



### Spilling beans

Actor Sana Sultan opens up about her turbulent love life while speaking to a co-housemate at Bigg Boss OTT3

LEISURE | P2



### Prachanda loses

Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' loses a vote of confidence in Parliament

INTERNATIONAL | P10



### Healthy factories

India's industrial production grows to a seven-month high of 5.9 per cent in May 2024, mainly due to good showing by power and mining sectors

BUSINESS | P11



### Clarity of thought

New head coach Gautam Gambhir says that players who are good should play in all three formats

SPORTS | P12

## RATNA BHANDAR DECISION TODAY

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said the state government will decide on reopening of Ratna Bhandar (treasury) of Lord Jagannath temple in Puri Saturday.

The temple treasury was last opened 46 years ago in 1978 and the reopening of it was a major political issue in the state during the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

The BJP had promised to reopen the treasury of the 12th-century shrine for inventory if it came to power in Odisha.

"The state government is examining the legal and other aspects of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) recommended by the temple managing committee. On Saturday, the state government's decision will be known," the law minister said.

## Food prices push inflation higher

REUTERS

**New Delhi, July 12:** India's retail inflation rate rose for the first time in five months in June due to a sharp rise in food prices, government data showed Friday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation which was 4.8 per cent in May 2024 and 4.87 per cent in June 2023 (previous low) has increased to 5.08 per cent in June, 2024. Inflation in the food basket was 9.36 per cent in June, up from 8.69 per cent in May, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office. The government has tasked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that the CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

The RBI projected the CPI inflation for 2024-25 at 4.5 per cent, with Q1 at 4.9 per cent, Q2 at 3.8 per cent, Q3 at 4.6 per cent, and Q4 at 4.5 per cent. The central bank mainly factors in the retail inflation while deciding its bi-monthly monetary policy.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm here to uninvite you to my kid's wedding. Everything you inaugurated didn't last long



**BULL RUN:** Revellers sprint during the running of the bulls at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, Spain, Friday

PIC: REUTERS

## SC grants interim bail to Kejriwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** The Supreme Court Friday granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the alleged excise policy scam but he will remain in jail as the CBI had arrested him in a related matter.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta referred to a larger bench, preferably of five judges, for in-depth consideration of three questions on the aspect of 'need and necessity of arrest' under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

"Given the fact that right to life and liberty is sacrosanct, and Arvind Kejriwal has suffered incarceration of over 90 days, and that the questions referred to above require in-depth consideration by a larger bench, we direct that Arvind Kejriwal may be released on interim bail ..., on the same terms as imposed vide the order dated May 10, 2024," the bench said in its 64-page verdict.

The bench said any undue indulgence and latitude to ED will be deleterious to the constitutional values of rule of law and life and liberty of persons. P9

# India population peak in 2060s

India is going to remain the world's most populous country throughout this century even as its population is predicted to decline after hitting the peak in the early 2060s, according to a report published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. The country's current estimated population of 1.45 billion is set to increase to 1.69 billion by the early 2060s



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**United Nations, July 12:** India's population is projected to peak in the early 2060s at about 1.7 billion and then decline by 12 per cent, but the country will remain the world's most populous throughout the century, the United Nations has said.

The World Population Prospects 2024 report, released here Thursday, said that the world's population is expected to continue growing over the coming 50-60 years, reaching a peak of around 10.3 billion people in the mid-2080s, up from 8.2 billion in 2024. After peaking, the global population is projected to start declining gradually, falling to 10.2 billion people by the end of the century.

India, which surpassed China

as the world's most populous nation last year, will continue to hold that position through 2100.

"The population of India, which is expected to remain the world's largest throughout the century, will likely decline by 12 per cent after reaching its peak in the early 2060s at about 1.7 billion," the UN report published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Population Division said.

Responding to a question by PTI on population projections for India, Senior Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, UN DESA Clare Menozzi said at a press conference that "India is currently the largest country in the world in terms of population, and it is projected to stay so throughout the century. The population is

currently estimated at 1.45 billion, and it's supposed to increase further" to 1.69 billion.

"It's supposed to peak around the 2060s in size and then it starts to slightly decline. So by the end of the century, India is projected to be around 1.5 billion, but still the largest country in the world by a large margin."

The report said that China's population, currently 1.41 billion in 2024, will fall to 1.21 billion in 2054 and further decline to 633 million by 2100.

"It is anticipated that China, the country currently with the world's second-largest population, will likely experience the largest absolute population loss between 2024 and 2054 (204 million)," followed by Japan (21 million) and Russia (10 million). "Longer-range population projections are more uncertain" for

China, it said.

"However, due to its large size and sustained low level of fertility, China is also likely to record the largest population decline of any country through the end of the century (786 million people). By 2100, China is projected to have lost more than a half of its current population and to have returned to a population size comparable to that recorded in the late 1950s (50 per cent probability)."

Currently, nearly one-fifth of all countries and areas, including China, Italy, the Republic of Korea and Spain, are experiencing what is sometimes referred to as 'ultra-low' fertility, with fewer than 1.4 live births per woman over a lifetime. The report added that the global fertility rate currently stands at 2.25 live births per woman, down from 3.31 births in 1990.

"More than half of all countries and areas globally have fertility below the replacement level of 2.1 live births per woman. This is the level required for a population to maintain a constant size in the long run (without migration), with each generation being followed by another of roughly equal size," it said.

Pakistan is projected to overtake the US as the third-largest country in the world, with a population of 389 million in 2054.

## June 25 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas': Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** The government has decided to observe June 25, the day the Emergency was declared in 1975, as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to commemorate the 'massive contributions' of those who endured inhuman pains of the period, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Friday.

He also said the observance of 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' will help keep the eternal flame of individual freedom and the defence of the democracy alive in every Indian, thus preventing 'dictatorial forces' like the Congress from 'repeating those horrors'.

A gazette notification issued Friday by the Union Home Ministry notes that Emergency was declared June 25, 1975, following which there was 'gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities.' The people of India have abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of its resilient democracy, it said.

"Therefore, Government of India declares 25th June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to pay tribute to all those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of power during the period of Emergency and to

## June 4 'Modi Mukti Diwas': Congress

**New Delhi:** The Congress Friday slammed the government's move to declare June 25, the day Emergency was declared in 1975, as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' as yet another 'headline grabbing exercise in hypocrisy' by PM Narendra Modi. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "yet another headline grabbing exercise in hypocrisy by the non-biological PM who had imposed an undeclared Emergency for ten long years before the people of India handed him a decisive personal, political, and moral defeat on June 4, 2024 - which will go down in history as Modi Mukti Diwas." P8

recommit the people of India to not support in any manner such gross abuse of power, in future," says the notification.

Shah said that June 25, 1975, then prime minister Indira Gandhi, in a 'brazen display of a dictatorial mindset, strangled the soul of India's democracy by imposing the Emergency on the nation.' "The Government of India has decided to observe the 25th of June every year as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas'. This day will commemorate the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency," he said in a post on X.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	80519.34	↑ 622.00
NIFTY	24502.15	↑ 186.20
DOLLAR	83.54	↓ ₹0.06
EURO	90.98	↑ ₹0.36
GOLD	₹73,129	↓ ₹182
SILVER	₹93,089	↓ ₹1101

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.2°C	33.0°C
Min Temp	28.4°C	25.5°C
Humidity	92%	92%
Rainfall	16mm	8.4mm

**FORECAST**  
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

## Strong action against indiscipline: SJTA chief

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** Strict action will be taken against those who indulge in indiscipline during the Bahuda Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri, a senior official said Friday amid outrage over the idol of Lord Balabhadra falling on some servitors during Rath Yatra.

After taking charge, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said care will be taken so that such incidents do not happen again.

"We will take strong action against the persons who will indulge in unruly behaviour because we have noticed that some unauthorised persons were climbing the chariots and carrying mobile phones during

Rath Yatra which is not allowed," he said.

Twelve servitors were injured when the idol fell while being taken out of the chariots after they reached Gundicha temple. It was alleged that several servitors were busy taking photos and videos on their mobile phones when the idol fell due to loss of balance.

"We seek forgiveness from the Lord for what happened. As per the decision of the temple managing committee, a committee has been formed and we should wait for its report," Padhee said.

He said discussions were held with different groups of servitors so that the rituals could be completed smoothly.

"We hope that they will not bring a bad name, but promote our Jagannath culture," he said.

## Ambani wedding spectacle gets political

REUTERS

**Mumbai, July 12:** The wedding of a scion from India's ultra-wealthy Ambani family - much in the news for its opulent celebrations and VIP-studded guest list - has suddenly developed more political overtones with posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi lining the road to the venue.

The extravaganza saw Anant Ambani, 29, - the youngest son of Asia's richest person Mukesh Ambani - marry his long-time girlfriend Radhika Merchant, 29, Friday, which will be followed by three days of receptions.

"Heartfelt welcome to India's beloved and respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai," read the dozens of posters recently erected by his ruling party workers along the road to Ambani's Reliance Industries-



owned Jio World Convention Centre.

The posters were not installed by Modi's party but may have been put up by some "excited party workers," said Keshav Upadhye, the state's chief spokesperson of BJP.

Modi has faced much criticism from Indian Opposition leaders

who say he is too close to tycoons like Ambani, allegations that the Prime Minister and his government have denied.

The wedding has been deemed a public event by local officials due to the attendance of so many international and local celebrities, politicians and business leaders. That's meant traffic in the area

has been closed to the public for most of the day for four days - raising the ire of locals in Mumbai - a city plagued by traffic congestion, especially in the monsoon season.

The estimated millions and millions of dollars spent by Ambani on the months-long celebrations - which have seen pop stars Rihanna and Justin Bieber perform at pre-wedding events, have also triggered debate in a country where income inequality has been rising.

Though some proponents have said the events are boosting the economy and help generate business for many citizens, others like Indian Opposition politician Thomas Isaac have called the amount of spending 'obscene.'

"Legally it maybe their money but such ostentatious expenditure is a sin against mother earth and (the) poor," he said in a post on X.

# leisure



## EDWARD BLUEMEL TO STAR IN THE SEVEN DIALS MYSTERY

*Killing Eve* and *Sex Education* actor Edward Bluemel, who was most recently seen in the fantasy show *My Lady Jane*, has joined the cast of the upcoming Agatha Christie series *The Seven Dials Mystery*, reports *variety.com*.

## KEVIN HART SUED BY FORMER FRIEND

Actor Kevin Hart, known for his film *Get Hard*, is being sued by a former friend for \$12 million. The actor has been accused of breaching a 2021 agreement that called on him to publicly exonerate Jonathan J.T. Jackson from baseless extortion allegations relating to the actor's 2017 sex tape and cheating scandal.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Without apparent reason you may go into your shell today. No doubt you will acknowledge the contribution of others, but Ganesh says you have to do more than that; you will have to share your knowledge with your peers. Besides this, Ganesh says you need to cut down on your spending.

**TAURUS**  
Ganesh sees you being very planned and focuses, poised and practical in handling your affairs today. You'll be able to take identify the best strategy, course of action that the situations demand. This day you would be performing like a specialist, a real expert and will not fail to accomplish whatever you have set out to do.

**GEMINI**  
You are on your way to falling in love. Your parents or children are likely to fetch you substantial gains, financially or otherwise. You may want to make a few changes at work, probably a new business strategy.

**CANCER**  
You will not only make plans, but will also act on them. So you can save money, time and energy for creative pursuits. The quality of your work and accomplishments will be high. Your creativity plays a key role in your accomplishments in career or business.

**LEO**  
You will need to work hard to achieve your goals today. Those who are serious about their work will be easily able to tide over the day. You need to be cautious today. Not only at work, but even in personal relationships, you need to be on guard. You need to maintain a balance between home and at work, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Issues regarding religious beliefs and spirituality will surface today. Pursue your goals single-mindedly to attain success in the field of your choice, and exploit your abilities and talents to the hilt, advises Ganesh. You will be more logical and calculative, rather than emotional, in matters of your relationships.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that today in your office you should be very careful in your work. It is likely that your superiors will not be happy about your work or your ability today. Those of you who are businessmen should try and delay sending off tenders today. Those who have given their job interviews may not get a favorable response to it.

**SCORPIO**  
At work, you would want to change the perspective with which people see you. Your colleagues recognise you as the emerging alpha-ion. Ideas and opinions will impress your bosses. But keep a level head and learn where to stop, even when winning, counsels Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Lengthy business meetings keep you occupied almost throughout the day. You may also do some value addition to your work by taking co-workers' suggestions and inputs, says Ganesh. Implementation of these inputs will prove highly beneficial in the long run.

**CAPRICORN**  
The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesh. Also, relationships and relatives will keep you busy for major part of the day. You may not find it interesting, but you will not have any options either.

**AQUARIUS**  
The day begins on high note. You work hard, put your best foot forward and at the end get the final output as per your requirements. Romantic and beautiful, the setting Sun will bring the softer side of your personality to the fore as you will spend the evening with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
For you, today may all be work and no play, says Ganesh. This, however, will not stop you from putting in extra efforts to finish your pending projects and to meet your deadlines. But then who else but a Pisces is known to handle the pain nonchalantly without bemoaning the lack of pleasure?

## Anant, Radhika get hitched

**Mumbai:** Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Asia's richest man, Friday married pharmaceutical heiress and childhood sweetheart Radhika Merchant at a star-studded event attended by celebrities from across the globe, politicians, who's who of Hindi and south Indian cinema world and almost all the top cricketers of the country.



Reality TV star Kim Kardashian and her sister Khloe, Nigerian rapper Rema, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, and global business tycoons ranging from oil giant Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser to Samsung Electronics chairman Jay Lee and drug major GSK plc chief executive Emma Walmsley were in attendance at the event that has been dubbed as the 'wedding of the year'.

Salman Khan to Ajay Devgn, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Tiger Shroff and Varun Dhawan - were present, most with their families, while superstars Rajinikanth, Ram Charan and Mahesh Babu led the entourage from down south.

Almost the entire top rung Bollywood actors -- from Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and

Singh Dhoni to yesteryear great Krish Srikkanth and latest sensations Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav. Anant, 29, tied the knot with Radhika, daughter of Indian pharma tycoons Viren and Shaila Merchant, in a traditional Hindu ceremony at Mumbai's Jio World Drive -- a convention centre built and owned by the Ambani family. PTI

## SAM ON FINDING DIRECTION IN LIFE

**Mumbai:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has shared some profound thoughts she encountered after hearing a line from someone she deeply respects.

Sam took to her Instagram stories and shared a video in which she expressed her contemplations. In the clip, she spoke about an enlightening morning and shared the impactful line, "I had to share because it was an enlightening morning. I heard this line from this person I really really respect and he said that you'd find your destiny in what bothers you... And that made so much sense."

"It makes so much sense...Unless it bothers you, you don't do much about it. Something that really bothers you can change your life and give you direction," she added.

Recently, she faced controversy after recommending nebulizing with a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and distilled water, which sparked attention and criticism. Later, she issued a clarification about alterna-

tive medication and talked about how conventional treatments weren't yielding positive results for her for a long time.

She said that she consulted a highly qualified doctor who served with the DRDO for over two decades, and he was the one who prescribed her the alternative medication.

On the work front, Samantha is awaiting the release of the series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*. IANS



**Mumbai:** *Bigg Boss OTT 3* Sana Sultan, who is known for her positive outlook in the controversial reality show, had a discussion of her private life with co-housemate Sai Ketan.

## Sana's intuition

While speaking about the incident, Sana said: "God has given me great intuition. I noticed some changes in my then-boyfriend. I tried calling him, and he didn't pick up. He always has his phone and smart-watch on him, so it was almost impossible for him to miss my calls."

"My friend called me just then and sensed my tension through my voice. She sneaked outside my boyfriend's house and heard a woman's voice inside."

Sana then said that her former boyfriend gave the explanation that the woman was just a friend.

"A week later, he called and said, 'Finished playing detective? She was just a friend, and I didn't tell you because I knew

you would react like this,' I replied, 'I learned what I needed to know and understood,' she told Sai.

Sana added: "If she was just a friend, you wouldn't have driven my friend away."

Later, he stalked my stories and found out my location. He once called me trying to explain, and even that girl stepped in to clarify, but I had already moved on. Now we are both happy with our lives." IANS



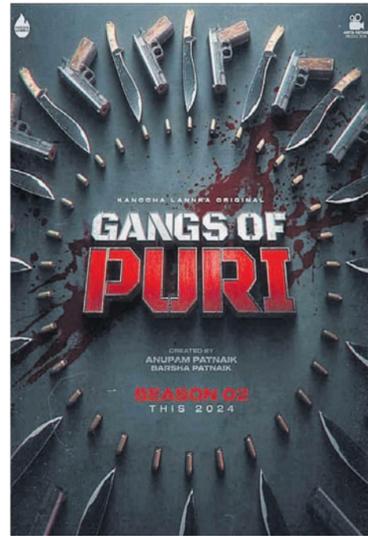
## Gangs of Puri Season 2 soon

**Bhubaneswar:** After the stupendous success of its first season *Gangs of Puri* is returning with Season 2. Sharing the news in social media with a new poster, director Anupam Patnaik said cast and crew of the project will remain unchanged. However, some new characters are likely to be added, he shared.

The ensemble cast of Season 1 included KK, Aman, Choudhary Jayprakash Das, Rabi Narayan Mishra, Hara Rath, Ankita Mohanty, Soni, Susanta Dashmohapatra, Udit Guru, Rakesh Parida, Pranab Prasanna Rath, Mayank, Anjana Dash, Bhakti, Soumya, Sameek, Umakanta, Niranjan Acharya, Bhavani and many others.

The series was set in the pilgrim town of Puri in 1990s and revolved around town's notorious ganglords.

A Kanocha Lannkaa Original, *Gangs of Puri -2* will be streaming on the same streaming platform, it was learnt. PNN



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

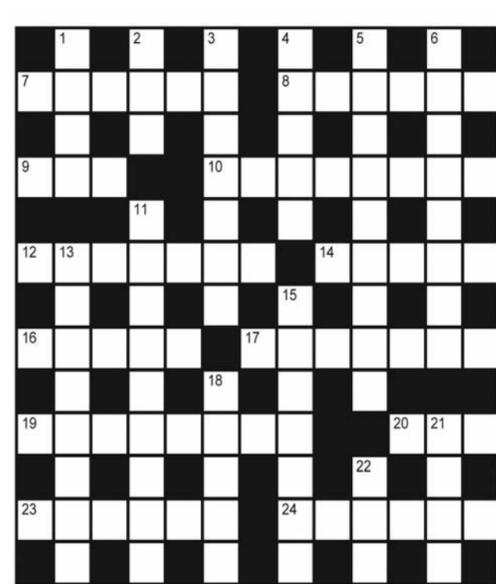


### BREVITY



### FUN post

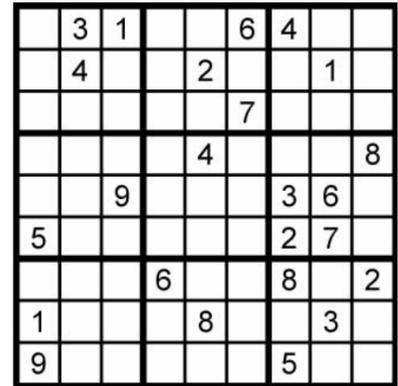
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Spoke out
  - 8 New World vulture
  - 9 Aardvark's tidbit
  - 10 Recluse (4,4)
  - 12 Side by side
  - 14 Squalid
  - 16 Bakery supply
  - 17 Vessel support system
  - 19 Writing on the wall
  - 20 Missile's path
  - 23 Ravel classic
  - 24 Showy flowers
  - 5 University output
  - 6 Titled peer
  - 11 Penned a poem
  - 13 Mangel-wurzel
  - 15 Obvious to the eye
  - 18 Mustard choice
  - 21 Casting need
  - 22 Brownie
- Down**
- 1 Pair of oxen
  - 2 Wildebeest
  - 3 Hero-worship
  - 4 British biscuit

### 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

## ASSAULT PLAINT AGAINST GUV'S SON

**Bhubaneswar:** Wife of a Raj Bhavan employee in Puri alleged that her husband was beaten up by the Governor's son and five others on the night of July 7. However, there is no official confirmation either from the Raj Bhavan or police regarding the incident. Speaking to the media, Sayoj Pradhan alleged that her husband was beaten up because he did not send a luxury vehicle to pick up the Governor's son. She demanded legal action on the alleged attack on her husband.

## CHIEF CSO HELD FOR TAKING ₹50K BRIBE

**Bhubaneswar:** Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested Bolangir Chief Civil Supplies Officer (CCSO) G Prabhakara Patro on charges of demanding and accepting ₹50,000 as bribe from a complainant for clearing his pending bills. Patro had demanded and taken a bribe of ₹1,30,000 from the complainant a few days back and Friday he was caught by the Vigilance sleuths while accepting the remaining amount - ₹50,000.

# Laws already in place to protect doctors: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a Delhi Medical Association (DMA) plea seeking directions for the protection of doctors from violence, saying laws already exist to deal with such instances.

However, a bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Sanjay Karol and Sanjay Kumar gave liberty to the DMA to approach appropriate forums in case of any particular instance of violence.

"I had to visit a hospital recently, I saw placards placed there saying violence against doctors is a serious offence. You see laws are already there to deal with such instances," Justice Khanna told senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for the DMA.

The apex court was hearing the DMA's petition which also sought directions to the authorities to ensure adequate security at hospitals and medical centres to prevent attacks on doctors and healthcare workers by patients' relatives and others.

Hansaria submitted that the concern is about preventive measures to be put in place as incidents of violence against doctors are occurring quite often.

Justice Khanna said the court cannot direct legislation, and nowadays, every hospital has a police officer or security in place

to thwart any such incident.

The senior advocate said this is not the situation in all hospitals and most of the medical institutions in rural areas lack such security apparatus.

Observing that anybody who indulges in violence can be dealt with under the Indian Penal Code, the bench said the only question is the implementation of the law. "We are not inclined to entertain the petition. In case of any difficulty in any particular case, the petitioner association of doctors is at liberty to take up the said issue before the competent court," it said. On September 5, 2022, the top court, while hearing the petition which was filed in 2021, said the Centre and state governments cannot be expected to provide security cover to private hospitals.

It had observed that private hospitals and medical centres are business enterprises and must make their own security arrangements and in so far as government hospitals are concerned, security is arranged by the concerned hospitals.

The top court said that a large number of hospitals, nursing homes and medical centres in the country are private ones.

It had also questioned the petitioners on what kind of norms could be laid in the matter and asked the association why it had not approached the high court on this issue.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna had to visit a hospital recently, I saw placards placed there saying violence against doctors is a serious offence. You see laws are already there to deal with such instances.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna



**STAGE SET FOR BAHUDA:** Security personnel help chariots take southward turn ahead of Bahuda Yatra of the deities in Puri, Friday

PICT: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

# Step up measures to curb VBDs: CS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** At a time when vector-borne diseases (VBDs) like dengue and malaria are taking several districts into the grip, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja directed all the department secretaries to stay alert for prevention and control the same.

In a letter to the secretaries, the Chief Secretary said, "During monsoon and post monsoon period, outbreak of vector borne diseases such as dengue and malaria are likely to increase. Further, occasional spells of rainfall can also result in an unprecedented rise in these cases. Moreover, dengue possesses a significant public health challenge due to its rapid spread & potential severity. Addressing dengue requires coordinated efforts at every level. Though dengue was known to be a mostly urban centric disease, now it has been observed that rural areas are also affected by it due to rapid urbanisation & population movement."

The letter also said, "Most VBDs can be controlled if appropriate preventive measures are undertaken collectively at the district level. Timely control & prevention measures are of paramount importance to reduce morbidity and mortality due to dengue and other VBDs."

Highlighting the role of all line departments in this regard, the Chief Secretary said these departments are crucial in mobilising their teams working at the community level, to supplement the efforts of the Health & Family Welfare department in the prevention and control of dengue. "Hence, you are requested to take all necessary steps through your field functionaries for the prevention and control of dengue and other VBDs in our state," read the letter.

Ahuja instructed Housing and Urban Development department to create urban task force with involvement of community members, hold regular urban body

meetings in coordination with district health officials to plan for preventive measures for VBD control programme. Further, weekly fixed cleaning operation day in urban and peri-urban areas can be planned. Focus should be laid on solid waste management to eliminate mosquito breeding sources (plastic bags, cups, containers, coconut shells to be removed) while desilting of drains, anti-larval measures should be undertaken.

On School and Mass Education department, the Chief Secretary said headmasters/teachers need to be sensitised about VBDs. The



headmasters/teachers should sensitise schoolchildren in school assembly and class about the diseases and their preventive measures.

Similarly, Women and Child Development department was instructed to ensure that Anganwadi workers coordinate with ASHA and female health workers and inform mothers, women & children on diseases like dengue and malaria. They will ensure that pregnant mothers use bed nets while sleeping. Anganwadi workers will educate women and children to identify mosquito breeding sites.

Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment department has been instructed for management of mosquito breeding points by filing up of ditches, removal of junk drying water collections, channeling material and animal feeding posts.

To Fisheries and Animal Resources department, Ahuja instructed to keep coordination

## 488 dengue cases in state

As many as 488 dengue cases have been reported from across the state during this season, said sources. Last year, Capital city had reported around 4,000 dengue cases. Khurda district has reported 130 dengue cases - the highest in the state - while Bhubaneswar logged 83 cases (36 cases in July only).

with Health department for up-scaling implementation of larvivorius fish hatcheries and release of fish in water bodies.

Likewise, Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department has been instructed to telecast programmes on prevention and control of VBDs through television networks.

Industries department has been instructed to prevent water stagnation in unused tyres, dumpers/trucks and vehicles. Unused material like iron or cemented plastic tanks are to be kept covered in industrial areas.

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department has been instructed for sensitisation of PRI members through BDOs, Ilage cleaning and sanitisation drive by utilising gaon kalyan samiti (GKS) funds and release of gambusia fish where natural water is accumulated.

Rural Development department has been asked to ensure that all water storage sites are destroyed after the construction work is over. Empty coal tar containers need to be discarded or turned upside down to avoid accumulation of water.

Finally, ST&SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes, Welfare department has been instructed to spread health messages on dengue among schoolchildren, up-scaling uses of long lasting insecticidal nets and insecticide-treated bed nets in tribal residential schools.

# 3 NEW MEDICAL COLLEGES SOON



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, July 12:** Three new medical colleges will be start functioning in Jajpur, Kandhamal and Talcher soon, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Minister Mukesh Mahaling said here, Friday.

With this addition, Odisha will have a total of 13 medical colleges, Mahaling said while addressing a meet of Odisha Medical College Teachers' Association at SCB Medical College and Hospital's Heritage Auditorium in the Silver City.

The Health Minister, who graced the meeting as the chief guest, said the three facilities are almost ready for operationalisation.

"The National Medical

Commission (NMC) has approved 50 seats for the Jajpur facility. We'll soon approach the commission for the other two medical colleges," Mahaling said.

He said the state government has created Rs 200 crore corpus fund for 'Odia Asmita'.

"A committee has also been formed. Now, medicos will start learning in Odia language. The state government is committed to providing best healthcare facilities to all," Mahaling said.

A healthy relationship between doctors and patients is the need of the hour. It not only helps in the patient's speedy recovery but also goes a long way ensuring best health facility. SCBMCH will be soon transformed into an AIIMS plus facility, he said.

## Sepoy found hanging at 7th Battalion

**Bhubaneswar:** A sepoy, posted at the Odisha State Armed Police's 7th Battalion under Maitri Vihar police limits here, was found hanging from a tree on the battalion premises Friday. Maitri Vihar inspector in-charge (IIC) Mrutyunjay Swain identified the deceased as Duryodhan Mohanty, 50, a native of Niali in Cuttack district. "A 2002-batch sepoy, Mohanty had been posted at the 7th Battalion for years now," the IIC said. Swain said prima facie it seems like a case of suicide. "However, the exact cause of the death would be ascertained only after arrival of the autopsy report. A case of unnatural death has been registered in this regard," added the IIC. Meanwhile, Mohanty's colleagues claimed that he was under severe mental stress owing to huge debt burden.

# As bombs shatter Gaza, boxing coach emboldens girls

REUTERS

**Gaza, July 12:** Israel's offensive in Gaza has pulverised most of its sports facilities and equipment but that has not stopped boxing coach Osama Ayoub training Palestinian girls in a tent camp that offers no protection from air strikes or shelling.

The boxing club, where girls once learned to jab, build their stamina and make friends, has been demolished.

There is no protective equipment, ring or punch bags in the open-air sandy space between the tents where displaced girls now practice - a mattress and pillow will have to do - but Ayoub says the training has helped them overcome their fear of war. "They started going out on

the street. They started going out at night. Their personalities became much stronger, and even their families saw that they are stronger," he said.

It's all about improvisation. One very young girl unleashes punches barehanded and weaves left and right to dodge imaginary fists. "Throw a right," yells the coach, who then puts up his own fists for the girls to punch in turn.

"They have determination, they have contentment, they have courage. At first, they were afraid of the war we are living in, but through boxing they have benefited a lot," he said.

Gaza offered playgrounds, football, tennis, karate and other sports before terrifying bombs began dropping from the skies,



Palestinian boxing coach Osama Ayoub trains girls on boxing near a tent camp sheltering displaced people, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip

REUTERS

flattening entire neighbourhoods. Attempts to restart sports are risky, even when played outside. An Israeli missile Tuesday

slammed into a football match at a tent encampment, killing at least 29 people, Palestinian officials said.

**“They (Palestinian girls) have determination, they have contentment, they have courage. At first, they were afraid of the war we are living in, but through boxing they have benefited a lot”**

OSAMA AYOUB | BOXING COACH

Yet the boxers dream of international competitions overseas, worlds away from Gaza, a tiny, densely populated enclave that suffered from poverty and high unemployment even long before Hamas triggered the war October 7 by attacking Israel.

"I hope that this war will end and that our message will reach everyone in the name of the girls

of Gaza," said one of the boxers, Bilsan Ayoub.

The chances of that happening soon are slim. Months of mediation by the United States, Egypt and Qatar have failed to secure a truce between Israel and its arch-enemy Hamas, never mind a permanent ceasefire.

So all the boxers can do is keep practising as each side demands concessions from the other and the conflict rages.

"We do not have anything left, being displaced. We do not have clips, gloves, teeth protection," said Ayoub, who has to improvise every day to keep her dream of international competition alive.

"The tools are very simple but we want to continue in this game until we achieve our dream and end the war," she said.

# 12,000 citizens share views for state Budget

### WE INTEND TO PRESENT A TRULY PEOPLE'S BUDGET, SAYS CHIEF MINISTER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** The state government has received suggestions from a whopping over 12,000 citizens for the annual Budget of the state government which will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly July 25, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi said Friday.



experts and representatives at Lok Seva Bhavan here.

"It is a matter of joy that we have received so many suggestions from citizens on the Budget. This extensive participation of common people in the Budget preparation process is very encouraging," Majhi, who also holds the Finance portfolio, told reporters after emerging out of a pre-Budget discussion with civil society groups,

"We are striving to present a truly people's Budget, reflecting the aspirations and expectations of all sections of society. As a peoples' government, our tradition of emphasising the views of the common people will continue," the CM added. Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak

Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, along with Principal Secretary, Finance Saswat Mishra and senior officials were present at the meeting.

Twenty-six eminent persons, including ex-finance ministers Prafulla Ghadai, Panchanan Kanungo and Sashibhusan Behera, former finance secretaries, RBI regional director, and NABARD general manager shared their opinions for the Budget.

Meanwhile, Majhi thanked the general public for their valuable inputs and said that the government will try its best to reflect those in the Budget and fulfil the expectations and aspirations of the people of the state.



**GUHARI 2024:** Dignitaries being felicitated on the concluding day of 'Guhari 2024' organised by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre and Odia Language, Literature and Culture department at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Friday

## Tata Power pumps in ₹4, 245cr for infra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** Tata Power-led power distribution companies (discoms) have invested ₹4,245 crore in infrastructure expansion and network upgradation in the state over the past three to four years, the company said Friday.

The company operates four discoms in joint ventures with the state government - TP Central Odisha Distribution (TPCODL), TP Western Odisha Distribution (TPWODL), TP Southern Odisha Distribution (TPSODL), and TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), collectively serving a customer base of over 9 million.

Of the total investment, ₹1,232 crore has been allocated through various government-backed schemes. This includes laying of 2,177 circuit km (Ckm) of 33 kilovolt (KV) lines and 19,809 Ckm of 11 KV lines, as well as adding 30,230 distribution transformers to improve the distribution network's reliability across rural and urban areas, the company said.

Additionally, the company has commissioned 166 new primary substations (PSS), with 55 per cent of them being automated. These efforts have led to an average of 23.68 hour of power supply per day in urban areas and 21.98 hour in rural areas, exceeding national averages.

Furthermore, the network improvements have contributed to a reduction in Aggregate Transmission and Distribution (AT&D) losses, averaging 17.79 per cent in the state during the financial year 2023-24, the company added.

## Event in City to boost entrepreneurship

**Bhubaneswar:** With an aim to foster entrepreneurship and nurture the next generation entrepreneurs of Odisha, The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), Bhubaneswar organised an event titled "Fostering a Thriving Entrepreneurial Ecosystem" here, Friday. Several industry leaders and aspiring entrepreneurs were present to discuss and strategise on creating a robust support system for growth of new businesses in the state. The event also provided a platform for entrepreneurs to present their company profiles that would further boost their networking and provide ample scope for collaboration with potential partners. On the occasion, TiE-Bhubaneswar vice-chairman Satyabrata Rath said, "This event marks a significant step in Odisha's journey towards becoming a hub for innovation and enterprise by bringing together key stakeholders and setting the stage for future collaborations and growth in the entrepreneurial landscape."

## Student's body found after 5-day search

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** After a five-day long search operation, the body of a physiotherapy student, who had gone missing in water-filled stone quarry at Tapang in Khurda district, was recovered Friday.

According to sources, Om Prakash Rath had gone missing after he slipped into the stone quarry pond while attempting to save his drowning friend Monday afternoon. On being informed, multiple units of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Odisha Fire and Emergency Services carried out

### TAPANG STONE QUARRY TRAGEDY



an intense search operation, which continued for a protracted period of five days. In between, the family mem-

bers of Om Prakash had met Khurda Collector Chanchal Rana, who assured every possible support for the recovery of the body. The rescue operation, however, was a challenging task, said an official of Odisha Fire and Emergency Services.

He added that even waterproof cameras faced hurdles in locating the body. Since the body was stuck in a pit inside the quarry filled with water, it took a little longer to locate it.

Notably, Om Prakash was a student of Abhinav Bindra Sports Medicine and Research Institute (ABSMRI) near Pahala on the City outskirts. He was a native of Ranpur in Nayagarh district.

## Guv urged to set up nat'l commission for displaced



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** A group of human and forest rights activists Friday urged Governor Raghubar Das to set up National Commission on the Rights of Displaced People (NCRDP) and submitted a report on various public hearings with the displaced people from the state.

The report - Displacement and Human Rights Violations, The Odisha story - was prepared by the team of rights activists, headed by retired professor of Delhi University Manoranjan Mohanty. The team appealed to the Governor to take necessary action and send the recommendations to the state and Union governments for their consideration.

The team suggested creation of NCRDP through a legislation in Parliament. They also proposed that the commission, which will function on the lines of NHRC, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Commission

and National Commission for Women, will have regional branches in all the states. It will also have the legal authority to enforce its recommendations in letter and spirit.

The commission would be assigned to act as a grievance redressal mechanism for people who are already displaced and affected by projects post Independence.

The team urged the government to enumerate the number of persons displaced by development projects from 1947 onwards, publish a yearly status report on displaced persons in development projects, monitor the implementation of different legislations dealing with the displacement of people like the National Highways Act 1956, Forest Right Act 2006, Coal Bearing (Acquisition and Development) Act 2013, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, and make a periodic policy analysis.

## Kalingan heritage sites' documentation begins

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** The Odisha chapter of Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has started listing and documentation of Kalingan heritage sites found in Andhra Pradesh.

According to INTACH sources, Kalinga, historically known for its rich cultural heritage, once used to extend its boundaries into parts of present-day Andhra Pradesh, reflecting a broader geographical influence that encompasses diverse cultural practices and architectural legacies across the region. INTACH felt that many heritage sites in Andhra with Kalingan influence need proper listing, documentation and preservation. The national trust's campaign aims to highlight these sites, in order to ensure that their historical significance is recognised and protected, the sources added. It would also provide a more



comprehensive understanding of the region's historical expanse and influence. A six-member survey team comprising Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, Bikram Kumar Nayak, Suman Prakash Swain, Bikash Das, Chiranjib Rout, with Deepak Kumar Nayak (co-convenor, INTACH Cuttack Chapter) as the project coordinator, will undertake listing and documentation.

On the project, Deepak Kumar said, "Our team has meticulously documented and catalogued numerous historic Kalingan sites, primarily situated in the north Andhra Pradesh region. These sites include temples, palaces, forts, caves, stupas (pillars), inscriptions and other archaeological remains all having Kalingan connection. Many of these sites are lesser-known and some of them are documented for the first time by our team."

He further said, "Architectural and cultural elements of Kalinga style are prominently featured in several locations throughout Andhra Pradesh which highlight the historical and cultural connections between these regions. Our objective is to locate and document as many Kalingan historic sites as possible in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh in future."

Bishnu Mohan, a history researcher and a member of the

survey team, said, "The Kalingan heritage sites present in Andhra Pradesh is a rich tapestry woven with threads of history, architecture, religion and culture. These historic sites collectively form a vital link to our past, offering important historical, cultural and architectural insights. Their neglect poses a significant threat to our shared heritage. By undertaking a concerted effort to list and document these sites, we can ensure their preservation and continued appreciation by future generations. This initiative will not only honour our history but also enrich the cultural fabric of this land and beyond."

He added that the initiative will lay the foundation for educational enrichment, cultural appreciation and economic growth.

INTACH Odisha sources said the documentation work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

## 6,500 adolescent mothers die in South Asia every year: UN

### ABOUT 49 PER CENT OF YOUNG GIRLS IN SOUTH ASIA DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING - THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD

Nearly 6,500 adolescent girls die in childbirth in South Asia every year, said UN agencies Friday, calling for prioritisation of the health of girls and adolescents in South Asia.

A two-day regional dialogue on adolescent pregnancy was jointly organised by the SAARC,

UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (UNICEF ROSA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Kathmandu, Nepal.

At the event, officials and civil society representatives from India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka reaffirmed their commitment to prioritise health for over 2.2 million adolescent girls that give birth yearly in South Asia, and to provide better opportunities to learn, set up their businesses, and earn a living.

The experts noted that most of these girls were child brides who have limited power over their reproductive health or lives.

"The South Asia region has a long way to go. I call upon every-



one to resolutely address the root causes including child marriage, access to adolescent health education, and removing social stigma in managing the teenage population of SAARC region," said Ambassador Golam Sarwar,

the secretary general of SAARC. South Asia accounts for 290 million child brides - nearly half of the world's burden. These girls are forced to drop out of school and face stigma, rejection, violence, unemployment

### South Asia accounts for 290 million child brides -- nearly half of the world's burden. These girls are forced to drop out of school and face stigma, rejection, violence, unemployment as well as lifelong social challenges

as well as lifelong social challenges.

About 49 per cent of young girls in South Asia do not have access to education, employment, or training - the highest in the world, the experts noted. With poorer health coverage

adolescent mothers are also at increased risk of early deaths, and the babies born also face a significantly higher risk of death.

"It is high time that we reverse this trend," said Saima Wazed, regional director, WHO South-East Asia.

She stressed that, "adolescents having unique physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and sexual development needs to be given special attention in national and international policies."

Wazed also called for "cross-sectoral collaboration and equitable access to a variety of services", and an increase in 'investments' to tackle adolescent pregnancy and promote their healthy socio-economic development.

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# Crocodile nest numbers go down in Bhitarkanika



This year, the enumerators spotted 114 estuarine or saltwater crocodile nests in four wildlife and forest ranges under Bhitarkanika National Park against last year's 122

Yadav, said Friday. Last year, the Bhitarkanika National Park authority had spotted 122 nests of estuarine crocodiles in the Kanika, Gahirmatha, Mahakalapara, and Rajnagar wildlife and forest ranges under Bhitarkanika National Park, Yadav informed. According to Yadav, the Forest personnel have spotted 102 crocodile nests in the Kanika Forest and Wildlife Range, 10 nests under the Rajnagar Forest and Wildlife Range, and one each at the Gahirmatha Forest and Wildlife Range and the Mahakalapara Forest and Wildlife Range. Last year, the Forest personnel had spotted 107 nests of crocodiles in the Kanika Forest and Wildlife Range, 12 nests under the Rajnagar Forest and Wildlife Range, one crocodile nest in the Gahirmatha Forest and Wildlife Range, and two nests in the

Mahakalapara Forest and Wildlife Range.

Generally, crocodiles tend to form nests in the same spot or nearby areas where they previously laid eggs as they are acquainted with the location.

Female crocodiles lay eggs inside the mangrove forest near the water bodies of the park and guard the eggs until the hatchlings emerge. During the nesting season, crocodiles lay eggs by creating mound-like nests with mangrove leaves. Hatchlings generally emerge from the nests after about 60 to 70 days.

As female crocodiles in Bhitarkanika National Park grow up to 14 feet, they can lay nearly 45 to 60 eggs. If a female crocodile grows longer than 14 feet, she is likely to lay more eggs, Forest officials said.

As many as 50 eggs from a wild nest were collected from the Kanika Forest and Wildlife Range to be incubated in captivity under semi-natural conditions at the Crocodile Breeding and Research Centre in Dangamal within Bhitarkanika National Park, the DFO said.

The 49-year-old captive albino, Gori, and the 21-year-old captive female albino, Mali, laid eggs a week ago in their nest and are now guarding the eggs, after a gap of three years, ACF-in-charge of the Kanika Forest and Wildlife Range, Manas Kumar Das, said.



**GREAT DEVOTION:** Devotees from various villages of Ganjam walking on Krushnaprasad road on their way to Puri to witness Bahuda Yatra of Lord Jagannath and sibling deities in Puri, Friday

## Man awarded 10 yrs in jail for raping woman

**Baripada:** A 41-year-old man was Friday sentenced to 10 years in prison by a court in Mayurbhanj district for raping a woman multiple times. The fast-track special court of Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict. The verdict was delivered on the basis of the statements of 15 witnesses, the victim and her medical report, Special Public Prosecutor Manoranjan Pattnaik said. The victim is a poor married woman. After assuring her of work, the convict took her to Cuttack and kept her in a house where he raped her repeatedly, he said. On the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim at the Badasahi police station April 5, 2016, a case was registered and the accused was arrested, he added.

## Real estate firm faces music for duping investors

**Balasore, July 12:** A court in Balasore district Friday ordered the attachment of properties of a firm that duped investors after promising them flats and shops. The OPID Special Court of Judge Biswajit Das ordered the attachment of all properties of Shri Sai Infrastructure, except an ice plant, said Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Panda. The court has been set up under the Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Act. The court also ordered the public auction and equitable distribution of the money among the investors,

Panda said. Shri Sai Infrastructure had taken advances from several people in 2009, promising them to provide residential flats and shops at Fakir Mohan Golai in Balasore town. "However, the firm did not keep its promises. It neither provided the investors flats as assured nor returned their money. The firm siphoned off over ₹3 crore from 14 investors," said Panda. After a few investors lodged a complaint with the Sahadevkhunta police station in 2016, the government filed a petition before the court, seeking absolute attachment of moveable and immovable properties of the firm.

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## Kharif irrigation begins from Indravati reservoir

**Bhawanipatna/Jayapatna:** Irrigation for the current Kharif season has started in Kalahandi district with water being released from the Indravati reservoir Wednesday. Water was supplied to farmers through the Indravati left, south, and mega lift canals after a puja was performed by an officer of Indravati Irrigation Project at the Indravati Hat Barrage in Mangalpur under Jayapatna block. Irrigation from the Indravati project in Kalahandi has been a lifeline for the district's economy and employment sector. The irrigation target for this Kharif season is 1,18,041 hectares including 57,679 hectares through the left main canal, 34,080 hectares through the south main canal, and 26,281 hectares in the expanded area through the mega lift canal. Farmers in 393 villages from the Lanjigarh, Junagarh, Dharmagarh, and Bhawanipatna constituencies will benefit from this move.

## Guidelines issued for jewellery shop owners to prevent dacoity

**THE DISTRICT POLICE CAME ON THEIR TOES AFTER A PLAN TO COMMIT DACOITY TARGETING JEWELLERY SHOPS WAS FOILED RECENTLY BY THE SPECIAL SQUAD OF BALASORE POLICE**

picious information, urged them to install cloud storage based CCTV systems which will act as force multipliers for the police. She also asked the jewellery shop owners for mandatory character verification of all individuals employed in their shops. The SP also suggested introduction of a register where any individual or customer entering the shop would fill in their Name, ID proof and phone number.

The shop owners and managers were urged to remain alert and cautious of individuals entering their establishments posing as customers.

The district police came on their toes after a plan to commit dacoity targeting jewellery shops was foiled recently by the special squad of Balasore Police.

"Two miscreants who came to Balasore for advance reconnaissance supposedly to commit loot of jewellery shops were apprehended and handed over to Ranchi Police where they have previous antecedents. Evidence of recee of one renowned jewellery shop was found on their mobile phone. This incident prompted police to alert the jewellery shop owners and issue safety advisories for them," Nath said.

Balasore Superintendent of Police Sagarika Nath held discussions with the shop owners Friday in presence of the DIG (Eastern Range) Satyajit Nayak.

The SP besides sharing a helpline number to the shop owners and managers through which they can share any sus-

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Last Date For Submission of Sealed Tender paper/Document : 26.07.2024 By 11:00 AM  
Opening of sealed Tender Paper/Document in Presence of service Provider : 30.07.2024 By 12:00 Noon  
The sealed tender Paper should reach in the O/o the DFO, Balliguda Forest Division, Balliguda, At/Po.- Balliguda, Kandhamal on or before 26.07.2024 by 11:00 AM through Registered/Speed Post/Courier service and can also be dropped in the Tender box placed in the O/o the DFO, Balliguda.  
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer Balliguda Forest Division  
OIPR-08047/11/0001/2425

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK**  
P.O.-BARANG, DIST.-KHURDA, PIN-754005  
PHONE (M) 9437022023  
Email: [deputydirector.kanan@gmail.com](mailto:deputydirector.kanan@gmail.com)  
No.MM-86:  
**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
1 Name of the Work :- Tender for Construction of Gharial exhibit and allied works inside Nandankanan Zoological Park for the year 2024-2025.  
2 No. of Works :- 1 (One) No.  
3 Date of availability of bid document in the portal :- 12.07.2024  
4 Class of Contractor :- 'A' & 'Special' Class Contractor  
5 Last date for receipt of bids in the portal :- 25.07.2024  
6 Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I) :- 26.07.2024  
7 Name & Address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT) :- Deputy Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park, P.O.- Barang, Dist-Khordha, Pin-754005  
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>.  
OIPR-08070/11/0008/2425 Sd./- Deputy Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park

**MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES**  
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India)  
Azad Bhavan, IB-166, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 106.  
Website : [www.makaiaas.gov.in](http://www.makaiaas.gov.in)  
**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION (ADVERTISEMENT)**  
Applications are invited for the following vacancy at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata.  
Sl. No Post Group Pay Scale/Level No. of Vacancy Category Educational Qualification / Age limit (As per approved Recruitment Rules)  
1 Administrative-cum-Finance Officer A (15600-39100) GP-6600 Level-11 (7 CPC) 01 Unreserved Educational and other Qualifications required for direct recruitment: i) Bachelor's Degree. ii) ACA/ACWA/ACS/SAS iii) 10 years experience in a Govt. or a Corporate Orgn. iv) Knowledge in Computer Applications. Age Limit: 40 Years.  
Applications must reach only by Speed Post to the Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) within four weeks from the date of publication of this advertisement in "The Employment News" along with all relevant copies of certificates and documents. Applicants working in Govt./semi-Govt./Autonomous Bodies/PSUs should apply through proper channel. The Envelope should be superscribed "Application for the post of Administrative-cum-Finance Officer". The detailed application may be downloaded from the website of the Institute [www.makaiaas.gov.in](http://www.makaiaas.gov.in).  
N.B. Process for selection to the post of Administrative-cum-Finance Officer at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, may commence in due course, appointment being subject to promulgation of Order from the Judicial Authority in the pending litigation.  
CBC 09123/12/0004/2425 DIRECTOR, MAKAIAS, KOLKATA

**MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES**  
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India)  
Azad Bhavan, IB-166, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 106.  
Website : [www.makaiaas.gov.in](http://www.makaiaas.gov.in)  
**RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION**  
Applications are invited for the following vacancy at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata.  
Sl. No Post Group Pay Scale/Level No. of Vacancy Category Educational Qualification / Age limit (As per approved Recruitment Rules)  
1 LDC/Typist C, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial (5200-20200) GP-1900 Level-2 (7 CPC) (19900) 01 Unreserved Educational and other Qualifications required for direct recruitment: Matriculation Typing Speed: 40 w.p.m. Knowledge of computer applications Experience of working in a reputed Orgn. Age Limit: 28 Years.  
Applications must reach only by Speed Post to the Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) within Four weeks from the date of publication of this advertisement in "The Employment News" along with all copies of certificates and documents. Applicants working in Govt./semi-Govt./Autonomous Bodies/PSUs should apply through proper channel. The Envelope should be superscribed "Application for the post of LDC/Typist". The detailed application may be downloaded from the website of the Institute [www.makaiaas.gov.in](http://www.makaiaas.gov.in).  
CBC 09123/12/0005/2425 DIRECTOR, MAKAIAS

## Gardens for endangered, medicinal plants soon at Berhampur varsity



The university has already established a biodiversity park spread over half-an-acre, housing 53 different species of plants

plants for educational and research purposes in the field of botany.

She emphasised the educational benefits for students and researchers who will have access to a diverse array of plant species. Padmalochan Hembram, an assistant professor in the Botany department overseeing the drive, said they have identified around an acre for setting up a garden for endangered species and another for medicinal plants.

In the garden for endangered species, 200 saplings of 73 various species will be planted, while the latter will feature over 300 plants from 93 medicinal species recognised by the National Medicinal Plant Board.

Hembram informed that they have already gathered 50 species each of endangered plants and medicinal plants from various locations within and outside the state to populate these gardens.

Additionally, the university has already established a biodiversity park spread over half-an-acre, housing 53 different species of plants including bushes, shrubs, aquatic plants, creepers, and climbers.

Plans are afoot to expand this park as part of the university's broader green campus initiative.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, July 12:** Berhampur University here has decided to set up two dedicated gardens within its campus, aimed at preserving endangered plant species and promoting medicinal plants.

Vice-Chancellor Geetanjali Dash said the primary goal of these exclusive gardens is twofold - to safeguard endangered plant species and to cultivate medicinal

FOCUS BIODIVERSITY

# CLIMATE PLEDGES & ACTION



**Amid the largest mass extinction in more than 65 million years, protecting biodiversity is more urgent than ever. Studies show that nearly half of the world's animal species are currently experiencing rapid population declines, with Latin America and Africa facing the most severe loss of biodiversity**

The gulf between climate pledges and action appears even more troubling when one considers that \$20 billion per year represents only 1.1% of the \$1.8 trillion that countries around the world spend annually on environmentally harmful subsidies. These resources, equivalent to 2% of global GDP, support sectors like fossil fuels and industrial agriculture, which account for most greenhouse-gas emissions and drive biodiversity loss.

To protect the planet's natural assets, governments must align their spending with their stated values. The European Union's new Nature Restoration Law, which aims to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and seas by 2030, and all degraded ecosystems by 2050, represents an important step in this direction.

To be sure, there is much more to be done. Ahead of October's UN biodiversity conference in Colombia (COP16), policymakers and climate advocates must continue to build global coalitions to close the biodiversity financing gap. They must also ensure that when it comes to conservation and restoration projects, the communities most affected by environmental degradation—especially indigenous peoples—are included in the decision-making process.

Protecting and restoring biodiversity is crucial to supporting the recovery of our planet's natural ecosystems and mitigating the worst effects of climate change. At COP16, global leaders will have the chance to create a virtuous circle of change. Ensuring a sustainable future requires that they seize this opportunity.

*The writer is a former president of Ireland and former UN high commissioner.*

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This summer of record-breaking heat waves and contentious elections around the world offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the role individuals can play in driving positive change. By building coalitions and amplifying the voices of those most affected by crises, we can muster the courage and political will needed to overcome seemingly insurmountable global challenges.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are prime examples. As a longtime environmental-justice advocate, I have seen firsthand the profound impact of both on frontline communities and indigenous peoples. These populations have been hit the hardest by these interlinked crises, which jeopardize their livelihoods, health, and cultural heritage.

The diverse land and marine environments that sustain indigenous communities also underpin life and society as we know it. We depend on healthy ecosystems for food, shelter, water, medical advances, and disease prevention. More than 50% of the world's GDP, estimated at \$44 trillion, depends on nature. Crucially, thriving ecosystems act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing up to 50% of the greenhouse gases produced by human activities.

By threatening critical carbon sinks like rainforests and oceans, biodiversity loss exacerbates climate change, which in turn accelerates environmental degradation, leaving millions of people, as well as countless plant and animal species, increasingly vulnerable. The good news is that we can reverse this: by fostering resilient and diverse ecosystems, we can mitigate the effects of climate change and create a virtuous circle that protects frontline communities.

Amid the largest mass extinction in more than 65 million years, protecting biodiversity is more urgent than ever.

Studies show that nearly half of the world's animal species are currently experiencing rapid population declines, with Latin America and Africa facing the most severe loss of biodiversity.

While these developments paint a bleak picture, there has been some progress in addressing the biodiversity crisis. In 2022, at the United Nations summit on biodiversity in Montreal (COP15), the parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity approved the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This landmark agreement, which required years of coalition building and advocacy campaigns, outlined a strategy to stop and reverse nature loss, including the ambitious target of preserving at least 30% of the world's land and

seas by 2030.

Under the GBF, developed countries pledged to provide the Global South, where most of the world's remaining biodiversity is located, with at least \$20 billion annually by 2025 and \$30 billion annually by 2030. If fulfilled, these commitments would enable developing countries to implement ambitious national biodiversity action plans, thereby safeguarding the world's most climate-vulnerable populations.

Unfortunately, the world is currently far from achieving these goals. A new report by the London-based think tank ODI reveals that, of the 28 countries it assessed, 23 have failed to fulfill their biodiversity financing commitments as of 2021 (the latest year for which data are available). To meet their 2025 targets, these countries would need to double their contributions.



Mary Robinson

**TO PROTECT THE PLANET'S NATURAL ASSETS, GOVERNMENTS MUST ALIGN THEIR SPENDING WITH THEIR STATED VALUES**

## NSA Reshuffle

The National Security Council Secretariat has undergone several notable changes recently, while also maintaining some continuity. Previously Secretary (West) in the External Affairs Ministry, Pavan Kapoor has been appointed Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA). This move is part of a series of appointments that include Rajinder Khanna, who has been promoted from Deputy NSA to the newly established role of Additional NSA. Khanna, a former chief of India's external intelligence agency, Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW), is stepping into a pivotal role that didn't exist before.

Another key appointment is T.V. Ravichandran, an IPS officer currently serving as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau. He replaces Khanna as Deputy NSA. Ravichandran's initial tenure is set to last until his retirement on August 31, 2024, after which he may continue on a contractual basis. This reshuffle follows the recent appointment of Vikram Misri as the next Foreign Secretary, effective from July 15.

These changes mean that under NSA Ajit Doval, who is now in his third term, there will be one Additional NSA and three Deputy NSAs. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has played a crucial role in arranging these appointments, ensuring a blend of fresh perspectives and experienced leadership within the NSCS.

The strategic nature of these appointments might hint at potential future shifts within the NSA office itself. Delhi is currently abuzz with rumours of a major reshuffle of key secretaries and other significant positions, possibly in September. While these moves appear subtle, they could signal broader changes within India's national security framework.

### WB: Accusations fly against top officials

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has stirred up quite the controversy by writing to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging strict action against West Bengal's Chief Secretary B.P. Gopalika and two senior police officers, Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal and Deputy Police Commissioner (Central) Indira Mukherjee. These letters, sent last month, accuse the officers of serious misconduct, claiming they have blatantly violated All India Services (AIS) conduct rules and acted as "willing accomplices in the misdeeds of the ruling dispensation".

Sources have informed DKB that the Union Home Ministry has initiated disciplinary action against Goyal and Mukherjee for allegedly maligning the office of the state Governor by "promoting and spreading canard".

Bose's detailed notes have created quite a stir in the babu corridors of North Block. Reportedly, in his letters, Bose outlined how the officers, particularly Chief Secretary Gopalika, have openly disregarded the Constitution and conduct rules. He warned that failure to take action could further deteriorate the integrity of the Services and harm national interests. The governor accused Gopalika of aiding and abetting corruption and highlighted issues like job recruitment scandals and alleged lawlessness in the state.

Bose also added allegations against Goyal and Mukherjee, linking them to an investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against him. These accusations seem to be part of a broader effort by Bose to clear his name, as he has previously dismissed the sexual harassment claims as a "sinister plot".

Interestingly, Bose's letters come amidst speculation about his potential removal from his post in Bengal. Factors such as dissent among state BJP leaders and the common practice of reshuffling Raj Bhavan after a new regime takes office in Delhi, fuel these rumours. Despite this, sources indicate that the bureaucratic follow-up on Bose's letters has already begun, making his tenure's continuity less critical.

Bose's time as governor, which began on November 22, 2022, has been anything but smooth. Initially welcomed warmly by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, their relationship quickly soured due to his perceived alignment with the BJP. Bose has faced numerous clashes with the Trinamool Congress, which has accused him of being a Central government puppet, especially after sexual harassment allegations against him surfaced.

The drama continues to unfold, as it is expected that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will retaliate strongly. Watch this space for updates.

### Gujarat HC dismisses babu's cadre transfer plea

The Gujarat High Court has just thrown out the petition of Hitesh Kumar Makwana (IAS: 1995: TN), who was seeking a transfer from Tamil Nadu to his home state of Gujarat. The court pointed out that such a change at the tail end of his career would cause a domino effect on other appointments within the cadre.

Makwana has been battling this issue legally since 1996, almost right after his cadre was assigned. He argued that based on the 2:1 ratio for cadre allotment favouring outsiders and insiders, he should have been placed in Gujarat as an insider. After being denied by the Centre, he took his case to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and then escalated it to the High Court.

However, the Centre stood firm, stating that Makwana had no inherent right to be placed in his home state's cadre. They emphasised that cadre allocation is an administrative matter and can only be subject to judicial review in clear cases of discrimination.

So, after years of legal wrangling, the court's decision brings this long-standing fight to a close. It's a reminder that cadre allocations, while seemingly bureaucratic, have broader implications and are not easily overturned.

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



BABUDOM BYTES  
Dilip Cherian

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has stirred up quite the controversy by writing to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging strict action against West Bengal's Chief Secretary B.P. Gopalika and two senior police officers, Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal and Deputy Police Commissioner (Central) Indira Mukherjee. These letters, sent last month, accuse the officers of serious misconduct, claiming they have blatantly violated All India Services (AIS) conduct rules and acted as "willing accomplices in the misdeeds of the ruling dispensation".

### SPECTRUM RELIGION

## The conundrum of essential religious practice

The framers of the Indian Constitution, while affirming secular liberalism, the way it is propagated, professed and practiced by all people, have subordinated religious freedoms to all other Fundamental Rights. It has also empowered the state to put restrictions for ensuring 'public order, health, and morality', regulate and restrict any economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated religious practice.

Further it has vested in the state to make laws for social welfare and reform'. With public demonstrations of religiosity on the rise and spirituality and secular spirit on the wane in India, the latest decision of Justice Swaminathan of Madras High Court in the P Navin Kumaran Case (2024) upholding the practice of devotees rolling over the banana leaves on which other devotees had taken food as an essential practice has raised the hackles of many discerning analysts. The major debating points are; how to determine what constitutes essential religious practice and to what extent the judiciary has been consistent in their decision making. In the instant case on the

Jeevan Samadhi day of Sri Sadasiva Brahmendral of Nerur, a revered seer, there was a customary practice of doing Angapradakshinam (rolling over) on the banana leaves on which other devotees had par-taken food. Devotees believe that such an act would confer on them spiritual benefit. Justice Swaminathan has overruled an order given by Justice Manikaran in 2015 outlawing such a practice. Justice Swaminathan believes that the right to move in Article 19(1) (d) includes the right to roll over banana leaves. This right is not traceable to only Article 25(1) but also to the also to the right to privacy under Article 21. What Article 25(2) contemplates is not regulation by the state of religious practices as such, except when they run counter to public order, health, and morality. This judgement begs the question of whether rolling over on used banana leaves is not an unhygienic practice. Further, can the right to privacy be invoked in a public space? Surprisingly, Justice Swaminathan observes "If right to privacy includes sexual and gender orientation, it would also include people's spiritual

orientation also."

Harking back to past judgements on finds that in Shirur Matt Case (1954) the Supreme Court had ruled that what constitutes the essential part of religion is primarily to be ascertained with reference to doctrines of that religion. In an interesting case, while the Calcutta High court found Tandav dance by Anand Margis an essential practice, the Supreme Court in Avadhuta Case (2004) overruled it by looking at earlier judicial verdicts and not religious texts. Since Anand Marg came into existence in 1955 & Tandav dance from 1966, the court felt that faith had existed without practice. By this logic, no Jewish, Christian or Islamic practice can be protected if it was not considered integral during the lifetime of Moses, Christ or Muhammad!

There have been, however, a few edifying judgements like Church of God Vs Colony welfare case (2000) where the court while banning loud speakers in religious places had held that "undisputedly no religion prescribed that prayers should be performed by disturbing the peace of other nor does it preach that they should be through

voice amplifiers or beating of drums. In the Sabrimala case (2019) the Supreme Court rightly ruled that exclusionary practices cannot be given the status of essential practice. Invoking Article 17, which bans untouchability, excluding women in the age of 10-50 based on their menstrual status for entering the temple, Justice Chandrachud observed "has no place in a constitutional order founded on dignity and liberty."

It was CJ Latham of Australia who had observed in the Adelaide Company case (1943) : What is religion to one is superstition to another. CJMC Chagla in the State of Bombay vs Narasu Appa Mali Case (1951) had rightly observed : What the state protects is religious faith and belief. If the religious practices run contrary to public order, morality or health, then religious practices must give way before the good of the people of the state as a whole. The Courts, instead of substituting for clergy or priests to interpret religious texts, should stick to the constitutional restrictions of morality, health and public order.

*The writer teaches constitutional law*



Satya Narayan Misra

**THE COURTS, INSTEAD OF SUBSTITUTING FOR CLERGY OR PRIESTS TO INTERPRET RELIGIOUS TEXTS, SHOULD STICK TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTIONS OF MORALITY, HEALTH AND PUBLIC ORDER**

### Challenges for statesmanship

Sir, As expected, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's key allies have demanded huge financial packages for their respective states. Under veteran leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar, the states of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar now stand a chance to gain immensely from the loosening of the Centre's purse strings. The quantum of fiscal assistance offered to the two states can go up to ₹1,30,000 crore, and it is substantial. Thus, the Modi-led government now faces some tough questions. If it concedes to the hefty demands made by the two states, then the outflow of funds will have to be cut down on some other fronts. After all, the Centre must maintain its focus on reducing the country's fiscal deficit as well. If it doesn't, then it risks political instability. One thing is certain: the upcoming budget will test Modi's political acumen and economic vision in a hitherto unprecedented way.

Jayanthi Subramaniam, EAST MUMBAI

### India stands stunted

Sir, The visit of PM Modi to Russia and his hugging of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who is looked down upon as the merchant of death and responsible for the genocide in Ukraine, causing the deaths of thousands of innocent people, including children, is unfortunate, unwarranted, and, more importantly, untimely. It is also cruel that Putin has pushed Indians who went there as security helpers into the war zone in Ukraine to fight for his country, in which many Indians are said to have died. It is also shocking that India has failed to condemn Russia openly and sternly for Putin's merciless act and initial defiance to get our soldiers and other civilians out of the war zone and return them back to India. It appears as if PM Modi has gone to Russia for two main reasons. To plead with Putin and persuade him to return our soldiers and others sent to the war front, lest the BJP government gets real dressing from the Indian people, and next to get decorated with Russia's highest civilian award. In view of this, India stands stunted and exposed of its double standard in its foreign policies in the eyes of all the democratic-loving countries and peace-loving people in the world.

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

### WISDOM CORNER

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. THOMAS A EDISON

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. ALBERT EINSTEIN

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. STEPHEN HAWKING

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1793: Jean-Paul Marat, a leader of the radical Montagnard faction during the French Revolution, was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday, a young Girondin supporter who was subsequently guillotined.
- 1861: General George B. McClellan and Union troops defeated Confederate forces in northwestern Virginia, an area that subsequently became West Virginia.
- 1878: The Treaty of Berlin was signed—replacing the Treaty of San Stefano, which had ended the last of the Russo-Turkish wars.
- 1939: Backed by trumpeter Harry James, American singer Frank Sinatra recorded his first single, From the Bottom of My Heart.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

CLIMATE WAKE-UP CALL

# Himachal Pradesh's shrinking snow cover

Shimla experiences almost negligible snow spells during the last two winters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

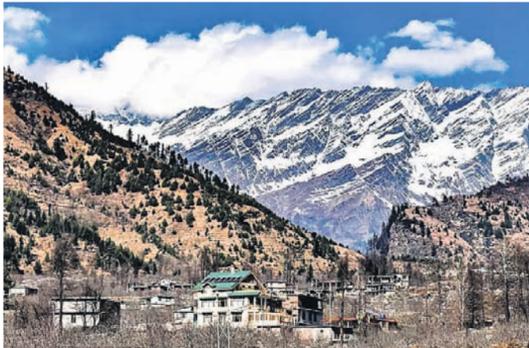
**Shimla, July 12:** The seasonal snow cover in Chenab, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej river basins in Himachal Pradesh decreased by 12.72 per cent in 2023-24 compared to 14.25 per cent in 2022-23, a statement issued here Friday said.

During the early winter months of 2023-24 (October to November), the Chenab, Beas and Sutlej basins showed negative trends in snow cover, whereas the Ravi basin showed a marginal increase, reflecting a positive trend, the statement quoting a study said.

However, results for the peak winter months indicated significant declines in all the basins - 67 per cent in Sutlej, 44 per cent in Ravi, 43 per cent in Beas and 42 per cent in Chenab in January 2024, according to the study conducted by the State Centre on Climate Change, under the aegis of the HP Council for Science, Technology, and Environment (HIMCOSTE).

In February, a positive trend was observed in all basins, with an increase in snow cover, continuing into March 2024.

Based on the analysis, it was observed that the decline was 15.39 per cent in the Chenab basin, 7.65 per cent in Beas, 9.89 per cent in Ravi and 12.45 per cent in Sutlej in 2023-24, leading to an overall decline was 12.72 per cent, Director-cum-Member



- Most of the Himalayan glaciers are losing mass and a large shift is being observed in the snowfall patterns
- Concrete steps like switching over to e-vehicles and renewable energy, which will help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, need to be taken so that the rise in temperatures can be checked

Secretary (HIMCOSTE) DC Rana said.

"We have information about the total snowfall during the winter season from the various observatories operating throughout the State but its spatial extent reflecting that how much area is under snow, cannot be ascertained. But it has now become possible to map the geographical extent of the area

covered under snow during winter season from October to April by using satellite data of different resolutions," Rana said.

Based on various studies, the temperature in the Higher Himalayan Region is comparatively higher than the low-lying areas, which is affecting Himalayan reserves, evidenced by the fact that most of the glaciers are losing mass, Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena said.

A significant shift in snowfall patterns during winters has also been observed, affecting river discharge during the peak summer season, Saxena said.

Shimla has experienced almost negligible snow spells during the last two winters, indicating major changes in weather patterns and if this continues, water shortages may occur in the coming years, he added.

# Bengaluru Tech Summit from Nov 19

BTS aims to position the IT city at the forefront of global tech innovation and collaboration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, July 12:** Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge Friday announced the 27th edition of one of the largest technology shows - Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2024 - scheduled from November 19 to 21.

BTS aims to position the IT city at the forefront of global tech innovation and collaboration. The three-day tech summit is expected to have participation from over 40 countries, with 460+ speakers in over 85 sessions, over 5,000 delegates, 500+ startups and 700+ exhibitors, with an overall expo footfall of 50,000 people.

A 'Breakfast Meet' was held where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah engaged in an interactive session with over 200 CEOs from India's leading IT, Semiconductor and Electronics, Biotech and Startup organisations.

The goal of this meet was to foster an open dialogue between government officials and tech leadership, centered on Karnataka's vibrant tech ecosystem and future prospects.

The Karnataka government's Department of Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology also presented an 'Action Taken Report' addressing the industry representatives' feedback from the 2023 Breakfast Meeting.

Speaking at the event, IT Minister Kharge said Karnataka serves as the headquarters for major tech giants, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and leading unicorns. This success stems not only from the state's industry-friendly policies and programmes, but also from its active engagement and collabora-



tion with the complete tech ecosystem, he said.

"We also deeply value our close association with Global Innovation Alliance Partners and with them, BTS attracts world's foremost leaders, innovators, and disruptors, drawing over 50,000 tech enthusiasts from India and more than 40 nations," he said.

He said the Congress government is listening to the industry to encourage more investments and create more employment, and added that they have got a lot of suggestions and there were certain concerns from the industry also with respect to certain policies and bills.

"All the suggestions have been put forward. We will be shaping it and implementing it as soon as possible," he said.

"We stand at number eight in startup ecosystems and we want to break into the top five. We have funded 983 startups so far in the state," Kharge said.

He said the TIE Global Summit

**"We also deeply value our close association with Global Innovation Alliance Partners and with them, BTS attracts world's foremost leaders, innovators, and disruptors, drawing over 50,000 tech enthusiasts from India and more than 40 nations"**

PRIYANK KHARGE | IT MINISTER, KARNATAKA

is happening in Bengaluru this year. "I request everyone to participate in this. This will be a global event where more than 15,000 startups will be coming together in Karnataka, more than 2,000 venture capitalists are expected to be here as well. There will be a lot of knowledge exchange, there will be a lot of things that we can learn..."

"We will host an urban summit for startups and companies to come together to tackle urban problems, be it related to traffic, urban waste management, water issues...problems that are plagu-

ing the government, governance or the people at large... Agriculture biotech and bio manufacturing will be given greater importance. We have already announced a bio manufacturing plan ahead and are also talking to the union government and Stanford University to ensure how will we enhance technology in agriculture," he said.

"We will focus on biotechnology skill council and bio manufacturing on scale," he added. He also spoke about launching a Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (product and engineering) and said the blueprint will be released in the next three months.

The multi-stage conference at BTS 2024 will serve as a vibrant hub for the exchange of new ideas. Spanning six focused tracks over three days, the conference will cover IT and Deep Tech, Biotech and Healthtech, Startup Ecosystems, Global Innovation Alliance, and a India-USA Tech Conclave.

CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE

# K'taka to challenge CWRC order on water release

Despite a 28% deficit in rainfall, an all-party meeting will be convened to decide the state's next actions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, July 12:** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Friday said an appeal will be filed against the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) directive to the State to release one tmcft of Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu daily till the end of this month.

After a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the Water Resources Minister, Ministers from the Cauvery river basin area, and officials, he also said that an all-party meeting will be held July 14 to decide on the state's next course of action.

On July 5, the Krishnaraja Sagar dam recorded a water level exceeding 100 feet, yet remains below its full capacity of 124.80 feet. Between June 1 and July 9, Karnataka experienced an inflow of just 41.651 tmc ft into its four reservoirs, marking a 28.71% shortfall compared to historical averages.

"Despite forecasts for normal rains this time, there is a deficit of 28 per cent in inflow so far. This was clearly stated by us in our stand before the CWRC. Also, we requested not to take any decision till the end of July, still CWRC has asked to release one tmcft of water every day from July 12," Siddaramaiah said.

He said today's meeting opined that the government should file

an appeal against this order before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

"All parties are together on Karnataka's water issue. Therefore, an all-party meeting will be held (July 14)," the Chief Minister said.

Union Ministers, Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members from the State and MLAs from Cauvery river basin region will also be invited to the meeting, he said, adding, the government will decide its next move taking everyone into confidence.

Siddaramaiah said 5000 cusecs of water is being released to Tamil Nadu at Biligundlu which is equal to the Kabini dam inflow.

A total of only 60 tmcft of water is available in all the four reservoirs of Cauvery basin in the state, he pointed out, adding that "We also need to provide water for agricultural activities. So, keeping in mind the deficit rains, we have requested to wait till July end."

Tamil Nadu has raised concerns that Karnataka did not maintain necessary environmental water flows between February and May 2024. As the current year is classified as normal, Tamil Nadu asserts that the water flow at Biligundlu should align with the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal's award, which has been upheld by the Supreme Court.



Visitors look at old currency notes and coins displayed at a stall during Nanya Darshini 2024 exhibition organised by Karnataka Numismatic Society, in Bangalore, Friday

# Himachal students to tour ISRO's Gujarat centre

Minister of Urban Rural Planning and Technical Education, Rajesh Dharmani, will flag off the vehicle carrying the group of students from various schools in Bilaspur district to Ahmedabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bilaspur (HP), July 12:** A group of 10 school students of Bilaspur district will get an opportunity to learn about space science and visit the Space Applications Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Gujarat Science City in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, officials said Friday.

The aim of such programmes is to develop the interest of children studying in rural areas of Bilaspur district towards science and to attract them towards space science, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bilaspur Nidhi Patel said.

Minister of Urban Rural



Planning and Technical Education, Rajesh Dharmani, will flag off the vehicle carrying the group of students from various schools in Bilaspur district to Ahmedabad July 15, she said.

The ADC said that last year, a space lab was inaugurated in a government school in Ghumarwin, where models of

various ISRO-run programmes were installed.

Taking this initiative forward, meritorious science students from 10 government schools of the district are being given a chance to visit SAC and Gujarat Science City, she added.

This will help these students to see and understand the work-

**"The aim of such programmes is to develop the interest of children studying in rural areas of Bilaspur district towards science and to attract them towards space science"**

NIDHI PATEL | ADC, BILASPUR

ing of models they have seen and read about in the Space Lab, the ADC said.

SAC is known for the development, manufacture and qualification of communication, navigation, earth observation and planetary payloads and related data processing and ground systems in the areas of communication, broadcasting, remote sensing and disaster monitoring and mitigation, Patel said.

In addition to SAC, the school children will also visit the country's largest space museum at Gujarat Science City, the state-of-the-art IMAX 3D theatre, energy park, life science park, musical fountains and an amphitheatre, she added.

# SC names Justice Rajiv Shaktihar as new CJ of Himachal

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Shimla, July 12:** Justice Rajiv Shaktihar, a senior judge from Delhi High Court, has been recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium to become the new Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

He will replace Justice MS Ramachandra Rao, who is now appointed as the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court. Justice Shaktihar's appointment is part of a larger reshuffle involving the Chief Justices of seven High Courts.

Justice Shaktihar was appointed as a judge of Delhi High Court April 11, 2008, and became a permanent judge October 17, 2011. He served at Madras High Court from April 11, 2016, before being transferred back to Delhi High Court January 15, 2018.

**He will replace Justice MS Ramachandra Rao, who is now appointed as the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court**

Born in Delhi, Justice Shaktihar completed his B.Com (Hons) from Delhi University in 1984 and obtained his LLB from the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi in 1987.

He also holds a Chartered Accountancy qualification, having been certified in 1987 and became an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in 1988. In 1994, he completed an advanced law course from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London.

Throughout his career, Justice Shaktihar has practised in the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court, and other High Courts, specialising in indirect taxes, foreign exchange, and service laws.



# national

## of the day quote

It (Congress) could not win even 100 Lok Sabha seats (out of 543), but was celebrating, while Modi has become PM for a third consecutive time

The case against Kejriwal is of a serious nature and his prosecution will continue. It is completely wrong to misinterpret the apex court order as if Kejriwal has been honourably discharged in the case

Winning and losing happen in life. I urge everyone to refrain from using derogatory language and being nasty towards Smt. Smriti Irani or any other leader for that matter

## SAMVIDHAAN HATYA DIWAS

**New Delhi, July 12:** The Congress Friday slammed the government's move to declare June 25, the day the Emergency was declared in 1975, as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' as yet another "headline grabbing exercise in hypocrisy" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Taking a swipe at the decision, the opposition party also said that from now on, every year November 8, the day when demonetisation was announced in 2016, the people of India will observe "Aajivika Hatya Diwas" and a gazette notification will also be issued soon. The Congress' reaction came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the government has decided to observe June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya



This (Central) government is not stable... is not strong. It may not continue also ...My best wishes to them

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

## BLAZE AT KOLKATA VEST FACTORY DOUSED

A massive fire broke out at a vest manufacturing unit and warehouse in the city's Dum Dum area in the early hours of Friday, police said. No injuries were reported from the blaze, which erupted around 3 am at Nagerbazar on Jessore Road, they said



## MAHA COUNCIL POLLS

### Mahayuti wins all 9 seats it contested

**Mumbai, July 12:** The ruling Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra Friday won all the nine seats it contested in the biennial elections to 11 seats for the state legislative council. In the results announced in the evening for the polls conducted earlier in the day, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won five seats, while Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) bagged two each. From the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Milind Narvekar, close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and Congress candidate Pradnya Satav won the elections. Peasants and Workers' Party (PWP) candidate Jayant Patil, who was supported by Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP), lost the polls. The election was necessitated as 11 members of the legislative council (MLCs) are completing their six-year term July 27. The 288-member legislative assembly was the electoral college for the polls and its current strength is 274. Each winning candidate required a quota of 23 first-preference votes. The BJP is the largest party in the assembly with 103 members, followed by the Shiv Sena (38), NCP (42), Congress (37), Shiv Sena (UBT) 15 and NCP (SP) 10. The BJP had fielded five candidates - former Maharashtra minister Pankaja Munde, Yogesh Tilekar, Parinay Phuke, Amit Gorkhe and Sadabhau Khot, and its ally Shiv Sena two - former Lok Sabha MPs Krupal Tumane and Bhavana Gawali. NCP had given tickets to Shivajirao Garje and Rajesh Vitekar. The Congress had nominated Satav for another term, while Sena (UBT) had fielded Narvekar. The third MVA constituent, NCP (SP), did not field its nominee and instead extended support to PWP's Jayant Patil.

# Cong slams govt move



Yet another headline grabbing exercise in hypocrisy by the non-biological PM who had imposed an undeclared Emergency for ten long years before the people of India handed him a decisive personal, political, and moral defeat on June 4, 2024 - which will go down in history as Modi Mukti Diwas

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONG GENERAL SECY

Diwas' to commemorate the 'massive contributions' of those who endured inhuman pains during the period. Congress General Secretary (In-charge, Communications), Jairam Ramesh said, "Yet another headline grabbing exercise

in hypocrisy by the non-biological PM who had imposed an undeclared Emergency for ten long years before the people of India handed him a decisive personal, political, and moral defeat on June 4, 2024 - which will go down in history as Modi Mukti Diwas."

"This is a non-biological PM who has subjected the Constitution of India and its principles, values, and institutions to systematic assault," Ramesh said on X. "This is a non-biological PM whose ideological parivar had rejected the Constitution of India in Nov 1949 on the grounds that it did not derive inspiration from Manusmriti. This is a non-biological PM for whom democracy means only demo-kursi," the Congress leader said. Later, Ramesh also shared the video from Prime Minister Modi's November 8, 2016, speech when he announced demonetisation. "From now on, every year on 8th November, people of India will celebrate 'Aajivika Hatya Diwas (Livelihood Killing Day)'. Its gazette notification will also be issued soon," Ramesh

said in another post on X. A gazette notification issued on Friday by the Union Home Ministry notes that Emergency was declared on June 25, 1975, following which there was "gross abuse of power by the government of the day and people of India were subjected to excesses and atrocities". The people of India have abiding faith in the Constitution and the power of its resilient democracy, it said. "Therefore, Government of India declares 25th June as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to pay tribute to all those who suffered and fought against the gross abuse of power during the period of Emergency and to recommit the people of India to not support in any manner such gross abuse of power; in future," says the notification.

## Lightning strikes kill 21 in Bihar

**Patna, July 12:** A total of 21 people died across Bihar in lightning-related incidents in the last 24 hours, the Chief Minister's Office said Friday. The maximum number of six fatalities were reported from Madhubani, followed by four in Aurangabad, two from Patna, and one each from Rohtas, Bhojpur, Kaimur, Saran, Jehanabad, Gopalganj, Supaul, Lakhisarai and Madhepura districts, the CMO said in a statement. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has condeoled the deaths and announced an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. He also urged people to take all precautions during bad weather, avoid going outdoors unless necessary and follow advisories issued by the disaster management department from time to time. Rain and thunderstorms have been lashing Bihar for the past few weeks, and close to 70 people have been killed in lightning-related incidents.

# Parents should be in loop: U'khand Panel

**Dehradun, July 12:** A panel framing rules for Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code is trying to ensure that data provided by live-in couples remains protected but feels that information about those aged between 18 and 21 should be given to their parents, the committee's chief said Friday. The UCC, passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly in February, makes registration of live-in relationships and marriages mandatory. The report of an expert committee constituted to draft UCC under the chairmanship of Justice (retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai was uploaded on the website www.ucc.uk.gov.in Friday. The five-member panel headed by Desai was constituted May 27, 2022. It received suggestions from 2.33 lakh people through 43 public dialogue programmes and various mediums. The committee submitted its report February 2 this year. Chairman of the UCC's rules-making and implementation committee,

## LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP



A panel drafting rules for Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code (UCC) aims to safeguard data of live-in couples while recommending parental notification for couples aged 18-21. The committee, led by Shatrughna Singh, is advanced in its implementation efforts. The UCC, passed in February, requires mandatory registration of marriages and live-in relationships.

Shatrughna Singh, who was also a part of the Justice (retd) Desai panel, said the report could not be made public earlier because the model code of conduct was in force. The panel framing rules for the implementation of UCC will ensure there is no breach of privacy of data provided by peo-

ple at the time of registering their marriages and live-in relationships, he said at a press conference here. Asked whether a mandatory provision of informing the parents about a live-in couple aged between 18 and 21 years would not be an assault on their privacy, Singh, who was formerly the

chief secretary of Uttarakhand, said it was debatable. "Data of live-in couples above 21 years of age will be totally protected. But, for couples aged between 18 and 21 years, the committee was of the view that the age (despite the fact that they have voting rights) is tender and so the parents should also be in the loop by way of precaution for the safety of the couple," he said. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly February 7, became a law with President Droupadi Murmu giving her assent to it March 11. Uttarakhand is the first state in the country after Independence to adopt such a law. The Uniform Civil Code of Uttarakhand Act, 2024, is meant to govern and regulate the laws relating to marriage and divorce, succession, live-in relationships, inheritance and maintenance for all citizens irrespective of their religion, gender, caste, or sex. It leaves Scheduled Tribes out of its ambit.

## SHORT TAKES

### Delhi court extends Kejriwal's custody

**New Delhi:** A court here Friday extended till July 25 the judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case linked to the alleged excise policy scam being probed by the CBI. Kejriwal was produced through video conferencing before Special Judge Kavari Baweja. He appeared in connection with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) cases on the expiry of his judicial custody.

### Top court extends Malik's interim bail

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Friday extended by two weeks the interim bail granted earlier on medical grounds to former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik in a money laundering case. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma took note of the submissions of a counsel, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, that he was yet to receive fresh instructions in the case and adjourned the hearing by two weeks.

### Bittu Bajrangli claims threat to life

**Faridabad (Haryana):** A 15-year-old boy was apprehended in Rajasthan's Deegh Friday for allegedly making threatening phone calls to cow vigilante Bittu Bajrangli, police said here. Bajrangli filed a police complaint Wednesday, claiming he was getting threat calls before the proposed July 22 Braj Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra in Haryana's Nuh, an event that was marred by violence last year after a mob tried to stop it. Five people, including two home guards, were killed and many injured in the violence that erupted July 31 last year in Nuh and spread to other areas of the state. In Gurugram, a naib imam was killed at a mosque amid a series of incidents of arson.

### ED arrests B Nagendra

**Bangalore:** The Enforcement Directorate Friday arrested former state Minister and Congress leader B Nagendra in connection with a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited, sources said. The sources said the legislator was taken into custody at around 10.30 pm at the agency's office here. He was questioned for more than 13 hours.

# Jagan booked in attempt to murder case

**Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), July 12:** Andhra Pradesh police registered an "attempt to murder" case against former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, two senior IPS officers and two retired officials, following a complaint lodged by a TDP MLA, an official said Friday. The complaint was lodged by the ruling party's Undi MLA K Raghurama Krishna Raju, who was a YSRCP Lok Sabha MP between 2019 and 2024 but had a fall-out with Reddy at an early stage. Besides Reddy, police booked senior IPS officers PV Sunil Kumar and PSR Sitaramanjanyulu and retired police officer R Vijay Paul and former Guntur Government General Hospital superintendent G Prabhavati, the official said. Vijay Paul and Prabhavati have superannuated. "Raju sent his police com-



plaint through mail one month ago and after taking legal opinion, I registered a case at 7 pm Thursday against the former CM and others," the official told PTI. Raju, a former MP, also alleged that he was subjected to "custodial torture," the official added. Police booked the five accused persons under IPC Sections 120 B, 166, 167, 197, 307, 326, 465 and 506 read with 34. Police invoked the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as the case is three years old. The case was booked at Nagarampalem police station

in Guntur. TDP leader Raju's 2021 arrest case came to the fore in Andhra Pradesh after he lodged a complaint against Reddy and some officials over it June 10. He accused the former CM and the senior officials of "plotting" a criminal "conspiracy" against him. Raju, 62, alleged in his complaint that senior IPS officers Sunil Kumar and Sitaramanjanyulu, police officer Vijaya Paul and government doctor Prabhavathi were part of that "conspiracy." He was arrested in May, 2021 in the middle of the Covid-19 second wave. "A false case was registered against me by the CB-CID of the Andhra Pradesh government. I was arrested May 14, 2021 without due process, I was bullied, unlawfully physically pulled inside the police vehicle, and forcibly taken to Guntur the same night," Raju alleged in the complaint.



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren during the distribution of the appointment letters to 1500 newly appointed PGT teachers, in Ranchi

# Political slugfest in Bihar over special status demand

The demand was first made soon after the creation of Jharkhand robbed the state of its mineral wealth, though the Centre has been of the view that the grant of special status was no longer possible since the provision was scrapped by the 14th Finance Commission

Senior Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, whose party is a part of the Opposition coalition in the state, took potshots at the BJP-JD(U) combine. She said, "There could not be a greater irony that the BJP, which rules the Centre, is not accepting the demand raised by the JD(U) despite being dependent on the ally." The allusion was to the JD(U), headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, passing a resolution at its national executive meeting held last month seeking special category status, or, adequate assistance in the form of a special economic package. The Congress leader also took a swipe at the JD(U) supremo and said, "The PM should show some respect for his ally who has realigned with him after ditching us and making



umpteenth volte-face". The CM, who had helped the formation of the INDIA bloc, returned to the BJP-led NDA in January this year. Kumar's deputy Vijay Kumar Sinha, who belongs to the BJP, was asked about a meeting, in Delhi a day ago, between Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Samrat Choudhary, another

Bihar Deputy CM who holds the finance portfolio and is understood to have submitted before her the state's expectations from the upcoming budget. Evading a direct reply, Sinha said, "The PM has made it clear that he wants a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India). That is possible only when Bihar, too, is developed. All that is needed for

growth of each and every state, will be done." Choudhary, who also heads the state BJP, returned from the national capital in the evening, and asserted, "The Prime Minister has always been concerned about the development of Bihar and we look forward to full cooperation from the PM and the Union finance minister." He also ducked pointed queries about the demand for special status raised vehemently by the JD(U), saying "all works that are pending in Bihar will be completed with central help". Meanwhile, state minister and senior JD(U) leader Shrawan Kumar alleged that the demand for special status was "ignored" by the previous Congress-led UPA government at the Centre and hoped that Modi would give Bihar its due. Earlier, NDA partner Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) headed by Union minister

Chirag Paswan had also come out in support of the demand. The party's MP Arun Bharti had told PTI-Video, "Our party has been in support of special status to Bihar since the very beginning. We are confident of some assistance, in the form of either special status or a special package." However, the RJD, which helms the Mahagathbandhan, lashed out at the NDA claiming that the ruling coalition was trying to hoodwink the people. RJD MLA Bhai Virendra said, "The BJP and the JD(U) share power in the Centre as well as in the state. Yet, instead of taking the necessary steps, they are raising demands. Do they think the people are fools?". The RJD leader, whose party was ruling Bihar when it was bifurcated in 2000, pointed out that the demand for special status was first raised by the Rabri Devi government.

# national

## of the day quote

Strong opposition to the proposal to teach Manusmriti in the Law Department of Delhi University, which went against dignity and honour of the Indian Constitution and its egalitarian and welfare objectives, is natural and the decision to cancel this proposal is a welcome step

What we have already installed here is South Asia's most advanced container handling technology. And once we complete the automation and the Vessel Traffic Management System, Vizhinjam will be in a class of its own as one of the most technologically sophisticated transshipment ports in the world

Despite forecasts for normal rains this time, there is a deficit of 28 per cent in inflow so far. This was clearly stated by us in our stand before the CWRC. Also, we requested not to take any decision till the end of July, still CWRC has asked to release one tmcft of water every day from July 12

## X POST OF THE DAY

Height of misuse of central agencies by Modi gang Now ED has arrested B. Nagendra, minister in Karnataka Govt who defeated the master of corruption B. Sriramulu in elections. B. Sriramulu has been right hand of Bellary mining mafia Janardhan Reddy who is Modi's friend. This is height of shamelessness from Adani's servants and the court of law will show them their place soon.

## SHORT TAKES

### Human trafficking module busted

Srinagar: A human trafficking module was busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district and four minor Rohingya girls were rescued, police said Friday. Acting on a tip off from reliable sources, the police in Baramulla successfully dismantled a human trafficking module operating in Ushkura, a police spokesman said. He said the investigation revealed that Shakeel Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ushkura, was involved in the trafficking and exploitation of minor girls from outside the Union Territory.

### Delhi BJP protests

New Delhi: BJP leaders and workers Friday staged a protest against the AAP government near the Delhi Secretariat over the power "tariff hike" in the city. The BJP workers along with representatives of Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) also burnt copies of electricity bills and demanded that the hike in power purchase adjustment charge (PPAC) be rolled back. Addressing the protesters, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the Kejriwal government raised PPAC without touching the per unit cost of electricity for political benefit.

### Goods train derails

Patna: A goods train derailed near Patna Friday, affecting rail traffic on the Fatuha-Islampur section, officials said. The incident happened near Daniyan station, about 40 km from Patna town, they said. Six carriages of a goods train jumped the tracks in the afternoon, the East Central Railway said in a statement.



Rajasthan government is committed to ensure uninterrupted power supply  
BHAJAN LAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM

## INDIA-BHUTAN HOLD TALKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

India and Bhutan Friday agreed to work together in the areas of air quality, forest, wildlife management and capacity building in the field of environment and climate change, with New Delhi suggesting holding joint working group meetings between the two countries



## KEJRIWAL INTERIM BAIL

# Defeat of BJP's conspiracies: AAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: The AAP Friday described the Supreme Court order granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the ED's money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam as a "victory of truth" and "defeat of the BJP's conspiracy" against him.

The BJP, however, said the Supreme Court order was not a victory for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as the court has put its "seal of approval" on Kejriwal being guilty in the excise policy case.

Now even the court has clearly stated that Kejriwal should not perform any of his duties as chief minister, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said, adding that if the AAP national convener has any morality, he should resign as CM.

Even after the apex court order, Kejriwal, the national convener of the AAP, will remain in jail as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested him in a corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam. In a joint press conference, AAP leaders Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Sandeep Pathak termed the Supreme Court order "historic" and a "victory of truth". Earlier, the party in a post in Hindi on 'X', said



KEJRIWAL WAS GRANTED BAIL LAST MONTH BY THE ROUSE AVENUE COURT IN THE EXCISE POLICY-LINKED MONEY LAUNDERING CASE BUT THE ORDER WAS STAYED BY THE DELHI HIGH COURT  
ATISHI CLAIMED THE DECISIONS OF THE ROUSE AVENUE COURT AND THE SUPREME COURT PROVE THE ARREST OF KEJRIWAL AND THE "WITCH HUNTING" OF AAP LEADERS AND MINISTERS FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS IN THE NAME OF THE "SO-CALLED" LIQUOR SCAM IS ONLY A CONSPIRACY HATCHED BY THE BJP

"Satyameva Jayate (truth alone triumphs)". The Delhi cabinet minister noted that while granting bail to Kejriwal, the trial court had said that the ED "has no evidence against him" and the agency is adopting a "biased attitude" in the case. "Today, the Supreme Court put its stamp of approval on the lower court's decision and granted bail to Kejriwal in the ED case. The

BJP was aware that since the lower court has granted bail to Kejriwal, the Supreme Court will also do so. That's why they used another political tool of theirs -- CBI -- to get Kejriwal arrested," Atishi claimed. Terming the apex court's order "historic" for the entire country, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak noted some decisions of the court determine the direction

## NEET-UG HC grants CBI custody of 13 accused



Members of All India Students Association (AISA) stage a protest against the National Testing Agency (NTA) over the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024 results in Patna, Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: The Patna High Court Friday granted the CBI the custody of 13 people arrested by the Bihar police in connection with NEET-UG paper leak case.

The central probe agency will now be able to question these accused in custody and also confront them with kingpin Rocky alias Rakesh Ranjan who was arrested Thursday.

The agency had sought the custody of the 13 individuals, arrested by the state police, who were subsequently sent to judicial custody following a brief period of police remand.

The CBI plea was turned down by the Exclusive Magistrate, CBI, Patna July 2 on the grounds that the statutory period seeking police custody within the first 15 days since the arrest had elapsed.

The CBI challenged the order in the High Court saying that it had taken up investigation in June and should be given chance to examine the suspects arrested by the state police.

The central agency had said the accused arrested by the state police had not even undergone 15 days of police custody. According to sources, the accused were in the custody of the Patna Police and Economic Offence Units of the Bihar Police for just two to four days and sent to judicial custody. The CBI argued that it may be given the custody of these accused for the remaining period of their police remand which could be from 11-13 days which was granted by the High Court. "Considering the seriousness of the case and in the interest of justice, the operation of the order...passed by the the Exclusive

Magistrate...shall remain stayed," Justice Sandeep Kumar held. Justice Kumar directed the Exclusive Magistrate to grant the custody of the 13 accused to the CBI Friday itself.

"The Exclusive Magistrate, CBI, Patna will grant the remand on the CBI producing the web-copy of the order. The Superintendent of the Beur Central Jail, Patna/any other jail in which the Respondents are in custody will give the custody...to the CBI today itself and will hand over the accused persons to the CBI and will not delay the handing-over of the Respondents on any ground," he said.

The CBI, which is probing the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam, has registered six FIRs in the matter so far with nearly 57 arrests in which 12 were made by the central agency while remaining were various state police forces. Twenty-two persons have got bail so far. The FIR from Bihar pertains to paper leaks, while those registered in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, are linked to the impersonation of candidates and cheating. The agency's own FIR on a reference from the Union Education Ministry pertains to a "comprehensive investigation" into the alleged irregularities in the examination.

The NEET-UG is conducted by the National Testing Agency for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions. This year, the exam was conducted May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. More than 23 lakh candidates had appeared for the test.

## Delhi HC denies bail to Bibhav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: The Delhi High Court Friday denied bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar who is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal.

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta dismissed Kumar's bail plea, saying he enjoys "considerable influence" and no ground was made out to grant him the relief. It cannot be ruled out that witnesses may be influenced or evidence tampered with in case the petitioner is released on bail, said the judge.

Keeping in view the nature of accusations and apprehension of the witnesses being influenced, no grounds are made out for releasing the petitioner on bail at this stage, the judge concluded. "Application is accordingly dismissed." Kumar, presently in judicial custody, allegedly assaulted Maliwal May 13 at Kejriwal's official residence. An FIR was registered against Kumar May 16 under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including those related to criminal intimidation, assault or using criminal force on a woman with the intent to disrobe, and attempt to commit culpable homicide. He was arrested May 18. Kumar had sought bail, claiming the allegations were false and his custody was no longer required as the probe was over.



A security personnel keeps vigil near the area where a boat sank in the floodwaters, in Goalpara district of Assam PTI PHOTO

## Pooja Khedkar to be sacked if guilty; Centre starts probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, July 12: Probationary IAS officer Pooja Khedkar, who is at the centre of a controversy over alleged misuse of power and privileges, may be terminated from service if found guilty, official sources said Friday.

They said all documents presented by her to secure her candidature in the civil services examination and then for selection in the service will be re-examined

by a single-member committee constituted by the Centre Thursday.

The panel has started its investigation, the sources said. "The officer may be terminated from the service if found guilty. She may face criminal charges also in case she is found to have misrepresented a fact or done any sort of manipulation in documents relied upon for her selection," a source said. The single-member probe committee of Manoj Kumar Dwivedi,



Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, has been asked to submit its report within two weeks, the sources said. In the meantime, Khedkar Thursday assumed her new role as assistant collector at the

Washim District Collectorate in the Vidarbha region after being transferred from Pune where she allegedly bullied everyone around and also placed a red beacon atop a private Audi (a luxury sedan) car used by her that also had 'Maharashtra Government' written on it. Khedkar has been under intense scrutiny for allegedly manipulating benefits under the physical disabilities category and OBC quota to secure her position in the Indian Administrative Service.

## Mamata meets Uddhav Thackeray

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 12: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Friday said the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre was unstable, and may not complete its term.

Banerjee met Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray at his residence 'Matoshree' in the Bandra area here. She would also be meeting NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar during her visit, she said.



"This government may not continue also. This is not a stable government," she said at a press conference with Thackeray. "Khela has begun, it will go on," Banerjee said when asked to elaborate.

On the Union government's move to observe June 25, when Emergency was imposed in 1975, as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas', Banerjee said times associated with Emergency were being seen most during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The West Bengal CM said no one was consulted when the three laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) that replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively, were tabled in Parliament.

## SC asks states to consider setting up Gram Nyayalayas

THE APEX COURT DIRECTED THE CHIEF SECRETARIES OF STATES AND REGISTRAR GENERALS OF THE HIGH COURTS TO FILE AFFIDAVITS WITHIN SIX WEEKS POINTING OUT THE DETAILS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF GRAM NYAYALAYAS, INCLUDING ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THEM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: The Supreme Court Friday said establishing 'Gram Nyayalayas' would help in providing affordable and speedy justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and also reduce the huge pendency of cases in trial courts.

An Act passed by Parliament in 2008 provided for the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas at the grassroots level for providing access to justice to citizens and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to anyone by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. The apex court directed the chief secretaries of states and registrar generals of the high courts to file affidavits within six



weeks pointing out the details regarding establishment and functioning of Gram Nyayalayas, including about infrastructure made available for them.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan passed the order after advocate Prashant

Bhushan, appearing for petitioner NGO National Federation of Societies for Past Justice and others, said that 16 years after passing of the Act, only 264 Gram Nyayalayas were functional.

The plea was filed in the apex court in 2019 seeking a direc-

tion to the Centre and all states for taking steps to set up Gram Nyayalayas under the supervision of the top court.

It has said that sections 5 and 6 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, provide that state government in consultation with the high court will appoint a 'Nyayadhikari' for each Gram Nyayalaya, who will be a person eligible to be appointed as a judicial magistrate of the first class.

During the hearing, Bhushan said the Act came into being in 2008 and a minimum of 6,000 Gram Nyayalayas should have been established by now.

The bench observed that in its view, establishment of Gram Nyayalayas, apart from providing affordable and speedy justice at doorsteps, "would also

de-clog the huge pendency of matters pending before the trial courts".

It said the idea behind establishment of Gram Nyayalayas appears to be providing easy access to justice to the citizens. The bench observed that right to justice includes the right to affordable justice.

It said the affidavits shall also place on record the details of infrastructure which are made available for the Gram Nyayalayas.

The apex court said before filing the affidavits, the state chief secretaries and registrar generals of high courts should have meeting and coordinate with regard to the policy for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in respective states.

# international



**We know that Russian President Putin's regime wants above all to undermine our support for Ukraine in its defence against the Russian war of aggression, but the German government won't be intimidated**  
MAXIMILIAN KALL | INTERIOR MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, GERMANY

**CRACKDOWN ON MIGRANTS**  
Finnish lawmakers Friday narrowly approved a controversial bill that will allow border guards to turn away third-country migrants attempting to enter from neighbouring Russia



## of the day quote

**We strongly protest against Japan's unjust claims to Dokdo, which is clearly our inherent territory historically, geographically and by international law, and we urge Japan to retract the statement immediately**  
LIM SOO-SUK | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, SOUTH KOREA

**We can expect broad continuity in India's domestic and foreign policies. Certainly, we should expect our bilateral relations, which are deep and enduring, to remain on an upward trajectory**  
THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM | PRESIDENT, SINGAPORE

**We reject any attempt to deny our strategic agencies, especially by the use of force that seek to coerce and subordinate the national interests of the Philippines**  
EDUARDO ANO | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, THE PHILIPPINES

## SHORT TAKES

### Another rocket failure for China

**Beijing:** A Chinese rocket start-up has suffered yet another launch failure, resulting in the loss of three satellites as part of a commercial constellation being assembled for global weather forecasting and earthquake prediction. Hyperbola-1, a 24-metre high solid-fuel rocket produced by iSpace, lifted off Thursday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China's Gobi Desert. "The rocket's first, second and third stages flew normally, but the fourth stage suffered an anomaly and the launch mission ended in failure," the company said.

### 7 Indians among 60 missing in landslide

**Kathmandu:** At least seven Indian nationals are among more than 60 passengers who are believed to be missing after two buses were swept away by a massive landslide and pushed into a swollen river in Nepal early Friday, officials and media reports said. The two buses carrying 65 passengers went missing in the Trishuli River in the landslides at Simaltal area along the Narayanghat-Mugling road in Chitwan district.

### Tax hikes for rich: Putin signs bill

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin Friday endorsed a bill that raises income taxes for the rich, part of efforts to help fill government coffers during the fighting in Ukraine. Putin signed the bill into law two days after it was approved by both houses of parliament. The legislation, which envisages a progressive tax on personal income, is a major change from the flat-rate tax that was widely credited with improving revenue collections after it was introduced in 2001.

### Indian techie drowns in US

**Washington:** A 26-year-old Indian IT professional working in California drowned in the famous Glacier National Park in the US state of Montana while on vacation with friends, according to park authorities. The victim has been identified as Siddhant Vitthal Patil, the National Park Service said in a statement. Patil, who was a technology professional, was hiking above the gorge June 6 on Avalanche Lake Trail, where he fell off a large rock into Avalanche Creek.

# Prachanda loses trust vote

EX-PREMIER KP SHARMA OLI SET TO BE NEW NEPAL PRIME MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kathmandu, July 12:** Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Friday lost a vote of confidence in Parliament after coalition partner CPN-UML withdrew its support to him, a development that will lead to the formation of a new government led by ex-premier K P Sharma Oli.

Prachanda received only 63 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives (HoR) and there were 194 votes against the motion. At least 138 votes are needed to win the vote of trust. A total of 258 HoR members participated in the voting while one member abstained.

Prachanda, 69, chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre (CPN-MC), had survived four trust votes since he assumed the Prime Minister's post December 25, 2022.

He faced the same predicament yet another time because former Prime Minister Oli-led Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) withdrew support from the Prachanda-led government last week after inking a power-sharing deal with the largest party in the House, the Nepali Congress (NC).

Earlier, Speaker of the HoR Dev Raj Ghimire put Prachanda's Vote of Trust for voting according to Article 100 Clause 2 of the Constitution. After voting was



**“If the NC and the UML were united by common beliefs or goals, I would not be concerned. Instead, you are bound by a fear of good governance”**  
PUSHPA KAMAL DAHAL 'PRACHANDA' | PM, NEPAL

completed, he announced that the Vote of Trust proposed by Prime Minister Prachanda was defeated with a majority vote.

Speaker Ghimire will now inform President Ram Chandra Paudel, who in turn, will invite two or more political parties to stake a claim for the new gov-

ernment according to Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution. This paves the way for the NC and the CPN-UML to form a new coalition government.

The NC has 89 seats in the HoR, while CPN-UML has 78. Their combined strength of 167 is much more than the 138 required for a majority in the lower house.

Nepali Congress (NC) President Sher Bahadur Deuba has already endorsed Oli as the next Prime Minister. NC President Deuba and CPN-

UML chairman Oli inked a 7-point deal Monday to form a new coalition toppling Prachanda-led government.

According to the agreement, Oli and Deuba will share the premiership during the remaining period of the House of Representatives; in the first phase Oli will become the Prime Minister for one and a half years and then, Deuba will take the seat for the rest of the period.

Prachanda, whose party had 32 seats in the HoR, was elected the Prime Minister for the third time December 25, 2022, with the backing of CPN-UML.

Prachanda was elected the Prime Minister as per Article 76 Clause 2 of the Constitution of Nepal, which has a provision for electing a Prime Minister with the support of two or more parties.

As the HoR session began in the early afternoon, embattled Prachanda sharply criticised the Nepali Congress and the CPN-UML for striking an alliance "out of fear" rather than shared principles and accused them of pushing the nation toward regression.

Prachanda voiced concerns about potential regression and autocracy, asserting that the NC and the CPN-UML had joined forces as good governance began to take root in the country.

# Biden does it again, calls Zelenskyy 'Prez Putin'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, July 12:** US President Joe Biden mistakenly introduced Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as his Russian foe Vladimir Putin at a NATO summit Thursday in a blunder just hours before a press conference that could decide the fate of his reelection bid.

The 81-year-old quickly corrected himself, and Zelenskyy quipped that he was "better" than Putin, but the gaffe intensified concerns about Biden's mental acuity after a disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump two weeks ago.

"And now I want to hand it over to the President of Ukraine, who has as much courage as he has determination, ladies and gentlemen, President Putin," Biden said as he announced a NATO-Ukraine compact at the summit in Washington.

Biden turned away from the lectern before coming back and exclaiming: "President Putin! He's going to beat President Putin. President Zelenskyy, I'm so focused on beating Putin we gotta worry about it. Anyway, Mr President."

The error drew gasps from the room but Zelenskyy, Ukraine's wartime leader against Russia's 2022 invasion, laughed it off.

Fellow leaders at the summit have fielded questions about Biden, and their answers have



largely been supportive. "Slips of the tongue happen, and if you keep a close enough eye on everyone, you will find enough." German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said after the President's latest gaffe.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Biden had appeared "in charge," while British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he "was on good form."

But his latest verbal slip could not have come at a worse time as Biden is due later Thursday to give what the White House has called a "big boy" press conference, his first major appearance since the debate.

The solo appearance, a rare unscripted encounter with reporters, comes amid growing calls in his Democratic Party for him to step aside.

The press conference was due to start at 6:30 pm but is expected to run around an hour late.

NATO allies have also been seeking reassurance about Biden's leadership abilities and over their fears that a return of the isolationist, Putin-praising Trump could spell trouble for the alliance.

# Major victory for Khan's party as SC clears way for reserved seats

Imran Khan's party set to emerge as largest party in Pakistan Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, July 12:** Pakistan's Supreme Court Friday ruled that Imran Khan's party was eligible for more than 20 seats reserved for women and minorities in Parliament, in a major legal victory for the jailed former Prime Minister, who demanded the resignation of the election commission chief.

Candidates backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, who had contested and won the February 8 elections as independents after their party was stripped of its election symbol, had joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), a political alliance of Islamic political and Bareilvi religious parties in Pakistan, to form a coalition of convenience.

The SIC had filed a plea challenging the Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) move to deny its share in reserved seats in the assemblies.

A 13-member full bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case. The ruling in the keenly awaited case is viewed as a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition though there is no



immediate threat to the federal government.

Chief Justice Isa had announced after the proceedings Tuesday that the panel decided to reserve the verdict for mutual consultation, which it announced Friday.

A majority of eight judges ruled in favour of SIC by overturning the orders of the top election body and the judgment of the Peshawar High Court. The judgment was announced by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

"The order of the Election Commission of Pakistan, dated 1st of March 2024, is declared to be ultra vires to (beyond the powers of) the Constitution, without lawful authority and of no legal effect," according to the verdict.

The verdict further declared that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was a political party and eligible for reserved seats. "The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was a political party, remains a political party", the order said while instructing the PTI to submit a list of its reserved seats candidates within 15 days.

# India abstains on UNGA resolution

The resolution demands Russia to immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**United Nations, July 12:** India has abstained in the UN General Assembly on a resolution that demanded that Russia immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and urgently withdraw its military and other unauthorised personnel from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

The 193-member UN General Assembly adopted the resolution Thursday with 99 votes in favour, nine against and 60 abstentions, including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Egypt, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Those voting against the resolution included Belarus, Cuba, North Korea, Russia and Syria.

The resolution titled 'Safety and security of nuclear facilities of Ukraine, including the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant' demanded that Russia "immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders."

It also demanded that Russia urgently withdraw its military and other unauthorised personnel from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and immediately return the plant to the full control of the sovereign and competent authorities of Ukraine



**“It's really important for India to be playing a constructive role in ensuring a just peace for Ukraine and providing the impetus for Ukraine to be able to negotiate to ensure its own future”**  
LIAM WASLEY | DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AT US STATE DEPARTMENT

to ensure its safety and security. It called for the "immediate cessation of the attacks" by Russia against the critical energy infrastructure of Ukraine, which increases the risk of a nuclear accident or incident at all nuclear facilities of Ukraine.

The draft resolution was introduced by Ukraine and was sponsored by over 50 member states, including France, Germany and the United States.

It called upon Moscow, until it returns the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant of Ukraine to the full control of the sovereign and competent authorities of Ukraine, to provide the

International Atomic Energy Agency Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia with timely and full access to all areas at the plant that are important for nuclear safety and security to allow the Agency to report fully on the nuclear safety and security situation at the site.

In the explanation of the vote before the vote on the resolution, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative Dmitry Polyanskiy said the General Assembly has "unfortunately" adopted many documents that are non-consensual, politicised and do not reflect reality.

"Make no mistake votes in favour of today's draft will be regarded by Kyiv, Washington, Brussels and London as evidence of support for their policy of further escalating the Ukrainian conflict to the detriment of steps taken by a sensible part of the international community to find a peaceful, sustainable and long-term solution to the conflict," he said.

## NORTH KOREAN THREATS RISE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Seoul, July 12:** The US and South Korea signed joint nuclear deterrence guidelines for the first time, a basic yet important step in their efforts to improve deterrence toward North Korea's evolving nuclear threats.

Meeting Thursday on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Washington, President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol commended what they called "the tremendous progress" that their countries' alliance have made a year after creating a joint Nuclear Consultative Group.

The two leaders authorized "the US-ROK Guidelines for Nuclear Deterrence and Nuclear Operations on the Korean Peninsula" that was signed by their defense officials earlier Thursday, according to South Korea's presidential office. ROK

# US, SK ink N-deterrence guidelines



stands for the Republic of Korea, South Korea's official name.

Last year, the US and South Korea launched the consultative body to strengthen communication on nuclear operations and discuss how to integrate US nuclear weapons and South Korean conventional weapons in various contingencies.

The US has long promised to use all its capabilities, including nuclear weapons, to defend South Korea if it is attacked, but faced suspicions that it lacks plans on

how it would exercise its extended deterrence for its Asian ally.

The consultative body was established as North Korea has sharply accelerated its missile testing activities and openly threatened to use nuclear weapons preemptively in potential conflicts. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

"The Presidents underscored that the Guidelines document provides a solid foundation for enhancing US-ROK extended deterrence cooperation in an in-

tegrated manner", said a joint statement by Biden and Yoon.

Kim Tae-hyo, a deputy national security director in South Korea, told reporters that South Korea and the US will conduct joint military exercises to help implement the deterrence guidelines. He said the US would commit specific nuclear assets to a role in deterrence plans, but experts added that this does not mean it would place nuclear weapons in South Korea.

Specifics of the guidelines, which Seoul called confidential, were not available, though the US will certainly retain control of its nuclear weapons.

"The key is how to integrate South Korea's conventional weapons and America's nuclear weapons to launch joint, massive retaliation to North Korea, when it carries out nuclear strikes on South Korea," said Kim Yeol Soo, an expert at South

Korea's Korea Institute for Military Affairs.

He said prospects for South Korea-US coordination are bright if Biden is re-elected in the November election, but could suffer a setback if former President Donald Trump returns to the White House.

North Korea is expected to respond angrily to the announcement, as it has previously accused its rivals of using the consultation group to plot a nuclear attack on the North.

Worries about North Korea have further deepened since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin in June signed a deal requiring each country to provide aid to the other if it is attacked, and vowed to boost their cooperation. Analysts say the accord represents the strongest connection between the two countries since the end of the Cold War

# Japan announces disciplinary action against defence officials

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tokyo, July 12:** Japan's defence ministry announced disciplinary action Friday against more than 200 senior officials and service members over mishandling of classified materials and other misconduct, an embarrassment that could undermine Tokyo's efforts to work more closely with United States and other partners in the face of China's growing threat.

The Ministry and its Self Defence Forces have been under scrutiny over allegations that members of the navy violated the sensitive information protection law, as well as other misconduct such as falsely claiming allowances for special assignments, or wrongfully claiming free meals at base cafeterias. Ministerial staff were also accused of abuses of power.



Defence Minister Minoru Kihara apologized, saying the problems "significantly damaging to the public trust" for the ministry and Japan's defense forces. "I'm keenly aware of my responsibility."

He blamed a lack of discipline across the organization.

Kihara said the ministry's investigation found that classified information was mishandled on 38 destroyers and submarines, but said no sensitive information leaked outside of military or caused any harm. People without appropriate clearances were routinely assigned to duties that involved sensitive information.

But the issue is an embarrassment and could undermine Japan's reputation as a trusted defense partner at a time Japan accelerates its military cooperation with the United States, Australia, UK and other western partners, in hopes of playing greater roles in areas that involve intelligence.

"Ensuring intelligence protection is extremely important for our cooperation with the ally and other like-minded countries, and we should never let this kind of problem happen again," Kihara said. He pledged to quickly and thoroughly carry out preventive measures "so that we will not breach trust with other countries."



**Indian economy will grow at 7 per cent plus minus point 0.5 per cent. I expect that we are on track to grow at 7 per cent for several years from today**  
**ARVIND VIRMANI**  
MEMBER, NITI AAYOG

## ESSAR TO BUILD EUROPE'S FIRST HYDROGEN PLANT

Essar Energy Transition, the Essar Group entity driving the \$3.6 billion worth of low carbon projects in the UK and India, Friday said it will build Europe's first 100 per cent hydrogen-fuelled power plant at its Stanlow refinery in the UK by 2027



### of the day quote

**We urge the finance ministry to introduce the benefits of claiming depreciation on vehicles for individuals paying income tax**  
**MANISH RAJ SINGHANIA** | PRESIDENT, FADA

**No one gets credit if a firm gets liquidated. Be as transparent as possible and make as much information as possible for the stakeholders**  
**RAVI MITAL** | CHIEF, IBBI

**Interesting to note, sales momentum has successfully complemented the new launches with around 30 per cent of the H1 2024 sales (154,921 units) being contributed by projects that got launched during the last six months**  
**SAMANTAK DAS** | CHIEF ECONOMIST AND HEAD OF RESEARCH, IIL

### Q1 RESULTS

#### HCLTech net profit rises 20.4%

**New Delhi:** IT services company HCL Technologies Friday reported a 20.4 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹4,257 crore for the June quarter and gave a revenue growth guidance of 3-5 per cent for FY25. HCL's top brass exuded confidence in attaining "decent growth in the coming quarters", which would position the company to deliver on the revenue guidance for the year. For fiscal's first quarter ended June 2024 (Q1FY25), the revenue came in at ₹28,057 crore, 6.6 per cent more than in the year-ago period. Seen sequentially, it was 1.6 per cent lower than the March quarter.

#### Ireda net profit surges over 30%

**New Delhi:** Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (Ireda) Friday reported over 30 per cent growth in its net profit to ₹383.69 crore for the June quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues. "IREDA has achieved Profit After Tax of ₹383.69 crore (in Q1), marking an impressive year-on-year growth of 30.25 per cent," a company statement said. According to the statement, its net profit was ₹294.58 crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2023. As the largest pure-play green financing NBFC in the country, it stated that Ireda achieved a new industry standard by publishing its audited financial results within only 12 days.

# Govt delays privatisation plans

CENTRE WILL LIKELY DEPART FROM DIVESTMENT PLANS, WILL OVERHAUL STATE-RUN FIRMS

REUTERS

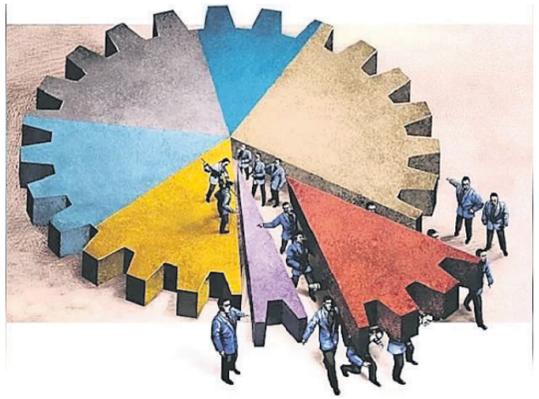
**New Delhi, July 12:** India plans to overhaul more than 200 state-run firms to make them more profitable, signalling a departure from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aggressive privatisation programme that has struggled to take off, government sources said. The programme to privatise a major portion of India's lumbering \$600 billion state sector announced in 2021, had slowed ahead of the general election in April-May and now faces more resistance after Modi lost his majority in parliament and had to rely on coalition allies to return to office.

Expected to be unveiled as part of the annual budget July 23 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the new plans include selling large parcels of underutilised land owned by these companies and monetisation of other assets, said two officials who are aware of the policy. Some aspects are yet to be fine-tuned, they added.

The aim is to raise \$24 billion in the current April-March fiscal year and re-invest the funds in the companies, while setting five-year performance and production targets for each company, instead of short-term targets.

The plans to overhaul state firms have not been reported previously. In an interim budget presented before the election, the government did not provide any figures on stake sales for the first time in more than a decade.

"The government is shifting focus from indiscriminate asset sales to enhancing intrinsic value of state-owned companies," said one of the officials.



Among other plans, the government intends to introduce succession planning in majority-owned companies alongside a proposal to train 230,000 managers across firms to prepare them for senior roles, the officials said. Currently, the government appoints top executives in state-owned companies.

The government is likely to implement a plan that includes training of managers, professional recruitment to company boards and incentives for high performance from the 2025/26 fiscal year, with the expectation that increased autonomy would make companies more competitive.

The 2021 announcement to sell most state-run companies included two banks, one insurance company and firms in steel, energy and pharmaceutical sectors besides closure of loss-making companies.

But India has been able to only complete the sale of debt-ridden Air India to the Tata Group, while rolling back plans to sell some others. Only a 3.5% stake in LIC has been sold besides

**The sale of government companies, marred by allegations of selling family silver at a cheaper price, would be difficult to push after Modi's reduced majority in parliament**  
**SUNIL SINHA** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, INDIA RATINGS

shares in few other companies. Hardeep Puri, India's oil minister, said last week a plan to sell state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corp was no longer on the table as the company was making almost as much profit in a year as the price it was to be sold for.

**BOOMING MARKET**  
Despite hurdles in privatisation and stake sales, the overall market valuation of state-run firms has more than doubled in the past one year on hopes of reforms in the sector.

The BSE PSU index which tracks state-owned companies, has surged over 100% in the last one year, outperforming the benchmark BSE

Index's 22% rise. "We find the valuations of many PSU stocks to be quite bizarre, when compared with their fundamentals," Sanjeev Prasad of Kotak Institutional Equities said in a note. "Some of these companies will require extraordinary assumptions and a massive turnaround in their operations (and financials) to justify their current market caps."

But the government views the market's response as a mark of investor confidence, said a senior official at the NMDC, India's state-run iron ore company. State firms were expected to pay substantially higher dividends to the government, compared to earlier estimates of ₹480 billion (\$5.8 billion) in 2024/25, said the second government source. Analysts however said India risked missing the opportunity to cash in on the booming valuations of state companies.

The government could raise about ₹11.5 trillion (\$137.75 billion) at current market capitalisation by selling minority stakes in state-owned companies, while maintaining 51% stake, CareEdge Ratings said in a note last week.

# IIP grows to 7-month high of 5.9% in May

Good showing by power and mining sectors



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** India's industrial production grew to a seven-month high of 5.9 per cent in May 2024, mainly due to good showing by power and mining sectors, according to official data released Friday.

The factory output growth, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 5 per cent in April, 5.4 per cent in March, 5.6 per cent in February and 4.2 per cent in January 2024.

The IIP was 4.4 per cent in December and 2.5 per cent in November 2023. The previous high of IIP was recorded at 11.9 per cent in October 2023.

During the April-May period this fiscal, the IIP growth was 5.4 per cent against 5.1 per cent in the preceding financial year.

India's Index of Industrial Production grew by 5.7 per cent in May 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

As per the data, the mining output growth accelerated to 6.6 per cent in May against a 6.4 per cent expansion in the year-ago month. The manufacturing sector's growth decelerated to 4.6 per

cent in May compared to 6.3 per cent a year ago.

The power generation increased by an impressive 13.7 per cent in May against a flat growth of 0.9 per cent the same month of the last year. As per use-base classification, the capital goods segment growth fell to 2.5 per cent in May 2024 from 8.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

In May this year, consumer durables output expanded 12.3 per cent against 1.5 per cent growth in May 2023.

Consumer non-durable goods production growth slowed by 2.3 per cent during the reporting month against a growth of 8.9 per cent in May 2023.

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 6.9 per cent in May 2024, down from a 13 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged a 7.3 per cent growth in May this year, up from 3.6 per cent a year earlier.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 2.5 per cent in the month under review, higher than the 3.4 per cent recorded a year ago.

### UNFAIR BIZ PRACTICES

## CCI finds Apple abused position in apps market

India latest in growing antitrust scrutiny of Apple globally

REUTERS

**New Delhi, July 12:** An investigation by India's antitrust body has found that Apple exploited its dominant position in the market for app stores on its iOS operating system, engaging "in abusive conduct and practices", a confidential report showed.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been investigating Apple Inc since 2021 for possibly abusing its dominant position in the apps market by forcing developers to use its proprietary in-app purchase system.

Apple has denied wrongdoing saying it was a small player in India where phones that use Google's Android system are

dominant.

The CCI's investigations unit, in its 142-page report which is not public but was seen by Reuters, said Apple wields "significant influence" over how digital products and services reach consumers, especially through its iOS platform and App Store.

"Apple App Store is an unavoidable trading partner for app developers, and resultantly, app developers have no choice but to adhere to Apple's unfair terms, including the mandatory use of Apple's proprietary billing and payment system," the CCI unit said in the June 24 report.

"From the perspective of app developers, Apple iOS ecosystem is indispensable."

# EUPHORIA IN EQUITIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 12:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty soared nearly 1 per cent to hit new lifetime highs Friday, fuelled by intense buying in IT and tech stocks after robust TCS earnings amid hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

A rally in Reliance Industries and Infosys also boosted investor sentiments, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 622 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a record closing level of 80,519.34. During the day, it zoomed 996.17 points or 1.24 per cent to hit an all-time high of 80,893.51.

The NSE Nifty surged 186.20 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 24,502.15. Intra-day, it jumped 276.25 points or 1.13 per cent to hit a new lifetime peak of 24,592.20.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 522.74 points



**Sensex, Nifty rally nearly 1% to scale fresh highs on sharp gains in IT shares, US rate cut hopes**

**The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms soared to a new lifetime high of ₹452.38L-cr, with investors' wealth rising ₹1.17L-cr**

or 0.65 per cent, while the Nifty climbed 178.3 points or 0.73 per cent.

"Multiple tailwinds led the market to come out of the range-bound trajectory. The strong result from the IT bellwether and a drop in US inflation to a one-year low added optimism to the market. The chances of a rate cut

in September are inching higher, which is evident in the fall of the dollar index," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Among the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services climbed nearly 7 per cent after the country's largest IT services player reported 8.7 per cent growth for the June quarter net profit at ₹12,040 crore.

Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro were the other major gainers.

Maruti, Asian Paints, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

The BSE benchmark closed lower by 27.43 points or 0.03 per cent at 79,897.34 Thursday. The NSE Nifty edged down 8.50 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,315.95.

## Forex kitty jumps to \$657.16 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 12:** India's forex reserves jumped \$5.158 billion to \$657.155 billion during the week ended July 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday.

The forex kitty had declined for the previous two consecutive weeks, dropping \$1.713 billion to \$651.997 billion for the week ended June 28.

The reserves had touched an all-time high of \$655.817 billion as June 7 this year.

For the week ended July 5, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased \$4.228 billion to \$577.11 billion, as per the data released Friday.

Gold reserves increased \$904 million to \$57.432 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights were up \$21 million to \$18.036 billion, the apex bank said.

### ROBUST DEMAND

# PV despatches at record high in Q1

TOTAL DESPATCHES OF PASSENGER VEHICLES CROSS 10L MARK FOR THE FIRST TIME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** Passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales crossed the 10-lakh mark for the first time ever in the June quarter riding on the back of robust demand for utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said Friday.

Total despatches of passenger vehicles in the first quarter stood at 10,26,006 units, up 3 per cent as compared with 9,96,565 units in April-June FY24.

Utility vehicle sales rose 18 per cent to 6,45,794 units in the first quarter as against 5,47,194 units in the year-ago period. Dispatches of vans stood at 38,919 units as against 35,648 units earlier, an increase of 9 per cent.

Passenger cars however saw a dip of 17 per cent to 3,41,293 units from 4,13,723 vehicles in the June quarter of last fiscal.

"Utility vehicles accounted for 63 per cent of the overall passenger vehicles sales in the first quarter. we are witness-



ing a migration of customers from sedan segment to utility vehicles," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Vinod Aggarwal told reporters here.

Passenger vehicle sales were the highest ever in the April-June period. The sales also crossed the 10-lakh mark during the period for the first time ever, SIAM Director General

**With a positive outlook on the monsoon and coming festive season, the automotive sector is poised to perform better in the balance part of the year**  
**VINOD AGGARWAL** | PRESIDENT, SIAM

Rajesh Menon stated. Two-wheeler despatches in the first quarter rose to 49,85,631 units, up 20 per cent as compared with 41,40,964 units in the June quarter last year.

"Within two-wheelers, scooters have posted even higher growth based on some green shoots of recovery in entry level two-wheelers," Aggarwal noted.

Three-wheeler wholesales rose 14 per cent to 1,65,081 units in the first quarter as against 1,44,530 units in the April-June period last fiscal.

Commercial vehicle despatches saw an increase of 3.5 per cent year-on-year to 2,24,209

units in the quarter.

Despatches of units across categories rose 16 per cent to 64,01,006 units in the first quarter as compared with 54,98,752 units in the year-ago period.

Asked about SIAM's stand regarding the dealers seeking better inventory management from OEMs, he noted that fluctuations keep happening and the industry body does not see it as a concern.

In the month of June, domestic passenger vehicle wholesales rose by 3 per cent year-on-year to 3,37,757 units.

The overall PV despatches from companies to dealers stood at 3,27,788 units in June 2023.

As per the data issued by SIAM, two-wheeler wholesales rose 21 per cent to 16,14,154 units last month, as compared with 13,30,826 units in June 2023.

Three-wheeler wholesales increased 12 per cent to 59,544 units from 53,025 units in June last year.

### BANKS BUZZ

## BoB undertakes CSR initiatives in Jeevan Jyoti Ashram

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office Bhubaneswar rolled out Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in Bhubaneswar. During his visit to Bhubaneswar Zone, Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Baroda and Swapna Bandopadhyaya, General Manager & Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar zone distributed food and grocery items to Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Khandagiri at Bhubaneswar in the presence of senior bank executives and staff members of the Zone. The Jeevan Jyoti Charitable Trust is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation established in 2005 which works for orphaned and abandoned children to help them grow into self-sufficient, mature adults who are valued members of society.



## SBI Kesura branch relocated

**Bhubaneswar:** SBI Kesura branch has been relocated to Cuttack Puri by-pass road near Kesura Square Bhubaneswar. CGM Dinesh Pruthi inaugurated the new premises in the presence of Prasanta Kumar DGM Bhubaneswar Administrative Office and other senior officials. Pruthi addressed the gathering of customers and staff about the new branch, its facilities and customer centric initiatives taken by SBI. The new branch is located on the ground floor with e-Corner facilities.



# SULTAN OF SWING BIDS ADIEU

ANDERSON ENDS 21-YEAR-OLD CAREER WITH 704 WICKETS, THE MOST BY A FAST BOWLER

AGENCIES

London, July 12: It is 704 wickets and out for Jimmy Anderson. The most prolific fast bowler in Test history bowled out of international cricket by helping England complete a win by an innings and 114 runs over the West Indies at Lord's here Friday.

The 41-year-old Anderson's 188th and last Test ended with him taking 3-32 in the West Indies' second innings as they were dismissed for 136 a little over an hour into the third day's play.

One of those wickets came Friday, with Anderson enticing an edge behind off Joshua Da Silva with a delivery that seamed away. It was classic Anderson - unlike the caught-and-bowled chance he dropped off Gudakesh Motie with England needing just one more wicket for victory.

Anderson fell to his knees and covered his face with his hands as the match ended. Soon, he was walking off the field at the home of cricket - in front of his parents, wife and children - to a standing ovation after Gus Atkinson took the final wicket.

The morning had started with Anderson, who doesn't like being the

## TENDULKAR LAUDS ANDERSON FEAT

New Delhi: As England great James Anderson ended his over two-decade long career Friday, legendary Sachin Tendulkar paid a handsome tribute to his 'old foe'. He said it was 'joy to watch' him bowl. "Hey Jimmy! You've bowled the fans over with that incredible 22-year spell. Here's a little wish as you bid goodbye," Tendulkar wrote on his 'X' account. "It has been a joy to watch you bowl - with that action, speed, accuracy, swing and fitness. You've inspired generations with your game," he further said. "Wish you a wonderful life ahead with good health and happiness as you put those new shoes on for the most important spell of your life - the time with family," wrote Tendulkar.

centre of attention, looking emotional after being given a guard of honour from both teams - a first standing ovation from the crowd - when he came out at the start of the day's play.

"I feel about 55 after the overs I bowled this week," Anderson said after the match while holding a pint of 'Guinness' in the England dressing room. "Playing for England is the best job in the

world. I've been privileged to have done it for a long time."

Anderson ended his Test career where it started 21 years ago, when

he ran in to bowl against Zimbabwe at Lord's with tinges of blond in his hair.

"I've been lucky to play with some amazing players, some of the most talented cricketers that have ever played the game," he said. "And more importantly some really good blokes and friends I have made for life. Part of me is jealous that these lads get to experience that for the next few years. Seriously I envy them," he added.



## TOP WICKET-TAKERS

BOWLER	COUNTRY	WICKETS
Muthiah Muralidaran,	Sri Lanka	800
Shane Warne	Australia	708
James Anderson	England	704
Anil Kumble	India	619
Stuart Broad	England	604
Glenn McGrath	Australia	563
Nathan Lyon	Australia	530
Courtney Walsh	West Indies	519
Ravichandran Ashwin	India	516
Dale Steyn	South Africa	439

## SHORT TAKES

### Good draw for Sindhu, Prannoy

Kuala Lumpur: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and debutant HS Prannoy got favourable groups while Lakshya Sen has been drawn with World No. 3 Jonatan Christie as the draw for the badminton events at the Paris Olympics 2024 was held here Friday at the BWF headquarters. Sindhu has been seeded 10th seed in women's singles and is placed in Group M with Estonia's Kristin Kuuba (World No. 75) and Maldives' Fathimath Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq (World No. 111). In men's singles, Prannoy, who will be appearing in his maiden Olympics, has been seeded 13th and placed in Group K with Vietnam's Le Duc Phat (World No. 70) and Germany's Fabian Roth (World No. 82).

### Kolkata derby in Durand Aug 18

Kolkata: Reigning champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant will take on Downtown Heroes FC of Kashmir in the inaugural match of the Durand Cup here July 27, while the much-anticipated Kolkata derby between them and East Bengal, which will also be the last group game, will take place August 18. The 133rd edition of Asia's oldest and world's fifth oldest tournament will be played in four cities - Kolkata, Kokrajhar in Assam, Shillong in Meghalaya and Jamshepur in Jharkhand. A total of 24 teams have been divided into six groups with the group toppers and two best second-placed teams slated to qualify for the knockouts.

### Philipsen triumphs

Pau (France): Jasper Philipsen won the 13th stage of the Tour de France in a sprint finish and two-time champion Tadej Pogacar kept the yellow jersey Friday. Several riders fell in a crash a few hundred metres from the line but Pogacar, who was just ahead, avoided it. Philipsen held off Belgian countryman Wout van Aert and German rider Pascal Ackermann after 3 1/2 hours to clinch his second stage win this month. Pogacar placed ninth in the stage and leads by 1 minute, 6 seconds from Remco Evenepoel of Belgium and by 1:14 from two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark.

# Gambhir explains selection policy

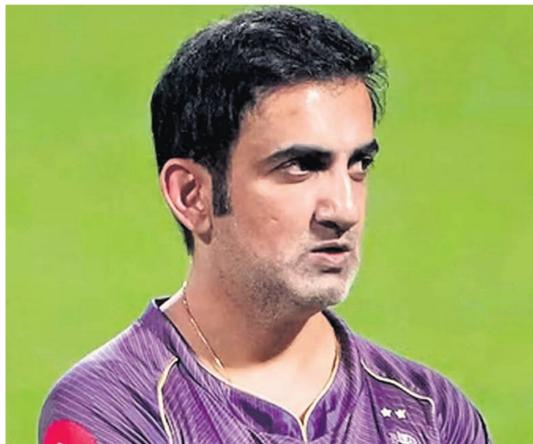
New head coach wants capable players in all formats of the game

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: India's newly appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir said that his approach to picking players won't be based on a particular format. He feels players who are 'good enough' should play in all three formats. An action-packed schedule lies ahead of Gambhir and the Indian team.

"I'm a very strong believer in one thing, that if you're good, you should be playing all the three formats. I've never been a big believer in injury management. You get injured, you go get recovered. It is as simple as it gets," Gambhir was quoted as saying by Star Sports.

"When you're playing international cricket and you're good enough, you ask any of the top players, if they want to play all the three formats. They don't want to rest, and they don't want to be labelled as red ball players or white ball players. I am not a big believer in identifying people that, we're going to keep him for Test matches or other formats," Gambhir added.



Gambhir said professional sportspersons have a very short work span and they must utilise it. "As professional cricketers, you've got a very small span when you're playing for your country, and you want to play as much as you can. And when you're in very good form, go ahead and play all the three for-

formats," Gambhir stated. While talking about his approach towards the game, there was only one message from Gambhir, play with honesty. "There's only one message, try and play with honesty. Try and be as honest as you can with your profession," he said. "I've been aggressive on the

## Boumous joins Odisha FC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Creative midfielder Hugo Boumous has joined Odisha FC, the club said in a release Friday. Boumous has joined the club on a three-year contract till 2026-27.

"I am excited to join Odisha FC for the next three seasons. They are a growing club with an ambitious project where I will look to bring value to the team. I'm happy to reunite with Sergio Lobera, a coach with whom I had a lot of success in the past," Boumous said in the release.

The 28-year-old midfielder brings a wealth of experience to Odisha FC, having established himself as a key player in the Indian Super League (ISL) since his arrival in 2018. He has made 133 appearances for various clubs in ISL. During his time in India, Boumous has impressed with



his attacking prowess, scoring 37 goals and providing 49 assists. Lobera also expressed happiness with the recruitment of Boumous. "In my opinion, Boumous is the best player in the in his position. We know each other very well and we know that we need each other to be successful. I hope we can be successful together again. I am delighted that he has decided to join us," Lobera stated.

# La Roja start firm favourites

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, July 12: One is the best team in the tournament, on the brink potentially of a new era of success because of a teenage wonder-kid, an outstanding midfielder and a tweak in philosophy. The other team are a survivor, limping to the end with big moments, resilience and an oft-criticised coach who has another chance to end his country's long wait for a major men's title.

The Euro 2024 final between Spain and England here Sunday is dripping with narrative - with one arguably standing out above the rest. Inside Olympiastadion, the historic venue here built by the Nazis for the 1936 Olympic Games, Lamine Yamal - a day after his 17th birthday - will look to crown his breakthrough

## Gauti eyes Morkel as bowling coach

NEW DELHI: Former South Africa pacer Morne Morkel is in contention for India's bowling coach as head coach Gautam Gambhir approached BCCI for his inclusion in his support staff team, a report Cricbuzz said Friday. It states that Gambhir has requested BCCI to consider Morkel for the position of bowling coach. Morkel, who previously served as Pakistan's bowling coach during the ODI World Cup 2023, has been contacted for the same, the report added. The former pacer has played 86 Tests, 117 ODIs, and 44 T20Is in a period between 2006 and 2018 for South Africa. Gambhir and Morkel have worked together at Lucknow Super Giants during the IPL.

cricket field and I've had confrontations with people, just because it was all in the best interest of the team. Try and do that because, ultimately, it's the team that matter, not the individual. The effort should always be to help the team win," asserted Gambhir.



field that has given Spain the edge over all of their rivals. Rodri, perhaps pound-for-pound the world's most effective player, and Fabian Ruiz are the axis on which Spain thrives. "They have been the best team," England coach Gareth Southgate said of Spain. "But we are there and from what we have shown to this point, we have as good a chance as they do." Southgate's team are back in the title match - their first ever outside England - and are an increasingly confident underdog, with potential match-winners dotted throughout the team in Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka and Harry Kane. "They are able to inflict a lot of damage, even without playing in a very fluid way," Spain defender Dani Vivian said. "They have quality to hurt you."

# Alcaraz cruises into Wimbledon final

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 12: Carlos Alcaraz is only a couple of months past his 21th birthday, and yet this whole Grand Slam success thing is already a bit been-there, done-that for him.

Moving a step closer to a second consecutive Wimbledon title and fourth major championship overall, Alcaraz overcame a shaky start Friday to beat Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (1-7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals at Centre Court.

"I feel like I'm not new anymore. I feel like I know how I'm going to feel before the final. I've been in this position before," Alcaraz said after the game. "I will try to do the things that I did well last year and try to be better," the Spaniard added.

After a mediocre opening set, Alcaraz transformed back into the energetic, attacking, crowd-pleasing force who already was the first teenager to be No. 1 in the ATP rankings and is the youngest man to have won a major trophy on three surfaces: grass, clay and hard courts.

Now the Spaniard is one victory away from joining Boris



Becker and Bjorn Borg as the only men in the Open era, which began in 1968, with multiple championships at the All England Club before turning 22. Alcaraz also triumphed at the US Open in 2022 and the French Open last month.

A year ago at Wimbledon, Alcaraz eliminated 2021 US Open champion Medvedev in straight sets in the semifinals before defeating Djokovic in five sets in the final.

## SABLE TARGETS MEDAL IN PARIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: India's top 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable does not want to be just a participant at the Olympics and believes he can win a medal at the Paris Games beginning later this month.

The 29-year-old Sable, who recently broke his own national record, will be competing in his second Olympics. He failed to make it to the finals at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

"I don't want to just participate, I believe I can win a medal. I am working hard with my eyes set on that goal, if everything falls into place I win win a medal," Sable said Friday.

"My experiences over the past two years have boosted my confidence. I feel I can compete with the best," Sable added.

## METTLE MEET 2024

# OrissaPOST

HERE . NOW

**A CHANCE TO BE PART OF**

**QUIZ Extravaganza**

It's time for **METTLE MEET** - an initiative by the state's only homegrown English daily to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the **Preliminaries** will take place **August 3** and the **Grand Finale August 4**. Like in previous years, most of the top educational institutions of Odisha - both schools and colleges will be competing for the **Grand Prize of ₹1,00,000** in the Junior and Senior segments.

As a reader of **Orissa POST**, this is a great chance for you to be part of the exciting **Grand Finale** if you can predict the correct answer. There will be one question on each day for you to answer till July 31, 2024. Every day there will be two winners. If there are more than two correct entries, then the winners will be decided by draw of lots. All the winners will be invited for the **Grand Finale** which will be conducted by nationally acclaimed quizmaster **Ajay Poonia**. There will be prizes for the daily winners too. So buckle up your seatbelts and get set for some brainstorming.

### RULES & REGULATIONS

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to [mettlemeet@orissapost.com](mailto:mettlemeet@orissapost.com)
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- Orissa POST's** decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a **passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address**. Otherwise the entries will be rejected.
- There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of **Valid ID proof - Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card** (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee of **Orissa POST** or their family members can be part of the competition

### TODAY'S QUESTION

The Disney Dollar was a currency printed for use in Disney facilities. Similar in size and shape to the US Dollar, it featured iconic characters and places from the Disney universe. It even had proper anti-counterfeiting features and unique serial numbers. Whose signature is on it as "Treasurer"?

**ANSWER TO FRIDAY'S QUESTION**  
**Jagadish Chandra Bose**

### THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS

HARAPRIYA REDDY

JAFER SADIQUE

**Others who answered correctly are**  
Nibedita Mohanty, Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Jaba Dasgupta, Akanksha Pradhan, Abhijit Raychaudhuri and R Sekhar Rao