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# SHODDY INFRA CLAIMS LIFE

In yet another incident of shoddy infrastructure leading to loss of human life, a cab driver died while six people were injured after a portion of a roof caved in on them at Delhi airport's Terminal-1. That such a mishap could take place at the country's busiest airport speaks volumes on the state of affairs at other critical infrastructure which are used by millions of people on a daily basis. The incident happening on the very first day of monsoon hitting the national capital also shows how unprepared the city was to tackle a three-hour downpour

- Canopy at Delhi airport's Terminal-1 collapses along with the support beams, damaging the cars parked in pick-up and drop area
- With Terminal-1, which handles domestic flight operations being shut, there have been flight cancellations and operations have been shifted to Terminal-2 and Terminal-3 temporarily

persons are residents of Delhi, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the official said.

The Congress Friday hit out at the Modi government over the incident, saying 'corruption' and 'criminal negligence' are responsible for the shoddy infrastructure created in the last 10 years.

"Corruption and criminal negligence is responsible for the collapse of shoddy infrastructure falling like a deck of cards, in the past 10 years of Modi Government," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

tenders were rushed to Terminal-1 of the airport after a call about the incident was received around 5:30 am.

Besides the roof sheet, the support beams collapsed, damaging the cars parked in the pick-up and drop area of the terminal. A search operation was conducted to make sure no one was trapped inside the damaged vehicles, they said.

The injured have been admitted to Medanta Hospital near the airport. A police official said the deceased was identified as Ramesh Kumar (45), a taxi driver and a resident of Rohini in Delhi. The injured

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 28:** A cab driver died and six people were injured after a portion of a canopy at Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal-1 collapsed on cars amid heavy rain early Friday, leading to suspension of flight departures, according to officials. Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu visited Terminal-1 to take stock of the situation. Delhi Fire Services (DFS) officials said three fire

**CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE:** Parked vehicles damaged by the collapse of a canopy at the Terminal-1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport amid heavy rain, in New Delhi, Friday. One person died and six others were injured in the mishap

## BAIL FOR SOREN

**Ranchi:** The High Court of Jharkhand Friday granted bail to former Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money laundering case linked to a land scam. The court had June 13 reserved its order on Soren's bail plea. "...The petitioner is directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of ₹50,000 with two sureties of the like amount each," said the order passed by the single bench of Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay. Soren, the executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), was arrested by the ED January 31 in connection with its investigation into the money laundering case. **P8**

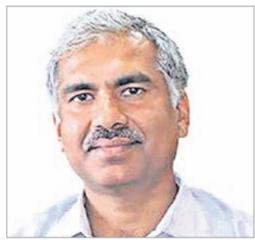
## Manoj Ahuja new CS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** Manoj Ahuja, a 1990-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary (CS) of Odisha. He succeeds Pradeep Kumar Jena, whose term ends June 30.

The General Administration and Public Grievance Department Friday issued a notification confirming Ahuja's appointment upon his repatriation from the Government of India. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his return to Odisha June 25, following the state government's request.

Ahuja was serving on central deputation, holding the position of secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare since April 1, 2022. Prior to that, he was the OSD in the same department, chairman of CBSE and special director of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Musoorie. "On the repatriation from government of India, Manoj Ahuja,



IAS, is appointed as chief secretary, Odisha and secretary to government, General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) Department consequent upon the retirement of Pradeep Kumar Jena, IAS, with effect from June 30, 2024 (afternoon)," the GA&PG department said in a notification issued Friday. Ahuja brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously served in various capacities within Odisha government, including as sub-collector and secretary of several key departments such as Food & Civil Supplies, Steel & Mines, Sports & Youth Services, and Cooperation.

## Class IX student stabs classmate

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Digapahandi/Patapur, June 28:** In a shocking incident, a Class IX student was critically injured after he was stabbed on chest by his classmate in front of Raghunath High School at Ramachandrapur village under Sanakhemundi block in Ganjam district, Friday.

The injured student Omm Pradhan was rescued by teachers and was rushed to Sheragada community health centre. After preliminary treatment he was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur as his condition deteriorated.

Patapur IIC Ajay Kumar Swain along with his team reached the high school for investigation.

According to sources, a heated argument broke out between Omm and the accused during their tuition class Thursday evening. At around 10am Friday, the accused attacked Omm right in front of the school, said the IIC after preliminary investigation. The accused has been detained.



**COURTESY CALL:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Friday

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Who do you want us to blame sir? Nehru, the Mughals, or King Dasharath?

# Lying with confidence; faltering with facts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, June 28:** Thursday's presidential debate was a re-run that featured two candidates with a combined age of 159, but it went especially poorly for one of them, President Joe Biden.

Already fighting voter concerns about his age, Biden, 81, was halting and seemed to lose his train of thought, sparking quick concerns among Democrats about the man they hope will keep former President Donald Trump from returning to office.

For his part, Trump made repeated false claims and provocative statements. But Trump seemed smoother and more vigorous than Biden, who is only three years older than the Republican ex-president.

The debate covered a wide range of topics and included a former president — Trump — not backing down from his vows to prosecute members of Congress and even the man he was debat-



ing. But the overarching theme was the difference between the candidates' performance. Presidential debates are often scored on style and impression more than substance. Trump was confident and composed, even as he steamrolled facts on abortion and immigration with false assertions, conspicuous exaggerations and empty superlatives. Biden was often halting, his

voice raspy, even when he had the facts on his side. He had difficulty finishing his arguments and marshalling his attacks.

Trump's supporters have seemed unconcerned about his relationship with the truth, and his performance and delivery helped him. Biden's supporters consistently express concern about the president's age and capacity and he did little to reassure them. One of the first glimpses view-

ers got of Biden was when he lost his train of thought while making his case on tax rates and the number of billionaires in America — trailing off and looking down at his lectern before mumbling briefly and saying "we finally beat Medicare." When he tried to finish his point, he was cut off because of the time limits.

At other times, Biden made some puzzling non sequiturs that seemed to undercut what the campaign has said are his strong points, including the economy and abortion rights.

As Biden critiqued Trump's economic record, the president suddenly pivoted to Afghanistan and how Trump "didn't do anything about that" — although the botched withdrawal of Afghanistan is widely considered one of the lowest points of Biden's presidency.

Later, as Biden singled out state restrictions on abortion, he confusingly pivoted to immigration and referred to a "young woman who was just murdered" by an immigrant. It

was unclear what point he was trying to make.

Trump was cruising through the opening of the debate when he suddenly stumbled over the question of how he would reassure voters that he would respect his oath of office after the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol.

He continued to engage in denialism about the attack and refused to denounce those who attacked police and stormed the building by breaking doors and windows. He suggested that those charged will somehow be found one day to be innocent.

Trump tried to avoid addressing the issue. He defended the people who stormed the Capitol, blaming Biden for prosecuting them. "What they've done to some people who are so innocent, you ought to be ashamed of yourself," Trump told Biden.

Biden shot back: "The only person on this stage who's a convicted felon is the man I'm looking at."

## State to set up centre for tribal languages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** The Odisha government-run Academy of Tribal Languages and Culture (ATLC) has decided to set up an academic centre and language laboratory dedicated to the development of tribal languages and culture.

Nityananda Gond, Minister of ST and SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department, has directed the setting up of the new academic centre and language laboratory as part of the department's 100-day plan, an official statement Friday said.

According to the minister, the centre and language laboratory will come up at Gothapatna on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, near the proposed Adivasi Bhawan.

ATLC, a premier autonomous institution under the ST, SC Development Department, was previously known as the Academy of Tribal Dialects and Culture. Established in 1979, it was later rechristened as ATLC during 2007-2008.

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	79032.73	↓ 210.45
NIFTY	24010.60	↓ 33.90
DOLLAR	83.36	↓ ₹0.09
EURO	89.30	↓ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹71,515	↓ ₹57
SILVER	₹87,226	↑ ₹178

### WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.0°C	33.2°C
Min Temp	25.8°C	25.0°C
Humidity	39.5%	88%
Rainfall	7.7mm	20.4mm

**FORECAST**  
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain

# leisure



## ELTON JOHN TO SELL OFF CLOTHES FOR CHARITY

Legendary singer Elton John has talked about selling some unwanted clothes on an e-commerce site to raise money for his AIDS Foundation charity. "For decades I've donated my closet's treasures to support the Elton John AIDS Foundation," he said in a statement.

## KIM TO EXECUTIVE PRODUCE NETFLIX SHOW CALABASAS

American socialite Kim Kardashian and actress Emma Roberts have joined forces to executive produce a new Netflix series *Calabasas*. During an appearance on *The Spotlight With Jessica Shaw*, Emma shared: "Kim and I are executive producing a show for Netflix called *Calabasas*."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You have your hands full today. There will be planning, meetings and a lot of work to do. You may feel tired and dejected due to insufficient inputs from others. However, Ganesh says things will become clear slowly as matters come to a conclusion.

**TAURUS**  
Today, you need to take hold of your emotions. Ganesh urges you to not get carried away by your feelings. Instead, you should try to maintain a practical, sensible frame of mind. Women are like to feature prominently in your life during the day. Try to be magnanimous and open hearted.

**GEMINI**  
Your entire attention will be concentrated on the work-front today. You will be on the lookout for new projects and contracts to spur on your earnings. Opportunities for changing your job will come knocking on your door. You will be afforded the full cooperation of your colleagues today.

**CANCER**  
Control your anger, counsels Ganesh. Or else, it will sadden your near ones. Writers may display creative output of high order. The day augurs well for artists, too. This is the time to take up new challenges, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
You will not be in the mood to take up significant tasks today. You will want to throw your responsibilities to the wind and pursue leisurely activities. However you will still need to tackle some pressing issues. It is easier to swim with the tide, than against, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will be bubbling with ideas today. You may face a dilemma between your obligations and present duties, which could prove to be very perplexing. New contacts turn out to be very useful. Ganesh says blood is thicker than water, and family and friends will cement their relationship with you.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will learn a lot from your past experiences for a shining future. You will be slightly possessive about some costly item that you own. There will be small concerns during the day about different matters, which will give you mental stress. On the whole the day will pass by nicely.

**SCORPIO**  
No matter how rich and successful you become, it is very important to stay grounded. Never let your success go to your head, advises Ganesh. Rudeness and overconfidence may take away everything from you and may leave you empty handed. So be kind and spread kindness.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You become your own judge today. Through introspection, you try to find you the various causes that lead to troubles in your life. Though it may take time, eventually you achieve what you want and try to find reasonable solutions for the same. However, make sure you do not waste your entire day in pondering about the glitches; move on, Ganesh advises.

**CAPRICORN**  
Mounting pressure of work and responsibilities during the day may drain your energy, but not your enthusiasm, feels Ganesh. The second half of the day will be tiring, as you will be fighting a tough battle with your competitors. You'll come out triumphant from the fight as you perform smartly and get your acts right.

**AQUARIUS**  
You need not always put up a brave face, feels Ganesh. You can ventilate your emotions and speak your heart out in front of your loved ones. It will make the pain bearable and you'll probably get a way out of your problems.

**PISCES**  
You need to nurture your personal relationships carefully today, and give them the attention they are due. You need to control the outbursts of your temper and stop arguing with your partner or spouse over insignificant matters.

# Samantha's confession

**Mumbai:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu in her podcast discussed the importance of eating healthy and avoiding certain types of foods and beverages.

In the episode of *Take 20*, Samantha along with lifestyle and wellness expert Alkesh Sharotri discussed the importance of eating healthy. However, a comment by a user caught Samantha's attention.

A viewer commented about Samantha promoting healthy foods on the podcast while endorsing unhealthy brands herself. However, the actress acknowledged the comment with honesty.

She said: "I have made mistakes in the past when I didn't know any better, but I have stopped accepting many many endorsements. I believe in practising what I preach. God bless."

Samantha, who had shared that she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune condition called Myositis in 2022, made her debut with the Telugu film *Ye Maaya Chesave* in 2010. After which, she was seen in films such as *Neethaane En Ponvasantham* and *Eega*.

On the occasion of her birthday in April, Samantha announced her maiden Telugu film tentatively titled *Bangaram* under her production banner Tralala Moving Pictures.

The upcoming film marks Samantha's feature film debut as a producer. It will have the actress playing the lead protagonist.



## Vidisha's go-to monsoon style

**Mumbai:** Actress Vidisha Srivastava has reflected on the trends for monsoon fashion, sharing that she prefers wearing synthetic materials like nylon and polyester, as they are moisture-resistant and quick to dry.

Monsoon fashion is all about embracing the elements while staying stylish and comfortable.

Sharing her go-to style for the monsoon, Vidisha, who plays Anita Bhabi in the sitcom *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai* said: "During the rainy season, you don't have to sacrifice style and elegance. When it starts raining, I prefer to wear synthetic materials like nylon and polyester, which are moisture-resistant and quick to dry."

"I avoid heavy cotton and wool, as they absorb water and take longer to dry. I like to wear bright, bold printed clothes to look more appealing. Plastic

jewellery is a great choice for staying fashionable during the season without worrying about damage," she shared.

Vidisha added: "My favourite look is a stylish waterproof jacket paired with colourful waterproof footwear. And don't forget to carry a trendy, compact umbrella to add style to your outfit."

On the professional front, Vidisha made her film debut in 2007 with SP Entertainment's Telugu film *Maa Iddari Madhya*. She also starred in other Telugu projects like *Alaa*, *Prem*, *Athili Sattibabu LKG*.

Vidisha has also been a part of TV shows like *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*, *Meri Gudiya*, and *Kashibai Bajirao Ballal*.

## VAANI IN ALL-NEW AVATAR

**Mumbai:** Actress Vaani Kapoor said that with her upcoming comedy film *Badtameez Gill*, she is exploring a genre that she hasn't had the chance to dive into yet.

Vaani, who is heading to the UK for the second schedule of the film, said: "Our next schedule is in the UK, and I'm looking forward to an exciting filming experience."

She said that the film, which is directed by Navjot Gulati, presents her in an all-new avatar.

"*Badtameez Gill* presents me in a new avatar, which I'm really happy about. This project is significant for me and it means a lot that producers trust my acting abilities and are willing to support films with me in a leading role," said the actress.

She added: "I'm committed to giving it my best and showcasing my range as an artist."

Talking about the genre of the film, which also stars Aparshakti Khurana and Paresh Rawal,

she said: "I'm also exploring a genre that I haven't had the chance to dive into that much, which is both fun and challenging for me as an actor."

The actress is enjoying her work in the movie.

"Comedy, especially family-friendly comedies that everyone can enjoy together, is a genre I love. I'm thoroughly enjoying shooting for *Badtameez Gill*."

The film, which is being bankrolled by Nicky Bhagnani, Viicky Bhagnani, Vinay Aggarwal, Ankur Takrani and Akshad Ghone, has partly been shot in Bareilly.

she said: "I'm also exploring a genre that I haven't had the chance to dive into that much, which is both fun and challenging for me as an actor."

## Hina diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer

**Mumbai:** Actress Hina Khan Friday announced that she has been diagnosed with stage three breast cancer, saying she is strong, determined, and fully committed to overcoming this disease.

Taking to social media, Hina shared a post which read: "Hello Everyone, To address the recent rumour, I want to share some important news with all the Hinaholics and everyone who loves and cares for me. I have been diagnosed with Stage Three Breast Cancer. Despite this challenging diagnosis, I want to reassure everyone that I am doing well. I am strong, determined, and fully committed to overcoming this disease. My treatment has already begun, and I am ready to do everything necessary to emerge from this even stronger."

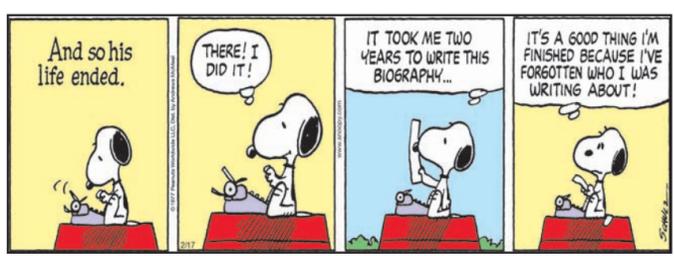
Actor Jay Bhanushali commented: "Get well soon Hina". A fan wrote: "Stay strong, everything will be normal."

Hina is best known for her role as Akshara in one of the longest-running family drama *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*.

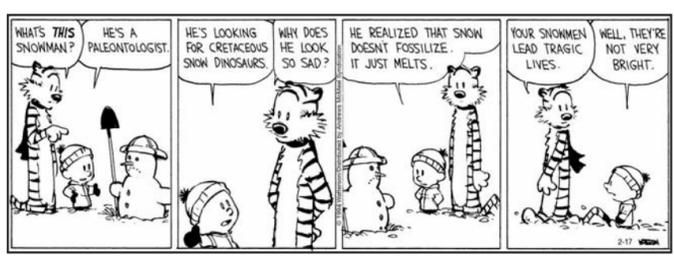
The 36-year-old actress has also participated in reality shows like *Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 8*, *Bigg Boss 11*, and *Bigg Boss 14*.

### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



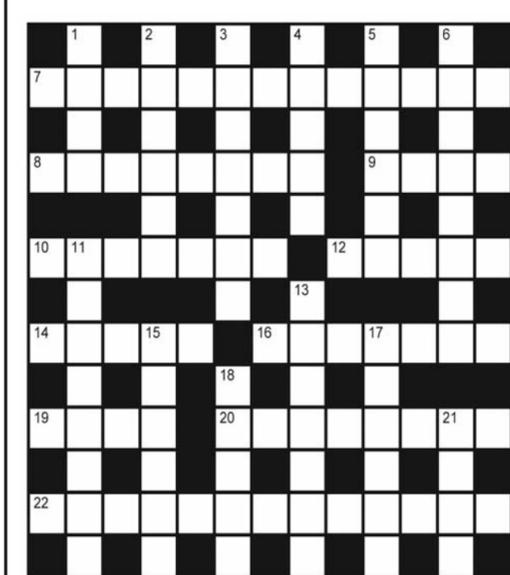
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



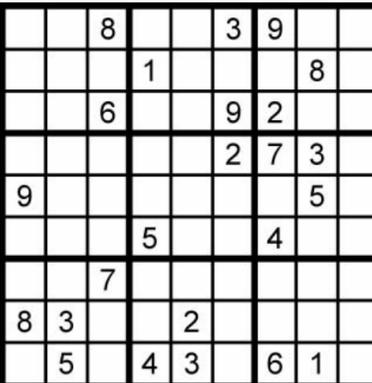
#### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Pompous
  - 8 Newspaper worker
  - 9 Puccini piece
  - 10 Farewell remark
  - 12 Eagle's nest
  - 14 Ancient Mexican
  - 16 Silhouette
  - 19 Writer Waugh
  - 20 Kind of microscope
  - 22 Statistical information form
- Down**
- 1 Elder or alder
  - 2 Catch some Z's
  - 3 Hair style
  - 4 Dried coconut meat
  - 5 Arrow poison
  - 6 Surgical procedure
  - 11 Liqueur flavouring
  - 13 Soup servers
  - 15 Alibi
  - 17 Deadly
  - 18 Halfhearted
  - 21 Grimm villain

#### SUDOKU

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

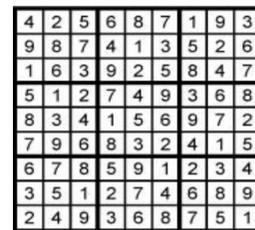


#### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## DANCE FEST

Odissi dancer Madhulita Mohapatra performs at the 22nd Ekamra Nrutya Mahotsav organised by Suravi at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PICTURE BY BIKASH NAYAK



## Heavy rains for next 2 days

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** Several parts of the state are likely to receive heavy rains in the next two days as the low pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal (BoB), off north Odisha coast, moves northwards during the period, IMD sources said.

The low pressure area has been formed under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over northwest and the adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal (BoB), they added.

Meanwhile, widespread rainfall activity with very heavy rainfall at one or two places was recorded in Koraput district, Friday. Heavy rainfall was also witnessed at one or two places in Dhenkanal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Khurda, Rayagada, and Jajpur districts during the day.

Jeypure in Koraput recorded 12 cm of rainfall, followed by Nandapur (Koraput) and Bhuban

(Dhenkanal) with 11 cm each, Malkangiri with 9 cm, and Bolagarh (Khurda) with 8 cm.

IMD sources said light to moderate rain/thundershowers are very likely to occur at most places over the districts of the state in the next two days.

They further stated that heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places in Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and Bhadrak districts.

Heavy rainfall (7 to 11 cm) is also very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Khorda, Puri, Balasore, Jajpur, Cuttack, Bolangir, Nuapada, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Koraput.

Fishermen have been alerted that squally weather with gusty surface wind speeds reaching 40 to 50 kmph is likely over the northwest Bay of Bengal off the Odisha coast until June 30.



**ENTERTAINMENT GUARANTEED:** Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and employees during the launch of entertainment YouTube channel 'Baramaja' on the publications' premises in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## Ashish Singh joined duty June 3: DGP

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** A day after the Home department sought information from the director general of police (DGP) regarding the leave availed by IPS officer Ashish Kumar Singh, DGP Arun Kumar Sarangi Friday said that the 2004 batch officer had resumed duty June 3.

While responding to questions on the clarification sought by the Home department on Singh's leave, the DGP said, "The government had sanctioned Ashish Singh's leave from May 4 to June 2. After completion of his leave period, he joined duty at the Intelligence Directorate June 3."

"As per the routine correspondence, the Intelligence Directorate should have sent Singh's joining report to us. And, the letter from our office should have been sent to the Home department. However, it was done at a lower level, leading to confusion. I will check why the letter hasn't been sent to the Home department," he said.

"After joining June 3, Singh has attended several meetings. He was also present during the discussions on new criminal laws held at the DGP camp office June 17," the DGP added.

## 'Caste, society bound by language and religion'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** Every caste and society are bound by language and religion, and caste and religious numbers should not be underestimated, said renowned researcher, historian and head of the department (HoD), History, Utkal University Prof. Ashok Kumar Pattnaik.

Giving a summery discussion on the issue of linguistic and religious minorities in colonial Odisha at the third monthly talk programme of the National Archives of India, Eastern region here, Friday, Prof. Pattnaik spoke in details about how religion and language have embedded the individual and social character in the ideology of nationalism in the current situation.

"At that time, Christian mis-



sionaries were moving the social aspect in a different direction by connecting education with religion," he said. Presiding over the seminar, assistant director of Archives, Satyanarayan Mishra highlighted the need for monthly seminars in archives and its research aspect.

Ramachandra Karan gave the welcome address and proposed the vote of thanks at the event.

A galaxy of researchers from the state, historians, university professors and students participated in the discussion which centered around the importance and need of sources in research.

## BJD joins Opposition ranks, demands discussion on NEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 28:** Ousted from power in Odisha by the BJP, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) joined the Opposition ranks Friday and protested, demanding a discussion on NEET in Rajya Sabha.

As the INDIA bloc parties gave notices demanding a discussion on the NEET issue, the BJD MPs also joined the protest and trooped in the Well of the House.

"The Biju Janata Dal and other Opposition parties... strongly wanted a discussion on NEET. When it was not done, we went to the Well of the House. We protested (and) asked for a discussion. (But) it was not allowed," BJD leader in Rajya Sabha Sasmit Patra said outside Parliament.

The BJD also joined the



**The Biju Janata Dal and other Opposition parties strongly wanted a discussion on NEET. When it was not done, we went to the Well of the House. We protested (and) asked for a discussion. (But) it was not allowed**

SASMIT PATRA | BJD RAJYA SABHA MP

Opposition's walkout, which was staged after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar refused to adjourn the House after Congress MP Phulo Devi Netam fainted in the House.

"We had only requested that the House should be adjourned because a member had fainted. Even that was not done. So we all Opposition parties have walked out in protest," he said.

The BJD, in the first two terms of the BJP-led NDA, had been a reliable source of support for the government in passing of legislations, even though it was not a formal ally.

The party could not win any Lok Sabha seats this time, but has nine MPs in Rajya Sabha.

The BJP defeated the BJD in the recently held Assembly elections.

## Highest ever: ECoR to run 315 spl trains for Rath Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** The Railways has planned to run 315 special trains to and from Puri during Rath Yatra for hassle-free travel and convenience of pilgrims, from July 6 to 19. The Rath Yatra, also known as Gundicha Yatra, is being celebrated for two days this year.

A press release issued by the East Coast Railways (ECoR) said that as per plans, the special trains will run from different parts of Odisha and from neighboring states for Rath Yatra.

These trains will run from Badampahad, Rourkela, Baleswar, Sonepur and Daspalla, apart from Junagarh Road, Sambalpur, Kendujharghar, Paradeep, Bhadrak, Angul, Gunupur, Bangiriposi on Gundicha Yatra.



Similarly, special trains have also been planned for Sandhya Darshan, Bahuda Yatra, Suna Vesha as well as Adharapana festival.

For the convenience of the passengers, ECoR has taken necessary steps to provide reserved class accommodation in some of the long distance special trains during the festival period, the release stated.

As per the direction of Railway Minister Ashiwni Vaishnaw for provision of all facilities to the devotees, ECoR has taken initiatives for crowd manage-

ment, train information system/enquiry counters, video wall display, additional ticket booking counters and mobile ticket counters, pilgrim waiting area/shed to accommodate 15,000 pilgrims, security arrangements, catering & hospitality, medical facilities & ambulance service. Provision of power supply, cleanliness, security, drinking water and sufficient toilets for the convenience of passengers, especially pilgrims, is also being made, the release said.

Meanwhile, GM, ECoR Parmeshwar Funkwal inspected the Rath Yatra arrangements at Puri railway station Friday and took stock of facilities being provided to the pilgrims. Funkwal instructed the concerned officials to complete the Rath Yatra arrangements and facilities ahead of Rath Yatra.



**SETTING STAGE:** Majestic chariots of the sibling deities near completion in Puri, Friday, as state gears up to celebrate Rath Yatra

## Teenager among two held for drug peddling

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** The Special Crime Unit of Twin City Commissionerate Police Friday seized 150 gram brown sugar and arrested two persons, including a teenager, in this connection.

The street value of the seized contraband is estimated to be ₹15 lakh, said a senior cop, adding that two mobile phones and a two-wheeler used for peddling, have been seized from the possession of the accused.

Twin City Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said the duo, identified as Sk Chand, 19, and Ram Soren, 24, are residents of Arada Bazar in Balasore district. The duo, who

failed to clear the matric exam, might have delved into the drug business to earn quick bucks. But their plan was foiled and they were arrested before delivering the first consignment here.

Giving further details about the case, the police commissioner said acting on a tip-off, the sleuths laid a trap near Pokhariput-Sundarpada bypass and arrested them. They were here to deliver the contraband to a woman dealer, who resides near Laxmi Sagar area. The sleuths have launched an operation to nab the woman too.

Police booked them under relevant sections of IPC and forwarded them to a local court Friday.

## Man gets life for raping daughter

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** The Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) here Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment after holding him guilty of raping his minor daughter under Badagada police limits in the City in 2021.

Adhoc ADJ (FTSC) Saroj Kumar Sahoo convicted Jyotirmaya Samal under several IPC Sections and POCSO Act. The court slapped a penalty of ₹5,000 on Samal, Special PP Rajib Sasmal said, adding that failure to pay the penalty would entail an additional three-month of jail term.

Around 10:30pm September 1, 2021, the minor girl and her mother were fast asleep at their rented house under Badagada police limits when Samal raped the girl.

## 80% math teachers falter on basic concepts: Study

Nearly 80 per cent of in-service math teachers across India and the Middle East falter on basic concepts such as ratio, proportional reasoning, algebraic reasoning, estimation and logical reasoning, according to a new study.

The study assessed over 1,300 in-service mathematics teachers of Classes III, IV, V and VI across 152 schools in India, UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia over two years.

The study - Analysis of In-Service Mathematics Teachers' Subject Knowledge and Misconceptions on Primary and Middle-Grade Mathematics Concepts - was conducted by

Ei, a leading EdTech company. During the study, 1,357 teachers undertook the TIPS (Teacher Impact Programmes) - Math Subject Knowledge - Level 1 assessment, which not only meas-

ures teachers' subject and pedagogical knowledge but also shares detailed reports with the test-takers and school principals.

Among those who took the assessment, 80 per cent of the teachers were from India, 18 per cent from UAE and 1 per cent each from Oman and Saudi Arabia.

According to the study, 75 per cent of teachers struggled to answer 50 per cent of the questions correctly and a mere 25 per cent could accurately answer only 25 per cent of the questions asked.

"A staggering 80 per cent faltered on concepts such as ratio, proportional reasoning, algebraic reasoning, estimation, and logical reasoning - skills crucial for real-life problem-solving. While 73.3 per cent of the teachers answered grade 4 questions



correctly, only 36.7 per cent could answer the questions based on grade 7 topics," the report said. "This parallel between teacher and student misconceptions is particularly alarming, suggesting a cyclical challenge in mathematical education where errors may be perpetuated through gen-

■ Ei, a leading EdTech company, assessed over 1,300 in-service mathematics teachers of Classes III, IV, V and VI across 152 schools in India, UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia over two years

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■ 75% of teachers struggled to answer 50% of the questions correctly and a mere 25% could accurately answer only 25% of the questions asked

erations of learners," it added.

The report noted that misunderstandings were also found in geometric concepts, where 32.9 per cent of teachers erroneously believed that the perimeter of a shape formed by joining parts is simply the sum of the perimeters of those parts, indi-

ating a lack of understanding of basic geometric properties.

"A considerable proportion of teachers (36.3 per cent) demonstrated a misunderstanding in ordering decimals, incorrectly comparing the decimal part of numbers as whole numbers, which showcases a fundamental misconception in understanding place value and the properties of decimals," it said.

Misconceptions surrounding probability were notable, with 16.4 per cent and 25.9 per cent of teachers incorrectly asserting that the probability of an event cannot be a fraction or a decimal or erroneously stating that it cannot be 0 or 1.

"This study serves as a wakeup call for our education system, which has long prioritised rote learning, leading to deep-rooted academic misconceptions passed down through generations of

learners. India's low ranking of 72 out of 73 countries in the PISA assessment underscores the prevalence of rote memorisation in classrooms and widening gap in conceptual understanding caused by familiar textbook-style questions," said Sridhar Rajagopalan, Co-founder and Chief Learning Officer (CLO).

"The skills students acquire are heavily influenced by the types of questions they encounter, with rote learning undermining critical and creative thinking. While the NEP 2020 represents a positive policy step, schools and teachers must now take responsibility for up-skilling and breaking this cycle. The evolving demands of the modern world necessitate an education that fosters critical thinking and innovation, requiring educators to lead by example with the necessary skills," he added.

# Technical glitch hits passport services



The snag in the new software creates hurdles in the processes related to passport renewal, issuance of fresh passports and retrieving old data of passport applicants for verification

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** Thousands of passport applicants are left to fend for themselves as a severe technical glitch in the software has affected the processing of online applications at the Regional Passport Office (RPO) here, according to sources.

Alleging inaction by the passport officials, several applicants have claimed that they have been encountering a technical issue

in the Passport Seva Portal for the last three months. Although a few applicants have already made distress calls to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), apart from posting on X by tagging the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the issue remains unresolved.

A senior official at the RPO, who wished not to be named, attributed the delay in processing of applications to a snag in the updated version of the software - Passport seva programme 2.0. The software was recently launched on a pilot-basis in Bhubaneswar and Nagpur to ensure seamless workflow, the official mentioned.

He also said, "The issue, mainly, is due to transfer of data

from old software to the new one, causing frequent crashes in the latter. This creates a hurdle in the processes related to passport renewal, issuance of fresh passports and retrieving the old data of passport applicants for verification. Technical teams have been roped in for quick resolution to the issue."

Following the issue, the appointment slots at RPO, Bhubaneswar have declined to nearly one-fifth.

Raseswar Sahoo, a resident of Burla, said he urgently required a passport before July-end, to apply for an upcoming seminar in Berlin, scheduled for August 18-24, but his application got suspended abruptly. "When I lodged my complaint through the toll-free number, my application got reinstated. However, when I wanted to book appointment slot on the portal, it showed that no slot is available for the next three months."

It's appalling and also strange that every other RPO in the country has vacant appointment slots despite scores of applications being processed there on a daily basis, except for the one here, he added.

Echoing similar concerns, Manmath Tripathy, a Bhubaneswar resident, said his application has been stuck in police station for nearly four months due to a technical snag from the RPO.



**ACCOUNTANCY DISCOURSE:** Law, Works and Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan inaugurates the National Chartered Accountant Conference at a hotel in Bhubaneswar, Friday

# Healthcare sector faces cyber attacks

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 28:** The Indian healthcare sector has become a major target for cybercriminals, experiencing an average of 6,935 cyber attacks per week over the last six months, compared to 1,821 attacks per organisation globally, a new report revealed Friday.

According to the cyber security provider 'Check Point Software Technologies' (CPST), this trend highlighted the increased attack surface due to the rapid adoption of technologies such as electronic health records (EHRs), telemedicine, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices.

"The simplicity of spoofing email addresses and the capability to deliver weaponised content makes email a powerful tool for spreading malware, stealing credentials, and executing so-



cial engineering attacks," said Sundar Balasubramanian, MD for India and SAARC at CPST.

"Users must avoid opening unverified email attachments, use strong passwords, enable multi-factor authentication, and exercise caution with unsolicited or suspicious emails," he added.

Following healthcare, the most attacked industries in India include education/research (6,244 attacks), consulting (3,989 attacks), and government/mili-

tary (3,618 attacks), the report mentioned.

The report also highlighted that Indian organisations, on average, were targeted 2,924 times per week over the past six months, compared to 1,401 attacks per organisation globally.

The most prevalent malware in India was 'Fake Updates', accompanied by other malicious software such as 'Botnets' and a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) named 'Remcos'.

Information disclosure was the most commonly exploited vulnerability in India, affecting 72 per cent of organisations, followed by Remote Code Execution (RCE) impacting 62 per cent, and Authentication Bypass affecting 52 per cent.

In the last 30 days, 63 per cent of malicious files in India were delivered via email, while 37 per cent were delivered through the web.

Notably, 58 per cent of the top malicious files delivered via email were executable files, while 59 per cent of malicious files delivered via the web were PDF files, the report said.

"Preventive measures, such as regular software updates, employee training, and the deployment of advanced security solutions, are essential to mitigate the growing threat landscape," Balasubramanian said.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Junagarh, I, Sabita Khosla, W/o. Aditya Sen, R/o. Village Haldigarh, P.O.- Karlapada, Dist.- Kalahandi declare that my Son name is Amar Sen. But in Birth Certificate my Son's name is mentioned as Sen Kumar instead of Amar Sen. Now I want to change his name as Amar Sen in the Birth certificate.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Junagarh, I, Sabita Khosla, W/o. Aditya Sen, R/o. Village Haldigarh, P.O.- Karlapada, Dist.- Kalahandi declare that my daughter name is Aparajita Sen. But in Birth Certificate my daughter's name is mentioned as Sushree Ashriya Aparajita instead of Aparajita Sen. Now I want to change her name as Aparajita Sen in the Birth Certificate.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Junagarh, I, Sabita Khosla, W/o. Aditya Sen, R/o. Village Haldigarh, P.O.- Karlapada, Dist.- Kalahandi declare that my Son name is Abhaya Sen. But in Birth Certificate my son's name is mentioned as Vinit Kumar instead of Abhaya Sen. Now I want to change his name as Abhaya Sen in the Birth Certificate.

## 'Mo Bus' catches fire in Cuttack

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** A 'Mo Bus' caught fire in CDA area of Cuttack city Friday, a fire official said. However, no passenger was hurt in the fire, the official added.

The bus was on its way from Puri to Cuttack when it suddenly caught fire at CDA Sector-9 in the Silver city.

As per preliminary information, a few passengers were travelling in the 'Mo Bus', a state government initiative, when it caught fire. However, no one was hurt in the fire mishap, he said.

After noticing smoke in the engine of the bus, the driver stopped the vehicle and asked all the pas-



sengers to get down from the bus, said Sanjiv Behera, assistant fire officer, Cuttack.

First, a fire team from Bidanasi fire station reached the spot and then another fire service team from the city rushed to the spot. The fire was completely doused, Behera said.

By the time the fire was extinguished by the fire brigade officials, the bus was almost gutted. However, the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

## Arunachal minister, secretary visit CIFA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** In order to boost the application of aquaculture technologies for the benefit of farmers in Arunachal Pradesh, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister of the northeastern state, Gabriel D Wangsu, and the department secretary, Hage Tari, visited the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) here, Friday.

On the occasion, Wangsu surveyed different food and ornamental fish species, such as catla, rohu, mrigal, common carp, grass carp, silver barb, pengba, scampi, minor carps, koi carp,



rosy barb, murrel and anabas. Different aquaculture production systems such as pond culture, bio-floc and hatchery seed production systems of fresh-

water prawn, including automated feed dispensing systems were also showcased.

The minister and the secretary also participated in an interactive session with the scientists and staffers of CIFA.

Wangsu said a pool of progressive farmers from AP is being created and the initiative will play major role in bridging the research gap.

ICAR-CIFA director PK Sahoo welcomed the minister and the secretary to the institution. Sahoo made a brief presentation on the ongoing research activities at the institute and other developmental programmes in different parts of the country.

## 10th edition of CII Farm2Fork held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 28:** To highlight the opportunities in increasing export of agricultural and food processing products of the state, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised the 10th edition of "CII Farm2Fork" here, Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, CII Eastern Region Government Industry Agri and Food Processing Forum chairman and executive director of ITC Limited B Sumant said, there is huge potential for export of paddy, wheat and organic spices from the state.

"Compared to other states, the use of fertilisers in paddy cultivation in Odisha is less. In such a situation, if the farmers focus on cultivating 'food safe' paddy, it can be exported to maintain the huge demand in the international market," he added.

CII Eastern Region Chairman Suvendra Kumar Behera said that in order to export agricultural products, one has to first understand the needs of the international market. "Emphasis has to be laid on quality standards and less use of fertilisers and pesticides," he said.

"When we are thinking for the export, our quality level should be internationally acceptable otherwise it becomes difficult to export agriculture products in global market," Behera added.

"In the Global market, quality is the benchmark for selling products. We at CII are keen to focus on certification for international standards for carrying out the exports," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, CII Odisha Council chairman Pradipta Mohanty said, "While 60 per cent of the state's labour force is dependent on the agriculture, increasing the income of farmers' remains a challenge."

# IUCN list of threatened species grows by 6,000

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released its latest Red List of Threatened Species recently. Now in its 60th year, the list sounds the alarm about animals and plants at risk of extinction, but it also highlights conservation success stories such as the Iberian lynx.

The list now includes 1,63,040 species, an increase of about 6,000 from last year. Copiapoa cacti, native to Chile's Atacama coastal desert, the Bornean elephant and the Gran Canaria giant lizard are among the threatened species, IUCN revealed.

Over 45,000 species are now threatened with extinction — 1,000 more than last year — according to an international conservation organisation that blames pressures from climate change, invasive species and human activity such as illicit trade and infrastructural expansion.

**Social media trend among extinction drivers**

Copiapoa cacti have long been coveted as decorative plants,



driving an illegal trade that has been amplified by social media where enthusiasts and traders showcase and sell the cacti.

A staggering 82 per cent of the species is now at risk of extinction, a significant jump from 55 per cent in 2013, the report said.

IUCN said that the decline is due to the surge in demand for the Chilean cacti in Europe and Asia as ornamental species. The smugglers and poachers faci-

lating the trade, the organisation said, have gained increased accessibility to the plants' habitat due to roads and housing expansion in the Atacama area.

"It is easy to distinguish if Copiapoa cacti have been poached or grown in a greenhouse," said Pablo Guerrero, a member of the IUCN's group on the plants.

"Poached copiapoa have a grey tone and are coated in a dusty-looking bloom that protects the

plants in one of the driest deserts on Earth, whereas cultivated plants appear greener."

The 2024 update also highlights the Asian elephant in Borneo as an endangered species. It is estimated that only about 1,000 Bornean elephants remain in the wild, according to IUCN analysis.

The population has decreased over the past 75 years primarily due to extensive logging of Borneo's forests, destroying much of the elephants' habitat. Conflicts with humans, habitat loss due to agriculture and timber plantations, mining and infrastructure development, poaching, exposure to agrochemicals, and vehicle collisions also threaten the species, the IUCN said.

The list also revealed the 'staggering' decline of endemic reptiles — the giant lizard and skink — on the Canary Islands and Ibiza due to predation by the invasive snakes.

**Iberian lynx- 'greatest recovery'**

In a contrasting tale, conservation efforts have revived the

Iberian lynx from the brink of extinction, with the population increasing from 62 mature individuals in 2001 to 648 in 2022 and more than 2,000 now.

Once considered one of the most endangered wild cat species in the world, their population declined by 87 per cent and the number of breeding females dropped by more than 90 per cent between 1985 and 2001, according to Canada-based International Society for Endangered Cats.

Since 2010, more than 400 Iberian lynx have been reintroduced to parts of Portugal and Spain, IUCN said.

It is "the greatest recovery of a cat species ever achieved through conservation," said Francisco Javier Salcedo Ortiz, who led the conservation action for the Iberian lynx.

But with threats remaining, mainly from fluctuations of their prey's population, poaching and road kills, Salcedo Ortiz said "there is still a lot of work to do to ensure that Iberian lynx populations survive." AP

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# Hurdles galore for NH 320D expansion

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

**Rourkela, June 28:** Already delayed, the expansion of National Highway 320D here is likely to drag further as the project has been facing several obstacles related to planning and land acquisition with no immediate solution visible at present.

The ambitious project, expected to be a game changer for Sundargarh district's overall infrastructure by opening the door for an industrial corridor between Odisha and Jharkhand, has run into rough weather.

The project, which will connect Chakradharpur, Sonua, Goelkera, Manoharpur, Jaraikela and Rourkela passing across the Odisha-Jharkhand border, has been taken up by the National Highways Division (NHD), Rourkela in state.

However, alleged 'irresponsible planning' and hurdles in subsequent land acquisition process, once the NH enters Odisha near Jaraikela, have pushed the project into rough weather.

Notably, ₹172 crore had been allocated for construction of a



25.450-km stretch between Jaraikela-Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) stock yard in the first phase. Accordingly, the tender for construction of the highway has been awarded to a company from Chhattisgarh at the beginning of 2024.

As per the plan mentioned in the tender, the highway will pass through the busy Bisra town. Sources said NHD officials were not allowed to carry out any kind of survey and other project related activities there. "How can we allow a highway to pass through the town," questioned one MD Kareem of Bisra who termed the planning of the NH as 'dangerous'.

Such opposition to the project by the residents led to the ex-

clusion of the stretch passing through Bisra town from the 25.450-km stretch under the first phase, informed an official. Similar situation arose at Bondamunda also. Apart from these obstacles, there are many more roadblocks for the project as lands belonging to the Railways and the RSP need to be acquired.

When asked, Assistant Executive Engineer of NHD PK Mohapatra said, "The 34.10 km road will touch NH-143 at Hockey Chowk. There are issues with the Railways and the RSP which we are trying to sort out."

However, a departmental official said, "RSP land will be an issue because the NH will pass through Rourkela city as per the

original plan."

Notably RSP has strongly objected to the plan as a portion of the Ring Road from Bisra till Hanuman Vatika Chowk will be part of NH-320D. "Have you ever seen an NH passing through a city, that too almost in the middle of it? It is a completely irresponsible plan. Opposition to the plan has been raised at the top level," said a senior officer of RSP in the know of things.

The mentioned portion is a busy stretch and during change of duty hours it becomes heavily congested. RSP had written to the NHD in 2022 in this regard raising its objection.

From Hanuman Vatika Chowk, the highway was proposed to pass through the RMC road, which the civic body has also objected to. In fact, RSP has asked to divert the road from the SAIL stock yard and connect to the NH-143 somewhere near Jalda.

Tenders for the project have been floated twice so far by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. However, there seems to be no solution for the issues.



**BURNING NEED:** Women from Durgapali Khadiapada area under Sambalpur Municipality return home after collecting firewood from Laxmi Dungi hill in Sambalpur, Friday

## Anthrax outbreak in Koraput: 2 more found positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Koraput, June 28:** Two persons were found positive for anthrax in Koraput district, officials said Friday.

The patients who hail from Padaiguda village in Koraput block were admitted to the SLN Medical College and Hospital, they said.

The outbreak is linked to a feast June 14, where at least 10

families of the village had consumed meat of cattle that died of anthrax, they added.

Following the incident, 410 people were screened as a precautionary measure. Blood samples of six villagers were sent for laboratory tests, and two of them were found positive for anthrax, said Mukhtikanta Khatua, the Additional District Public Health and Medical Officer. Khatua said both the

patients are stable.

"Anthrax is spread by consuming the meat of cattle that have died of the disease. We are raising awareness among villagers to avoid consuming such meat and taking steps to prevent the disease from spreading to other areas," he said.

Notably, three persons had been found infected with anthrax in Laxmipur block of Koraput district a month back.

# Student killed as water tank collapses in Balasore school

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, June 28:** In a tragic incident, a student of a private English medium school died Friday after a water tank on the school premises collapsed on him at Padmapur village under Chandipur police limits in this district.

The deceased has been identified as Narayan Tudu, 10, son of Bagarai Tudu who is a native of Barang area in Khurda district. Narayan was studying in Class IV at Banchhanidhi English Medium School in this district.



According to sources, Narayan used to reside in the school hostel. He had gone near the water tank to wash his hands after having breakfast when the wall of the water tank caved in on him. The boy was trapped under the debris of the concrete wall.

The school authorities immediately rescued him and rushed him to District Headquarters Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Upon being informed, Chandipur police rushed to the accident site and launched a probe into the matter.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi spoke to the Balasore District Collector and sought an investigation report after the news spread. State School and Mass Education department has launched a probe into the incident.

# Jumbos enjoy mud bath after first monsoon rain



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 28:** Prolonged spells of intense heatwave this year baked the earth and hit

the animal kingdom hard. Having suffered a harrowing time due to lack of rain, animals and humans alike were waiting desperately for the

onset of monsoon.

After a long dry spell, it has been raining for the past two days in Keonjhar district as monsoon has finally arrived.

Each animal has its own way of enjoying little things in its life. With the rain bringing much needed relief, a herd of gentle giants was seen relishing a mud bath near Mirigikhoj village under Patana block of Keonjhar district.

Elephants love mud pools because their bodies tend to generate high metabolic heat. With no sweat glands to relieve the temperature, they tend to rely on mud to stay cool.

After sweltering in the heat for months together, the entire herd - starting from the calves to adult elephants - is now in a mood to enjoy the monsoon. Local villagers are also having a great time witnessing the rare scene.



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  - M. Tech in VLSI Design (31<sup>st</sup> August in Gorakhpur)
  - Master of Computer Application 28<sup>th</sup> June in Aizawl (19<sup>th</sup> July in Imphal, 30<sup>th</sup> June in Kashmir)
  - Master of Science (Electronics) (28<sup>th</sup> June in Aizawl)
  - M.Sc. in Computer Science with Specialisation in Data Science (10<sup>th</sup> June in Ropar)
  - M.Sc. in Information Technology 14<sup>th</sup> August in Agartala, (19<sup>th</sup> July in Imphal, 30<sup>th</sup> June in Kashmir)
- Bachelor Degree Courses**
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  - B.Sc. (Hons.) in Computer Science (10<sup>th</sup> June in Ropar)
  - B.Sc. in Information Technology (30<sup>th</sup> June in Kashmir)
- Diploma Courses**
  - Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application (10<sup>th</sup> June in Ropar, 19<sup>th</sup> July in Imphal)
  - Diploma in Computer Science and Technology (14<sup>th</sup> August in Agartala)
  - Diploma in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering (14<sup>th</sup> August in Agartala, 28<sup>th</sup> June in Aizawl)
  - Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (28<sup>th</sup> June in Aizawl, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 in Imphal)
  - Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering (21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 in Imphal)

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SRI AUROBINDO



## Gender Gap in IFS

The presence of women in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) increased by 6.6% to the current 37.8% in the period 2014-2022. Remarkably, between 2018 and 2020, the percentage of female recruits in the IFS surpassed 40%. Observers note that the IFS generally has a higher percentage of women compared to other services like the IAS and IPS.

While this is undeniable progress, a lot more needs to be done to attain gender parity in the diplomatic corps. Historically, women in the IFS faced numerous challenges, such as being excluded from challenging postings and needing government approval to marry, unlike their male counterparts. Pioneers like CB Muthamma fought against these discriminatory practices in 1979, leading to improvements by the 1980s.

Despite these advancements, the IFS remains a relatively small service, an anomaly in the context of India's self-image as a rising force. Over the years, foreign affairs mavens have called for tripling the number of recruits to address the gender gap and strengthen India's global presence. Historically, increasing the number of recruits has led to a higher proportion of women joining the service, as seen in 2015, when 17 women were inducted.

Currently, women head only eight Indian diplomatic missions and none in major capitals. This is a notable decline from 2008, when women led over 25 missions, including key locations. Today, only one of the seven top-level positions in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is held by a woman.

To achieve true gender parity in the IFS, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will have to address the structural and cultural barriers to ensure equal opportunities for women's advancement and leadership. A more inclusive and representative diplomatic corps will better reflect the values and strengths of a modern India on the world stage.

### Rapid-fire appointments

The NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi isn't wasting any time. With the new Union Ministers settling into their roles, the Centre is quickly appointing private secretaries to assist them. In the first wave of appointments, private secretaries for Union ministers like Nitin Gadkari, Manohar Lal Khattar, Giriraj Singh and Hardeep Singh Puri were announced. The private secretaries are Shinde Deepak Arjun, Rassel Dwivedi, Raman Kumar, and B Vijay Datta, drawn from the 2010, 2011 and 2012 batches of the IAS. Interestingly, these appointments happened without much input from the ministers themselves, particularly in Gadkari's case.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

Subsequently, in the second round, six officers were named as private secretaries to Union ministers. They include Anirudha Sravan Pulipaka of Karnataka cadre as Private Secretary to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

What's driving this hurry? The urgency is due to the 100-day action plan for ministries and departments crafted by bureaucrats and Niti Aayog officials at Modi's directive, even before the elections were announced. Plans needing legislative approval or funding will be spotlighted in the upcoming Budget, set to be presented next month. The government is clearly on a mission to hit the ground running, and these swift appointments are just the beginning.

### Gujarat babus show the way

In a generous and touching nod to 'ease of doing business', Gujarat officials are now accepting bribes on an EMI basis to reduce the burden on their victims. Yes, you read that right. These considerate babus have probably taken a leaf from the banking systems, allowing citizens to pay bribes in easy instalments.

Gone are the days of scraping together lump sums for bribes. Need to pay a bribe but can't afford it all at once? No problem! Now, you can spread the cost over several months. For example, earlier this year, someone involved in a State GST bogus billing scam faced a Rs 21 lakh bribery demand. Thankfully, an EMI plan was available: Rs 2 lakh per month for nine months. Similarly, a cybercrime unit officer reportedly demanded Rs 10 lakh but accepted four instalments instead.

The trend is spreading, sources have informed DKB. In Surat, a deputy sarpanch and a taluka panchayat member demanded Rs 85,000 from a villager to level his farm. But considering the villager's financial state, they kindly offered an EMI option - Rs 35,000 down payment and the rest in three instalments.

In a more dramatic episode, two cops fled with Rs 4 lakh, the first instalment of a Rs 10 lakh bribe they demanded from a resident of Sabarkantha district. They couldn't wait for the rest!

Senior police officials admit that this practice is gaining popularity, with at least 10 such cases reported this year alone. But now the rest of the nation is getting to learn about the hitherto hidden aspects of the fabled Gujarat model. Other states may even be inspired to adopt it! But don't forget to tip your hat to Gujarat where it began and thank your stars that you need not empty your pockets all at once; just be prepared for a monthly deduction instead.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

## WISDOM CORNER

- Die to everything of yesterday so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigor and passion. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**
- The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge. **BERTRAND RUSSELL**
- The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people. **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1534:** French mariner Jacques Cartier "discovered" Prince Edward Island off the coast of what is now Canada.
- 1613:** London's Globe Theatre destroyed by fire. During a performance of William Shakespeare's Henry VIII, the auditorium was charred within an hour after its thatch was accidentally set aflame by a cannon marking the king's entrance onstage.
- 1861:** English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, famous for her Sonnets from the Portuguese, died at age 55 from a severe chill.
- 1913:** Following a year of war with the Ottoman Empire, members of the victorious Balkan League quarreled over the division of the conquered territories, resulting in the Second Balkan War when Bulgaria attacked Greek and Serbian forces in Macedonia this night.

# AI-ENERGY-CLIMATE NEXUS

FOCUS TECHNOLOGY



It is difficult to overstate the potential of AI in the fight against climate change. This evolving technology can change the pace of progress by redesigning industrial processes, optimizing transport systems, maximizing energy efficiency, and minimizing emissions at scale

In the interim, up to 200 billion cubic meters of natural gas - the least carbon-intensive fossil fuel - per year will be needed, as will significant investment in global grid infrastructure to cope with increased demand.

Adopting a holistic approach is critical to addressing these problems and reaping AI's potential benefits. To that end, I am convening a "Change Makers Majlis" - a majlis being a traditional gathering that encourages the exchange of diverse perspectives - in Abu Dhabi in November to discuss AI and the energy transition. Business leaders from the energy and technology sectors, policymakers, investors, and civil-society organizations will come together to reimagine the relationship between energy, AI, and inclusive economic growth.

The UAE has an established track record as a responsible energy supplier. Given our commitment to sustainable development, and our emergence as an AI leader - with investment platforms like MGX, infrastructure developers like G42, and the region's largest and fastest-growing large language model, Falcon - we are keen to bring all relevant stakeholders together on an issue of profound importance to all humanity. By building a bridge between energy and AI, we can help realize the UAE Consensus and, in doing so, take advantage of the greatest economic opportunity since the First Industrial Revolution.

The writer, the COP28 President, is United Arab Emirates' Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology.

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Sultan Al Jaber

ADOPTING A HOLISTIC APPROACH IS CRITICAL TO ADDRESSING THESE PROBLEMS AND REAPING AI'S POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Six months ago, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28), the world transcended geopolitical divides - something few believed possible - and united behind a realistic plan, known as the UAE Consensus, to promote sustainable prosperity and address the threat of climate change. Nearly 200 governments and all sectors of the global economy coalesced around a practical, science-based pathway for achieving low-carbon economic growth while keeping 1.5° Celsius within reach.

The key to the agreement's success was inclusivity: no one was excluded, no industry was sidelined, and no solution was off the table. As we move to implementation, the world must leave no stone unturned to accelerate progress. Specifically, that means embracing artificial intelligence, which promises to have a far-reaching, transformational impact on the energy transition and is projected to add \$7 trillion to global GDP over the next ten years.

It is difficult to overstate the potential of AI in the fight against climate change. This evolving technology can change the pace of progress by redesigning industrial processes, optimizing transport systems, maximizing energy efficiency, and minimizing emissions at scale. AI will also strengthen our adaptive resilience through innovations in agriculture, water security, and health.

But AI development will necessarily lead to a surge in energy demand. Resolving the contradiction between AI's thirst for electricity and its potential to accelerate a just transition will require technology and energy firms to cooperate in new and creative ways.

There are grounds for opti-

mism. AI is already driving efficiency gains across industries. Through AIQ, its technology joint venture with G42 and Presight, ADNOC has used predictive maintenance and machine-learning tools to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to a million tons in just one year. Other power companies are using neural networks to mitigate the intermittency and storage challenges of renewable energy by forecasting weather patterns and preempting peaks and dips in usage.

In material sciences, researchers are using AI to identify the molecular structures best suited for carbon capture. The technology is also transforming agriculture, another energy-intensive sector, by analyzing micronutrients, enhancing crop yields, and minimizing water use by as much as 40%. Over the next five to ten years, AI is expected to enable breakthroughs in fusion, hydrogen, and modular nuclear power; long-term battery storage, and as-yet-unimagined climate solutions.

The flipside to AI's transformative potential is its insatiable energy consumption, which is

putting additional stress on an already-stretched power system. Since 2019, emissions from the largest AI firms have increased by roughly 30%. By 2030, demand for data-center power worldwide is expected to grow by 160%, owing to the technology's vast processing needs, and these new operations could consume as much electricity as Canada, implying a doubling of carbon dioxide emissions. Bridging this gap will be difficult, as no single energy source is currently capable of meeting such a huge leap in demand.

Major tech companies are starting to collaborate with energy companies to face this challenge head-on. In May, Microsoft and Brookfield closed a deal to develop 10.5 gigawatts of renewable capacity by 2030. Masdar, the United Arab Emirates' leading renewable energy company, is on track to quadruple its capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2030 and is exploring opportunities to supply the tech sector with clean electricity. There is also increased investment in nuclear-powered data centers, although these will take decades to build.

## SPECTRUM NATIONAL STATISTICS DAY

# Data key for decision making



Prafulla Kumar Swain & Khushi Agrawal

DESPITE INDIA BEING THE WORLD'S LARGEST DATA GOLDMINE, ITS POTENTIAL IS OFTEN LIMITED BY QUALITY ISSUES, PREVENTING FULL UTILIZATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, known as the Father of Indian Statistics once said, "As we interpret it, the fundamental aim of statistics is to give determinate and adequate knowledge of reality with the help of numbers and numerical analysis."

These words have stood the test of time, as the reliance on data to make informed choices has grown exponentially in our increasingly complex societies.

Throughout history, data has played a pivotal role in shaping policies, improving governance, and driving innovations.

In contemporary India, the use of data for decision-making has been instrumental in various landmark initiatives.

For example, the Green Revolution of the 1960s relied heavily on agricultural data to boost crop yields and achieve food self-sufficiency.

Similarly, the Aadhaar project, the world's largest biometric identification system, uses vast amounts of data to streamline service delivery and reduce fraud.

The census provides foundational data essential for informed, data-driven decision making across various sectors and policy domains. Conducting the census in India is crucial for effective governance, equitable resource allocation, and informed policy-making. Accurate and up-to-date demographic data ensures that government pro-

grammes and services reach those who need them most, supports long-term development planning, and maintains fair representation in electoral constituencies.

Despite India being the world's largest data goldmine, its potential is often limited by quality issues, preventing full utilization for the benefit of the people. Key challenges include data collection biases, data entry inconsistencies, and a lack of standardized indicators. Poor data quality impacts decision-making, programme planning, organizational culture, timely interventions, and operational costs.

The Indian Civil Registration System (CRS) shows promise as a superior tool for subnational mortality measurement despite ongoing development challenges. In contrast, the Sample Registration System (SRS), covering less than 1% of the population, serves as an interim data source. While CRS boasts extensive infrastructure and high reporting, it underreports child and female deaths in many states. SRS data, though less precise, reveal mortality trends. Limited hospital reporting hampers medically certified causes of death data. Enhancing child and female death recording, improving reporting quality, and promoting verbal autopsy methods are critical for establishing CRS as a dependable subnational mor-

tality statistics source.

Developed by the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF), National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys, provide principles for survey design, implementation, and analysis to ensure high-quality data. They cover phases of data quality assurance: preparatory (pre-tested sampling, study design), data collection (monitoring, regular reviews), and post-collection (analytical techniques, quality reporting). Machine learning aids real-time data monitoring by identifying patterns and detecting outliers.

Clearly defined data strategies and strong data systems are fundamental for evidence generation and data-driven governance. An integrated data policy covering the three pillars of data preparedness (data strategy, data systems and data-driven outcomes) needs to be adopted by all government agencies. The Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) Methodology Toolkit by NITI Aayog, offers a framework for Indian government agencies to assess their data preparedness. This aids in internal review and cross-departmental comparison, aiming to promote evidence-based decision-making for improved governance.

Making data-driven decisions doesn't have to be daunting.

It begins with a shift in mindset, akin to the transformative step taken in 1999 when the ICC

adopted the Duckworth-Lewis system. This statistical marvel calculates target scores in rain-affected matches, ensuring fairness and accuracy despite interruptions.

In everyday life, individuals increasingly rely on data to inform their decisions, transcending personal biases and anecdotal evidence. Whether choosing a route based on traffic data, making dietary choices guided by nutritional information, or evaluating investment options using historical performance data, the use of objective evidence helps navigate uncertainties and optimize outcomes.

A data-driven approach enables government-generated data to yield insights, convey information, and evaluate the health impact of policies and programs. Access to reliable and timely data is crucial for effectively planning, managing public health services, and addressing public health issues and crises.

Through the lens of data, we can envision a future where decisions are not just informed but are also intelligent, equitable, and impactful.

Prafulla Kumar Swain is an Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar while Khushi Agrawal is a Ph.D. Scholar of the same varsity.

## Governor's misdemeanours

Sir, West Bengal Chief Minister has rightly said that women don't feel safe in visiting Raj Bhavan with CV Anand Bose as Governor who is alleged to have sexually harassed a woman staffer. It is also unfortunate that till date, no action has been initiated against him for his alleged misconduct. He is escaping punishment by virtue of the immunity available to him as a gubernatorial positionholder. When two of the recently elected MLAs of the TMC, Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Rayat Hossain Sarkar, expressed concern over visiting the Raj Bhavan to take the oath of office for the above reason and rightly too, and desired the Governor to visit the Assembly to conduct the oath taking ceremony or depute the Speaker to perform the same, the Governor was found to be dilly-dallying and wantonly delaying the ceremony to be completed. Now that a month has already elapsed ever since the two members were elected, a constitutional crisis has erupted due to the autocratic silence of the Governor: If the Governor continues to refuse to adhere to the request of the elected members, the state government should approach the Supreme Court for redressal, or the Speaker should go ahead with the swearing in ceremony after taking legal advice from the constitutional experts.

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

## Inaccessible grapes are always sour

Sir, Veteran cricketers Michael Vaughan and Inzamam-ul-Haq stated that the entire T20 tournament was handing every possible advantage to help guide India towards victory as there is no reserve day for the India Vs England semi-final. Inzamam went on further and said Indian bowlers made ball tampering as their bowlers were extracting reverse swing in the 16th over in a match against Australia. When a Test match in India finishes in three days, once in a while, foreign cricketers raise their voice on Indian pitches, but the same cricketers keep silent when the match finishes in three days on their own soil. It's like opposition parties crying foul on EVMs when they lost the assembly/parliamentary elections, and the same leaders kept silent when they won the elections. These veteran cricketers are justifying the saying - 'The grapes which are inaccessible are always sour'.

Nagendra Kumar Vempally, HYDERABAD

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: [edit@orissapost.com](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# India's capital goes from extreme heat to floods

Delhi grapples with unprecedented rainfall following scorching temperatures nearing 50 degrees Celsius. Within 24 hours, the city received a record-breaking 228.1 mm of rain, surpassing June's average and causing severe water-logging and chaos



beginning from its southern tip at the end of May, brought respite from heatwave conditions that persisted in Delhi until last week. Temperatures this summer has neared 50 degrees Celsius in the city and it has recorded at least 40 consecutive days of temperatures at or above 40 degrees Celsius till June 22, according to IMD data.

An IMD official said the progress of the monsoon was stalled for a week, which led to lower rainfall and heat waves in northern India, but sudden thunderstorms last week in the region pushed the monsoon clouds back on track. This, he said, will help the monsoon cover the entire country on time or even a few days ahead of the normal schedule.

**Why the extremes?** For every degree increase in earth's temperature, the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere can increase by about 7%, according to a NASA article, opens new tab. Experts say that can lead to heavy rains in a short period of time.

"Because of climate change, you will get more extreme rain events, which means more rain in a fewer number of rainy days, rainy hours," Sunita Narain, Director General of Research Body Centre for Science and Environment, said

in a recent video post. "If you look at the data from across India, you will find that many weather stations are already reporting that they are breaking the record of 24-hour rainfall, which means that a city, a region, can get its annual rain, as much as a whole year's rain, in a matter of a few days or even one day."

**What needs to be done?** Delhi has endured erratic monsoon patterns over the last 40 years, facing both deficient and excessive rainfall, said Vishwas Chitale, at think-tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water. "Such skewed distribution of rainfall impacts infrastructure and people severely, which re-emphasises the importance of climate proofing infrastructure and the economy," he said.

Experts say India needs to dig more lakes and ponds to store the water from heavy rain to prevent massive water shortages in places like Delhi and Bengaluru. Municipalities need to ensure drains and canals are unclogged to avoid heavy flooding and major disruptions.

The country also needs to substantially increase its green cover and raise public awareness about the impacts of heat, stagger work hours and change school timings.

# NE states gear up for 3 new criminal laws

ALL THE STATE GOVERNMENTS IN THE NORTHEAST HAVE TAKEN NUMEROUS STEPS TO ENSURE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3 NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati/Agartala, June 28:** Over 3,500 police personnel in seven northeastern states have received training while hundreds more security officers of different ranks would be trained on the execution of the three new criminal laws coming into force from July 1.

The new criminal laws, namely Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively, from July 1.

Officials said that all the state governments in the northeastern have taken numerous steps to ensure the smooth implementation of the three new criminal laws.

Assam DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh said that around 200 officers of Assam Police have already received training on criminal forensic science while over 500 officers would be trained in the next few months.

Addressing a workshop, Additional Director General of Police, CID, Munna Prasad Gupta, asserted that major changes have been made in the three criminal laws with more focus on the rights of the victim, especially for women and children.



There will be more use of technology in the judicial system under the new setup, Gupta said, adding that the three new laws will focus on speedy justice rather than punishment.

He also said that these laws would make the justice system hassle-free, wherein digital evidence will be at par with physical evidence.

A similar workshop was organised in Agartala by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in association with the Tripura State Legal Services Authority, Tripura Judicial Academy, National Law University, and the Government Law College.

Addressing the workshop, Tripura Advocate General Siddhartha Shankar Dey said the country will finally have its own criminal laws after 75 years of Independence, during the

'Amrit Kaal'.

Referring to the 'Nirbhaya' gangrape and murder case of 2012, he said it was an eye-opener for our legal system to understand the necessity of making our own laws to build up a sound justice delivery system.

Tripura DGP (Intelligence) Anurag said the facility of filing 'Zero FIR' is being provided under the ambit of the new laws, which allows the citizens to file an FIR from anywhere through e-mail.

Over 800 police officers and security personnel of different ranks in eight districts of Tripura have been provided training on the three new criminal laws.

In Mizoram, officials said that around 1,500 police personnel from 11 districts have been trained so far.

Besides 93 per cent of the police staff and supervisory officers, training has also been given to

1,965 persons comprising church leaders, students, and functionaries of various NGOs.

The state government has constituted five new committees to deal with the legal issues, technology upgradation, training, digital investigation, and financial implications.

"These committees studied the various needs and requirements and made suggestions and recommendations based on these studies to ensure the successful implementation of the new laws," an official said.

In Meghalaya, the state's Law Department has organised several sensitisation programmes in different districts to make the police and other law enforcement officers familiar with the three new laws.

In Manipur, an awareness-cum-sensitisation campaign on the three new laws was organised by Manipur University. The campaign aims to create awareness among the masses about the new laws.

Over 500 police officers have been trained in Manipur so far. In Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Secretary Dharmendra chaired a meeting of the State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) last week on the implementation of the three new criminal laws.

He said the state police and the Law Department are dedicatedly working to implement the new laws from July 1.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 28:** The residents of Delhi, who endured one of the worst heatwaves in history earlier this month, now face severe water-logging with record-breaking rainfall in just 24 hours, surpassing the city's average for the entire month of June.

The torrential downpour caused a fatal airport roof collapse, disrupted flights, closed a metro station, blocked underpasses, and led to massive traffic jams, turning the city's relief from the heat into chaos.

**What's happening?** The Indian capital of 20 million people received 228.1 mm rainfall in 24 hours at its main Safdarjung weather station until 8:30 am (0300 GMT) Friday, a 266% departure from normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Delhi has not recorded so much rain in the entire month of June at least in the last 15 years, IMD data shows. In three hours alone Friday, areas around the Delhi airport got 148.5 mm of rain, compared with 101.7 mm for all of June last year.

The seasonal monsoon rain, which slowly covers the country

## KUMARGHAT TRAGEDY

### Tripura brings new norms for Rath Yatra chariots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agartala, June 28:** Following last year's tragic incident at Kumarghat in Tripura's Unakoti district where ten devotees lost their lives during Ulta Rath Yatra, the West Tripura district administration Friday instructed organisers to keep the height of Lord Jagannath's chariots below five feet.

"We held a meeting with all stakeholders of the upcoming rath yatra festival scheduled to commence July 7. We have instructed organisers that the height of chariots should not exceed 5 feet to prevent incidents like Kumarghat. Additionally, we have emphasised minimising the use of metal in construction of chariots," West Tripura district magistrate Vishal Kumar told reporters.

The Public Works Department (PWD) and Tripura Electricity Corporation Ltd (TECL) will inspect the proposed chariots, with TECL specifically checking transmission lines along the designated routes of the rath yatra, he said. Kumar further assured the deployment of ambulances and increased police presence to prevent any untoward incidents.

Ten devotees died of electrocution and 16 others were injured as a rath, made of iron and heavily decorated, came in contact with a high-tension wire in Unakoti district June 29, 2023.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2024-13, Dtd. 21.06.2024

**Name of the work :** PROVISION OF RTUs AT INTERLOCKED LEVEL CROSSING (LC) GATES OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

**Tender Value :** ₹ 1,36,77,820.50, Bid Security ₹ 2,18,400.00.

**Tender closing Date & Time :** At 1100 hrs. on 15.07.2024.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Note :** The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

**Div. Signal & Telecom Engineer (Tele) PR-249/P/24-25 Sambalpur**

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

**E-AUCTION FOR PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JAN AUSHADHI KENDRA**

Auction Catalogue No. : SRDCM-KUR-PMBJK, Dtd. 21.06.2024

(1) Seq. No. : AA/1, Lot No./Category : PMBJK-KUR-CTC-PMBJK-6-24-1 (PMBJK- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras)

**Description :** PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI KENDRA (PMBJK) AT CUTTACK.

(2) Seq. No. : AA/2, Lot No./Category : PMBJK-KUR-BAM-PMBJK-5-24-1 (PMBJK- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras)

**Description :** PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANAUSHADHI KENDRA (PMBJK) AT BRAHMAMUR.

**EMD :** ₹ 50,000.00 (for sl. no. 1 & 2).

**Auction Start Date & Time :** 05.07.2024 at 1100 hrs. (for sl. no. 1 & 2), Auction End Date: 05.07.2024 (for sl. no. 1 & 2), End Time : 1130 hrs. (for sl. no. 1), 1140 hrs. (for sl. no. 2).

Complete details available at website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, PR-253/P/24-25 Khurda Road**

## OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, HINDOL

Pin-759022, Dist-Dhenkanal, Phone No.06732-251052  
Email id: eohindolnac13@gmail.com  
Notice No.892 Dated:27.06.2024

### CANCELLATION OF SANITATION TENDER

No.C-110:As per DTCN No-862/HDLNAC, Dt.19.06.2024 has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.  
OIPR-13160/11/0002/2425 Sd./- Executive Officer, Hindol NAC

## TENDER CALL NOTICE

NO.413/ZP (ORMAS) Dated 27.06.2024

No.CAD-372:ORMAS, Sundargarh invites prospective bidders from interested and experienced Firm/Agencies for "Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Training of Different Equipment" for Rural Industrial Park under Zilla Parishad, Sundargarh. The dates are mentioned available on notice board of Zilla Parishad, Sundargarh and Sundargarh district website [sundargarh.odisha.gov.in](http://sundargarh.odisha.gov.in).  
Last Date of Submission - 18.07.2024 (05.00 PM)  
Opening of the Bids - 22.07.2024 (10.00 AM onwards) at Zilla Parishad, Sundargarh  
Sd./- Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Sundargarh  
OIPR-19260/11/0001/2425

## दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/302/2024 Dated: 05.06.2024

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from the eligible candidates for appointment to the vacancies in the Engineering Branch of the University on permanent basis. The last date for receipt of the application is within two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For details, please see University website [www.du.ac.in](http://www.du.ac.in) and click "Jobs and Opportunities" under the Head "Work with DU".  
Any addendum / corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.

**REGISTRAR**

**Important Note:** The details regarding qualifications, experience, Scheme of Examination etc. are available on the University website [www.du.ac.in](http://www.du.ac.in), along with this advertisement. The applicants are required to read these details before filling up the form.

CBC-21231/12/0002/2425

# Power demand surges in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 28:** Delhi recorded a sizable jump in temperature-related electricity demand in the last 12 months, with peak demand rising by an average of 711 megawatts (MW) on the hottest and most humid days, according to a new analysis published Friday.

The report by the independent think tank Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said Delhi's peak power demand rose by an average of 506 MW on cold and dry days but only by 188 MW on days when the temperature and humidity were moderate. The analysis used wet-bulb temperature (WBT) as a yardstick.

The wet-bulb temperature (WBT) is the lowest tempera-



ture to which a person or object can be cooled solely by the evaporation of water.

At the other end of the temperature scale, the increase was smaller on very cold and dry days (7.5 degrees Celsius WBT) but still significant at 506 MW, or 2.7 times higher than the increase on moderate days.

This suggests that Delhi's recent power demand growth can largely be attributed to cooling and heating, with more year-round factors (such as those related to economic growth) playing a far smaller role. "There

were 24 such hot and humid days in 2022-23, which jumped to 40 days in the 12-month period just completed," it said. WBTs above 35 degrees Celsius have been considered impossible to survive in for more than a few hours.

"Temperature levels which directly threaten human health have been surpassed far more often in this year's heatwave. Cooling on such days is no luxury; it is life-saving, and reliably meeting electricity demand is of utmost importance," the note's author, Charles Worringham, a guest contributor at IEEFA, said.

A prolonged heatwave drove the national capital's peak power demand to 8,647 MW June 19, the highest-ever for the city, according to power discom (distribution companies) officials.

## NOTICE

Shri Hemanta Behera, S/o- Harekrushna Behera, At-Kunde, PO- Kothapada, PS- Basta, Dist- Balasore, Pin-756029 hereby declare that on 02.05.2024 while I am going from Kunde to Gandhichaka by bike I have lost my bag which contains original sale deed No-10081102547, dt.08.11.2011 which executed by 1st Party Rajesh Ranjan Jena and 2nd Party Mrutyunjay Senapati which is favour my custody. Those sellers in name and other valuable documents also I have applied for a loan against that property in Union Bank of India, Basta branch. Any person claiming any interest or title in the said property or having any objection can visit to Union Bank of India, Basta within 7 days of this Notice.

## ODISHA STATE CASHW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)  
At/Post: Ghatikia, Near Kalinga Studio, Bhubaneswar - 751029

### SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE No. 1-2024 (Marketing Section)

No. CAD-376: Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Limited invites fresh sealed tenders from the interested Transport Contractors having valid Transport Agent Licence for transportation of live cashew grafts from its different Nurseries to different plantation sites both Inside and Outside the State during the planting season 2024. Necessary tender papers can be obtained on payment of Rs.11,800/- (Rupees Eleven thousand eight hundred) (Rs.10,000/- + 18% GST) only from the website of the Corporation at Bhubaneswar on any working day from 28.06.2024 and upto 1.00 P.M. of 08.07.2024 (except Govt. Holidays). Details are available in our Website [www.oscdc.nic.in](http://www.oscdc.nic.in). Tenders will be received through Registered Post/Speed Post only which must reach the undersigned on or before 08.07.2024 by 2.00 P.M. Tender papers will be opened on 08.07.2024 at 3.00 P.M. at the Head Office of the Corporation.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.  
OIPR-01049/11/0001/2425 Sd./- Managing Director

# RAIMONA NATIONAL PARK

## Rare 'Mainland Serow' spotted in Assam forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, June 28:** The first photographic evidence of the 'Mainland Serow', a vulnerable mammal species recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), has been documented in Assam's Raimona National Park by Forest officials and conservationists, an official said.

The photographic evidence of the 'Mainland Serow' was captured twice by Forest department personnel and members of the biodiversity group 'Aaranyak' using digital camera traps near the Ganda Bajrum Anti-poaching camp, in the western range of Raimona National Park.

"The discovery of the Mainland Serow in Raimona National Park is good news for biodiversity conservation, and we are thrilled by the finding," said Bhanu Sinha, Divisional Forest Officer of the



Kachugaon Forest Division.

The Forest department's goal is to conserve this species and other wildlife extensively found in the national park, Sinha added.

The Mainland Serow population is widely distributed in the neighboring Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and the Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan, which may contribute to the population recovery in Raimona National Park.

The finding has been published as a scientific paper in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.

"There is a wealth of wildlife in Raimona National Park, and the discovery of this species is good news for the conservation world," said M.

Firoz Ahmed, a senior scientist at Aaranyak.

The Mainland Serow (Capricornis sumatraensis thar) is found across various habitats extending from the Himalayas on the Indian subcontinent to southern China, mainland Southeast Asia, and Sumatra, Ahmed said.

The species' populations are fragmented, isolated, and rapidly declining due to poaching, habitat destruction, and habitat loss, according to senior conservationist Dipankar Lahkar. The lack of reliable data on this species' abundance and distribution makes it difficult to implement effective conservation actions to ensure long-term survival, Lahkar added.

Occasional poaching for bushmeat and habitat alteration due to logging during ethnopolitical violence are the primary conservation concerns of Raimona National Park.

# national

## of the day quote

The police are harassing the Maratha youths and blaming them for the stone-pelting. This injustice must stop

MANOJ JARANJE | MARATHA RESERVATION ACTIVIST

We learn from loopholes in every case. The new criminal laws, which will be in force from July 1, give more importance to legal, forensic and technical evidence

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

A larger and bigger BRICS can now set the agenda, priorities and way forward for tackling environmental challenges. The initiatives under BRICS are firmly guided by the principles and goals of the UN system and its agencies, and BRICS nations should ensure that available carbon space (a reference to the carbon budget for limiting warming) is utilized by the developing countries

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 dead in blast in glass factory

**Hyderabad:** Five persons were killed and 15 injured in a blast in a glass factory in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana Friday, police said. A tank in the factory at Shadnagar exploded around 4.30 pm, they said. The injured have been rushed to a hospital and their condition was stated to be out of danger, police said.

### Southwest monsoon covers entire J'khand

**Ranchi:** The southwest monsoon covered entire Jharkhand Friday despite a significant 69 per cent rain deficit, with five districts experiencing over 80 per cent shortfall, a Meteorological Department official said. Although the monsoon arrived June 21, which was 11 days later than usual, it took approximately eight more days to encompass the entire state due to its delayed progress. The weather department predicted widespread rainfall with possibility of one or two spells of heavy rains in few pockets of the state June 29 and 30 under influence of a low pressure.

### Flood situation improves in Assam

**Guwahati:** The flood situation improved further Friday with the water levels of major rivers and their tributaries receding, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). However, around 1.07 lakh people are still suffering because of the disaster in five districts of the state, and one more person lost his life in Barpeta, taking the toll so far in this year's flood, landslide and storm to 42. Over 1.15 lakh people were suffering because of the deluge Thursday.

### EAM to represent India at SCO summit

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Astana next week. The summit, to be held July 3 and 4, is expected to focus on the regional security situation and ways to boost connectivity and trade. "The Indian delegation at the SCO summit will be led by external affairs minister S Jaishankar," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in his weekly media briefing.



**We all have the anguish that we (state) suffered immensely due to the bifurcation but more than that loss, the devastation caused by Jagan between 2019 and 2024 turned into a curse for the state**  
N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA CM

## MAHA BUDGET Oppn slams govt's torrential assurances



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 28:** The Opposition in Maharashtra Friday targeted the Eknath Shinde government over its last budget before the state goes to the polls later this year, describing it as a "torrent of assurances" but said there was no clarity on how the money will be raised for the schemes announced.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who holds the finance portfolio, earlier in the day presented a ₹20,051 crore revenue deficit budget in which he announced sops for women, youth and farmers and other segments of society that entail an outlay of more than ₹80,000 crore. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said the budget was a "false narrative" pretending to offer something to every section of society.

Talking to reporters at the legislative complex here, the former Chief Minister said the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme under which a monthly allowance of ₹1,500 would be given to the eligible women was a "pittiable attempt" to woo women voters ahead of the Assembly elections. Thackeray asked why similar allowance was not announced for men as unemployment was on the rise, and said nothing was being done to create jobs. A committee of experts should

be formed to find out how many of the schemes announced by the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP 'Mahayuti' government in the last two years were implemented, said Thackeray. There was no mention of how the funds would be raised, the former Chief Minister said. On the waiver of electricity bills of farmers, Thackeray said although his demand in this regard was accepted by the government, his main demand that farmers be made debt-free remains unfulfilled. The schemes announced in the budget would not help the ruling coalition as the people were waiting for Assembly polls to defeat it, he said. Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole too hit out at the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana asking what a sum of ₹1,500 could do at the time of rising inflation. Patole said the scheme to waive farmers' electricity bill is a farce, adding that the state government has ignored the woes of the people and the Congress' demand to waive farmers' loan completely on the lines of Telangana. Mahesh Tapase, chief spokesperson of the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party, accused the government of financial mismanagement and highlighted that debt burden of the state has crossed ₹7 lakh crore.

## POCSO case: Relief for BS Yediyurappa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, June 28:** The Karnataka High Court Friday extended by two weeks its interim order restraining the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from arresting former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, in connection with a case registered against the BJP leader under POCSO Act. The bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit continued its June 14 order, as it permitted the prosecution to file its objections to the petition filed by Yediyurappa seeking quashing of the case.

The Special Public Prosecutor sought time to file objections, and maintained that Yediyurappa's petition may not survive as a chargesheet has already been filed. The CID Thursday filed a chargesheet at the Fast Track Court 1 for POCSO Act cases here against Yediyurappa and three of his aides in connection with the case based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he sexually assaulted her daughter during a meeting February two this year; at his residence in Dollars Colony here. Yediyurappa was questioned for over three hours by the CID June 17. The 81-year-old Yediyurappa has been charged under Section 8 (punishment for sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Sections 354A (sexual harassment), 204 (destruction of document or electronic record to prevent its production as evidence) and 214 (offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of screening offender) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The Lok Sabha was first adjourned minutes after it assembled at 11 am, and then when it reassembled around 12 noon, it was adjourned till Monday amid the Opposition's demand for a discussion on the issue. Raja Sabha also witnessed a series of disruptions before being adjourned for the day around 6 pm. But even during the time the House functioned, much of the time was taken up by the Opposition parties registering their protest by raising slogans and entering into the Well of the House. Raja Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed anguish over Kharge trooping into the Well, saying



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## BURGER KING SHOOTING: POLICE MAKE 1ST ARREST

The Delhi Police Friday made its first arrest in connection with the recent murder of a man at a food outlet in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden, officials said. The arrested accused Bijender (27), a resident of Rohtak in Haryana, is the one who allegedly brought the two shooters in his vehicle at the spot to commit the murder, a senior police officer said



## NEET ISSUE

# Oppn forces repeated adjournments in Parl

The Opposition has been demanding a discussion on the 'NEET issue' and irregularities in exams conducted by the NTA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



it is for the first time that a person occupying the post has engaged in such a conduct. The Opposition was relentless in their protest in Lok Sabha also which led to its first adjournment of the day minutes after the members assembled. When the House reassembled at 12 noon, Opposition members continued with their demand for a discussion on matters related to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju told Opposition members that they can discuss the matter during the course of the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address. Birla said there are certain norms of Parliament that have to be followed and committees have to be formed, to which Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said students are not aware of it. They are only demanding justice. As members from the Congress, TMC and DMK stormed into the Well, Rijju said it is for the first time that the Opposition is seen demand-

ing a discussion on an issue before the House takes up the Motion of Thanks. "There is a difference between protest on the road and protest inside the House... You (Opposition) don't want House to run? You don't want to discuss NEET during Motion of Thanks discussion?" Birla said. As the House continued to see uproar, Birla adjourned the proceedings till Monday. Amid din, TMC member S K Nurul Islam took oath as a Lok Sabha member from his seat as he was visibly unwell. Earlier when the House met in morning, Opposition members were up on their feet seeking the acceptance of an adjournment motion to suspend all business and discuss matters related to NEET. However, Birla said he would first take up the obituary references to 13 former members, including ex-Lok Sabha speaker and ex-Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi. When the obituary references were over, the Opposition members were on their feet again.

## India slams 'deeply biased' US religious freedom report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 28:** India Friday slammed the US State Department's International Religious Freedom report for 2023, calling it a "deeply biased" document "visibly driven by vote bank considerations and a prescriptive outlook".

"As in the past, the report is deeply biased, lacks understanding of India's social fabric, and is visibly driven by vote bank considerations and a prescriptive outlook. We therefore reject the report. The exercise itself is a mix of imputations, misrepresentations, selective usage of facts, reliance on biased sources, and a one-sided projection of issues," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs,

**As in the past, the report is deeply biased, lacks understanding of India's social fabric, and is visibly driven by vote bank considerations and a prescriptive outlook. We therefore reject the report**

RANDHIR JAISWAL | SPOKESPERSON IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

said during the weekly MEA briefing Friday. The report presents a one-sided projection of issues, extending even to the misrepresentation of India's constitutional provisions and duly enacted laws, he said. "It selectively picks incidents to advance a preconceived narrative, questioning the validity of laws and regulations enacted by the Indian legislators," the MEA spokesperson said.

## I am victim of conspiracy: Soren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, June 28:** After spending around five months in jail in a money laundering case, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was granted bail Friday and, after stepping out of the prison, the JMM leader alleged that he was a victim of a conspiracy. Soren, the executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) January 31 in connection with its investigation into the money laundering case linked to a land scam. The court had June 13 reserved its order on the 48-year-old politician's bail plea. "...The petitioner is directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of ₹50,000 with two sureties of the like amount each," said the 55-page order passed by Justice



Rongon Mukhopadhyay

Soren was released from Birs Munda Jail here around 4 pm after completion of legal formalities, an official said. Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren and his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee welcomed the court's order granting bail to Soren. The former CM's wife Kalpana Soren, a JMM legislator, also thanked the judiciary. "The court has held that prima facie he is

not guilty of the offence and there is no likelihood of the petitioner committing an offence when on bail," Soren's senior counsel Arunabh Chowdhury told PTI. As Soren stepped out of the jail, a large number of JMM supporters cheered and raised slogans in favour of him. The leader also waved at them. Addressing the media he claimed that he was falsely implicated in a money laundering case and was forced to spend about five months in jail. In a veiled attack on the BJP, Soren said he was concerned about how the voice of political leaders, social workers and journalists was being silenced in the country. "I was falsely implicated. A conspiracy was hatched against me and I was forced to spend five months in jail," Soren said.

## ED files 9th chargesheet in Delhi excise policy case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 28:** The Enforcement Directorate Friday filed a fresh and the ninth charge sheet in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case naming a person called Vinod Chauhan as an accused, official sources said. Chauhan was arrested by the federal agency in May as part of this investigation. The sources said a fresh and the ninth prosecution complaint (charge sheet) was filed before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court here naming Vinod Chauhan.

He was the 18th person to have been arrested by the ED in this case in which it has also taken into custody Delhi Chief Minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, his party colleague and former Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh, BRS leader and former Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao's politician daughter K Kavitha and several liquor businessmen and others. The ED has mentioned the alleged role of Chauhan in this case in an official document submitted before a court in relation to the arrest of Kavitha. The agency had earlier charged that out of the ₹100-crore bribe money given to the AAP in the Delhi excise policy by the South Group - consisting of Kavitha and some others as members - ₹45 crore was used for its Goa assembly election campaign. The excise case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was later scrapped. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena had recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities. Subsequently, the ED registered a case under the PMLA.

Taking cognisance of a CBI FIR lodged August 17, 2022, the ED filed its money laundering case August 22, 2022 to probe the alleged irregularities.

# New criminal laws to come into force July 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 28:** All 17,500 police stations in the country will hold a special event July 1 involving women, youth, students, senior citizens and eminent personalities to apprise them the key features of the new criminal laws, which will come into force on that day, official sources said. The new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 -- will come into effect from July 1. These laws are set to replace the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act respectively. Sources said coinciding with commencement of these three criminal laws, an event will be held July 1 by the officer-in-charge of each police station in all states and Union Territories highlighting the key features of the new criminal laws. The programme at the police station or a suitable place will in-



volve women, youth, students, senior citizens, retired police officers, eminent personalities and members of self-help groups, anganwadi centres and local peace committee and also educational institutions like schools, colleges etc, they said. According to a data of the Police Organizations compiled by Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), there are over 17,500 police stations in the country. All higher education institutions under the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India

Council for Technical Education (AICTE) as well as in the states and UTs will organise a day long activities July 1 that will focus on group discussions, workshops, seminars on various provisions of new criminal laws, highlighting the major transformation intended to achieve the ends of justice with wide participation of students, faculties and other staff. Zero FIR, registration of police complaints online, summons through electronic modes and mandatory videography of crime scenes of all heinous crimes are

## Arunachal to use English, Hindi versions of new criminal laws

**Itanagar:** Arunachal Pradesh will use the English and Hindi versions of the three new criminal laws since the state's people speak in "innumerable" dialects, an official said Friday. Officials and other people concerned are being trained on the new laws in English and Hindi, he said. English is the official language of the northeastern state. From July 1, three new criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, will come into effect across the country. These laws will replace the Indian Penal Code 1860, Indian Evidence Act 1872 and the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973.

the key highlights of the three new criminal laws. The Union home ministry is gearing up to roll out the three new criminal laws from next week with 40 lakh grassroots functionaries trained to ensure people are aware about the legislations and the impact these will have on everyone, particularly women and children, official sources said Wednesday. Under the new laws, victims will receive a free copy of the FIR, ensuring their participation in the legal process. An interesting addition of the law

is that in the event of an arrest, the individual has the right to inform a person of his choice about his or her situation. This will ensure immediate support and assistance to the arrested individual. To strengthen the case and investigations, it has become mandatory for forensic experts to visit crime scenes for serious offences and collect evidence. Additionally, the process of evidence collection at the crime scene will be mandatorily videographed to prevent tampering of evidence.



All MPs and Union Ministers from the state have assured me to fight unitedly for the good of the state

FIRST BATCH OF AMARNATH YATRA REACH VALLEY

The first batch of pilgrims for the annual Amarnath Yatra reached the Kashmir valley Friday amid stringent security arrangements, officials said.



of the day quote

In spite of repeated instructions from this office to arrange simple vegetarian meal during the Cabinet meeting held on 27/06/24 at Nalbari, you have not followed the instructions accordingly

In Kothagudem town, there is a need now to spend ₹150 crore for drinking water supply. Similarly in Alair of Nalgonda district, the government would have to spend ₹150 crore for providing drinking water as the previous government did not spend funds judiciously

Jammu Kashmir police's recent decision of invoking the draconian Enemy Ordinance Act from the Maharaja's era against its own citizens on mere suspicion of abetting & aiding militants isn't only deeply concerning but a major breach of justice

DELHI FACES RAIN FURY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 28: Five people died in rain-related incidents in Delhi Friday as Monsoon arrived with a fury early in the morning, lashing the city with its highest rainfall in a single day of June in 88 years which brought it to a standstill with streets flooded, traffic in chaos and some commuters stranded on roads.



People wade through a waterlogged road near Sarai Kale Khan area after rain

LG VK Saxena holds emergency meeting

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena Friday took stock of the situation in Delhi after hours-long rain brought the city to a standstill and directed officials to set up an emergency control room and deploy static pumps to address waterlogging reports.

Party's Ramgopal Yadav, were flooded. In several areas, vehicles were submerged as rainwater flooded streets. Many areas experienced severe power cuts and several trees were uprooted.

In several areas, vehicles were submerged as rainwater flooded streets. Many areas experienced severe power cuts and several trees were uprooted

The monsoon has arrived. The downpour began around 3 am.

The 228.1 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am Friday is more than three times the June rainfall average of 74.1 mm and the highest for the month since 1936. On June 24, 1936, 235.5 mm rainfall was recorded in the month of June in Delhi.

had to wade through waist-deep water to leave their homes. Waterlogging in many areas of the city led to a flood-like situation forcing vehicles to crawl amid massive traffic jams.

13 killed after van collides with lorry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Haveri (Karnataka), June 28: As many as 13 people, including two children died and four others were injured after the van they were travelling in allegedly collided with a lorry at Gundehalli cross in Byadagi Taluk early Friday police said.



The deceased children, both boys, were aged four and six

The deceased children, both boys, were aged four and six, they said. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the kin of those who died in the accident.

According to police, the accident occurred around 3.45 am when the van collided with a lorry which was parked on the side of National Highway 48 in Byadagi in Haveri district.

A total of 17 persons were travelling in the van. Of them, eleven people died on the spot while two others were declared dead at a hospital, a senior police official said.

"The victims were coming from Chincholi Mayamma Devasthan and heading to their native Yemehatti village in Shivamogga district. The lorry was standing on the side of the highway. The van hit the lorry from behind," Anshu Kumar Srivastava, Superintendent of Police (Haveri) told PTI.

The bodies have been shifted to the mortuary and the injured have been admitted to Haveri Government Hospital, he said.

Police suspected that the driver dozed off resulting in the accident. Because of the impact of the collision, the bodies were stuck in the mangled remains of the van and the fire brigade and police personnel had a difficult time in extricating them, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Nagesh (50), Vishalakshi (40), Adarsh (23), Parashuram (45), Bhagya (40), Punya (50), Manasa (24), Roopa (40), Subhadra Bai (65), Manjula Bai (62) and Manjula (50), police said. Names of the deceased children have not been shared by the police.

POST OF THE DAY

BIG BREAKING After Turning OFF Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi's mic while raising NEET Scam Now Rajya Sabha LoP Mallikarjun Kharge's mic also Turned OFF while speaking on NEET Scam This is how BJP is destroying the lives of lakhs of students. Imagine their pain, their tears

TN passes resolution to scrap NEET exam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 28: The Tamil Nadu Assembly Friday once again passed a unanimous resolution urging the Centre to exempt the state from National



Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test and allow it to admit students to medical courses based on Plus Two exam marks.

The resolution, adopted by the House amid the BJP's Opposition and walkout, called upon the Centre to amend the National Medical Commission Act and abolish the country-wide screening test taking into account the irregularities and in-

creasing Opposition to the test in several states, which toed Tamil Nadu's line.

BJP's ally, the PMK, however, supported the resolution piloted by Chief Minister and DMK president M K Stalin, who argued that the test was discriminatory and deprived an opportunity for the rural and poor students to access medical education and denied states their rights to admit students with Plus Two marks as the qualifying criteria.

"This is just another political drama of the DMK government. People no longer believe in such futile political gimmicks that try to conceal the Kallakurichi illicit liquor deaths," Palaniswami said in a post on the social media platform X.



Police detain ABVP activists during a protest over issues related to education in Hyderabad, Telangana

SHORT TAKES

Delhi court sentences 5 to life imprisonment

New Delhi: A court here has sentenced five men to life imprisonment in a 2011 case of dacoity and murder. Additional Sessions Judge Manisha Khurana Kakkar was hearing the case against the five convicts Jitender Badhana, Ravi, Mohammed Ibrahimi, Yusuf and Bobby. The case was also registered against Vikas alias Boga but he died during the trial and proceedings against him were abated in January 2023.

Mumbai-bound flight receives bomb threat

Mumbai: A Thiruvananthapuram-Mumbai flight of Vistara received a bomb threat Friday following which a search was being carried out, police said here. A note saying 'bomb on board' was found by a crew member, said an official of Sahar police station. As the flight landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai around 3.15 pm, the airline informed the police, he said.

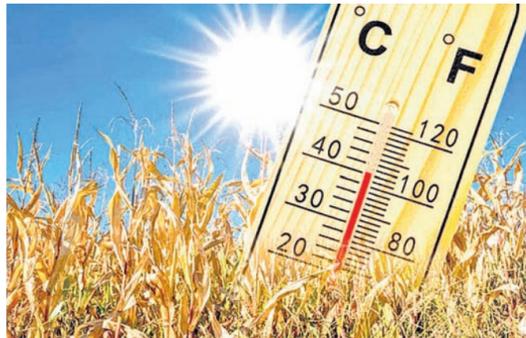
Heavy rains hit Shimla

Shimla: Heavy rains lashed Shimla and surrounding areas Friday and the MeT department issued an 'orange warning' indicating 'very heavy rain', thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places in seven of the 12 districts in the state over the weekend. The MeT also issued a 'yellow warning' of heavy rain, thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places Monday and Tuesday and predicted a wet spell in the state till next Thursday. Delayed by five days, the southwest monsoon had hit several parts of Himachal Pradesh Thursday.

HEATWAVE IN INDIA

619 million affected in June: Report

The report by Climate Central said that the blistering heat in June impacted 619 million people in India, 579 million in China, 231 million in Indonesia, 206 million in Nigeria, 176 million in Brazil, 171 million in Bangladesh, 165 million in the US, 152 million in Europe, 123 million in Mexico, 121 million in Ethiopia, and 103 million in Egypt



According to the India Meteorological Department, around 40 per cent of the country recorded double the number of heatwave days than usual during the April to June period. Temperatures breached 50 degrees Celsius in parts of Rajasthan, with nighttime temperatures hovering around 35 degrees Celsius in many places. Climate Central's analysis found that the city of Mecca experienced temperatures made at least three times more likely due to climate change every day since May 18, and five times more likely since May 24.

60 heat-related deaths this year, according to media reports. In Saudi Arabia, at least 1,300 people died from heat-related illnesses during the annual Haj pilgrimage. Temperatures were extremely high, with some cities surpassing 50 degrees Celsius. Climate Central's analysis found that the city of Mecca experienced temperatures made at least three times more likely due to climate change every day since May 18, and five times more likely since May 24.

Vikram Misri to be next Foreign secy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 28: Deputy National Security Adviser Vikram Misri, widely regarded as an expert on China, was Friday appointed as India's next Foreign secretary.

Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, will succeed incumbent Vinay Kwatra who is likely to be appointed as India's Ambassador to the US.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the name of Misri, the deputy NSA in the National Security Council Secretariat, to the post of foreign secretary with effect from July 15, an official notification said. Misri's appointment comes as India looks to navigate various foreign policy challenges including its frosty ties with China following the eastern Ladakh border row.

# international



The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence answered the call of the times, and its initiation was an inevitable historic development  
XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

## MOON SAMPLES

China's Chang'e-6 mission, which returned this week from the far side of the Moon, has brought back nearly two kilograms of samples for research which will further enhance the understanding of lunar evolution, the country's space agency announced



## of the day quote

When you see Reform candidates and campaigners, seemingly using racist and misogynistic language and opinions seemingly without challenge, I think it tells you something about the culture within the Reform Party

RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

Extremist narratives have radicalised many individuals, including here in Singapore. As long as these ideologies persist, they will continue to inspire attacks

K SHANMUGAM | MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND LAW, SINGAPORE

There is a 99% chance that we will sign bilateral security agreement with President Zelenskyy before the NATO summit

DONALD TUSK | PM, POLAND

# US PREZ DEBATE Dems scramble to limit damage

Biden's wobbly debate show against Trump is likely to take a heavy toll during US presidential election

REUTERS

Atlanta, June 28: President Joe Biden's allies scrambled to contain the fallout Friday from his faltering performance at the first 2024 US presidential debate after he struggled to stem a barrage of attacks and false claims from his Republican rival Donald Trump.

The Biden campaign had hoped that a strong debate would quell concerns among voters that the 81-year-old Democratic incumbent is too old to serve a second four-year term.

Instead, a hoarse Biden stumbled over his words and lost his train of thought at times, especially early in the debate.

One Biden donor, who asked for anonymity, called his performance "disqualifying" and predicted that some Democrats would revisit calls for Biden to

step aside in favor of another candidate before the party's national convention in August.

Panicking Democrats exchanged messages wondering whether Biden would consider stepping down.

One senior Democratic strategist said there would be calls for Biden to step down.

One such plea came from Thomas Friedman, the New York Times columnist who has the President's ear, who called Biden a good man and a good President in an opinion piece early Friday. But to stop Trump, he wrote, "The President has to come forward and declare that he will not be running for re-election."

"It's not likely to happen," retorted Biden campaign co-chair Mitch Landrieu on CNN. As the dust clears from the debate and with four months left before the election, he predicted Biden and Trump would be the nominees in November.

Josh Shapiro, the Democratic governor of Pennsylvania, urged Democrats to stop worrying and start working.

"Joe Biden had a bad debate, right, but Donald Trump was a



bad President," Shapiro said.

Interviews with undecided voters confirmed that it was a bad night for Biden. They described his showing as feeble, embarrassing and difficult to watch.

Two White House officials said mid-debate that Biden had a cold, reflecting his aides' anxiety about his performance.

Vice President Kamala Harris conceded that Biden had a "slow start" but argued that his record over 3-1/2 years as President outweighed one 90-minute event.

California Governor Gavin Newsom, who could be a leading Democratic alternative if Biden stepped aside, dismissed the notion that Biden could be replaced.

Trump, 78, has also faced questions about his fitness for office, given his conviction last month in New York for covering up hush money payments to a porn star, his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and his chaotic term in office.

But despite a litany of falsehoods from Trump during the debate, the focus in the aftermath was squarely on the incumbent.

Neither candidate is popular, and polls show many Americans are dissatisfied with their options. The country is deeply polarized, and a majority of voters have expressed concern that political violence could follow the election.

## EU leaders nominate Von der Leyen to head commission again

REUTERS

Brussels, June 28: European Union leaders agreed Friday to nominate Ursula von der Leyen of Germany for a second five-year term as President of the European Commission, the EU's powerful executive body.

At a summit in Brussels, the bloc's 27 national leaders also picked former Portuguese premier Antonio Costa as the future chair of their European Council meetings and selected Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas as the next EU foreign policy chief.



The leadership package represents continuity for the 27-member bloc, with centrist pro-EU factions keeping hold of top posts despite a far-right surge in elections to the European Parliament earlier this month.

Von der Leyen's nomination still needs approval from the European Parliament in a secret ballot.

The deal was announced by the current European Council President, Charles Michel, on social media.

The trio won broad backing from leaders but diplomats said right-wing Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni abstained from the vote on von der Leyen and voted against Costa and Kallas.

Von der Leyen's nomination still needs approval from the European Parliament in a secret ballot, widely seen as a trickier proposition than her endorsement by EU leaders.

At the summit, the EU also signed a security agreement with Ukraine, debated how to bolster EU defences against Russia and agreed bloc's strategic priorities for the next five years.

The security deal underlines EU support for Kyiv fighting off Moscow's invasion for a third year, despite gains by the far-right in European elections, uncertainty created by French snap elections and the US presidential vote in November.

## Big win for India as FATF adopts mutual evaluation

The watchdog praises anti-money laundering regime, flags delay in prosecution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, June 28: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Friday adopted a mutual evaluation report that assesses the effectiveness of India's anti-money laundering and countering the terrorist financing regime, a move hailed by the government as a "significant milestone".

In its brief outcome statement at the end of its three-day plenary meeting here, the global body said India's legal regime in these two domains was "achieving good results" and that the country has reached a "high level of technical compliance" with the FATF requirements.

It, however, said the country needs to address "delays" related to conclusion of money laundering and terrorist financing prosecutions.

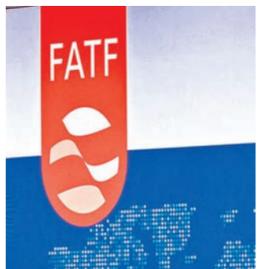
The final evaluation report for the country will be published later when the "quality and consistency review" is completed, it said.

Sources involved in the process said India has been placed in the "regular follow up" category, a distinction shared by only four other G20 countries, which means that it needs to submit a progress report on implementing FATF measures only in October, 2027.

Countries placed in the 'enhanced follow up' category are required to submit a follow up report every year.

The Paris-headquartered body leads global action to tackle money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing. The latest decisions were made public at the end of the June 26-28 FATF plenary.

The Indian side was repre-



sented by Additional secretary in the Union finance ministry and Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in-charge Director Vivek Aggarwal.

In New Delhi, the Union finance ministry issued a statement saying the positive evaluation of India by the FATF was a significant milestone in the country's efforts to combat money laundering and terror financing.

India's performance on FATF mutual evaluation demonstrates overall stability, integrity of the financial system, the ministry said.

India's mutual evaluation on FATF guidelines, a measure that checks a country's efficacy to frame robust laws and policy and implement them to check financial crimes, was last done in 2010.

An FATF peer review of India ended early this year after a team of international experts made an 'on-site' or a physical visit to New Delhi and met officials from various central and state intelligence, investigative agencies, financial regulators and judiciary.

The statement, however, added that India required "improvements" to strengthen the supervision and implementation of preventive measures in some of the non-financial sectors.

## Ultra-Orthodox Jews block highway in protest against IDF enlistment

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bnei Brak, June 28: Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Jewish men blocked a major highway in central Israel for two hours Thursday to protest a recent Supreme Court decision ordering young religious men to enlist for military service.

Military service is compulsory for most Jewish men and women in Israel. But politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties have won draft exemptions for their followers that allow them instead to study in religious seminaries.

This long-standing arrangement has bred widespread resentment among the broader public, a sentiment that has grown stronger during the eight-month war against Hamas in Gaza.

Over 600 soldiers have been killed, and tens of thousands of reservists have been activated, straining careers, businesses



and family lives.

Protesters sat on the highway and lay on the ground as police lifted them up and dragged them away. Officers mounted on horseback charged into the crowd. Many demonstrators held signs and chanted "To prison! Not to the army!"

"We all came here for one goal, we reflect the position of all the Orthodox public, said a young man, identifying himself only by his first name Ozer. "All the

Orthodox public prefers to go to prison and not to the army."

The ultra-Orthodox see their full-time religious study as their part in protecting the state. Many fear that greater contact with secular society through the military will distance adherents from strict observance of the faith.

The Supreme Court this week ordered the government to begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men, saying the system of exemptions is unequal.

## SHORT TAKES

### Iranians vote in Prez election

Dubai: Iranians voted Friday for a new President following the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, choosing from a tightly controlled group of four candidates loyal to the supreme leader at a time of growing public frustration and Western pressure. Three candidates are hardliners and one is a low-profile comparative moderate, backed by the reformist faction that has largely been sidelined in Iran in recent years.

### Missile blast in air: SK exposes North

Seoul: South Korea's military Friday released a video that it said showed a North Korean missile abnormally spiralling early in flight and exploding, a rare publicising of surveillance footage to dismiss the North's claim of a successful test. Footage filmed by a thermal observation device with South Korean frontline units showed a projectile spiralling out of control on an irregular flight path, then disintegrating. The South Korean military assessed that "instability during flight" led to the missile's explosion, it said in a statement Friday.

### Sex assault cases against US soldiers

Tokyo: Japan's government protested Friday to the US Embassy in Tokyo over at least two sexual assault cases involving American servicemembers on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa which were only recently made public. In one case, an Air Force member is accused of assaulting a 16-year-old girl in December, while the other, which dates from May, involves a Marine who is accused of assaulting a 21-year-old woman.

### 'Pak can target TTP sanctuaries'

Islamabad: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has warned that Pakistan can target sanctuaries of the outlawed terrorist group TTP in Afghanistan under the newly launched military operation, as he ruled out any dialogue with the dreaded outfit as there was no "common ground". The government announced the launch of 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam' last week to tackle the rising threat of terrorism in the wake of lukewarm support by the Afghan Taliban to stop the use of their soil by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) rebels against Pakistan.

## INDIA MATTERS 137 Indians held for cybercrime ops

Colombo: As many as 137 Indian nationals who were allegedly involved in a large-scale online financial scam across multiple locations in Sri Lanka have been arrested by police, according to a media report Friday. They were arrested Thursday from the Colombo suburbs of Madiwela and Battaramulla and the western coastal town of Negombo, said Police Spokesman SSP Nihal Thaldudu was quoted as saying by Daily Mirror newspaper. He said the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) conducted simultaneous raids in these areas, leading to the seizure of 158 mobile phones, 16 laptops, and 60 desktop computers. In Negombo, 55 suspects were detained along with 55 mobile phones and 29 laptops. Similarly, in Kochchikade, authorities apprehended 53 individuals and confiscated 31 laptops and 58 mobile phones.



The operation in Madiwela led to the arrest of 13 suspects and recovery of eight laptops and 38 mobile phones, while in Thalangama, 16 suspects were taken into custody with eight laptops and 38 mobile phones. The SSP said that all the arrested suspects were males. The crackdown follows a complaint from a victim who was lured into a WhatsApp group promising cash for social media interactions.

## Tata Steel UK begins legal action against union stir

London: Tata Steel Friday said it is being forced to commence legal action to challenge the validity of a steelworkers' union strike ballot, as it warned that its blast furnaces at Port Talbot may have to pause operations amid the industrial action. The Mumbai-headquartered steel major had originally planned to shut down one of the blast furnaces by the end of June and the second one by September. However, Unite the Union's proposed strike from July 8 could result in the closure being forced earlier. "Following the announcement by the Unite Union to unilaterally call strike action from July 8, Tata Steel is unfortunately forced to commence legal action to challenge the validity of Unite's ballot," a Tata Steel spokesperson said. "In the coming days, if we cannot be certain that we are able to continue to safely and stably operate our assets through the period of strike action, we will not have any choice but to pause or stop heavy end operations (including both blast furnaces) on the Port Talbot site. That is not a decision we would take lightly, and we recognise that it would prove extremely costly and disruptive throughout the supply chain, but the safety of people on or around our sites will always take priority over everything else," the spokesperson said.

# Same-sex couples may solve SK's population problem

The country has spent billions of dollars to try to stop its population from shrinking, as concerns about career advancement and the financial cost of raising children drive many South Korean women to delay childbirth or not have children at all

REUTERS

Suwon, June 28: South Koreans Kim Eun-ha and Park Cho-hyeon would like to get married and have children, a plan that fits in with government ambitions to boost the world's lowest fertility rate.

The catch is that same-sex unions remain illegal in South Korea, and doctors refuse to perform artificial insemination on women without a male partner, citing ethical guidelines.

"A lot of single people and lesbian couples around me want

to have children. If the various types of families who can have children are accepted first, I think it will contribute a lot to the fertility rate," Kim Eun-ha told Reuters.

While campaigns to legalize same-sex marriage have succeeded in Taiwan and Thailand, there is no legal acknowledgement of LGBT partnerships in South Korea and many couples are forced move abroad if they want to get married or have a baby.

Every year, the LGBT community faces a lot of opposition to the annual Seoul Queer



Culture Festival from conservative religious groups that have mounted fierce resistance to efforts to pass laws against discrimination.

Kim Ji-hak, who heads non-profit organization Diversity

Korea, said the government should acknowledge diversity if it is serious about increasing the birthrate.

South Korea has spent billions of dollars to try to stop its population from shrinking, as

concerns about career advancement and the financial cost of raising children drive many South Korean women to delay childbirth or not have children at all.

Despite these efforts, the population declined for a fourth straight year in 2023.

"If we become a society where people don't have to worry about healthcare, education, labour and ageing, everyone will want to have more children," Kim said.

There have been a few steps towards LGBT rights: last year, a court made a landmark ruling on national health coverage for a gay couple.

But doctors still refuse to perform artificial insemination for single women and same-sex couples due to guidelines set by the Korean Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 2022, the National

Human Rights Commission of Korea recommended the guidelines to be revised, but nothing has yet changed.

For Kim Eun-ha and Park, who live together and also run a YouTube channel that aims to raise awareness about LGBT issues, the lack of recognition for LGBT unions is the biggest obstacle to boosting the birth rate.

The couple plan to go to Australia to get married, even though the South Korean government will not recognise their union, before thinking about how they can have children.

"I think the only way to start solving everything from raising children, healthcare to housing is to recognize marriage for same-sex couples. It's only when this form of love is acknowledged, everything else becomes possible," Kim Eun-ha said.

# business

of the day **quote**

Indian Oil aims to increase its liquefied natural gas portfolio to 20 million tonne per year (MTPA) by 2030, from 7.8 MTPA currently

**SUJOY CHOUDHURY** | HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, IOC

With India forecasted to be the fastest-growing G-20 economy in 2024, coupled with strong investment demand and easing inflation, the job market remains resilient in the face of global headwinds

**KARTIK NARAYAN** | CEO, TEAMLEASE STAFFING

Technology is the Golden Thread that binds what an organisation is doing today with the future world it is trying to create. Across multi-business organisations, it enables synergy and creates unexpected business connections. Across industries, it creates collaboration and transformation

**ANAND MAHINDRA** | CHAIRMAN, TECH MAHINDRA

## SHORT TAKES

### Tariff hike: Airtel, Voda follow Jio

**New Delhi:** Bharti Airtel Friday announced a 10-21 per cent hike in prepaid and postpaid mobile tariffs, a day after larger rival Reliance Jio announced an increase in rates. The move assumes significance, as it marks the first major increase in tariffs by the telecom industry, in two-and-a-half years. Airtel's tariff hike across various plans ranges from 10-21 per cent, and will be effective from July 3. Loss-making telecom operator Vodafone Idea (VI) will also raise mobile tariffs across the board by 11-24 per cent from July 4, according to a company statement. The company has raised the entry-level plan, minimum recharge value for 28 days of mobile service, by about 11 per cent to ₹199 from ₹179. VI has raised the price of a popular 84-day validity plan with 1.5 GB data per day to ₹859 from ₹719 earlier.

### PFRDA's same-day settlement for NPS

**New Delhi:** The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has permitted T+0 settlement for National Pension System (NPS) subscribers effective July 1. NPS contributions received by the Trustee Bank until 11 am (T) on any settlement day will be invested on the same day and the subscribers will get the benefit of same-day NAV (Net Asset Value), PFRDA said in a statement. Hitherto, contributions received by the Trustee Bank are invested on the next settlement day (T+1), meaning contributions received until the previous day are invested the following day, it said.



The focus now is naturally on enhancing capacity in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) techniques and analysing unstructured textual data. While doing so, ethical considerations need to be addressed and biases in algorithms need to be eliminated

**SHAKTIKANTA DAS** | GOVERNOR, RBI

### AIRTEL'S NXTRA TO GO GREEN

Airtel's data centre arm Nxtra has joined the RE100 initiative, a flagship global initiative led by Climate Group in partnership with Carbon Disclosure Project, and has committed to sourcing 100 per cent renewable electricity, the company said Thursday. Nxtra has the largest network of data centres in India with 12 large and 120 edge data centres across the country



# D-St snaps record rally

Profit-booking hammers banking, finance stocks



ON THE WEEKLY FRONT, THE BSE BENCHMARK JUMPED 1,822.83 POINTS OR 2.36%, AND THE NIFTY CLIMBED 509.5 POINTS OR 2.16%. SENSEX RECORDED THE BEST MONTHLY GAIN IN JUNE BY CLIMBING 7.14%. MCAPOF BSE-LISTED FIRMS HIT AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF RS 439.24L-CR (\$5.26TN)

the biggest gainers. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.56 per cent, and midcap went up by 0.41 per cent.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 28:** Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty halted their three-day record-hitting rally to close with losses Friday as investors booked profit in banking, finance and tech stocks despite a positive trend in global equities. Snapping a four-session winning run, equity indices succumbed to selling pressure after mid-session when profit-taking emerged on select counters.

We expect this positive momentum to continue at a steady pace with stock-specific action. However, the release of economic data points next week would keep a little volatility in the market.

**SIDDHARTH KHEMKA** | SENIOR GROUP VP, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

stocks led the downfall in key benchmark indices, which had hit fresh intra-day highs in early optimism. While markets displayed volatility and ended weak in late selling, both Sensex and Nifty managed to close above their psychological levels of 79k and 24k, respectively.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. The Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark Thursday, and the Nifty hit the 24,000 level for the first time in intra-day trade. In the past four trading days, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,033.28 points or 2.63 per cent. IndusInd Bank was the biggest loser on the Sensex chart, slipping 2.61 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, JSW Steel and Bajaj Finserv. In contrast, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, Asian Paints, Nestle and Titan were

## SECOND QUARTER OF FY25

### Interest rates on small savings schemes remain unchanged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 28:** The government Friday left the interest rates on various small savings schemes unchanged for the quarter beginning July 1, 2024.

"The rates of interest on various small savings schemes for the second quarter of FY 2024-25, starting from July 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, shall remain unchanged from those notified for the first quarter (March 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024) of FY 2024-25," said a finance ministry notification.

As per the notification, deposits under the Sukanya Samriddhi scheme will attract an interest rate of 8.2 per cent, while the rate on a three-year term deposit remains at 7.1 per cent. The interest rates for popular PPF and post office savings deposits scheme too have been

retained at 7.1 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Kisan Vikas Patra will be 7.5 per cent, and the investments will mature in 115 months.

The interest rate on the National Savings Certificate



(NSC) will remain at 7.7 per cent for the July-September 2024 period.

Like the current quarter, the Monthly Income Scheme will earn 7.4 per cent for investors.

The government notifies the interest rates on small savings schemes, majorly operated by post offices and banks, every quarter.

# Fiscal deficit at 3% of full year Budget estimates at May-end

For FY2024-25, govt estimates fiscal deficit at 5.1% of GDP, or ₹16,85,494cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 28:** The central government's fiscal deficit was only at 3 per cent of the annual estimates at May-end 2024-25, the first two months of the financial year during which model code of conduct was in place due to Lok Sabha elections.

The fiscal deficit or the gap between the government's expenditure and revenue was 11.8 per cent of Budget Estimates (BE) of 2023-24 in the first two months of the previous financial year.

For the current financial year (2024-25), the government estimates the fiscal deficit at 5.1 per cent of the GDP, or ₹16,85,494 crore.

According to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), fiscal deficit during April-May 2024 was ₹50,615 crore or 3 per cent of the BE 2024-25. In the corresponding



period of the last fiscal it was 11.8 per cent of that year's BE.

Net tax revenue was ₹3.19 lakh crore or 12.3 per cent of BE 2024-25. In the corresponding period it was 11.9 per cent of BE 2023-24. Total expenditure at May-end 2024 was ₹6.23 lakh crore or 13.1

## GROSS LIABILITIES RISE 3.4% IN Q4 OF FY24

Total gross liabilities of the government increased to ₹171.78 lakh crore at the end of March 2024 from ₹166.14 lakh crore at December-end, the finance ministry has said. This represented a quarter-on-quarter increase of 3.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2023-24, said the public debt management quarterly report (January-March, 2024). Public debt accounted for 90.2 per cent of total gross liabilities during the quarter, it said. "During the quarter, the yield on Indian domestic bond softened on account of lower than anticipated borrowing plan announced in interim budget, adjustment of the fiscal deficit to 5.1 per cent of the GDP for FY25, a targeted reduction of the fiscal deficit at or below 4.5 per cent by FY26, FPI inflows and steady inflation," it said. On the other hand, it said, US treasury yields remained volatile during the quarter mostly affected by Federal Reserve action, inflation, and employment data.

# IIP growth slows to 6.3% in May

THE PRODUCTION OF THE EIGHT SECTORS GREW 6.7% IN APRIL



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 28:** The eight key infrastructure sectors' growth rose by 6.3 per cent in May on healthy expansion in the production of coal, natural gas, and electricity, though the growth rate is lower than in April, according to official data released Friday.

The production of the eight sectors grew 6.7 per cent in April. The growth of these core sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - was 5.2 per cent in May 2023.

The official data showed that fertiliser, crude oil, and cement output recorded negative growth in May.

During April-May this fiscal, the output of these sectors was up 6.5 per cent against 4.9 per cent in the same period last fiscal.

The production growth of coal, natural gas and electricity rose by 10.2 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 12.8 per cent, respectively, against 7.2 per cent, (-) 0.3 per cent and 0.8 per cent in May 2023.

The growth rate in the pro-

A combination of factors, including the heatwave over parts of the country and the phased parliamentary elections could have curtailed activity and execution in some sectors

**ADITI NAYAR** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

duction of refinery products and steel slowed down to 0.5 per cent and 7.6 per cent during the month under review.

The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the country's Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Commenting on the data, IcrA Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that while the core sector growth sustained above 6 per cent for the fourth consecutive month, it eased slightly in May. "At the same time, the heatwave boosted demand for power, which translated into a rise in the growth of coal and electricity in May 2024 compared to the previous month. We expect IIP growth print at 4.5 per cent in May 2024," she added.

## Central Bank holds ex-staffers' meet



**BHUBANESWAR:** A courtesy meeting was held with ex-staff of Central Bank of India at regional office, Bhubaneswar June 27. The meeting was chaired by Regional Head Shrish Kumar Sharma along with Deputy Regional Head Suresh Chandra and Chief Manager BK Swain. The meeting was organised with a vision to connect with seniors (ex-centralites) in order to learn from their experience and to implement it in day to day banking. Sharma requested them for their extended support in business development as they are part of the same family. The session was quite interactive where all the senior centralites shared their opinions and also gave their suggestions on business development. The meeting ended with a hope to meet again. DD Naik (ex-GM), PK Mohanty (ex- DGM), DK Tripathy (ex- DGM) along with fellow centralites spared their time to grace the occasion.

# Indians battle intense heat with 'mad rush' for ACs, beer

THE SCORCHING HEAT HAS ALSO DRIVEN POWER DEMAND TO A RECORD PEAK AS MORE PEOPLE SEEK WAYS TO COOL DOWN

REUTERS

**Bangalore, June 28:** Demand for beer in India is at a multi-year high and air conditioner sales are skyrocketing as the intense, unprecedented heat scorching parts of the country becomes a boon for some consumer businesses.

Temperatures in the Indian capital Delhi and the western state of Rajasthan soared to almost 50 degrees Celsius in recent weeks, with scientists saying the hot summer has become even more intense due to human-driven climate change. While rains lashed Delhi Friday, many northern areas such as Punjab recorded temperatures above 40

degrees C Thursday.

Beer sales volume are expected to jump 10% this summer and demand is at its highest since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, said Vinod Giri of Brewers' Association of India which represents leading beer makers Carlsberg, Anheuser-Busch InBev and United Breweries.

Beer in this scorching heat, Giri said, makes Indians "feel better without getting too high on alcohol."

B Thiagarajan, managing director at ACs-to-air purifier maker Blue Star, said he has not witnessed such strong sales for air conditioners in the more than 30 years he has worked in



the industry. It's been a "mad rush ... anything called air conditioner

would have got sold," he said. The number of affluent people in India is rising rapidly, and

Thiagarajan said overall air conditioner sales will grow 50% in the April-June summer months, outstripping the industry's expected demand increase of 25% to 30%.

Other businesses are also enjoying a strong summer.

Quick delivery service Swiggy Instamart said it is seeing a sharp rise in orders for ice cream and cold beverages.

Walmart-owned Indian e-commerce website Flipkart said demand for top-end sunscreen products jumped 40% between February-May 2024 versus the

previous year, with products such as sunscreen sticks proving particularly popular.

"Heatwaves made me use sunscreens very frequently, like, 3 to 4 times a day," said S Dinesh, 27, whose job demands him to stay out in the sun during the day.

But even as the heat pushes up demand for some online products, it is causing logistical challenges as more delivery workers fall ill due to the high temperatures, said Ajay Rao, CEO of Emiza, a logistics company which counts Flipkart and Mamaearth among its customers.

"People are not able to actually cope with the outside temperatures," he said.

## Forex kitty jumps to \$653.71 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 28:** India's forex reserves jumped by \$816 million to \$653.71 billion for the week ended June 21, the RBI said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by \$2.922 billion to \$652.895 billion.

The all-time high for the reserves is at \$655.817 billion achieved June 7.

For the week ended June 21, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$106 million to \$574.134 billion, the data released Friday showed.

# GLORY BECKONS

India-South Africa lock horns in the T20 World Cup final with unbeaten streaks under their belts



Even if I have a target in mind I don't tell anyone about it. They are instinctive players so I want them to go out and play freely

**ROHIT SHARMA**

semifinals over England and Afghanistan respectively to reach the title round. It will all boil down to who holds the nerves better when the contest gets underway Saturday at the Kensington Oval here. More than a

decade back (June 2013), India won their last ICC title. For South Africa it will be their first final after losing seven semifinals in ICC trophies in all formats. Both will want to put the record straight and for that someone will have to give. Who does that only time will tell.

Both India and South Africa have remained unbeaten in the tournament. Except for dropping a point in the rain washed out game against at Canada, the Men in Blue have been dominant in all the other matches winning them in a canter. South Africa, on the other hand, have stuttered a bit, especially the one-run win against Nepal and the five-run victory against

Bangladesh. However, from the Super 8 stage their performances peaked and reached a crescendo against Afghanistan and they decimated the latter by nine wickets.

Amid this scenario, the two teams will take the field where they will probably get the best batting surface that the World Cup has so far had to offer. And both sides have power hitters who can simply swing the game in their favour in a couple of overs. Containment will not work at the Kensington Oval, but wickets will and both sides should remember that.

After India's 68-run win over England in the semifinal Thursday, there were a few emotional moments with Indian skipper Rohit Sharma shedding a tear or two. He has every right to, he realises the enormity of the situation, the chance to rectify after everything went horribly wrong for the Indian side in the final of the ODI World Cup, November 19, 2023 at Ahmedabad, where the stage was set for coronation, but a different king arrived.

Seven months down the line, India have another chance to rewrite history and lay their

hands on the ICC trophy they first won in the inaugural year in 2007. This is also the chance for the cricketers to bring unbridled joy to the nation and to Indians across the world, the chance to rise like a phoenix from the ashes of the ODI World Cup final loss and make it a moment to rejoice. History doesn't give much of a second chance - India have got it and they should grab it with both hands.

Rohit understands the importance of being in a second final in the space of seven months. However, more importantly for him it is the team's ability to adjust to conditions and remain calm that has helped them.

"We have been very calm as a team. We do understand the occasion (final), but for us it is important to remain calm and composed. It will help us take correct decisions and we have done that so far. The ability to adjust and adapt to all types of conditions has stood us in good stead," Rohit said after India's win over England. "We do understand the importance of the final, but more importantly we need to play good cricket as well," the Indian skipper added.

Rohit also lauded the hard work put in by the team. "We've worked very hard to come to this stage, and to win the game like that

HEAD-TO-HEAD (last 6 games)	
2023	India won by 106 runs
2023	India won by 5 wickets
2022	SA won by 5 wickets
2022	SA won by 49 runs
2022	India won by 16 runs
2022	India won by 8 wickets

T20 WORLD CUP	
India-4	South Africa-2

OVERALL MATCHES 26		
India-14	SA-11	No result-1

TOP WICKET-TAKERS	
Bhubaneswar Kumar (India)	14
Keshav Maharaj (South Africa)	10

MOST RUNS	
Rohit Sharma (India)	420
David Miller (South Africa)	431

HIGHEST AND LOWEST TOTALS	
India	237 October 2022
SA	87 June 2022

Biggest victory margin	
India beat South Africa by 106 runs	December 14, 2023

TV timings  
6.00pm  
Telecast  
Star Sports and Disney+Hotstar



We feel and we believe that we can compete with the best in the world. And it's nice for us to now have that opportunity of winning the trophy

**AIDEN MARKRAM**

(England) was a great effort from everyone. I thought we played to the conditions really well; that's been the success story for us so far. If bowlers and batters understand and play according to the conditions, things fall in place. It's very pleasing how we came through (against England)," he stated.

For South Africa it is a question of now or never. Having returned to international cricket in 1992, the Proteas have come close to winning ICC trophies on a number of occasions. However, silverware has always eluded them and they will certainly be desperate to rectify what their predecessors failed to do.

South Africans however, appear determined this time. "It is one more step for us, it (the final) is an opportunity we have never had, nothing to be scared of," said Markram after the game against Afghanistan. "We have some world-class players in the side but like I said, it takes a whole squad to be able to deliver such a performance. We have so far done that and we would like to do the same basic things in the final," the South African skipper had added.

## SHORT TAKES

### 3 Indians in finals of Asian Jr Squash

New Delhi: Second-seeded Aadya Budhia will face compatriot Goushika M in an all-Indian under-13 girls' final of the 31st Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships in Islamabad, Saturday. India will have their representation in the boys' under-15 title round through Shiven Agarwal after he defeated fourth-seeded local challenger Nouman Khan 5-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-0 in the semifinals Friday. Aadya defeated sixth seed Chiu Hau Ching of Hong Kong 11-4, 11-7, 4-11, 12-10, while fourth seed Goushika beat Malaysian ninth seed Maisarrah Binti Mohd Khairul Nizam 11-6, 6-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-6.

### Not easy for Nagal

London: India's top singles player Sumit Nagal is set to make his maiden appearance in the men's singles main draw of the Wimbledon and he will be up against higher-ranked Miomir Kecmanovic (World No 53) of Serbia in the first round here. If Nagal manages to reach the third round there is every possibility he will meet World No. 1 Jannik Sinner. The only time Nagal played Serbian Kecmanovic four years ago, he lost.

### Shuttlers shine

Fort Worth (USA): India's Priyanshu Rajawat entered the men's singles quarterfinals with a 21-18 21-16 win over Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu Kai in the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament here Thursday. Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also advanced to the women's doubles quarterfinals with a 16-21, 21-11, 21-19 win over Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu.

### Manu suspended

Panchkula: Indian javelin thrower DP Manu, who was being seen as an Olympic hopeful, has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after testing positive for an anabolic steroid. A source privy to the development confirmed Friday that Manu's positive test came during the Indian Grand Prix in April this year. The 24-year-old Manu, who won a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Championships, was more or less certain to qualify for the Olympics.

### Uruguay run riot

East Rutherford: Darwin Núñez (21st) scored in his seventh straight international match, and Uruguay routed Bolivia 5-0 Thursday night to move to the verge of a quarterfinal berth in the Copa America. The other goals were scored by Facundo Pellistri (eighth), Maximiliano Araújo (77th), Federico Valverde (81st) and Rodrigo Bentancur (89th). Uruguay are seeking a record 16th Copa America title.

## 5 KEY CONTESTS

Key contests that could determine the course of the match

### JASPRIT BUMRAH vs QUINTON DE KOCK

De Kock is the highest run-getter for SA in this World Cup with 204 runs from eight matches, made at a strike-rate of 143. But he will be up against Bumrah, the best bowler on the planet at this moment. The Indian pacer has taken 13 wickets from seven matches at an astounding economy of 4.12.

### ROHIT SHARMA vs MARCO JANSEN

It's not a fabled rivalry, yet. But the Indian skipper has a certain vulnerable side to left-arm pace as substantiated by Pakistan's Mohammad Amir and Shaheen Shah Afridi in the past. However, the numbers favour Rohit. The Mumbaikar has faced the SA pacer in nine T20I innings and was dismissed only once while taking 113 runs off him.

### RISHABH PANT vs KESHAV MAHARAJ

This could be a very interesting battle. Pant has so far made 171 runs from seven matches at a reasonable strike-rate of 129 and Maharaj has bagged nine wickets. Maharaj will have to be at his accurate best to prevent Pant from playing all his unconventional shots.

### AXAR / KULDEEP vs HEINRICH KLAASEN

Klaasen is certainly among the most destructive players against spin. But in this World Cup he has made just 138 runs from eight matches at a strike-rate of 112. The right-hander will have to contend with Axar and Kuldeep, who have been troubling batters with their exemplary lines and subtle variations.

### VIRAT KOHLI vs KAGISO RABADA

Kohli will run into a formidable opponent in Rabada in the title clash. The SA quick has so far taken 12 wickets from eight matches, but his economy is even more impressive - 5.88. Rabada has ousted Kohli four times in 13 innings, giving away just 51 runs.



## Dravid prepares for sombre exit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 28: A stickler when it comes to keeping time, Rahul Dravid was once unusually late to a reading session at a bookstore in Bangalore. But Dravid settled in the back row with other invitees for the entire duration of the event without any fuss. This is because Dravid never liked the glare. It's just not his zone.

But Saturday, irrespective of the outcome, the India head coach will have to stand in full view of the cricketing world when his side take on South Africa in the T20 World Cup final.

The 51-year-old has already got a prelude to it as the host broadcasters are running a #DoItForDravid trend on social media. But it is as un-Rahul Dravid as anything one can ever think of.

For Dravid, winning the World Cup is not a personal glory moment but he would certainly broaden it out to the team effort and to Rohit Sharma's inspired leadership.

"I just want the team to play good cricket and yeah, doing it for someone is totally against who I am as a person and what I believe in. So, I don't want to talk about it and discuss it,"



Dravid told Star Sports.

Dravid meanwhile pointed out that India have been remarkably consistent to play three ICC finals in the last 12 months. "It is a good thing we have been consistently playing good cricket. We have been in finals in all three formats and credit goes to the players. If we play well and rub of the green goes (our way) we will surely win," said Dravid.

"I think what's really important is that we've done really well as a group in the whole tournament. I'm just hoping that whatever we come up against, we will have the ability to play accordingly," Dravid stated.

## INDIAN EVES RIDE ON SHAFALI'S DOUBLE TON

Batter takes the least number of deliveries to hit a double century in women's cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 28: Young opener Shafali Verma (205, 197b, 23x4, 8x6) played out of her skin to score a record-breaking double century, which helped India to the highest-ever single-day total as a plethora of landmarks were rewritten on the opening day of the one-off women's Test against South Africa here Friday.

Shafali's double century and her formidable 292-run partnership with Smriti Mandhana (149, 161b, 27x4, 1x6) set the platform for India's massive 525 for four on a day when the visitors were sent on a leather hunt by the host batters.

Shafali eclipsed the double-century record of Annabel Sutherland of Australia, who had achieved the feat off 248 deliveries in a Test against South Africa in February. The 20-year-old also became only the second Indian woman cricketer after the legendary Mithali Raj to hit a double century in Test cricket. India also broke the 89-year-old



FEELING ECSTATIC: Shafali Verma is all smiles after reaching her double century Friday

mark for most runs scored in a single day by 94 runs. England women had racked up 431/2 against New Zealand at Lancaster Park, Christchurch in 1935.

Shafali was dismissed soon after completing her double-ton, being run out. The young opener's previous best in Tests was 96. The day belonged to

Shafali as she scored with ease, making the Chepauk crowd erupt in joy while leaving the Porteous bowlers clueless about their line and length.

Jemimah Rodrigues (55), skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (42 n o) and Richa Ghosh (43 n o) then helped themselves to some quick runs in the last session.

## Stars yet to glow in Euro 2024

Players including Kylian Mbappe and Cristiano Ronaldo so far have had a quiet tournament

AGENCIES

Munich, June 28: With exciting football and vibrant fans lighting up cities including this one across Germany, Euro 2024 has thrilled even though the European game's biggest stars have failed to take the tournament by storm.

Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo playing at a record sixth Euros, is yet to score in three appearances. If he manages to do so, the 39-year-old will become the oldest-ever goalscorer at the tournament.

Arguably the best player in

the world, Kylian Mbappe is only off the mark for France with a penalty against Poland in a disappointing 1-1 draw.

"He's hungry to play," said France coach Didier Deschamps, hopeful the forward will quickly find his devastating best with a last 16 clash against Belgium beckoning.

England duo Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane scored from open play against Serbia and Denmark respectively but have vastly under-performed after thriving at Real Madrid and Bayern Munich this season. "Not every player is going to star in every game," said Southgate defending his players.

France's Antoine Griezmann and England's Phil Foden have also fired blanks after strong seasons for Atletico Madrid and Manchester City.



Kylian Mbappe needs to strike form ahead of the game against Belgium