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# The Statesman

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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



SEEKING LIGHT,  
DISPELLING  
DARKNESS IN B'DESH

P7



SC TO HEAR K  
KAVITHA'S BAIL  
PLEA ON MONDAY

P4



J&K L-G: DELIMITATION,  
ASSEMBLY POLLS  
AND THEN STATEHOOD

P5



VINESH DESERVES  
SILVER: GANGULY

P12

## WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain / thundershower very likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 32 °C and 27 °C respectively.

RAINFALL: 3.5 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY  
Max. 94 % Min. 80%

TEMPERATURE  
Max: 31.1 °C (-1.3) Min: 27.0 °C (+0.2)

SUN RISES  
05:11 hrs 18:12 hrs

MOON RISES  
10:42 hrs 22:7 hrs

Full Moon on 19 August

## THUMBNAILS



Vehicles drive through the waterlogged Subhash Chowk following heavy rainfall, in Gurugram on Sunday. ■ ANI



**RG Kar Hospital superintendent removed:** The medical superintendent of R G Kar Hospital was removed from his position on Sunday, days after a female post graduate trainee doctor was raped and murdered while on duty at the hospital. According to sources, the hospital superintendent, Dr. Sanjay Vasishth has been replaced by Dr. Bulbul Mukhopadhyay, who is the dean of the hospital and also a member of the 11-member inquiry committee formed to investigate the rape and murder. Reports also indicate that under pressure from the agitating doctors, the principal of the teaching hospital, Dr Sandip Ghosh, is likely to be transferred to the Calcutta National Medical College Hospital. (Page 3)

# SEBI chief Buch counters Hindenburg allegations

Dismisses allegations as an attempt at 'character assassination' after show-cause notice

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Amid the controversy surrounding a fresh Hindenburg report, which alleges investments by SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in funds related to Gautam Adani, the couple on Sunday dismissed the allegation as an attempt at "character assassination" following SEBI's recent enforcement action and show cause notice issued to the US-based short seller.

"It is unfortunate that Hindenburg Research, against whom SEBI has taken enforcement action and issued a show cause notice, has chosen to attempt character assassination in response," the Buchs stated in a joint statement.

In a report released late Saturday, Hindenburg Research, citing whistleblower documents, alleged that Madhabi Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch had "hidden stakes in the exact same obscure off-shore Bermuda and Mauritius funds, found in the same complex nested structure, used by Vinod Adani". The Buchs, in the statement issued in response, claimed that their finances are transparent and have been consistently disclosed to the relevant authorities. They expressed their willingness to provide any additional financial documents if requested. "Our lives and finances are an open book. All required



## SEBI advises investors to exercise caution

MUMBAI, 11 AUGUST

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has urged investors to conduct thorough research before acting on the basis of the fresh Hindenburg Research report.

"Investors should remain calm and exercise due diligence before reacting to such reports. Investors may also like to take note of the disclaimer in the report that states that readers should assume that Hindenburg Research may have short positions in the securities covered in the report," a SEBI statement said.

SEBI also refuted the charges made by the US-based short seller and said the allegations made against the Adani Group have been duly investigated by SEBI. It said investigation into 23 of 24 cases is complete and one is close to completion. AGENCIES

were both private citizens living in Singapore and almost 2 years before Madhabi joined SEBI as a Whole Time Member. The decision to invest in this fund was because the Chief Investment Officer, Anil Ahuja, is Dhaval's childhood friend from school and IIT Delhi and, being an ex-employee of Citibank, JP Morgan and 3i Group plc, had many decades of strong investing career." As confirmed by Anil Ahuja, at no point in time

did the fund invest in any bond, equity, or derivative of any Adani group company... the statement reads. "When Mr Ahuja left his position as CIO of the fund in 2018, we redeemed the investment in that fund," the release stated. The release also addressed Dhaval's appointment as Senior Adviser to Blackstone Private Equity in 2019. The couple clarified that this role was due to Dhaval's expertise in supply

## Cong president renews JPC demand, calls it imperative

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said here on Sunday that a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is imperative to investigate this "massive scandal" in the wake of Hindenburg Research report against Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

Stating that the small and medium investors belonging to the middle class who invest their hard-earned money in the stock market need to be protected, as they believe in the SEBI, he said: "A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry is imperative to investigate this massive scandal. "Until then, concerns

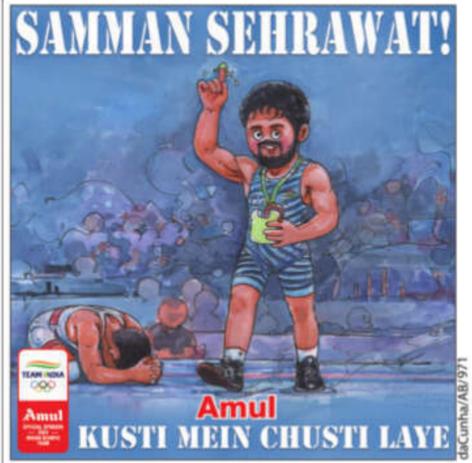
chain management and was publicly known long before Madhabi became SEBI Chairperson. "On his appointment, the Blackstone Group was immediately added to Madhabi's recusal list maintained with SEBI," the statement said.

The Adani Group also strongly rejected the latest allegations made by Hindenburg Research, terming them "recycling of discredited claims". (See also Page 8)



persist that PM Modi will continue to shield his ally, compromising India's Constitutional institutions, painstakingly built over seven decades," Mr Kharge, who is also the leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said.

Former Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said: "The integrity of SEBI, the securities regulator entrusted with safeguarding the wealth of small retail investors, has been gravely compromised by the allegations against its Chairperson."



## Mamata urges Odisha CM to ensure safety of Bengal migrant workers



**West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Sunday spoke to Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi over allegations that several Bengali migrant workers living in Odisha have been assaulted, sources at the state administrative headquarters, Nabanna, said.**

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 AUGUST

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today spoke to Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi over allegations that several Bengali migrant workers living in Odisha have been assaulted in the neighbouring state, sources at the state administrative headquarters Nabanna said.

According to the sources, the Odisha chief minister assured Miss Banerjee that such incidents would not be repeated in the future.

There have been allegations that several Bengali migrant workers living in Odisha have been assaulted. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed concern over the issue and rang up Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

According to these sources, the Odisha Chief Minister assured over the phone that such incidents would not be repeated in the future and steps would be taken to prevent such incidents.

It has also been learned that Mamata Banerjee, through the Odisha government, has invited these migrant workers to return to West Bengal and work

here instead.

This came after a video was widely circulated showing a person assaulting a vendor selling miscellaneous goods on a bicycle. The vendor was asked to show his Aadhaar card, and when he failed to produce it, he was beaten. However, the authenticity of this video has not been verified by The Statesman.

According to sources from Nabanna, amid the unrest in Bangladesh, several Bengali migrant workers living in Odisha have been harassed. There have also been allegations that they are being beaten on suspicion of being Bangladeshi.

It may be mentioned that earlier at least 20 migrant workers from West Bengal's Murshidabad district, who were branded as Bangladeshis and allegedly beaten up in Odisha were rescued and brought back to the state.

On 19 March this year, a week after CAA (Citizenship Amendment) Act rules were notified, around 20 migrant workers from Murshidabad were attacked by a group of people at Bhadrak in Odisha. The workers were tied up, branded as Bangladeshis and beaten up.

## Deputy NSA in Ukraine, holds talks with Zelensky's top aide



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

India's Deputy National Security Advisor Pavan Kapoor, who is in Ukraine, held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's top aide, Andriy Yermak, in Kyiv. The meeting came amid reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi could visit the battle-ravaged nation this month.

The two sides have not officially stated anything on the PM's proposed visit. A statement issued by the

Ukrainian government said Mr Yermak emphasised the importance of restoring "just peace" for Ukraine and "India's participation in this process". "Met with India's Deputy National Security Advisor, Ambassador Pavan Kapoor. I emphasised the importance of restoring a just peace for Ukraine and India's participation in this process. Expressed hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will contribute to these efforts," Mr Yermak said in a social media post on X.

Sources said the two sides also discussed Mr Modi's planned trip to Kyiv later this month around Ukraine's National Day on 24 August.

The PM had held talks with President Zelensky in June on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy's Apulia.

## 'Maldives is our key partner in Indian Ocean region'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

With a significant improvement in relations between India and the Maldives, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Sunday said the archipelago is a key partner to India in the Indian Ocean region and at the heart of its neighbourhood-first policy.

"Maldives is a key partner to India in the Indian Ocean region and it's at the heart of our neighbourhood-first policy. The cooperation between the two countries has moved beyond the traditional role, and today aspires to be a modern partnership," Mr Jaishankar said after his meeting with his Maldivian counterpart Moosa Zameer, when they jointly inaugurated the Addu Reclamation Project and Addu Shore Protection Project (Photo). "Our devel-



opment cooperation is aimed at touching all facets of people's lives here and to find ways of bringing tangible benefits to their lives. I think it is a statement in itself that we are today among the largest trading partners of Maldives and witnessing greater investment flows from India to the Maldives, particularly in the tourism sector," said Mr Jaishankar who was on a three-day visit to the

Maldives. In the last few years, India has invested around \$220 million in Addu, intending to provide a fair idea of the importance which is attached to regional development in the Maldives.

Mr Jaishankar also mentioned inaugurating the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement Studies in March 2022, which was a \$30 million Indian grant-funded project.

He said: "I'm very glad to see that it has become a hub for imparting critical training to NPS personnel in the Maldives." India has partnered with the government of Maldives on the Addu Reclamation and Shore Protection Project to find a sustainable way to develop Addu as a regional hub. The reclamation of 184 hectares of land was concluded earlier this year. This ambitious programme of \$80 million involves reclamation for tourism development purposes and the overall economic development of Addu.

"Another important project being carried out with Indian assistance is the redevelopment of the Addu Roads and Drainage Development, with an outlay of \$70 million is nearing completion and once completed, will solve problems of waterlogging and roads in Addu" he said.

## Paris Games: India finishes in 71st place

AGENCIES  
PARIS, 11 AUGUST

With a grand total of six medals - a silver and five bronze - India finished in the 71st place on the Paris Olympics medals tally, while the United States of America ended in top place with a total of 126 medals, in the Games that ended on Sunday.

India's medals were contributed by Neeraj Chopra, who took silver in the men's javelin throw, while the bronzes came from shooters Manu Bhaker, who won two - one in a team event with Sarabjot Singh - and Swapnil Kusale, the Indian men's hockey team and wrestler Aman Sehrawat.

## Former EAM K Natwar Singh passes away



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Senior politician and former external affairs minister K Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday. He was 95.

He was admitted at a hospital in Gurugram following an illness and breathed his last there on Saturday night.

According to a news agency, his son Jagtar Singh said: "He was ill for a

very long time. His health deteriorated over the past two months. He was in the hospital for the past month...Yesterday, he took his last breath." "His last rites will be performed at Lodhi Road Crematorium tomorrow, 12th August," Jagtar Singh said.

Natwar Singh, a former diplomat, later joined politics, and had served as External Affairs Minister in the UPA regime back in 2004-05.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and current External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, have expressed grief on Singh's passing away and recalled his contributions to Indian foreign policy.

## Could have remained in power if I had surrendered St Martin's Island & allowed America to hold sway over Bay of Bengal: Hasina

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that she could have remained in power if she had "surrendered" the sovereignty of Saint Martin's Island and "allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal", media reports said.

Disclosing the contents of her undelivered speech in India, where Hasina flew on 5 August amid violent protests in her country, the 76-year-old leader said that she resigned so that she does not have to see a "procession of dead bodies".

These revelations are part of her undelivered speech,



which she wanted to make but which could not happen as protesters reached her residence and she was forced to flee the country.

The former prime minister said she was pained over her party Awami League being targeted but said she "will return to Bangladesh soon".

She said that she would pray for the future of Bangladesh.

"I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it. I resigned from premiership. I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sovereignty of Saint Martin's Island and allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal. I beseech the people of my land, please do not be manipulated by radicals," her undelivered speech says.

"If I had remained in the country, more lives would have been lost, more resources would have been destroyed.

I made the extremely difficult decision to exit. I became your leader because you chose me, you were my strength," the former prime minister stated.

In May, Sheikh Hasina had claimed that "conspiracies" were being hatched to topple her government and alleged a "white man's" plot to carve a new "Christian country" out of Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina had claimed that if she allowed a certain country to build an airbase in Bangladesh, then she would have had no problem.

Bangladesh saw protests against job quotas that snowballed into a wider movement against the government, forcing Sheikh Hasina to resign

from the Prime Minister's post.

Over 400 people lost their lives in the protests since mid-July.

After Sheikh Hasina's departure to India, Nobel laureate and microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus took over as the head of the interim government on Thursday and assured that the new regime would not only restore peace in the country but also ensure the protection of Hindus and other minorities.

Amid massive student protests demanding judiciary's revamp, Bangladesh Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and five other top judges were forced to resign on Saturday.

# Status report on idle land of seven closed factories being prepared by West Burdwan DM

Once, the Asansol-Durgapur region hosted the biggest industrial zone in the country, but many factories became sick since the late eighties

DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY  
DURGAPUR, 11 AUGUST

The district magistrate of West Burdwan, S. Ponnambalam has been preparing a status report of the idle land of seven closed industries, totalling about 2,100 acres and will submit it to the state commerce and industry department shortly.

Recently, there had been frequent visits by the top officials of the state commerce and industry department along with local officials like DM, ADM and land reforms department in West Burdwan district.

Once upon a time, the industrial region of West Burdwan district - Asansol and Durgapur - were regarded as the Ruhr of India and was the biggest zone of heavy industries in the country after Independence, but since the late eighties many factories started becoming sick due

to various reasons and slowly shut down over the next two decades.

Huge tracts of industrial land are now lying idle in Asansol and Durgapur, in a state where the government is scouting for land to set up fresh investments.

The status report relating to seven closed factories - Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL), Rupnarayanpur, Cycle Corporation of India, Sen Raleigh, Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Limited (HFCL), Durgapur, MAMC (Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation), Durgapur, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL), Kesoram Rayon Industries, Kulti, Hindustan Pilkington Glass Factory, Asansol, with a total area of 2095.42 acres of land is being prepared.

The current legal status of the idle industrial land is also updated in the report. It is still not clear whether the state government will take



over this vast industrial land and set up an industrial land bank, but it the commerce and industry department is keen to get back the land and set up fresh industries in the region.

Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) has 947.23 acres of land, out of which 511.04 acres are idle and unused

land, while the old factory is constructed on 332.4 acres of land, and other land including water bodies etc are on 48.85 acres of land. There is no legal dispute and the land belongs to the central public sector body.

Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation of India (HFCL), in Durgapur has a total of 541



acres of land, which includes the closed plant on 73 acres of land, 468 idle and unused land. This land also belonged to the CPSU and has no legal issues. There have also been no encroachments.

For MAMC Limited in Durgapur, out of its total 193.67 acres of land, the old factory is set up on 40.27 acres and 153.4 acres are lying idle. There is no legal dispute and the land belongs to a consortium of three CPSUs.

Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL), Durgapur, has a total area 46.51 acres, out of which 21.57 acres are vacant and 9.94 acres are covered by the old plant. There is no legal issue and the land belongs to the CPSU.

Kesoram Rayon Industries, Kulti has 71.43 acres of land, out of which the factory is set up on 5.54 acres and 43.14 acres is lying idle. It also has ponds on 6.65 acres and about 16 acres of land is encroached.

A case is registered in West Bengal Land Reforms and Tenancy Tribunal. The land belonged to the Birla Group.

Out of 56.48 acre of total land belonging to the Hindustan Pilkington Glass factory, in Ushagram, Asansol, 13.23 acres have factory structures, 19.46 acres are lying idle, 19 acres have ponds, while 4.39 acres of land has been encroached. The land belongs to a private company and a case is registered in the high court.

For Cycle Corporation of India (CCI), Sen Raleigh, Asansol, out of a total 239.1 acres of land, 178.42 acres of land are lying idle. The factory, presently dilapidated, was constructed on 40.86 acres of land.

There are encroachments on 3.02 acres of land and 16.81 acres of land have ponds. The land belonged to a private company and a writ petition is pending in the high court. Charanjit Singh, INTTUC

leader of Hindustan Cables said that the trade union welcomes any fresh investments as it will boost the socio economic scenario of Rupnarayanpur.

Ashim Chatterjee, INTUC president of MAMC said that he has been fighting for revival and reopening of MAMC since the past twenty years and at this juncture any positive move from the Mamata Banerjee government is welcome.

The West Bengal government has already given its nod to a proposal to set up an industrial estate on 193 acres of unused land of Dhakeswari Cotton Mill in Burnpur of West Burdwan. The West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) has acquired the land for the purpose.

These vast tracts of unused land, once acquired, will give a very big boost to industrial development in the state, experts feel.

## Security tightened at North Bengal Medical College & Hospital following Kolkata rape-murder incident

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SILIGURI, 11 AUGUST

In the wake of the recent rape and murder of a female intern at R.G. Kar Medical College, security has been heightened across the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMC&H) campus.

An additional 15 female police constables have been deployed to guard the four girls' hostels on campus.

According to Dr. Sandeep Sengupta, Dean of NBMC&H, the constables will be stationed at the hostels in three shifts, with five constables assigned to each shift to ensure continuous surveillance.

Meanwhile, students, junior doctors, and faculty members have been staging protests on the NBMC&H



campus since yesterday.

They are demanding the resignation of the Principal of R.G. Kar Medical College and a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Protesters claim that more than one individual was involved in the crime. The junior doctors are also urging that the final post-mortem report be made public.

"The occurrence of such an incident could not have

been possible without the involvement of insiders at R.G. Kar Medical College," said Dr. Sengupta, who was on night duty on Saturday and has been present on the NBMC&H campus since midnight to monitor the situation.

Dr. Sengupta highlighted the security vulnerabilities on the NBMC&H campus, which spans over 103 acres. While the campus is surrounded by boundary walls, some sections are damaged, allowing criminals to potentially enter the premises.

He also noted that several buildings under construction could serve as hideouts for criminal activity.

"We have spoken to the police officials who visited the campus about the need to strengthen security measures. Although there is a police outpost within the campus, it is understaffed and responsible for overseeing a large area beyond the NBMC&H campus," Dr. Sengupta added.

He further mentioned that there are a sufficient number of CCTV cameras on campus, most of which are operational. However, a few cameras require immediate repairs to ensure full coverage of the area.

## FLAGBEARERS



Vendors stack kites with the theme of the National flag for sale ahead of Independence Day celebrations, in Kolkata on Sunday.

## Minister inaugurates mortuary at Chandannagar



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HOOGHLY, 11 AUGUST

State minister Indranil Sen on Saturday evening inaugurated a mortuary equipped with four refrigerated cabinets at Kodaichanditala in Chandannagar.

Mortuary cabinets are low-temperature refrigerated cabinets that are used to keep bodies for a short or long time.

Before the inauguration of the mortuary, one minute's silence was observed in remembrance of the departed soul of former Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya.

On the occasion were present Chandannagar Mayor Ram Chatterjee, Deputy Mayor Munna Aggarwal, members of the Bidhan Sabha Utsab Committee and other dignitaries.

Mr Sen, speaking at the inauguration, pointed out how the state chief minister Mamata Banerjee has con-

stantly laid emphasis on progress and development work and said she has expressed her satisfaction over the progress and development work undertaken in the Bidhan Sabha area.

She has also extended her thanks to those who have actively extended their help and support to set up the mortuary at Chandannagar, Mr Sen said.

Mr Sen thanked the Chandannagar utsab committee and four benevolent personalities of the town for their valuable contribution towards setting up the mortuary. He also thanked the Chandannagar corporation for providing the location where the mortuary has come up.

## EVENING RITUAL



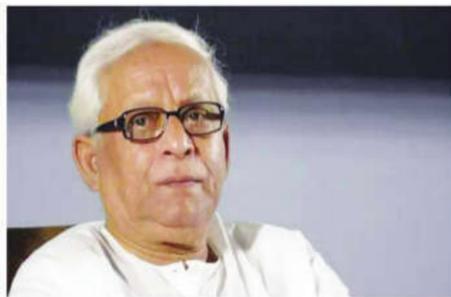
Sandhya Arati is performed at Chandannagar Rani ghat on Sunday evening. On the occasion were present, among others, state ministers, Mr Indranil Sen, Mr Beccharam Manna, Mr Snehasis Chakraborty, MP Mitali Bag and District Magistrate Mukta Arya.

## Boroli fish returns to North Bengal rivers, stirring memories of late CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharya

BISWABRATA GOSWAMI  
KOLKATA, 11 AUGUST

The much-awaited return of the Boroli fish, also known as the Hilsa Boroli, has brought relief to the residents of North Bengal and rekindled memories of the late former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, a noted admirer of this prized delicacy. The Boroli fish, celebrated for its unique flavor and cultural significance, has long been a staple in the diets of North Bengal's inhabitants and a sought-after treat for tourists visiting the region.

The Boroli fish, which thrives in the rivers of North Bengal—particularly the Teesta, Torsa, Kaljani, and Jaldhaka—has been especially prized when sourced from the Teesta River, earning it the affectionate nickname "Teesta Hilsa." However, last year's monsoon season brought unforeseen challenges. Landslides and water contamination in Sikkim led



to a devastating die-off of fish in the Teesta, leaving the region without its beloved Boroli for eight long months. The absence of this seasonal fish, typically abundant from the onset of the monsoon until winter, caused widespread concern among locals and tourists alike.

As the monsoon rains arrived in North Bengal this June, the region braced for another difficult season. Heavy rains and runoff from the

hills turned the waters of the Teesta cloudy, raising fears that the Boroli might not return. "But as the waters began to clear, the Boroli fish reappeared, much to the relief and delight of fishermen and fish lovers," said Anil Brahma, a teacher and nature lover, adding that the return of the Boroli has not only rejuvenated the local fishing economy but also restored a cherished part of North Bengal's cultural heritage.

## Awami League student leader arrested from Bengal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 11 AUGUST

A leader of the student organisation of Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's party, the Awami League, was arrested from a village near the India-Bangladesh border in Murshidabad.

Acting on a tip-off, the Border Security Force (BSF) apprehended the young man named Abdul Kader on Saturday during a raid. He was later handed over to the police at Raghunathganj police station. The accused was presented in Jangipur sub-divisional court on Sunday.

According to BSF sources,

BSF has heightened surveillance in the border areas

amid the unrest following the fall of the Hasina government in Bangladesh, many leaders and activists of the Awami League have fled the country. Some have tried to hide in villages near the border. In response, the BSF has heightened surveillance in the border areas.

During this time, they received information that Kader had been hiding for the past four days in a village near the Boyraghat border outpost in the Raghunath-

ganj police station area.

Subsequently, personnel from the 115 battalion of the BSF conducted a search operation in the village and apprehended him. The BSF handed the arrested student leader over to the police.

According to police sources, during interrogation, Kader revealed that his home is in Narayanganj district in Bangladesh. He fled to India after the movement demanding quota reform in Bangladesh became violent. He left Bangladesh on 6 August, traveling by road, water, and even swimming part of the way before taking refuge in Chapainawabganj near Murshidabad.



The Boroli fish can grow up to six inches in length, and the larger specimens, easily recognizable by their yellowish bellies due to excess fat, are highly valued in the market. Prices for these fish have surged, with larger Boroli fetching between Rs. 800 to 1200 per kilogram. Despite the high cost, the demand for this delicacy remains strong, especially among those who cherish the region's culinary traditions.

The return of the Boroli fish also brings to mind the late Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's deep connection with North Bengal. The former



Chief Minister was known for his love of the region's folk culture and its unique culinary delights, with Boroli fish being one of his favorites. During his stays at the Cooch Behar Circuit House, Bhattacharya often requested meals featuring Boroli fish from the Torsa River, prepared in both traditional and fried forms. His fondness for this delicacy was so profound that the then Forest Minister, Anant Roy, once personally delivered Boroli fish to Bhattacharya's home in Kolkata.

Ashok Bhattacharya, former state minister and former mayor of Siliguri Municipality,

along with Anant Roy, recently reminisced about the late Chief Minister's affection for North Bengal and its culinary treasures. They expressed their deep respect for Bhattacharya, recalling his simplicity, dedication, and the indelible mark he left on the region. The CPM leadership, along with countless citizens, continues to mourn his passing, recognizing the void left by his absence.

As North Bengal celebrates the return of the Boroli fish, the memories of Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's contributions and his love for the region's cultural and culinary heritage serve as a poignant reminder of the deep connections that define this vibrant part of India. The Boroli fish, once again gracing the rivers of North Bengal, is more than just a culinary delight; it is a symbol of the region's enduring traditions and the lasting legacy of a leader who cherished them.

**CANCELLATION OF MAITREE EXPRESS**  
As per message received from Bangladesh Railways, 13109 Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express (JCO 13.08.2024) and 13107 Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (JCO 13.08.2024) will remain cancelled. Inconvenience is regretted.  
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager  
Eastern Railway  
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter



# Wayanad landslides: Massive search involving public resumes

During the search drive, two body parts were recovered from the river at Kanthanpara

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KALPETTA, 11 AUGUST



teams, volunteers, youth groups, members of the public and survivors.

The search is concentrated in six zones, including Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Panchirimmattam, and along the Chaliyar River, with special teams deployed in Soochipara and Kanthanpara. The authorities have included four members from each

from the same area where three bodies were found on Friday.

Meanwhile, the special search drive in the downstream of Chaliyar river will resume on Monday. According to official figures, 126 people are yet to be found. Altogether 1,184 people are living in 14 camps.

The Wayanad district administration had on Wednesday released a list, which says that 138 persons are still missing after the devastating landslides struck the region particularly affecting the villages of Chooralmala, Mundakkai, and Panchirivattam. After that, some bodies have been recovered.

Among those missing are 24 children, 57 women, and

49 men. Three migrant labourers from Bihar are also included in the list.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi has sought a detailed memorandum on the damage suffered from the state government. "The government will act favourably once we get the memorandum," the PM said.

The Prime Minister said funds will not be a problem for the relief and rehabilitation of the survivors of the landslides at Chooralmala and Mundakkai in Wayanad district.

PM Modi said that both the state and the Centre will join hands for the rehabilitation package. Central ministers and officials have already had a round of discussion.

# SC to hear on Monday bail pleas of BRS leader K Kavitha in excise policy case

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST



case on July 31.

She was produced through video conferencing from Tihar Jail upon expiry of the previously granted judicial custody.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Court extended, till August 9, the judicial custody of the accused in the Central Bureau of Investigation case and till August 13 in the money laundering case lodged by the

Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Kavitha, the daughter of BRS chief and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao, was denied bail by the Delhi High Court on July 1.

A bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma said that the material collected in the course of the investigation revealed that she was one of the chief conspirators in the entire conspiracy relating to the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped new excise policy.

Kavitha had petitioned the Delhi High Court after a special court here on May 6 turned down her regular bail pleas. She was first arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and later by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on April 11 when she was in Tihar Jail.

# Amara Raja warns of relocation if T'gana government fails to honour commitments

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 11 AUGUST



state, Andhra Pradesh. It had signed an MoU for investing Rs 9,500 crore over ten years for a Lithium cell Gigafactory with an ultimate capacity of 16 Giga Watt hours (GWh) and a battery pack assembly unit of 5 GWh, promising to employ 4,500 people in phases.

The group held a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday for their Customer Qualification Plant for cell manufacturing and also inaugu-

rated Phase 1 of the battery pack plant. Speaking after the ceremony, Jaydev Galla said that the previous BRS government had made certain commitments such as industrial incentives while expressing hope that they would be honoured by the current government.

"It is a different government now, and until we see it actually happen, we won't know for sure. We are hopeful, but there are concerns about the government's financial situation and whether they can provide the promised industrial incentives.

It is not about the government's intent; it's about their financial capability," Galla said when asked about the doubts regarding the government's commitment. Galla said at the moment there were no such issues with the present regime. He went on

to add, "We are not expecting trouble but you know how things are in India. When the government changes, generally commitments are not necessarily kept. We are hopeful and we are waiting and watching. As long as the experience is positive, we would not necessarily have to look elsewhere."

The Congress government in Telangana has so far continued most of the projects taken up by the previous government except for the proposed Pharma City at Mucherla, which the current regime has proposed to be converted into a futuristic city with a medical hub and skill centres instead of just for pharma companies.

It also scrapped the Metro network between Raidurgam and Airport and instead proposed to take it through the Old City Area.

# Tamil Nadu government should declare northern districts as 'underdeveloped' in education: PMK

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, 11 AUGUST



Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) founder leader S. Ramadoss on Sunday demanded that the state government should declare the northern districts as "underdeveloped" in education.

Ramadoss called upon the government to implement the district allocation system to fill up teacher vacancies in northern Tamil Nadu.

He said that as per the Tamil Nadu School Education Department data, there are more than ten thousand vacant teacher posts in Tamil Nadu and a majority of these vacant posts are in northern districts.

"Around 72.32 per cent of these vacancies are in northern districts of Tamil Nadu which is shocking. The government should treat

each of the 38 districts in an equal manner," said Ramadoss.

He said that teachers should be appointed in their respective districts and their transfers should be avoided. "This would help teachers to work within their home districts," said the PMK founder, who is a medical doctor.

In Class X, Tamil Nadu State Board examinations of

2024, three northern districts of Tamil Nadu - Vellore, Ranipet and Tiruvannamalai - recorded the lowest pass percentages with only 82.07 per cent, 85.48 per cent and 86.10 per cent respectively.

These districts were ranked in the 38th, 37th and 36th positions in the district performance list.

Officials of the School Education Department said that a total of 82,484 students

from these districts, including 43,805 girls, appeared for the examinations.

Among these districts, Tiruvannamalai has the highest number of student participants at 31,341, followed by Vellore with 18,670, Tirupattur with 17,221 and Ranipet with 15,174.

Social activist and Director of Centre for Policy and Development Studies C. Rajeev told IANS that a study on the Class X Tamil Nadu School Board Examination results reveals clearly where the students of northern districts of Tamil Nadu are placed.

"The points raised by Ramadoss need to be taken seriously regarding the teacher shortage in northern districts and appropriate measures must be taken by the Education Department at the earliest," Rajeev said.

# Speeding SUV driven by drunk youth kills pedestrian in Hyd

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, 11 AUGUST

pedestrian, the vehicle rammed into roadside electricity poles and the compound wall.

Second later five youths got down from the vehicle and walked away nonchalantly. Four occupants came out from the rear door while one emerged from the front door on the left side.

He jumped onto the compound wall, saw the victim lying on the ground, but walked away indifferently and jumped the wall from the other side.

A few seconds later, one of the men returned to the vehicle to apparently help out his friend who was driving the vehicle. Some passersby stopped there and brought out the man while others quietly left the scene. It was only after the police reached there and started an investigation that they found the pedestrian lying dead.

The man flung into the air over a compound wall and fell about 10 feet away into an open area. The man died on the spot.

After knocking down the

# Air India passenger arrested for hoax 'bomb threat' at Cochin Airport

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 11 AUGUST



A Mumbai-bound passenger was taken into police custody at the Cochin International Airport after he casually asked a security officer, in the middle of the routine X-ray check of his baggage, "Is there a bomb in my bag?"

Manoj Kumar, 42, was about to board Air India flight AI 682 to Mumbai when he asked a CISF officer the question that was bound to cause suspicion about him. The utterance through casual prompted an immediate response with the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) conducting a detailed inspection of Manoj Kumar's cabin and his baggage.

Though no explosive was found in his baggage, Kumar was removed from the flight

and handed over to local authorities for further questioning. The flight proceeded as per schedule.

Earlier on Wednesday, the police had arrested a person from the Kochi International Airport for making a similar threat.

The passenger identified as Prashant P S (45) irked officers during the security check and shouted at the staff, claiming he had a "bomb in his bag".

The BTAC convened at Terminal 3 declared the threat as non-specific. However, due to the presence of co-passengers with the same booking reference number (family members), the committee directed that the Secondary Ladder Point Check (SLPC) and aircraft check be conducted after deplaning the passengers.

The flight, carrying 180 passengers, finally departed at 4:30 am, two-and-a-half hours behind schedule. Peasant was handed over to the police for further proceedings. The accused, a resident of Manacaud in Thiruvananthapuram, was travelling to Bangkok with his wife, son, and four others. Following his arrest, his family stayed back, while the four others boarded the flight after their luggage was examined in detail.

The Nedumbassery Police lodged a case under section 118(b) of the KP Act, 2011 (knowingly spreading rumours or giving false alarms to mislead the police) and section 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (offense of criminal intimidation). The accused was released on bail after claiming he was aware that his statement could affect the flight service and create a scare.

Airports treat any mention of threats, particularly words like "bomb" and "hijack," with extreme seriousness. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security emphasizes that even joking about such threats can cause significant delays for all passengers and may result in fines. Making statements such as "I have a bomb in my bag" is considered a serious offense and is strictly prohibited by law.

# Former Kerala minister Kutty Ahammed Kutty passes away at 71

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 11 AUGUST

Former Kerala local administration minister and Muslim League leader Kutty Ahammed Kutty passed away at his residence at Tanur in Malappuram district on Sunday. He was 71. Ahammed Kutty was elected to the Kerala Assembly three times, initially from Tanur in 1992 and twice from Tirurangadi in 1996 and 2001. He served as Minister for Local Administration in the 2004 Oommen Chandy-led government.

He was the chairman of the IUML state committee's environmental protection committee. Ahammed Kutty served as the president of

CM Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his condolences over the demise of Kutty Ahammed Kutty.

the IUML Tanur constituency, president of the Malappuram district Swatantra Thozhilali Union, and chairman of the public works standing committee of Malappuram district panchayat. He stepped back from active politics after he met with a car accident in February 2005.

Ahammed Kutty is survived by his wife and three children.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his condolences over the demise of Kutty Ahammed Kutty.

# Budget Session ends; Waqf Bill sent to JPC after Opposition storm



DEEPAK RAZDAN  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

of 18 per cent GST on life and health insurance policies. They felt it went against the middle income classes who saved hard to invest in these policies. The continuance of the tax could deter new investors in the policies also, they said. Mrs Sitharaman, in her reply, clarified that 74 per cent of the returns from the tax went to the States. The tax was first equally shared between the Centre and the States and then 41 per cent out of the Centre's share was diverted to the States' treasuries. The States therefore had a great stake in the tax and they could raise the issue in the GST Council if they wanted the tax reduced or discontinued. The GST levies were first decided by the GST Council comprising the States and the Centre, and then mentioned in the Central Budget, Mrs Sitharaman said. The clarification brought valuable information, but there was



little assurance that the common man would get any relief in the high GST levy.

The Budget had proposed withdrawal of the inflation-indexation benefit in the sale of properties. The Budget provision was partially withdrawn as the middle income classes were getting hurt by

it. The Finance Minister said the government had always responded to public sentiments in its last 10 Budgets also and brought suitable amendments. She asserted the purpose of the original Budget provision was not earning revenue but just "simplification." Discussions on

the Appropriation Bill, which authorises the Centre to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India for its expenses, also generated debate on the economic policies of the government.

The government's move to introduce the Waqf Act, 1995 Amendment Bill on

Thursday evoked a strong reaction from the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Several Articles of the Constitution were quoted to show that the Bill would go against the Constitution by interfering with the management of Waqf properties. The Centre was not competent to legislate on it as land was a State subject, the members argued. They pointed out the proposed role for the District Collector and nomination of non-Muslims on the Waqf administration would go against the secular image of the country. The Opposition and the Treasury Benches were fully occupied when Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju sought to introduce the Bill. Seventeen members spoke against the Bill's introduction for almost two hours. There were three submissions from the Treasury Benches to support the Bill. Mr Rijiju gave a detailed reply to the members' objections, pointing out, among other

issues, that the administration of the Waqf properties was in such bad state that people really wanted the changes. Among the Opposition, he said, the Congress should have known the proposed changes were based on recommendations of committees constituted by the Congress governments to study the issue. However, Mr Rijiju saw the matter could not be rushed through and, after introducing the Bill, said the government was ready to form a joint parliamentary committee to study the Bill. The JPC was announced the next day.

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat's exit from the Olympics 50 kg wrestling final on the ground of being overweight by 100 grams jolted Parliament in no less a way than it had shocked the nation. She had become the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the final in the 50 kilogram category, after winning three bouts on 6 August. The MPs

protested against the Olympic administration's decision and said the government was "weak" in handling the situation. The Opposition in the Lok Sabha raised a storm and staged a walk-out when Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya gave a list of the expenditure made by the government for the wrestling star's Paris trip.

Developments in Bangladesh had caused worries ever since ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase near Delhi on 5 August.

The next day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made a statement in Parliament that there were tensions in the neighbouring country since January this year's election. Bangladesh has 19,000 Indian nationals including 9,000 students most of whom have returned to India after violent agitations. MPs could not ask questions on the statement as no clarifications were allowed.



HPS along with the Haryana Transport Department in a significant step to train the bus drivers and conductors of private schools organised this workshop.

HARYANA TRANSPORT MINISTER ASEEM GOVAL INAUGURATING SAFE VEHICLE WORKSHOP IN AMBALA

KOLKATA, MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2024

THUMBNAILS

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar concedes demise of former EAM Natwar Singh: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed condolences on the demise of former EAM Natwar Singh. The Chief Minister said in his condolence message that the late Natwar Singh had served as Foreign Minister in the government led by then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh from May 2004 to December 2005. Former External Affairs Minister and Congress leader K Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday night at the age of 93. IANS

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini flags off half marathon event in Rewari: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini flagged off and participated in the half marathon event organised in Rewari. He said that these kinds of events created enthusiasm among children and kept youths away from drugs. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign across the nation. During this period, the central government urged the citizens to hoist the tricolour on every house, shop, and office. IANS

Delimitation, Assembly polls and then statehood: J&K L-G

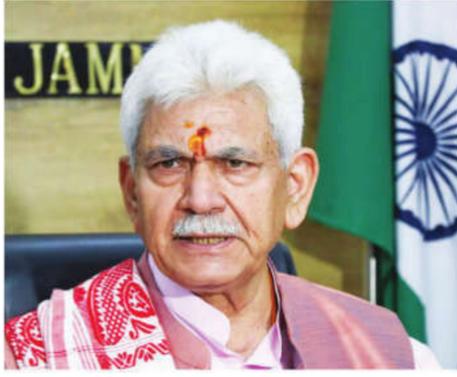
He said it was the prerogative of the poll panel to announce the poll dates

AGENCIES JAMMU, 11 AUGUST

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Sunday that things are happening in logical sequence in the union territory -- first delimitation, then assembly election and finally statehood.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the newly constructed building of the Malaviya Mission Teachers Training Centre in Jammu, Sinha said that it was the prerogative of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to announce the poll dates. "Things are taking shape in the UT as per the sequence -- first delimitation, then Assembly polls and then Statehood. ECI met political parties and other stakeholders recently. They will take a call accordingly," the Lt Governor said.

ECI headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar including election commissioners, Gyanesh Kumar and Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu visited J&K



recently. Election Commission of India team met various stakeholders including the representatives of various political parties and officials of police and the civil administrator.

Addressing a Press conference at the conclusion of the Election Commission of India's two-day visit, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said that assembly

elections would be held in J&K at the earliest, but did not announce any specific schedule.

He said the Commission would take a holistic view of the security situation when back in Delhi and then announce the poll schedule. The Chief Election Commissioner said that there are 90 Assembly constituencies in J&K while the electorate comprises 87.09 lakh peo-

ple. "On August 19, the Amarnath Yatra will conclude and on August 30, the final electoral rolls will be published and free copies will be made available to the political parties," he said.

He noted that there are around 11,800 polling stations in J&K, spread over 9,100 locations and the Election Commission will "ensure facilities like resting places, toilets, waiting area, ramps and wheelchairs and volunteers for the needy voters".

Ahead of the J&K Assembly polls to be held before the end of this year, the Union Territory administrator is gearing up to ready Assembly complexes in Srinagar and Jammu, officials said. J&K Chief Secretary Atal Duloo chaired a meeting on Saturday to draw a plan for making Legislative Assembly complexes at both Srinagar and Jammu ready for conducting its sessions after holding elections here in the Union Territory.

Death toll in Kokernag encounter rises to three as injured civilian succumbs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, 11 AUGUST



Search operations have been intensified in the forests of South Kashmir's Kokernag where the death toll on Sunday increased to three with a civilian succumbing after being critically injured during the encounter between security forces and terrorists.

Another search operation was launched in the Paddar Batam Bridge of Kishtwar area in the Jammu division after a brief firefight between security forces and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists this morning.

Two soldiers were killed and four injured on Saturday when the encounter broke out. Two civilians were also injured during the encounter in the Ahlan Gagaramandu forest area of Kokernag at an altitude of 10,000 ft in the Anantnag district.

One of the two injured civilians, Abdul Rashid Dar, succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Srinagar early Sunday, officials said.

Reinforcements of the Army, the CRPF and the J&K Police have been deployed to comb the area and neu-

tralise the fleeing terrorists. The Army soldiers killed have been identified as Havaldar Dipak Kumar Yadav and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma.

The operation to track down the terrorists was continuing despite the challenging mountainous topography. The gunfight started on Saturday evening during a cordon and search operation that was initiated by the security forces based on intelligence reports indicating the presence of terrorists in the remote Ahlan Gagaramandu forest.

Meanwhile, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and All Ranks of the Indian Army saluted the supreme sacrifice of Bravehearts Havaldar Dipak Kumar Yadav and L/Nk Praveen Sharma, who

laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Northern Army Commander Lt General MV Suchindra Kumar and all ranks of Dhruva Command also paid tributes to the Bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice beyond the call of duty in Anantnag.

The terrorists involved in the Kokernag encounter appear to be trained in jungle warfare as they managed to reach the mountainous southern part of Kashmir after terror strikes in the Doda district of Jammu in July when four soldiers, including a Captain, lost their lives. Reinforcements have been rushed to the area after a group of terrorists opened fire at the security forces this morning.

BJP hasn't a single Muslim MP, says Pawan Khera on Waqf Amendment Bill

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Congress leader Pawan Khera criticised BJP over Waqf Amendment Bill 2024, saying that the ruling party does not have a single Muslim Member in the Parliament and that it is making decisions unilaterally.

Khera also pointed out: "NDA's alliance partners, Naidu ji and Chirag Paswan, have opposed it. You should ask Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi ji whether he supports it or not."

Given Rahul Gandhi's stance on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh, Khera responded: "The BJP is in power, so they should be taking action to protect Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. As the Opposition, we are doing what we

can." On August 5, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country after weeks of student protests. An estimated 300 people have been killed, thousands injured, and more than 10,000 arrested.

Various political parties in India have expressed concern and some statements have been laced with political messaging.

While the Congress has kept its reactions to the crisis largely general and measured, with a passing mention of minorities, BJP and RSS have underlined the threat to "Hindus" and other minorities in Bangladesh.

Mani Shankar Aiyar, in an interview with IANS, highlighted the recent unrest in Bangladesh, marked by Sheikh

Hasina's resignation and flight, as indicative of broader issues that also plague India.

Further, addressing the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata on Friday, Khera remarked: "The case is severe. The doctor, who had been working for 36 hours, lacked adequate security and support. This is deeply concerning. We must collectively address the rising crime rates."

TENDER advertisement grid with multiple sections for Government of West Bengal tenders, including KMDA, Irrigation & Waterways, and District Health & Family Welfare.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-10/2024, estimated amount ₹ 43,83,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-08/2024, estimated amount ₹ 27,89,500.

KMDA TENDER NOTICE for e-NIT No. SB/MDA/CITIL/EEZ/BPPD-1/EAAM/2024-25.

Irrigation & Waterways Directorate Ganga Anti Erosion Division No-I, Raghunathganj, Murshidabad.

TENDER NOTICE for e-NIT No. WB/WUE/ROD/NIT-12/1/2024-25.

District Health & Family Welfare Sanitary, Paschim Medinipur Tender Notice.

District Health & Family Welfare Sanitary, Paschim Medinipur Tender Notice.

District Health & Family Welfare Sanitary, Paschim Medinipur Tender Notice.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-09/2024, estimated amount ₹ 43,83,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-11/2024, estimated amount ₹ 27,89,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-03/2024, estimated amount ₹ 23,91,000.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-12/2024, estimated amount ₹ 27,89,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-13/2024, estimated amount ₹ 15,94,000.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-14/2024, estimated amount ₹ 27,89,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-15/2024, estimated amount ₹ 35,86,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-18/2024, estimated amount ₹ 35,86,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-04/2024, estimated amount ₹ 43,83,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-20/2024, estimated amount ₹ 39,85,000.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-07/2024, estimated amount ₹ 47,82,000.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-05/2024, estimated amount ₹ 31,88,000.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-06/2024, estimated amount ₹ 51,80,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-19/2024, estimated amount ₹ 43,83,500.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-17/2024, estimated amount ₹ 39,85,000.

Tender notice for RSM (Rural Sanitary Mart) under SBM-G, NIT-16/2024, estimated amount ₹ 35,86,500.

# The Statesman

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## Welfare vs. Work

In discussions about India's economic landscape, a provocative idea has emerged: that well-intentioned welfare schemes might inadvertently dissuade the youth from actively seeking employment. This notion challenges the conventional wisdom surrounding social safety nets and calls for a deeper examination of their impact on labour dynamics. The core of this debate lies in the observation that while welfare programmes are designed to offer support, they may, paradoxically, reduce the incentive for some individuals to enter the workforce. This is a complex issue, suggesting that the benefits provided could create a disincentive for employment rather than merely offering necessary support. Economic studies from different regions have indicated that similar welfare interventions in the US and Europe have led to decreased labour participation. If we consider this perspective in the Indian context, it raises the crucial question: are our welfare schemes potentially contributing to a voluntary form of unemployment? This question is especially pertinent in a nation grappling with high unemployment rates and widespread rural distress. The Union budget allocations reflect a reduced emphasis on several prominent welfare programmes. For example, allocations for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), a cornerstone of rural employment support, have remained stagnant. This stagnation occurs despite persistent demand in rural areas, suggesting that current funding levels might not suffice to address the needs effectively. Similarly, while certain schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman have seen marginal increases, others have not received adequate enhancements to keep pace with growing demands. The unintended consequences of welfare programmes can be profound. If welfare benefits are perceived as sufficient to sustain individuals without employment, this may affect their motivation to seek work. This dynamic underscores the need for a careful balance in the design of welfare schemes. They should be structured not just to provide immediate relief but also to encourage long-term economic participation. Additionally, the rise of informal labour markets, accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, introduces another layer of complexity. The gig economy, characterised by temporary and often precarious work arrangements, has expanded significantly. This shift has implications for social security and labour protection, potentially exacerbating the challenges faced by workers in less stable employment conditions. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach. Welfare schemes must be designed with clear eligibility criteria and sunset clauses to ensure they do not inadvertently discourage labour force participation. Equally important is the need for robust support systems that facilitate transitions from welfare to employment, rather than merely providing financial assistance. Ultimately, the goal of welfare programmes should be to empower individuals to participate in economic activities, not just to provide temporary relief. As India continues to navigate its economic challenges, it is crucial to rethink and refine welfare policies to ensure they effectively support both immediate needs and long-term economic engagement. This approach will help foster a more dynamic and resilient labour market, capable of meeting the aspirations of the country's youthful population.

## Hydrogen Horizons

Australia's ambition to position itself as a green hydrogen superpower is a compelling narrative, one that aligns with its rich natural resources and expertise in energy production. However, as with any nascent industry, the path to realising this potential is fraught with challenges that need careful navigation. At the heart of Australia's green hydrogen push lie technological innovations, exemplified by the work of companies like Hysata. The firm's advancements in electrolysis - a process crucial for producing hydrogen from water - promise to significantly reduce the energy costs associated with hydrogen production. By addressing the inefficiencies of conventional methods, Hysata is paving the way for cheaper and more scalable hydrogen production. This innovation is essential because cost has been a significant barrier to the widespread adoption of green hydrogen. If Australia can lead in making hydrogen production more economically viable, it would mark a substantial step toward its goal of becoming a global leader in this field. Australia's vast renewable energy resources provide another strong foundation for its hydrogen ambitions. The country's abundant sunshine and wind create ideal conditions for generating the renewable electricity needed to produce green hydrogen. Moreover, the discovery of geogenic hydrogen - naturally occurring hydrogen within the earth - adds another layer of potential, offering a source of hydrogen that could be tapped with minimal environmental impact. Yet, despite these promising developments, there are significant economic and logistical challenges that could hinder Australia's ascent as a hydrogen superpower. One of the primary hurdles is the cost and complexity of transporting hydrogen. Hydrogen is notoriously difficult to store and ship, requiring extremely low temperatures and specialised infrastructure. These challenges make the prospect of exporting hydrogen to energy-hungry nations far less attractive than it might initially seem. Some experts argue that Australia's focus should shift from export to domestic utilisation. By using hydrogen to decarbonise its own heavy industries, Australia could reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and create a robust internal market for green hydrogen. This strategy could serve as a proving ground for hydrogen technologies, allowing Australia to refine its processes before considering the more complex and costly task of exporting hydrogen at scale. Furthermore, the global race to dominate the green hydrogen market is intensifying. Countries like Germany, Japan, and China are investing heavily in hydrogen technologies, driven by the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and transition to cleaner energy sources. Australia must move swiftly and strategically to maintain its competitive edge in this rapidly evolving market. While Australia's potential to become a green hydrogen superpower is undeniable, the journey ahead is complex. Success will require continued innovation, strategic investment, and a focus on overcoming the economic and logistical challenges associated with hydrogen production and transportation. By carefully navigating these challenges, Australia can not only achieve its green hydrogen ambitions but also play a pivotal role in the global transition to a more sustainable energy future.

# Sucker Punch

The fact that the International Olympic Committee had done the necessary spadework and approved her participation (even subsequently clarified its stand) should have ended the murmurs - only it didn't, and that was reflective of the smallness of spirit in the cry wolf attempt. It was ridiculous to say that Khelif had punched hard in a boxing match at the Olympics; what else could be expected at that level of sport?



Imperialist poet Rudyard Kipling's White Man's Burden is an unashamedly racist poem predicated on the premise that the ways of Westerners are superior to those of the "devil-like" irresponsible and flighty natives.

It incredibly casts a moral duty on the Westerners to civilize the unruly non-Westerners (in this specific case, the colonized Filipinos). It posits the fallacy of noble intentions onto Westerners to justify any dehumanizing acts e.g., colonizing, subjugation or even reckless name-calling.

This narrative of entitlement afforded to the colonialist Western powers has been consistently applied, be it with the British Raj in the Indian subcontinent, the Belgian colonists in Congo, Italian colonists in erstwhile Abyssinia, or with the French excesses in Algeria.

While the days of the "colonies" are long over, the subliminal spirit of racism, supremacism and disdain towards non-Westerners still afflicts many. This has resulted in the strong revival of revisionist conservative parties across the European Continent and in the possible return of Donald Trump in the US elections.

If Marie Le Pen's neo-fascist party of the far Right has been breathing down the neck of the French government, in Italy, Georgia Meloni's extreme right-wing Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy) is ruling the roost.

Such an environment naturally emboldens a spirit of xenophobia and disdain towards the proverbial "others". Not only does it breed "othering", Islamophobia, anti-immigration demands etc., but also normalises the political-societal appropriation of justness and fairness as being unique to the Western world.

Shades of such bias and unsubstantiated accusations that have been the historical privilege of the entitled Westerners surfaced in the Olympic arena. Italy's boxer Angela Carini withdrew from the bout

against Algerian boxer Imane Khelif after 46 seconds claiming that she was hit abnormally hard! This loaded and so far, unproven innuendo led to a barrage of vile accusations and online abuse calling out Imane Khelif as a "biological male" or "transgender".

Her appearance, power in the punch, and spectacular success led to a flurry of aspersions without proper verification or confirmation by the Olympic authorities themselves.

The unsporting optics started early, with Carini refusing to shake hands with Khelif after the bout.

Understandably, Khelif was distraught, as was the Algerian Olympic organisation which stood resolutely by its cornered athlete, as she withstood the media-smirks and reckless name-calling. Many Westerners like the unhinged Trump, JK Rowling, and even Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni, joined the complaining chorus by saying that it was, "a match that did not seem on equal footing"! This left Khelif with no choice but to take it on her proverbial chin, albeit, outside the boxing ring.

However, soon a counter public outcry defending Khelif erupted and gained traction. Many realised that the convenient storyline scripted by the Russia-backed International Boxing Association (no longer recognised by the Olympic Association) was not legally tenable. They recognised that perhaps the functionalities of these competing bodies had their own axe to grind and were in the midst of the usual mudslinging, and that this event gave them an opportunity to seed doubts that were gleefully picked up by some.

The Olympic Committee iterated that Khelif and Lin Yu-

ting (a Taiwanese boxer called into similar question) were indeed women and that, "they have been born as female. They have boxed as females for a long time in female competitions without any major problems".

This included the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Jumping the gun on someone's looks was squarely unfair. In any case, issues of gender require maturity and sensitivity in understanding and commenting. As the social media stance shifted from attacking Khelif to defending her dignity, the Italian boxer who had initiated the accusation soon retracted and apologised. It was clearly a case of premature judgement, discriminatory spirit, and above all, racism that besets the majority of the First World, still made up of former colonists and their apologists.

Sane voices like that of Clressa Sheilds, Gold medalist in 2012, that women with naturally high levels of testosterone should not be penalized just because others may not have the same levels, added the much needed nuance.

She clarified, "That's like saying, 'Oh, she's too strong to be at this weight, she's knocking everybody out, we're going to put her in the men's division.' It has to be some facts that make sense." The fact that the International Olympic Committee had done the necessary spadework and approved her participation (even subsequently clarified its stand) should have ended the murmurs - only it didn't, and that was reflective of the smallness of spirit in the cry wolf attempt.

It was ridiculous to say that Khelif had punched hard in a boxing match at the Olympics; what else could be expected at that level of sport? That it takes

an extraordinarily gifted gene pool with extraordinarily bested bodily composition to run at speeds that they do, jump as high as they do, swim as fast as they do, or even punch as hard as they do, was lost on so many.

Indeed, tests and validations to ensure certain compliances (or non-compliances) are a must and they must have been done, yet so many pitched in with their regressive basic instincts, without proper substantiation.

The duplicity of standards is glaring and possibly the unsubstantiated backlash may not have been so severe had the boxer been from the West.

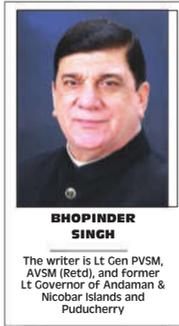
Years ago, another "other" in the form of Serena Williams had worn an outfit stating, "Queen. Don't be afraid to rule like a King" - following despicable insinuations that she was a "man" owing to her physique and strength. She went on to become the most successful tennis player of all time.

The French themselves got a dose of inelegant whispers when Amelie Mauresmo won two Grand Slams (when the likes of rival Martina Hingis had called her 'half man') but withered away subsequently, as her inherent talent could only take her that far.

The French had readily and rightly taken objection to unsubstantiated aspersions on one of their 'own', but perhaps affording a similar instinctive reaction to an Algerian in the Paris Olympics may have been too much to expect.

The perceptions and dynamics of an Algerian in France comes with its load of wounded history that is enmeshed in colonialism, denialism and continuing racism.

That an Imane Khelif has defied so many stereotypes, overcome so many personal-social challenges, and conducted herself in a manner befitting the true values of an Olympian need to be lauded. She will do well because she is determined and talented, not because of anything else.



**BHOPINDER SINGH**

The writer is Lt Gen PWSM, AVSM (Retd), and former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Regulate coaching centres

**SIR,** This has reference to the article "A neighbourhood copes with loss" (4 August) by Vivek Shukla. The recent drowning of three young civil services aspirants in the flooded basement library of a coaching centre in Delhi is reflective of these institutes' lack of concern for public safety, apathy of civic authorities and rampant corruption that hampers the enforcement of law.

To check the negative impact of coaching culture in the country, the Centre gave instructions to state and UT governments in January this year to regulate infrastructure, curriculum, teaching faculty, misleading advertisements and fee structure at these centres. But such 'teaching shops' have mushroomed in the Delhi-NCR region in recent years. They cater to the needs of desperately career-conscious, tuition-crazy students preparing for IAS, NEET, JEE, CAT, CUET, and other competitive exams.

Motivated by greed for quick money, the dubious merchants of

education have built buildings and basements in flagrant violation of rules and building bylaws, charge exorbitant fees, deny even basic facilities and employ unqualified teachers. Post protests by political leaders and students for action against the guilty and compensation to the aggrieved families, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has sealed many recalcitrant coaching centres, bulldozed encroachments and made some arrests.

The probe has been transferred to the CBI. Opening more government colleges with proper infrastructure, ensuring affordable quality education, and creating ample employment opportunities in the public and private sectors are long-term solutions to the current malaise.

Yours, etc., D S Kang, Hoshiarpur, 7 August.

### PASSIVE ARMY

**SIR,** This refers to the article 'Movement hijacked by fundamentalists' by Erina Haque Bithy

published today. There is no denying that fundamentalist forces of Bangladesh have hijacked the student movement against job quotas.

According to the Supreme Court verdict, the Hasina government had reduced the quota to meet the demands of students. It was thought that the student movement would end. But after a week a violent movement against the Hasina government resurfaced.

Police failed to control the violent mobs which ultimately led to the resignation of Hasina and her flight to India.

After the resignation of the Hasina government, the army took control. Even then the violent agitators did not stop their looting, firing and killing of people randomly.

Instead of taking action, the army remained passive. This raises the question of whether the army wanted to control the situation or allowed it to happen so that Hasina was compelled to resign and flee from the country.

Secondly, the way agitators

### AN INTELLECTUAL

**SIR,** The passing away of Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee marked the end of an era of "bhadralok" politicians. Known for his trademark white "dhoti" and "panjabi", Bhattacharjee was also a playwright and a poet. An alumnus of Kolkata's elite Presidency College, he perfectly fit the bill of the Bengali intellectual with a varied range of interests.

Filmmaker Satyajit Ray was one of his friends. Bhattacharjee restored the white paint of Shaheed Minar near Esplanade in Kolkata after Ray expressed disgust seeing the red coating given to the monument by the first Left Front government.

He translated many international literary works into Bengali. He wrote extensively on the changes in China and published a book on the subject.

In Bengal, the CPM drew flak from its critics for the exodus of industries from the state. Bhattacharjee wanted to change the narrative and pushed for the state's industrialisation. However, the efforts were misdirected and the rest is history.

Yours, etc., Shovanlal Chakraborty, Kolkata, 9 August.

demolished the statue of Mujibur Rahman and set fire to the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre was reminiscent of the demolition carried out by the Taliban in Bamyan, Afghanistan.

The selective killing of minorities and destruction of temples indicates that fundamentalists and divisive forces are active behind this agitation.

The clandestine involvement of foreign hands like Pakistan, China and America cannot be ruled out. Hence any interim government comprising fundamentalist forces cannot be a friend of India. India needs to handle these issues carefully in the days to come.

Yours, etc., Mihir Kanungo, Kolkata, 7 August.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

### ASIAN VOICES

## Excessive market jitters

Investors in South Korea seem jittery since the stock markets have been on a dizzying roller-coaster ride in recent sessions, triggered by fears that the US economy has been slowing faster than expected.

The benchmark Kospi rebounded sharply Tuesday, along with the markets in Japan and Taiwan, allowing investors and financial authorities to have a sigh of relief.

But it is too early to conclude that a phase of steep losses on recession worries is over, especially given the depth of shock that gripped the Korean stock market and elsewhere in Asia a day earlier. The main bourse Kospi plunged 8.8 percent Monday, marking the biggest fall since October 2008. At one point, it fell by over 10 percent, triggering circuit breakers for the first time in four years.

Worries about a potential US recession as well as overpriced tech stocks linked to artificial intelligence sent Japan's benchmark Nikkei plummeting 12.4 percent Monday, the largest one-day fall since October 1987, and Taiwan's Taiex gauge tumbling 8.4 percent, the worst selloff since 1967.

The free fall on Tuesday came even though the US Federal Reserve, which recently left key rates unchanged, hinted at a possible cut in September. The positive signal was eclipsed by worse-than-expected US data that showed fewer new jobs, a higher unemployment rate and slowing wage growth.

### The Korea Herald

Another fear factor involved major tech stocks, some of which have led a surge in the US and other stock markets by highlighting the rosy prospect of AI-related innovation and productivity. Tech front-runner Nvidia reportedly delayed the rollout of its next-generation "Blackwell" B200 AI chips due to a design flaw. Chipmaker Intel also announced poor quarterly earnings Thursday that resulted in its decision to lay off about 15,000 people, casting a cloud over the tech sector at large.

Seoul's stock market, which is tech-heavy and in close sync with Wall Street, is vulnerable to major external shocks like a recession in the US or a negative shift in stance toward AI-related shares. If foreign investors begin to pull a significant amount of their money out of the local bourse, the Korean currency is bound to lose value, which in turn hurts already weak domestic demand and makes companies delay facility investment.

Tuesday's rebound is a welcome reprieve, but there are a slew of unpredictable factors that can prompt investors, both local and foreign, to place sell orders. The Korean government and financial authorities are closely watching the latest topsy-turvy gyrations in the stock market, but they seem to be essentially optimistic about the fundamentals of the Korean market.

In an emergency meeting on the economy and financial markets Tuesday, Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok shared the view with Bank of Korea Gov. Rhee Chang-yong and Financial Services Commission chief Kim Byoung-hwan that Monday's market crash was "excessive."

They pointed out several factors, such as a US slowdown, the yen-carry trade and renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East sparked massive sell-offs, but claimed that the Korean economy is well on its path toward recovery and well positioned to deal with external shocks.

### PERSONAL

THANK You Jesus, Mother Mary & St. Jude for a safe journey. - DS.

OCCASIONAL NOTE

Yesterday the familiar sound of the time-gun was again heard at its accustomed hour in Calcutta, and it came as boon and a blessing to men of punctual habits. The needs of those who live out of hearing of this useful signal, however, still remain to be considered, sidered, and a suggestion just made in the columns of the Times for the benefit of Londoners is worth noting. For Calcutta is not the only city where the need is felt for a reliable system of public time-keeping. Even within sound of Big Ben the lack of public clocks appears to have struck at least one oversea visitor as extraordinary, and his comment on the subject is declared by one correspondent, Dr. Michael Grabham, to be by no means ill-founded. Another writer, Mr. F. Hope-Jones, Vice-Chairman of the British Horological Institute, criticises the "total absence of municipal time services" in England, pointing out that elsewhere street timing is undertaken by the civic authorities as a matter of course, together with street lighting and cleaning. Mr. Hope-Jones endorses a statement made by Dr. Grabham to the effect that recent developments have provided electric clocks of great reliability and simplicity of construction, quite capable of maintaining street, time services at a trivial cost. If London can be induced to try a practical experiment with one of these devices, the results should be worth watching. With the time-gun to give the lead, every Calcutta resident might thus be enabled --- in Dr. Grabham's phrase --- to "think in minutes."

NEWS ITEMS

AFGHAN ABSCONDER

YOUNG PRETENDER AMONG KHOST REBELS

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.) A communique states:-Reports from the United Provinces that Abdul Karim Khan an Afghan refugee, is missing from his station coupled with rumours from Khost that a youth claiming to be a grandson of Amir Sher Ali has appeared among the insurgents against the Afghan Government, leave little room for doubt of the identity of the pretender. Abdul Karim Khan is the illegitimate son of the late ex-Amir Yakub Khan. Born in India of a serving maid, he was disowned several years ago by his father who refused to provide for his support, describing him as a man of no account and a disgrace to the whole Afghan community. As he was incapable of earning his own livelihood, he was given Rs. 80 a month for subsistence by the Government. He has for years been a notorious wastrel of an unbalanced type. He absconded from justice in 1917 and on his return the Government were forced to incarcerate him, first in Muradabad and later in Fyzabad and Benares jails. He was eventually released from jail on giving a written undertaking that he would be of good character and not quit Benares without permission. As soon as his escape became known to the Government of India, they requested His Majesty's Minister at Kabul to apprise the Afghan Government of it, with an expression of their regret that this ne'er-do-well should have been able to elude surveillance and make his way into Afghanistan.

BABBAR AKALI CASE

RISING ON MUTINY LINES ADVOCATED

YESTERDAY at the Central Jail, before Mr. Tapp, Special Sessions Judge, who is trying the Babbar Akali case, Dhanna Singh of Katli, who was recently arrested in the course of a scuffle for a gun, and who has since turned an approver, examined by the Public Prosecutor, stated that Babu Santa Singh told the witness that the Government was tyrannical and was standing in the way of the reform of the Sikh Guardwara; that the British had conquered the Punjab from the Sikhs by treachery; and that in order to re-establish the Sikh raj there should be a rising on the lines of the Indian Mutiny. Witness approved of the proposal and joined the Babbar Akalis. The approver then related how the Babbars killed Buta, Lambardar, and committed dacoity at his house.

EMPIRE "JAMBOREE"

13,000 BOY SCOUTS AT WEMBLEY

INDIA, Burma, Ceylon, China, Hong-Kong and all parts of the British Empire were represented among 13,000 Boy Scouts of various nationalities and colours participating in the Empire "jamboree" which was inaugurated this afternoon by a great procession at Wembley in the stadium. The Duke of Connaught, accompanied by Sir Robert Baden Powell, welcomed the boys.

Seeking light, dispelling darkness in Bangladesh

SOUMALYA CHATTERJEE

A decade has happened in the last couple of weeks: a discredited quota system has been removed, hundreds of lives have been lost and Sheikh Hasina, notorious for her dictatorial traits, resigned and fled Bangladesh. This week shall shape the future of Bangladesh at least for the decade to come.

Students have backed the veteran economist and Bangladeshi Nobel laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus, as the chief advisor of the interim government - a praiseworthy stance for it means they did not get enticed by the Islamic fundamentalist forces and the BNP. Amid this chaos, writer and activist Tariq Ali congratulated the students of Bangladesh for their amazing triumph and addressing them as 'comrades and friends', advised: "Do not trust the so-called opposition parties. They are no different. Rely on your own strength... This is a historic victory. Do not let anyone steal it from you."

There is no reason to hold a contradictory view. But the Indian response to the Bangladeshi students' victory is a bit puzzling. There are reasons for this anxious response. India's relationships with neighboring countries such as Pakistan and China are tense and unlikely to improve soon. In this situation, Bangladesh was one neighbor with whom New Delhi had been on good terms. Hasina's exile is bound to make the Indian government anxious. These geopolitical tensions

are justified to some extent. But the popular Indian response to Bangladesh does not align with this line. It has to do with something else.

What happened here is that the moment Hasina fled Bangladesh, thousands of posts flooded the feeds of Facebook, Instagram and X. The world was watching everything: from the students' march on the streets, celebrations of their victory, occupation of Hasina's house, vandalizing Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue, and setting the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on fire.

We live in a time where images speak louder than anything else. Images always had this power to leave an imprint of that you would remember till your last breath. And today, circulation of an image happens in the blink of an eye. A chunk of posts started, stating that the minorities in Bangladesh are under attack. It took no time to trend #AllEyesOnBangladeshiHindus on X. Half of the empathy turned into hatred in a few minutes.

It was images - posters, caricatures, photographs - that implanted a seed of empathy among us and it is the image again that has led a few of us to equate the Bangladeshi minorities' condition with the worst sort of ethnic cleansing. Impatience among netizens is nothing new. During the adrenaline rush they fail to ponder over facts and react. It is true that properties have been vandalized, minorities have been attacked but do we have enough evidence to declare this a genocide?



Social media and the mainstream Indian media are also responsible for spreading a lot of misleading propaganda to vitiate the political and social environment in India. As a result the democratic voices, sharing their rational views, have been cornered. The propagandists have spread images, showed videos without verifying, keeping the commoners from seeing the other side of the story. I've seen hundreds of posts where Muslims were seen guarding Hindu temples

and the mosques were announcing that Hindu brothers should be protected. Amid the darkness, there indeed was light.

We need to understand that Bangladesh is in a phase of transition. Anything can happen. In such a situation we must stand in solidarity with our neighbour and share our views rationally to guide them. We do not want the movement, which has earned victory at the cost of hundreds of lives, to be hijacked by Jamaat-e-Islami or BNP or by any

other fundamentalist-opportunist force. We want secularism to prevail over Bangladesh.

Lastly, I must say that the Indian response to anything cannot be a generalized statement. The nature of our country does not allow this. We unite in diversity. Our response to Bangladesh also carries manifold voices but we must work to stitch them in empathy.

(The writer is an alumnus of the department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University.)

IT CAME TO MIND | MANISH NANDY

Early diagnosis and bad prognosis

Six blocks from my home lives Aurora, an organizational change executive I know for some years. Three years ago, I found her distraught: her doctor had found a tumor in her left breast. Tests confirmed that it was cancerous.

Her job entailed medical insurance. She saw the best specialists. Then she went through the mortifying cut-poison-burn routine. She had surgery and radiation; she received doses of chemotherapy. Months later, she came out relatively well. The tumor was gone. She looked well and didn't lose her hair. The prognosis was good.

What wasn't good was her mindset. She had once worked in a hospital and had read enough about cancer. She believed it was elusive and intractable. Once gone, it can arise again, sphinx-like, and threaten your life.

She researched and identified a famous cancer institution. She flew there with all her records and went through a battery of tests. These sought to detect chemical markers in her blood that would predispose her to cancer. Science has advanced. The specialists also sought to identify genetic markers that made her more vulnerable to cancer. As often happens, the results were good but there were identifiable chinks in her armour. Subtle threats lurked. The murderous disease could resurface.

The last I knew she was considering what is called liquid biopsy, which can spot the presence of cancerous cells in her blood or other tissues. The problem is that it can tell of their presence but not of their location. Aurora would then have to go through a raft of invasive tests to determine their location, even though the cells may never cause a clinically identifiable disease and

Illustration by : Debabrata Chakrabarty



need to be treated. Not only that. She tells me that there is talk of further diagnostic advances - for instance, a mirror that can detect the minutest change in your body and alert you to its implications.

These are remarkable advances. Doubtless, they will save lives. Early recognition and accurate diagnosis will permit swift and pointed treatment. That is a benefit that we must attribute to scientific progress. Multi-pronged physiological surveillance combined with emerging genetic surveillance will help us know of diseases long before their depredation makes us aware of the danger.

But - and here is the rub - they will also do other things.

I notice with Aurora that, instead of being reassured and happy with the results so far, she has become preoccupied with what may come down the pike. The more she has had the benefit of discussion with top doctors in the field, the more she has learned about the uncertainty and insidiousness of the disease, she has become more determined to do her utmost to fight. To be fearful of severe sarcoma is human; to want to battle a mortal malady is natural. But Aurora appears to be living a life flitting between labs and pharmacies,

doctors and specialists. It is a life of angst, anxiety and sheer agony.

It is not just Aurora. It is not just her cancer. Aurora illustrates the painful paradox of our healthcare. There are a vast number of people for whom good medicine remains beyond financial reach. But even for those who can afford first-rate service, because either they have generous medical insurance or they are affluent, early and efficient diagnosis can be a great blessing.

It is seldom so. As clinical practice has become more far-seeing, medical care as dispensed by a general practitioner or a particular

specialist has become more time-bound and mechanical, routinized and almost ruthless. The average physician has neither time nor inclination to understand the terror of a patient facing a serious illness, let alone the motivation to dispel his confusion and walk with her on the path to recovery. The patients shuttled through procedures they trust will bring them some relief.

Given the breakthroughs in biotechnology and machine learning, diagnostic capabilities will keep improving at a rapid rate. A large percentage of a country's population could then be identified as likely to be vulnerable to one major disease or another. This may have great significance for insurance companies which may choose highly differentiated rates for people with different susceptibilities. It may even have a large impact on the recruitment policy of organizations which make a significant investment in the long-term training of their staff.

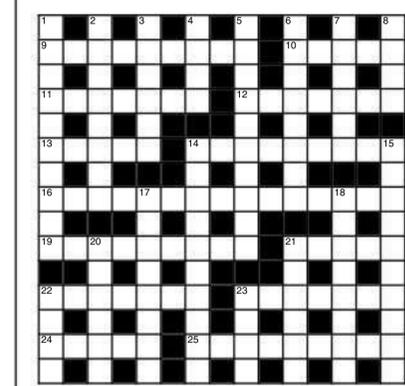
But the biggest impact may be on the individuals themselves who have to live with the knowledge that their bodies harbour the seeds of incipient diseases that may hugely change their future lives. What they will need then, very much like Aurora, is a significant measure of counseling and guidance to live peacefully and with manageable anxiety in the shadow of probable emergence of a murderous malady.

The next few phases of my friend's development I will anticipate, along with her, with both hope and concern.

(The writer is a US-based international development advisor and had worked with the World Bank. He can be reached at mnandy@gmail.com)

CROSSWORD

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

PEDANT FORENSIC
LINGER ACCURATE
AGTSA D V L
THE TIMES YEMENI
E R C T F V A
SEMI IDEALISTIC
A P O I E U
RANSOMWARE URDU
O L N D A N N
SARNIE FOOTWELL
E O S O S L D E
CRUSHING PAKORA
U G E C S U R
TRENDIES STATIN

ACROSS

- 9 Second secretary with oil magnate picked up dish (9)
10 The type that regularly gobbles suet? (5)
11 Fit to swallow tablet pro tem? (7)
12 A Spanish swimmer died without help (7)
13 I count 50 leaving country (5)
14 I'd once drunk spirit, breaching etiquette (9)

DOWN

- 16 A Northern Irish lady brings in large man for stock control (6,9)
19 For one German hosting buffet it helps to make omelette (9)
21 Some Londoners devour fruit (5)
22 China must ask about revolutionary Japanese ware (7)
23 Wind from the rear outside recalled pasta dish (7)

DOWN

- 1 I avoid tips in a former digest (10)
2 Old mate in Paris welcomes rare beef (8)
3 Woman's keen to bottle fruit (6)
4 Staunch supporter of plant (4)

DOWN

- 5 £51 is exceptionally dear for a kitchen device (10)
6 Foreign Office spies nicking a cricket club's bread (8)
7 Offer kind young nurse a dinghy (6)
8 Charge by the day for fodder (4)
14 Where to do some poaching, beset by trouble (2,3,5)
15 I am anyone's after refreshment and dressing (10)

DOWN

- 17 Pretty good commercial match (8)
18 One who represents Georgia during strike (8)
20 Sweet drink in most of France once (6)
21 Killjoy is boring drunk, having ejected one Republican (6)
22 Son put away stuff (4)
23 Time-consuming story's less powerful (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

## THUMBNAILS

Amazon Web Services to expand data centre operations in Hyderabad: Amazon Web Services (AWS) has plans to expand their presence in Hyderabad and these include a new hyper-scale data centre for AI/ML-enabled services. The company expressed keen interest in making significant investments in expanding its data centre facilities and workforce in Hyderabad. Telangana delegation led by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu called on Amazon senior leadership, Kerry Person, Vice President, AWS Data Centre Planning and Delivery, at Palo Alto in California. The Minister convinced the company to give a stronger thrust to their data centre operations in Telangana.

# Hindenburg report on SEBI chief amounts to another hit job, say economists and experts

Among others, KV Subramanian, a former Chief Economic Advisor of India, took to X and said that he vouched for the 'unimpeachable integrity' of SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch and that the Hindenburg report lacked 'intellectual rigour'

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The latest report by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research taking a shot at SEBI chief has been rubbished by economists as baseless, malafide and motivated.

Some of the country's leading financial experts said that the report is based on conjectures and speculations and lacks solid proof and its main purpose is to 'book profits' at the expense of Indian stock markets.

KV Subramanian, a former Chief Economic Advisor of India, took to X and said that he vouched for the 'unimpeachable integrity' of SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch and that the Hindenburg report lacked 'intellectual rigour'.

"I've personally known SEBI Chairperson Madhabi for about two decades. Given her unimpeachable integrity and her intellectual prowess, I'm sure she will shred to smithereens this Hindenburg's hit job," wrote Subramanian, who is currently Executive Director with IMF.

Kishore Subramanian, a



leading financial expert, said that the report looks devoid of any evidence and banks on accusations and allegations to prove its point.

"The use of words like...

'we think, maybe' shows that the report is based on conjectures and speculations and not on solid evidence," he said.

"By releasing a report

in turn make money," the financial expert said. He further urged investors not to believe in hearsay, as spread by the US-based short-seller and asked people to frame their own opinion by reading the report which is in the public domain.

Ajay Rotti, Tax Compass founder, also saw an underlying motive in the report and said that it was a brazen attempt to bring the Indian markets down.

"This report has been published just to divert attention from the scrutiny of Hindenburg themselves and their

short trade.... the report calls the SEBI show-cause to them as "apparent show cause notice". Their earlier report had no impact on the markets after the initial fall... the Supreme Court found nothing wrong in the previous allegation in 2023. Hence, another attempt to make money while shorting!" he wrote on X.

Earlier in the day, SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval also rebutted the report and termed it an attempt at "character assassination" in response to SEBI's action against the Hindenburg.

short trade.... the report calls the SEBI show-cause to them as "apparent show cause notice". Their earlier report had no impact on the markets after the initial fall... the Supreme Court found nothing wrong in the previous allegation in 2023. Hence, another attempt to make money while shorting!" he wrote on X.

## Market valuation of eight of top-10 firms erodes by over ₹ 1,66,000 crore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST:

The market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 1,66,954.07 crore last week with Reliance Industries and Life Insurance Corporation of India emerging as the biggest laggards in line with weak trend in equities.

Rank-wise Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries tanked Rs 33,930.56 crore to Rs 19,94,765.01 crore, while Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) slumped Rs 30,676.24 crore to Rs 7,17,001.74 crore.

Further, the State Bank of India lost Rs 21,151.33



crore from its valuation which stood at Rs 7,35,566.52 crore.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tumbled Rs 19,157.77 crore to Rs 15,30,469.11 crore, and Infosys dived Rs 20,973.19 crore to Rs

7,35,277.28 crore.

ICICI Bank suffered an erosion of Rs 16,975.55 crore to Rs 8,25,201.23 crore, and HDFC Bank declined by Rs 7,095.87 crore to Rs 12,56,505.53 crore.

Bharti Airtel's mcap got

wiped out by Rs 16,993.56 crore to Rs 8,33,396.32 crore. However, the mcap of Hindustan Unilever jumped Rs 12,946.24 crore to reach Rs 6,45,808.65 crore.

The valuation of ITC climbed Rs 8,406.26 crore

to Rs 6,19,829.37 crore.

Last week, the BSE benchmark slumped 1,276.04 points or 1.57 per cent.

Benchmark indices bounced back on Friday and erased last session losses with a percent gain led by buying across the sectors.

The surge was on the back of positive global cues and extended the gains as the day progressed with Nifty crossing 24,400 and Sensex went closer to 80,000-mark. Sensex closed 820 points, or 1.04 per cent, higher at 79,705.91, while the Nifty 50 ended with a gain of 251 points, or 1.04 per cent, at 24,367.50.

Notably, the Nifty 50 made a new all-time high by touching the 25,000 levels on August 1, but shortly after that, the market witnessed increased levels of volatility.

## Foreign investors turn net sellers in August, pull out over ₹ 13,000 crore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST:

Foreign investors have turned net sellers in August as they pulled out over Rs 13,400 crore from Indian equities due to unwinding of the yen carry trade and recession fears in the US.

The development comes after they infused money during the last two months.

So far this year, FPIs have made a net investment of Rs 22,134 crore in equities, data with the depositories showed.

The data showed that the Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew a net amount of Rs 13,431 crore from equities so far this month (August 1-9).

This came following an inflow of Rs 32,365 crore in July on expectation of sustained economic growth, continued reforms and better-than-expected earnings season, and Rs 26,565 crore in June driven by political stability and the sharp rebound in markets.

FPIs withdrew Rs 25,586



crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

Notably, for the fortnight ended July 31, FPIs were sustained sellers in financial services.

However, they were buyers in IT, autos, capital goods and metals during the period under review.

On the other hand, FPIs invested Rs 6,261 crore in the debt market in August so far. This has taken the tally to Rs 97,249 crore so far in 2024.

## RBI expected to begin rate cuts in October, with two reductions this fiscal: Crisil



AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may begin lowering interest rates around October, provided that external factors like weather conditions and international commodity prices do not cause any disruptions, the credit rating agency, Crisil said in its report.

The credit rating agency further anticipated that it expects "two rate cuts this fiscal."

It said that the decision

of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision to hold rates in its recent announcement was due to the elevated food inflation. The climate conditions such as weather events are frequently changing and they need to be monitored.

Going ahead, it anticipated that the macroeconomic environment would be better, creating a background for a rate cut.

"The food challenge to a rate cut is expected to ease as agriculture prospects look better than last year. The monsoon has been above normal (7 per cent above the long period average as of August 7), and sowing has picked up across major foodgrains. As agriculture prospects become clearer by September, we expect it to pave the way for a rate cut," the S&P's arm added in its report.

## Mutual fund SIPs reach ₹ 23,332 crore for first time, AUM at 64.69 lakh crore

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

India's mutual fund industry witnessed the highest ever Rs 23,332 crore SIP inflow in July, which in June was Rs 21,262 crore.

Due to the recent increase in Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) inflow, Assets Under Management (AUM) of the total mutual fund industry reached 64.69 lakh crore in July as against 60.89 lakh crore in June.

According to the AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India) data, Total inflows into equity funds declined by 8.6 per cent to Rs 37,113.4 crore in the last month which was Rs 40,608.19 crore in June, the highest ever recorded equity inflow in mutual funds in India.

This is the 41st consecutive month that inflows into open-ended equity



funds have been positive. In July, Sensex surged 3.43 per cent and Nifty railed 3.92 per cent.

Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive of AMFI, said that the growth rate of the industry is positive due to continuous investment in mutual funds by retail investors. At present, mutual funds have become an important part of the financial strategy of retail investors.

Maximum investment is being seen in sectoral and thematic funds. A net investment of Rs 18,386.35 crore came in this category in July.

## Godrej Appliances well set to become part of 'Billion Dollar Club' in FY25

RITWIK MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA, 11 AUGUST

Godrej Appliances, an arm of Godrej & Boyce, is aiming to be amongst the top three players in the home appliances industry in the next three years. Interestingly, in the first quarter, Godrej Appliances' sales grew over 60 per cent y-o-y, backed by a significant improvement in consumption. The industry saw a growth of around 30 per cent during the period. The company also expects to increase its market share in Bengal across the three categories — air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines.

Speaking to The Statesman, exclusively, Kamal Nandi, Business Head and Executive Vice-President at Godrej Appliances, explains how the company is confidently moving towards becoming a \$1 billion company in FY25.

Excerpts:  
**Q. How big is the overall appliance market in India? At what rate is it growing?**

A: Catering to rising demand for home appliances, India's appliances and consumer electronics market size is Rs 75,000 - 80,000 crore. and is growing at 11 per cent CAGR over last 5 years, and is expected to continue its upward trajectory in the coming years.

**Q. What is Godrej Appliances' current market share?**

A: Godrej Appliances expects to increase its market share in Bengal across all three categories air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines.

**Q. How is the company adopting and embracing newer and newer technology, particularly AI and all? How does the company stand to gain through the adoption of AI and other new technology? How do consumers stand to gain through the use of these AI-powered**



products?

A: Consumers today have become more tech savvy and appreciate intelligence in their products—be it devices or appliances. There's a growing desire for large capacity, feature-rich, aesthetically appealing, and advanced appliances that make life easier or more comfortable for consumers.

Catering to this demand, earlier this year, we had launched our Eon Vogue series of wood-finish appliances—refrigerators and air conditioners that was well received in the market. Our Patented Anti-leak ACs also garnered a very good response.

For the upcoming festive season, we are thrilled to showcase our extensive product lineup with intelligent AI Technology that optimizes performance and adds convenience. Godrej's range of appliances in Washing Machines, Refrigerators and Air Conditioners come with in-built intelligence that monitors usage, senses various parameters like ambient weather, food load, cloth load or cloth balance among others depending on the appliance and accordingly optimises the machine's per-

formance. This makes the products more user friendly and also optimizes resources like energy or water. Our approach to AI technology is in line with our larger philosophy of Things Made Thoughtfully—which revolves around delivering relevant technology that adds genuine value to consumers through greater convenience or through resource conservation.

The company has also added new machines in the larger capacities given the growing trend towards the same amongst consumers like 400+ Litre Frost Free Refrigerators, large 10 Kg Front Load Washing Machines, and 2.5 Tr Air Conditioners. Given the company's commitment to energy efficiency, Godrej also has on offer India's most efficient refrigerator consuming less than 100 units of power per year, High efficiency 5-star Air Conditioners, Front Load Washing Machines and Deep Freezers. The company has also lined up a strong portfolio of Front Load Washing Machines with a slew of exclusive offers that will benefit consumers.

**Q. How confident are you of becoming a member of 'Billion Dollar Club'?**

A: Last year, pan India we crossed Rs 6,000 crore and this year our target is to cross Rs 8,000 crore. On the basis of our summer performance, we are confident of growing by more than 35-40 per cent which will help us move towards becoming a \$1 billion company in FY25.

**Q. What is the breakup of urban and rural demands for your products? Going forward, where would the maximum growth come from—metro cities or tier-II, tier-III cities?**

A: This varies by category. Appliance penetration traditionally has been lower in rural and is led by the urban markets. ACs are far more urban skewed than Refrigerators. However, with electrification and improvement in access, we expect penetration levels to improve. Last year the industry saw maximum growth in the less than 1 Lac population towns across all key categories.

**Q. What is the incremental**

### Classified

#### SITUATION VACANT

CONSULTANT Wanted - Rajadighi Community Health Service Society is seeking Expressions of Interest from experienced consultants to develop a training module for a child education project aimed at centre-level workers. The ideal candidate should possess at least 10 years of experience in the relevant field and hold a Master's degree in any development-related discipline or equivalent. Interested applicants are encouraged to refer to the RCHSS notice board for more information and must submit their applications by August 26, 2024. Applications should be addressed to the Secretary, Rajadighi Community Health Service Society, Village: Eklakhi, Post: Rajadighi, District: Malda, Pin Code- 732102.

#### CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAYAN Kumar Sana, S/o. Sri Sital Kumar Sana, of 20/1, Kail Kundu Lane, P.S. & Dist.: Howrah-711101, have sworn an affidavit in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Howrah, vide Affidavit Serial No.-5, dated: 08-08-2024 and thereby declared as "Sayan Kumar Sana, S/o. Sital Kumar Sana" and "Sayan Kumar Sana, S/o. Sital Sana" is same and identical person.

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The violent incidents on our streets must be stopped. It is completely unacceptable

DENMARK PRIME MINISTER METTE FREDERIKSEN EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN OVER THE RECENT SURGE IN VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN COPENHAGEN

THUMBNAILS

China's Sichuan evacuates 80,000 people amid heavy rain: More than 80,000 people have been evacuated in southwest China's Sichuan Province amid the most recent rainstorms to hit the region, local authorities said on Sunday. Heavy rain have battered several of Sichuan's cities and prefectures since Friday, triggering flash floods and destroying homes, according to the province's emergency management authorities. Xinhua news agency reported. No casualties have yet been reported as a result of the latest rainstorms. Local authorities have enhanced spot checks, patrols and monitoring work to guard against rain-triggered secondary disasters, informing precautionary decisions to evacuate locals from flood-prone areas. Intense rain on August 3 unleashed a flash flood and mudslide in the city of Kangding, Sichuan, in which 27 people have been reported dead or missing.

Repulsed major attack by paramilitary forces on El Fasher: Sudanese Army: The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) announced that it repulsed a major attack by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur State in western Sudan. "Today, our forces crushed a major attack by the militia and inflicted heavy losses on them," Nabil Abdallah, the SAF's spokesman, said in a statement, Xinhua news agency reported. For its part, the joint force of the armed movements in the Darfur region, which is allied with the RSF, said in a statement that it fought a fierce battle in El Fasher on Saturday and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, referring to the RSF. The non-governmental Coordination of Resistance Committees in El Fasher said that the clashes in the city "have relatively stopped" after continuing for more than six hours. The RSF has not issued any comments regarding the attack.

# Israel military orders fresh evacuations in southern Gaza

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent months trying to mediate a cease-fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS GAZA STRIP, 11 AUGUST

The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. Israel said it targeted a militant command post, killing 19 fighters. Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops have returned to heavily destroyed areas where they had previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the 10-month-old war, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools like the one struck on Saturday. Palestinians say nowhere in the besieged territory feels safe.



The latest evacuation orders apply to areas in Khan Younis, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas. Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an earlier evacuation order. Hundreds of families carrying their belongings in their arms left their homes and shelters early Sunday, seeking elusive refuge. "We don't know where to go," said Amal Abu Yahia, a mother of three, who had returned to Khan Younis in June to shelter in their severely damaged home. "This is my fourth displacement," said

the 42-year-old widow, whose husband was killed when an Israeli airstrike hit their neighbors' house in March. She said they went to Muwasi, a sprawling tent camp along the coast, but could not find any space. Ramadan Issa, a father of five in his 50s, fled Khan Younis with 17 members of his extended family, joining hundreds of people walking toward central Gaza early Sunday. "Every time we settle in one place and build tents for women and children, the occupation comes and bombs the area," he said, referring to Israel. "This situation is unbearable." Gaza's Health Ministry says the Palestinian death toll from the 10-month-old war is approaching 40,000, without saying how many were fighters. Aid groups have struggled to address the staggering humanitarian crisis in the territory, while international experts have warned of famine. The war began when

Hamas-led militants burst through Israel's defenses on Oct. 7 and rampaged through farming communities and army bases near the border, killing some 1,200 people—mostly civilians—and abducting around 250 people. The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent months trying to mediate a cease-fire and the return of the roughly 110 remaining hostages, around a third of whom Israeli authorities believe to be deceased. The conflict has meanwhile threatened to trigger a regional war, as Israel has traded fire with Iran and its militant allies across the region. The strike on Saturday hit a mosque inside a school in Gaza City where thousands of people were sheltering. The Gaza Health Ministry said 80 people were killed and around 50 wounded. The Israeli military disputed the toll and said it killed 19 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in a precise strike, releasing what it said were their names and photos.

# Ukraine's president indirectly confirms daring military incursion onto Russian soil

AGENCIES KYIV, 11 AUGUST



Days after Ukraine began a surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, Zelenskyy broke the government's silence on it late Saturday by indirectly acknowledging ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory" in his nightly address. Overnight into Sunday, a Russian drone and missile barrage on Kyiv killed two people including a 4-year-old boy. In Russia, Kursk's regional governor said that a Ukrainian missile shot down by Russian air defenses fell on a residential building, wounding 13 people. Russia attacked Ukraine with four ballistic missiles and 57 Shahed drones, Ukraine's Air Force said. Air defenses shot down 53 drones. The bodies of a 35-year-old man and his son were found under rubble after fragments of missiles fell on a residential area in Kyiv's suburban Brovary district, according to Ukraine's State Emergency Service on Sun-

day. Another three people in the district were also injured in the attack. Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration said it was the second time this month Kyiv was targeted. Popko said ballistic missiles did not reach the capital but that suburbs took the hit, while drones aiming for the capital were shot down. Zelenskyy, citing preliminary information, said that Russia had used a North Korean missile in the strike. Ukraine and the U.S. have previously said that Russia has used North Korean missiles in the war.

# Bangladesh: New Chief Justice sworn in a day after predecessor quit amid protests

AGENCIES DHAKA, 11 AUGUST

Bangladesh's new chief justice has been sworn into office after his predecessor, viewed as a loyalist of toppled premier Sheikh Hasina, quit following protester demands, a presidential official said Sunday. It is the latest in a string of fresh appointments to replace an old guard viewed as linked to the previous regime, ousted by the student-led uprising. Syed Rezaat Ahmed, the senior-most high court judge, was sworn into office by President Mohammed Shahabuddin, the president's press secretary Shiplu Zaman told AFP. "He became the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh," Zaman said. Ahmed studied at the University of Dhaka, Oxford and Tufts University in the United States.



Hasina (76), fled by helicopter to neighbouring India on Monday as protesters flooded Dhaka's streets in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted rule. Her government was accused of widespread human rights abuses including the extrajudicial killing of thousands of her political opponents over her 15-year rule. Cabinet ministers left blindsided by her sudden fall have gone to ground, while several top appointees

secretary. Bangladesh's interim leader, Nobel laureate, Muhammad Yunus (84), returned from Europe this week to lead a temporary administration facing the monumental challenge of ending disorder and enacting democratic reforms. The restoration of law and order is the caretaker administration's "first priority", Mr Yunus said. Mr Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his pioneering work in micro-finance, credited with helping millions of Bangladeshis out of grinding poverty. He took office Thursday as "chief advisor" to a caretaker administration, comprised of fellow civilians bar one retired brigadier-general, and has said he wants to hold elections "within a few months".

# Iran's president proposes an ex-nuclear negotiator as foreign minister

AGENCIES DUBAI, 11 AUGUST

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday proposed former nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi as the country's new foreign minister and also sought to appoint a woman as roads and housing minister. If approved, she would be Iran's first female minister in more than a decade. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf read out the list of proposed ministers to lawmakers. The hard-line-dominated chamber will have two weeks to review qualifications and give a vote of confidence to the proposed ministers. Araghchi, 61, a career diplomat, was a member of the Iranian negotiator team that reached a nuclear deal with world powers in 2015 that capped Tehran's nuclear program in return for the lifting sanctions. In 2018, then-President Donald Trump pulled the

U.S. out of the deal and imposed more sanctions on Iran. Pezeshkian said during his presidential campaign that he would try to revive the nuclear deal. Pezeshkian named Gen. Aziz Nasirzadeh, an F-14 Tomcat pilot, as defense minister. He was chief of the Iranian Air Force in 2018-2021. This would be the first time that a member of Iran's air force headed the defense ministry. Pezeshkian proposed Farzaneh Sadegh as roads and housing minister. Sadegh, 47, is currently a director in the ministry. She would become only the second female minister in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. It is unclear, however, whether she will be approved. The hard-line parliament seeks more cultural and social restrictions on women based on its interpretations of Islamic sharia. Many lawmakers voiced their opposition when her name was read by the speaker during Sunday's session.

# Ethnic armed group suspected of deadly attack in Myanmar



At least 150 civilians from Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority may have been killed this week in an artillery and drone attack in the western state of Rakhine that survivors suspect was carried out by a major force in the resistance to military rule. The Arakan Army, the military wing of the state's Rakhine ethnic group, denied responsibility for the assault Monday on Rohingya trying to flee fierce fighting in Maungdaw town by crossing the Naf River into Bangladesh.

# Families of Brazilian plane crash victims gather in Sao Paulo as experts work to identify the dead



AGENCIES SAO PAULO, 11 AUGUST

Families of victims of an airliner crash in Brazil are gathering Sunday at a morgue and hotels in Sao Paulo as forensic experts work to identify the remains of the 62 people killed in the accident. Local authorities said the bodies of the pilot, Danilo Santos Romano, and his copilot, Humberto de Campos Alencar e Silva, were the first to be identified by forensic experts. Sao Paulo state government said in a statement Saturday evening that the

remains of all the victims had been recovered. There were 34 male and 28 female bodies in the wreckage, it said. The ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop operated by Brazilian airline Voepass was headed for Guarulhos international airport in Sao Paulo with 58 passengers and four crew members when it went down Friday in Vinhedo, 78 kilometers (49 miles) north of the metropolis. Voepass said three passengers who held Brazilian identification also carried Venezuelan documents and one had Portuguese. At least eight physicians were aboard, Paraná state Gov. Ratinho Júnior said. Four professors at Unioeste university in western Paraná were also confirmed dead. Three-year-old Liz Ibbas Santos, who was travelling with her father, was the only child known to be on passenger list. The remains of Luna, a dog that was travelling with a Venezuelan family, was found in the wreckage.

# Donald Trump's campaign says its emails were hacked

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEW YORK, 11 AUGUST



Former President Donald Trump's presidential campaign said Saturday that it has been hacked and suggested Iranian actors were involved in stealing and distributing sensitive internal documents. The campaign provided no specific evidence of Iran's involvement, but the claim comes a day after Microsoft issued a report detailing foreign agents' attempts to interfere in the U.S. campaign in 2024. It cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a former senior advisor." Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung blamed the hack on "foreign sources hostile to the United States." A spokesperson for the National Security Council

said in a statement that it takes any report of improper foreign interference "extremely seriously" and condemns any government or entity that attempts to undermine confidence in U.S. democratic institutions, but said it deferred to the Justice Department on this matter. Iran's mission to the United Nations, when asked about the claim of the Trump campaign, denied being involved. "We do not accord any credence to such reports," the mission told The Associated Press. "The Iranian government neither possesses nor harbors any intent or motive to interfere in the United States presidential election." However, Iran long has been suspected of running

hacking campaigns targeting its enemies in the Middle East and beyond. Tehran also long has threatened to retaliate against Trump over the 2020 drone strike he ordered that killed prominent Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. The U.S. Justice Department this past week unsealed criminal charges against a Pakistani national with ties to Iran alleged to have plotted assassination attempts against political figures in the United States, including potentially Trump, and to have sought to hire purported hitmen who were actually undercover law enforcement officials. Court documents in that case pointedly noted a desire by Iran to conduct operations against perceived enemies of the regime and to avenge the killing of Soleimani.

**Railway Recruitment Board - Kolkata, Metro Railway, A.V. Complex, Chitpur, R.G. Kar Road, Kolkata - 700 637**  
E-mail: koirrb@gmail.com Website: www.rrbkolkata.gov.in Phone No. 6291516273

**CENTRALISED EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (CEN) No. 04/2024**  
Recruitment of the various posts of Paramedical categories  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the various posts of Paramedical categories in the table below. The last date for submission of application is 16.09.2024. Application (complete in all respect) must be submitted ONLINE ONLY.  
Opening date of Application: 17.08.2024, Closing date for Submission of Application: 16.09.2024

Name of the Post	Pay Level as per 7th CPC	Initial Pay (₹)	Medical Standard	Age as on 01.01.2025	Total Vacancies (All RRBs)
Dietician (Level 7)	7	44900	C2	18-36	05
Nursing Superintendent	7	44900	C1	20-43	713
Audiologist & Speech Therapist	6	35400	B1	21-33	04
Clinical Psychologist	6	35400	B1	18-36	07
Dental Hygienist	6	35400	B1	18-36	05
Dialysis technician	6	35400	B1	20-36	20
Health & Malaria Inspector Gr III	6	35400	C1	18-36	126
Laboratory Superintendent	6	35400	B1	18-36	27
Perfusionist	6	35400	B1	21-43	02
Radiographer X-Ray Technician	6	35400	B1	18-36	64
Occupational Therapist	6	35400	C1	18-36	02
Cath Laboratory Technician	6	35400	B1	18-36	02
Pharmacist (Entry Grade)	5	29200	C2	20-38	246
Physiotherapist	5	29200	B1	18-36	64
Speech Therapist	5	29200	B1	18-36	01
Cardiac technician	4	25500	B1	18-36	04
Optometrist	4	25500	B1	18-36	04
ECG Technician	4	25500	C1	18-36	13
Laboratory Assistant Grade II	3	21700	B1	18-36	94
Field Worker	2	19900	C2	18-33	19
<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>1376</b>

\*This includes a relaxation of 3 years in age beyond the prescribed age limit as a one-time measure due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For further details, please refer to the detailed Employment Notice (CEN) No. 04/2024 available on the official websites of all participating Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) listed below.

**Websites of RRBs Participating in CEN No. 04/2024**

Ahmedabad: www.rrbahmedabad.gov.in	Chennai: www.rrbchennai.gov.in	Muzaffarpur: www.rrbmuzaffarpur.gov.in
Ajmer: www.rrbajmer.gov.in	Gorakhpur: www.rrbgorakhpur.gov.in	Patna: www.rrbpatna.gov.in
Bengaluru: www.rrbnc.gov.in	Guwahati: www.rrbguwahati.gov.in	Prayagraj: www.rrbald.gov.in
Bhopal: www.rrbhopal.gov.in	Jammu: www.rrbjammu.gov.in	Ranchi: www.rbranchi.gov.in
Bhubaneswar: www.rrbbs.gov.in	Kolkata: www.rrbkolkata.gov.in	Secunderabad: www.rrbsecunderabad.gov.in
Bilaspur: www.rrbilaspur.gov.in	Malda: www.rrbmalda.gov.in	Siliguri: www.rrbiliguri.gov.in
Chandigarh: www.rrbcdg.gov.in	Mumbai: www.rrbmumbai.gov.in	Thiruvananthapuram: www.rrbthiruvananthapuram.gov.in

This notification is purely indicative in nature. Candidates are required to go through the Post Parameter Table and Vacancy Table of detailed CEN No.04/2024 to ascertain their eligibility before applying through ONLINE mode. Any Correspondence/Intendments/Important Notice related to the aforesaid recruitment shall be issued time to time on the above websites of RRBs only.  
Chairman, Railway Recruitment Board, Kolkata

**TENDER**

**KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER**

**ABRIDGED NIT**

Chief Manager, IUM invites e-tender vide Tender Reference No.: KMC-01/IUM/2024, for refreshment for Trainees & Faculties (Lunch Box & 500 ML Water Bottle) for training programme of newly joined S.A.E (Civil), S.A.E (Elec.) and S.A.E (Mech.) of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (2024-25) (3385 nos. of Lunch Packets-Approx).

Details of the Tender Notice is available in website <https://etender.wb.nic.in>

387/24-25

**GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION**  
W.B.S.R.D.A.  
DARJEELING DIVISION  
NOTICE INVITING eTENDER

ON behalf of the WBSRDA, P&RD Deptt., Kolkata, tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Darjeeling Division through e-tendering (details can be sought at [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in)).

Date of publishing of tender on website: 12-08-2024.  
Tender Ref No.: 3 of 2024-25 & 4 of 2024-25.

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
Office of the District Magistrate & Collector, Alipurduar  
NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the Retired Government Employees for the post of Contractual Clerical staff (Group-C) at the Office of the District Magistrate, Recruitment Notification and Application Forms are available in the district website i.e. <https://alipurduar.gov.in>

Sd/-  
District Magistrate  
Alipurduar

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No.: IIIT-Bh/Cont. Faculty/2024 Date :- 08.08.2024

**RECRUITMENT OF CONTRACTUAL FACULTY**

IIIT Bhubaneswar is an ambitious initiative of the Government of Odisha to establish a next Generation Institute of Technology and has been conferred University status.

Applications are invited for recruitment of contractual faculty for the disciplines **CSE/ETC/EEE/Mathematics/Chemistry/Management/English**.

Consolidated remuneration: Rs. 60,000/- and Rs. 65,000 per month.

Walk in interviews shall be conducted during 20th August 2024 to 23rd August 2024. For further details, please visit: [www.iiit-bh.ac.in/jobs](http://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/jobs).

DIRECTOR  
AT : Gothapatna, PO : Mallipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : [www.iiit-bh.ac.in](http://www.iiit-bh.ac.in)

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**  
NOTICE FOR PENSION ADALAT

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan will hold its 39<sup>th</sup> Pension Adalat on 16.12.2024 (Monday) at BHADWAR HALL/TT/CLW/CHITTARANJAN from 10.30 Hrs.

In the Pension Adalat, the grievances of pensioners/family pensioners of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan in regard to non-receipt of Pension/Family Pension, Provident Fund/DCRG/Committed value of Pension/Encashment of Leave Salary/Railway or Group Insurance will be settled on the spot. Cases involving purely legal points e.g. succession etc. are not within jurisdiction of Pension Adalat, hence shall not be entertained.

Pensioners/Family Pensioners of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan with any grievance as mentioned above may submit their representation in duplicate along with complete particulars such as Name of applicant, Name of the Ex. Employee, Date of retirement/Death, Details of last post held, Postal address with Pin Code, P.P.O. No., Mobile No., WhatsApp No. and Nature of grievance in a closed envelop address super scribing on the top "FOR PENSION ADALAT-2024" by 31.10.2024 address to: The Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, P.O: Chittaranjan, District: Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN Code: 713331.

No application for Pension Adalat will be entertained after 31.10.2024. PR2/578 PCPO/CLW/Chittaranjan

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# Mayawati rejects Cong's claim on Gandhi-Nehru role in reservation

### She announced her party's decision to contest all 10 assembly by-elections in Uttar Pradesh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 11 AUGUST

Announcing her party's decision to contest all 10 seats in the assembly by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, Bahujan Samaj Party (BJP) President Mayawati slammed the Congress for crediting Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru for the SC/ST reservation in the country ignoring the efforts of Dr B R Ambedkar.

Earlier, the BSP, which used to shy away from contesting bypolls, has changed its electoral strategy after its recent debacle, hence the decision to fight the assembly by-elections to be held on 10 seats of the state with full strength. In a meeting of senior officials and district heads at the party's state office here on Sunday, the



BSP chief said the date for the by-election has not been officially announced, but the excitement about it is increasing by the day. "People's interest in the by-elections has increased especially since BJP and its government have made it a prestige issue. The BSP will contest the by-elections strongly by fielding its candidates on all the seats," she told the party leaders.

She said there was anger among the people in the entire country, including UP,

against the government's failure to contain poverty, unemployment, inflation and backwardness, etc. "To divert people's attention from these issues, a conspiracy is going on to hatch to create a hysteria about caste and religion along with destructive bulldozer politics," she alleged.

However Mayawati was peeved at the statement of the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge that the credit for SC-ST reservation should go to Mahatma Gandhi

and former PM Jawaharlal Nehru. She vehemently claimed, "There is no truth in this at all. The full credit for reservation goes to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar only. Congress people conspired to stop him from going to the Constituent Assembly and also tried to defeat him in the elections. They also forced him to resign from the post of Law Minister."

The BSP president said the new law on religious conversion and the conspiracy to sub-categorize SC-ST reservation is an attempt to divide people.

"The government is refusing to conduct caste census. There is forceful government interference in mosque-madrassa operation and Waqf protection, etc. The UP government took a hasty decision regarding Nazul's land, due to which an atmosphere of

chaos was created in the entire state. Even in the matter of giving government land on lease, an attitude of malice and favoritism is being adopted, which is being opposed within the BJP itself. The public no longer has faith in the intentions and policies of the government," she alleged.

Mayawati further said, "At the same time, the government's strictness regarding law and order is more on paper. Its effect is least visible on the people of BJP. People's lives are disrupted due to floods in the state, the government is making a lot of fake statements about providing help to them".

During the meeting, the BSP supreme took the progress report from the leaders on the guidelines given in the last meeting to increase the party's support base.

# SP chief: No need to change provision of reservation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 11 AUGUST

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav said on Sunday that the basic objective of any kind of reservation should be the empowerment of the neglected society, and not division or disintegration of that society as it violates the basic principle of reservation.

In a statement here, the SP president said the discrimination and inequality that has been going on for countless generations cannot be bridged by the changes that have taken place in a few generations.

"The 'reservation' is the constitutional way to empower and strengthen the exploited and deprived society, this will bring change, there is no need to change its provisions," he stressed.

Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the BJP government often tries to weaken the reservation fight through its evasive statements and law-



suits and pretends to back down with a lip service under the pressure from various components of the PDA.

"The internal thinking of BJP has always been anti-reservation. That is why the trust of 90 percent PDA community in BJP is continuously falling. BJP's credibility on the issue of reservation has reached zero," he said while claiming that

for PDA, 'Constitution' is Sanjivini, while 'Reservation' is Oxygen.

# Cong slams Yogi over comments on Oppn stand on Bangladesh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 11 AUGUST

Uttar Pradesh Congress slammed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday over his reported statement regarding the opposition's position on the situation in Bangladesh.

"Yogi ji only works to spread animosity by making religion the basis of his politics. The kind of low-level statements he is making on the issue of Bangladesh are highly condemnable," state Congress president Ajay Rai said.

Reacting to the issue, Ajay Rai accused the BJP of flying "Hindu refugees coming to the border are not being allowed to enter India, yet Yogi ji is beating his chest and shouting that we will protect Hindus," he said.

The state Congress president said that during the all-party meeting called by the government, the entire opposition had unanimously supported the government's stance on the issue. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, while expressing concern over the attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, had asked the government what action the Indian government is taking to address the situation," he alleged.

Ajay Rai said that instead of questioning his party's government at the Centre, Yogi ji is spreading religious hatred here in Uttar Pradesh to get votes in the name of Bangladesh.

He said that the Prime Minister himself did not attend the all-party meeting on this unfortunate incident in the neighbourhood. This reveals the Prime Minister's insensitivity towards this serious issue and the security of minorities in Bangladesh, he added. Rai urged Yogi ji to avoid making non-serious and irresponsible statements on such a sensitive matter.

# UP: 4 passengers injured in freak accident on a running train

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 11 AUGUST

Four passengers of the Howrah-bound 13006 Amritsar Mail were injured when they jumped off the running train after a fire extinguisher cylinder leaked in the general coach near Shahjahanpur on Sunday morning.

All the injured have been admitted to the government hospital in Shahjahanpur. However, the railways claimed that only two passengers were injured in the freak accident.

RPF sources said at around 9 am on Sunday morning, the Amritsar Mail reached Bahgul bridge between Miranpur Katra and Fatehganj, when gas started leaking suddenly from the fire extinguisher in the general bogie, causing panic among the passengers.

Some passengers pulled the chain to stop the train, but by the time the train stopped, several people had jumped from the running train.

Kuldeep of Kannauj, Shiv Sahay of Amethi, Ruby Lal Hajda and Anwari Begum of Jharkhand were injured. The RPF sources said that gas had started coming out due to unplugging of the pin of the cylinder.

The Railways is investigating whether the incident was a conspiracy or an accident.

Due to the incident the train was detained at Shahjahanpur station for about 30 minutes.

# Wife of former Saikul MLA dies in explosion at her Manipur home

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, 11 AUGUST

The wife of former Saikul MLA Yamthong Haokip, Charubala Haokip, died in an explosion at their house in the Kangpokpi district of Manipur, according to police reports on Sunday.

Charubala (59), who belonged to the Meitei community, lived in the Kuki-Zomi-majority village of Ekou Mulam in the Kangpokpi district. Her husband, Yamthong Haokip (64), who won the Saikul Assembly seat in 2012 and 2017 on Congress tickets, had aligned with the BJP prior to the 2022 elections.

The incident took place around 3 pm on Saturday,



A homemade IED hidden in waste heap at their residence detonated causing her death

but it was reported to police only early Sunday morning. A Kangpokpi district police officer said that a homemade improvised explosive device (IED) was found hidden

within a heap of waste material at their residence. When Charubala attempted to dispose of the waste by burning it, the device detonated, causing her death. No other individuals were harmed in the incident.

As of Sunday morning, no arrests had been made. Authorities are currently investigating the matter, with initial suspicions pointing to a possible family-related dispute.

The police officer mentioned that the former MLA had recently bought land next to his property belonging to his uncle's grandson, which had sparked some tension. This dispute is believed to be linked to the explosion.

# New committee for All India Ex-Serviceman Bank Employees' Federation in North East

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI

The All India Ex-Serviceman Bank Employees' Federation (North East) has announced the formation of a new committee, signalling a significant step in its ongoing efforts to support ex-serviceman bank employees across the North Eastern region of India.

The newly-formed committee comprises a group of experienced professionals with knowledge in both banking and veteran affairs.

The leadership of the federation expressed confidence in the team's ability to lead initiatives that will strengthen the community and advocate for the rights of ex-serviceman bank employees. Key figures

The newly-formed committee comprises a group of experienced professionals with knowledge in both banking and veteran affairs.

in the committee include Praveen Kumar, who will serve as President, bringing with him extensive experience in both sectors.

Suresh Kumar has been appointed as Secretary, recognized for his dedication to the ex-serviceman community. Additionally, Mr. Chandra Nath Ghosh will play a vital role, offering his expertise in organizational management and member services. The committee has outlined a series of initiatives aimed at supporting its mem-

bers, including the development of new programs tailored to their professional needs, acting as a representative voice in discussions with policymakers, and organizing training workshops to promote continuous learning and career advancement.

The federation extends its congratulations to the new committee members and anticipates their leadership will drive positive change for ex-serviceman bank employees throughout the North East. Their combined expertise and dedication are expected to be pivotal in furthering the federation's mission of empowering its members, said in a statement.

# Centre to launch nationwide Digital Life Certificate campaign for pensioners

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

The Centre has notified the guidelines for the third nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) campaign for pensioners which will be held in 800 cities/districts from November 1-30.

Pensioners have to submit a Life Certificate every year in the month of November for continuation of pension.

The nationwide campaign will be coordinated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare in collaboration with various ministries, disbursing banks,

The nationwide campaign will be coordinated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare in collaboration with various ministries, disbursing banks, pensioners' welfare associations and other departments concerned.

The DLC 1.0 campaign was held in 37 cities in the month of November 2022, under which 35 lakh Central

Government pensioners submitted DLC's across India.

The DLC Campaign 2.0 was held at 597 locations in 100 cities in November, 2023 under which 45.46 lakh Central Government Pensioners submitted their DLC's.

The DLC Campaign 3.0 will be the largest-ever campaign and seeks to achieve higher digital empowerment of pensioners with a saturation approach.

The DLC Campaign 3.0 will be monitored on the DLC campaign portal on a real-time basis. All pension disbursing banks will formulate the campaign plans.

# UP gov't targets five-fold increase in tourists by 2028

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 11 AUGUST

The Uttar Pradesh government is dedicated to promoting tourism in the state, focusing on revitalising tourist destinations and strengthening transport infrastructure.

This dedication has led to a significant increase in tourist visits, with more than 48 crore tourists choosing to explore the beauty of Uttar Pradesh last year. Now, the government aims to expand the state's tourism sector five times.

While the tourism sector's Gross Value Added (GVA) was Rs 11,000 crore in 2017, the target is to boost it to Rs

This dedication has led to a significant increase in tourist visits, with more than 48 crore tourists choosing to explore the beauty of UP last year.

70,000 crore by 2028. Additionally, the government aims to attract over 80 crore tourists to Uttar Pradesh by 2028.

Officials here on Sunday said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is committed to boosting tourism alongside industrial development in the state.

Uttar Pradesh has many significant religious sites that attract millions of visitors daily. Over the past seven and a half years, tourism has surged in cities of spiritual

importance, such as Kashi, Ayodhya, Mathura, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Naimisharanya, and Gorakhpur.

The government is enhancing world-class facilities in these cities and encouraging tourists to explore multiple destinations. The One District, One Product (ODOP) initiative is crucial in promoting local products to visitors.

Additionally, the government is focusing on expanding the availability of hotels, guest houses, and homestays, while also planning to rejuvenate government-run tourist and rehab bungalows to accommodate the growing number of tourists.

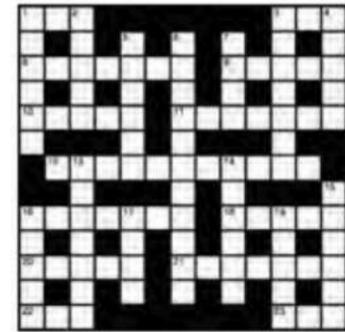
Officials said the tourism

sector has seen remarkable growth under the Yogi government's leadership. The Gross Value Added (GVA) increased from Rs 11,000 crore in the financial year 2016-17 to Rs 14,000 crore in 2022-23, with a target of reaching Rs 70,000 crore by 2027-28.

Tourist footfall has also surged, rising from 23 crore in 2016-17 to over 48 crore in 2023-24, marking a 51 per cent increase. The government aims to attract more than 80 crore tourists by 2028. Efforts are being made to monetise key tourist destinations, develop world-class facilities, and enhance branding and promotion of the state's tourism assets.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Outer edge (3)
  - Section of a circle (3)
  - Imply (7)
  - Home (5)
  - Wield (5)
  - Begin again (7)
  - Vulgar display (11)
  - Party (Informal) (7)
  - Tin-glazed earthenware (5)
  - Tibetan city (5)
  - Distinguished (7)
  - Tree (3)
  - Ignited (3)
- DOWN**
- Wealth (6)
  - Ground meat (5)
  - Alligator pear (7)
  - Break the rules (5)
  - Formal neckwear item (3,3)
  - Spy (6,5)
  - Church service (4)
  - Dark green vegetable (7)
  - Until now (2,4)
  - Make evident (6)
  - Latin American dance music (5)
  - Expensive (4)
  - Defame (5)

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- Killer
- 8 Legless
- 9 Ample
- 10 Illustrations
- 12 Occupied
- 15 Canary
- 16 Inch
- 17 Nailed
- 20 Owl
- 21 Separated
- 23 Contact
- 24 Beautiful
- 25 Tappaca
- 26 Tarr
- 27 Dessert

**DOWN**

- 11 Spoon
- 13 Contact
- 14 Beautiful
- 15 Tappaca
- 16 Inch
- 17 Nailed
- 18 Owl
- 19 Dessert

By arrangement with The Independent Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



### NEED TO KNOW

- Ambulance**  
FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286  
Happy Calculators 24400160  
City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623  
People's Relief Committee 2280-4943/9444
- Life Care** 2284-6940  
Peoples Blood Bank 2495-5164/5557  
BK Mission Seva Pratishthan 2475-3636/39
- Police/Fire**  
Lalbarzi (Police Control Room) 22143230  
S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005  
S. P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311  
Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933  
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293
- Howrah** 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285
- Civic Services**  
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000  
Water: 2543-1602
- Calcutta Telephones**  
Changed Number Announcement 1951,1952,1953
- Taxi Refusal**  
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration
- Police Toll Free No.** 1073  
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718
- CEEC Fault Reporting**  
1912 and 4403-1912
- Trains**  
Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2635-7412/3542/2581 (manual).  
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537  
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.

### SCRABBLE® G.R.A.M.S. BRAND



**PAR SCORE 75-85**  
by JUDD

**FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

Directions: Make a 7 to 7 letter word from the letters in each rack. Add points of each letter. Bonus words (in red) score 2x. Bonus words (in blue) score 3x. Bonus words (in green) score 4x. All words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary/Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

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### SUDOKU Concepts Sudoku



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

answer to previous puzzle

# BANGLADESH GUTTED WITH VIOLENCE, N-E WATCHES IN APPREHENSION

NAVA THAKURIA

Suddenly, Bangladesh, one of the friendliest neighbouring nations to India, turns violent. The students generated unrest, demanding the reform of the quota system for government jobs. They even compelled their Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, to resign and leave the country, taking shelter in New Delhi. Even after a week, the Union government has not yet come to the conclusion that the ousted Bangladesh premier should be given official asylum or helped to move to a third country. With her presence in India, the anti-Hindu sentiment that turned into violent activities in Bangladesh has seemingly flared up, as she was projected as the saviour of Hindus in the Muslim-dominated populous nation.

The south Asian nation has witnessed massive protest demonstrations since last month. In the middle of July, nearly 200 protesters, including students, died in the violence, which was allegedly instigated by police personnel and a large number of supporters of Hasina's party, the Awami League. Another series of movements in the last week of July resulted in the deaths of over 150 civilians, which angered most of the people, who later came to the streets with a single demand that Hasina resign. Finally, the longest-serving lady premier in the world had to bow down and quit.

After the removal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughter from the PMO, Bangladesh Army chief Waker-Uz-Zaman announced that an

interim government would be formed, which was aimed at guiding their election commission to conduct a national election within three months to hand over power. The chief of the Bangla armed forces fervently appealed to everyone to restrain from violent activities. Accordingly, an interim government headed by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus was sworn in by Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

Earlier, President Sahabuddin ordered the release of opposition Bangladesh National Party chairperson Khaleda Zia, who was under house arrest by the Hasina-led government. Soon after her release, Begum Zia expressed her concern over the nationwide violence, vandalism, and looting of state resources amid the uprising, and she too asked the people to maintain peace. After arriving from Paris, where Prof. Yunus was a special invitee of the International Olympic Committee, the soft-spoken gentleman made a clear statement that violence will only create more enemies for the nation.

Urging everyone to stay calm and refrain from all kinds of violence, the octogenarian banker turned social-business promoter pointed out that they have to build a beautiful country with lots of exciting possibilities. Talking about the students and young people, Prof. Yunus stated, "Our youth is ready to give this leadership in creating a new world. Let us not miss the chance by going into any senseless violence. If we take the path of violence, everything

will be destroyed."

Prof. Yunus-led interim government comprising over 15 distinguished personalities, including Salehuddin Ahmed (former Governor of Bangladesh Bank), Brigadier General (retired) Sakhawat Hossain (former Election Commissioner of Bangladesh), Md. Nazrul Islam (law professor), Adilur Rahman Khan (human rights activist), Syeda Rizwana Hasan (environmentalist), Farida Akhter (development policy analyst), Farooq-e-Azam (freedom fighter), Supradip Chakma (Bangladesh's former ambassador to Vietnam and Mexico), Bidhan Ranjan Roy (psychiatrist), etc., have already started functioning.

The nationwide anti-quota movement had already taken the life of Hasan Mehedi on 18 July 2024, as the reporter of the digital media outlet Dhaka Times, covering the clashes between the police forces and agitating students in the Jatrabari area of Dhaka. The same day witnessed another journo-killing as Shakil Hossain, who worked for Daily Bhorer Awaj, lost his life in Gazipur locality. The next day, Abu Taher Md. Turab, who was associated with Daily Naya Diganta, received bullet injuries as police personnel fired on a procession in Sylhet, and later he succumbed to injuries. Young photojournalist Tahir Zaman Priyo was also shot dead in Dhaka on the same day. Later on 4 August, Pradip Kumar Bhowmik, who worked for Daily Khoborpatra, was killed in Sirajganj by a mob as he was covering the protests, which turned violent.

Expressing serious concern over the fact that a number of working journalists were killed in the recent past across Bangladesh, the Geneva-based global media safety and rights body Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) demanded fair probes into every incident that led to the killing of the media persons. PEC president Blaise Lempem observed that the working journalists continue working in an adverse situation, and the Bangladesh authorities should take precautions to safeguard the media personnel on duty. During the violent days, nearly 100 journalists sustained injuries, and the police forces were joined by the ruling party affiliates, the Chhatra League and Jubo League, to terrorise the media.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad claimed that over 250 incidents of violence against religious minority families had taken place in the last few weeks. The forum opined that the relentless attacks on minority houses, business units, and temples across Bangladesh were unprecedented. The Islamists chanted anti-Hindu slogans and asked the minorities to convert to Islam or leave the country, said a statement by Oikya Parishad, adding, "It's shocking that the Hindu families faced atrocities whenever there were elections as they were seen as potential supporters of Hasina's Awami League."

Lately, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) came out with a media statement issued on 9 August in New Delhi expressing serious concern over the incidents of violence against Hindus, Buddhists,

and other minority communities in Bangladesh in the last few days. RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale commented that cruelty like targeted killings, looting, arson, and heinous crimes against women belonging to Hindu and other religious minorities and attacks on Hindu temples in the neighbouring country are intolerable.

Condemning the incidents, Hosabale expected that the interim government in Dhaka would take strict action to immediately stop such incidents. Also, the regime must make proper arrangements to protect the lives, property, and honour of the victims, added the RSS general secretary. Requesting all political parties in India to stand in solidarity with the persecuted communities of Bangladesh, Hosabale urged New Delhi to make every effort to ensure the safety of Hindus, Buddhists, etc. in that country, which was born in 1971 fighting against Islamabad with unconditional support from the Indian armed forces.

Facing the heat, the central government formed a committee to monitor the situation arising on the Bangladesh border so that the safety of Indians as well as Hindus, Buddhists, etc. in Bangladesh can be ensured. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Prof. Yunus well for his new responsibility and urged the interior government to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and other minorities in his country. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar, while addressing the Parliament on Bangladesh issues, stated that New

Delhi was keeping a close eye on developments across the border. He revealed that Hasina's presence in India was a courtesy move after a short-notice request.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while commenting on the Bangladesh situation, revealed that the current situation there is worrisome. He appreciated the pragmatic role of Hasina in combating militancy in north-east India by sending most of the militants from her country to India. The saffron leader also expressed apprehensions that the post-Hasina period may be exploited by some north-eastern insurgents to run hideouts inside the neighbouring country.

Hasina also deserves appreciation for many initiatives supporting Indo-Bangla trade, including bus and rail communication from Kolkata to Dhaka to Agartala. Moreover, she agreed to allow Indians to use Chittagong port for the benefit of the north-eastern region. Many other projects for strategic and energy security in both countries were also evolving under her rule. After her absence and with no firm engagement with the new regime in Dhaka immediately, the alienated region virtually remains clueless. It's assumed that New Delhi will redefine the Bangladesh policy (which remained Hasina-centric) for the nation's interest and make sure that another volatile neighbour is not born on the eastern front.

The writer is a Guwahati-based special representative of The Statesman



# Fratricidal killings amongst Kuki groups; Governor removed

YAMBEM LABA

Fratricidal killings erupted again amongst Kuki armed groups in Manipur. This time, it was between the United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF) and the Kuki Village Volunteers. The skirmish broke out at the Pallel area, the last outpost in the valley leading to Moreh on the Indo-Myanmar border. One UKLF cadre and three Village Volunteer Force cadres were killed. The chief of the UKLF, SS Haokip, was declared a wanted man by the rival group, and his house was set ablaze in the process. The UKLF was first formed in the late 1990s at the behest of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim under Issac and Muivah. Prior to that, the Nagas and Kukis had been at war, with nearly 1,000 Kukis killed and around 500 Nagas becoming casualties.

The UKLF, in spite of its fancy name, has never fired a shot in anger or otherwise at the Indian Security Forces or the state forces, and all that they did was levy taxes and extortion demands on the goods plying between the Myanmar border and Imphal and beyond. Then they made headlines in 2000 when they waylaid and abducted the then deputy commissioner of Chandernagore, Yambem Thamkishore Singh (IAS). Then they handed him over to the NSCN (I-M), who held him ransom for weapons seized from the NSCN (I-M) by a group of the state's India Reserve Battalion, who had also shot dead about nine NSCN cadres and seized their weapons even as they were en route to the NSCN's Republic Day celebrations.

Okram Ibobi was the chief minister of Manipur, and Atal Behari Vajpayee was the prime minister. I was privy to this as I was deputed by chief minister Ibobi to travel to Delhi and negotiate with the Centre, as the Centre and the NSCN (I-M) were having peace talks then and still now. I then impressed upon ID Swami, who was the minister of state for home affairs, stating that Yambem Thamkishore is an IAS officer



and, by that account, an employee of the government of India, and that abduction is an act of terrorism. Then I contacted the late Ashok Saikai, the all-powerful Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's office, and the deputy commissioner was released on a day that coincided with both Good Friday and the Hindu festival of Holi.

Now the UKLF is in the news again, perhaps on account of a turf war or fight over monetary resources. Reports coming from across the border in Myanmar indicate at least three Kukis were killed in the Tamu area in the Sagaing division and two belonging to the Chin National Front at the hands of the Myanmar military junta. The Chins in Myanmar are called Paites in Manipur and are now grouped under the Zomi Revolutionary Army.

Then the Manipur Legislative Assembly met for the monsoon session. That was around the time when over 1,000 internally displaced persons hailing from the bordering area of Moreh and

stationed at the Akampat Relief Camp decided to stage a march to the Assembly building where the session was on to press their demand for a permanent settlement, having languished in the relief camp for over a year now. Perhaps the Imphal East district police panicked over the fear of a demonstration being staged outside the Assembly while in session. Soon, they lobbed tear gas shells inside the relief camps and staged a lathi charge. Then one sub-inspector went one step forward when he accosted a media man on duty who duly showed the sub-inspector his credentials. The sub-inspector soon vented out his pent-up feelings on the unsuspecting media man and showered him with blows as a result of which the later had to be hospitalised. A frayed chief minister

immediately placed the sub-inspector under suspension, also calling the proposed rally politically motivated.

Then the debate continued in the House between the five Congress oppo-

sition MLAs on the question of whether the abrogation of the suspension of operations between the 24 odd armed Kuki groups on the one hand and the state and central government on the

other after the State Assembly had resolved to abrogate the agreement on its side. The chief minister clarified that since the central government had not done the same, the suspension of operations is still on. As regards the monthly stipend of Rs 6,000 given to the Kuki militants, it has been pending since last year. Altogether, 2,181 Kuki militants have been listed as being under the Suspension of Operations arrangement, and a sum of Rs 27.38 crore has been paid by the state government till 2021. Unsatisfied with the government's reply, the five Congress MLAs staged a walkout and stated that they would abstain from attending the Assembly session till its end. And also, the chief minister stated that a House Committee has been set up to study illegal immigration, adding that Kuki leader and minister in exile, Letpao Haokip, has been appointed as chairman. Barely a day after, Letpao Haokip denied that he had been appointed chairman, he added that he had not attended the Assembly session since May 2023.

In the meantime, Manipur Governor Anushaya Uikey was unceremoniously replaced. It is not known whether the combined term of her earlier stint as Governor of Jharkhand for two years was taken into account to total up to five years or not, but the manner in which she was relieved of her duties came as a shock to the people. Uikey had been very accommodating in her approach to the state's diverse problems and would meet almost all sections of the people and would even post them on social media. It might be coincidental, but just two days prior to her ouster, she gave an interview to a TV channel where she sounded critical of the BJP's handling of the crisis at hand, both at the Centre and in the state. But to critics awaiting a change in the political leadership in the state, it has been like "waiting for Godot," to use a cliché from English literature.

The writer is a senior journalist at The Statesman



## 'STRIPPED OF BRONZE MEDAL'

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the bronze medal given to American gymnast Jordan Chiles in the floor exercise at the Paris Games will be reallocated to Ana Barbosu of Romania. It comes after a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruling upheld an appeal by the Romanian Olympic Committee that an inquiry submitted by the USA about Chiles' score in the gymnastics floor exercise final was filed beyond the 1-minute deadline. "The IOC will reallocate the bronze medal to Ana Barbosu (Romania). We are in touch with the NOC of Romania to discuss the reallocation ceremony and with USOPC regarding the return of the bronze medal," the IOC statement read.

For more updates [www.thestatesman.com](http://www.thestatesman.com)

# It's gut-wrenching for Vinesh, entire nation, says Bindra as CAS to give verdict tomorrow

Indian athletes participated in 69 medal events across 16 sports, including archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, equestrian, golf, hockey, judo, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and tennis

AGENCIES  
PARIS, 11 AUGUST

A bhinav Bindra, India's first individual gold medalist in the Olympics, said it's 'gut-wrenching' for Vinesh Phogat as she waits for a verdict in her case against her disqualification from the final of the women's 50 kg wrestling at the Paris Olympics. Vinesh has filed an appeal against the United World Wrestling (UWW) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) seeking a joint silver medal as she was found only 100 gm overweight weight in on the second day after winning three bouts under the age limit. The ad-hoc division of CAS has extended the time for the Sole Arbitrator Hon. Dr Annabelle Bennett in the Vinesh Phogat vs. United World Wrestling & the International Olympic Committee matter to give a decision till 6:00 p.m. on August 13, 2024, an IOA official said on Saturday.

The reasoned order will be issued at a later date, an official of the Indian Olympic



Association (IOA) informed IANS on Saturday. The IOA has become part of the case as an impacted party.

"It's gut-wrenching for

Vinesh and the entire nation, but that is what life is all about. The matter is with CAS, let's wait for the verdict," said Bindra, who won gold

in men's 10m air rifle shooting in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. The CAS Ad-Hoc Division has given the contesting parties time till August 11 to make any additional submissions if they so desire.

Earlier on Saturday morning, the Ad-Hoc Division of CAS said it would announce its decision on wrestler Phogat's case at 6:00 pm (9:30 pm IST) on Saturday.

Vinesh has challenged the decision to be disqualified from the 50kg gold medal bout and has knocked on the CAS doors to be awarded a shared silver medal along with Yusnelys Guzman Lopez at the Paris Olympics.

The Sole Arbitrator Dr Annabelle Bennett AC SC (Australia) heard all parties - applicant Vinesh Phogat, the respondents United World Wrestling and the International Olympic Committee as well as the Indian Olympic Association as an interested party over three hours.

"Vinesh Phogat and United World Wrestling (UWW) International Olympic Committee ("Respondent") and Indian Olympic Association ("Inter-

## She deserves silver, says Ganguly on Vinesh's appeal for medal

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, 11 AUGUST

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly opened up on Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the final of women's 50 kg wrestling at the Paris Olympics and said that she deserves the silver medal.

Following her disqualification from the Paris Olympics final, Phogat announced her retirement from wrestling on Thursday. Phogat had advanced to the gold medal bout by defeating Cuba's Yusnelys Guzman Lopez 5-0 in the semi-finals on Tuesday night. She was set to compete against the United States' Sarah Ann Hildebrandt for the gold medal but was disqualified on Wednesday for breaching

the weight limit. After her disqualification, Phogat requested the CAS to award her the silver medal. Speaking to the reporters, Ganguly said that he doesn't know the exact rules but she "must have qualified properly".



"I don't know what the exact rule is, but I am sure when she went to the finals, she must have qualified prop-

erly. So when you go to the finals, it's either silver or gold. She disqualified rightfully or wrongfully, I don't know. But she deserves the silver at least," Ganguly said.

Earlier, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) extended the deadline for delivering its verdict on whether to award a silver medal to Vinesh Phogat, who was disqualified from the Paris Olympics, till Tuesday, August 13.

"The ad hoc division of CAS has extended time for the Sole Arbitrator Hon. Dr Annabelle Bennett in the Vinesh Phogat vs. United World Wrestling & the International Olympic Committee matter to give a decision till 6-00 p.m. on August 13, 2024," the IOA said in its statement on Saturday.

CAS Ad Hoc Division extends the time limit for the Panel to give a decision until 10 August 2024 at 18h00 (Paris

time)," CAS said in a statement on Saturday. Now CAS has given the Sole Arbitrator more time.

Punjab's hockey players return to Amritsar after winning Olympic bronze

AGENCIES  
AMRITSAR, 11 AUGUST

Hockey player from Punjab, who were part of the bronze medal-winning Indian team at the Paris Olympics, returned to Amritsar and received a grand welcome amid much fanfare.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh, vice captain Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Jarnanpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, and Jugraj Singh were greeted and felicitated by Punjab Government Ministers Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal and Harbhajan Singh upon return.

As soon as they arrived, the players made their way to the revered Sri Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple, to pay their respects.

## First ever Global Women's Kabaddi League to kick off next month

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

With an aim to promote the kabaddi on a global level, the first-ever Global Women's Kabaddi League is slated to take place in September 2024.

The League will bring together women athletes from over 15 nations, as the Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League (GPWL), a first-of-its-kind tournament gets underway. The Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League (GPWL) aims to promote kabaddi to the international stage, serving as a major step towards the inclusion of kabaddi in the Olympic Games and supporting India's bid to host the landmark event in 2036.

Organized by the Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA), in collaboration with World Kabaddi, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between HIPSA and the Government of Haryana. The League also is set to kick start in Haryana, to promote and develop women's kabaddi globally. The Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League will feature teams from over

**The Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League aims to promote Kabaddi to the international stage, serving as a major step towards the inclusion of Kabaddi in the Olympic Games and supporting India's bid to host the Landmark event in 2036.**

15 countries. Athletes from diverse backgrounds, including nations like England, Poland, Argentina, Canada, and Italy, have expressed their desire to feature in the League. On the growing popularity of the sport and upcoming League, HIPSA President Kanthi D Suresh said as quoted from a press release by GPWL, "This has been long overdue and now with the Government of India's steely resolve to bid for hosting the Olympics, without our indigenous sport being part of it would be heartbreaking!

Kabaddi is the oldest sport and has been in the Indian subcontinent from time immemorial. It was included as a full sport in the Asian Games in 1990, with the women's event introduced in 2010. The upcoming League not only aims to celebrate this rich heritage but also to inspire a new generation of women to

take up the sport.

Former Indian Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has also voiced his support for kabaddi's inclusion in the Olympics. As India sets its sights on hosting the Olympic Games in 2036, the inclusion of kabaddi in the Olympics will just be cheery on the cake.

"The allotment of hosting rights for the Olympics is done by the International Olympic Committee through a detailed host selection process spelled out in the public domain. The IOC has a dedicated body, the Future Host Commission (FHC), which deals with this subject. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA), which is the NOC for India, has initiated the dialogue process with the FHC," Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said in a written reply in Lok Sabha in July 2024.

## Durand Cup: Punjab FC clinch easy 3-0 win over Mumbai City

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA, 11 AUGUST

Punjab FC posted a comfortable 3-0 victory over Mumbai City FC courtesy of a double from Norwegian Mushaga Bakenga and an injury-time strike from Filip Mrzljak in a Group C encounter of the 133rd Durand Cup played here at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan.

Punjab FC finished their group stage campaign with seven points, the same as Kerala Blasters but the Kerala outfit qualified for the knockouts as group winners on virtue of their superior goal difference.

Punjab FC who are currently the best second-placed team in the tournament but The Shers will have to wait for the results of the other matches to confirm their place in the knockouts.

Punjab FC Head Coach Panagiotis Dilmperis made two changes to his starting eleven with Croatian defender Ivan Novoselec coming in for Melroy Assisi and Nitesh Darjee for Khaimingthang Lungdung in left back.

Mumbai City started Harsh

Kadam in goal and Christopher Rajkumar as the lone man upfront as Mohan Suresh Dass set his boys out for their last game of the tournament.

Punjab FC started on the front foot putting pressure on the young Mumbai City side. Harsh Kadam was forced into two early saves, denying Vinit Rai and Filip Mrzljak for the early lead. Punjab for all their possession could not create any meaningful chances from that point on.

Mumbai City defended deep inside their own half with resilience, frustrating The Shers. Punjab looked impatient in their build-up, wasting their chances as the service to the forwards was lacking, which also made life easier for the impressive Mumbai defence in the first half.

Punjab FC received a penalty at the start of the second half as Mumbai defender Arsh Bhagawan handled the ball inside the box. The penalty was blasted over the crossbar by Luka Majcen and minutes later substitute Mushaga Bakenga missed a sitter, adding to the frustrations for The Shers.

## India has skill, but not European pace: New head coach of men's football team Marquez

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Manolo Marquez, the new head coach of the Indian men's football team, has observed that Indian players possess technical skills comparable to those in Europe, but lack the pace and quick decision-making required to compete at the European level.

"Even though there are technically skilled players in India with the quality to play in Europe, the pace at which the game is played in Europe is still something we don't have in India," he noted.

Marquez has a clear-eyed view of the challenges and

opportunities that lie ahead for Indian football. His extensive experience in Europe and now in India provides him with a unique perspective on the current state of the game in the country and where it could be heading in the coming years.

He noted that European football is characterized by a faster pace, smaller playing spaces and quick thinking and action, a characteristic that Indian football still needs to develop. Marquez believes that Indian football needs to develop these aspects to bridge the gap with European football.

He suggested that Indian players have the technical

skills, but need to improve their speed and decision-making to compete with European teams.

Marquez also touched on the structure of Indian football, particularly the Indian Super League (ISL), and whether relegation should be introduced. He expressed that it's a difficult issue to tackle.

"Do you think the team that gets relegated will be able to continue? It's a difficult question," he said, highlighting the complexities involved.

However, he believed that India needs better competition at the top level, suggesting that the league should expand to include more teams - around 16 to 18. This, he believes, would be a crucial step in improving the overall level of Indian football.

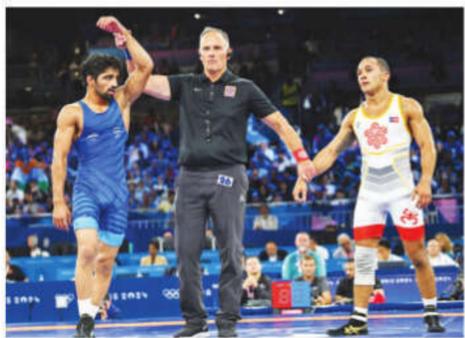
"I think India needs better competition at the top level, with more teams, around 16 to 18," he said. For Marquez, the development of Indian football doesn't stop at the professional level. He stressed the importance of focusing on grassroots development, particularly with the under-15 and under-17 age groups.

## Vision realised, but Satpal Malik aims to further develop Aman Sehrawat into a dominant force in world wrestling

TRIDIB BAPARNASH  
NEW DELHI, 11 AUGUST

Aman Sehrawat, the sole male wrestler from India at Paris 2024, ensured that the tradition of Indian grapplers winning Olympic medals, continued by winning a bronze in the men's 57kg freestyle weight division. At just 21 years, he became the youngest Indian to achieve this milestone. As Aman stood on the podium with the Tricolour waving proudly, his fellow trainees at the fabled Chhatrasal Stadium in Delhi erupted in joy. Despite the celebrations, veteran coach Satpal Malik felt a mix of happiness and disappointment.

"We trained for gold, and I was confident Aman could become the Olympic champion. Still, I'm pleased with his achievement. Winning an Olympic medal at such a young age is an extraordinary feat," Satpal told The Statesman. He pointed out, "Aman was unfortunate to concede a four-point move



against the Japanese wrestler in the semifinals. If he had managed to defend that move, he could have won the bout and possibly the final."

Satpal acknowledged Aman's deserving performance, saying, "He performed exceptionally well and could have won gold. However, sports can be unpredictable. He has worked incredibly hard over the past few years, and at just 21, he con-

tinues to train and stays injury-free, he could be unstoppable at the next Olympics."

Despite being one of the less experienced wrestlers in his weight division at the Paris Olympics, Aman demonstrated remarkable composure and skill. He defeated Vladimir Egorov of North Macedonia by technical superiority in the opening round.

In the quarterfinals, Aman



faced the formidable Zelimkhan Abakarov, a former world champion from Albania who had previously beaten him at the World Championships. However, Aman remained unshaken, securing another victory by technical superiority to reach the semifinals, where he lost to the eventual champion Rei Higuchi of Japan. Undeterred, Aman quickly rebounded to clinch

the bronze medal by overcoming Darian Cruz of Puerto Rico in the play-off.

While the nation celebrates Aman's achievement, Satpal is already focused on the future. The former Asian champion, who also mentored the legendary double Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar, aims to further develop Aman into a dominant force in world wrestling.

For Satpal, Aman's Olympic success is a testament to his long-held belief in his decision to reject a Rajya Sabha seat offered by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in favour of dedicating his life to training wrestlers.

"Aman's Olympic medal is the best 'guru dakshina' he could have given me," Satpal reflected. "I faced criticism for choosing to train wrestlers over a political career, but seeing Sushil and Aman succeed has made me feel vindicated. They have fulfilled my Olympic dreams."

## Egypt eyes historic Olympic bid for 2036 and 2040

AGENCIES  
PARIS, 11 AUGUST

In a move to bring the Olympic Games to African soil for the first time, Egypt announced its intention to bid for the 2036 and 2040 Summer Olympics. The announcement was made by Mustapha Berraf, head of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, on the final day of the Paris 2024 Games.

"Egypt will bid for 2036 and 2040, Africa has the chance of organizing the Games. It will most likely organise the Games in 2040," Berraf stated during a press conference, expressing confidence that Africa's time to host the Olympics is approaching.

Egypt, the most populous country in the Arab world, has been steadily improving its infrastructure and sports facilities, positioning itself as a strong contender for the prestigious event. The country has invested billions of dollars in building modern facilities,



stadiums, and sports complexes as part of its broader plan to modernize the nation.

A centerpiece of this effort is the Egypt International Olympic City complex, located in the new administrative capital east of Cairo, which will feature a 93,900-capacity national stadium and 21 other state-of-the-art sports facilities.

While Egypt's last bid to host the Olympics was for the 2008 Games, this renewed effort comes as part of a broader vision to position Africa as a viable and attractive destination for the world's largest sporting event. In addition

to Egypt, Berraf hinted at the possibility of another African bid from Cape Town, South Africa, although the specific timeline for this potential candidacy remains unclear.

The competition to host the 2036 Olympics is expected to be fierce, with several other nations already expressing interest, including Indonesia, India, Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. IOC President Thomas Bach has previously remarked that interest in hosting the 2036 Games has reached double digits, underscoring the global appeal and significance of securing the Olympic bid.