

SHORT TAKES

**Army guns down 3 terrorists along LoC**

**Srinagar:** Three unidentified terrorists were killed Sunday as army foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir. The army said the anti-infiltration operation was going on till last reports. "03x Terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation on the #LoC in Keran Sector, along with recovery of weapons and other war-like stores," Srinagar-based Chinara Corps of the Army posted on X. In a massive security revamp, it was recently decided that all the mountain tops in the Jammu division would be manned by the army and the CRPF to ensure that the terrorists are deprived of the opportunity to carry out hit-and-run attacks on security forces.

**CRPF jawan killed in militant attack**

**Imphal:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan was killed in a gun attack by suspected militants at Mongbung village in Manipur's Jiribam district Sunday morning, police said. A policeman also suffered injuries and has been admitted to a hospital, they said. The deceased has been identified as Ajay Kumar Jha, 43, a resident of Bihar. "He suffered bullet injuries in the head and was declared brought-dead in hospital. The injured policeman is undergoing treatment, but he is out of danger," a police officer said. In a post on X, Chief Minister N Biren Singh condemned the attack and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. **P7**

# RATNA BHANDAR OPENED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Puri, July 14:** Ratna Bhandar, the revered treasure trove of Srimandir, was reopened Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said.

The members of a committee set up by the state government for the purpose entered the temple around 12pm, and after performing rituals, the treasury was reopened at 1.28pm, the auspicious moment which was decided at a meeting in the morning, they said.

Work for preparing the inventory did not start Sunday and it will take time.

The reopening of the Ratna Bhandar became a major political issue during the recently held Assembly elections in the state. Targeting the then-ruling BJD over its missing keys, the BJP had promised that it would make efforts to reopen the Ratna Bhandar if it won the polls.

"On the wish of Lord Jagannath, the Odia community, with the identity of 'Odia Asmita', has started making efforts to move forward," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on X in Odia.

"On your wish, the four gates of the Jagannath temple were earlier opened. Today, on your wish, the Ratna Bhandar was opened after 46 years for a greater purpose," it said in the post.

Among the 11 people present when the Bhandar was reopened



Newly-made chests being brought to Srimandir for shifting of valuables from Ratna Bhandar to a temporary strong room, in Puri, Sunday **PTI PHOTO**

Ratna Bhandar was last opened in 1978. At that time, it took 70 days to prepare the inventory of the valuables

3 locks of the inner chamber were broken as none could be opened with the key available with the district admin

All ornaments and valuables kept in outer chamber of the Ratna Bhandar shifted to the temporary strong room inside the temple

**“We will fix a date to shift the ornaments of the inner chamber after the completion of the Bahuda Yatra and 'Suna Besha' rituals**

**ARABINDA PADHEE | CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, SJTA**

were former Orissa HC judge Biswanath Rath, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee, ASI Superintendent DB Gadanayak and a representative of Puri's titular king 'Gajapati Maharaja', officials said.

Also among them were four servitors who took care of the rituals. They came out of the Ratna

Bhandar, which has an inner and an outer chamber, around 5.20pm.

"We carried out all the works as per SOP. We first opened the outer chamber of the Ratna Bhandar and shifted all ornaments and valuables kept there to the temporary strong room inside the temple. We have sealed the strong room," Padhee

told reporters.

"Then, the authorised persons entered the inner chamber of the treasury. Three locks were there. No lock could be opened with the key available with the district administration. So, as per the SOP, we broke the three locks in the presence of a magistrate, and then, we entered the inner chamber. We inspected the valuables kept in the almirahs and the chests," he said.

Padhee said the committee decided not to shift the valuables in the inner chamber immediately as it would take time.

"The process of shifting the valuables has to be done at once. It was not possible today," he said. "We will fix a date to shift the ornaments of the inner chamber after the completion of the Bahuda Yatra and 'Suna Besha' rituals," he said.

"After shifting the ornaments from the outer chamber, the temporary strong room has been locked and the keys have been given to three authorised persons as daily use ornaments are also there," Justice Rath said.

New locks were used to secure the doors of the inner chamber and the keys were handed over to the Puri Collector, he said, adding that the entire process was videographed.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the custodian of the temple, also inspected the condition of the inner chamber, officials said. **More P3**

TIMELINE OF INVENTORIES

**1805** The then Collector of Puri Charles Grome published a report on the Ratna Bhandar having 64 gold and silver ornaments besides a large number of gold, silver and copper coins



**1926** A list of jewellery in the Ratna Bhandar was acknowledged by the Puri King and kept in the record room of the Puri collectorate

**1952** Srimandir Record of Rights was prepared, which mentioned 150 gold ornaments in the Bahara Bhandar and 180 pieces of jewellery and 146 silver articles in the Bhitara Bhandar

**1962** Ratna Bhandar verification was initiated by the then administrator LN Mishra from March 1962 to August 1964. 602 articles in the treasury were checked. However, the temple managing committee called for another verification

**1967** In May, another round of checking was taken up as per the temple committee directive but only 433 items were checked. No verification was done

**1978** The then governor of Odisha BD Sharma did an inventory of the Ratna Bhandar from May 13 to July 23. He counted 454 gold articles and 293 silver articles in both chambers of the Bhandar. This was the last time when Ratna Bhandar was opened 46 years back

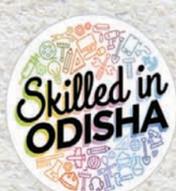
**2018** In March, the ASI, on the instruction of Orissa High Court, did a structural inspection of the Ratna Bhandar, but could not enter the inner chamber. The Puri collector had then stated that the keys were missing. Interestingly, two months later, the collector said that a duplicate key of Ratna Bhandar was found in the district record room. The key was in a sealed envelope carrying the tag 'duplicate keys of Bhitara Bhandar'

**2024 February**

In February, the then chief minister Naveen Patnaik formed a commission headed by retired SC judge Arijit Pasayat to make a fresh inventory of the Ratna Bhandar after verifying the 1978 inventory

**2024 July**

The current government July 4 dissolved the committee constituted by the previous BJD regime and constituted a new 16-member panel under the chairmanship of former judge of Orissa High Court, Justice Biswanath Rath. The panel proposed July 14 as the date for reopening of the Ratna Bhandar

## ଦକ୍ଷ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

### ଲୋକାର୍ପଣ



ଆତିଥେୟତା ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଥମ କୌଶଳ ଭବନ



ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଆହ୍ୱାନର ଯୋଜନା



ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ଫେଲୋସିପ୍ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ



ନୂଆ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଦକ୍ଷତା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର



କୌଶଳ ରଥ

ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ଓ ବୈଷୟିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

# leisure



## HAD FALSE CONFIDENCE POST-DIVORCE: BRITNEY

Popstar Britney Spears admitted to having false confidence post-divorce from Sam Asghari and apologised on Instagram for not being perfect. "I guess I need to brace myself, slow down, and recap the past year because I think I had false confidence after my divorce," she wrote.

## BILLIE: IF SOMEBODY SMELLS GOOD, I LIKE THEM MORE

Grammy winner Billie Eilish has said that she ranks people smelling good on her list of turn-ons. "Smell is kind of No.1. I can get around it, that's the first thing I notice. And I have a very strong nose, so if somebody smells good, I like them more," she shared.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Someone new in your life is going to make you smile; remember, however, that it doesn't always have to be fur and diamonds. A song sung straight from the heart makes a greater impact, says Ganesh. Today's the right time to go out and do things which will make you proud later.

**TAURUS**  
This day you will be inclined to act tough and pick up a fight with everyone whom you are likely to encounter, warns Ganesh. Those who know you well will be at a loss to make anything out of your belligerent attitude and may not be able to keep up with you for too long.

**GEMINI**  
You will feel the need to pursue your passions today. You will give more time to your family and will spend as much time as possible with your children and will bestow your love and affection on them. You will be in an imaginative and romantic mood today.

**CANCER**  
It is likely that you will reach an important milestone in life today. Keep in mind that your success may be a cause of envy for a few people, some of whom may want to harm you. You are left with two choices: either try to help them out of their troubles and miseries, or prepare for a battle.

**LEO**  
It is a good day to renew old acquaintances and make new relationships. Your friends and relatives will probably visit you today. A jovial feeling will pervade your home. You may throw a grand party for your guests, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Logic as well as emotions will hold sway in your relationships today. Emotionally you will feel a little confused and will swing between your feelings and what is actually expected of you. However, finally you will pay more heed to your inner voice rather than depending on the views of others.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation. There will be pressure put on you regarding certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

**SCORPIO**  
Retail therapy with your loved ones is a perfect recipe to have a good time! You will be more than willing to buy things of their choice. Hagging will be a trait you have closed today as you go about being lavish in your expenses, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Tedious day in store for you as hectic work is likely to keep you one toes; this is not-so-good-news. And well, it's time for some good news now. You will do so much running around for your work, that you will actually shed a few kilos of weight.

**CAPRICORN**  
Normally, others, especially colleagues get jealous of one's success, but yours is a different case. They will not only motivate you, but also guide you while you take up new projects and assignments. Not everyone is blessed with such cooperative colleagues, says Ganesh. Those of you who wish to change their current job, better wait for a while as times are not favouring you, today.

**AQUARIUS**  
God helps those who help themselves. You have experienced this plenty of times as your efforts have been paid off. While your colleagues at work may pass negative comments at your work, your boss will not have any complains with you.

**PISCES**  
You will be able to come up trumps against the competition today. You should be wary of hidden enemies, for they might be involved in slandering you. It is best to reach out to others and make friends before they take it upon themselves to hinder your progress.



## VICKY ON DEALING WITH RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGES

**Mumbai:** Actor Vicky Kaushal, who is head over heels in love with his actor wife Katrina Kaif and can't stop gushing about her in interviews, always finds ways to shower her with compliments. Recently, in an interview, he opened up about how they handle tough times in their relationship.

Talking about dealing with low phases, he said, "It's been about just holding hands and just keeping saying that whatever it is, we are on the same team together. Through the ups and downs, we are both going through this together. We just hold hands and remind each other that we're on the same team."

In the same interview, the *Masaan* actor went on to confess that Katrina has had a major impact on his life, saying, "I really feel very fortunate for all the beautiful things she adds to me and to who I am. And I just feel that I just woke up as a better person because of her. She is such a giver in that sense in the relationship that I feel very fortunate."

After dating for a few years, Katrina and Vicky tied the knot, December 9, 2021, at Six Senses Resort, Fort Barwara, in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.

On the work front, Vicky will be seen next in *Bad Newz*, alongside with Tripti Dimri and Ammy Varik.

AGENCIES

## When Sam loved to block people

**Mumbai:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is known for her versatile performances, once said blocking people was her favourite pastime.

When Samantha was questioned about what kind of people get blocked by her, the actress responded, "Anything negative, I just love blocking people. Blocking is my favourite pastime."

The actress also revealed a number of quirky answers to queries related to social media. She dropped truth bombs and admitted that she had taken screenshots of celebrities to gossip and bitch about them with her stylist, Preetham Jukalker.

Additionally, the actress opened up about her then-husband and actor, Naga Chaitanya, not liking social media. She said that whatever she posts on social media that includes him is off-limits.

On the work front, Samantha has *Citadel: Honey Bunny* and *Bangaram* in the pipeline. AGENCIES

# Tamannaah's self-discovery

**Mumbai:** Actress Tamannaah Bhatia shared insights into her career, emphasising the importance of making deliberate choices and staying committed to her craft.

When asked about how her journey has been, she said, "I always wanted to be an actor and pursued my dream step by step, making deliberate choices and staying committed despite uncertainties. The industry's evolution from cinema to OTT platforms and now com-

peting with short online videos reflects our ongoing challenge to capture people's attention."

The *Baahubali* actress described her process of self-discovery through her characters. She believes that each role provides insights into herself, as the choices she makes in portraying a character reflect her own perceptions. She chooses to play diverse and authentic roles, rejecting the notion that an actor is entirely separate from their characters.

She also shared how fame can be empowering rather than burdensome. "I don't think there is any downside to fame; it is actually very empowering. It's all about the way you look at it. I think I've only felt more and more empowered because I'm somebody who has some kind of influence. I would feel bad for myself if I thought fame was a disability of any kind. This industry and this work do make you give up on a certain kind of life, but then, any other thing I would do would have its own pros and cons," she concluded.

AGENCIES



## Shweta seeks plots that hold gravitas

**Mumbai:** Actress Shweta Tripathi Sharma, who is currently receiving positive responses for her work in the recently released third season of the streaming series *Mirzapur*; has shared that she consistently looks for characters and stories vastly different from her real life.

In *Mirzapur*, Shweta essays the role of Golu Gupta, who takes up arms after failing to save her sister Sweetie Gupta and her love interest Bablu Pandit from being shot by Munna Tripathi.

Speaking with *IANS*, Shweta revealed that her personal life is very pleasant and happy, and she wants it to stay that way. However, as an actor, she seeks characters

that are opposite to herself. She said, "The audience's taste has changed quite a lot after the pandemic, but the only thing that appeals to me as an actor is the stories with a difference. I want to be a part of dramas that talk about pain, anger, and loss."

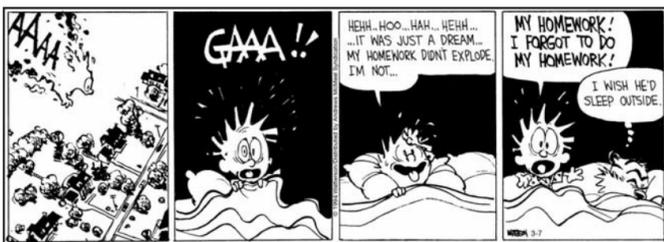
"My personal life is a Disney fairytale movie, and I like it that way. That's the reason I look for stories that hold gravitas. I want to live the characters and emotions on screen that I definitely don't want to live in my personal life," she added. *Mirzapur 3* currently streams on Prime Video.

IANS

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

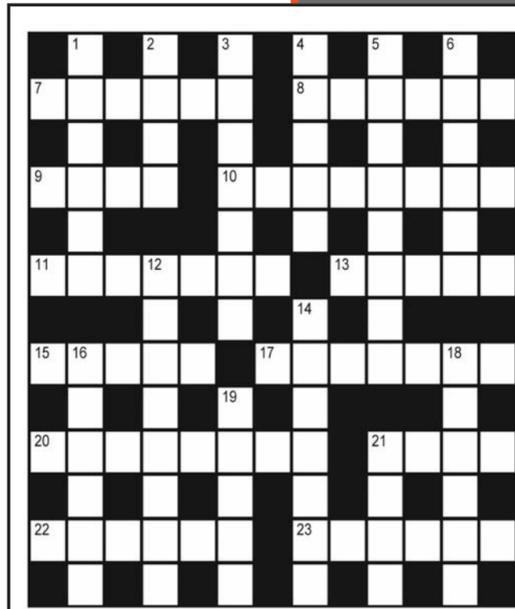


### BREVITY



### FUN post

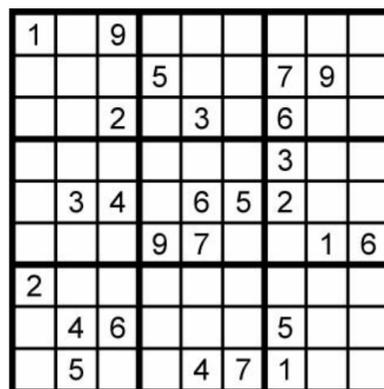
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Soft-soap
  - 8 Goad
  - 9 Citrus fruit
  - 10 Without mercy
  - 11 Suffer, with "over"
  - 13 Naan or anadama, e.g.
  - 15 Public persona
  - 17 Slavery
  - 20 Vindictive
  - 21 Song of praise
  - 22 Harsh
  - 23 Carpentry tool
- Down**
- 1 Appraisal
  - 2 Oxen's harness
  - 3 Stifle
  - 4 Accord
  - 5 Announced
  - 6 Type of television
  - 12 Sleepwear
  - 14 Kind of supper
  - 16 Kermit, for one
  - 18 Vodka cocktail
  - 19 Frequently
  - 21 Hearty hello

### 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

**Hidden terrorism**  
Security agencies in J&K grapple with what they call the "hidden threat" of "conservation and consolidation" tactics

TWO STATE | P5

**Nepal's new PM**  
KP Sharma Oli, the leader of Nepal's largest communist party, has been appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for a fourth term

INTERNATIONAL | P8

**Auto exports surge**  
Automobile exports from India rise 15.5% year-on-year in the June quarter with all verticals barring three-wheelers

BUSINESS | P9

**India dominate show**  
India defeat Zimbabwe by 42 runs in the fifth T20 game to wrap up the five-match series 4-1 in a comprehensive manner

BACK PAGE



Republican presidential candidate and former US President Donald Trump gestures with a fist as he is helped off the stage after an assassination bid at a campaign event in Butler, Pennsylvania, Saturday

## Trump survives assassination bid

**THE GUNMAN WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE FBI AS 20-YEAR-OLD THOMAS MATTHEW CROOKS OF BETHEL PARK WHO WAS REGISTERED TO VOTE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS A REPUBLICAN**

Chicago/Washington, July 14: Former US president Donald Trump survived an assassination attempt Saturday when a young shooter fired multiple shots at him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear, days before he was to accept the Republican Party's nomination for the high-stakes presidential election in November. Trump, 78, was speaking at the packed outdoor election rally in Butler town when bullets

started flying. Video footage showed him grabbing his ear as shots were fired. The crowd started screaming behind him and then someone yelled "Get down, get down, get down, get down!" as Secret Service agents piled on top of Trump to shield him. The shooting created chaos with people in the back of the venue immediately running to the exits. As blood gushed from his ear, Trump was then rushed off stage. He boldly pumped his fist into the air and told the crowd to "fight!" He was then whisked away in a car to a Pittsburgh-area hospital. "Let me get my shoes," Trump said as he was escorted to the safe place. The shooting, which left one spectator dead and two others critically injured, is being investigated as an attempted assassination. The male attacker was also shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service. A spokesperson for the Trump Campaign said the former president is "fine" after the "heinous act."

The gunman was identified by the FBI as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park. He was registered to vote as a Republican. In a post on his Truth Social social media account, Trump elaborated on what happened and described his injuries. "It is incredible that such an act can take place in our Country. Nothing is known at this time about the shooter, who is now dead. I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear. I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realised then what was happening. GOD BLESS AMERICA!" Trump wrote. The incident happened two days before the start of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where Trump will formally become the party's nominee for the November 5 presidential election. **More P8**

## Pan India rollout of U-WIN portal likely by Aug end

Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, July 14: The U-WIN portal, a replication of the Covid-19 vaccine management system Co-WIN, is set for a pan-India launch likely by the end of August, aiming to maintain an electronic registry of routine immunisations, official sources said. Currently, U-WIN is in pilot mode across all states and Union Territories, except for West Bengal, which is yet to start uploading data, the sources told PTI, adding that it is still under consideration in the state. The U-WIN platform captures every vaccination event for pregnant women and children under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the interim Budget for 2024-2025 that U-WIN, along with intensified efforts under Mission Indradhanush, will be rolled out nationwide for managing immunisation. The U-WIN will ensure timely administration of vaccine doses by digitally recording every vaccination event under the UIP among all pregnant women and children aged 0-5 years, an official told PTI.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If the PM claims to have created 8 crore jobs, you might want to check the 'Lost and Found' department

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.3°C	33.8°C
Min Temp	25.5°C	25.5°C
Humidity	92%	88%
Rainfall	0.7	Nil

**FORECAST**  
GENERALLY CLOUDY SKY, RAIN LIKELY

### 18 kids critically hurt due to electrocution

Berhampur: At least 20 people, including 18 children, suffered injuries after they were electrocuted when the group climbed a metal stage erected for a theatre performance in Ganjam district Sunday, officials said. The incident took place at Phasiguda village while the children, aged between eight and 13 years, were playing on the stage amid rain after the performance, they said. Two others were injured when they made an attempt to pull the children to safety. The injured are undergoing treatment in hospital and their condition is stated to be stable, a doctor said. Berhampur Sub-Collector Dheenat Dastangar said she has asked the officials concerned to inquire into the cause of the incident. "Action would be taken against the persons found guilty," she said. Ramesh Chandra Sethi, the Additional SP (Berhampur), said the police will also conduct a separate inquiry into the incident.

### NTA to conduct CUET-UG retest for 1K candidates

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has decided to conduct a retest for over 1000 candidates of CUET UG July 19. The NTA had July 7 released the provisional answer key of Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG 2024 and announced that it will conduct a retest for CUET UG candidates between July 15 and 19 if any grievance raised by students about the conduct of the exam is found to be correct. While the agency notified the retest schedule Sunday, it remained silent on the declaration of the result which has already been delayed by over two weeks with the final answer key not yet notified. The delay in CUET-UG results comes amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including NEET and NET. According to NTA sources, the distribution of question papers in language not opted by the candidates is one of the reasons for the retest and the 1000-odd candidates are spread across six states.

## Hopes high as first Titanic voyage in 14 yrs underway



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portland (US), July 14: The company that owns the salvage rights to the Titanic is undertaking its first expedition to the ship's wreckage in years, and those involved in the mission said they have both heavy hearts and lofty goals for the trip happening a year after a submersible disaster involving another firm killed five people. RMS Titanic Inc., a Georgia-based firm, holds the legal rights to salvage the wreck of the ship, which sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1912. The company's first expedition to the site since 2010 launched Friday from Providence, Rhode Island. The voyage arrives as the worldwide community of undersea explorers is still reeling from the deadly implosion of an experimental submersible en route to the Titanic in June 2023. The Titan submersible disaster killed all five people on board, including Paul-Henri Nargeolet, who was director of underwater research for RMS Titanic. This summer's mission to the Titanic "means even more with the passing" of Nargeolet, known as "Mr. Titanic" by many, RMST Inc. president Jessica Sanders said. The expedition will use modern imaging technology and remotely operated vehicles to capture de-

tailed images of the Titanic, the wreckage site and the debris field, RMST Inc. representatives said. The ship headed to the site, the Dino Chouest, will take several days to reach the site and is slated to return around August 13, said Jon Hammond, a spokesperson for RMST Inc. The work will allow the company to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current condition of the Titanic wreckage site and a detailed assessment of artefacts that can be safely targeted for future recovery, RMST Inc. representatives said. Nargeolet made more than 35 dives to the Titanic in his lifetime. The implosion also killed Titan operator Stockton Rush; two members of a prominent Pakistani family, Shahzada Dawood and his 19-year-old son Suleman Dawood; and British adventurer Hamish Harding. OceanGate, a company co-founded by Rush that owned the submersible, suspended operations a year ago. The US Coast Guard convened a high-level investigation into what happened, but it has taken longer than expected and it's unclear when the investigation will conclude.

DSPL-46

“ବିଶ୍ୱ ଭ୍ରାତୃତ୍ୱ ଓ ସର୍ବ ଧର୍ମ ସମନ୍ୱୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷ ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଁ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା”

**ରଥଯାତ୍ରା-୨୦୨୪**

**ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶିକା**

- ବୟୋବୃଦ୍ଧ/ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଓ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକୃତଥା ଭିତ ଭିତରକୁ ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ବିଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଖାଇବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ହାତ ଭଲଭାବେ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବାହାରେ ଖୋଲା ବିକ୍ରି ହେଉଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ, କୃତ୍ରିମ ରଙ୍ଗ ଦିଆ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ବାସି ଓ ଦୁର୍ଗନ୍ଧ ହେଉଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ମାଛି ବସୁଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ କିମ୍ବା ପଚାସଡ଼ା ଫଳ ଓ ପନିପରିବା ଖାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ଅଂଶୁଘାତରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇବାକୁ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଧଳା ଟୋପି କିମ୍ବା ଓଦା କପଡ଼ା ଲଗାନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଓ.ଆର୍.ଏସ୍ ପିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ସମୁଦ୍ର ସ୍ନାନ ସମୟରେ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ଏତାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ସତର୍କ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ ।
- ରାତ୍ରି ରହଣି କରୁଥିଲେ ଶୋଇବା ସମୟରେ ମଶାରି / ମଶାନିବାରକ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଅସୁସ୍ଥ ଅନୁଭବ କଲେ କିମ୍ବା ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ଘଟିଲେ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଆଶୁ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କେନ୍ଦ୍ରକୁ ଯାଇ ଚିକିତ୍ସିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

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# Joint task force for fire audit in all hosps

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** In the wake of fire mishaps in two private hospitals in Cuttack city Saturday, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja has issued direction for formation of a joint task force to conduct periodical audit of fire and electrical safety in all hospitals and nursing homes within its jurisdiction, a release from Health and Family Welfare department said Sunday.

The task force will comprise officials of Health and Home departments and Electrical Inspectors in municipal corporations and districts, the release said.

According to sources, for the health facilities under the municipal corporation, the task force will consist of the municipal commissioner as chairman, superintendent or deputy superintendent of police, directors of Bhubaneswar Capital Hospital or Rourkela General Hospital, Chief District Medical Officer and Public Health Officer, Fire officer, additional chief engineer-



cum- electrical inspector.

Similarly for the districts, the task force will comprise district Collectors, superintendent of security, chief district medical and public health officer, assistant Fire officer and superintendent Engineer-cum-Deputy Electrical Inspector as members.

The Health department will provide a list of hospitals and nursing to the corporations and district administration. The task force will carry out the periodical audit and maintain a record of it, the release stated.

Meanwhile, Health and Family

Welfare department Sunday suspended the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) license of Trisha Hospital where fire incident occurred, Saturday.

In a letter to the hospital by chief executive officer of State Health Assurance Society Brundha D said, "It is to inform you that the pending enquiry by Health and Family Welfare department and Fire department, the empanelment of Trisha Hospital under BSKY is hereby suspended due to the fire incident at the hospital."

At least 32 patients, includ-

## 11-day-old infant dies

**Cuttack:** An eleven-day-old infant, who was undergoing treatment at Sishu Bhawan following a fire mishap in a private hospital, succumbed to injuries here Sunday. Sishu Bhawan superintendent Pardeep Kumar Jena said that the toddler who was a resident of Chandbali area of Bhadrak died Sunday while undergoing treatment in the hospital.

ing 18 newborn babies were evacuated after the fire broke out at Radha Raman Hospital in Purighat area and the smoke later spread to Trisha hospital.

CM Mohan Charan Majhi had ordered a probe into the incident and assured that all medical expenses of the injured patients will be taken care of by the government. Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling visited Sishu Bhawan and SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack and interacted with the patients and their families who were shifted after the fire broke out.



**IN ACTION:** Artists from Nodal Association for Amateur Theatre, Subarnapur enact a scene from Ulta Bharat by Natyadhara at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday  
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

## Separated parents take out 'hope walk'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** A group of separated fathers joined hands to shed light on the issue of parental alienation sparking a growing movement and took out 'hope walk' from Bhubaneswar to Puri Sunday. The walk, which was organised by Save Indian Family Foundation, will conclude on 'Bahuda Yatra', Monday.

The group, holding placards highlighting various issues of parental alienation and demand for legal reforms, started the walk from Master Canteen Square in the City.

"Parental alienation not only robs children of the love and support they deserve from both parents but also takes a toll on the child's mental well-being," said Sanjeev Panda, one of the vocal advocates leading the movement.

"We are here to highlight the urgency of addressing this issue and to empower fathers to actively participate in their children's lives," he added.

They said, parental alienation are situations where one parent, usually the custodial parent, deliberately or unintentionally undermines the relationship between a child and the other parent, resulting in emotional and psychological harm. "In many cases, fathers find themselves marginalised, excluded, or falsely accused, ultimately leading to strained or severed bonds with their children. Apart from the emotional trauma a father undergoes, studies revealed that it has an adverse effect on the mental and behavioural problems among the children," Panda added.

## 102 vehicles seized; 37K fine collected

**Bhubaneswar:** Continuing its drive against violation of traffic regulations, the Commissionerate Police Saturday night seized 102 vehicles and collected a fine of ₹37,000 in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Twin city Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said at least one section of reserve personnel, including regular police officials, were deployed at 23 locations in Bhubaneswar, under the limits of 20 police stations. During the drive, 28 four-wheelers and 40 two-wheelers were seized by cops under Bhubaneswar UPD while the rest 34 vehicles were seized by cops under Cuttack UPD. Panda said 18 people have been booked on the charges of drunken driving in the City. This apart, a Prosecution Report (PR) was handed to 50 persons for non-payment of previous e-challans. "Following the seizure, the RTOs have been directed to suspend the licenses of vehicles. The violators must pay a fine in the court to obtain release order to get back their licenses," said Panda.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Palm plantation drive to combat lightning deaths

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Puri, July 14:** In a significant move to enhance disaster risk reduction and environmental resilience, Gobind Tripathy Smriti Parishad launched a community-led Palm tree plantation and restoration initiative in Baliput here, Sunday.

The effort aligns with the state government's plan to plant nearly 19 lakh Palm trees, aimed at protecting citizens from the increasing threat of lightning strikes.

Over the last 11 years, Odisha



has witnessed 3,790 deaths due to lightning, with 90 per cent of the victims hailing from rural areas. In the first phase of the plantation drive, the Parishad has identified Siaro village and adjoining riverbank, a region which is prone to severe flooding.

The initiative covers a 3-km stretch, focusing on planting Palm seeds to reduce lightning casualties, strengthen riverbanks against erosion, and restore habitats for Baya weavers and other bird species.

The plantation drive was in-

## Bahuda Yatra today

**Puri:** Bahuda Yatra, the second most important part of the grand annual Rath Yatra will take place July 15. All three chariots were already given a south turn (dakshin moda) and parked at Saradha Bali in front of the Nakachana Dwar (exit gate) of the Gundicha temple. As per temple administration, the deities would be escorted out in Goti Pahandi (one by one) from the sanctum sanctorum of the Gundicha temple after observance of Mangala Arati, Mailum, Taday lagi, Rosa Homa, Abakash, and Surya puja. It would take over four hours for Daita servitors to fix Chhenapatta, Kusumi, and Bahutakanta (body armours) to the bodies of deities to bear the stress of Pahandi which will be completed by 11:30am. The Pahandi will begin by noon and will be completed by 2:30pm. After fixing wooden horses to the chariots, the devotees will pull the chariots by 4pm with the first chariot Taladhvaj of Balabhadra followed by Darpadalan of Devi Subhadra, and finally the Nandighosh chariot of Lord Jagannath.

## First ever neurosurgery performed at Care Hospitals



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** CARE Hospitals, Bhubaneswar recently achieved a significant milestone in Indian healthcare by successfully performing the country's first neurosurgery (Endoscopic Brain and Spine Surgery) using the world's most advanced mixed virtual reality technology, using Apple Vision Pro.

The complex surgery was performed by Senior Neurosurgeon Atmaranjan Dash and his team with the state-of-the-art technology.

Speaking on this occasion, Dash said, "We are proud to introduce India's first Endoscopic brain and Spine Surgery with the Apple Vision Pro, demonstrating our commitment to pushing the boundaries of medical technology."

"Our hospital serves not only as a beacon of healthcare excellence but also as a global hub for surgical education, fostering knowledge exchange among professionals worldwide," he added.

Hospital Chief Operating

Officer Kislay Anand said, "This landmark surgery underscores our relentless dedication to integrating the latest technological advancements into our practice."

"The successful implementation of Apple Vision Pro in neurosurgery marks a new era in patient care and surgical precision, reinforcing our mission to provide world-class healthcare services," he said.

"The ground-breaking achievement highlights hospital's commitment to pioneering medical advancements and enhancing patient care through cutting-edge innovation," Anand commented.

Notably, the hospital, in recent years, has emerged as a global centre for medical education in advanced neuro-surgical interventions, including endoscopic brain and spine surgeries.

Surgeons worldwide, including Malaysia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and various parts of India, have received specialised training at the hospital in Advanced Bi-portal Endoscopic Spine Surgery.

## AI health coach not a solution for chronic diseases

The bot, still in its early stages, focuses on promoting small, positive changes in areas like sleep, nutrition, fitness, stress management, and social connections

**O**penAI and Arianna Huffington recently announced collaboration to develop an AI health coach, funded through Thrive AI Health. This initiative aims to leverage the potential of artificial intelligence in the health sector, particularly for personalised health management.

In a Time magazine op-ed, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Huffington revealed that the AI health coach will be trained on peer-reviewed scientific data and personal biometric, lab, and other medical information shared by users.

However, concerns about data privacy and the accuracy of AI-provided health information persist. The bot, still in its early stages, focuses on promoting small, positive changes in areas like sleep, nutrition, fitness, stress management, and social connections.

It does not aim to provide med-

ical diagnoses but to guide users towards healthier lifestyles.

The op-ed highlighted the potential benefits of AI in medicine, including breakthroughs in drug development and diagnostics. Despite these advancements, building trust in an AI product that handles sensitive health data remains a significant challenge for Altman and Huffington.

Thrive AI Health coach is designed to use behavioural data to create 'personalised nudges and real-time recommendations' to change the daily habits of a person whether he is a busy professional with diabetes or somebody with access to trainers and life coaches.

Recently, the experts examined a company called Vitality, which makes behavioural change platforms for health and life insurance. Vitality frames itself as an 'active life partner with customers', using targeted in-



terventions to improve customer well-being and its own bottom line.

Similar projects in the past have had questionable results. A 2019 World Health Organisation report on digital health intervention said, "The enthusiasm

for digital health has also driven a proliferation of short-lived implementations and an overwhelming diversity of digital tools, with a limited understanding of their impact on health systems and people's well-being.

However, the problem of 'hyper-personalisation' is no guarantee the AI will work as promised. There is no reason to think it won't be plagued by the problems of bias, hallucination and errors one sees in cutting-edge AI models like ChatGPT.

However, even if it does, it will still miss the mark because the idea of hyper-personalisation is based on a flawed theory of how change happens.

An individualised 'AI health coach' is a way to address widespread chronic health problems only if you envision a world in which there is no society - just individuals making choices.

Those choices turn into habits. Those habits, over time, create problems. Those problems can be rooted out by individuals making better choices. Those better choices come from an AI guardian nudging you in the right direction.

But individual lifestyle choices

aren't everything. In fact, the "social determinants of health" can be far more important. These are the social conditions that determine a person's access to healthcare, quality food, free time and all the things needed to have a good life.

Technologies like Thrive AI Health are not interested in fundamental social conditions. Their 'personalisation' is a short-sighted view that stops at the individual.

The only place society enters Altman and Huffington's vision is as something that must help their product to be successful. Policymakers need to create a regulatory environment that fosters AI innovation. Healthcare providers need to integrate AI into their practices and individuals need to be fully empowered through AI coaching to better manage their daily health.

AGENCIES

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RATNA BHANDAR REOPENS

# Inventory of valuables after repair

PNN & AGENCIES

**Puri, July 14:** Although the inner Ratna Bhandar of Srimandir was opened Sunday by the members of an 11-member committee formed by the state government, the inventorisation of the valuables will start only after completion of the repair works at the temple trove by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), said sources.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said, "The inventory work will be done after getting approval of the government on the engagement of valuers, goldsmiths and other experts. After the completion of the repair works, the valuables will be brought back and then, the process for inventory will be carried out."

The officials of ASI, the custodian of the temple, inspected the condition of the inner chamber, officials said.



Earlier, six wooden chests with brass interiors were brought to the temple for shifting of the valuables.

The chests, made of teak, were 4.5 ft in length, 2.5 ft in height and 2.5 ft in breadth, an official said. "The temple authority July 12 had asked us to build 15 such

chests. After working for 48 hours, we have completed six chests," said one of the workers who made them.

The trove was last opened in 1978, and at that time, it took 70 days to prepare the inventory of the valuables, which have been donated to the temple by devotees

over centuries, officials said.

An attempt was made in 2018 as well to reopen the Ratna Bhandar on the direction of the Orissa High Court but the original keys could not be found, and eventually, the plan was abandoned.

Padhee said standard operat-

ing procedures (SOPs) have been formulated for the entire process.

"Three SOPs have been formulated. One is related to the reopening of the Ratna Bhandar; the second one is for the management of the temporary Ratna Bhandar; and the third is related to inventory of the valuables," he said.

The government has decided to prepare a digital catalogue of the valuables in the Ratna Bhandar that will have details such as their weight, another official said.

As it was apprehended that inside the treasury there were snakes, believed by devotees to be guarding the valuables, snake catchers were called. However, no snake was found there, officials said.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in a post on X, said the BJP government has fulfilled the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of Odisha.



## Enrolment fees to curb dropouts

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, July 14:** The number of school dropouts is witnessing a gradual increase in Ganjam district, even as the authorities have decided to collect enrolment fees from the students to address the issue.

As per the data available on the 'Prabandh' portal, 1,327 students aged between 14 and 18 years have dropped out of various schools in the district. However, the actual number of students who dropped out of schools in the middle of their studies will be more than the official figures, sources added.

The report on the number of school dropouts is prepared by sub-ordinate officers of the district administration.

Meanwhile, the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) has prioritised the enrolment of the dropouts in special



schools again. The Mass Education department at the Centre had approved the enrolment of these students in the State Institute of Open Schooling (SIOS) study centres during academic year 2024-25.

These study centres have been running in government high schools at the district headquarters and blocks. In order to appear in Board examination, it has been made mandatory for the dropped out students to undergo Personal Contact Programme (PCP) at these centres.

In this regard, a letter had been sent to Ganjam district ed-

ucation officer (DEO) by Yamini Sarangi, project director of state School Education Programme. The DEO was asked to submit a report in this regard at the earliest. Following this, the DEO issued a letter to all the SIOS study centres as well as principals of the government high schools, issuing the necessary instructions.

This course is scheduled to be taught from September to November at the study centres. However, a fee will be charged from the dropout students in order to enrol themselves at the study centres. The enrolment

fee for general category male students has been fixed at ₹2,360, while for female students it is ₹2,110. Similarly, a fee of ₹1,910 has been fixed for SC, ST and persons with disabilities.

Instructions have also been issued to establish book banks in all study centres. Special emphasis has been given to motivate the students to return their textbooks at the study centres following the completion of their studies. The schools have been asked to keep the collected books in the book banks.

It is worth mentioning here that most of the children drop out of school due to a host of reasons. After dropping out from school in the middle, no efforts are being made by the government for their return to schools at primary stage. Now it has been decided to charge a fee for teaching them. Even efforts are being made to get the allotted textbooks back.

## Man arrested for murder

Aska: The police here Sunday arrested a man accused of killing a person and injuring his family members at Taluka Road under this NAC, Saturday.

According to police, the accused, identified as Mukesh Anand, 32, of Tulabina Sahi under this NAC, had entered the house of Udayanath Muni around 3pm and attacked the latter with a wooden plank. The accused also attacked Muni's wife and daughter. Mukesh then dragged Muni's wife to the drawing room to show how severely he had beaten up her husband. Muni, his wife and daughter were rushed to Aska government hospital where doctors declared Muni dead. Aska IIC Rajendra Narayan Patnaik said, "Muni's wife in her complaint alleged that Mukesh also misbehaved with her mentally-challenged daughter." Police registered a case (475/24) and conducted medical examination of Mukesh and Muni's daughter. A scientific team from Gajapati district reached the spot and conducted a probe. Police have also seized the wooden plank, blood soaked clothes and some broken bangles from the crime spot.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, Ajit Kumar Acharya, H/o Panchali Acharya, At-Thuranali, Po-Butupali, PS/Dist-Boudh, has sworn an affidavit on dt.09.07.2024 and has reported to IIC, Model PS, Boudh on dt.09.07.2024 regarding loss of original link Regd. Sale Deed No.10371500072, Vol-2 dt.20.07.2015 of Registering Officer, Boudh.

Ajit Kumar Acharya, H/o Panchali Acharya has applied to the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD, Angul to avail loan on the above property by mortgaging the said property documents.

All concerned therefore, having any claim over the property purchased under the said document Regd. Sale Deed No.10371500072, Vol-2 dt.20.07.2015 of Registering Officer, Boudh, is required to file his claim with the undersigned within 15(Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice failing which it will be presumed that, the property having link with the said document/s is/are free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as a mortgagor and the company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15(Fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

(Bikram Keshari Pattanaik) Advocate,  
LIC Housing Finance Ltd. At-House No-13,  
Dinabandhu Villa, Mausima Chhak,  
Bhubaneswar, Khordha. Mobile No.9337395558.

## 'NutriFest' fashion show in Steel City a big hit

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, July 14:** 'NutriFest', a children's fashion show organised jointly by the Nutrishop and Rotary Club of Rourkela, Queens at Pluton Mall here Sunday, turned out to be a huge success with a large number of participants and audience attending it.

As soon as the mall opened, participants rushed to the registration counters to enrol themselves for the events.

"More than 350 candidates registered their names for different categories of events. We never expected this kind of participation from children. On behalf of my club, I extend my thanks to the kids and also their parents who waited patiently for each of the event and never disturbed us," said Barkha Gupta, president of the Rotary Club of Rourkela, Queens.

Manmin Kaur, chairperson, who was very happy over the huge number of participants, said, "I have no words for the kind of publicity we got from two leading dailies - Dharitri and OrissaPOST. I am thankful to the mall authorities and also to the participants."

There were three categories, Pre (below seven years), junior - (8-12 years) and senior (13-17 years). The activities include painting, creative writing and storytelling. Entry fee is ₹300. In category two, there are events like nutri quiz and Spell B and entry fee in this category is ₹400. In category three, there is kids fashion show and the entry fee is ₹500.

Mother of an award winner said, "I am very happy that my daughter came here to participate and got a prize for her painting."



## Balanda Rath Yatra: A unique & rich 114-yr-old tradition

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, July 14:** The remote Balanda village in Sundargarh district holds a special significance for its unique Rath Yatra.

People in this sleepy village, located 1.5km away from the Kalunga railway station, pull the chariot a day after Puri celebrates the holy occasion.

The village boasts of its rich and ancient Jagannath culture, and, is perhaps amongst the few places in the state with a history of one of the oldest Rath Yatra celebrations which goes back to 114 years (1910).

"There are many places in the state with such history of Rath Yatra celebrations. But ours' is unique festival because the area is located in a very remote corner of the state. Moreover, the tradition has a very interesting legacy with an erstwhile royal link," said Pradeep Parida, a Rath Yatra organiser from Balanda village.

He said 'gountia' or 'ganju' used

to be appointed by erstwhile kings in the area during the Raj to collect taxes and adjudicate minor legal and social issues. Balanda was part of the Nagra Estate under Kuanrunda zamindar, explained noted historian Dr Prabhat Mallick who has done extensive research on royal families of the district.

Arjun Raj was one such 'gountia' in 1889, and was notoriously arrogant. He would have differences of opinion with the zamindars on many occasions. "Fed up with his behaviour and mannerism, the then Kuanrunda zamindar removed him from the prestigious post and put up Balanda, Junen and Pitamahal villages for auction," said Mallick.

One Jagatram, a native of Jharsuguda, bought the three villages and became the new chief. His youngest son Dayanidhi Nayak was given the charge of Balanda.

It is said once Dayanidhi in his dreams saw idols of the sibling



deities floating on water and a voice said to him that they should be retrieved. "The news spread like wildfire, and it also reached the Kuanrunda zamindar. To everyone's surprise, the idols were actually found floating near the holy confluence of Vedvyas. They were quickly brought to the banks by fishermen," said Parida.

The Kuanrunda zamindar appointed one Jagannath Das as the servitor and priest after completing the installation of the

deities with all due procedure. However, after a few months, the zamindar asked Dayanidhi to shift the deities to Balanda.

"The zamindar's logic was Dayanidhi should install the deities at Balanda since the latter was ordained in his dreams," said Makhlu Oram, a villager.

However, the zamindar's instructions to shift the deities came with a rider that the Rath Yatra at Balanda be observed a day after the Kuanrunda celebrations.

"And since then, we have been abiding by the instructions and never deviated from that," said Parida.

For more than a century after the shifting, the three deities used to be kept in a tiled roof room. It was only in 1997-98 the then 'gountia' Narendra Patel, with financial help from the villagers and other donors constructed the present temple in Balanda.

Some locals have a different take. "We have heard that the three deities came floating from

Jharkhand where they were worshipped in a Brahmin village. For some reasons they released them in River Koel, and Dayanidhi's dream coincided with that event," said a villager.

Another villager said, "Sukadev Dash was appointed the priest here in 1926, and later his son Bhagirathi took his position. Now, Bhagirathi's son Lingaraj, who lives in Junen village and works as a priest there, corroborates the lore. We heard it from him only."

After the demise of Narendra Patel his daughter Dr Minu Patel and son-in-law Dr Nimain Patel have taken charge of the Rath Yatra celebrations and bear all the expenses.

"They conduct the chhera panraha ritual every year," said Parida. Newborns in and around Balanda are made to touch the chariot during the 10-day festivities so that they can have the first glimpses of the sibling deities, said the villagers.

Life is life - whether in a cat, or dog or man. There is no difference. The idea of difference is a human conception for man's own advantage.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Trump Faces Gun

It is a travesty of democracy in the US that a gunman changes the electoral, political discourse by a heinous attempt on the life of Donald Trump, former President and emerging candidate for the presidential race this November. The dastardly act could take place because of an egregious security lapse that will, in all probability, fuel long-standing fears that the electoral campaign could descend into political violence. World-wide condemnation followed the assassination attempt and US politicians cutting across ideological lines, including President Joe Biden, said violence has no place in politics in the US. Unfortunately, however, the US has an unenviable record of its Presidents and presidential candidates either falling to assassin's bullets or surviving attempts on their lives. The four US Presidents who had been assassinated were Abraham Lincoln in 1865, James Garfield in 1881, William McKinley in 1901 and John F Kennedy in 1965. Presidential candidate Robert F Kennedy was shot dead in 1968. There were eight other Presidents who also faced assassination attempts. The latest of them was George W Bush in 2005 who was preceded by Ronald Reagan in 1981.

However, the attack on Trump assumes far greater significance considering the climate of hatred, intolerance and violence that has been created by Trump's own acts of omission and commission since he occupied the centre-stage of American politics. His incendiary speeches and a series of legal cases against him for his alleged moral turpitude have vertically split the US population. The vandalism and murderous assault on the Capitol Hill in 2021 by Trump supporters responding to his call to overturn the election mandate that went against him showed hatred and intolerance had struck deep roots in the US during his Presidency. Investigation into the motive of the twenty-year-old assailant, who was shot dead during the attack, is in progress. But, the small detail that has, so far, emerged that he was a Republican, who had also donated money for Trump's electoral campaign, is disturbing to say the least. It adds a twist to the tale of the attempted murder. For, it seems to deflate the theory being spun by some Republican senators that the attack was Biden's handiwork. Some such party members are even suggesting the Democrats are responsible for the assassination attempt since their rhetoric that Trump is a threat to democracy in the US has 'misled' the people.

For the past few years since his defeat, Trump has consistently shown he has a special knack of turning his legal troubles into political advantages. The more evidence has mounted against him, the more his popularity among his supporters has grown. He has changed the narrative into a witch hunt against him by President Biden without any facts to buttress his claim.

In other words, Trump has appeared to have developed an expertise in playing the victim and martyr's card. Whatever the outcome of the investigation into the attempt on his life, his stocks in the November Presidential election are likely to rise further. Already, his televised debate with Biden in which the latter cut a sorry, literally shaky figure has already boosted his image. Even so, some surveys have indicated that Biden still had 50 per cent of the support of US voters against Trump's 48 per cent.

According to political analysts, Trump's assassination attempt raises his odds of winning back the White House and trades betting on his victory will increase this coming week. Before the shooting, markets had reacted to the prospect of a Trump presidency by pushing the US dollar higher and positioning for a steeper US Treasury yield curve. Those trades could strengthen in the coming weeks, market experts project. Republican President Ronald Reagan had gone up 22 points in the polls after his assassination attempt in 1981.

The presidential battle had been evenly poised, but the way things are moving Trump appears to be getting more traction than his rival. Biden too is trying to reposition himself to beat Trump in his own game. His words of condemnation of the assassination attempt are an indication. He said, among other things, the cowardly attack makes it all the more necessary for Americans to remain united. This is a veiled criticism of Trump's divisive politics.

On the other side, this should also be a warning for both Trump and President Biden to take a re-look at the US Gun laws. And if critics who are claiming this was a stage managed show are to be believed then this chapter is certainly going to be picked up by those leaders from across the world who think of Trump in friendly terms.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**
- Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. **MAHATMA GANDHI**
- After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. **NELSON MANDELA**

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1912:** American Jim Thorpe won a gold medal for the decathlon at the Olympics in Stockholm; he also captured a gold medal for the pentathlon.
- 1922:** Leon Max Lederman, who was a coreipient of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Physics for research on neutrinos, was born in New York City.
- 1965:** Mariner 4, an uncrewed space probe launched by NASA in 1964, flew by Mars and returned close-up pictures of its surface. They proved that the planet's rumoured canals were actually illusions.
- 1978:** American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan performed in England before 200,000 people.
- 1988:** The thriller Die Hard was first released in U.S. theatres, launching a hugely popular series and helping establish Bruce Willis as an action star.
- 1997:** Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace was murdered by serial killer Andrew Cunanan.

### LOL

#### Too much speeding

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street. "But, officer," the man began, "I can explain."  
"Just be quiet," snapped the officer.  
"I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back."  
"But, officer, I just wanted to say"  
"And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail!"



A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief's at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back."  
"Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."



Natalia Kanem

**EMPLOYEES ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES SEEKING BETTER WORKPLACE STANDARDS. CUSTOMERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO PATRONIZE BUSINESSES WITH ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES**

Women may represent nearly 40% of the global workforce, but the average workplace was not built with them in mind. Systemic barriers such as insufficient parental leave and persistent sexual harassment prevent women from climbing the career ladder and perpetuate the gender wage gap. That must change. Companies should strive to create an inclusive environment for women by establishing clear policies on sexual harassment, flexible leave, and working from home. This would allow all workers - including, say, men who would like to take their paternity leave without guilt - to invest in their own health and support their families. While there has been some important progress on women's inclusion in the workplace in recent decades, plenty of work remains to be done. Nearly 200 million women working in global supply chains reside in countries where their health needs go largely unmet. Equally concerning, fewer than one in three managers is a woman. As a result, the United Nations Population Fund has focused on helping companies invest in employees' health and well-being.

Yes, it is the right thing to do, but it is also good business: a recent UNFPA analysis found that subsidizing sexual and reproductive-health products and services increased workplace productivity by 15%. A strong commitment to employees' sexual and reproductive health and rights could also improve morale, decrease absenteeism, reduce turnover, and, most importantly, advance gender equity in the workplace, which could add \$12 trillion to global GDP. Recognizing that measuring progress is required for meaningful, sustained change, UNFPA, in cooperation with Accenture, published a score card that demonstrates how well a company is doing at preventing and addressing workplace sexual harassment and supporting employees' family-planning goals. Like other environmental, social, and governance metrics, the scorecard measures performance on indicators that both advance a social good and support the bottom line. The first step to achieving gender equality in the workplace is to ensure that people are safe and respected. Recent data have shown that one in five people experience violence or harassment in the workplace,

and that one in 15 people experience sexual violence or harassment at work. But only half of survivors of workplace abuse disclose their experience to anyone. These figures reinforce what many women have long known. Creating a safe workplace starts with organizational culture - companies must demonstrate that they do not tolerate workplace sexual harassment and, in fact, will root out such behavior. As for reproductive health policies, companies can expand women's choices and help them thrive in the workplace by offering financial support for fertility treatments, surrogacy, adoption, and egg-freezing, as well as by providing private spaces for breastfeeding and free or subsidized menstrual products. And increasing paid parental leave will attract younger workers regardless of gender. Companies that demonstrate a commitment to ethical business practices and employee well-being will hire and keep top talent, while also getting the best from their workforce. Simple changes, such as providing employees with sanitary pads and iron supplements, have been shown to increase workplace productivity. Moreover, 59% of

companies that offer infertility coverage report that it has earned them recognition as a family-friendly employer; and 62% report that it has allowed them to stay competitive in attracting and retaining workers. Employees are not the only ones seeking better workplace standards. Customers are more likely to patronize businesses with ethical and sustainable practices. In a recent survey of Gen-Z consumers, half of the respondents were more willing to buy from companies with a demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion. Another study found that progressive marketing around gender could help brands grow by 8%. To increase women's participation in the workforce and attract and retain top talent - regardless of gender - companies should invest in policies that support reproductive health and combat sexual harassment and discrimination. This will lead to a healthier, happier, and more productive workforce, and forge a more prosperous, inclusive future where employees thrive and businesses flourish. **The writer is Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.**

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### FOCUS INDIA-RUSSIA TIES

## MIXED BAG DEALS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Moscow has resulted in a significant agreement between India and Russia, particularly impacting the agricultural sector: India has decided to increase its imports of Russian wheat and grain products by 22-fold, a monumental shift after decades of minimal imports since the cessation of PL480 supplies from the United States.

This substantial increase in wheat imports is expected to lead to a collapse in wheat prices within India, given the sudden surge in supply and likely waver of 40 per cent import duty. The decision marks a historic move, as India has largely relied on its own production to meet domestic demand since the Green Revolution in early 1970s. The Russian grains are aluminium phosphate chemical laced. It could spur Indian farmers to take a stand.

In addition to the agricultural deal, Russia has agreed to sell six high-power nuclear and several low-power plants to India, that might cost \$35-40 billion. These deals are being explored for collaboration in the field of quantum computing, including the creation of quantum computers, linked to Russian multipurpose research reactor project on fast neutrons. Preparation is underway for the technical specifications for the construction of a new Russian-designed nuclear power plant in India with VVER-1200 reactor units.

Since indigenous sources of uranium are depleting, India would also have to ensure continuous uranium supply from Russia. The petroleum, fertiliser and other imports would continue at a rate that is lower than the international prices. The benefit of crude import, refining and sale to the Western countries goes to two private refineries in Gujarat. Russia is also supplying a third of the fertiliser supplies. Russia and India have set a bi-



**This substantial increase in wheat imports from Russia is expected to lead to a collapse in wheat prices within India, given the sudden surge in supply and likely waver of 40 per cent import duty**

lateral trade target of \$100 billion across a 'broad base' by 2030, up from the current \$65 billion. Russia exported up to 89.3 million tons of grain and grain products in the 2023-24 agricultural season, 21 per cent more than in the previous season. The 22-fold increase was mainly due to exports of peas, three-fold increase in exports of lentils, barley and corn.

As per data released by Russia, Indian imports increased well above major importers in 2023-24 agricultural season. In the nuclear field, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), out of 51 nuclear power plants under construction worldwide, 13 are Rosatom's VVER type or pressurised heavy water reactors. India has been offered VVER-1200 that is of 1200 MW each. However, a final decision is awaited.

The initial capital cost of a new reactor is \$5,339 per kw, or \$5.3 billion for a 1000 MW reactor. Financing cost, long construction periods, and escalating costs can push the total cost beyond it. The cost of the six proposed reactors plus some smaller ones could be above \$35 to 40 billion. Rosatom has also offered floating nuclear installations.

The deal would be a great boon for Russian economy facing the western sanctions, war with Ukraine, continuous NATO supplies of arms to Ukraine, positioning of nuclear heads in German and a global isolation. Prime Minister Modi's visit has been welcomed at such critical times and the agricultural and nuclear deals would be giving a great encouragement to multi-dimensional development of Russia, which is being supported by China, North Korea and to some extent Saudi Arabia. India and Russia are discussing the opening up of a new trade route for Russian energy sources with transshipment at Russian Far Eastern ports to India through Northern Sea Route. A pilot line for international container transit through the Northern Sea Route is also likely for faster dispatches.

Significantly, Russia has not agreed on rupee payment. Thus, cost for nuclear or farm imports would be high. That could add to the concerns of the Reserve Bank, which has refused to lower interest rates as prices hover around 5 per cent.

There are certain concerns about the nuclear deals. Due to earlier trade bans and lack of in-

igenous uranium, India has uniquely been developing a nuclear fuel cycle to exploit its reserves of thorium. Since 2010, a fundamental incompatibility between India's civil liability law and international conventions limits foreign technology provision.

The growing support for nuclear as a low-carbon energy source has seen uranium prices more than triple since the end of 2020, and the market could remain tight until 2029 as utilities replenish their inventories, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Cooperation in civilian nuclear sphere doesn't fall under the US sanction regime on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

There are 22 nuclear power reactors which are operational in the country with a total installed capacity of 6780 MW. In addition, there are 8 reactors of 6000 MW capacity are being built. A major environmental concern related to nuclear power is the radioactive wastes such as uranium mill tailings, spent or used reactor fuel, and other radioactive wastes. These materials are supposed to be maintained in a secured area for 5000 years and are dangerous to human health. It is also necessary that the waste in any form does not get leaked out and presently all wastes are stored at one place.

At Kudankulam plant, near Kanyakumari, where the first Russian nuclear plant went on stream in 2016, fishermen are on a decade-long agitation as hot water discharged in the sea from it has moved away the fish to distant sea causing livelihood and law and order issues. As many as 8956 persons have been slapped cases under sedition law, however, their arrests were stayed by the Supreme Court.

The deals are a mixed bag. While Russia cheers for its gains, there could be many fall outs within the country both for wheat imports and nuclear deals at a high cost.

INFA

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Supporting reproductive health is good biz

Yes, it is the right thing to do, but it is also good business: a recent UNFPA analysis found that subsidizing sexual and reproductive-health products and services increased workplace productivity by 15%. A strong commitment to employees' sexual and reproductive health and rights could also improve morale, decrease absenteeism, reduce turnover, and, most importantly, advance gender equity in the workplace, which could add \$12 trillion to global GDP. Recognizing that measuring progress is required for meaningful, sustained change, UNFPA, in cooperation with Accenture, published a score card that demonstrates how well a company is doing at preventing and addressing workplace sexual harassment and supporting employees' family-planning goals. Like other environmental, social, and governance metrics, the scorecard measures performance on indicators that both advance a social good and support the bottom line. The first step to achieving gender equality in the workplace is to ensure that people are safe and respected. Recent data have shown that one in five people experience violence or harassment in the workplace,

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### Bypoll results

**Sir,** The recent by-election results in India highlight the importance of democracy. The success of the INDIA coalition shows that people trust parties focused on development. Victories in states like Telangana, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh indicate support for parties addressing public welfare. Elected representatives now need to prioritise solving public issues and working together for everyone's benefit. This mandate should encourage parties to focus on serving people rather than their own interests, strengthening democracy, and restoring public trust. **Masood Ahmad, BARABANKI**

### Invest in people

**Sir,** On the World Population Day of July 11, India figured prominently as the most populous nation in the world with 1.44 billion, having overtaken China in April last year. But, if the quality of India's population is not addressed well, the so-called demographic dividend may turn into a demographic ordeal for the country. Also, we should not forget that our industrial infrastructure is not as robust as China's, and much of India's population growth is centred in its poorer regions, especially in the north. Incidentally, it also raises the question of whether a booming young Indian citizenry could drive the country's economic growth for years to come if they are not adequately employed, since joblessness keeps swelling alarmingly. Whether India reaps a demographic dividend rather than suffers a demographic disaster, it will require strategic investments in its people and in infrastructural means. **Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI**

### Credibility at stake

**Sir,** This refers to the news report 'Reflects changing political climate in country: Cong' (Orissa POST July 14), I am of the opinion that, it is high time to replace Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the political scenario suggests that he is now a spent force incapable of giving meaningful leadership to his party at its desired level. More quickly the BJP realises the ground reality, better it would be for the party for INDIA bloc is fast eclipsing the credibility of Modi taking the fullest advantage of his governance, falling far short of people's expectations. The Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has rightly pointed out that the BJP has been rejected by the public only because of the growing arrogance of the party and no tangible sympathy shown towards unemployed youth who are struggling for life. **Arun Gupta, KOLKATA**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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UNREST ON THE RISE

# 'Hidden terrorism' surfaces in Valley

SECURITY AGENCIES ON HIGH ALERT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 14: Security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir are grappling with what they call the "hidden threat" of "conservation and consolidation" tactics employed by infiltrating terrorists, which was evident in the recent ambushes and encounters in North Kashmir and Kathua district.

Analysing the ambushes and encounters with terrorists, officials in the know of the matter said while security agencies are on high alert, the lack of ground-level intelligence -- human intelligence (HUMINT) -- hampers operations.

Reliance on technical intelligence (TECHINT) has not been fruitful as terrorists use online activity to mislead authorities. Officials feel that there is an urgent need for heightened surveillance to counter foreign terrorists, especially in the Jammu region.

The region, previously known for its peaceful atmosphere, has recently seen a surge in terror incidents, particularly in border districts such as Poonch, Rajouri, Doda and Reasi. Attacks on an IAF convoy, a pilgrim bus and the recent killing of soldiers in Kathua highlight the evolving threat.

Under the "conservation and consolidation" tactics, terrorists infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir but remain quiet initially, blend in with the local population and wait for instructions from handlers in Pakistan before carrying out attacks, the officials said.

Though security agencies are on high alert in Jammu and Kashmir after uncovering the "conservation and consolidation"



Under the "conservation and consolidation" tactics, terrorists infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir but remain quiet initially, blend in with the local population and wait for instructions from handlers in Pakistan before carrying out attacks, the officials said

tion" tactic of the infiltrating terrorists, the absence of on-ground intelligence is playing a spoilsport for operations.

One official explained that technical intelligence has not been that fruitful as the terrorists leave signatures on the Internet only to confuse the security agencies.

Describing this as a significant shift in terrorist activities, officials emphasise the urgent need for heightened surveillance to prevent foreign mercenaries from carrying out their malicious intentions.

The April 26 encounter in Sopore, in which the foreign terrorists involved had been hiding for 18 months, serves as a stark reminder of the "conservation and consolidation" tactic. Evidence showed their connections with terror groups across Kashmir and their use of sophisticated weaponry.

Similar operations in June further dismantled hidden networks, exposed terrorists' plans and capabilities, and also threw light on a previously unseen

high level of infiltration from across the border.

While two terrorists belonging to Rawalakot in Pakistan occupied Kashmir were killed April 26, dreaded Pakistani terrorist Usman Langda is said to have been killed in the June 19 encounter at Hadipora of Sopore.

The decline in HUMINT, coupled with the use of encrypted communication tools like "Ultra Set" phones by terrorists, makes tracking them difficult. Security agencies are urging heightened surveillance and public vigilance to counter this hidden threat.

While the terrorists' capabilities may have diminished, their intent remains a constant threat, a senior police official said.

Officials have highlighted the challenge posed by the use of encrypted messaging apps for radicalising and recruiting youths, and planning attacks. They have emphasised public vigilance in monitoring suspicious communication, especially among the youths, to safeguard the community.

# Meghalaya revises state climate action plan

Focus on adaptation, mitigation strategies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: With its ample green cover threatened by climate change, Meghalaya is focusing on its dedicated climate budget and an ambitious forest conservation scheme as it revises the state action plan to combat global warming, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has said.

Meghalaya is among a few states in India to earmark as much as 16 per cent -- ₹4,501 crore -- of the total state budget for sustainability and conservation initiatives in 2024-25; up from ₹2,456 crore in 2022-23 and ₹3,412 crore in 2023-24.

"We feel that climate change affects every aspect of life and governance. And hence it is important for not just my government but also for all governments to focus on climate change for a better future," Sangma, who is here on a visit, told PTI. That approach is helping shape the revision of the State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC) with new climate adaptation targets and sectoral climate risk mitigation strategies.

According to the India State of Forest Report report of 2021, Meghalaya has 76 per cent of its land under total forest cover.

Harping on both "legacy and futuristic aspect to environmental conservation", the chief minister said Meghalaya is home to a multitude of indigenous communities who have for generations shared an intimate bond with nature.

"This relationship is enshrined in the 10,000 hectares of traditionally protected forests across the state," he said, adding, "Our focus is to involve local communities in protecting the forested areas around their habitation."

About two years ago, Meghalaya introduced 'Payment for Ecosystem Services' programme called 'Green Meghalaya', where the communities are paid an annual grant for conserving forested areas.

"This is India's biggest such programme. In less than two



Meghalaya introduced 'Payment for Ecosystem Services' programme called 'Green Meghalaya,' where the communities are paid an annual grant for conserving forested areas

The state now envisions conservation of 1 lakh hectares of forest under the scheme in the next five years

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years, ₹44 crore has been released to 3,403 individuals and community beneficiaries to bring over 54,000 hectares of forests under conservation," he said.

The state now envisions conservation of 1 lakh hectares of forest under the scheme in the next five years.

An additional 6,000 hectares of forest has been conserved in a participatory approach involving communities under the 'Community Led Landscape Management Project,' while yet another 22,500

hectares are being brought under afforestation under the MeghARISE project.

Speaking about linkage with the international carbon market, Sangma, the 46-year-old entrepreneur-turned-politician, said his state has made strides in connecting farmers to the international carbon market, which pays for carbon sequestration in new plantations.

"Through this initiative, we expect to conserve another 1 lakh

hectares of agro-forestry areas," he added.

But it is not just the forest that gets priority when the state's action plan to combat climate change is being upgraded. Water

is going to be a major focus area with the state facing a unique problem: on the one hand, there are areas with the highest rainfall in the country and, on the other, many areas suffer from lack of water.

Meghalaya gets 63 billion cubic metres of rainfall annually, but it flows away into Assam and

Bangladesh.

"The geography of Meghalaya is characterized by an elevated and sloping, inhospitable terrain, the sparse population poses challenges of water retention. Hence, it is not the quantity of water or rain that we get but it is about the management," Sangma said in an interview with PTI.

Meghalaya is currently mapping its different springs and forests using technology. For ex-

The geography of Meghalaya is characterized by an elevated and sloping, inhospitable terrain, the sparse population poses challenges of water retention. Hence, it is not the quantity of water or rain that we get but it is about the management

CONRAD SANGMA | CHIEF MINISTER

## Nearly 3L devotees perform Amarnath Yatra in 15 days

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, July 14: During the last 15 days since it started on June 29, nearly three lakh devotees performed Amarnath Yatra as another batch of 4,889 enthusiastic pilgrims left for Kashmir valley Sunday.

Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) officials said nearly three lakh devotees had 'Darshan' inside the holy cave during the last 15 days while 4,889 Yatrīs left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in two escorted convoys for the Valley today morning.

Of these, the first escorted convoy carrying 1,896 pilgrims in 78 vehicles left at 3.05 am for north Kashmir's Baltal base camp. Second escorted convoy carrying



DIFFICULT DRILLS: A joint training exercise being carried out between the Indian Army and Mongolian Army at Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya

## Assam flood situation improves

The total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood, landslide, storm and lightning has increased to 107

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 14: The flood situation in Assam continued to improve Sunday as water level is receding fast across the state, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department's Regional

Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Guwahati has also not issued any warning except predicting some rains in Barak valley and a few districts of central Assam.

Meanwhile, a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) Saturday night said that one person died at Gogamukh revenue circle of Dhemajī district.

With this, the total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood, landslide, storm and lightning has increased to 107.

The report said more than 8,40,000 people are hit due to the floods in Barpeta, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemajī, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karimganj, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar and South Salmara districts.

Cachar is the worst hit with nearly 1.5 lakh people suffering, followed by Dhubri with almost 1.27 lakh people and Nagaon with more than 88,500 people reeling under flood waters, it added.

## J&K'S NEW RESERVATION POLICY

# Youths demand 'meritocracy' in govt jobs

THIS SHIFT TOWARDS ADVOCATING FOR EQUITY IN OPPORTUNITIES REFLECTS A NEW WAVE OF SENTIMENT AMONG TODAY'S YOUTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 14: The decision to allocate only 40 per cent of positions for open merit in government job recruitments in Jammu and Kashmir has triggered widespread outrage among the youth in the Union Territory.

The move, which comes after accounting for reserved quotas, has led to opposition in various districts of the erstwhile state.

Contrary to past trends of supporting terrorism or separatism, the youth in the Kashmir Valley and parts of Jammu have taken to the streets demanding meritocracy in government job placements.

While concerns persist about some potentially joining terrorist organisations, there is a noticeable trend where youngsters are pushing for fairness in the allocation of government job positions.

The discontent among the youth underscores a growing need for policy reforms that address the aspirations of all candidates and uphold the principles of equal opportunity. Be it NEET, NET, CUET or for

that matter UPSC and JKSSB, the exams are a constant point of discussion at mushrooming coffee shops in the Valley where youths are expressing their disappointment over the ever-reducing percentage of seats for the general category.

While political parties agree in private that open merit candidates have an unfair deal, none have come out and openly supported them as this would cost them votes from the reserved categories.

PDP leader Wahean Para in May posted on X that the new reservation policy undermined the merit and aspirations of countless intelligent students and eroded meritocracy. He had also appealed to the government for reconsidering the policy so that a balance is struck for all stakeholders to have equitable opportunities.

However, six hours later, he had to delete the post after PDP president Mehbooba Mufti distanced herself and the party from his views.

Prominent figures like Sahil Parry and leaders of the Youth Against Corruption (YAC) group



such as Vinkal Sharma have been actively engaging with local politicians to address the concerns of students and job seekers in the Valley.

Sharma and Parry, also a YAC leader, have been engaged in meetings with politicians such as newly elected Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Syed Aga Rullah Mehdi on the issue.

Critics of the new reservation policy like Sharma have denounced the move as a "murder of open merit candidates", citing concerns over limited opportunities for people from the general category in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma feels that the recent

amendments to the Scheduled Tribes list, through the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, raises questions about regional focus and potential impacts.

Supporting the cause of Kashmiri students, Sharma said at least 70 per cent of the population in the Valley comprises general category students. "Now, with limited open competition seats, securing opportunities based solely on merit becomes more challenging," he said.

The debate surrounding the reservation policy intensifies as voices like Javed Dar and Khandan Imtiyaz express fear of

dashed dreams and restricted prospects for government employment in the region.

Dar, who hails from Baramulla, feels that the present reservation policy of the Union Territory goes against the 1992 Indra Sawney judgement of the Supreme Court that fixed a cap of 50 per cent reservation.

"The new policy reserves 60 per cent of government jobs and educational seats for various categories, leaving 40 per cent for open competition. Additionally, concerns exist about the removal of the 'creamy layer' concept, which excludes those already benefiting from privilege within reserved categories," he said.

Imtiyaz, a student pursuing a Masters in Political Science, has expressed strong disapproval of the Jammu and Kashmir government's new reservation policy as he fears the policy will negatively impact students from the unreserved category.

He argues that while uplifting certain sections of society is important, it shouldn't come at the expense of others.

"This policy will be the reason for the downfall of many dreams

held by students from the unreserved category," Imtiyaz said and urged policymakers to find a "just way out" that ensures opportunities for both the reserved and general categories without jeopardising the aspirations of deserving students.

A detailed breakdown of seat reservation has sparked debate and concerns among general category candidates.

The notification shows that Scheduled Castes have an eight per cent reservation, Scheduled Tribes (20), socially and educationally backward classes (8), residents of Line of Control (4), residents of backward areas and economically weaker sections (10 per cent each), persons with disabilities (4), children of defence personnel (3), outstanding sports candidates (2) and one per cent for children of paramilitary and police forces.

The 2011 census data indicates that 69 per cent of Kashmir Valley's population falls under the general category, which encompasses individuals not classified under Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

# national

## of the day quote

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 tmct of water every day from July 12

I am deeply concerned by the assassination attempt on former US President Donald Trump. Such acts must be condemned in the strongest possible terms

Poverty alleviation and development is my party's agenda while my opponents have focused on spreading fake narratives

## SHORT TAKES

### Asphyxiation kills 3 at illegal coal mine

**Surendranagar:** Three labourers died of asphyxiation at an illegal coal mine in Gujarat's Surendranagar district, police said Sunday. A case has been registered against four persons for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and efforts are on to apprehend them, an official said. The victims, Lakshman Dabhi (35), Khodabhai Makwana (32) and Viram Keraliya (35), were digging at a mine near Bhet village in Thangadh taluka of the district when they died of asphyxiation Saturday, the official from Muli Muli police station said.

### BSP leader murder accused shot dead

**Chennai:** A key accused in the murder of BSP Tamil Nadu chief K Armstrong was shot dead here Sunday after he attempted to assault police personnel and flee from custody, police said. When the accused, K Thiruvengadam, was taken by sleuths to a location in north Chennai as part of investigation to unearth weapons concealed in a spot, he assaulted a policeman and tried to escape and he was shot at by a police officer.

### 5 dead, 7 injured in road accident

**Kishanganj (Bihar):** At least five people, including two children, died and seven others were injured Sunday when a jeep in which they were travelling collided with a truck near Petbhari village in Bihar's Kishanganj district, police said. The accident took place around 11 am and the identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained. "Five persons, including two children, died on the spot. All seven injured persons have been admitted to the nearest government hospital," a police statement said.

### Sanitation worker drowns in canal

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A search and rescue operation is underway Sunday to trace a sanitation worker, who was swept away while cleaning Amayizhanchan canal here a day ago. Joy (47), a temporary cleaning worker, had gone missing while cleaning the waste-filled canal criss-crossing through the heart of the capital city Saturday. Joy and two other workers were engaged in cleaning the Thampanoor part of the canal near the Railway Station when the water flow increased due to heavy rainfall.



The reason why these MLAs are joining our party is that this government is working hard to develop Telangana so that they also will contribute. What can I offer to them (to join the Congress)? Nothing. They are motivated by our ideology. Earlier some bulls have challenged that they will dethrone this government

REVANTH REDDY | CM, TELANGANA

## SC TO HEAR KCR'S PLEA JULY 15

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear July 15 a plea of BRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao challenging a Telangana High Court order dismissing his plea to declare as "illegal" the constitution of a commission to inquire into the alleged irregularities in the power sector during his tenure as the state's chief minister



## MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LAW AIMPLB to challenge SC verdict on maintenance to Muslim women



The board observed that this judgment will create further problems to women who have successfully come out of their painful relationship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) Sunday asserted that the Supreme Court verdict on maintenance to Muslim women was against Islamic law and authorised its president to explore all possible measures to ensure that this decision is overturned.

The board also decided to challenge in the Uttarakhand High Court the Uniform Civil Code brought in the state.

After a meeting of its working committee here, the board adopted a resolution which stated that the recent judgment of the Supreme Court on the maintenance of Muslim divorcee women

is "against the Islamic law (Shariah)".

The Muslim body's assertions came days after the Supreme Court ruled that a Muslim woman can seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC and said the "religion neutral" provision is applicable to all married women irrespective of their religion.

A bench of justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih in a separate but concurring verdict said, "(a) Section 125 of the CrPC applies to all married women including Muslim married women. (b) Section 125 of the CrPC applies to all non-Muslim divorced women."

In a statement, issued after the meeting, the AIMPLB said, "The Board emphasised that the Holy Prophet had mentioned that amongst all permissible deeds the most abhorred is divorce in the sight of Allah, hence it is desirable to continue the marriage by applying all permissible measures to safeguard it and follow several guidelines mentioned in Holy Quran about it." "However, if married life be-

The board strongly condemned any attempts of the governments to weaken or eradicate the Waqf law

comes difficult to maintain, then divorce was prescribed as a solution to mankind," it said.

The board observed that this judgment will create further problems to women who have successfully come out of their painful relationship, the statement said.

The AIMPLB authorised its president, Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, to initiate all possible measures "legal, constitutional and democratic" to ensure that this decision by the Supreme Court is "rolled back", AIMPLB spokesperson SQR Ilyas said at a press conference here.

Five other resolutions, including one against the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), were also passed during the meeting of the working committee of the AIMPLB.

The board pointed out that according to Article 25, all religious entities have the right to practice their religion, which is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution, the statement said.

The AIMPLB also stated that in "our multi-religious and multi-cultural country, UCC is impractical and undesirable" and hence, any attempts to implement it is against the spirit of the nation and the rights ensured for minorities, according to the statement.

Therefore, the central or state governments should refrain from drafting UCC laws, it said.

## 5 associates of Canada-based terrorist held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, July 14:** Five associates of Canada-based terrorist Lakhbir Singh alias Landa have been arrested, the Punjab Police chief said Sunday.

Three pistols were seized from them, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said. "In a major breakthrough against organised crime, Jalandhar Commissionerate Police apprehends 5 more associates of #Canada-based terrorist Lakhbir @ Landa," he said in a post on X.

With this, the number of Landa gang members arrested has increased to 13, the DGP said.

"The gang is involved in multiple heinous crimes such as murder, extortion and many other criminal activities in many districts of Punjab," Yadav said.

Later in a statement, Jalandhar Police Commissioner Swapn Sharma said the accused were allegedly involved in heinous crimes like murder and extortion.

The accused have been identified as Simranjit Singh alias Simma, Paramjit Singh alias Pamma, Dilbagh Singh alias Baga, Dilpreet Singh and Sajandeep Singh alias, all residents of Tarn Taran district.

Sharma said Dilpreet was in contact with Landa and had threatened traders and shopkeepers in Tarn Taran and Amritsar for money.

The police commissioner said Baga and Sajjan were also in touch with Landa and had demanded money from several traders, commission agents and shopkeepers in Tarn Taran and Amritsar districts.

The police said they had arrested three associates of Landa June 10. Five more associates of the terrorist were held June 30.

## Corporate tax cut put ₹2L-cr in billionaires' pockets, says Congress



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** With the personal income tax collections exceeding the corporate tax collections, the Congress Sunday alleged that the corporate tax cut has put over ₹2 lakh crore in the "pockets of billionaires", while the middle class continues to bear the weight of heavy taxation.

The opposition party's attack on the government came a day after data released by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) showed that the net direct tax collection of ₹5,74,357 crore (as of July 11, 2024) includes Corporation Income Tax at ₹2,10,274 crore and Personal Income Tax at ₹3,46,036 crore after excluding the refunds.

Congress general secretary, in-charge communications, Jairam Ramesh said, "As we head towards the Budget July 23rd, data has just been released that gross personal income tax collections amounted to ₹3.61 lakh crores during April 1-July 1 2024 while gross corporate tax collections were ₹2.65 lakh crores."

"This reconfirms and re-establishes the point we have been making for quite some time—that individuals are paying more tax than companies," Ramesh said in a post on X. "When Dr. Manmohan Singh left office, personal income

As we head towards the Budget July 23rd, data has just been released that gross personal income tax collections amounted to ₹3.61 lakh crores during April 1-July 1 2024 while gross corporate tax collections were ₹2.65 lakh crores

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

tax was 21% of total tax collections, while corporate tax was 35%. Today, the share of corporate taxes out of total tax collection has dropped sharply to its lowest level in a decade, at just 26%," he said. Meanwhile, the share of personal income tax in total tax collection has shot up to 28 per cent, he added.

Ramesh pointed out that corporate tax rates were slashed September 20, 2019 in the hope that it would trigger a private investment boom.

"But that has NOT happened. Instead, private investment has collapsed, from a peak of 35% of GDP under Dr. Manmohan Singh, to below 29% during 2014-24," he said. "The corporate tax cut has put over ₹2 lakh crore in the pockets of billionaires, while the middle class continues to bear the weight of heavy taxation," Ramesh alleged.

## Cong appoints Gaurav Gogoi as deputy leader in Lok Sabha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** Gaurav Gogoi will be the deputy leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha and a letter regarding the decision has been sent to Speaker Om Birla.

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has written to Birla, informing him about the appointment of the deputy leader, chief whip and two whips for the Congress party in the Lower House of Parliament, AICC general secretary, organisation, KC Venugopal said on X.

While Gogoi will be the party's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, eight-time MP from Kerala Kodikunnil Suresh will be its chief whip, he said.

Virudhunagar MP Manickam Tagore and Kishanganj MP Mohammad Jawed will be the party's whips in the Lower House, Venugopal added.

Earlier, the party had named Rahul Gandhi as the leader of Opposition and subsequently, he was appointed to the post.

"Guided by LoP Rahul Gandhi ji, the Congress and INDIA parties will energetically champion the people's causes in the Lok Sabha," Venugopal said.

Gogoi was the party's deputy leader in the last Lok Sabha as well. Gogoi expressed gratitude to Sonia Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal for their trust and faith in his abilities.

"I congratulate my colleagues. Our aim will be to raise the voice of the people of India inside Parliament and strengthen our democracy," he said in a post on X.

With Rahul Gandhi being the LoP and also busy with other party commitments, Gogoi is expected to share the burden of responsibilities during the day-to-day working of the House.



Shia Muslim devotees during a procession on the 7th day of the mourning period of Muharram, in Srinagar, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## Delhi's first sunken museum set for grand inauguration

SITUATED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMPLEX, THE MUSEUM AIMS TO CONNECT THE HISTORICAL TRIO: NIZAMUDDIN, SUNDER NURSERY, AND THE 16TH-CENTURY HUMAYUN'S TOMB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** The "country's first" sunken museum at the iconic Humayun's Tomb site in Delhi is likely to be inaugurated soon, sources said Sunday.

Efforts are on to have the inauguration, coinciding with the upcoming meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in

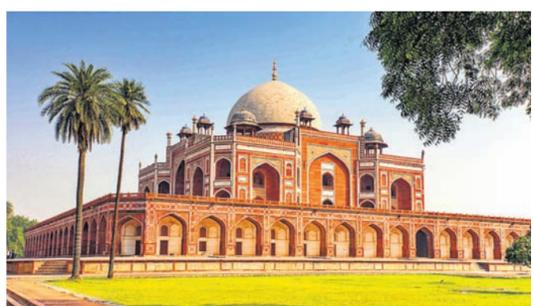
the national capital, they added. India will host the 46th session of the WHC in New Delhi from July 21-31 at Bharat Mandapam.

In conjunction with the WHC meeting, the sixth edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum will be organised here from July 18-25, according to UNESCO.

People familiar with the matter in Delhi said, at least for three days site managers from cultural, natural and mixed World heritage properties all around the globe, will gather at the site of Humayun's Tomb to take part in the Forum.

The theme for it will be 'Heritage and communities: inclusive and effective approaches for the sustainable management of World Heritage properties', according to the UNESCO website.

This gathering aims to empower site managers and create new opportunities for them by sharing their personal



knowledge and enlarging their networks and experiences at an international level, according to the UNESCO.

This is the first time India is hosting a session of the WHC. The Ministry of Culture and ASI are the nodal agencies for hosting its 46th session here.

The 16th century tomb in south Delhi's Nizamuddin area, which has been chosen for the site managers' Forum, is known for its architectural splendour and lux-

uriant lawns, and its restoration was also a specimen of community involvement.

It is one of the three World Heritage Sites in Delhi, the other two being Red Fort and Qutab Minar, all three under the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). According to the sources, the sunken museum at the iconic Humayun's Tomb site is likely to be opened soon, sources said, adding that it could be inaugurated sometime during the course

of the upcoming session of the WHC here. However, there is no official word yet on the museum's formal inauguration.

Work for the construction of the museum began in April 2015. The museum will showcase the heritage of the Nizamuddin area over the last seven centuries.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) is building the museum on behalf of the ASI as part of the urban renewal initiative.

Inspired from the medieval baolis (water tanks) of northern India, the underground site museum, with a built-up area of 9000 square metres, will marry modern 21st century architecture with Mughal-era craftsmanship in its design.

According to AKTC, the museum is being constructed at the entrance zone of the World Heritage Complex and would serve as a bridge between the three sites of Nizamuddin, Sunder Nursery and the 16th

century tomb.

"The principal structure where the galleries will be located is 6 metres below the ground level while the gallery block rises 4 feet above the ground level and the roof is treated like a Mughal garden," a top official of AKTC had said in April 2015.

The museum will include galleries, library, seminar halls, crafts centre and cafeteria, among others. The final of the Mughal monument (Humayun's Tomb) which was knocked off in a 2014 storm will be its "centre-piece", he had said.

"Besides, several other finials, sandstone and marble elements, terracotta pipes, over 400 earth toys found at the site of nearby Isa Khan's tomb, among others will also be housed," the official said.

The design is inspired from the baolis, which are sunken and yet allow natural lighting and ventilation, he said.

The project was earlier planned to be inaugurated in 2017.

## of the day quote

Going by the history of our country, Hindus and Muslims have been working together in harmony in perfect coordination and synergy for ages. This is 'Juktosadhana' as underscored by Kshitimohan Sen in his book. We need to stress on this idea of 'Juktosadhana' in our present times

AMARTYA SEN | NOBEL LAUREATE

Youths in large numbers are getting "attracted to RSS ideology" and becoming a part of it every year. A total of 66,529 people joined the RSS till June this year

SUNIL AMBEKAR | NATIONAL PUBLICITY HEAD RSS

We are committed to fulfil (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji's resolution to make India a developed nation by 2047. We have to gear up and put in our best efforts to defeat our rivals in the 2027 Assembly elections

BHPENDRA SINGH CHAUDHARY | BJP CHIEF, UTTAR PRADESH

## X POST OF THE DAY

Modi Govt's betrayal of Jammu and Kashmir continues unabated! The insertion of new sections giving more powers to the LG by amending the Rules under Section 55 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 has only two meanings - (1) Modi Govt wants to delay the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, even though the Supreme Court has mandated Assembly Elections by Sept 30th, 2024. (2) Even if full statehood is restored, it wants to keep the newly elected State Govt at the mercy of the LG, by clamping its executive power. Another example of "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" continuing daily under Modi Govt.

@KHARGHE

## SHORT TAKES

### Naidu meets Shinde

**Mumbai:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met his Maharashtra counterpart Eknath Shinde at the latter's residence here Sunday to discuss the current political scenario and cooperation in various sectors, including infrastructure and economics. In a post on 'X', the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office said the chief ministers discussed cooperation between their states for progress. Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Maharashtra PWD Minister Dada Bhuse, Shinde's son and MP Shrikant Shinde were present for the meeting, it said. According to sources close to Shinde, the chief ministers spoke for nearly half an hour at his official residence, Varsha. The discussions covered the current political situation, among other topics, they said.

### 12-hr Tripura bandh

**Agartala:** The 12-hour Tripura bandh called by the Left Front to protest the murder of a CPI(M) Zilla Parishad candidate was peaceful, evoking a "muted" response, police said Sunday. There was no report of violence or untoward incident across the state during the bandh period, they said. "Normal life has not been impacted due to the 12-hour strike. There was no picketing or gathering in support of the bandh. Movement of vehicles and train services were usual, while shops and markets were also functioning normally," Assistant Inspector General of Police Ananta Das told PTI.



I will also gather 100 deprived voters before the Raj Bhavan and expose how they were intimidated by TMC on the polling day before the media. They themselves will narrate their experiences

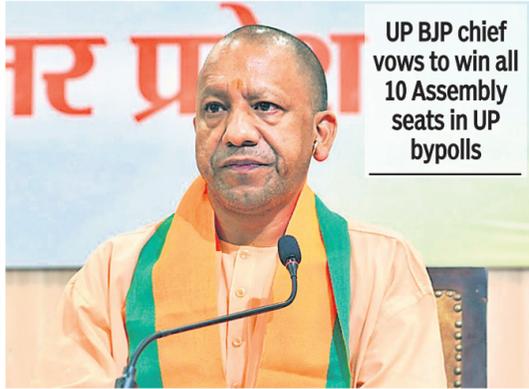
SUWENDU ADHIKARI | LOP, WEST BENGAL

## 100MN FOLLOWERS: MODI'S X FEAT

The number of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's followers on his X handle crossed the 100-million mark on Sunday, registering an impressive growth of nearly 30 million in the past three years, officials said. He is already the most followed head of government on the social media platform globally



# Overconfidence hurt BJP's hopes: Yogi



UP BJP chief vows to win all 10 Assembly seats in UP bypolls

## ADITYANATH'S REMARKS COME A DAY AFTER THE BJP-LED NDA'S DISMAL PERFORMANCE IN BY-ELECTIONS IN SEVEN STATES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, July 14:** In the first major meeting of the Uttar Pradesh BJP unit after the Lok Sabha poll debacle in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Sunday said "overconfidence" hurt the BJP's hopes in this year's elections.

Addressing the BJP's UP working committee meeting here, Adityanath said while the BJP managed to maintain its vote share of previous elections, there was a "shifting of votes", and now the "defeated" Opposition is "jumping around" again.

The chief minister said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, we had maintained constant pressure on the Opposition in UP, achieving great success in 2014, 2017, 2019 and 2022 (national and state elections)." "The percentage of votes that BJP had in its favour in 2014 and subsequent elections, BJP has been successful in getting the same number of votes in 2024 as

well, but shifting of votes and overconfidence have hurt our hopes," he said.

"The Opposition, which had earlier accepted defeat, is again jumping around today," the chief minister said at the concluding session of the day-long meeting at Ambedkar Auditorium of Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University in Lucknow.

INDIA bloc members won the bypolls to 10 of the 13 Assembly constituencies, while the BJP managed to bag two and an Independent pocketed one seat.

In the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the BJP won 33 seats, down from 62 it clinched in 2019. The Congress won six seats, while its INDIA bloc ally Samajwadi Party bagged 37 seats from UP, which sends 80 members to the Lower House of Parliament.

In a veiled attack at Opposition parties, Adityanath warned against the "sin of dividing" the people along caste lines, which he said was committed during the elections.

"The world knows that if our society is scattered, it will easily fall, but if it is united, even the biggest powers will fall in front of it," he said.

"We have to use social media platforms as much as possible. Using social media, the Opposition and foreigners were involved in a conspiracy and were successful in it," the chief minister said.

The BJP, however, has a nationalist vision, he added.

INDIA bloc leaders had attacked the BJP saying it wanted to end reservations during the Lok Sabha poll campaign.

Adityanath said, "BJP workers will have to see what is going on in social media. We will have to immediately refute the rumours. We have to talk about the BJP's views about the great men of Scheduled Castes. In 2019, we had defeated the biggest alliance in the state."

"We do not discriminate on the basis of caste, religion or creed. Eighty crore people are not getting free ration on the basis of caste or religion," the chief minister said.

Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, hunger-related deaths and suicides did not happen and it was eradicated successfully under the leadership of PM Modi, he said.

He said the BJP, however, does not have to "go on the backfoot" since they have done good work.

Addressing party workers, he said, "When you were in the Opposition, you used to fight for the issues of the people. When you were in government, you saw the security environment in UP. Remember, roads used to be empty during Muharram, and today, it is being held without attracting any attention."

Adityanath urged party leaders to gear up for Assembly bypolls and the 2027 Assembly elections.

"Everyone will have to be active from now on for the Assembly by-elections to be held on 10 seats in the state and the 2027 Assembly elections. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, MLAs, MLCs, zila panchayat chairmen, mayors, block pramukhs and councilors, everyone should start preparing for the 2027 Assembly elections from today itself," he said.

"We have to hoist the flag of BJP in the state once again," Adityanath added.

The Election Commission is yet to announce the schedule for the Assembly bypolls in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh.

## WORLD RECORD Indore plants 11L saplings in a day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Indore, July 14:** Indore Sunday set a new Guinness World Record in the category of "the most trees planted by a team in 24 hours" by planting more than 11 lakh saplings.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that Indore, already the cleanest city in India and the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, has now achieved the world record of planting more than 11 lakh saplings in a single day.

The programme was organised by the state government.

"Indore is now number 1 in the world. My brothers and sisters of Indore, I congratulate you all for creating history in the plantation after cleanliness," Yadav said in a post on his official X account while sharing the Guinness World Records certificate and pictures of receiving it.

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and planted a sapling.

The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi June 5 to mark World Environment Day.

## MHA brings guidelines over fake govt e-notices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** On receiving a suspicious e-notice from a government office on the email, people should check the Internet to authenticate the name of the official named in it and call the mentioned department, the Union home ministry's cyber crime unit said Sunday.

Users should be aware of "fake emails" sent in the garb of a government e-notice, said the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) in a public advertisement.

This could be a con that can make people "a victim of cyber fraud", the ad cautioned.

The I4C suggested counter-measures before clicking or responding to such emails: check if the email has originated from an authentic government website that ends with "govin"; check the internet for information regarding officials named in the email; and call the mentioned department to verify the email received.

Early this month, the Union finance ministry had issued a public advisory alerting email users about fraudulent e-mails bearing names, signatures, stamps and logos of Delhi Police Cyber Crime and Economic Offence, Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB), the Intelligence Bureau and Cyber Cell of Delhi.

A letter attached to these emails, as per the advisory issued July 4, made allegations of child pornography, pedophilia, cyber pornography, sexually explicit exhibit etc against the receivers of the said e-mails.

The fraudsters, it said, use different e-mail addresses for sending such fake e-mails with

## CYBER FRAUD



attachment.

"Receiver of any such email should be aware about this fraudulent attempt. It is informed to the general public that any such e-mails with the attachment should not be responded to and such cases may be reported to the

nearest police station/cyber police station," it said.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), an organisation under the ministry of home affairs (MHA) to deal with cyber crimes in a comprehensive manner, had issued a similar advisory in August last year

cautioning users against such counterfeit emails impersonating the name of its CEO bearing subject titles like 'urgent notification' and 'court notification'. "These misleading emails are targeted to various government offices, individuals and falsely accuse them of cyber crimes, urging them to respond," the I4C said.

The logos of I4C, IB and Delhi Police used in these emails are "intentionally fake, deceptive and created with malicious motives," it said.

The MHA and I4C ad issued Sunday said such suspicious emails and other types of cyber frauds should be reported immediately to 'www.cybercrime.gov.in' or call the cyber crime helpline number 1930.

# CRPF jawan killed in militant attack in Manipur

## GOV, CM CONDEMN 'HEINOUS ACT'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Imphal, July 14:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan was killed in a gun attack by suspected militants at Mongbung village in Manipur's Jiribam district Sunday morning, police said.

A policeman also suffered injuries and he has been admitted to a hospital, they said.

The deceased has been identified as Ajay Kumar Jha, 43, a resident of Bihar.

"He suffered bullet injuries in the head and was declared brought-dead in hospital. The injured policeman is undergoing treatment, but he is out of danger," a police officer said.

In a post on X, Anusuiya Uikey condemned the "heinous act of violence" and prayed for the departed soul. "Governor Miss @AnusuiyaUikey is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of a brave CRPF soldier in the



Jiribam ambush by suspected insurgents. She extends her heartfelt condolences to the soldier's family," the Raj Bhavan said in a post.

The state is committed to ensuring justice and maintaining peace and security, the post said. Chief Minister N Biren Singh,

too, denounced the attack and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. "I strongly condemn the killing of a CRPF personnel in an attack carried out by an armed group, suspected to be Kuki militants, in Jiribam district today."

Gunshots were reportedly heard in the village on Saturday night, too, the officer said.

Additional security forces have been deployed at Mongbung from adjacent hill areas following Sunday's attack, another official said.

## LEARNING LOSS

# Climate change disrupting education outcomes: UNESCO

GEM REPORT NOTED THAT A CHILD EXPERIENCING TEMPERATURES THAT ARE TWO STANDARD DEVIATIONS ABOVE AVERAGE IS PREDICTED TO ATTAIN 1.5 FEWER YEARS OF SCHOOLING THAN CHILDREN EXPERIENCING AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** Climate related stressors like heat, wildfires, floods, droughts, diseases and rising sea levels affect education outcomes and threaten to undo educational gains of recent decade, according to the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM).

The global report compiled by UNESCO, Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) project and University of Saskatchewan in Canada has pointed out that most low and middle-income countries are experiencing climate-related school closures every year, increasing chances of learning loss and dropout.

"Climate change related impacts are already disrupting education systems and outcomes. Direct effects include

the destruction of education infrastructure as well as injuries and loss of life among students, parents and school staff. Climate change has a negative impact on education indirectly through its displacement of people and the effects on people's livelihoods and health," the report said.

"Over the past 20 years, schools were closed in at least 75 per cent of the extreme weather events, impacting five million people or more. Increasingly frequent natural disasters, including floods and cyclones, have led to the deaths of students and teachers and have damaged and destroyed schools. Exposure to heat has significant detrimental effects on children's educational outcomes. An analysis linking census and climate data in 29 countries between 1969 and 2012 showed that exposure to higher than average temperatures dur-



ing the prenatal and early life period is associated with fewer years of schooling, especially in Southeast Asia," it added.

Elaborating about impact of climate change on education in India, the crucial report pointed out that a study of rainfall shocks over the first 15 years of life in India found that they negatively affected vocabulary at age five

and mathematics and non-cognitive skills at age 15.

"The effects were more severe for boys and children of parents with a lower educational attainment. An analysis of disasters experienced early in life by over 140,000 children in seven Asian countries found a negative association with school enrolment, especially for boys, and with math-

ematics performance, especially for girls, by the time they reach 13 to 14 years," it said.

Climate-induced education vulnerability is found to be worse for marginalized populations. Of the 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2019, eight were low or lower-middle-income countries. Of the 33 countries identified as bearing extremely high climate risks for children, where nearly one billion people live, 29 are also considered to be fragile states.

"Climate change increases the likelihood of displacement and is one of the reasons why internal displacement has reached the highest levels on record. During 2022, 32.6 million were internally displaced due to disasters. Analysis of five countries - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Tuvalu and Vietnam - finds five displacement patterns: temporary displacement, permanent

migration to urban settlements, government-planned relocation, cross-border migration and trapped populations. These displacement scenarios lead to different barriers to education, related to a lack of financial resources, documentation or residency requirements," it said.

The report noted that dealing with direct and indirect effects of climate change-induced disruptions requires a comprehensive focus on climate adaptation, including multi-sectoral planning, curriculum reform, teacher training and community awareness and engagement.

Noting that there are increasing calls to improve the ability of school infrastructure to absorb shocks and adapt to stresses and changes brought about by climate change impacts, the crucial report claimed that the efforts remain insufficient.



None of us are immune to nature's fury. As Houston authorities work tirelessly to restore power, we are committed to assisting Indian students with critical supplies during this challenging time  
D C MANJUNATH | CONSUL GENERAL, INDIA

## DRILLS AGAINST NATO

China and Russia's naval forces Sunday kicked off a joint exercise at a military port in southern China, official news agency Xinhua reported, days after NATO allies called Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war in Ukraine



## of the day quote

Despite the repeated warnings of North Korea, the South Korean scum are not stopping this crude and dirty play



KIM YO JONG | SISTER OF KIM JONG UN, NORTH KOREA

China's economic growth is projected to remain resilient at 5 percent in 2024 and slow to 4.5 percent in 2025



GITA GOPINATH | IMF'S FIRST DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

There is a need to expose elements spreading uncertainty and instability in the country



SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

## SHORT TAKES

### Slavery in Italy: 2 PIOs arrested

Rome: Two Indian nationals have been arrested for allegedly enslaving 33 farm labourers, all from India, in Italy's Verona province, according to a media report, weeks after the country was shocked by the tragic death of a Sikh farm worker who bled to death. Finance police also seized assets worth 475,000 euros from the suspects, who are allegedly total tax evaders, ANSA news agency reported Saturday. The two alleged gangmasters were arrested Saturday and are under investigation for crimes, including enslavement and labour exploitation, the Italian news agency said.

### Kenyan Prez orders probe

Nairobi: Kenyan President William Ruto has directed security agencies to speed up investigations into the mysterious killings in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, after nine mutilated bodies were retrieved from a dumpsite in a slum. Ruto, who spoke in Elgeyo-Marakwet County, northwest Kenya, Saturday, assured citizens that those behind the killings will be held to account, saying no stone will be left unturned. Xinhua news agency reported.

### 11 die in landslide

Hanoi: At least 11 people on board a minibus died after being buried by a landslide in Vietnam's northern province of Ha Giang while four others were critically injured, according to the latest update by the state media reports. When the vehicle was trapped by a landslide on a road in Bac Me district, all the people on board got out for help. The minibus was reportedly carrying around 16 people. Thousands of cubic metre of soil from above poured onto the road, burying all the people, Xinhua news agency reported.

## ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

# World leaders condemn Trump attack

Former US Prez Donald Trump survived a weekend assassination attempt days before he is due to accept the formal Republican presidential nomination, in an attack that will further inflame the US political divide and has raised questions about the security lapses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, July 14: World leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Sunday denounced the appalling assassination bid on former US President Donald Trump and asserted that violence has no place in politics and democracies.

Trump, 78, survived an attempt on his life Saturday when a young shooter fired multiple shots at him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear. The shooting left one person attending the rally dead and two others in serious condition.

The 20-year-old suspected shooter was shot and killed by a member of the Secret Service.

Prime Minister Modi expressed deep concern over the attack and said violence has no place in politics and democracies.

Modi said on X, "Deeply concerned by the attack on my friend, former President Donald Trump. Strongly condemn the incident. Violence has no place in politics and democracies. Wish him a speedy recovery."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the deceased, those injured and the American people," he added.

Starmer said he was "appalled by the shocking scenes" at the rally. "Political violence in any form has no place in our societies and my thoughts are with all the victims of this attack," he said.

Macron called the assassination attempt "a tragedy".

"This is a tragedy for our democracies. France shares the shock and indignation of the American people," Macron said on social media platform X.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has no plans at present to call Trump, according to Kremlin



spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

"We do not at all think or believe that the attempt to eliminate presidential candidate Trump was organised by the current government, but the atmosphere that this administration created during the political struggle, the atmosphere around candidate Trump provoked what America is faced with today," he added.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said, "This was an inexcusable attack under the democratic values that Australians and Americans share and the freedom that we treasure. These values unite our two countries."

Chinese President Xi has expressed sympathies to former President Trump, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

China is following the shooting incident at a campaign rally,

the spokesperson said in a brief statement in Beijing.

South Korea's President Yoon

Suk Yeol said on X that he was appalled by "the hideous act" of political violence. He added that

## Trump rally shooter was registered Republican

Thomas Matthew Crooks, the gunman who authorities say attempted to assassinate former President Donald Trump was a 20-year-old registered Republican who would have voted for the first time in the presidential election in November. He lived in the Pittsburgh suburb of Bethel Park, about 56 km south of the Trump rally site where law enforcement officials said he fired at Trump. Crooks was shot dead by the Secret Service personnel Saturday, soon after he fired a volley of shots at Trump from



an "elevated position outside of the rally venue." He had previ-

ously made a small contribution to a Democratic-aligned group, CNN reported, quoting public records. Crooks was registered to vote as a Republican, according to a listing in Pennsylvania's voter database that matched his name, age, and a Bethel Park address that law enforcement searched. Federal Election Commission records show that a donor listed as Thomas Crooks with the same address gave \$15 to a Democratic-aligned political action committee called the Progressive Turnout Project in January 2021.

the people of Korea stand in solidarity with Americans. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, who survived an assassination attempt himself in May, condemned the shooting in a Facebook post.

He drew direct parallels between the two incidents, suggesting the attack on Trump was the result of a campaign by his political opponents.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she was deeply shocked by the shooting on X, adding political violence has no place in democracy.

The UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the attack on Trump, describing it as "a criminal and extremist act".

British lawmaker Nigel Farage, a friend of Trump's, sought to pin much of the blame on the "mainstream media" that he claimed opposed the former President. He told the BBC that it was a "horrendous" incident but somehow he was not shocked by it.

Earlier, US President Joe Biden, Trump's opponent in the November election, said everyone must condemn political violence.

## SHOOTINGS IN US PREZ POLITICS

1865, Abraham Lincoln (16th President) - Assassinated while watching a theatre play with his wife in Washington, DC.

1881, James Garfield (20th President) - Was shot while walking at a train station in Washington, DC, six months after taking office.

1901, William McKinley (25th President) - Was shot at point-blank range after giving a speech in New York. McKinley was expected to make a recovery, but gangrene set around the bullet wounds and he died eight days later.

1933, Franklin Roosevelt (32nd President) - Was the target of an assassination attempt in Miami by an Italian immigrant, Giuseppe Zangara. Roosevelt was unharmed.

1963, John F Kennedy (35th President) - Kennedy was fatally shot while riding his motorcade through downtown Dallas.

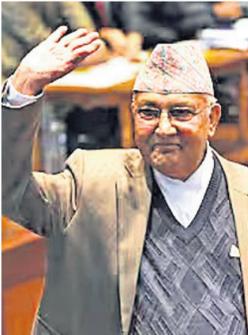
1975, Gerald Ford (38th President) - Escaped two assassination attempts within 17 days, both in California (in Sacramento and San Francisco) and both carried out by women, Lynette Fromme and Sarah Jane Moore. They received life sentences.

1981, Ronald Reagan (40th President) - Reagan was leaving a speech in Washington, DC when he was shot by John Hinckley Jr. The bullet pierced Reagan's left lung, narrowly missing his heart. Reagan survived the attempt.

1994, Bill Clinton (42nd President) - Clinton was inside the White House when Francisco Martin Duran fired at the building using a semiautomatic rifle. Clinton was unharmed.

2005, George W Bush (43rd President) - Bush was attending a rally in Tbilisi with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili when a man named Vladimir Arutyunian threw a hand grenade towards the podium. It did not explode and no one was hurt.

## Oli to take oath as Nepal PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, July 14: KP Sharma Oli, the leader of Nepal's largest communist party, was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for a fourth term Sunday to lead a new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.

Oli, 72, succeeds Pushpa Kamal

Dahal 'Prachanda' who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives Friday, leading to the formation of the new government process as per Article 76(2) of the Constitution.

President Ram Chandra Paudel appointed Oli, Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), as the new Prime Minister under Article 76-2 of the Constitution of Nepal, according to a notice issued by the President's Office. Oli became the Prime Minister with the support of the Nepali Congress, the largest party in Parliament.

Oli's swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to take place at 11 am Monday at Shital Niwas, the main building of Rashtrapati Bhawan. Oli now needs to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment according to the constitutional mandate. Oli will need a minimum of 138 votes in the 275-seat House of Representatives (HoR).



French President Emmanuel Macron waves from the command car as he drives down the Avenue Foch during the Bastille Day parade, Sunday AP/PTI

# Tough road ahead for Khan despite back-to-back judicial relief

The new case alleged that former Pakistan PM Imran Khan and his wife got some precious watches and other gifts from the state depository by violating rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 14: Despite back-to-back judicial relief to beleaguered Imran Khan, his woes are far from over and Pakistan's former Prime Minister remains in jail with his wife Bushra Bibi.

A district and session court Saturday overturned the conviction of 71-year-old Khan and

his wife Bushra, 49, in the un-Islamic marriage case related to the violation of the mandatory waiting period for a Muslim woman between two marriages.

The relief came a day after the Supreme Court in a key judgment declared that his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was eligible for the seats reserved for women and minorities in the national and four provincial assemblies.

The PTI will become the largest party in the National Assembly with 109 seats after the Supreme Court ruling.

Two successive victories for Khan were being interpreted as some kind of change of heart on the part of the powerful establishment towards the PTI and its founder, but the subsequent



developments belie any such possibility.

The court in the Iddat case verdict stated that Khan and his wife should be released "if not required to be detained in any other case" and anticipating his release a large number of PTI

supporters accompanied by key leaders reached the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi, where they have been kept, to welcome them.

But the PTI feared counter-measures by the government and announced that Khan would be arrested in three cases re-

lated to May 9 violence. However, it emerged that he and his wife were taken into custody by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a fresh Toshakhana corruption case.

Khan and his wife during his government allegedly obtained gifts from the gift repository at low prices and sold them at higher rates.

It is the third Toshakhana case and Khan's sentence in the two previous Toshakhana cases had been suspended by the Islamabad High Court.

The new case alleged that the couple got some precious watches and other gifts from the state depository by violating rules.

Khan faces a slew of cases launched against him since his ouster from power in April 2022 after he fell out with the establishment which was believed to be instrumental in bringing him to power.

Despite dozens of cases against him and several party leaders, he has kept up his rhetoric by attacking the senior Army leadership, and his supporters churning out half-baked stories against the establishment on social media. The Army this month after a key meeting termed the attack on social media as "digital terrorism", calling it "unwarranted criticism by some quarters".

## Hamis denies withdrawal

REUTERS

Cairo, July 14: Islamist group Hamas has not withdrawn from ceasefire talks after this weekend's deadly Israeli attacks in Gaza, one of the group's senior officials said Sunday.

The statement from Izzat El-Reshiq, a member of the political office of Hamas, also accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to derail efforts by Arab mediators and the United States to reach a ceasefire deal.

The escalation in attacks by Netanyahu and his government aims to thwart efforts to end conflict, Reshiq said.

Two Egyptian security sources at ceasefire talks in Doha and Cairo had said Saturday that negotiations had been halted after three days of intense talks.

## of the day quote

To support biogas producers and encourage organic farming, the government should consider roping in Fertilizer Marketing Companies (PSUs) for the off-take and distribution of Fermented Organic Manure (a product of biogas plant)

Our final goal is zero emission mobility and carbon neutral setup, which not only means about tailpipe emissions, but also from the recyclability of the car, to the carbon footprint that we generate by producing these cars

We have launched one housing project worth around ₹3,000 crore in the first quarter of 2024-25. We have a strong launch pipeline for the remaining three quarters

## SHORT TAKES

### Xiaomi India profit drops 77% in FY23

**New Delhi:** Chinese smart device maker Xiaomi Technology's profit in India nosedived 77 per cent year-on-year to ₹238.63 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal, according to a regulatory filing. The company had posted a profit of ₹1,057.7 crore in the preceding financial year. Xiaomi's revenue from operations declined by about 32 per cent to ₹26,697 crore in FY23 from about ₹39,100 crore in FY22. Xiaomi earned ₹26,395 crore from the sale of products and ₹264 crore from the sale of services, which include advertisements and value-added services, among others, during the year under review.

### PC Jeweller to raise ₹2,705cr via warrants

**New Delhi:** PC Jeweller Ltd plans to raise up to ₹2,705 crore by issuing warrants on a preferential basis to promoters and investors, mainly to settle bank loans and for working capital requirements. Promoters will infuse around ₹850 crore into the company by subscribing to warrants issued by the company. In a regulatory filing Saturday, PC Jeweller informed that its board has approved the proposal to raise funds up to ₹2,705.14 crore by preferential issue of fully convertible warrants. "The funds will be utilised primarily for settlement of bank loans. Around 75 per cent of the fund will be used for repaying bank loans and the rest 25 per cent for working capital requirements," PC Jeweller MD Balram Garg told PTI.



In May, exports were positive, the figure for June is also positive. The first quarter is also in the positive territory

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

# FPIs invest ₹15,352cr in two weeks of July

The latest FPIs' flow can be attributed to the positive sentiments, stable government's assurance on continuity of reforms, tepid US Fed rates and a strong domestic demand

This came following an inflow of ₹26,565 crore in equities in June on the back of political stability and a sharp rebound in markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** Foreign investors infused Rs 15,352 crore into Indian equities during the first half of this month, driven by the government's commitment to ongoing reforms, low US Federal rates, and strong domestic demand.

The upcoming Union Budget will be one of the most watched events by foreign investors to understand the government's plans for economic growth, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net inflow of Rs 15,352 crore in

equities this month (till July 12). This came following an inflow of ₹26,565 crore in equities in June on the back of political stability and a sharp rebound in markets.

Before that, FPIs withdrew ₹25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over ₹8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

The latest FPIs' flow can be attributed to the positive sentiments, stable government's assurance on continuity of reforms, tepid US Fed rates and a strong domestic demand, Manoj Purohit, Partner and leader - FS Tax, Tax and Regulatory Services, BDO India, said.

Additionally, the anticipation of a reform-oriented budget has also lifted investor sentiment. Better than expected earnings season so far has also worked towards building investor confidence, Srivastava said.

Apart from equities, FPIs invested ₹8,484 crore in the debt market during the period under review. This has pushed the debt

tally to ₹77,109 crore this year so far. The key characteristic of institutional equity flows into the Indian market is the unpredictable nature of FPI flows compared to the consistent growth of domestic institutional investors (DIIs) including mutual funds' flow.

DIIs have been consistent buyers every month in 2024, while FPIs have fluctuated between buying and selling. FPIs sold a cumulative amount of ₹60,000 crore in January, April, and May but bought ₹63,200 crore in February, March, and June together.

"The reason for this divergence is that FPI activity is influenced by external factors like US bond yields and valuations in other markets while DII activity is largely driven by domestic flows into the market," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Abhishek Banerjee, smallcase Manager and founder at Lotusdew, said FPIs have a great chance in India as they can earn high returns in foreign currency, benefit from rising stock prices, and gain from falling bond yields.

However, Chinese markets are much cheaper. So, the challenge for investors is choosing between chasing momentum or going for value, he added.

In terms of sectors, Vijayakumar said that better-than-expected results from IT majors so far indicate the potential for FPIs buying into these stocks where valuations are not excessive.

# Auto exports rise 15.5% in first qtr



## MARUTI SUZUKI LEADS PV EXPORTS SPACE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** Automobile exports from India rose 15.5 per cent year-on-year in the June quarter with all verticals, barring three-wheelers, recording growth in shipments, according to the latest SIAM data.

Overall shipments stood at 11,92,577 units in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, as compared with 10,32,449 units in the same period of the last fiscal. Passenger vehicle exports stood at 1,80,483 units in the first quarter, registering a jump of 19 per cent over 1,52,156 units in the same period last year.

Maruti Suzuki India led the space with shipments of 69,962 units in the period under review. It exported 62,857 units in the first quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal. Hyundai Motor India exported 42,600 units in the April-June period. It had shipped 35,100 units in the same period last year.

Two-wheeler exports stood at 9,23,148 units in the first quarter, up 17 per cent as against 7,91,316 units in the year-ago period.

Commercial vehicle shipments rose 8 per cent year-on-year to 15,741 units in the first quarter as compared with 14,625 units a year earlier.

Three-wheeler shipments, however, saw a drop of 3 per cent year-on-year to 71,281 units in the April-June period this year as against 73,360 units in the year-ago period.

SIAM President SIAM Vinod Aggarwal said it is a good sign for the industry that exports have started doing well.

"I think that's a very good sign that exports seem to have bottomed out, especially in the commercial vehicle segment... we have started seeing the growth from the first quarter this year," he noted.

Till last year, there was a huge drop in the export volume of trucks and buses, he added.

"But Q1 has been good even for two-wheelers and passenger vehicles. We are very positive that exports have started to recover," Aggarwal said.

Automobile exports from India had declined 5.5 per cent in FY24 due to the monetary crisis in various overseas markets.

Overall exports stood at 45,00,492 units in the last fiscal year as compared with 47,61,299 units in FY23.

# TCS STEALS SHOW Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms jumps ₹1.72L-crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms jumped ₹1,72,225.62 crore last week, with IT bellwether Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) stealing the show, amid a rally in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 522.74 points, or 0.65 per cent.

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

The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS surged ₹62,393.92 crore to ₹15,14,133.45 crore.

Shares of TCS Friday surged nearly 7 per cent after the country's largest IT services player reported an 8.7 per cent growth in the June quarter net profit at ₹12,040 crore.

ITC added ₹31,858.83 crore taking its valuation to ₹5,73,258.78 crore.

The mcap of Infosys zoomed ₹26,905.14 crore to ₹7,10,827.27 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) jumped ₹22,422.12 crore to ₹6,64,947.01 crore.

The mcap of State Bank of India diminished ₹356.99 crore to ₹7,67,204.26 crore and that of ICICI Bank declined ₹210.5 crore to ₹8,67,668.16 crore.

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

## F1 FUEL IOC launches STORM-X

The firm's refinery at Paradip in Odisha has started producing STORM-X - a high-octane petrol specifically formulated for racing cars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** India's top oil firm IndianOil has started producing fuel used in adrenaline-pumping motor racing and dispatched its maiden consignment.

The firm's refinery at Paradip in Odisha has started producing STORM-X - a high-octane petrol specifically formulated for racing cars, the firm said in a statement.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Director (Marketing) V Satish Kumar flagged the dispatch of the maiden consignment of STORM-X at an event Saturday, it added.

IOC, the country's largest oil firm controlling roughly 40 per cent of fuel market share, will be the first Indian company and only a handful globally to produce fuel used in F1 racing.

The launch of premium racing fuel for top-end motor racing events across the country and in the international circuit is part



of the firm's pursuit of innovation and excellence, the statement said.

"This premium race fuel was developed by the IOC Research & Development Centre, Faridabad, and produced at the state-of-the-art Paradip Refinery," it noted.

"It blends high-octane rating gasoline (petrol) streams with advanced sustainable components, including 2G Ethanol from Panipat Refinery. Certified by Bureau Veritas, Dubai, the fuel meets FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) 2024 specifications."

IOC has partnered with Madras Motor Sports Club to supply STORM-X for the 3rd and 4th rounds of the Indian National Racing Championship at Madras International Circuit in the 2024 season.

"A total of 55 barrels of STORM-X were dispatched for the 3rd round at the launch ceremony," it said.

## Realty sees ₹5,327cr investment in Q2

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 14:** Keeping up with the growth momentum in the Indian real estate industry, the domestic investors pumped in around \$638 million (more than ₹5,327 crore) in the real estate sector in the second quarter this year, from \$127 million in the same period last year.

According to data from leading real estate consultant Vestian, institutional investments in the real estate sector surged 96 per cent in the April-June period to \$3.1 billion, from \$1.6 billion in the same period last year.

"The Indian real estate sector garnered significant investments in the second quarter of 2024, dominated by foreign investors as the looming uncertainty over the major economies of the world has faded away," said Shrinivas Rao, CEO, Vestian.

According to the firm, foreign investors had the highest share of 71 per cent of the total investments in Q2 2024.

Industrial and warehousing sector reported a single large deal worth \$1.5 billion, accounting for 48 per cent of the total investments received in Q2.

According to a latest Hurun report, with real estate companies worth \$36 billion in 2024, India is accelerating to become the real estate capital of Asia.

# Continue 45-day MSME payment rule: Industry body to Sitharaman

Govt in last year's Budget added a new clause under Section 43B of the Income Tax Act to address the challenge of delayed payments faced by MSMEs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** Industry body SME Chamber of India has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to continue the 45-day MSME payment rule for corporates and other buyers.

According to Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act, introduced through the Finance Act 2023, if a larger company does not pay an MSME on time -- within 45 days in case of written agreements -- it cannot deduct that expense from its taxable income, leading to potentially higher taxes.

The government in last year's Budget added a new clause under Section 43B of the Income Tax Act to address the challenge of delayed payments faced by MSMEs in the country.

"We are pursuing not to change the 45-day MSME payment rules imposed by the Department



under the pressure of corporates or multinational companies to save the life span of the MSME sector. Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act reinforces the importance of timely payments by mandating that companies settle payments to MSME vendors within 45 days to qualify for deductions," SME Chamber said in a statement addressed to Sitharaman.

The industry body argued that this provision serves as a powerful incentive for companies to adhere to payment timelines, thereby supporting the financial health of MSMEs.

"Many MSMEs are NPA victims of corporates, who are buying from them and not dealing through the TReDs platform. Most of the corporates and multi-

national companies are forcefully insisting to deregister from the Udyam Portal and insisting not to deal through the TReDs platform," SME Chamber stated.

The industry body also urged the finance minister to consider providing Rs 5 crore loans under the "Differential Rate of Interest" scheme for micro and small enterprises.

It suggested changing the NPA definition from 90 days to 180 days for the MSME sector.

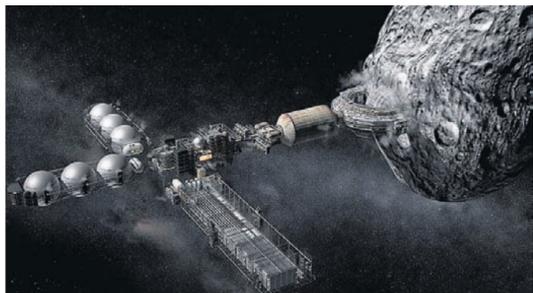
The chamber also sought the setting up of a task force to review various issues, hurdles, grievances and difficulties faced by MSMEs for availing credit facilities and the lack of approach by the financial institutions towards enhancement of credit flow to the MSME sector.

# Settlements in space: Pixxel plans to mine asteroids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** As it reads its constellation of Earth observation satellites, Bengaluru-based startup Pixxel Space has plans to map the Moon and asteroids, and look for materials required to build settlements in outer space.

In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here, Pixxel Space co-founder and CEO Awais Ahmed spelled out the long-term plans of the startup and these include exploration of asteroids with the intention of finding building materials or possible fuel sources for future settlements in space. "We are building hyper-spectral cameras that look at the Earth. The same cameras can



be turned outwards to look at other objects in space. We can send these spacecraft to the Moon, Mars or the asteroid belt, and build a map of the solar system," Ahmed said.

He said the startup would also like to place satellites in orbits

around the Moon -- cis-lunar orbits -- to explore the Earth's only natural satellite in greater detail.

"We can go between Mars and Jupiter in the asteroid belt and identify which of these asteroids are stunning and useless, and which of them have certain

We can go between Mars and Jupiter in the asteroid belt and identify which of these asteroids are stunning and useless, and which of them have certain precious materials that can be useful in space

AWAIS AHMED | CO-FOUNDER & CEO, PIXXEL SPACE

precious materials that can be useful in space," Ahmed said.

Satellites can look for ice on asteroids which can be used as fuel by splitting it into hydrogen and oxygen, and can also be stored as water, he said.

"So, when humanity expands towards space it does not make sense to mine all of that ma-

terial from Earth when there's so much more material actually available in space," Ahmed said.

He said Elon Musk's SpaceX was building railroads for the space revolution, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin and others were building habitats for space.

"We want to be the ones to provide the material to sort of make it all happen. But very long term vision," Ahmed said.

Pixxel Space plans to launch six hyper-spectral satellites later this year as part of its constellation to map the Earth in greater detail. Another 18 satellites are slated for launch next year that will complete the Bangalore-based startup's constellation in low Earth orbit.

# In 2 yrs, 27 establishments add 30,000 employees to EPFO fund

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 14:** The Centre Sunday said that 27 establishments have surrendered their exemption in the last two years, adding about 30,000 employees and an amount of Rs 1688.82 crore to the Fund under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

These establishments prefer to let EPFO manage their employees' Provident Fund (PF) directly due to improved services while focusing on their core business activities.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment said the EPFO has taken multiple steps in the last year to streamline com-



pliance procedures for establishments exempted under the EPF Act.

Establishments that wish to manage the PF corpus of their employees need to seek exemption under Section 17 of the EPF Act.

As of March 31, 2023, there were 1,002 exempted establishments managing a corpus of ₹3,52,000 crore of 31,20,323 members.

# Demolition man

At 21, Carlos Alcaraz becomes the only tennis player to win four Grand Slam titles



London, July 14: Carlos Alcaraz defeated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) in the Wimbledon men's final here Sunday to collect his fourth Grand Slam title at the age of 21.

It was a rematch of last year's championship match on the grass court of the All England Club, which Alcaraz won in five sets. This one - played in front of a Centre Court crowd that included Kate, the Princess of Wales, in a rare public appearance since announcing she has cancer - was much easier for Alcaraz, at least until he stumbled while holding three match points as he served for the victory at 5-4 in the third set.

Still, Alcaraz regrouped and eventually picked up a second major trophy in a row after last month's triumph on the clay at the French Open. The Spaniard won his first Slam title at the 2022 US Open as a teenager, and no man ever has collected more Slam hard-

ware before turning 22 than he has. He improved to 4-0 in major finals.

The 37-year-old Djokovic, wearing a gray sleeve on his surgically repaired right knee, was denied in his bid for an eighth Wimbledon title and record 25th major overall. He tore his meniscus at Roland Garros June 3 and had an operation in Paris two days later.

Less than six weeks later, Djokovic was hardly at his best on Sunday - and Alcaraz certainly had something to do with that. "Especially in the first couple of sets, the level of tennis wasn't really up to par on my side," said Djokovic. "He had it all today. I tried to push him. ... It wasn't meant to be."

Alcaraz was up 5-4, 40-love in the third set when the occasion got the better of him. He frittered away his first championship point with a double fault, beginning a run of five mistakes by him that donated points - and that game - to Djokovic. There was a backhand that went awry. That was the only time all match that

Djokovic broke Alcaraz.

Suddenly, it was five-all. Suddenly, Alcaraz appeared rattled. Suddenly, Djokovic could hope. But in the ensuing tie-breaker, Alcaraz earned his fourth match point and stayed cool as can be this time. Soon he was climbing through the stands to hug his coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero, and others.

Other than the third set, except for the first game of the opening set which went on for 14 minutes after which Djokovic lost his serve. And from then onwards till the middle of the third set it was just Alcaraz and Alcaraz.

Not to say there weren't hints of brilliance the rest of the way. Just the outcome never really seemed in dispute.

This was not the body-contorting, get-to-everything Djokovic everyone is accustomed to seeing, mind you. There's his age, first of all, and the matter of his knee, which raised serious questions about whether it would be possible to even participate at Wimbledon.

**A CHANCE TO BE PART OF**

**METTLE MEET 2024**

HERE NOW  
**OrissaPOST**

**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 quizzmaster Ajay Poonia. There will be prizes for the daily winners too. So buckle up your seatbelts and get set for some brainstorming.**

**TODAY'S QUESTION**

Beginning with the same letter, which two familiar terms from the world of medicine come from the conjunction of Greek words for 'upon people' and 'within people'?

**ANSWER TO SUNDAY'S QUESTION**

**Mowgli syndrome**

**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

**THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS**

**JIGNESH KUMAR**  
**DEBASISH MOHANTY**

**Others who answered correctly are**  
Dibyajyoti Praharaj and Ashish Agarwalla

## SHORT TAKES

### BCCI comes to Gaikwad's aid

Mumbai: In a noble gesture, the BCCI decided Sunday to release rupees one crore for the treatment of former India player, coach and selector Anshuman Gaikwad, who is battling blood cancer at a medical facility in London. BCCI's decision came following emotional appeals for support from former captain Kapil Dev and Sandip Patil, who had enjoined the cricket board to help Gaikwad. "Jay Shah has instructed the BCCI to release Rs 1 crore with immediate effect to provide financial assistance to India's veteran cricketer Anshuman Gaikwad, who is battling cancer," BCCI apex council said in a statement.

### Dulal appointed as Asia Cup manager

Cuttack: OCA member Dulal Chandra Pradhan has been appointed the manager of the Indian women's cricket team that will participate in the Asia Cup, the association said in a release here Sunday. The tournament will be played in Sri Lanka and the Indian team will reach the country July 16, the release added. It also stated that all office-bearers including the president and the secretary of the association have congratulated Pradhan for his appointment as the manager.

### Pogacar easily wins 15th stage

Paris: Tadej Pogacar demonstrated his climbing dominance once again, winning the gruelling 15th stage of the Tour de France on Bastille Day with a scorching ascent to the Plateau de Beille. The marathon stage on France's national day was nearly 200 kilometres long and featured four big climbs before an even harder grind up to Plateau de Beille. Pogacar attacked with five kilometres remaining during the final 'hors categorie' (beyond category) climb, solidifying his reputation as the master of the mountains. It was Pogacar's third stage win in this year's Tour and his seventh career stage win in the Pyrenees mountains.

## Odisha lifters in medal rush



Odisha lifters along with dignitaries pose with their medals and trophies Sunday

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Odisha dominated the ASMITA Khelo India Women's weightlifting tournament (Zone A) which concluded Sunday at the Kalinga Stadium here. The Odisha lifters dominated the show emerging champions in the senior, junior and youth categories. With a total of 27 medals in their kitty, the host lifters left the others way behind.

In the youth category, Odisha won six gold, one silver and three bronze medals. In the junior segment they bagged three gold, an identical number of

silver medals, and one bronze while in the senior segment, Odisha finished with four gold medals, two silver and four bronze medals.

Jharkhand finished runners-up in the youth segment, Bihar in the junior category, and Chhattisgarh in the senior competitions.

Jyoshna Sabar from Odisha (40kg) bagged the 'Best Lifter' award in the youth girls' segment, while the same prize went to Mina Santa (55kg) in the junior women's segment. Gyaneshwari Yadav from Chhattisgarh (49 kg) was named the 'Best Lifter' in the senior

women's category.

The closing ceremony was graced by Joint Secretary, Sports & Youth Services department, Sailendra Jena, who presented the awards to the victorious lifters. He commended the participants for their dedication and perseverance, highlighting the importance of sports in fostering discipline and resilience among the youth.

"The future of weightlifting in Odisha is bright. The energy and determination displayed by our weightlifters is truly inspiring. I am confident they will continue to excel on even bigger stages," Jena said.

## BOWLERS DOMINATE U-19 CRICKET MATCHES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Bowlers dominated the show in matches of the OCA Under-19 Inter-District cricket tournament played Sunday and scripted handsome wins for their respective sides. The standout bowler of the day was Biranchi N Swain whose five wickets for 21 runs helped Kendrapara script a major upset defeating BBSR (A) by 48 runs at the Sunshine ground in Cuttack.

Battling first, Kendrapara scored 190 for the loss of eight wickets. Sisir Pattanayak (52) and Krishna Mohanty (42) batted well for Kendrapara. Following a rain interruption, the target was revised to 188 for BBSR-A by the D/L method. However, against the bowling of Swain they collapsed to 139 all out. Swain was well-supported by Anil K Mallick (3/29).

In another rain interrupted match at Bidanasi ground, Sambalpur scored 143 all out against Rest of Odisha-C. The target was reduced to 132 and Rest of Odisha easily went over the finishing line losing only two wickets in the process. Sarthak S Prakash (74) batted well for Rest of Odisha-C while Piyush Panigrahi (3/4) was the standout bowler for the winners.

In another game at Ravenshaw



Biranchi N Swain

Ground-1, Jajpur after being put in were bowled out for a paltry score of 93. Cuttack-A scored 96 for three to win the game by seven wickets.

In the fourth game of the day Khurda defeated Rest of Odisha-D by nine wickets. Bignesh Behera (3/11) and Rudra Prasad (3/33) bowled well to skittle out Rest of Odisha -D for only 69. Khurda then scored 74 for one to win the game by nine wickets.

## Odisha teams go on scoring spree

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 14: Hockey Association of Odisha thrashed Hockey Assam 17-0 in a women's category match on the inaugural day of 2nd Hockey India Junior Men & Women East Zone Championships 2024 here, Sunday.

Playing the second match on the day, the Odisha evens completely outplayed the opposition. Amisha Ekka (4th, 38th), Ekka Sonali (7th), Bhoi Doli (9th, 33rd, 41st), Neharika Toppo (20th), Kujur Rambha (24th, 29th), Yashoda (27th, 32nd), Supriya (39th), Anushka Bhawre (43rd, 47th, 50th), Kujur Priyanka (51st), and captain Drupati Naik (52nd) got on the scoresheet for Hockey Association of Odisha.

In the fifth match of the day Hockey Association of Odisha beat Assam Hockey by 13-0 in the men's segment. Deonath Nanwar (2nd, 11th) began the goal-fest with a brace for the winners. The others who scored for Odisha were Karan Lakra (12th, 60th), Pradip Mandal (14th), Aryan Xess (21st, 33rd, 35th), Rohit Kulu (28th, 48th), Sunil Lakra (30th, 58th) and Adhikarimayum Suresh Sharma (55th).

In another game of the women's segment, Hockey Jharkhand trounced Manipur 4-1 while in the last match of the day Hockey Bengal hammered Hockey Bihar 7-0.

## Samson, Mukesh complete Zimbabwe rout

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Harare, July 14: Sanju Samson's (58, 45b, 1x4, 4x6) well-crafted half century and Mukesh Kumar's (4/22) disciplined spell helped India wind up their Zimbabwe tour with a comprehensive 42-run victory in the fifth and final T20I here Sunday. With this victory, India clinched the series 4-1.

Samson's knock was central to India's healthy 167 for six along with Shivam Dube's flashy 26 (12b, 2x4, 2x6). Then the India bowlers led by Mukesh, Dube (2/25) and Washington Sundar (1/7) did their job, bundling out Zimbabwe for 125 in 18.3 overs.

After the early dismissal of Westly Madhevere, who dragged the third ball of the first over by pacer Mukesh onto his stumps,



MAN ON MISSION: Teammates congratulate Mukesh Kumar after his four-wicket haul Sunday

PTI PHOTO

and Brian Bennett, the pair of Tadiwanashe Marumani (27) and Dion Myers (34) added 44 runs for the third wicket to keep the hosts in the hunt. Marumani went for a sweep shot against Washington but missed the line

altogether as the ball crashed on to his upper torso to get adjudged as leg-before.

Dube tailed a shuffling Myers with a quicker delivery onto his body, and the Zimbabwe batter merely chipped the ball to

Abhishek Sharma at short third man. The final nail on their hope was the run out of skipper Sikandar Raza (8).

Earlier, Samson and Riyan Parag (22) added 65 runs for the fourth wicket as India recovered from an ordinary power play in which they scored 44 for three. Yashasvi Jaiswal (12), Shubman Gill (13) and Sharma (14) failed to get going and India suddenly found themselves in a spot of bother. However, Samson and Parag carried out the rescue work.

It was the right approach too considering the pitch was not precisely a belter.

**Brief scores:** India 167 for 6 (Sanju Samson 58, Blessing Muzarabani 2/19) beat Zimbabwe 125 in 18.3 overs (Mukesh Kumar 4/22) by 42 runs.

## Lahiri set to end 9-yr title drought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sotogrande, (Spain), July 14: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri inched closer to a maiden win on the LIV golf series as he carded a 5-under 66 in the second round to take a four-shot lead at the LIV Golf Andalucia here.

Lahiri, who plays on the 'Crushers' team, put himself in position for his first win after the second round which included six birdies and no bogeys in his last 13 holes. The 37-year-old, who opened with a 2-under 69, is 7-under with 18 holes to go. New Zealand's Danny Lee his closest pursuer at 3-under.

Lahiri is seeking to end his nine-year victory drought. His last win came in his home country in the Hero Indian Open on the DP World Tour. "It (the lead) doesn't really matter on this golf course.



Every day you have to battle it out... (but) it is a difficult golf course to catch up," Lahiri said.

Thanks to Lahiri, captain Bryson DeChambeau's 67 and Paul Casey's 69, the league-leading 'Crushers' shot a counting score of 11-under to move atop the team leaderboard at 7-under. They have a four-shot advantage over home favourites 'Fireballs GC' and are seeking a third team trophy this year.