) in my life. He introduced me to athletics and finally I took up club throw.'

He is currently working as an assistant manager in Bank of Baroda, a job which he got after cracking the competitive exam.

Club throw is an event where the objective is to throw a wooden club as far as possible. It is the para equivalent of the hammer throw in which participants rely on the shoulders and arms to generate the power required for the throw.

The event is one of the four throwing events, along with discus, javelin and shot put of the Summer Paralympics.

- PTI

AIG Women's Open Aditi, Diksha struggle on opening day

Monsoon Pickleball **Championship Duong, DeHeart set** up summit clash

ship here on Sunday.

Mumbai: USA's Quong Duong defeated India's Armaan Bhatia 2-0 to set up the men's singles summit clash vith compatriot Ryler De

DeHeart beat headliner

Lausanne: Star Indian javelin thrower Neerai Chopra finished second in the Diamond League here after producing a season's best effort of 89.49m from his last attempt in a gritty perfor Heart at the secoond Monmance despite lingering fitsoon Pickleball Championness concerns

Neeraj finishes second Peters of Grenada won the event with a monster throw of 90.61m in the second round while Julian Weber of

Germany took the third spot with 87.08m.



Dina Asher-Smith won the



St. Andrews (Scotland): Indian golfers Diksha Dagar and Aditi Ashok made crucial birdies on their final holes to keep alive their chances of making the cut after the first round of the AIG Women's Open.

Aditi carded a 4-over 76 to be T-79 while Diksha was 5-over 77, sitting at T-100 as play ended late on the opening day which was marred by strong winds.

The cut looked likely at 3-over or 4-over after the second round.

For a long time, Diksha's

score on the board showed a birdie on Par-514th, which was later corrected and it was shown as 5-over.

Aditi opened with two pars and then had a bogey on 12th and a double on 13th for 3-over first nine. She dropped further shots on first and second to go 5-over before the birdie on ninth made it 4-over for the day. Diksha, T-21 last year at Walton Heath, was 5-over

for her first nine holes, the back nine of the Old Course with bogeys on 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17.

Jay DeVilliers of France 2-0 in the other semifinal on Friday. Britain's Thaddea Lock and Chinese Taipei's Pei Chuan Kao will fight it it out

in the women's singles event. Thaddea defeated Emilia Shmidt in a closely-contested 2-1 semifinal, while Pei Chuan Kao beat Nicola 2-0. Jason Tailore, Yeong Ding Hwang and KuochiungWen. Hsieh Yu, Shourya K/Samaira Sippy won the gold respectively in the men's singles 30+, mixed doubles 50+, women's singles 30+ and

mixed intermediate doubles. - PTI

The 26-year-old was at the fourth spot till the fourth round before sending his spear to 85.58m in his fifth attempt. He saved the best for the last and his final attempt measured 89.49m on Thursday, a marginal improvement on the 89.45m achieved in the Paris Olympics a few days ago.

He was in danger of missing the sixth throw but his fifth round effort of 85.58m saved him. Only the top three after five rounds get their respective final attempts.

Two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze-medallist Anderson

- PTI

The feeling wasn't great at first, but I am happy with my throw, especially the second (career) best throw on my last attempt. It was a tough start, but the comeback was really nice and I enjoyed the fighting spirit I showed," Chopra said after the event

"Even though my early throws were around 80-83m, I pushed hard in the last two attempts finishing strong. Competing at this high level, it's important to stay mentally tough and fight through."

Peters, who had struggled to find form last year, led the competition here from beginning to end and he stamped his class with the 90m-plus throw in the last

DIAMOND LEAGUE

round. He has a personal best of 93.07m achieved in 2022.

With seven points from Thursday's second-place finish, Chopra is joint third alongside Weber in Dia-

mond League standings with 15 points. Peters jumped to top spot with 21 points.

Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, who finished seventh (82.03m) on Thursday, is in second spot with 16 points.

Nursing a long-standing groin injury, Chopra claimed a silver in the Paris

Olympics on August 8 adding to his historic gold in the Tokyo edition of the Games three years ago.

Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlejch in the winnertakes-all Diamond League final in Eugene, USA, last year. Chopra is yet to win a DL meeting this year. - PTI

Byeong Hun An, of South Korea, hits from the bunker on the first hole during the first round of the BMW Championship golf event at Castle Pines Golf Club on Thursday.

Sometimes you need a little bit of luck: Dravid

Rahul Dravid acknowledged that sometimes a little bit of luck can heavily impact the outcome of big matches, citing India's heartbreaking defeat in the ODI World Cup final to Australia and his side's sensational triumph from a precarious position against South Africa in the T20 World Cup final.

India had stormed into the ODI World Cup final last year with a 10-match winning streak but when the tournament's best team bumped into Australia in the title clash, nothing worked. Six months later, skipper

Rohit Sharma and Dravid combined to complete the unfinished business. A formidable South Africa stood between them and the trophy but the luck smiled on them.

ICC plans fund for Tests

Sydney: The International Cricket Council (ICC) is mulling a dedicated fund of at least USD 15 million for Test cricket that will help increase the players' match fee and address the migration of talent to lucrative T20 franchise leagues.

The initiative, which was was proposed by Cricket Australia (CA), has the support of BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, who is the front-runner to become the next ICC Chairman, and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), a report in 'The Sydney Morning Herald' stated. The fund would increase the minimum match payment for Test players and cover the cost of sending teams on overseas tours. It would support national boards like the West Indies that currently struggle to compete with the wages offered in global T20 competitions.

"The fund would ensure a



minimum Test payment for all players, thought to be USD 10,000, and pay the costs of overseas tours for struggling countries," the report stated.

"It's fantastic to see some momentum behind the Test match fund," CA chairman Mike Baird, who floated the concept in January, said.

"We need to take away the barriers and encourage Test cricket to be the best of the best. To retain that history and that legacy, which goes

alongside the newer forms of white ball cricket," he added.

The fund is unlikely to benefit the three wealthiest cricket nations -- India, Australia, and England -- since they already offer substantial salaries to their players.

However, how much money is available for Test cricket from the ICC is also likely to depend on a dispute with broadcaster Star, the report added.

Mumbai: The legendary