



BRIEF



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addresses at the 'Bhent-Mulakat Yuvaon ke Sath', at Jagdalpur in Bastar district, Wednesday.

Greet

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday greeted people on the occasion of the Parsi New Year Navroz, and said India takes great pride in the culture and traditions of the community.

Launch

Kolkata: President Droupadi Murmu will launch an advanced stealth frigate here for the Indian Navy on Thursday, further propelling India's maritime prowess, a defence official said.

Mishap

Warangal: Six people died and one person was injured in Warangal district on Wednesday when a "speeding" lorry rammed head-on into an auto-rickshaw that they were travelling in, police said.

Booked

Pilibhit: Police have registered an FIR against three school students for allegedly waving black flags on Independence Day in the Kotwali area of this Uttar Pradesh district, officials said on Wednesday.

EC order

New Delhi: The Election Commission's final order on the delimitation of Assam came into effect on Wednesday, according to an official notification.

Threat call

Faridabad: A milk dairy operator and his worker were arrested here for allegedly threatening to kill Congress MLA Neeraj Sharma and his mother, police said on Wednesday.

Govt approves Rs 13,000 cr 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme

To benefit 30 lakh families

New Delhi, Aug 16 (PTI):



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav briefs the media on Cabinet decisions.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 13,000 crore for a period of five years that will benefit about 30 lakh families of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers.

recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card. They will be provided credit support of up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5 per cent.

About the scheme.. Under the scheme, there will be two types of skilling programmes - Basic and Advanced and a stipend of Rs 500 per day will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training.

Trades covered.. 18 traditional trades will be covered. These include carpenter (Suthar); boat maker; armourer; blacksmith; hammer and tool kit maker; locksmith; goldsmith; potter (Kumhaar); sculptor, stone breaker; cobbler; mason; basket/mat/broom maker/coir weaver; doll and toy maker (traditional); barber; garland maker; washerman; tailor; and fishing net maker.

there will be two types of skilling programmes -- Basic and Advanced and a stipend of Rs 500 per day will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training,

on Cabinet decisions here. They will also get a support of up to Rs 15,000 to buy modern tools, he added. He said in the first year, five lakh families will be covered and a total of 30 lakh families will be covered over five years from FY24 to FY28.

Chandrayaan-3 completes last Moon-bound manoeuvre

Gears up for propulsion and lander module separation

Bengaluru, Aug 16 (PTI):

India's ambitious Chandrayaan-3 mission hit another mark on Wednesday when its spacecraft successfully underwent a fifth and final lunar-bound orbit manoeuvre, which brings it even closer to the surface of the Moon.

its Moon-bound manoeuvres, and it will now prepare for separation of the lander module - comprising the lander and rover - from the propulsion module.

"Today's successful firing, needed for a short duration, has put Chandrayaan-3 into an orbit of 153 km x 163 km, as intended. With this, the lunar bound manoeuvres are completed. It's time for preparations as the Propulsion Module and the Lander Module gear up for their separate journeys," ISRO said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Revenue dept official booked

On charge of raping teenage girl

Raipur, Aug 16:

A 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a revenue officer in state capital Raipur, police said on Wednesday.

The alleged incident took place on August 12 and based on the victim's complaint, a case was registered against Ramavtar Lahri (35), a patwari (lower level revenue official) posted in Raipur district, an official here said.

"In her complaint, the victim alleged that Lehri, who was known to her, allegedly exploited her sexually when she went to his residence for some work on Saturday," he said.

About the incident..

The alleged incident took place on August 12 and based on the victim's complaint, a case was registered against Ramavtar Lahri (35), a patwari (lower level revenue official) posted in Raipur district, an official here said. "In her complaint, the victim alleged that Lehri, who was known to her, allegedly exploited her sexually when she went to his residence for some work on Saturday," he said.

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Muslim teen with Hindu girl beaten up in Mumbai

Video goes viral

Mumbai, Aug 16 (PTI):

A 16-year-old Muslim boy was allegedly beaten up by a group of persons amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram', after he was caught before boarding an express train at the Bandra railway terminus here with a teenage Hindu girl, who they claimed was kidnapped by him, police said.

Wednesday. The boy as well as the girl, who is 17 years old, are residents of Ambarnath in neighbouring Thane district, an official said. "The incident took place on July 21, when the Muslim boy and the Hindu girl were caught by a group. The girl's family members had earlier lodged a complaint of her kidnapping in Ambarnath. After coming to know that the boy and the girl are waiting at the Bandra railway terminus, around a dozen people reached the spot and started assaulting the boy amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram,'" he said.

While bashing up the boy, they also dragged him out of the railway station by pulling his hair, he said.

"Someone present at the spot captured the incident on his mobile phone camera, and the video went viral on social media on Tuesday, following which the local police as well as the GRP swung into action and launched a probe," another official said.

After assaulting the boy, the group members took him to Nirmal Nagar police station located in Bandra East. But as the kidnapping case of the girl was registered in Ambarnath, he was handed over to the police there, he said.

'Will not align with BJP, work for change in 2024'

Aurangabad, Aug 16 (PTI):



NCP President Sharad Pawar during a press conference in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Wednesday.

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday asserted he will not align with the BJP and instead work towards bringing about a change in 2024 when the Lok Sabha polls will be held as he sought to downplay his last week's meeting with politically estranged nephew Ajit Pawar.

He sought to nix speculation that the Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) were working on a 'Plan B' to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls without his faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The Congress, the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) are constituents of the opposition Maha Vikas

ahead of his public rally in Maharashtra's Beed district on Thursday. Asked about his hush hush meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who has aligned with the BJP, in Pune last week, the senior Pawar said, "He is my family member. If any ceremony is planned in our family, naturally I will be consulted at that time."

Seeking to clear his stand on the much-talked about meeting with his nephew, which has caused unease among his allies Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT), the NCP patriarch asserted, "I will not go with the BJP. To stop unrest among people, we need to bring a change in 2024. We will do every possible to bring this change." The

meeting between the NCP founder and Ajit Pawar on August 12 at businessman Atul Chordiya's residence in Pune had sent political circles abuzz with speculation. It also did not go down well with the Congress and the Shiv Sena group led by former CM Uddhav Thackeray. Apparently referring to the split in the NCP after Ajit Pawar and eight other party MLAs joined the Eknath Shinde-led government in early July, the former Union minister said, "Those who have left me (in the past) didn't get election tickets again." Asked about the Ajit Pawar group still using his photos, the former Union minister said, "We are going to court over this issue."

Three Naxalites, one minor supporter held

Cache of explosives seized

Dantewada, Aug 16:

Police have arrested three Naxalites and detained a teenage boy, who was allegedly acting as their supporter, and recovered a cache of explosives from them in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh, an official said on Wednesday.

Officer (SHO) Dantewada Kotwali. Those arrested were identified as Subhash Kadti (21), Manoj Kumar Oyam (18), Ramesh Kumar Oyam (18), he said, adding that the detained boy is aged 15 years. Police have recovered nine explosive sticks - collectively weighing 25 kg, Rs 84,000 cash, commodities of daily use from bags being possessed by them, he said.

TRIBUTES TO VAJPAYEE



PM Narendra Modi pays tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary at his memorial Sadaiv Atal, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

SC HANDBOOK

'Women are not subordinate to men'

New Delhi, Aug 16 (PTI):

Women are neither subordinate to men nor do they need to be submissive to anybody, as the Constitution guarantees equal rights to individuals of all genders, the Supreme Court has said in its 'Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes' while terming as "incorrect" some common stereotypes about the gender roles ascribed to men and women.

The handbook, which contains a glossary of gender unjust terms and suggests alternative words and phrases which may be used, was launched on Wednesday.

On the stereotypes based on gender roles, the

handbook contains a table outlining some common stereotypes and gives reasons as to why they are incorrect. On the stereotype that "women should be submissive or subordinate to men", the handbook said, "The Constitution of India guarantees equal rights to individuals of all genders. Women are neither subordinate to men nor do they need to be submissive to anybody."

Dealing with the stereotype that "women should do all the household chores", it said the reality is that "people of all genders are equally capable of doing house chores. Men are often conditioned to believe that only women do household chores". Another incor-

rect stereotype which the handbook highlights is -- "wives should take care of their husband's parents."

It said the reality is that the responsibility of taking care of elderly individuals in the family falls equally on individuals of all genders and this is not the "sole remit of women".


The handbook also dealt with the common stereotype that women who work outside of the home do not care about their children.

It said working outside of the home has no correlation with a woman's love or concern for her children and parents of all genders may work outside of the home while also caring for their children.


Police have arrested three Naxalites and detained a teenage boy, who was allegedly acting as their supporter, and recovered a cache of explosives from them in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh, an official said on Wednesday. The accused, all natives of Bijapur district in the state, had allegedly procured the explosives from Hyderabad in neighbouring Telangana and brought them to Bastar to use against security forces, he said.

Weather: High 33, Low 25. MARKET: NIFTY 19,465.42, SENSEX 65,539.42. BULLION: GOLD 58,786, SILVER 70,035.


स्वतंत्रता दिवस के पावन पर्व पर
समस्त जिलेवासियों को हार्दिक
बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं....



स्व. राजा साहब
यशवंत राज सिंह



राजा खेमराज सिंह



रानी साहिबा आकांक्षा देवी सिंह

15 AUGUST

विनीत-राज परिवार स. लोहारा, जिला-कबीरधाम

CBSE Affiliation No. 3330052

GURUKUL
PUBLIC SCHOOL KAWARDHA (C.G.)
(An English Medium Co-educational Residential-Cum-Day Boarding School)



15 अगस्त
स्वतंत्रता दिवस

हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं...




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आप सभी को
15 अगस्त
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



वन एवं
जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग

कवर्धा



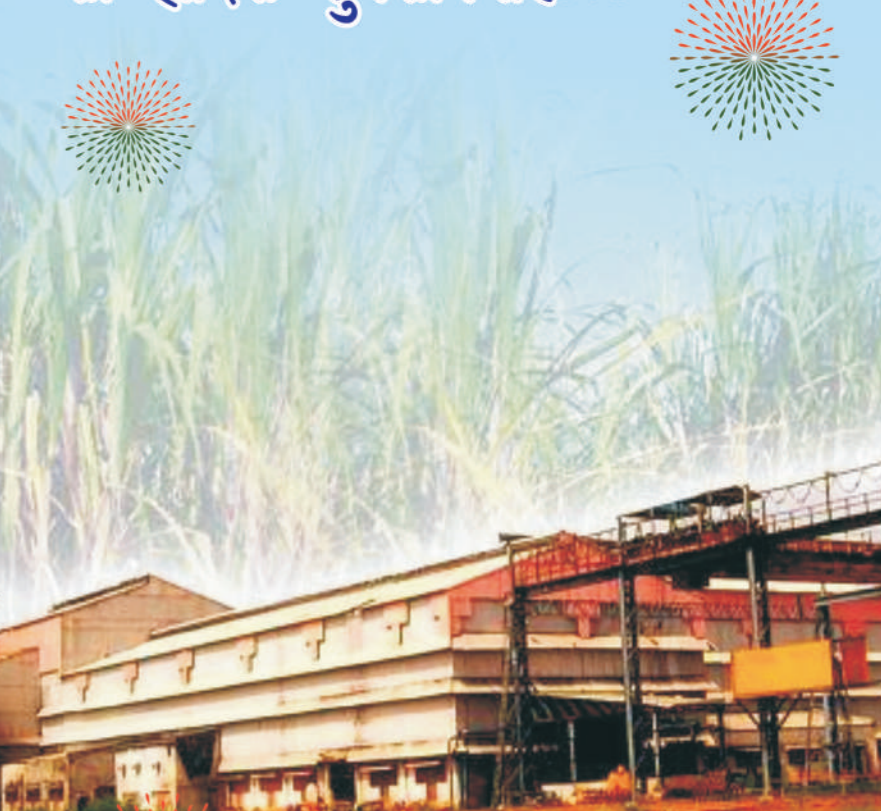
सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल सहकारी शक्कर उत्पादक कारखाना मर्यादित कवर्धा के सम्माननीय अंशधारी सदस्यों, गन्ना उत्पादक किसानों, जिलेवासियों एवं प्रदेशवासियों को

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

-: विनीत :-

सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल सहकारी शक्कर उत्पादक कारखाना मर्यादित पण्डरिया, जिला कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)

आप सभी को
15 अगस्त
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



भोरमदेव सहकारी
शक्कर उत्पादक कारखाना
(मर्यादित) कवर्धा

जिला - कबीरधाम, छ.ग.

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



लीला धनुक वर्मा
अध्यक्ष
जनपद पंचायत स/लोहारा

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



अशोक साहू
जिलाध्यक्ष
भारतीय जनता पार्टी, जिला-कबीरधाम

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

जिला पंचायत परिवार
जिला-कवर्धा

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को 15 अगस्त
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



नीलू चंद्रवंशी
जिलाध्यक्ष
जिला कांग्रेस कमेटी, कबीरधाम



मीना चंद्रवंशी
जिला पंचायत सदस्य
कबीरधाम

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

जिला शिक्षाधिकारी
जिला-कवर्धा

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

जिला अस्पताल परिवार
जिला-कवर्धा

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



विरेंद्र साहू
उपाध्यक्ष, जनपद पंचायत, कवर्धा



डॉ. सियाराम साहू
पूर्व विधायक, कवर्धा

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



रवि चंद्रवंशी
प्रदेश अध्यक्ष
अजित जोगी छात्र संगठन, छ.ग.

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



सुनील केशरवानी
जिलाध्यक्ष
जनता जोगी कांग्रेस, कवर्धा

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

लोक निर्माण विभाग
जिला-कवर्धा

समस्त क्षेत्रवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना, कवर्धा

England to face Spain in historic Women's World Cup final clash



Australia's forward #05 Cortnee Vine and England's forward #09 Rachel Daly compete for the ball during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup semi-final football match between Australia and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney on August 16.



Spain's players celebrate after Spain's defender #19 Olga Carmona (unseen) scored her team's second goal during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup semi-final football match between Spain and Sweden at Eden Park in Auckland.

Sydney & Madrid, Aug 16 (AP):

The stage is set for a monumental showdown as England secured a commanding 3-1 victory over Australia, propelling them into the Women's World Cup final against a resurgent Spain. The Lionesses' dominance

over Australia marked their first-ever appearance in the championship game, captivating fans around the globe. In a scintillating match that had fans on the edge of their seats, Australia's superstar Sam Kerr found the net for the Matildas, offering a glimmer of

hope. However, England's prowess proved insurmountable, with goals from Ella Toone, Lauren Hemp, and Alessia Russo sealing their triumphant march to the final. The electric atmosphere of the 75,000-strong crowd bore witness to a historic moment for women's football.

Meanwhile, in a remarkable turn of events, Spain's national team secured their place in the Women's World Cup final for the first time in history. A late strike by Olga Carmona propelled Spain to a thrilling 2-1 victory over Sweden, igniting celebrations across Spain

and leaving the nation in ecstasy. Coach Jorge Vilda's unwavering leadership has propelled the Spanish team to unprecedented heights, overcoming past challenges and setting their sights on the ultimate victory. Both England and Spain are set to etch their names

in the annals of women's football history when they face off in the championship clash at Stadium Australia. Spain's journey to the final has captured the hearts of a nation, with fervent hopes of a historic victory triggering scenes of jubilation and anticipation throughout

Madrid. The Spanish royal family, joined by countless supporters, voiced their exultation on social media, rallying behind the national team's pursuit of the coveted title. As Sunday approaches, the world awaits an epic battle between two nations vying for su-

premacy on the global stage. With England's lion-hearted determination pitted against Spain's soaring aspirations, the Women's World Cup final promises to be a contest for the ages, embodying the spirit of unity and competition that defines the beautiful game.

Ireland T20Is: Jitesh rises, time running out for Sanju Samson

Dublin, Aug 16 (PTI):

The national selection committee's patience with the profligate Sanju Samson could be soon running out as Jitesh Sharma's presence in the 15-member squad for Ireland T20s puts the Rajasthan Royals skipper's place in the side under scanner.

The Indian squad for the series, save skipper Jasprit Bumrah, who is treating this event as a fitness test for the ODI World Cup, comprises Asian Games-bound players mostly and that in turn creates a slightly tricky situation.

With scores of 12, 7 and 13 in the three games that he batted in the five-match T20 series against West Indies, Samson has himself invited trouble and one shouldn't be surprised if Jitesh dons the big gloves and plays as a designated finisher during the Ireland series beginning on Friday.

The 29-year-old Amrawati-born cricketer is likely to be India's first-choice keeper ahead of Prabhshimran Singh in the upcoming Asian Games and before an important event, it is only fair that he



gets to play a few international games to settle his nerves. Jitesh performs the tough role of a finisher for Punjab Kings at No 5 or 6 in IPL and it is not an easy job to mentally condition yourself to play only 15 to 20 balls per game.

While Samson is still best-placed to become a reserve keeper in ODI World Cup, in case KL Rahul can't make it eventually, but his inconsistency for years now despite immense potential does keep the selectors worried. It is imperative that Samson gets a few more chances to make a case for 50-over World Cup selection (though different format) but will the team think-

tank be able to fit in both the glovesmen in the playing XI? A look at the squad will make one feel that it would be a tight case.

With Ruturaj Gaikwad and Yashasvi Jaiswal set to open and Tilak Varma after a fine debut series in the West Indies settled at No. 4, the slot that may be up for grabs is No. 3 in the absence of the brilliant Suryakumar Yadav.

Samson, who has batted at No. 3 slot for Rajasthan Royals on occasions during IPL, could be tried in that position but there is Shivam Dube, the big-hitting giant, who has also been a floater and used successfully at that position by

Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni during the IPL final. On top of it, Dube is the team's seam bowling all-rounder although he is not even close to Hardik Pandya when it comes to rolling his arms over. But his sheer power-hitting skills could make him a contender.

Also in case Samson plays all the games, one among Jitesh and the equally exciting Rinku Singh will miss out.

Indian T20 team as well as the ODI squad need good middle-order finishers and captain Bumrah and stand-in coach Sitanshu Kotak wouldn't want to lose out on that chance.

Stokes in England's provisional squad for ODI World Cup



Ahead of England's defense of Cricket World Cup

London, Aug 16 (PTI):

England Test skipper Ben Stokes on Wednesday came out of ODI retirement to be included in the provisional squad for the 50-over World Cup while talented batter Harry Brook and tearaway pace bowler Jofra Archer were the notable omissions.

The World Cup will commence in India on October 5. Stokes, who quit ODIs last year saying playing in all three formats was "unsustainable", has reversed his retirement decision and national selector Luke Wright said the all-rounder's return will add to England's "match-winning ability". Stokes, 32, will return for next month's four-match ODI series against New Zealand. Wright confirmed that the 15 named for the New Zealand series also formed the provisional World Cup squad.

Playing KL Rahul in Asia Cup would be asking for too much: Ravi Shastri

Chennai, Aug 16 (PTI):

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri would not include K L Rahul in the playing eleven for the Asia Cup as it would be asking for "too much" from a player who has not played competitive cricket for close to four months.

Both Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who are undergoing injury rehabilitation at the NCA in Bengaluru, are expected to regain full fitness before the Asia Cup starting August 31.

"When you are talking of a player who has not played and is recovering from injury. To think of him in the playing eleven of Asia Cup, you are asking little too much of the player himself. "And then you are talking keeping when the guy has come from a knee injury, the range of movement, things like (that). That is a no, no straight," Shastri told Star Sports in a panel discussion referring to Rahul. He also warned against rushing back players from injuries. "You can't rush players back from injuries. You did that with Jasprit Bumrah, not once, twice but thrice and he has been out for 14 months



now." In place of Rahul, Shastri would like to see rookie batter Tilak Varma in the middle order. He wants to see three left-handers in the top-seven, including Ravindra Jadeja. "There are three other positions where I think two left-handers have to come in. Now, this is where the selectors' role comes in because they are watching. They know who's the guy who's hot. If Tilak Varma is hot, bring him in. If you think (Yashasvi) Jaiswal is hot, bring him in.

Knee injury ends Prithvi Shaw's Northamptonshire stint



London, Aug 16 (PTI):

Prithvi Shaw on Wednesday was ruled out of the remainder of his stint with Northamptonshire, owing to a knee injury he suffered while fielding against Durham. Shaw had made an unbeaten 125 off 76 balls in that match on August 13 as Northamptonshire cruised to a six-wicket win. "Prithvi injured his knee while fielding in the fixture against Durham and subsequent scan results received this morning have revealed the injury is worse than initially expected," the Northamptonshire stated in a media release. The 23-year-old Shaw made a fine impression during his short stint with the Steelbacks during the One-Day Cup 2023, amassing 429 runs in four innings. His run-making spree included a mammoth 244 off 153 balls against Somerset on August 9, leading Northants to an 87-run victory. John Sadler, the head coach of Northamptonshire, said it was a massive disappointment to let go of a player like Shaw.

Rishabh Pant bats in a recreational game; shows progress

Bengaluru, Aug 16 (PTI):

The return of Rishabh Pant to top-flight cricket is keenly awaited, and the wicketkeeper batsman dropped some positive signals when he batted for a few balls during a recreational event on India's Independence Day.

Pant has been out of action after suffering multiple injuries in a horrific car accident on the Dehradun-Delhi highway in December last year.

In a fan video shared on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, Pant was seen stepping out to hammer the ball out of the ground, and roars of on-lookers accompanied the shot. The little shimmy down the pitch might have come as a confidence booster for the batter as well because the crash had affected his knee the most.



Pant, who has been recuperating at the NCA, visited a sporting facility near Bengaluru to take part in the Independence Day celebrations organised by the JSW Foundation. During the function, Pant exhorted people to keep enjoying sports. "Once you keep

growing older, you stop loving the game. One of the reasons is that there is a lot of pressure; you want to excel in life and do this and that. "But enjoyment nahi miss karna hein life mein, (Don't miss enjoyment in life)," Pant said in a video shared by Sangita Jindal, chairperson of JSW Foundation.

Pant plays for Delhi Capitals in the IPL and the team is co-owned by the JSW group. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had issued a fitness update on Pant last month. "He (Pant) has made significant progress in his rehabilitation and has commenced batting as well as keeping in the nets. "He is currently following a fitness programme designed for him which includes strength, flexibility and running," BCCI had said in a statement.

Novak Djokovic falls in first US match since 2021

Mason (US), Aug 16 (AP):

Novak Djokovic fell in his first match in the United States since 2021, losing in doubles in the Western & Southern Open.

Djokovic and Nikola Cacic on Tuesday lost 6-4 6-2 to Jamie Murray and Michael Venus in the Serbian star's return to the country after missing events because of COVID-19 vaccine restrictions.

Djokovic was playing his first competitive match since falling to top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final. The winner of a record 23 Grand Slam singles titles, Djokovic is set to open singles play Wednesday night against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. Alcaraz beat Australian qualifier Jordan Thompson 7-5 4-6 6-3 in the



late match. The defending US Open champion became the first ATP player to reach 50 wins this season. In women's play, former US Open champion Sloane Stephens reached the third round for the first time since 2019 with a 4-6 6-4 6-4 victory over sixth-seeded defending tournament champion Caroline Garcia. Stephens, who won in New York in 2017, improved to 2-8 in her last 10 matches against top-10 players. Both of the wins have been against Garcia.

Lionel Messi scores again, Inter Miami tops Philadelphia 4-1

Chester (US), Aug 16 (AP):

Lionel Messi keeps scoring goals, and Inter Miami keeps winning games. Messi ripped a shot from 30 yards past three Philadelphia defenders in the 20th minute that made fans who paid a record price for soccer tickets in the Philly area rejoice, and Inter Miami beat the Union 4-1 in a Leagues Cup semifinal on Tuesday night. Major League Soccer is Messi's league now.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner scored his ninth goal in six matches with his new team in front of a crowd that pushed 20,000 fans, with ticket prices soaring past USD 1,000 on the secondary market. There were few complaints. Certainly not from three Union season-ticket holders who ditched the home team's garb for a



night and traded it for Messi gear. Or fans that lined up for Messi jerseys authenticity not guaranteed and the ones hungry at a food truck for Messi

fries. And certainly not from the Union, who, of course wanted to win, but otherwise stuffed the coffers and received more worldwide attention on one night than in any game they've played in their history. Fans erupted when Messi was introduced and went wild again when he scored past diving goalkeeper Andre Blake. Messi ran with his arms extended and then punched his fist in the air as he leapt in celebration. The rest was almost incidental. Jordi Alba and Josef Martinez also scored in the first half for Miami, and David Ruiz scored in the second. Miami will play in the Leagues Cup championship game Saturday against either Nashville or Mexican club Monterrey. Alejandro Bedoya scored in the second half for Philadelphia.

