

### SOUL-STIRRING ACT

Netizens go gaga over Kiara Advani's portrayal as a victim of date rape in the movie *Satyaprem Ki Katha*

LEISURE P2

### DUTCH GOVERNMENT FALLS

Dutch PM Mark Rutte submits resignation of his four-party coalition and sets the deeply divided Netherlands on track for a general election

INTERNATIONAL P10

### GUKESH STUNS ANAND

GM D Gukesh beats Viswanathan Anand in rapid event of Grand Chess Tour's SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz tournament

SPORTS P12

## 12 killed in Bengal rural poll violence

All the parties level allegations against each other for the violence with the Opposition BJP calling for President's Rule in the state

**Kolkata, July 8:** Bengal's rural polls drew towards a bloody finish as 12 people died, bombs exploded and all parties leveled allegations of strong arm tactics against their rivals Saturday. Twelve people, including eight from the ruling TMC and one worker each of the BJP, CPI(M), Congress and ISF, died since midnight in the crucial three-tier panchayat polls, officials said.

The election which is being seen by analysts as a litmus test for the 2024 general elections, also witnessed scenes of ballot boxes being stolen and burnt and of public anger against political workers. Among flashpoints were Murshidabad, Nadia and Cooch Behar districts besides pockets in South 24 Parganas such as Bhangar and in East Medinipur's Nandigram.

The polling began at 7am for 73,887 seats in the rural areas of the state with 5.67 crore people deciding the fate of around 2.06 lakh candidates. Till 5 pm, 66.28 per cent voter turnout was recorded, officials said.

Political parties made accusations and counter-accusations as the day lengthened. TMC's senior minister Sashi Panja said,



Supporters block a road at Barasat in North 24 Parganas district in protest against the killing of an independent candidate during panchayat polls PTI PHOTO

### Honey-trapped by Pak agent, BSF man held

**Ahmedabad:** A contractual employee working for the Border Security Force (BSF) at Bhuj in Gujarat was arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive information with a woman Pakistani intelligence agent. Accused Nilesh Balia was working as a peon in the electrical department office of CPWD at the BSF headquarters in Bhuj for last five years. Balia came in contact with the Pak agent in January 2023.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL

We need as many doctors and nurses as the armed forces. These are for West Bengal elections, sir

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.5°C	31.5°C
MIN	25.5°C	26.0°C
Humidity	93%	92%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil
Forecast	Cloudy	Cloudy with light rain

Meanwhile, Congress leader Kaustav Bagchi made a representation to the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court seeking an urgent hearing of a prayer seeking that Saturday's panchayat elections in West Bengal be declared null and void on account of violence and killings.

West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose Saturday condemned the incidents of violence across the state during the panchayat polls and described the situation as "very, very disturbing". Bose, who visited different places in North and South 24 Parganas districts during the day, said that 'Peace Home' at the Raj Bhavan to address complaints of the common people would continue to function.

Among those killed was BJP's polling agent Madhab Biswas who was allegedly killed in Falimari gram panchayat in Coochbehar district, they said.

A TMC worker was also killed in Murshidabad district's Kapsadanga area in overnight violence. The deceased was identified as Babar Ali, officials said.

Another TMC worker Sabiruddin Sk was killed in the district's Khargram area.

The TMC also alleged that its booth committee member in Tufanganj-2 panchayat samiti in Cooch Behar, Ganesh Sarkar, was killed in an attack by the BJP.

The brother of a TMC leader was killed in a clash with Congress supporters in Malda district, police said. TMC also alleged that one of its workers was killed in Nadia's Chupra.

An ISF worker was killed in a clash with TMC in the district's Haringhata area. The victim was identified as 48-year-old Saidul Seikh, police said.

The 2003 panchayat polls gained notoriety for its death toll of 76, with more than 40 killed on the day of the elections



**RAHUL AS RYOT:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi drives a tractor at a farm in Sonipat district of Haryana, Saturday. Gandhi was also seen sowing seeds and holding discussions with farmers at the fields in Baroda and Madina PTI PHOTO

## QR code scam of ₹14cr busted

**Bhubaneswar, July 8:** In one of the rarest and newest type of cyber fraud, Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Odisha Police detected a case of huge cyber financial fraud in which more than ₹14 crore has been siphoned off by manipulating QR codes of a Fintech company, an official said.

In connection with this case, the EOW has arrested the accused Karan Kumar Singh, a resident of Noida's Sector-19, Uttar Pradesh, July 6 under different Sections of the IPC and Information Technology Act.

The accused was produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, July 7 and was brought to Bhubaneswar on the strength of three days' transit remand for producing him before the designated court

### FRAUD OF RAREST KIND

at Cuttack, an EOW official said. The arrest was made against a case registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Sanjib Kumar Parida, Chief Technology Officer of 'IServeU Technology Pvt. Ltd., a Bhubaneswar-based Fintech company.

Parida alleged that their company had entered into technology integration agreements with the directors of Noida-based company, Payone Digital Services Pvt. Ltd. during April-May 2023 for providing digital payment services for facilitation of the fintech service, and accordingly IServeU had extended its UPI API to the company for the commercial utilisation.

On June 19, 2023, the complainant's company came to

know on reconciliation that there is a significant difference in the cash balance in their nodal bank account maintained with the FINO Bank.

On verification of the UPI logs, it came to light that Karan Singh and Lallu Singh, both directors of Payone Digital, have manipulated the QR codes generated by IServeU and embezzled the extra credit of ₹14.33 crore of the complainant's company.

The accused have also fraudulently diverted the extra amount to more than 125 different bank accounts, the official added.

During interrogation, EOW officials came to know that the accused person has links with cyber criminals in China.

The cops may seek court's permission to take him on remand to unearth the Chinese link.

## Women's chest measurement for jobs sparks row

**Chandigarh, July 8:** A major controversy has erupted over the Haryana government's decision to measure the chest of women candidates in the recruitment for posts of forest ranger and deputy ranger with former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda strongly criticising the move, Saturday.

Hooda said not only Haryana, but every woman in the country has objection to such a decision. "The BJP-JJP government should take back such objectionable decision. Recruitments have been taking place earlier also, but till date such objectionable parameters have never been adopted even in police recruitment," Hooda said.

Responding to Hooda's assertions, a government spokesperson said the recruitment of rangers is being done on the basis of Haryana Forest Service (Executive) Group C Rules, 1998, wherein the physical standards for height and chest for both males and females have been prescribed.

In the past also, the spokesperson said, all such recruitments have been done on the basis of these physical standards.

Consequent to these rules, 22 women forest guards and four women foresters have been recruited from time to time using these physical measurements.

## Rlys to slash fares of AC chair car by up to 25%

**New Delhi, July 8:** Fares of AC chair cars and executive classes of all trains, including Vande Bharat, and those with Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches will be reduced by up to 25 per cent, depending on occupancy, a Railway Board order has stated. The fares will also depend on those of competitive modes of transport.

With a view to optimising utilisation of accommodation, the rail ministry has decided to delegate powers to principal chief commercial managers of railway zones to introduce discounted fare schemes in trains with AC seating.

"This scheme shall be applicable in AC chair car and executive classes of all trains having AC seating accommodation, including Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches," the Railway Board order stated.

"The element of discount shall be up to a maximum 25 per cent on the basic fare. Other charges like reservation charge, super fast surcharge, GST, etc, as applicable, shall be levied separately. The discount may be provided in any or all the classes on the basis of occupancy," it said.

The order also said that trains having "classes with occupancy less than 50 per cent (either end-to-end or in some specified legs/sections depending upon

the sections where discount is to be provided) during the last 30 days shall be taken into consideration." The fares of competitive modes of transport will be the criteria while deciding the quantum of discount, it added.

The discount can be given for the first and/or last leg of the journey and/or intermediate sections and/or end-to-end journey provided the occupancy is less than 50 per cent in that leg/section/end-to-end.

EOW officials came to know that the accused person has links with cyber criminals in China. The cops may seek court's permission to take him on remand to unearth the Chinese link.

## A plant that can cause suicidal thoughts

The venomous Gypsie-Gypsie, usually found in Australia and Indonesia's rainforests, finds a new home in UK's Poison Garden

**London, July 8:** Believe it or not, there is a plant whose painful sting can cause suicidal thoughts. Yes, this is one of the world's 'most dangerous plants' that has arrived in the UK. The Gypsie-Gypsie is so potent that it's been likened to being 'electrocuted' and being on fire at the same time.

Whilst the painful plant is usually kept in botanical gardens, one adventurous Brit even decided to grow it in his own home, as per a report published by LADBible.

The venomous Gypsie-Gypsie, which is usually found



The plant's tiny hair-like needles send a burning sensation through the victim, with the pain intensifying over the next 20 to 30 minutes before continuing for up to weeks or months. There is even at least one report of suicide, with a man reportedly shooting himself after a painful run with the shrub

in Australia and Indonesia's rainforests, has now found a new home at Alnwick Garden's Poison Garden - where it's being kept under lock and key, it reported.

When it was first discovered in 1866, a road surveyor's horse was reportedly stung with the animal going mad before dying 'within two hours'.

According to John Knox, lead tour guide at Poison Garden, the plant's tiny hair-like needles send a burning sensation through the victim, with the pain intensifying over the next 20 to 30 minutes before continuing for up to weeks or months.

This can happen even if you only brush against it for a second,

with the expert likening the experience to 'being electrocuted and set on fire at the same time'.

People have also reported being sent into experiencing huge red rashes, have their limbs swell up and have been left unable to sleep due to the unbearable pain.

There's even at least one report of suicide, with a man reportedly shooting himself after a painful run with the shrub.

But this hasn't put off experts from welcoming the plant at Alnwick.

The Poison Garden in Alnwick, located in Northumberland, is home to around 100 'toxic, intoxicating and narcotic plants', from deadly nightshade and hem-

lock to strychnine and giant hogweed.

Part of the larger Alnwick Garden is the creation of Jane Percy, the Duchess of Northumberland, who became a member of nobility when her husband's brother suddenly died.

With the unexpected title came the magnificent Alnwick Castle - which many of you might recognise from the Harry Potter films - and its grounds, with Percy's husband tasking her with bringing new life into the gardens.

Percy decided to 'do something really different', taking inspiration from a famous poison garden in Italy that belonged to the Medici family in Padua.

# leisure



## GARNER TO REPRISER HER ROLE IN DEADPOOL 3

Actress Jennifer Garner is making a return to the world of Marvel, as she will reprise her role as Elektra in *Deadpool 3*. The actress first made her appearance as Elektra Natchios in the 2003 Ben Affleck starrer *Daredevil* following which she starred in a spin-off solo movie *Elektra* in 2005.

## NOLAN: NO CGI SHOTS IN OPPENHEIMER

Christopher Nolan seems to be taking his next directorial, *Oppenheimer*, to a whole new level. The filmmaker has claimed that there is 'zero' CGI in the entire film that is the biopic of J Robert Oppenheimer, known as the 'Father of the Atomic Bomb'.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

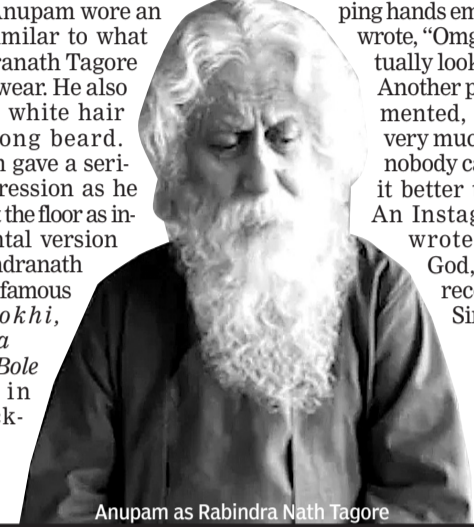
**AQUARIUS**  
You need not always put up a brave face, feels Ganesh. You can ventilate your emotions and speak your heart out in front of your loved ones. It will make the pain bearable and you'll probably get a way out of your problems.

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

# Anupam to play Tagore in his 538th movie

**Mumbai:** Actor Anupam Kher has revealed that he will portray the role of the poet, philosopher, and essayist, Rabindranath Tagore in his 538th film. Taking to Instagram Friday, the *Saaransh* actor announced the news to his fans and followers. He also shared his first look as the poet.

In the black and white photo, Anupam wore an outfit similar to what Rabindranath Tagore used to wear. He also sported white hair and a long beard. Anupam gave a serious expression as he looked at the floor as instrumental version of Rabindranath Tagore's famous song *Sokhi, Bhabona Kahare Bole* played in the background.



Anupam as Rabindra Nath Tagore

Sharing the post, Anupam captioned it, "Delighted to portray #Gurudev #RabindranathTagore in my 538th project. Will reveal the details in due course. It is my good fortune that I have got the privilege of embodying Gurudev on screen!"

Reacting to the post, Parvin Dabas wrote, "Wow (clapping hands emoji)." A fan wrote, "Omg sir, you actually look like him." Another person commented, "And I am very much sure that nobody can perform it better than you." An Instagram user wrote, "Oh! My God, I couldn't recognize you Sir... Superb."

AGENCIES

# Odia Film T set for a national release

**Bhubaneswar:** *T*, a critically acclaimed Odia film directed by Jitesh Kumar Parida, will soon be released around the country. Based on the life of Meghna Sahoo, the country's first transgender cab driver, the film has already won over spectators in Odisha with its gripping story and excellent acting. *T* now hopes to appeal to a wider audience with the help of its Hindi version.

According to the filmmaker, the movie hopes to inspire inclusivity, education, and a more welcoming society by overcoming linguistic obstacles.

Meghna's life journey is portrayed in the film by Debasish



Sahoo. Meghna, who was raised as Vishnu, experiences harassment and discrimination for expressing her gender iden-

tification. She has sex reassignment surgery and sets out on a transformative journey to become India's first transgender

cab driver, unfazed by hardship. Her adventure doesn't end there; she goes on to establish herself as a steadfast kinnar community advocate, working assiduously to improve their lives and confront society stereotypes.

The decision to release *T* in Hindi was made in response to the film's tremendous success and critical praise in its Odia version. The film immediately connected with viewers thanks to its deep storytelling and engrossing performances by its principal cast - Prasanjeet Mohapatra, Usasi Misra, Ranbeer Kalsi, and Hara Rath.

PNN

### SATYAPREM KI KATHA SWEEPING BOX OFFICE

## Kiara winning hearts as victim of date rape

**Mumbai:** With *Satyaprem Ki Katha* successfully following in the footsteps of yet another mid-budget movie (*Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*) and all set to recover its budget, netizens have been unanimous in their praise of Kiara Advani's performance in the film.

The story of the film is centred on the relevant and sensitive subject of date rape and its aftermath, and Kiara enhances it with her performance, becoming the voice of abused women. The social media is brimming over with messages from cinephiles applauding the actress for having the sensibility and courage to portray the truth with so much soul.

Applauding the acting prowess of Kiara, netizens couldn't stop praising the emotional scenes.

Resonating with her emotional portrayal of her character, a user wrote: "Katha is an emotion, my heart went out to her, I felt so anxious watching her carry that heavy burden."

Another user complimented the actress saying: "It's not every day that we get to see mainstream actors take on such roles. @advani\_kiara, kudos to you for your sensitive, nuanced portrayal of Katha!"

One more fan said: "#KiaraAdvani take a bow girl. From considering herself a victim to holding a sword in shield & getting ready to fight, development of Katha's character, and the way u owned it all."

AGENCIES



**Mumbai:** From bagging awards to endorsement deals, Alia Bhatt has some of the biggest achievements in her kitty which makes her as one of the top actresses of our generation.

Recently when she attended the Brand Summit 2023, the actress, who is the face of several renowned brands, opened up about being referred to as 'youth influencer'.

During the event, when she was addressed as the youth influencer, the actress, said, "I am also okay with being

called a clown as long as the cheque reaches on time." The actress' practical answer left many surprised.

On the work front, Alia is having quite an interesting year ahead. The actress is currently gearing up for the release of *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* which features her alongside Ranveer Singh. The romantic drama marks the return of Karan Johar as the director after seven years and also features Shabana Azmi, Jaya Bachchan, and Dharmendra in pivotal roles. The film is slated for release on July 28.

On the other hand, Alia Bhatt is also

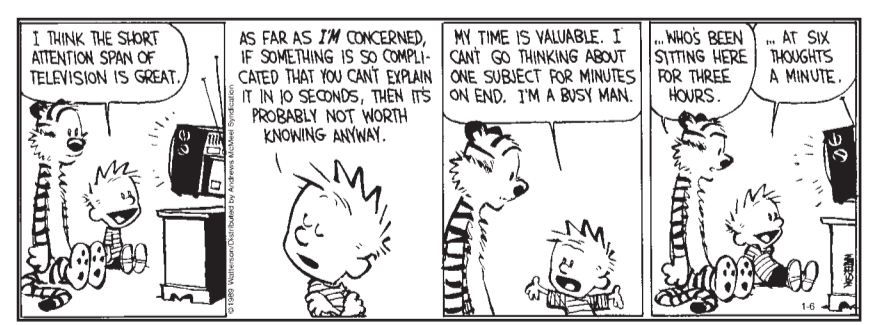
making her Hollywood debut this year with *Heart of Stone*. Going by the trailer it seems that the actress will feature in a grey-shaded role alongside Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan.

AGENCIES

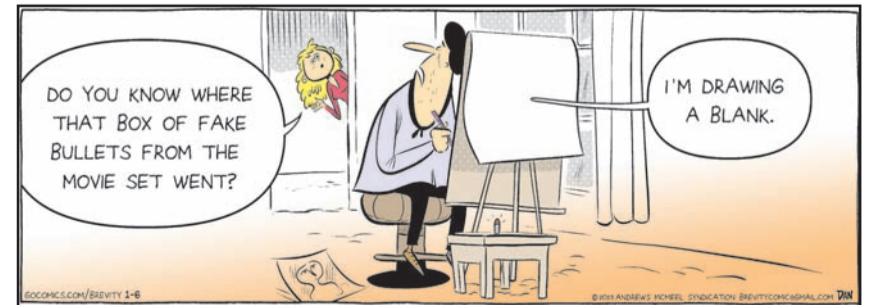
### PEANUTS



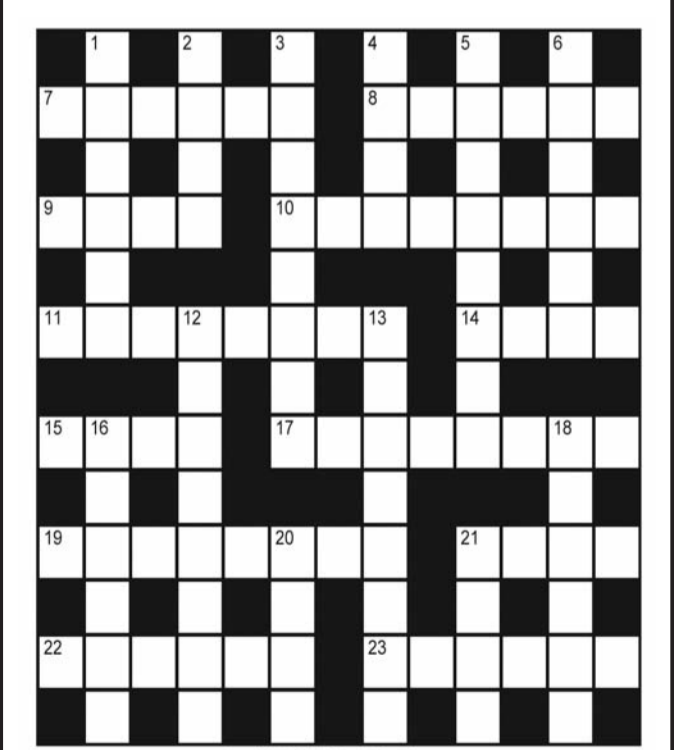
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



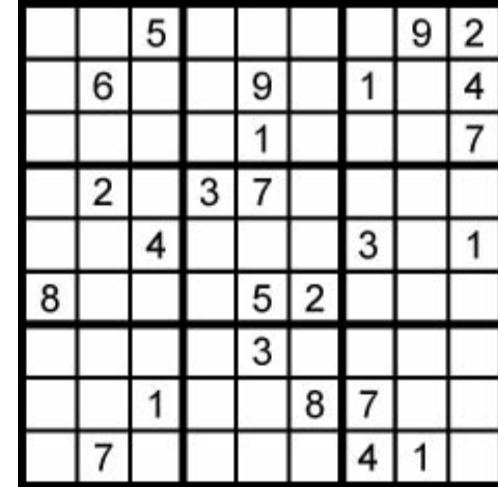
### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Chinese temple
  - 8 Bird of prey
  - 9 Flower holder
  - 10 Westall's Sword of \_\_\_
  - 11 Warning signals (3,5)
  - 14 Take a chance
  - 15 Toiletry item
  - 17 Jamaican capital
  - 19 Ascertain
  - 21 Rapid
  - 22 Cyclones, e.g.
  - 23 Menu item
  - 5 Apparitions
  - 6 Bath items
  - 12 King or queen, e.g. (4,4)
  - 13 Watchmen
  - 16 Take to the skies
  - 18 Shellfish
  - 20 Sleeveless garment
  - 21 Destiny
- Down**
- 1 Chess move
  - 2 Angler's lure
  - 3 Termite eater
  - 4 Baby buggy

### 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













People holding umbrellas walk along railway tracks in Banihal. Rail services between Banihal and Kashmir were temporarily suspended due to rains which caused waterlogging on the tracks at several places



An RAF personnel shares a light moment with a child at a polling centre during panchayat elections, in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal



People drive through a waterlogged road after rains in New Delhi



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Delhi Education Minister Atishu Kumar during an interaction with Delhi government school students who qualified NEET and JEE this year, in New Delhi



A mahout rides an elephant on a road in Guwahati



Fishermen cast net in Indravati river to catch fish at Jagdalpur in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh



Members of Assam Pradesh Youth Congress stage a protest over rising prices of essential commodities in Guwahati



of the day quote

I am always open to talks with China and have made it clear years ago that we are not seeking complete independence and would remain a part of the People's Republic of China

Liquor revenue in the state has gone up in the last four-and-a-half years and there is no question of any scam

Some people harp on fundamental rights but they conveniently and deliberately forget fundamental duties. Both rights and duties are our moral and national responsibility

SHORT TAKES

HC stays probe against Nadda

**Bangalore:** The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the investigation against BJP national president JP Nadda for allegedly violating the model code of conduct in an election speech during the recent Karnataka Assembly polls. The criminal petition filed by Nadda seeking to cancel the case registered against him by the Harappanahalli police was heard by a single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna that gave an interim order staying the investigation on Friday and adjourned the hearing of the petition to July 21.

Four held for stealing bridge

**Mumbai:** The Mumbai police have arrested four persons for allegedly stealing a 6,000-kg iron bridge placed over a drain in a western suburb here, an official said Saturday. The 90-foot-long metal structure in Malad (west) had been placed by utility company Adani Electricity to move huge power cables, said the official from Bangur Nagar police station. After a permanent bridge was built over the drain, the temporary structure was moved to another place in the area a few months ago, he said. However, the makeshift bridge was found missing on June 26 following which the power company filed a police complaint, the official said. During their probe, the police found that the bridge was last seen at its place on June 6.

Tribal bodies stage protest

**Ranchi:** Around a dozen tribal organisations under the banner of Adivasi Samanwai Samiti staged a demonstration near the Jharkhand BJP headquarters here on Saturday to protest the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The members of the tribal outfits assembled at Ranchi's Harmu Ground before marching towards the state BJP headquarters. They raised slogans such as "Adivasiyon ka soshan bandh karo (stop exploitation of tribals)" during the procession. The demonstrators were, however, stopped by the police before the BJP headquarters, where they staged a demonstration for about an hour.

JEE aspirant hangs self in Kota

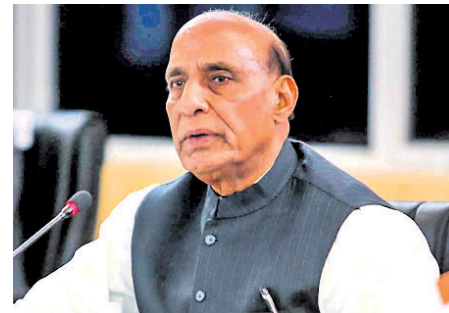
**Kota (Rajasthan):** A 17-year-old JEE aspirant allegedly hanged himself in his hostel room here, the fifteenth case of suspected suicide this year by students taking classes at this coaching hub, police said Saturday. Bhadr Singh's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his room in the Mahaveer Nagar area here on Saturday morning, they added.



Instead of spending its energy and resources on non-essential issues such as a uniform civil code, the BJP and its government should work for curbing inflation and alleviating poverty

RAJNATH TO VISIT MALAYSIA

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake a two-day visit to Malaysia beginning Monday to explore ways to further consolidate the bilateral defence and strategic partnership



## Allow limited internet access: HC to Manipur

**Imphal, July 8:** The Manipur High Court has directed the state government to carry out physical trials to check the feasibility of providing internet service to mobile phones while ensuring security of "life and property of citizens".

The court, which has asked for a detailed report, will hear the case on July 25. After hearing multiple PILs, a division bench of Justice A Bimol and Justice A Guneshwar Sharma said, "In the case of Fibre To The Home (FTTH) connections, internet service can be provided by the home department on a case to case basis" after ensuring compliance of the safeguards suggested by the committee.

The 12-member expert committee had informed the court that internet service could be provided through broadband connections, either through Internet Leased Line (ILL) or FTTH by ensuring "static IP, banning of Wifi/Hotspots from any of the routers or system, blocking of social media websites and VPNs at the local level, removal of VPN softwares from the system and prohibiting installation of new softwares by any user and enforcing physi-



cal monitoring by the concerned authority/officials."

The state government had proposed to higher authorities to consider "lifting the ban on ILL with a capping of maximum speed @10 MBPS and subject to undertaking obtained from intended/existing subscribers for not indulging in illegal spreading and posting of ru-

mours...Which may aggravate the ongoing law and order crisis." It also said, "In the event of any violation, he or she shall be liable to be punished as per provisions of relevant laws. And the subscriber shall be fixed personally responsible for any leakage/activities done by the secondary user of internet through Wifi or hotspot."

Violence continues in Manipur

**Imphal:** A mob torched two vehicles in Imphal West district while an exchange of fire was reported in Imphal East district, as violence continued in Manipur, officials said Saturday. A group of people burnt two private vehicles at Mahabali Road near the historic Kangla fort as they suspected those four-wheelers were being used for ferrying household goods to a particular ethnic community on Friday night, they said. The police intervened and the mob dispersed. Drivers of both vehicles managed to flee and there was no casualty. There was an intermittent exchange of fire at Laikot near Yaingangpokpi in Imphal West district between two communities late Friday night.

## BRS hits back at PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hitting back at Prime Minister Modi over his remarks on the BRS Government, Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao Saturday said the PM has insulted the people of the state by setting up a ₹520 cr wagon factory while "taking away" a ₹20,000 cr locomotive factory to Gujarat

**Warangal (Telangana), July 8:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday sounded the BJP's poll bugle in Telangana with a sharp attack on the state's BRS government, saying that the tentacles of its corruption has now spread up to Delhi.

He also said the people's aspiration in Telangana now is 'abki bar BJP sarkar' (BJP government this time). In a veiled attack on the ruling BRS in Telangana and the AAP government in Delhi, he said it was for the first time that allegations of deal for corruption between two political parties and state governments were cropping up.

"Earlier, there used to be news on development-related agreements between two countries or two state governments. (Like) two states have made an agreement for development (purpose). Two states have made an agreement for water. Such news used to appear," he said.

"But, this is for the first time when allegations of deal for corruption between two parties and two state governments are made," Modi said, addressing a BJP rally at Warangal after laying foundation stone for several development projects.

"It is unfortunate that things have come to such a pass that the

people of the state who led a struggle, with many sacrificing their life, for formation of a separate state had to see such a day," he said.

While AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over the matter, BRS leader and Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter, K Kavitha, had appeared before the ED for questioning in connection with the case.

Hitting back at Prime Minister Modi over his remarks on the BRS government, Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao Saturday said the PM has insulted the people of the state by setting up a ₹520 crore wagon factory while "taking away" a ₹20,000 crore locomotive factory to Gujarat.

Referring to PM's comments that there are thousands of teacher posts vacant in Telangana, KTR said it is like "pot calling the kettle black" as the Centre is not filling more than 16 lakh central government jobs and is permanently privatising jobs in public sector organisations.



Women Congress activists hold posters to express support for Rahul Gandhi at the Mahila Congress meeting in Kochi

## Man thrashed, forced to lick feet in moving car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gwalior, July 8:** Amid an uproar over the Sidhi urination incident in Madhya Pradesh, a video has now surfaced showing a man being thrashed and forced to lick the soles of another person's feet in a moving vehicle in Gwalior, following which two persons have been arrested, police said Saturday.

Preliminary investigation shows that it was a case of revenge attack as the victim had allegedly attacked the accused last month. The victim and the accused are residents of Dabra town in Gwalior district, an official said.

The viral video shows the victim being slapped several times by another man, who also forces the former to say, "Golu Gurjar baap hai" in a moving vehicle. The victim is then seen licking the soles of the feet of the man after the latter forces him to do so. The accused is also seen slapping the victim repeatedly and

verbally abusing him. In another video clip, the accused is seen hitting the victim on his face with footwear several times.

Speaking about the incident, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said two persons have been arrested in connection with this incident. Dabra Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Vivek Kumar Sharma said, "A video went viral on social media on Friday evening that shows a man being thrashed in a vehicle.

The video clip is being sent for a forensic examination."

A case has been registered against the accused under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for abduction and beating following the complaint of the victim's family, Sharma said.

Gwalior's Superintendent of Police Rajesh Chandel said the victim, identified as Mohsin Khan, beat up Golu Gurjar, the accused in the current case, on May 21.

## After theft, farmers in K'taka forced to guard pricey tomatoes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, July 8:** The steep rise in the prices of tomatoes in the market is forcing the farmers in Karnataka to guard their crop in their farm lands as it is being stolen by the miscreants.

Tomato prices have crossed ₹100 and they are even sold for ₹150 per one kilogram. The farmers are forced to sleep at their farms and take turns guarding the crop ready to be harvested. The monsoon rains have made the situation worse for them. This scenario is commonly found in the south Karnataka districts of Kolar, Hassan where the crop is grown in large quantities. The farmers explain that they

are erecting tents at their farm land to monitor the movement of the people and vehicles. They state that they need to be more vigilant in the wee hours. One box of tomatoes is fetching the price between ₹2,500 and ₹3,000 and farmers who reaped a good crop are earning in lakhs.

The farmers had not got a good price for their crop for years. They had even thrown the crop on roads and highways protesting the steep crashing price of tomatoes. Most of the time, the farmers were not able to get the expenditure of transportation. Now, when the crop is fetching a very good price, the menace of theft of their crop is worrying them.



A farmer has lodged a police complaint alleging that ₹3 lakh worth tomatoes were stolen overnight from his farm in Hassan district. The incident was reported on July 6. The in-

cident had been reported from Goni Somanahalli village near Halebeedu town in Hassan. Dharani aka Somashekar, a farmer, had lodged a complaint with Halebeedu police

in this regard. Police explained that the thieves have taken away 90 boxes

of tomatoes worth ₹3 lakh. The price of first quality tomatoes has crossed ₹150. The tomato



was grown in two acres of land. The complainant had decided to take the crop to Chikkamagaluru market and reap the crop. The miscreants had entered his farm on the night of Tuesday and had taken away most of the tomatoes.

The burglars have also damaged the tomato plants. The incident came to light when Dharani had gone to his farm the next morning. "I have been growing tomatoes for seven to eight years. Never got a good price for the crop. This year I had reaped a rich crop and the price was also good. I thought of clearing my loans but the incident had ruined my happiness," he said.





