



## IN BIG LEAGUE

Actor Alia Bhatt will play a super-agent in YRF's Spy Universe that last presented SRK-starrer Pathaan

LEISURE P2



## PM AT BASTILLE DAY PARADE

Prime Minister Modi joins French President Emmanuel Macron for the Bastille Day parade as the Guest of Honour

INTERNATIONAL P10



## TOOR SECURES GOLD

Indian shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor limps out of competition after his gold-winning throw

SPORTS P12

# Running out fast

KUNO NATIONAL PARK LOSES EIGHTH CHEETAH WITHIN MONTHS

AGENCIES

**Bhopal, July 14:** There is no let-up in cheetah deaths at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh where eight of them have died, months after the ambitious reintroduction project was launched.

'Suraj', a male cheetah translocated from Africa, is the latest casualty. Only three days ago another translocated male cheetah, Tejas, had died at the park in Sheopur district.

Suraj was found lying still in Palpur East Forest Range's Masavani beat by a monitoring team Friday morning. When they went closer, they found insects hovering over its neck but it then rose and ran away, said an official.

A team of veterinarians and forest officials rushed to the spot and the cheetah was found dead around 9 AM, the official said. "This is for the first time that a cheetah died in the free range," he added.

There were injury marks on his back and neck, and a de-

The park is under scrutiny with conservationists questioning whether it provides enough prey

An action plan for the reintroduction of the cheetahs, published in January last year, states that Kuno has a "suitable habitat and adequate prey base"

In May, the Supreme Court expressed concerns over the animal deaths and asked the Union government to consider shifting the cats to an alternate location

Earlier, South African wildlife expert Vincent van der Merwe had predicted more cheetah deaths and said that the reintroduction project is going to see an even higher mortality, when the cheetahs would try to establish territories and come face to face with leopards and tigers at the park

**All that can be hoped for is that conservation science prevails over political prestige**

**JAIRAM RAMESH I**  
FORMER ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

tailed report was awaited, the official said.

An action plan for the reintroduction of the cheetahs, published in January last year, states that Kuno has a "suitable habitat and adequate prey base."

But since their deaths, the park is under scrutiny, with some conservationists questioning whether the park pro-

vides enough prey. There is also concern that other predators are too great a risk to the big cats.

In May, the Supreme Court expressed concerns over the animal deaths and asked the Union government to consider shifting the cats to an alternate location.

Eight cheetahs were translocated from Namibia to India in

September last year, while 12 more were brought in from South Africa in February 2023.

Of these, three cheetahs have died in the past two months. Another three cubs, who were born to a Namibian cheetah at Kuno in March, also died in May.

Former environment minister Jairam Ramesh Friday took a dig at the Union government over the death of the eighth cheetah at the Kuno National Park, saying all that can be hoped for is that conservation science prevails over political prestige.

"Today should have been a day of unadulterated joy with the launch of Chandrayaan-3. Sadly, the news has just come in that the eighth cheetah has died at Kuno," Ramesh said.

"The expert group would surely be examining what is going wrong repeatedly. All that can be hoped for is that conservation science prevails over political prestige," the Congress general secretary said on Twitter.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How dare they interfere in our internal matter when we are not even interfering in our own?

# PLUS III FIRST CUT-OFF LIST OUT

Ravenshaw University, BJB Autonomous College, Fakir Mohan University and SCS Autonomous College once again emerge as primary choice for students

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** The Higher Education department of Odisha Friday released the first cut-off marks for admission into undergraduate (Plus III) courses at various degree colleges and universities in the state.

As per the data made available by the department, a total of 2,23,310 students had applied for admission, out of which 1,74,195 students were selected in the first phase. While 1,08,483 students were selected in Arts stream, 17,217 students were selected in Commerce stream.

Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, BJB Autonomous College in Bhubaneswar, Fakir Mohan University in Balasore and Samanta Chandra Sekhar Autonomous College in Puri have once again emerged as the primary choice for students to pursue higher education in different streams.

Ravenshaw University posted

the highest cut-off percentage in commerce with 86.83 per cent. While Fakir Mohan University posted the highest cut-off percentage in several Arts subjects including Political Science (91.83 per cent) and English (91.33 per cent), Samanta Chandra Sekhar College Puri scored highest in (Geography (90.50 per cent), Education (90.17 per cent) for General Category students.

Samanta Chandra Sekhar College also posted the highest cut-off percentage in several physical science subjects including Chemistry (94.50 per cent), Mathematics (94 per cent). Similarly, Fakir Mohan college scores highest in Chemistry (94 per cent) and Physics (94 per cent) for General Category students. In Biological Science stream, BJB Autonomous College has the highest cut-off percentage in Zoology (93 per cent) and Botany (90 per cent).

According to the data available at the SAMS portal, Ravenshaw University has the highest cut-off percentage for General Category students in Commerce (86.83 per cent).

The Plus II Commerce and Science results were declared May 31 while Arts results were declared June 8. The overall pass percentage for Science was 84.93 per cent and for Commerce it was 81.12 per cent.

# SC gets two new judges

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 14:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud Friday administered the oath of office to Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice S Venkatanarayana Bhatti as judges of the Supreme Court.

With the swearing-in of Justices Bhuyan and Bhatti, the working strength of judges in the apex court has risen to 32 against the sanctioned strength of 34, including the CJI.

The CJI administered the oath of office to the two new judges in a swearing-in ceremony held at the apex court's auditorium here. The central government had cleared the names of Justice Bhuyan, who was the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, and Justice Bhatti, his counterpart in Kerala, for elevation as judges of the top court July 12. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal had announced the elevation of the two judges Wednesday.

The apex court collegium headed by the CJI had July 5 recommended their appointment as judges of the apex court.



## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	66060.90 ↑ 502.01
NIFTY	19564.50 ↑ 150.75
DOLLAR	82.15 ↑ ₹0.13
EURO	92.25 ↑ ₹0.14
GOLD	₹59,180 ↓ ₹59
SILVER	₹75,658 ↑ ₹33

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.8°C	38.8°C
TEMP MIN	25.7°C	26.0°C
Humidity	77%	80%
Rainfall	8.9	18.4

Forecast: Light to moderate rain



# ISRO AIMS FOR MOON

## CHANDRAYAAN 3

embarked on its month-long journey towards the moon, piggybacking on ISRO's latest heavy lift launch vehicle, 'Fat boy' LVM3-M4

## About

16 minutes after lift-off, Chandrayaan 3 got separated from the rocket and it would orbit the earth for about 5-6 times in an elliptical cycle with 170 km closest and 36,500 km farthest from earth moving towards the lunar orbit

## The LVM3

rocket is a composite of three modules -- propulsion, lander and rover (which is housed inside the lander)

## SOFT LANDING

Following the separation from the launch vehicle, the propulsion module along with the lander would proceed for an over a month long journey towards reaching the orbit of the moon until it goes 100 km above the lunar surface

India Friday launched its ambitious third lunar mission Chandrayaan 3, eyeing a rare feat in moon exploration so far only accomplished by the likes of the US, China and the former Soviet Union

After reaching the desired altitude, the lander module would begin its descent for a soft landing on the moon's south pole region

Technically challenging soft landing on lunar surface has been planned for 5.47 pm August 23

MORE P9

## SHORT TAKES

### Man sentenced to 10-yr RI for rape

**Baripada:** A court in Mayurbhanj district Friday sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment after he was found guilty of raping a woman. Rairangpur Additional District and Session Judge Deepak Kumar sentenced 23-year-old Thakur Soren to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for raping the woman. The court also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on the convict, Additional Public Prosecutor Pankaj Kumar Das said. The incident occurred May 16, 2018 at Asanbani village when the woman went to relieve herself in a field. The judgment was based on the statement of the victim, 13 witnesses and medical report, Das said.

### 3 poachers held in Similipal

**Baripada:** As part of its drive against poachers in the Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district, the police Friday seized three country-made guns and arrested three people in this connection. The guns were seized during a search operation at Rentasahi, Jadunathpur, and Chandanchaturi villages in and around Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), Mayurbhanj SP B Gangadhar told reporters. The SP said that two of the accused persons after being nabbed by police disclosed that they have made a group for hunting wild animals in STR. A case was registered at Badasahi police station under Arms Act.

# Medical miracle: Israeli doctors reattach boy's head

THE CONDITION, BILATERAL ATLANTO OCCIPITAL JOINT DISLOCATION, IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS INTERNAL DECAPITATION

AGENCIES

**Jerusalem, July 14:** In an extremely rare and complex operation, surgeons of Hadassah Medical Center here have reattached a 12-year-old boy's head to his neck after a serious accident in which he was hit by a car while riding his bicycle.

Suleiman Hassan, a Palestinian from the West Bank, was airlifted to Hadassah hospital's trauma unit in Ein Kerem, where it was determined that the ligaments holding the posterior base of his skull were severely damaged, leaving it detached from the top vertebrae of his spine. The condition, bilateral atlanto occipital joint dislocation, is commonly known as internal or orthopedic decapitation. The injury is very rare in adults, and even more so in children.



"We fought for the boy's life," said Dr. Ohad Einav, the orthopedic specialist who operated on the patient together with Dr. Ziv Asa and a large operating

room and intensive care team. The surgery was carried out in early June.

"The procedure itself is very complicated and took several hours. While in the operating room, we used new plates and fixations in the damaged area... Our ability to save the child was thanks to our knowledge and the most innovative technology in the operating room," Dr Einav said.

The survival rate of those who suffer internal decapitation is low. In most cases, the injury results in death. There is evidence that children fare better than adults, but there is not yet enough data comparing children to adolescents.

A 2021 survey of studies on the injury in children and adolescents found that 55% do not survive the initial injury, transport to the hospital, surgery, and recovery.

The hospital reported that Hassan's father did not leave his bedside during his recovery from surgery. "I will thank you all my life for saving my dear only son. Bless you all. Thanks to you he regained his life even when the odds were low and the danger was obvious. What saved him were professionalism, technology and quick decision-making by the trauma and orthopedics team. All I can say is a big thank you," he told the medical staff.



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

### ARIES

Business affairs and love will flourish today. You can expect some monetary benefits and even some loans to be sanctioned. In love, you anticipate a romantic evening, where you will confide your deepest feelings to your beloved. Ganesh says you couldn't possibly ask for more.

### TAURUS

Today, your passion for punctuality, for insistence on maintaining schedules is in for real appreciation. But, warns Ganesh, it could also create immediate and unexpected problems for some. You are like to become exceeding impatient restless as the day progresses.

### GEMINI

The first half of the day may see you in a foul mood, and the reason for it is likely to be some mental worry that has been bothering you for quite some time now. If things worsen, it is best to see a doctor. You will feel the urge to do something that really appeals to you, in the evening, says Ganesh.

### CANCER

You will take a bold stand to achieve full capacity and efficiency. You will come out with new ideas and strategy, which will prove to be useful and profit-able. Avoid confrontation and keep your cool, says Ganesh.

### LEO

You will face some problems today and will be tense on account of them. You may experience instability and conflict in your personal relationships. You should not spend time chasing useless schemes and concentrate on fruitful and progressive activities, says Ganesh.

### VIRGO

Your focus of attention will be your monetary matters today, and working towards building on your profits. Ganesh says it will be better if you make arrangements to set aside some money for the rainy day. You may seal some deals and agreements today that will prove to be very beneficial for your business in the future.

### LIBRA

Ganesh says you will be busy in work related to your business field. People in the field of research will gain success today. In legal matters that are pending, the judgment will be in your favor today. Solutions regarding the success of your business will come out too.

### SCORPIO

The company of like-minded people will keep you in cheery spirit throughout the day. The day promises to be lively and vibrant as you will engage in one activity after another. But Ganesh warns that being over enthusiastic may be detrimental to your health. You energy level will be at an all-time high as you enjoy soaring to new heights in the company of loved ones.

### SAGITTARIUS

A typical trait, you are possessive about your belongings today, says Ganesh. You are easily able to meet your deadlines at work and submit the things on time. This will keep your energy levels intact. In a nutshell, a bright and beautiful day in store for you.

### CAPRICORN

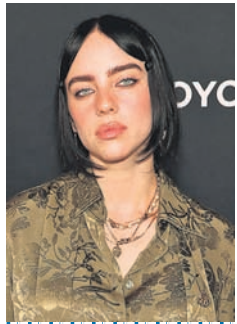
It's rare that while you're engaged in work, slogging to sort out things and prove yourself capable, you simultaneously manage time for the love of your life, and spare some more for recreational activities. Quite a bit of multitasking, but that's what Ganesh has in store for you today.

### AQUARIUS

Today, you will revel in a lot of tender loving and care (TLC). You may also be able to solve certain baffling situations plaguing your peace of mind. Ganesh suggests that you meet people, as any associations you form today will prove beneficial in the long run.

### PISCES

You will be in the mood to splurge today. You are likely to find yourself throwing a party or entertaining guests in the afternoon. You might just indulge in some uncalled-for extravagance and give your spouse a pleasant, albeit expensive, surprise, says Ganesh.



## BARBIE WAS HUGE PART OF BILLIE'S CHILDHOOD

Singer Billie Eilish, who penned and released the track *What Was I Made For?* with her brother Finneas for the soundtrack of Greta Gerwig's summer film *Barbie*, explained that playing with the iconic Mattel doll was a huge part of her childhood.

## CILLIAN READ THE BHAGAVAD GITA AHEAD OF OPPENHEIMER SHOOT

Actor Cillian Murphy, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming biopic, *Oppenheimer*, has shared that in order to prepare for the titular character and to get into its mindset, he read *Bhagavad Gita*, the foundational text of Hinduism.



# AN ACTOR'S JOB IS TO WAIT: ANGIIRA

**Mumbai:** Actress Angira Dhar after being IMDB's 2nd Breakout Star of the Year, opens up on how she had to wait for three years before her first feature film.

Talking about her character Kajal, Dhar says, "I explored my emotions deeply to portray Kajal, revealing a multifaceted aspect. I also committed to rigorous physical changes, investing time in the gym and modifying my lifestyle, sleep, and eating habits. The experience was so fulfilling that I've chosen to persist, reluctant to move on. It was my initial significant physical transformation. Additionally, we meticulously developed the dialects for each character, fusing different languages and dialects. With the help of a dialect coach, we dedicated extensive hours to intense rehearsals."

The *Commando* 3 actress says, "Good things don't come easy. You

have to really wait it out. I feel as an actor you have to be extremely patient. 90% of an actor's job is actually to wait."

"Sometimes you don't align creatively on a lot of things. Thus, don't end up doing such projects. I don't want to be a part of something half baked. Either I am in or I am out," Dhar concludes.

# The Jengaburu Curse to stream from Aug 9

THE SHOW IS NOT ONLY THE FIRST CLI-FI THRILLER SERIES OF INDIA, BUT IT ALSO MARKS THE OTT DEBUT OF ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR NILA MADHAB PANDA

**Bhubaneswar:** National award-winning producer and director Nila Madhab Panda is all set to bring India's first cli-fi thriller series, *The Jengaburu Curse*, his OTT debut, to be streamed from August 9 on Sony LIV. Set in a

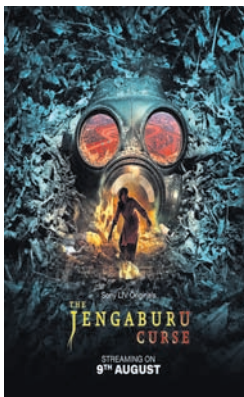
small town in Odisha, the show follows the story of London-based financial analyst, Priya Das. When her father, Professor Das, goes suspiciously missing, Priya is forced to come back to Odisha. As she starts to search for

him, a series of strange events ensue that unravel an unlikely connection between the indigenous Bonda tribe and the mining state of Odisha.

Produced by Studio Next, and created and directed by Nila Madhab Panda, the series features Faria Abdullah, Nasser, Makarand Deshpande, Sudev Nair, Deepak Sampat and Hitesh Dave in pivotal roles. Mayank Tewari

has penned the script.

Commenting on the show, Panda said, "It delves deep into the repercussions of mankind's relentless pursuit of natural resources, revealing the alarming consequences that follow. Through *Jengaburu*, our aim is to entertain the audience as well as raise awareness about the dire need for environmental conservation."



# Alia to join YRF's Spy Universe

The 'Raazi' actress will be presented in a whole new, never-seen-before manner in this yet untitled film

**Mumbai:** Actress Alia Bhatt will be joining filmmaker Aditya Chopra's YRF Spy Universe, which has brought forward films such as *Ek Tha Tiger*, *Tiger Zinda Hai*, *War* and *Pathaan*.

A source said, "Alia is one of the biggest su-

perstars of our country today and she will play a super-agent in the YRF Spy Universe like Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Hrithik Roshan. She will take on a mission that will push her to the edge and this gritty action film will expand the YRF Spy Universe further."

"Alia will be presented in a

whole new, never-seen-before manner in this yet untitled film. Her inclusion in the YRF Spy Universe indicates that Aditya Chopra is leaving no audience segment out of the equation for this franchise," adds the source.

"Alia is as big as the biggest heroes of our time and she headlining a YRF

Spy Universe film pretty much cements this perception. Aditya Chopra is very bullish about Alia as an actress who can helm and start a franchise within the Spy Universe on her own and he will pull all stops to mount this project at a scale that will be jaw-dropping," the source concluded.



# Manisha missing a life partner

**Mumbai:** Actress Manisha Koirala who was last seen in Kartik Aaryan's *Shehzada* recently spoke about motherhood and companionship.

The Sanju actress told media, "To have a family is a bit late now, no? Sometimes I do wonder if I had a life partner; then would life have been better? I don't know. I feel my life is complete and my children are my dog and my cat, Mowgli and Simba. Plus, I have wonderful parents and an amazing friends circle. Still, sometimes I wonder would it

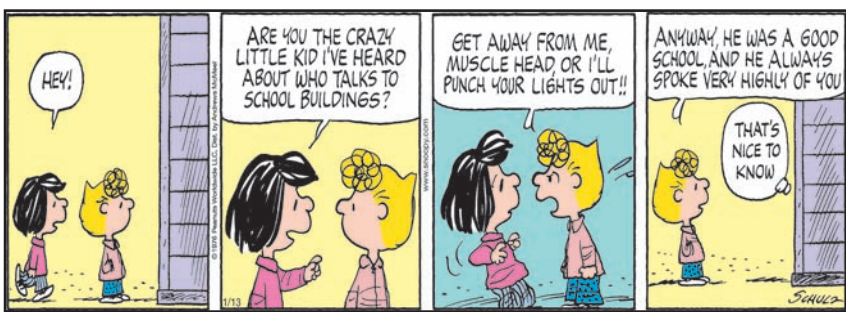
be nicer if I had a life partner?"

She further said, "I know how responsible you have to be to raise a child in this world. The day I get the confidence that as a single mother I can do that, I will do it. But keeping in mind my health background, my multiple interests that I wish to pursue and the sense of freedom that I am enjoying now... if I can sacrifice all that and focus on being a parent, I would love to do that."

With movies such as *1942: A Love Story*, *Bombay*, *Dil Se* and many more, Manisha had a successful acting career in the 1990s.



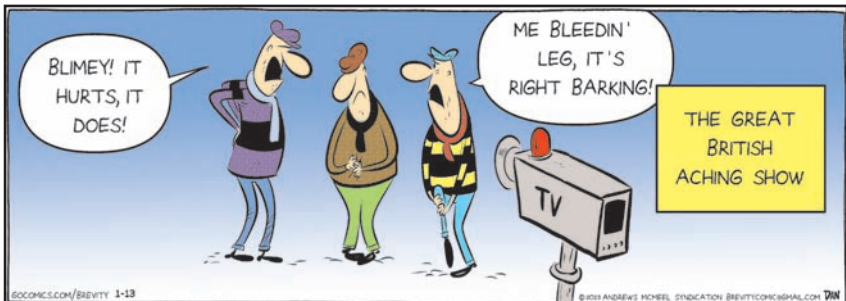
## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

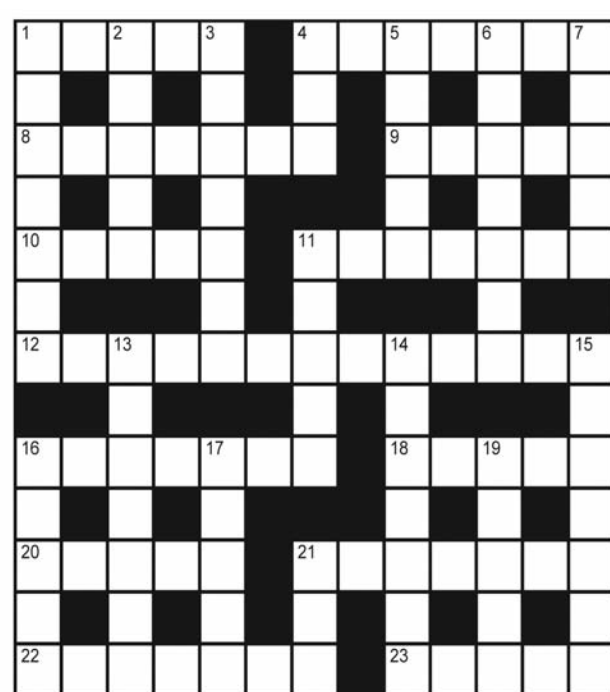


## BREVITY



## FUN post

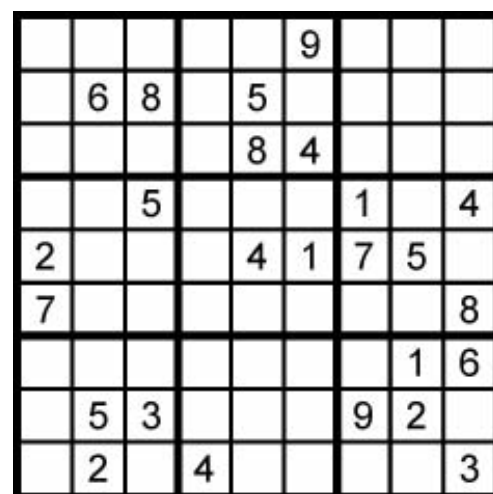
## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Ancient Greek harps
  - 4 Flourishes
  - 8 Finger ailment
  - 9 Kind of toast
  - 10 Hiker's path
  - 11 Sharp rebuke (4,3)
  - 12 Writer's aid (9,4)
  - 16 Type of relish
  - 18 Social insect
  - 20 Eye part
  - 21 Modified to fit
  - 22 Weaponry
  - 23 Vogue
  - Down**
  - 1 Seafood order
  - 2 Side dish
  - 3 Colonist
  - 4 Sea dog
  - 5 Ladies' man
  - 6 Pinatubo, e.g.
  - 7 Mine passage
  - 11 Like some noses
  - 13 Gaffe (4,3)
  - 14 Ritzy
  - 15 Long-horned grasshopper
  - 16 Dried coconut meat
  - 17 Parachute material
  - 19 Unit of length
  - 21 Cobbler's tool

## 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



BJD leaders attend an executive meet organised at Sankha Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday



# downtown



LEGAL DISCOURSE: Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar, Supreme Court Judge Justice S Ravindra Bhat, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Columbia University Partha Chatterjee and other dignitaries unveil Judicial History of Odisha Vol-I at the inaugural ceremony of National Conference on Judicial History and Archiving at Odisha Judicial Academy in Cuttack, Friday

## Chandrayaan-3: Naveen cheers ISRO scientists

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday congratulated ISRO scientists on the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Chandrayaan 3 from Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota Friday, eyeing a rare feat in moon exploration so far only accomplished by the US, China and the former Soviet Union.

Taking to Twitter, Patnaik said: "Heartiest congratulations to @isro scientists on the successful launch of #Chandrayaan3, the nation's third mission to our celestial neighbour. The historic journey to the Moon is yet another momentous leap for the country's space exploration and scientific advancement. #ISRO."

Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda said that he as an Indian feel proud of the rare feat of the ISRO.

"As a state Odisha has some contribution towards the Chandrayaan-3. About 25,000 components were manufactured in the state and sent for the Chandrayaan-3. This time both lander and rover have been strengthened and we are optimistic about the soft landing," he said.

The engineers, technicians and students of Central Tool Room and Training Center (CTTC), Bhubaneswar which manufactured several flow control valves used in LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-III), sensors and regulators for the Chandrayaan-3 launch vehicle, assembled at the institute to celebrate the feat.

## Banks fail to meet ₹4L SHG loan size target

TO EXPEDITE THE CREDIT FLOW TO WOMEN SHGs, THE STATE GOVT HAS PROPOSED THE CONSTITUTION OF A SUB-COMMITTEE OF SLBC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** The state government's target to increase the average loan size for each women self-help group (SHG) to ₹4 lakh by the end of financial year 2022-23 could not be achieved due to failure of the banks, as per the data revealed during the last State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting.

According to the data provided by banks, by the end of March 2023, average SHG loan size during the last financial year stood at ₹3.01 lakh, which is ₹1 lakh below the target set by the government for the banks.

During 2022-23 financial year (FY), 3,65,542 SHGs have been credit linked with loans amounting to ₹11,005.10 crore against the annual physical and financial credit linkage target of 3,50,000 and ₹8,750 crore

### CREDIT FLOW BLUES

During FY 2022-23, 3,65,542 SHGs have been credit linked with loans amounting to ₹11,005.10 crore against the annual physical and financial credit linkage target of 3,50,000 and ₹8,750 crore

The physical and financial achievement as percentage of the target comes to 104 per cent & 126 per cent respectively. But the average loan size could not be increased as per the target

financial credit linkage target of 3,50,000 and ₹8,750 crore respectively. The physical and financial achievement as percentage of the target comes to 104 per cent & 126 per cent respectively. But the average loan size could not be increased as

per the target.

Considering the annual growth, utilisation and repayment of loans, annual target for the current FY (2023-24) has been fixed at ₹15,000 crore for 4 lakh SHGs.

Banks have been asked to issue suitable advisory to their field offices to meet the target on minimum loan size to SHGs i.e ₹2 lakh for fresh/1st linkage, ₹4 lakh for 2nd linkage and ₹6 lakh for 3rd linkage onwards irrespective of the SHG corpus.

Considering the growth in demand for credit and women entrepreneurship at SHG level, the state government has enhanced the interest subvention benefits from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh providing loans at 0 per cent effective annual rate of interest to WSHGs (both rural and urban) w.e.f April 1, 2022. This benefit is applicable to SHGs in case of prompt and regular repayment of loans.

To expedite the credit flow to women SHGs, the state government has proposed the constitution of a sub-committee of SLBC in this regard.

The panel led by Mission Shakti secretary will look into credit flow to WSHG, Mission Shakti Loan - State Interest Subvention, BCA, Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana and Financial Literacy programme, and provide an institutional mechanism for interacting with the banks for credit linkage to WSHGs, sources said.

## Missing student rescued from Puri

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** The Commissionerate Police has located a minor boy who had gone missing since July 6 from Maitri Vihar area here. The student, Yogesh Balaji Lingade, was rescued from Jenapur Road railway station in Puri district.

Yogesh was Friday handed over to his parents by the Commissionerate Police.

"On July 6, a complaint was reported before the IIC of Maitri Vihar police station. The family has claimed in the missing report that the minor, a Class X student of a city-based private school, has gone missing from his home. Subsequently, we registered a kidnapping case as the student was a minor," said additional DCP Prakash Chandra Pal.

The police later started investigation into the case to trace the missing student. The cops during the examination of CCTV footage of nearby areas spotted Yogesh moving alone in his bicycle in the city. Meanwhile, an unknown person Thursday informed Maitri Vihar police that an unknown minor was wandering near Jenapur Road railway station in Puri district.

"A team of Maitri Vihar police traced the boy at Jenapur Road railway station. Yogesh had left house failing to bear with the pressure of studies. He went to Balugaon where he boarded a Puri-bound train after keeping his bicycle at the railway station there. Yogesh ran out of money at Jenapur Road railway station and sought help of an unknown person who offered him food and informed the police. Yogesh was not interested in pursuing coaching for medical entrance. He was not going to the college since June 28. His father had reportedly rebuked him for bunking classes," added Pal.

## Major reshuffle among police officers in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, July 14:** The State Police Establishment Board has decided to transfer and post a host of officials who have been promoted to the rank of deputy superintendent of police (DSP) a few days back, an official of the Odisha Police said, Friday.

Kendrapara inspector Jyotiranjana Samantray was posted as deputy superintendent of police (DSP) of the district headquarters, while Sambalpur inspector Pratap Rana was transferred and posted as DSP of Sonepur PCR Cell.

Jyoti Ranjan Gouda, who was Nuapada inspector, was posted as DSP of HRPC in Cuttack, while Special Branch inspector Shrimanta Barik was transferred and posted as DSP of Special Branch in Bhubaneswar. Puri inspector Manoranjan Parida, on the other hand, was transferred and posted as deputy SP of HRPC in Cuttack.

Cuttack GRP inspector Surendra Nath Das was transferred and posted as DSP of OHRC in Bhubaneswar. Ganjam inspector Ramesh Das was posted as DSP of DIB, Puri, while Jagatsinghpur inspector Sujit Pradhan was posted as Baripada Sadar SDPO.

Moreover, Balasore inspector Subrat Behera was posted as DSP of IAHTU in Kandhamal, Angul inspector Ananda Kumar Dzungdung was transferred and posted as DSP of Boudh PCR Cell and Nabarangpur inspector Govinda Buruda was posted as DSP of Kandhamal PCR Cell.

Jitendra Kumar Sahu, who was the inspector at PTC in Angul, was posted as deputy SP of the facility.

Daman Charan Tudu, inspector of Special Branch, was transferred and posted as DSP of PCR Cell in Nayagarh, while Boudh inspector Jyotsna Kauri was posted as DSP of Khurda PCR Cell.

Nuapara inspector Suban Kissan was posted as DSP of Sambalpur PCR Cell while Kalahandi inspector Basudev Chhatra was transferred and posted as Birmaharajpur SDPO.

While Puri inspector Anil Mohanty was transferred and posted as DSP at Khurda headquarters, Koraput inspector Kapileswar Behera was posted as DSP of DIB, Boudh.

Kalahandi inspector Ashok Mohapatra was posted as DSP at HRPC in Cuttack and Angul inspector Onam Lakra was posted as DSP of the headquarters in Sambalpur. While Angul inspector Pravat Tripathy was posted as Kamakhyanagar SDPO, Prasanna Dash, who was inspector of BPSPA, was posted as DSP at the facility.

Vigilance inspector Meenakshi Pradhan was posted as DSP of Vigilance Organisation, while Keonjhar SP Gagan Bihari Biswal was posted as DSP of CID-CB in Cuttack.

Inspector Manoj Kumar Satpathy was posted as an ACP under the Commissionerate

Police, while Rourkela inspector Santosh Jena was posted as DSP of PCR Cell in Jagatsinghpur.

Nuapada inspector Nirmala Panigrahi was posted DSP of Special Branch in Bhubaneswar, while Alakananda Sahu, who was an inspector at DIGP SWR, Koraput, was posted as DSP of headquarters in Kalahandi.

Special Branch inspector Jyoti Prasanna Nayak was transferred and posted as DSP at Special Branch in Bhubaneswar, while Umakanta Pradhan, an inspector under Commissionerate Police, was posted as an ACP under the twin city police.

Ganjam inspector Priyas Ranjan Chhotray was posted as Barbil SDPO, while Sujata Mishra, an inspector at BPSPA, was transferred and posted as deputy SP, L/R State Police headquarters in Cuttack.

Jharsuguda inspector Amitav



Panda was posted as Kuchinda SDPO, while Keonjhar inspector Susanta Dash was posted as Biramitrapur SDPO.

Special Intelligence Wing (SIW) inspector Santosh Sahoo was transferred and posted as DSP of SIW in Bhubaneswar; Ganjam inspector Prasanta Sahoo was posted as DSP of Puri City and Biranchi Narayan Pati, an inspector under Commissionerate Police, was transferred and posed as Pipli SDPO.

Special Branch inspector Malay Purohit was transferred and posted as DSP of Special Branch in Bhubaneswar, Jajpur inspector Umakanta Nayak was posted as Choudwar SDPO, Puri inspector Chinmaya Rout was transferred and posted as Tirtol SDPO and Vigilance inspector Abhaya Pradhan was posted as deputy SP of Vigilance, Organisation.

Rabinarayan Bhanja, an inspector under Commissionerate Police, was posted as Puri Sadar SDPO, while Vigilance inspector Madan Mohan Pradhan was posted as DSP of Vigilance, Organisation.

Koraput inspector Gourahari Sahoo was posted as Chhatrapur SDPO and Kandhamal inspector Ashok Kumar Giri was posted as an ACP under Commissionerate Police. Rourkela inspector Diptikanta Pradhan was posted as Security Officer of Berhampur University, while Balasore inspector Biswaja Kumar Routray was transferred and posted as DSP of Berhampur PCR Cell.

Cuttack GRP inspector Jaydev Biswaji was posted as DSRP, DIB, Cuttack, while Special

Branch inspector Narendra Kumar Majhi was transferred and posted as Special Branch DSP in Bhubaneswar.

Nuapara inspector Kailash Chandra Sathy was posted as Boudh SDPO, Vigilance inspector Kanakalata Pradhan was posted as DSP of Vigilance Organisation and Jagatsinghpur inspector Pradyumna Kishore Behera was posted as DSRP, PCR Cell, Cuttack.

Gajapati inspector Babuli Naik was transferred and posted as Gunupur SDPO, Vigilance inspector Kalabati Bag was posted as DSP, Vigilance Organisation and Saroj Punam Kispotta, an inspector at 2nd Bn in Jharsuguda (APTC), was transferred and posted as DSP, L/R, State Police Headquarters in Cuttack deputed to 2'd Bn (APTC), Jharsuguda.

Vigilance inspector Suresh Kanhar was posted as Vigilance Organisation DSP, Balasore inspector Subhansu Sekhar Nayak was posted as an ACP under Commissionerate Police and Ganjam inspector Sangita Mishra was posted as DSP of Special Branch in Bhubaneswar.

Subarnapur inspector Jogeswar Panda was posted as DSP of DIB in Bolangir, while Security Wing inspector Raj Kumar Parida was transferred and posted as DSP of Security Wing in Bhubaneswar.

Madhusmita Padhi, of IGP, Railways, Bhubaneswar, was posted as DSP of HRPC in Cuttack, while SIW inspector Ashis Kumar Rout was posted as DSP of SIW in Bhubaneswar.

Jharsuguda inspector Jasobanta Pradhani was posted as DSP of headquarters in Bolangir, Mahila PS inspector Anusuya Nayak was posted as an ACP under the Commissionerate Police and Jajpur inspector Sukanta Patra was posted as DSP of headquarters in Nayagarh.

Alakarani Panda, inspector at SCRB in Bhubaneswar, was posted as DSP of OHRC in Bhubaneswar, while Cuttack inspector Bijay Mallick was posted as Champua SDPO.

Vigilance inspector Baidehi Behera was posted as DSP Vigilance Organisation and Special Branch inspector Sunirmala Nayak was posted as DSP of Special Branch.

Bisamkatak SDPO Akash Chandra Sahoo was transferred and posted as DSP of SOG in Bhubaneswar and Rayagada SDPO Debajyoti Dash was posted as DSP SOG in Bhubaneswar.

Koraput Sadar SDPO Manoj Kumar Pujari was posted as DSP of SOG in Bhubaneswar, Angul's IAHTU DSP Saubhagya Laxmi Patnaik was transferred and posted as DSP of PCR Cell in Dhenkanal, Keonjhar IUCAW DSP Puspalata Barik was posted as DSP of PCR Cell in Bhadrak and Sambalpur headquarters DSP Jyostnamayee Pradhan, who was posted as DSP of headquarters in Jharsuguda, were among the officials who were posted in new capacities, Friday.

## 10-year RI for Puri minor's rape in 2017



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, July 14:** A local court here Friday awarded 10-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) to a man after holding him guilty of raping a minor girl in 2017.

First Additional Sessions Judge Amiya Ranjan Jena convicted Loknath Mahapatra, a resident of Pipli, of the rape. The court also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict.

According to the prosecution, the accused—Loknath Mahapatra—had raped the minor girl of his locality in 2017. The parents of the girl had filed a complaint with Pipli police. The accused was chargesheeted by the police to face trial under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

## NGT FOR ACTION AGAINST FORMER TANGI TEHSILDAR

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the state government to initiate criminal proceedings against former Tangi tehsildar Smruti Ranjan Satpathy for securing environmental clearance through illegal means and failing to prevent illegal laterite stone mining at Sahadaghai in Tangi area of Khurda district. The green body issued the order while hearing a plea filed by Dillip Kumar Samantray of Nayagarh and others.

The petitioners had alleged that one Patitapaban Barik was illegally extracting laterite stone at Sahadaghai without consent to establish, consent to operate and before the transfer of environmental clearance by the tehsildar in favour of the lessee. It is stated that the environmental clearance dated 11.05.2022 was transferred in favour of Patitapaban.

The NGT later constituted a committee comprising Khurda Collector, DFO and director of Mines and Geology, Khurda. The committee was asked to submit the report after ground inspection within a month.

According to the affidavit submitted by the OSPCB, the committee, during inspection carried out on February 13, 2023, found that Patitapaban was indulged in illegal mining on Plot No 712, 713, 714, 716 and 717 without getting any lease or other permissions. The committee also spotted that no mining has taken place on Plot No 719 which was leased out to Patitapaban for mining of laterite stone and murram. The committee corroborated the allegations of the petitioners that Patitapabana has secured consent to establish October 12, 2022 but no consent to operate has been granted till date to start mining officially.

The committee concluded that Patitapaban has to pay a fine of ₹7, 25, 60,301 as environmental compensation. Then tehsildar of Tangi secured the EC certificate from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority by concealing the fact that the plot is earmarked as forest land as per the Sabik records. The EC was transferred in the name of Patitapaban by the tehsildar. "The original application is, therefore, disposed of with a direction to the State respondents to initiate criminal prosecution against the then tehsildar, Tangi, who obtained the Environmental Clearance by concealing the material facts from the SEIAA, Odisha, and thereafter transferred the same in favour of the Respondent No.11 and for failing to prevent illegal mining in the area in question," remarked the tribunal. Advocate Sankar Prasad Pani was pleading on behalf of the petitioners.

**ILLEGAL STONE QUARRY**



# Western Odisha important for state's devt: Naveen

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated the 'Mukhya Mantri Sabha Gruha' programme in western Odisha paving the way for the construction of about 2,000 Kalyan Mandaps and local assembly halls at an estimated cost of ₹125 crore. The Chief Minister said that the move will make the social and cultural life of the people more active.

The plan is being implemented under 5T initiative, and the CM hoped that all the infrastructure works will be of high quality and will be completed on time. The Chief Minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several projects with an estimated investment of ₹33.58 crore.

Naveen said that he has always paid special attention to the development of western Odisha. The Western Odisha Development Council's (WODC) budget has doubled and its programmes have also been enhanced, he said.

He advised the WODC to take up the development programme after discussing with the public representatives. The Chief Minister opined that WODC has



NAVEEN SAID THAT HE HAS ALWAYS PAID SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN ODISHA

THE CM ADDED THAT WESTERN ODISHA IS RICH IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, MINING, EDUCATION AND ART AND CULTURE

played a major role in the development of the region. The role of this region is important for the development of Odisha, he said.

The CM added that western Odisha is rich in agriculture, industry, mining, education and art and culture. For the development of tourism, the transformation work of Maa

Samaleswari, Harishankar and Narasingnath temples is going on.

All the work is being supervised through the Chief Minister's office. He said that western Odisha has quickly created a unique identity in all areas of development.

Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu in Titilagarh, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu in Bargarh, Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholakia in Deogarh attended the programme through video conferencing and praised the Chief Minister's vision.

They opined that the development of western Odisha is progressing with all the programmes starting and ending on time under 5T initiatives. In the meeting, WODC Chairman Asit Tripathy gave the introductory information and its CEO Ajit Mishra gave vote of thanks.

Among the projects inaugurated are Gadijora Bridge, Titilagarh Town Hall, Bargarh Eco-Tourism infrastructure, Deogarh College Auditorium, Kalahandi Brajamohan High School Hostel, Gangadhar Meher University Auditorium and Kuchinda College Auditorium.



**EVICTON DRIVE:** An excavator engaged by BDA razing down unauthorised constructions in Cuttack Road area of Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

## BMC sets ₹200cr target for revenue collection

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** In a review meeting held Thursday, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange emphasised the implementation of technology to ensure transparency in tax collection in Bhubaneswar. The meeting primarily focused on revenue tax and holding tax collection, with key directives provided toward officers and zonal deputy commissioners.

Kulange instructed each ward

officer to establish specific revenue collection goals and targets. Additionally, zonal deputy commissioners were directed to set a target of ₹200 crore for current fiscal and develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) at the ward level. To address zone-wise revenue collection strategies, presentations were requested from the concerned authorities.

The commissioner stressed the importance of thorough inspections by ward officers, em-

phasising the need to assess and reassess all households. Instances were highlighted where individuals were found running businesses without trade licenses, despite paying holding taxes.

Comparatively, the current revenue collection goals fall short of the target. Consequently, a campaign will be organised at the ward level, in collaboration with corporators, to enhance revenue collection. Saturdays will be designated as 'Revenue Day' to promote the initiative, he said.

The commissioner also emphasised the necessity of conducting revenue audits by identifying houses, parking spaces, and shops. Geo-tagging will be implemented, ensuring that revenue is collected for every residential property.

Moreover, the implementation of the digital door numbering scheme will be expedited, and a campaign with appropriate marketing strategies will be launched to educate citizens on the application process, he informed.

## NE will provide boost to country's growth: Panda



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India's oldest apex chamber established in 1927, held the first ever National Executive Committee Meeting (NECM) at Guwahati, Assam.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma addressed the members and highlighted the state's growth through massive investment in infrastructure and a proactive, transparent approach to governance.

FICCI President Subhrakant Panda said, "North East region has abundant resources and will provide a boost to India's growth in the years ahead."

Assam in particular is the largest economy in the region and also the most populous state; it has been growing at a rapid pace, boosted by large expenditure on physical and digital connectivity, he added.

Business leaders from across the country and Japan's Ambassador to India HE Hiroshi Suzuki travelled to IIT-Guwahati. A session on 'Connecting India's North East to the World' was held on this occasion as part of industry-academia engagement.

## WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

# Young minds aim for transformative future

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** The theme for this year's World Youth Skills Day is 'Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future'. It highlights the essential role that teachers, trainers and other educators play in providing skills for youth to transition to the labour market and to actively engage in their communities and societies.

Technological advancements and shifting labour market dynamics increasingly call for agile and adaptable skill sets. It is crucial that we empower young people to navigate these changes effectively.

The objective of this day is to better socio-economic conditions for today's youth as a means of addressing the challenges of unemployment and under employment.

The day also highlights the important role of skilled youth in addressing current and future global challenges. It is known that Skill India is an initiative of the central government which was launched to empower the youth skill and make them more



employable and more productive in their work environment.

"Odisha Skill Conclave 2023, an initiative by the state government towards 'Nua Odisha' where 11 lakh youth will be trained future technologies like cloud computing, artificial intelligence, data sciences is an opportunity for the youth to skill themselves enough and create employment opportunities for their future generation," said Sanket Behera, an entrepreneur in the city.

"The upcoming entrepreneurs will have a lot to learn from us but with the use of tech and skills the growth will be manifold", Sanket added.

"Introduction into the world of technology and new terms associated with it are pretty interesting. Most of the schools are now gearing up to include subjects under computer sciences which will make the students proficient by the time they graduate. We can see many computer geeks in the age group 12-14 years. This trend bodes well for the state", said Annirudha Pradhan, a private school teacher.

"With the addition of future technology-based subjects in the curriculum, we as teachers have to gear up constantly to update ourselves," Pradhan added.

The unengaged youth who have been struggling for years to

find a job in the state say, "Although industries are growing and tall buildings are being constructed, yet we don't have job opportunities for various domains. Even if we want to work in Odisha, the diminishing scope doesn't allow us to. The skills don't come to use if we cannot be productive in our state. The government of Odisha should focus on bringing companies to Odisha with various job roles for its youth", said Pratyush Nayak, an IT employee based in Bangalore.

Special Industrial Training Institute for PWDS principal Jeetamitra Satapathy said, "I will always ask the youth to be patient enough and not always run after finding jobs. Don't always be a job seeker, be a job giver as well. For that, you've to make yourselves capable enough and catch up with the fast growing world. Keep acquiring knowledge in all directions that you can."

It is important to recognise you and develop your skill-set and continually keep analyzing yourself. It is vital to always explore yourself and find your uniqueness, she added.

## KIIT's Snehaddeep presents poster at prestigious NAM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** Snehaddeep Kumar, a B.Tech second year student from KIIT in Electronics and Electrical stream, remained the cynosure of all eyes at the prestigious National Astronomy Meeting (NAM) 2023 held in the UK last week. Snehaddeep presented a poster on 'Saha's theory of thermal ionization in star formation'.

Snehaddeep garnered admiration as he became not only the youngest to present a poster at the meeting but also the only undergraduate student at the event, surprising the President of the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) Mike Edmunds and several other scientists. The meeting was held at Cardiff University, Wales, UK from July 3 to 7.

KIIT became the only institute in the world to produce an undergraduate delegate in NAM history, as said by the RAS council members.

Snehaddeep expressed his gratitude to KIIT for supporting him throughout the journey that could only have remained a



dream without the University's support. KIIT & KISS founder Achyuta Samanta congratulated Snehaddeep on his achievement.

KIIT became the only Indian university ever to present a talk or a poster at NAM, where only 176 research posters from around the world were selected. Such an opportunity is usually given to post-doctorate researchers and scientific professionals.

# 500mn people live under shadow of active volcanoes

The thought of living near an active volcano probably sounds like an unimaginable risk to you – and rightly so. An active volcano is never safe and can turn a forested hillside into a lifeless wasteland in a matter of seconds. From molten avalanches of rock to razor-sharp lung-shredding ash, volcanoes threaten people's lives and property.

Yet 500 million people worldwide live and work under the shadow of active volcanoes.

Their motivations range widely. For some, strong cultural beliefs and traditions keep them in place. For others, volcanoes offer significant economic opportunity. For the most vulnerable, poverty traps them in dangerous locations.

Centers of identity Numerous cultures and Indigenous peoples revere volcanoes as places of worship, ritual and tradition that are cele-



brated for their power over fertility, life and sustenance.

For a number of religious traditions, Mount Fuji in Japan is a place where ancestral spirits congregate. It has been a symbolic and sacred site of pilgrimage for centuries. Every summer, thousands of people ascend through the clouds to reach the summit.

For the Tengerese people on Java, Mount Bromo is a deeply sacred site – the abode of gods. Every year they hike up the volcano carrying agricultural products and livestock to be sacrificed during the Yadnya Kasada festival. Pilgrims gather at the rim to ex-

press gratitude and seek blessings with prayer, chanting and sacred offerings.

In Ecuador, the Quechua people follow a religion that combines pre-Columbian and Catholic elements.

Local people see the Tungurahua volcano as a familiar but unpredictable matriarch who can offer support and guidance.

Economic opportunity Volcanic soils are among the most fertile in the world. They contain essential minerals and nutrients such as iron, magnesium, calcium, potassium, phosphorus and trace elements that are essential for plant growth. They also have high organic matter content, good pH balance, high

porosity and strong water retention, making them ideal for agriculture.

In addition, volcanic terrains often create unique microclimates that are ideal for growing high-value crops such as grapes, coffee and bananas.

Striking landscapes, unique geological features and the thrill of proximity draw tourists to active volcanoes worldwide. Visitors to sites like the Bromo Tenger Semeru National Park on Java, Mount Kiluaea in Hawaii and Mount Etna on the island of Sicily can boost local economies and significantly enhance the livelihoods of residents.

Volcanic landscapes can also offer rich mineral resources such as gold, silver, amethyst and more. For example, the rich volcanic landscape around El Misti in southern Peru is valued for its industrially mined copper and other metals.

NUMEROUS CULTURES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES REVERE VOLCANOES AS PLACES OF WORSHIP, RITUAL AND TRADITION

VOLCANOES ARE CELEBRATED FOR THEIR POWER OVER FERTILITY, LIFE AND SUSTENANCE

VOLCANIC TERRAINS OFTEN CREATE UNIQUE MICROCLIMATES THAT ARE IDEAL FOR GROWING HIGH-VALUE CROPS SUCH AS GRAPES, COFFEE AND BANANAS

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary, Jharsuguda, I, Umesh Kumar Srivastav, R/o. At-Budhijam, Orient Colliery, Qr. No. B/37, Shaktinagar, P.O./P.S. - Brajarajnagar, Dist. - Jharsuguda declare that I want to correction of my son's name from Shrub Kumar Srivastav to Swaraj Srivastav and his DOB from 20.08.2009 to 11.08.2009 for all purposes.

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## 8 injured after truck hits bus in Balasore

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** At least eight people were injured as a bus traveling from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata overturned after being hit by a speeding truck from behind in Balasore district Friday, police said.

The mishap took place on the National Highway near Shantia bypass under Jaleswar police station at around 2.45am.

Driver of the bus Manoj Kumar Nayak said, "As a speed-breaker was there at the accident spot, I had slowed down the bus."

At that time, a speeding truck hit my bus from behind. Under the impact of the collision, the bus hit the barricade put up there and then overturned."

After getting information, the local police reached the spot and admitted the injured persons to a local hospital.

The truck, which hit the bus, has been seized and further investigation is going on, the police said.



**RISKY PROPOSITION:** An technician working on a power line in a hazardous condition at Kacheri Square in Sambalpur, Friday

## NABA DAS MURDER Chargesheet waste paper: Pujari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sambalpur, July 14:** Senior Odisha BJP MP Suresh Pujari Friday claimed that the 543-page chargesheet filed by the Crime Branch in the murder case of former health minister Naba Kishore Das is nothing but 'waste paper' and the agency tried to hide the truth.

Assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police Gopal Das gunned down Naba Kishore Das January 29 in stable mind due to some personal grudge and anguish, the Crime Branch which is investigating the case said in the chargesheet filed in a Jharsuguda court May 26.

"After studying the chargesheet thoroughly, I feel that the Crime Branch had put in considerably less effort to uncover the truth behind the murder than they did to conceal it," Pujari told a press conference here.

He said he got a copy of the chargesheet only Thursday. "Several critical gaps exist in



the chargesheet which will help the accused come out. The investigation is a futile effort and the chargesheet is waste paper," Pujari said.

The Crime Branch has mentioned three incidents, including an altercation between the accused and Naba Das's followers, to support its claim that the police officer had a grudge against the minister.

"These reasons are insufficient to drive someone to commit a crime like murder," said Pujari who is also a lawyer.

He said the investigating agency is yet to trace the bullet that killed the minister. "The Crime Branch has not also verified the call record of the accused. Had they done it, the direction of the investigation would have changed. If the conspiracy angle in the case is investigated, big criminals can be brought to justice," the BJP leader said.

The police officer had allegedly opened fire at the minister at Brajarajgarh Gandhi Chowk when he was on an official visit to Jharsuguda district.

## Anaemia on the rise among women, kids in Kendrapara

**THIS HAS ALSO RAISED QUESTION MARKS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD SECURITY SCHEMES IN THE COASTAL DISTRICT**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, July 14:** The fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has published a worrisome report regarding the health of women and children in Kendrapara district, a report said Thursday.

In comparison to the statistics given in NFHS-4, anaemia among women has registered a surge of over 16.5 per cent during the last six years, while among the kids the rise in cases is learnt to be an alarming 32.8 per cent.

While in the NFHS-4, anaemia was detected in 26.7 per cent of the district's children, it has increased to 61.5 per cent in NFHS-5. According to the health dossier-2021 of National Health System Resource Centre (NHSRC) the district has 860 women in every 1000 men. The birth control measures are in worrisome condition. Over 64.7 per cent are not inclined to adopt birth control measures.

Around 6.5 per cent children have failed to get vaccinated despite 96.7 per cent women delivering children in health centres. Local intelligentsia claimed that the women and child health report in a coastal district like Kendrapara is matter of concern. Local intelligentsia Shibashis Mohanty, social activists Banambar Sahu, Jyoti Prakash Nayak, Pinaki Samantray said the NFHS-5 survey report has laid bare the chinks in the health system in the district. This is indicative of the fact that the welfare schemes of the state government and the Centre have failed to reach the people living in the lower strata of the society.

The National Health Mission and state health mission have implemented various schemes for



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

61.5% CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT ARE AFFECTED BY ANAEMIA

INTELLIGENTSIA BLAME LACK OF HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

the welfare of women and children while there is also a Swabalambi Yojana for the women. Crores are being spent under various schemes to uplift the district's residents including women and children, but despite that anaemia has spread its tentacles among women and children.

This has also raised question marks on the implementation of food security schemes. Apart from ration, the Women and Child Development department is distributing cooked and dry food. The district health department is also distributing iron and folic acid tablets to women to help them prevent occurrence of anaemia.

The district has a population of over 16 lakh. Accordingly, the district has only 21 beds in the hospitals for one lakh residents. The district has 224 sanctioned posts of doctors but over half of those are lying vacant.

Moreover, most of the 226

health sub-centres providing basic healthcare service at the grass root level lack auxiliary nursing midwives (ANMs). Various awareness programmes on healthcare for women and children have remained only in pen and papers.

The issue assumes significance as majority of the women and children in Mahakalapara, Rajnagar, Rajkanika, Aul and Pattamundai blocks have been detected with anaemia. They demanded the district administration to intervene and start special programmes for health benefits of women and children.

When contacted, CDMO Anita Patnaik said two out of last six years passed in Covid pandemic while the situation in Kendrapara district is better in comparison to other districts.

The health workers and Anganwadi workers have distributed iron, folic acid tablets and other medicines to women and children for prevention of anaemia. Had they used the medicines, the situation could have been averted. It is also taking time to sensitise the Bengali speaking women and children living in remote corners of the district.

## Love triangle leads to youth's murder

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, July 14:** Six persons, including three minors, have been arrested in connection with the murder of a youth over a love triangle involving a minor girl in Bolangir district, the police said Thursday.

Rajat Kumar Pradhan was allegedly murdered by Suryakant Selmatha and his five friends as both (Pradhan and Selmatha) were in love with the same girl.

Investigation by the police revealed that to eliminate Pradhan, Selmatha and his friends planned the murder and executed it, Bolangir Superintendent of Police, Khilari Rishikesh Gnyandeo said.

Pradhan went missing June 24, and his mobile phone was found switched off. His body was recovered from the railway line near Khujenpali village the next day.

A case was subsequently registered by the Government Railway Police. Till that day, the

### 3 MINORS AMONG 6 ARRESTED



police were suspecting it to be a case of suicide.

However, the police later recovered Pradhan's blood-stained shirt from a tree, 6 km away from the railway track. Following this, the police began investigating the matter from the murder angle.

The Bolangir SP said that prime accused Suryakant

Selmatha and his friends killed Rajat Pradhan with a sharp weapon and then took him to the railway tracks, and then abandoned his body on the railway tracks to make the incident look like a suicide case, Rishikesh said.

Six people, including three minors, have been arrested. Pradhan's mobile phone, and

the weapon and iron rod, and bikes which were used in the crime were also recovered. A crime scene reconstruction was also done Thursday, the police officer said.

"Till now, the main reason behind the murder seems to be the dispute between Pradhan and Selmatha over a minor girl. However, we are investigating who had invited Rajat to the murder spot," he said.

Rajat's father Nirakar Pradhan alleged that the minor girl is the main conspirator of the crime, and demanded a death sentence for everyone involved in the crime. On this, the Bolangir SP said, "As the girl is a juvenile, we are dealing with this case very carefully. The only clue we have is that the girl earlier used to meet Rajat at the spot of the murder. We are ascertaining what her role is in this case."

Further investigation in the case is going on. If anyone is found involved in it, action will be taken accordingly, he added.

## Tusker tramples septuagenarian

**Morada:** An elderly man died in elephant attack at Mahalisahi on Sarumula-Parulia main road under Morada police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Friday. The deceased was identified as Adhar Kumar Patra (75) of Bedhahjal village under Nayagram police limit in West Bengal. As per reports, Adhar had come to her daughter's house at Sarumula village under Rasagobindapur block in the district. He had gone for a walk, Friday morning. During walk, he came face to face with a tusker at Mahalisahi on Sarumula-Parulia main road. The tusker then attacked him and trampled him to death. Informed, Rasagobindapur Forest department officials reached the spot, seized and sent the body to PRM Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem. When asked, Purnima, daughter of the deceased, said that her father had come to her place for treatment as he was ill. Unfortunately, he died at her residence. Locals alleged that the Forest department is unable to stop elephant menace in the area as many people have died in elephant attacks in Rasagobindapur in the last couple of years.



## Task force to curb sex determination

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, July 14:** A meeting of the advisory committee and district task force for the prevention of sex determination of the child was held at Sundargarh, Friday.

Sundargarh Collector Parag Harshad Gawali presided over the meeting and stressed on the strict and effective implementation of the laws against the heinous act of determining the sex of the foetus. The first major point that was discussed in the meeting was regarding the condition, expertise, registration and renewal of the clinics where this facility was available.

There is also provision of rewards to the informant who gives information regarding sex determination being done in any of the clinics.

In the meeting, it was also decided that the informant would get ₹25,000 but in three instalments. "The first instalment of ₹10,000 would be given once the veracity of the information is confirmed by the district administration. The second of another ₹10,000 will be provided once the charge is framed and accepted in court. And the third one of ₹5000 will come his way

once the person is convicted in the court," informed the Collector. Besides, he added that the identity of the person will be a secret and the informant will never have to appear before the court.

Additional health officer Shakti Padhi has been appointed as the nodal officer. Collector also expressed concern over the falling sex ratio in a few blocks of the district and instructed to prepare a complete action plan to tackle the menace.

Sundargarh at present has 67 private and 12 government ultrasonid clinics. Speaking about this, Sundargarh CDMO Saroj Kumar Mishra said, "Now we are going to create awareness about this problem in the district. During the Hockey World Cup we did that in the affected blocks." The male-female birth ratio stands slightly tilted in favour of males at 973 females per 1,000 males.

"We have problems in Sbdgega, Sargipalli, Hatibari and Bonai. Soon, the action plan will be ready. We try our best to create awareness. If the person goes out of the district to bordering states of Chattisgarh and Jharkhand or to other districts inside the state, then we are helpless," said the CDMO.

## TREATMENT UNDER MOBILE FLASH LIGHT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, July 14:** Patients are getting treated under mobile phone flash lights at Rajgangpur Community Health Centre (CHC), which is situated at the centre of one of the leading towns in this part of the state.

As per reports, the CHC's lone generator has not been functioning for the last four days. A woman, seriously injured in an accident, was provided medical attention under mobile flash light, Thursday. "We brought her in very bad condition with head and other injuries," said her relative. Halfway through medical intervention, power went off as the generator was not functioning and the treatment had to be carried out under mobile flash lights. "There was no way out for the attending medical staff and the doctors," said her relative. Later she was shifted to



Rourkela for further treatment. The worst affected are Gynecology and Paediatrics departments. When power goes

out, the newborns and their mothers are the worst sufferers.

"We have to fan them with

hand-held fans for long hours because all of us know the status of power supply here. My baby was born in the dark. It is

really very painful. Especially in the evening, the situation is all the more difficult due to mosquitoes," said a person.

When asked, the superintendent of the hospital Dr Jagdish Toppo accepted the condition. "The generator has been lying defunct for the last three days. This is a Mahindra-made diesel generator (DG). There is no local mechanic available for it at Rajgangpur. The starter of the DG is damaged. The technicians of the company have visited and probably they will replace the machinery today as they have promised," said the superintendent. He informed that the matter was informed to his higher authorities. When asked, he said there was no provision for a second standby DG.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Santosh Kumar Mohanty, S/o Jayakrushna Mohanty, resident of 494/A, Bailitola Sahi, Bhubaneswar, P.S.- Nayapalli, District- Khurda has lost Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 11081605957 dtd. 01.06.2016 executed by Kanhu Charan Samantary in favour of Sambit Jena and Smt. Sarojini Jena relating to Plot No. 1017 (Gharabari-2) area Ac.0.027 decimals under Khata No. 69 in Mouza- Bankuala, P.S.- Saheed Nagar, Tahasil- Bhubaneswar, District- Khurda.  
Santosh Kumar Mohanty of the above address has applied for a housing loan to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Cuttack by offering mortgage of the said property title document.  
All concerned therefore having any claim over the property purchased under the said documents, i.e. Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 11081605957 dtd. 01.06.2016 are required to file their 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 is 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.  
Cuttack  
Dt. 14.07.2023  
Sd./ (U.K. MISHRA)  
Advocate Phone- 9437314816  
LIC Housing Finance Ltd.  
Cuttack Area Office, Link Road



Transform reason into ordered intuition; let all thyself be light. This is thy goal.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Himachal Dithers

The severe shortage of capable babus in Himachal Pradesh is exacerbated by the state government's seeming reluctance to act on the issue. Observers note that with a shortfall of 35 IAS officers out of the total cadre of 153 and five senior bureaucrats due for retirement this year, the situation demands urgent attention.

Currently, Himachal Pradesh has only 110 IAS officers across various positions, falling significantly short of the required strength. Surprisingly, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has been seeking a mere two to three officers in each batch, which clearly is insufficient to bridge the gap. This neglect is evident from the fact that even during the previous administration, the state got only six IAS officers in 2016.

Notably, the state has five posts of additional chief secretary (ACS), including the Chief Secretary, but not a single babu currently serves in these positions. Two ACS-rank officers are on Central deputation, while the remaining positions are vacant due to the lack of suitable officers. Sources note that even officers eligible for promotion in January 2024, such as Anuradha Thakur and Onkar Chand Sharma, are unable to fill these vacancies.

Clearly, the situation cannot be allowed to linger. Addressing this administrative 'drought' immediately is necessary to ensure effective decision-making and overall governance.

### SC rejects WB plea

The Supreme Court has dismissed the West Bengal government's petition contesting a Delhi High Court ruling in IPS officer Sagar's cadre transfer issue. The 2019 batch officer had requested a cadre transfer from West Bengal to Rajasthan, citing that his wife, also an IPS officer, served in the Rajasthan cadre. He said that in the past similarly placed couples had been given transfers.



**BABUDOM BYTES**

Dilip Cherian

In February, the Central Administrative Tribunal directed the state government to issue the officer a no-objection certificate (NOC). The state government appealed the tribunal's decision to the Delhi High Court, but it was denied. The CAT order has now been supported by the Supreme Court as well.

As the dust settles on this legal battle, it will be interesting to see how the Mamata Banerjee government responds to the court's judgement. Will it comply with the CAT's order and grant Sagar's requested cadre transfer or explore alternative avenues for challenging the verdict? Observers speculate on the state government's opposition to Sagar's transfer request; however, most believe that it may be due to the shortage of IAS and IPS personnel in the state.

Sagar's case emphasises the complexities surrounding cadre transfers, particularly for married officers, as well as the ramifications beyond this specific instance. The government's answer will, undoubtedly, be closely watched, as it will signal its approach to cadre transfers and respect for legal processes.

### Rajaraman to spearhead India's financial governance

In a significant development, Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman has been appointed chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), assuming the role barely three months before his retirement. He will hold the position for three years, or until he reaches the age of 65. Sources, however, have informed DKB that he is likely to join the Gandhinagar-based statutory authority in August. He will succeed Injeti Srinivas, who was the first chairperson of IFSCA.

The regulator acts as a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services, and financial institutions. Its primary objective is to create strong global connections while catering to the specific needs of the Indian economy and serving as an international financial platform for the region and the world.

Interestingly, IFSCA was the brainchild of former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram, who in 2007 recommended that India have an international financial services centre. But it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi, then Chief Minister of Gujarat, who was the first to announce the setting up of Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT) at Gandhinagar.

With Rajaraman at the helm, it is hoped that his experience and expertise will drive IFSCA's growth and enable it to effectively fulfill its mandate.

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

## WISDOM CORNER

Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

If you look for perfection, you'll never be content. **LEO TOLSTOY**

## WORDSWORTH

### Atrabilious

This is now literary or poetic, so anyone you stumble across using it is probably exposing their erudition. It refers to somebody who is gloomy, morose, irritable or bad-tempered. It came into English in the seventeenth century from Latin *atra bilis*, black bile. This is the direct Latin equivalent (what linguists call a loan translation) of the Greek word that gave us melancholy, which comes from Greek *melas*, black, plus *khole*, bile. Black bile was one of the four humours of ancient medicine that in their relative proportions determined one's underlying disposition. The others were blood, phlegm, and yellow bile or choler. These gave rise respectively to the adjectives sanguine (cheerfully optimistic, from the French word *sang*, blood), phlegmatic (unemotional and stolidly calm), and choleric (bad-tempered or irritable). However, atrabilious took on some of the idea behind the choleric sort of bile (and one sense of bilious) to mean bad-tempered as well as melancholy. Incidentally, atrabilious is one of the few words in English that uses this Latin word for black rather than the better-known niger. The most common one is atrocious, which comes from a figurative Latin sense something like "black-hearted"; another is atrium, originally the name of the Roman open hall, so called because the walls became smoke-blackened from the central fire.

### Zymurgy

Useful term, zymurgy refers to the art or practice of fermentation. Unsurprisingly, it is best known within the fields of winemaking and brewing. The journal of the American Homebrewers Association has that title and its readers may be called zymurgists. If you need a related adjective, there's zymurgical. The related word zymology (adjective zymologist), is employed for that part of chemistry dealing with the fermentation action of yeasts, especially products that are intended for human consumption. All these words come from Greek *zume*, meaning a leaven, typically a yeast, that's added to make a substance ferment.

# JUDICIAL INTERVENTION DUE

FOCUS ELECTORAL BONDS

With Chandrachud in the saddle, there is a whiff of hope that responsible dissent by civil society organizations like PUCIL and ADR would have priority of the court, being the custodian of fundamental rights. One issue that has been hanging fire since 2019 is the challenge to the opaque Electoral Bond Scheme (EBS) which was put as a part of the Finance Bill in a diabolical manner. ADR has been relentlessly pursuing its writ to scrap the EBS as unconstitutional, given its potential to vitiate free and fair elections, the undue advantage to the ruling BJP at the Centre, and the manifest opacity of the donors. The EBS which was introduced as a money bill in Budget 2017-18 amended several provisions in the Company Act 2013, RPOP Act 1951, FCRA 2010, and IT Act 1961 must rank as the most flagrant violation in the electoral process by emasculating the role of Election Commission of India to conduct free and fair elections under Article 324 of the Constitution.



Satya Narayan Misra

**CHASTENED BY THE DRACONIAN CHANGE IN ELECTORAL FUNDING AND LEGITIMIZED OPACITY THAT SHROUDED IT, A PIL WAS FILED IN THE SUPREME COURT IN 2018 TO STOP THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS**

The scheme was introduced to cleanse the system of political funding. It will be a non-redeemable debt instrument in the manner of a promissory note, an interest-free banking instrument issued in multiple of 10k to 10 million by specified branches of SBI. They will have a life of 15 days and issued four times a year- January, April, July, and October. Those parties who could muster more than 1 per cent of votes in the last election would be eligible to draw them. Section 29C of the RPOP Act has been amended so that the candidates do not have to render a statement of funds received under EBS to the ECI. Section 13A of the IT Act 1961 was amended exempting candidates from keeping ac-



**In the 2019 elections, BJP received 76 per cent of total bonds amounting to ₹3355 cr and 9 per cent went to Congress. Interestingly, in 2021-22, while the BJP received ₹1033 cr, TMC received ₹528 cr, as against ₹253 cr by the Congress**

count of money received through EBS. It also removes the cap of 7.5 per cent of net profit during the last three years.

Chastened by the draconian change in electoral funding and legitimized opacity that shrouded it, ADR, Common Cause (NGOs), and CPI filed a PIL in the Supreme Court in 2018 to stop the issuance of such bonds. Prashant Bhushan who spearheaded the arguments against the scheme contended that the scheme allows donors of political parties to maintain anonymity which is not healthy for democracy. Besides, the party in power will get more funds as it will be reciprocated with favours. He also brought to notice the serious reservation that RBI and ECI had about the scheme. Attorney General Venugopal, on the other hand, defended the scheme as it will curb the menace of unaccounted money during the election. The

Supreme Court did not hold up the operation of the scheme but ordered all parties who have received donations through electoral bonds to submit the particulars of the donors to the ECI in sealed covers.

The matter again came up for hearing after several tranches of EBS have been issued when BJP has been the prime beneficiary. In the 2019 elections, BJP received 76 per cent of total bonds amounting to ₹3355 cr and 9 per cent went to Congress. Interestingly, in 2021-22, while the BJP received ₹1033 cr, Mamta Banerjee's TMC received ₹528 cr, as against ₹253 cr by the Congress. As per the answer to the RTI query, total donations so far (May 2023) are of the order of ₹12979 cr, of which the overall share of BJP is 68 per cent. In the recent Assembly elections for Karnataka, 1470 electoral bonds worth ₹970 cr were sold in April as against ₹115 cr

in the previous election in 2018. EBS clearly shows how this opaque scheme is a money spinner compared to the earlier Electoral Trust Scheme introduced by the Congress in 2013. CJI Bobde, Justice Bopanna and Justice Ram Subramaniam found no justification for the stay of the scheme. They, however, conceded that there are weighty issues that require in-depth hearings regarding the sanctity of the electoral process. They did note that ECI and RBI have made some reservations but they have not opposed the scheme itself.

This raises the basic issue if the right to information and right to informed voting are part of the right to freedom of speech and expression or not. Several species of rights unenumerated in Article 19(1)(a) have branched off from the genus of the article through the process of interpretation by the Supreme Court. In SP Gupta vs UOI (1981) Chief Justice Bhagwati wrote: Right to know is implicit in the right of free speech. Disclosure of information in regard to the functioning of the government must be the rule, secrecy the exception. However, the most definitive ruling in the context of the election was given in ADR Vs UOI (2002) when it made it mandatory for candidates to reveal their financial and criminal antecedents.

The present EBS is a retrograde measure that legitimizes crony capitalism, militates against transparency, incentivizes corrupt practices, and bolsters the nexus between politicians and big business. Opaque funding by big corporates through EBS to BJP, with an eye on quid pro quo, must not roll the electoral process further.

The writer teaches Constitutional Law

## SPECTRUM HIGHER EDUCATION

# After affirmative action

The US Supreme Court's decision disallowing explicitly race-conscious affirmative action in college admissions has intensified debates about privilege and social mobility in the United States. Elite colleges are central to these issues, and the disappointment felt among advocates of greater inclusivity and openness in higher education is understandable. But so, too, is the elation among Asian-Americans, who were discriminated against in the admissions process at institutions such as Harvard University.



Daron Acemoglu

**DESPITE THEIR COMMITMENTS TO INCLUSIVITY, ELITE COLLEGES MAKE ONLY A LIMITED CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL MOBILITY WHEN COMPARED TO LESS SELECTIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

In any case, we now have an opportunity to think about more radical solutions to what is clearly a broken admissions system at top US universities. The problems with the current approach are legion. For starters, the children of wealthy donors and alumni fill many coveted slots, and nobody bothers to deny that the motivation for such legacy admissions is to raise more money and add to top schools' endowments.

Moreover, despite their need-based scholarships and stated commitments to inclusivity elite colleges make only a limited contribution to social mobility when compared to less selective public universities and colleges. It is these institutions that pro-

vide the main pathway for upward mobility among whites and underrepresented minorities alike, owing to the simple fact that they admit far more Americans from less-advantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, who are unlikely to get into the most elite institutions.

What would meaningful reforms look like? One worthy idea is admissions lotteries, which were originally suggested by the psychologist Barry Schwartz in the early 2000s.

But it would be a mistake to base all admissions at elite colleges on lotteries. After all, these are top-notch research universities, and there is social value in connecting the best-performing students with the best researchers, as well as in preserving the ethos of academic excellence.

Still, a hybrid lottery system could work, with applications being classified into three groups on the basis of a metric like the SAT/ACT (the two standardized college-level aptitude tests used in the US). In addition to the rejection pile, the second group could comprise the top 10 per cent of scores that the college in question currently admits, and the third could include all those in the bottom 90 per cent of the acceptable range. This latter group - which may be five to ten

times larger than the size of the class that is currently admitted - would then be narrowed down by lottery.

There is nothing inherently unfair about a lottery. Because the differences in academic preparedness among members of this third group are generally quite small, selection often depends on other factors, such as whether an applicant is an athlete or has excelled in other extracurricular activities. But these criteria are just as arbitrary as a lottery.

Lotteries would also create a more diverse student body at top universities, because the lottery group would have more heterogeneous economic and ethnic backgrounds, as one alumnus finds at mid-level colleges. A lottery-based system therefore would invite a broader reassessment of meritocracy, by undermining the conceit that children from already rich areas and parents are naturally and deservedly succeeding. Some of these students would get in, but many others would not - and this benefit would be even further amplified if admitted students are not told whether they were in group two or three.

Finally, a hybrid lottery system would eliminate the non-transparent, arbitrary power

of admission committees, and it could make it easier to evaluate the most elite (and expensive) institutions' value-added. Do universities such as Stanford and Princeton really "earn" the fees they charge? We could now find out.

Naturally, such a radical change would meet with fierce opposition, not least from the families that currently gain access through their social networks, investments in extracurriculars and extra instruction, and by relocating to higher-income areas with better-resourced schools. Some elite colleges may also fight such reforms, for fear of losing out on alumni donations. But do they really need bigger endowments?

In any case, breaking with the status quo might require only one or two colleges moving first, perhaps with some inducement from the government. For example, federal grants and other transfers could be made conditional on an institution achieving sufficient representation of children from low-income households or zip codes. This is time for new thinking and bold action in US higher education.

The writer is a Professor of Economics at MIT

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## Draining the Capital's woes

Sir, It has been known for some time that drainage systems in Indian cities are woefully inadequate to cope with accelerating climate change. Despite the sun being out for the fourth consecutive day, the river was high enough to bring Delhi to its knees. This is a sad state of affairs for any city, let alone the national capital. And all this cannot be attributed to natural causes, as administrative apathy, poor planning, and poor inter-state coordination also contributed to the floods. Authorities need to create transparent benchmarks for storm drain cleaning and de-silting, expand the existing network, and bring under its purview many parts of the city that are not yet covered by the system. Measures like better management of existing drains, crackdown on drain encroachment and ban on dumping of sewage in storm drains should be implemented as soon as possible. Even the best drainage system, however, can reduce the effects of a running river. Therefore, in the medium term, upstream and downstream states should work on a regulatory and administrative scheme that is not affected by political and electoral developments, thereby preventing untoward conflicts. Finally, in the long term, planners will have to change their approach. Policies are still made looking at averages, or long-term averages, of weather behaviour. It is becoming increasingly clear that the first casualty of the climate crisis is predictability, and governments must plan for the worst-case scenario. The situation of Delhi in 2023 is just a picture of the future world.

Tauqueer Rahmani, CHENNAI

## Silence on UCC

Sir, The BJP started the debate on the Uniform Civil Code, but now the party itself is worried. In fact, Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are due later this year. The tribal population is in a decisive position in these states. With the implementation of this law, many tribal personal laws will be affected. The tribal society is constantly expressing concern over this. After observing all this, the BJP has suddenly gone soft on UCC in the states heading for elections. It seems that the saffron party has put itself in a spot.

Ashraf Nawaz, HYDERABAD

# Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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# Ajit Pawar bags Finance, grabs plum depts for NCP

NOT ONLY AJIT PAWAR GOT THE FINANCE MINISTRY FRIDAY WHICH CAN UPSET THE SHIV SENA MINISTERS, BUT SOME CABINET MINISTERS ALSO LOST A FEW OF THEIR PORTFOLIOS TO THE NCP



AGENCIES

**Mumbai, July 14:** Ending two weeks of taut suspense, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde finally reshuffled his cabinet and entrusted the crucial Finance Department to the new second Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who also managed to extract several plum departments for his team, here Friday.

The keenly-awaited exercise came after Ajit Pawar visited Delhi to meet the BJP top brass including Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the matter of sharing portfolios remained stuck for days here as the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi took potshots at the government.

Other NCP leaders who have been given new responsibilities are Chhagan Bhujbal - Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Dilip Walse-Patil - Cooperation and Hasan M. Mushrif - Medical Education and Special Assistance.

Similarly, Dharmarao Baba Bhagwantrao Atram gets Food and Drug Administration, Dhananjay P. Munde given Agriculture, Anil Patil gets Relief and Rehabilitation, Disaster Management, Sanjay Baburao Bansode got Sports and Youth Welfare and Ports, while the sole woman in the cabinet Aditi Sunil

After he broke away from the Sharad Pawar-founded party, Ajit Pawar and eight other NCP leaders were sworn in as ministers July 2. They were given their portfolios Friday

The other BJP Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis retains Home, Law and Justice, Water Resources, Energy, Energy, Protocol, etc

The CM will continue to handle General Administration, Urban Development, Information Technology, Information & Public Relations, Transport, Social Justice, Environment and Climate Change, Mining and any other unallocated portfolios

Mahajan given Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Tourism, Gulabrao Patil gets Water Supply and Sanitation, Dadaji Dagdu Bhuse - Public Works (Public undertakings), Sanjay D. Rathore given Soil and Water Conservation. Suresh D Khade will handle Labour, Sandipan A Bhumre - Employment Guarantee Scheme and Horticulture, Uday RSamant retains Industry, Prof Tanaji J Sawant continues with Public Health and Family Welfare, Ravindra D Chavan PWD (excluding public undertakings).

Abdul Sattar gets Minority Development and Wakf, Deepak V. Kesarkar handles School Education and Marathi Language, Atul M. Save gets Housing, Other Backward Classes and Bahujan Welfare, Shambhuraj S. Desai to manage State Excise, and Mangal Prabhat Lodha to look after Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The allocation of portfolios came two weeks after the NCP split June 30, and Ajit Pawar and his team joined the Shinde-Fadnis cabinet July 2, though the proposal to expand the ministry has been put on hold for now.

In June 2022, when Shinde led the rebellion against the then CM Uddhav Thackeray and toppled the MVA government, one of the reasons cited was Ajit Pawar's brash working style and allegedly short-changing the allies in matters of funds allocation. This month, after he joined the Shinde-Fadnis regime, several Shiv Sena legislators had openly expressed apprehensions and some BJP MLAs were discussing a repeat of possible discrimination, though Ajit Pawar had declared publicly last week that he would adopt an all-inclusive style.

Tatkare is given Women & Child Development.

The reshuffle of the charges given to Shiv Sena-BJP ministers carried out Friday include -- Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil with Revenue, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Sudhir S Mungantiwar handling Forestry, cultural activities, and fisheries, Chandrakant B. Patil looking after Higher & Technical Education, Textile Industry and Parliamentary Affairs; Vijayakumar K Gavit handling Tribal Development, Girish D



Maharashtra PWD Minister Ravindra Chavan inspects the construction of the Mumbai-Goa highway stretch between Panvel and Ratnagiri in Panvel, Maharashtra PTI PHOTO

# Rains lash Mumbai after week-long lull

IMD has also issued a yellow alert for Mumbai's neighbouring Thane and Raigad districts, along with Palghar district

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, July 14:** Rains lashed Mumbai and its suburbs Friday after almost a week of subdued rainfall activity, which led to waterlogging at some places and resulted in slowing down of traffic, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a "yellow" alert for the city predicting heavy rainfall at isolated places Friday, a civic official said.

He said that in the "district forecast and warnings" for the next five days issued in the afternoon, IMD updated its earlier "green" alert to "yellow" for



Mumbai.

Moderate to heavy rains started lashing the metropolis in the morning, making a strong comeback almost after a week. The intensity of rainfall was more in the city as compared to its suburbs, the officials said. The city continued to receive showers, said officials.

Some parts of the city witnessed waterlogging, as a result of which the movement of vehicles on roads slowed down. Railway authorities claimed that suburban trains were running

as per their normal schedule, but commuters complained that there was a delay of 10-15 minutes.

The Andheri subway was closed for traffic around 8.45 am due to the accumulation of rainwater around it. "Due to water logging, Andheri Subway is closed, while traffic is diverted to Vile Parle bridge & Captain Gore Marg S.V road," Mumbai Traffic Police said on Twitter.

A spokesperson of the Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport, also

known as BEST, said the transport body diverted its buses on around half a dozen routes due to a tree fall incident near Sadhana Vidyalaya at Sion. Between 8 am and 4 pm, the island city, and its eastern and western suburbs received 19.21 mm, 32.22mm and 37.50 mm of rainfall, respectively, in the last 24 hours ending 8 am, a civic official said.

According to civic officials, IMD has issued a green alert for Mumbai for Saturday and Sunday and has given a yellow alert for Monday and Tuesday. IMD has also issued a yellow alert for Mumbai's neighbouring Thane and Raigad districts, along with Palghar district.

Since last weekend, the intensity of rainfall had gone down in Mumbai. A mix of sunny and cloudy days was observed over the past few days in the city, which witnessed spells of light to heavy rainfall during this period.

# UP DOCS TO BE TRAINED IN MOTHER, CHILD CARE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, July 14:** The Uttar Pradesh government will provide training to MBBS doctors in two key areas - Comprehensive emergency obstetrics and newborn care (CEmONC) and life-saving aesthetic skills.

Aiming to reduce maternal and child mortality, the training in CEmONC will enable doctors to provide timely and effective care to pregnant women and newborns experiencing complications.

The training in life-saving aesthetic skills will equip doctors to safely administer anaesthesia during childbirth and other pro-

cedures, added officials.

Deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, has instructed the health department to ensure the necessary arrangements for training MBBS doctors and posting them in first referral units (FRUs).

He said that these measures will help reduce maternal and child mortality in the state. "Important steps are being taken to address the shortage of specialist doctors. MBBS doctors are being trained alongside recruitment," said Pathak.

"This will eliminate the need to unnecessarily refer the mother and child to larger hospitals," he added.



# Azam's 'Y-category' security withdrawn

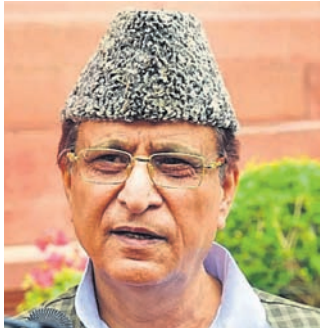
AGENCIES

**Rampur (UP), July 14:** The Uttar Pradesh government has withdrawn the 'Y-category' security cover provided to Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan saying it was not needed, as his party decried the move as "unfortunate."

Rampur Additional Superintendent of Police Sansar Singh said they had received a letter from the security headquarters in Lucknow, which said there was no need to provide the Y-category security to Khan, a 10-time MLA from Rampur.

In compliance with the order, his security was withdrawn, he added. Once buzzing with political activities, Khan's house on the Jail Road bore little resemblance to its heyday, bereft as it was of any uniformed men.

"There is a threat to his life.



What can be more unfortunate than this? Today there are BJP leaders, who do not need any security, but they are moving around with Y-category security," Patel told reporters. He said that the BJP government framed Azam Khan in false cases, and has been inflicting mental and physical torture on him.

UP BJP spokesperson Manish Shukla countered Patel's charges

saying the security cover was taken off as per a periodic review of threat perception.

"The people who are given security by the government, their security is reviewed from time to time. The review is done by a committee which decides who has to be given security, and in which scale based on threat perception.

"For Azam Khan, it was decided that he does not need any security," Shukla said, and called the exercise a "routine process." Once a heavyweight cabinet minister in the SP regime, Khan's stocks have been in constant decline under the current state government led by BJP's Yogi Adityanath.

Khan had won the Rampur assembly seat in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh polls for a record 10th time. After becoming the MLA, he resigned from the Lok Sabha.

# 25 snakebite deaths in a fortnight in UP

SNAKEBITES TAKE PLACE IN THE MONSOON SEASON AS WITH WATERLOGGING AND RAIN, THE REPTILES LOSE THEIR NATURAL HABITATS



AGENCIES

**Lucknow, July 14:** In the past fortnight, 25 persons have died due to snakebites in Uttar Pradesh, according to data from the relief commissioner's office.

Snake sightings in six different localities in Lucknow prompted residents to call the snake rescue helpline Thursday. Snakebites take place in the monsoon season as with waterlogging and rain, the reptiles lose their natural habitats.

Ever since the onset of the monsoon season, snake bite incidents have been reported from Pilibhit, Balrampur, Kanpur Dehat, Etah, Sonbhadra, Deoria, Mainpuri, Lakhimpur Kheri, Jhansi, and Siddharth Nagar where a snake charmer was bitten, among others.

As for Lucknow, Thursday, calls for snake rescues were made from Ahmamau, near the Amity College and HCL campuses, Takrohi, Chihat and Vrindavan Yojana. According to relief commissioner Naveen Kumar's office, from June 27 till date, there have been 25 deaths from snakebites in the state -- which makes it 25 deaths in less

than 20 days.

Sitapur has had the highest number of deaths due to snake bites, recording 5 deaths since the monsoon began. Sonbhadra, Deoria and Amethi have recorded 2 deaths each and Azamgarh, Ballia, Banda, Firozabad, Ghazipur, Gonda, Hardoi, Kannauj, Kanpur Dehat, Kaushambhi, Lakhimpur, Pilibhit, Rae Bareilly and Sambhal reported one each.

"The number of cases has not increased, rather the number of reported cases has gone up," said Aditya Tiwari, founder of Paryavarnam, a group of snake rescuers in Uttar Pradesh. Paryavarnam has teams in Lucknow, Rae Bareilly, Hardoi, Sitapur and a few other districts.

"We get rescue calls the year round, but they shoot up by at least 50 per cent when the monsoon arrives. This time, we have had the highest number of cases from Ahmamau and the Cantonment area," he explained. Of the 19 different species of snakes found in the UP region, only four are venomous -- namely, the Spectacled Cobra, Russell's Viper, Common Krait, and the less commonly found Saw-scaled Viper.

# Centre's IT Rules against fake news may be excessive: HC

In a democratic process, the court said, the government is as much a participant as a citizen and hence a citizen has the fundamental right to question and demand answers and the government is duty-bound to respond

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 14:** The Bombay High Court on Friday said the recently amended Information Technology (IT) Rules regarding fake content on social media against the government "may be excessive", and one should not "bring a hammer to kill an ant."

A division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale also said it did not understand

the need for the amendment to the IT Rules, and "found it difficult" that one authority of the government is given absolute power to decide what is fake, false or misleading.

The court also raised questions on what is the boundary set in the IT Rules on the basis of which some content or information will be held as fake, false and misleading.

"I am struggling because I don't know what the boundary is. I have gone through the Centre's affidavit twice and I could not find out what the boundary is," Justice Patel said.

The bench was hearing a bunch of petitions challenging the amended IT Rules. Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, the Editors Guild of India and the Association of Indian Magazines have filed petitions in the HC against the Rules, terming them arbitrary and unconstitutional and claiming that they would have a chilling effect on the fun-



damental rights of citizens.

The court also questioned who will fact-check the Fact Checking Unit (FCU) that is to be set up under the amended Rules. There is an assumption that what the FCU says is undeniably the ultimate truth, Justice Patel said.

Advocate Gautam Bhatia, appearing for the Association of Indian Magazines, started his arguments against the Rules on

Friday. There are less restrictive options available to keep a check on fake content on social media, he argued.

The bench noted that offline content has some filtration but there is no such fact-checking for social media intermediaries as of now.

"There should be some fact checking. At some level, someone must do fact checking of

content on social media. But you (petitioners) may be right to say that this (Rules) are excessive. You cannot bring a hammer to kill an ant," the court said.

Besides the issue of excessiveness, they were also not yet able to understand what was the need for the amendment to the IT Rules, the judges said. "What is the concern that necessitates this amendment? What is the anxiety behind it? I still do not know," Justice Patel said.

The bench said no person is claiming a fundamental right to lie and all that a citizen is saying is that they have a right to defend the correctness of their statement.

On the Internet everything and everyone is "data and binary" and a person can be anything they want and this was not necessarily impersonation, the high court said. The Rules were also silent on the boundaries of what is fake, false, and misleading, it noted.





Waterlogged Rajghat following rise in the water level of the Yamuna river, in New Delhi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron, in Paris



Smoke rises as an engine for an Epsilon S rocket exploded during a test at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's testing site in Noshiro, Akita Prefecture, northeastern Japan



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann visits flood-affected areas in Ferozpur



Evangelia Platanioti and Sofia Evangelia Malkogeorgou, of Greece, compete in the women's duet technical of artistic swimming at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan



People visit the Athirappilly waterfalls, in Thrissur district of Kerala



Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif, right, shakes hand with a Chinese official during the groundbreaking ceremony of 5th Unit of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant



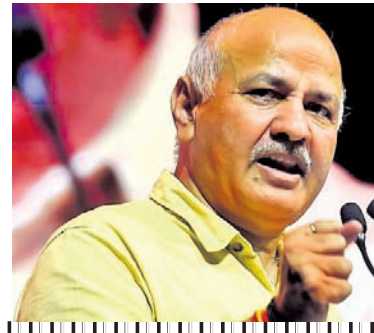
# national



**“**  
The downfall of BJP has begun from Karnataka and the influence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come down  
**”**  
SIDDRAMAAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

## SC SEEKS RESPONSE OF ED, CBI ON SISODIA BAIL PLEAS

The Supreme Court Friday sought responses of the CBI and the ED by July 28 on the interim bail pleas of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in two Delhi excise policy cases being probed by the central agencies



# MOMENT OF GLORY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** The Chandrayaan-3 that aims for a soft landing on the moon's surface, paving the way for future interplanetary missions, carries six payloads that would help ISRO understand the lunar soil and also get the blue planet's photographs from the lunar orbit.

The payloads, which include RAMBHA and ILSA, would perform a series of path-breaking experiments during the 14-day mission. They would study the moon's atmosphere and dig the surface to understand its mineral composition.

Lunar lander Vikram will click photos of the rover Pragyaan as it studies the seismic activity on the moon by dropping some instruments. Using laser beams, it would try to melt a piece of the lunar surface -- the regolith -- to study the gases emitted during the process.

The third lunar expedition in 15 years -- Chandrayaan-3 -- started its journey towards the moon from Sriharikota on Friday afternoon and is expected to reach the lunar orbit on August 5. It will attempt to land on the moon on August 23 evening.

"We know the moon does not have any atmosphere. But this is not exactly true because gases do come out of it. Rather they get ionised and stay very close to the surface. This changes with day and night," ISRO Chairman S Somanath said. The Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA) on the lander will measure the near-surface plasma density and its changes with time.

The rover will study how this small atmosphere, atomic atmosphere and the charged particles vary, Somanath said. "This is very interesting. We also want to find out whether the regolith has electric or thermal characteristics," he said.

The Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) will measure seismicity around the landing site and delineate the structure of the lunar crust and mantle. "We will drop an instrument and measure the vibration -- what you call the 'moonquake' behaviour or the internal processes -- the movements hap-



Union MoS (Ind. charge) for Science & Technology and Atomic Energy & Space Jitendra Singh with ISRO chairman S. Somanath during a press conference after the successful launch of ISRO's Mark-III (LVM3) M4 rocket carrying 'Chandrayaan 3' from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota



ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) M4 rocket carrying 'Chandrayaan 3', leaves a trail of smoke after its launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Station, in Sriharikota



Students cheer up during the launch of Chandrayaan 3 in Hyderabad

## TO THE MOON AND BACK CHANDRAYAAN 1 TO CHANDRAYAAN 3

Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar exploration mission, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh Friday, in hope to make India only the fourth country to achieve the feat after the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union. Here is the timeline of the moon mission as undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation

- ▶ **August 15, 2003:** Then Prime Minister, the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee announces the Chandrayaan programme
- ▶ **October 22, 2008:** Chandrayaan-1 takes off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota
- ▶ **November 8, 2008:** Chandrayaan-1 enters a Lunar Transfer Trajectory
- ▶ **November 14, 2008:** The Moon impact probe ejects from Chandrayaan-1 and crashes near the lunar South Pole -- confirming the presence of water molecules on Moon's surface
- ▶ **August 28, 2009:** End of Chandrayaan 1 programme as per ISRO
- ▶ **July 22, 2019:** Chandrayaan-2 launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
- ▶ **August 20, 2019:** Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft inserted into lunar orbit
- ▶ **September 2, 2019:** Vikram Lander was separated while orbiting the moon in a 100kms lunar polar orbit, however, communication from the lander to the ground stations was lost at an altitude of 2.1 km from the surface of the moon
- ▶ **July 14, 2023:** Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft lifted off from the second launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
- ▶ **August 23/24, 2023:** Scientists at ISRO have tentatively scheduled soft landing on the lunar surface expected to take place by August 23-24 making India join elite nations to achieve the feat

pening there," the ISRO chief said. The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) will determine the elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks around the landing site, while the Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer (APXS) will derive the chemical composition and infer the mineralogical composition of the moon's surface. The Spectro-polarimetry of HAbitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) will study the spectro-

The payloads, which include RAMBHA and ILSA, would perform a series of path-breaking experiments during the 14-day mission

Lunar lander Vikram will click photos of the rover Pragyaan as it studies the seismic activity on the moon by dropping some instruments

The Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) will measure seismicity around the landing site and delineate the structure of the lunar crust and mantle

polarimetric signatures of the earth in the near-infrared wavelength range which could be used in the search for life on exoplanets beyond the solar system.

The timing of the landing on the lunar surface is crucial as it will decide the duration the payloads get to conduct experiments.

## Chandrayaan and the Tamil connect

What is so uniquely common about Chandrayaan series that started off with the maiden lunar mission back in 2008? A Tamil connect.

After Tamil Nadu-born Mayilsamy Annadurai and M Vanitha helmed Chandrayaan 1 and 2, Villupuram native P Veeramuthuvel will be overseeing the third mission that would be fired towards the moon onboard the heavy launch vehicle, LVM3-M4 from here on Friday. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), under its chairmanship of the soft-spoken S Somanath, aims to enter an elite league of nations that have mastered the art of soft landing on the lunar surface, with a similar attempt made in 2008 not fetching the desired results. Veeramuthuvel, aged about 46 years, is currently

project director of Chandrayaan-3 mission under the leadership of Somanath. Hailing from a small family in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district, Ph.D holder Veeramuthuvel is an alumnus of the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

He succeeds Vanitha who was the project director of Chandrayaan-2 mission under the leadership of then ISRO Chief K Sivan. Vanitha also became the first woman project director in ISRO's history.

Mayilsamy Annadurai was hailed as the 'Moon Man of India' after he helmed the maiden Chandrayaan mission in 2008. Interestingly, former President, the late Dr A P J Abdul Kalam who led India's rocket programme hails from Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram.



BJP workers perform 'hawan' for the success of ISRO's 'Chandrayaan 3' mission at a temple in Mumbai

# Yamuna waters reach close to SC; 3 boys drown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** The raging Yamuna showed signs of calming Friday but the breach in a drain regulator led to waterlogging in some parts of Delhi such as the ITO, with flood water reaching close to the Supreme Court complex, causing hardship for the people.

Water also entered the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat due to backflow from a drain in the area. Three boys drowned while bathing in the floodwaters in northwest Delhi's Mukundpur

Chowk area. These were the first deaths reported in the city since the Yamuna water crossed the danger mark last Monday.

While Delhi Fire Services Director Atul Garg claimed the deaths occurred in a ditch at a metro construction site, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) issued a clarification, saying, "No such incident has been reported from our sites."

After breaching the 45-year-old record three days ago, water levels in the Yamuna in Delhi came down to 208.02 metres at 10 pm on Friday. However, that did not stop



the floodwaters from reaching central Delhi, the nerve centre of the national capital.

As the Yamuna water level reduced, the Okhla water treatment plant, which was shut on

Thursday, was opened.

In the evening, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Wazirabad and Chandrawal water treatment plants will resume functioning if the Yamuna level goes down to 207.7 metres on Saturday.

The Irrigation and Flood Control Department's regulator installed near the Indraprastha bus stand and the WHO Building was being repaired with sandbags, braces and boulders. Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena took stock of the repair works.

## India's successful launching of Chandrayaan-3 marks another significant milestone in space exploration besides demonstrating the nation's unwavering commitment to advancement in space science and technology



**DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT**



**JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT**



**RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER**



**AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER**



**K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM**



**PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM**



**NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER**



**JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT**



**K SIVAN | EX-ISRO CHAIRMAN**

ISRO has taken corrective measures after the failed bid to soft-land on the Moon nearly four years ago, and is expecting a successful touch down on the lunar surface with Chandrayaan-3

## Agriculture can become a profitable venture: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** Cooperation Minister Amit Shah Friday said the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the country's GDP can further be enhanced by strengthening marketing, for which farmer producer organisations (FPOs) are the key. Addressing a conclave here, the Minister said agriculture can become a profitable venture if modern technology and marketing methods are adopted. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and FPOs can help in this endeavour. He urged both FPOs and PACS

to operate in a "hybrid model" under which around 11,770 FPOs that have already been set up can link themselves with PACS through an agreement to provide services to cooperative members. Existing 65,000-odd PACS can begin operating as FPOs.

Stressing the need to work in a hybrid model, Shah said: "GDP (Gross Domestic Produce) is very important for any country. If you increase GDP through manufacturing, the job creation will not be much. If you strengthen agriculture and allied sector through cooperatives, not only GDP but job opportunities will also increase."

## Court setback for jailed DMK minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, July 14:** The Madras High Court Friday upheld the arrest of Minister V Senthil Balaji by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case and his subsequent remand in judicial custody by a sessions court. Justice C V Karthikeyan, who was named as a third judge to hear the Habeas Corpus petition (HCP) of Senthil Balaji's wife Megala, following a split verdict delivered by a Division Bench, fully concurred with the conclu-

sions arrived at by Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy.

The third judge held that the accused had no right to frustrate the investigation.

When the grounds of arrest were informed to him, he refused to accept it. Claiming innocence subsequently cannot be accepted. Justice Karthikeyan directed the Registry to place the matter before Chief Justice S V Gangapurwala to refer it before the same division bench to determine the date on which the ED could take custody of Senthil Balaji and to shift him from the hospital.



# international

## of the day quote

China and Australia's relations have stabilised, improved and developed under the joint efforts of both countries

WANG YI | CHINA'S TOP DIPLOMAT

Just concluded a meeting with Director Wang Yi of the Office of the CPC Central Commission for Foreign Affairs. Our conversation also covered the East Asia Summit/ARF agenda, BRICS and the Indo-Pacific

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

The Chashma-5 nuclear energy project, which is by itself a huge milestone, a huge success story and a wonderful symbol of cooperation between two great friends

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN, PRIME MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### SA braces for unrest

**Cape Town:** South Africa deployed the army in four of its provinces Friday after at least 21 trucks carrying goods were set on fire in various parts of the country in the span of five days. The move came amid concerns of more violent unrest over a court decision that could send former president Jacob Zuma back to jail, although authorities denied the two issues are connected. The deployment of soldiers to support police in some parts of the country came a day after South Africa's apex Constitutional Court ruled that Zuma's early release from prison on medical parole in 2021 was invalid.

### Secret Service ends WH cocaine probe

**Washington:** The US Secret Service has ended its investigation of cocaine discovered at the White House earlier this month. A zip-close bag which had some white powdery substance was discovered by Secret Service officers July 2 in a common storage area on the ground floor of the West Wing, which houses the Oval Office and offices of some of the President's top aides and support staff. The discovery had led to a brief shutdown of the White House.

### Dutch voters will go to polls Nov 22

**The Hague:** Dutch voters will go to the polls on an early general election November 22, the caretaker government announced Friday, a week after Prime Minister Mark Rutte's four-party coalition quit over its failure to agree a package of measures to rein in migration. The vote for the 150 seats in the lower chamber of parliament will usher in a new generation of leaders after key members of Rutte's fourth governing coalition announced they would leave politics.

### 1 dead, 2 hurt in stabbing incident

**The Hague:** One man was killed and two people injured, one seriously, in a stabbing Friday at a church-run center that houses several aid organisations in the Dutch university city of Leiden, police said. A man entered the centre, a former bakery in the historic heart of the university city, just before 9.30 am and "for as yet unclear reasons stabbed the victims and then fled," police said in a statement. A 66-year-old man "was so badly injured that he died at the scene, two others were taken to a hospital," police said.



I'm quite confident that AfD won't perform much differently at the next federal election than it did at the last

OLAF SCHOLZ | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

### ELON MUSK SUES FOUR

The Elon Musk-run X Corp has sued four unnamed individuals over unlawfully scraping data from Twitter, seeking over \$1 million in damages. According to the complaint, the four entities, which are identified only by their IP addresses, unlawfully scraped Twitter user data in violation of the platform's terms of service



# Modi attends Bastille Day parade

The French National Day, or Bastille Day, occupies a special place in the country's consciousness as it commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison during the French Revolution in 1789

AGENCIES

**Paris, July 14:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday joined French President Emmanuel Macron for the Bastille Day parade as the Guest of Honour with an Indian tri-services marching contingent wowing crowds here during the French National Day celebrations.

Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) also joined the flypast on the occasion along with French jets.

"On this historic occasion of Bastille Day, joined the parade in Paris. My heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome and honour received," Prime Minister Modi tweeted along with pictures of the impressive march-past.

"India, inspired by its centuries old ethos, is committed to doing everything possible to make our planet peaceful, prosperous and sustainable. 1.4 billion Indians will always be grateful to France for being a strong and trusted partner. May the bond deepen even further!" Modi tweeted.



Indian soldiers march on the Champs-Elysees avenue during the Bastille Day parade in Paris



## UPI TO BE USED IN FRANCE

**Paris:** India's most successful payments system UPI will be used in France, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while addressing the Indian community in Paris. "India and France have agreed to use UPI in France. In the coming days, it will begin from the Eiffel Tower, which means Indian tourists will now be able to pay in rupees," PM Modi said, referring to the Unified Payments System, or UPI. Allowing UPI in France will open up huge possibilities in the way Indians can spend. UPI will be able to do away with cumbersome forex cards and avoid the need to carry cash to spend.

Modi Friday met Global CEO of French luxury group Chanel Leena Nair and discussed ways to enhance skill development among artisans and to make Khadi more popular

Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) also joined the flypast on the occasion along with French jets



An Indian Air Force contingent marches past during the parade

"A giant in world history, with a decisive role to play in the future, a strategic partner, a friend. We are proud to welcome India as our guest of honour at the 14 July parade," Macron tweeted. "This 14 July, soldiers and Rafale aircraft from India are marching and flying alongside our troops," he wrote.

"We honour the memory of those who fought with the French in the First World War. We shall never forget," the French President said in another tweet.

Marching to the tune of 'saare jahan se achcha', the 241-member Indian tri-services contingent participated in the parade to mark the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership.

A military band also participated in the parade. The Indian Army contingent was led by the Punjab Regiment, along with the Rajputana Rifles Regiment.

Rafale Jets of the Indian Air Force, from the 101 Squadron from Hashimara, formed a part of the fly past during the parade. The Prime Minister Modi saluted the Indian contingent as it

# NK ambassador blames US for regional tensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**United Nations, July 14:** North Korea's UN ambassador defended his country's recent long-range missile launch in a rare appearance at the UN Security Council Thursday where he also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war".

Kim Song told the council that Wednesday's test-flight of the developmental Hwasong-18 missile was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to self-defence. He said the United States was raising regional tensions with nuclear threats and deploying a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years.

Kim said the missile launch had "no negative effect on the security of a neighbouring country", pointing to Japan's announcement that the ICBM — which flew at a steep angle — landed in open waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

South Korea's UN Ambassador Hwang Joon-kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighbouring countries appear safe?" Diplomats said Kim's appearance was the first time a North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council since 2017.

Hwang said each of North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches allow the country to advance its technology toward its goal of having an arsenal of nuclear-armed weapons.



nouncement that the ICBM — which flew at a steep angle — landed in open waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone. South Korea's UN Ambassador Hwang Joon-kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighbouring countries appear safe?" Diplomats said Kim's appearance was the first time a North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council since 2017. Hwang said each of North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches allow the country to advance its technology toward its goal of having an arsenal of nuclear-armed weapons.

# China executes kindergarten teacher for poisoning 25 kids

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, July 14:** A court in central China said Friday a Chinese kindergarten teacher who had poisoned 25 of her students, killing one, has been executed.

A notice posted outside the No. 1 Intermediate Court in the Henan province city of Jiaozuo said Wang Yun's sentence had been carried out Thursday.

Wang, 40, was convicted of putting toxic sodium nitrite in porridge served to children at Mengmeng Pre-school Education March 27, 2019, following an argument with a colleague identified only by the surname Sun over "student management".

While other students recovered fairly quickly, one student, identified only by the surname Wang, died from multiple organ failure after 10 months of treatment, the notice said.

China is believed to execute more prisoners each year than the rest of the world combined, although the actual figure is a state secret

Most sentences are carried out with a bullet to the back of the head, although lethal injection using mobile units has been employed in some cases

A high-school dropout, Wang had previously poisoned her husband with the same substance bought online two years ago. He survived with mild injuries. While Wang's motivation was presented as revenge, it wasn't clear if she had intended to kill or merely sicken her husband and the students. She was initially sentenced to nine months in prison for deliberate harm, but the sentence was later converted to death. The court

# Putin snubs Prigozhin; Biden jokes about poison



REUTERS



REUTERS

**Moscow, July 14:** Russian President Vladimir Putin offered Wagner mercenaries the opportunity to keep fighting at a meeting just days after their failed mutiny but suggested Yevgeny Prigozhin be moved aside in favour of a different commander, the Kommersant newspaper said.

Putin initially said he would crush the June 23-24 mutiny, comparing it to the wartime turmoil that ushered in the revolutions of 1917, but hours later a deal was clinched to allow Prigozhin and some of his fighters to go to Belarus.

Mystery surrounds the fate of that deal as well as the future of Wagner, one of the world's most battle-hardened mercenary forces, and Prigozhin, a former convict who rose to become known as "Putin's chef" and Russia's most powerful mercenary.

The Kremlin said Monday that Putin had held talks with Wagner commanders and Prigozhin at a meeting June 29, five days after the mutiny. The mercenaries, the Kremlin said, reaffirmed their loyalty to Putin.

But Kommersant, one of Russia's top newspapers, published Putin's remarks to its most experienced Kremlin correspondent, Andrei Kolesnikov, which suggested the future of Prigozhin and Wagner was in doubt. "But Wagner does not

- Putin offered Wagner fighters a future
- Putin: Wagner no longer exists
- Putin suggested command change, snubbed Prigozhin
- Biden on Prigozhin: be careful what you eat

exist," Putin told Kommersant when asked if it would be preserved as a fighting unit. Asked about Putin's remark, the Kremlin said Friday that there was no legal entity named Wagner and the legal status of such companies was a complicated one which needed consideration.

Prigozhin has not been seen in public since leaving the southern Russian city of Rostov June 24. US President Joe Biden Thursday said the United States was unsure where Prigozhin was but joked that the mercenary chief could be poisoned.

"If I were he, I'd be careful what I ate. I'd be keeping my eye on my menu," Biden said, according to White House transcript.

"But all kidding aside...I don't think any of us know for sure what the future of Prigozhin is in Russia." Wagner helped Russia annex Crimea in 2014, fought Islamic State militants in Syria, operated in Central African Republic and Mali and took the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut for Russia earlier this year with considerable losses on both sides.

# Majority of minors abused in Pak Punjab are boys

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lahore, July 14:** In a shocking revelation, the Pakistan Punjab interior department has recently shared that as the instances of sexual abuse of children rise, more boys than girls are becoming victims of such crimes, media reports said.

A report compiled on the numeration of such cases from January to June 15, 2023, revealed that in a span of less than six months, 1,390 cases of child abuse were reported in the province — a harrowing number in itself but made worse by further revelations, Geo News reported.

According to the report, around 69 per cent (959 cases) of the reported cases involved minor boys, while the remaining 31 per cent (431 cases) involved



girls, the report said. Yet more disturbing were revelations of the perpetrators. Moreover, the report stated that of those facing trials, 55 per cent were the victims' neighbours, 13 per cent were relatives, and 32 per cent were strangers. Regarding the city-wise prevalence of child abuse cases, the report stated that most rape cases in Punjab were registered in Gujranwala, where 220 cases were reported.

Rawalpindi and Lahore reported the lowest rape cases at 69 and 89, respectively, Geo News

Bahawalpur 129; Sheikhpura 128; Sahiwal 127; and Sargodha 103. According to the report, child sexual abuse is influenced by a range of social factors in Pakistan, and patriarchal norms, power imbalances, poverty, illiteracy and social inequalities contribute to the vulnerability of the children. Former National Child Rights Commission (NCRC) chairperson Afshan Tehseen said the prevalence of child abuse was caused directly by poverty. Several people from poor backgrounds have no qualms about sending their children to work, many for merely one meal a day, she said, adding that the more such vulnerable children are exposed, the more likely they are to be exploited.

Furthermore, Dera Ghazi Khan reported 199 incidents; Faisalabad 186; Multan 140; reported.

referred to an execution ground and put to death.

Attacks on young students have become a disturbing trend in China in recent years, most carried out by knife-wielding assailants described as mentally disturbed or bearing grudges against individuals or society.

On Monday, a man with a knife killed six people and wounded one at a kindergarten in south-eastern China. A 25-year-old man was arrested following the 7:40 am attack in Lianjiang, a city in Guangdong province. A news outlet, Dafeng News, cited an unidentified witness as saying the attacker's child had been struck earlier by a car belonging to one of the people killed at the school. It also said one of the people killed was a teacher at the kindergarten, but other details were unclear.

# Suspect taken into custody in Long Island serial killings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, July 14:** A suspect has been taken into custody on New York's Long Island in connection with a long-unsolved string of killings known as the Gilgo Beach murders, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press Friday.

The case has drawn immense public attention since human remains were found along a New York beach highway more than a decade ago. The mystery attracted national headlines for many years and the unsolved killings were the subject of the 2020 Netflix film "Lost Girls."

The suspect was taken into custody in Massapequa late Thursday and investigators were at a home connected to the case Friday, the official said. The suspect's name was not immediately released. The deaths of 11 people whose remains were found in 2010 and 2011 have long stumped investigators.

Most of the victims were young women who had been sex workers. Several of the bodies were found in thickets along a sandy stretch known as Gilgo Beach. Determining who killed them, and why, has vexed a slew of seasoned homicide detectives through several changes in police leadership.

Last year, an interagency task force was formed with investigators from the FBI, as well as state and local police departments, aimed at solving the case.

Law enforcement personnel converged on the small red house that had been raided early Friday in the suburb about 40 miles (64 km) east of midtown Manhattan. Dozens of residents mingled alongside police and media, watching as a half-dozen investigators in protective suits conferred outside the front porch, which was in disrepair; its roof propped up by 2-by-4s.



# business

## of the day quote

UK will be the first with which we are going to have a comprehensive FTA which we have not signed with any other developed country as such

SUNIL BARTHWAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

By 2030, the country's installed power capacity is likely to grow to over 777 GW and the peak demand is slated to reach 335 GW

RK SINGH | UNION MINISTER

While the current levels of carbon footprint from the steel sector is unsustainable, the available version of clean hydrogen faces numerous challenges like high operational cost and energy loss

DEBASHISH BHATTACHARJEE | VP (TECHNOLOGY AND R&D), TATA STEEL

## SHORT TAKES

### Refiners use yuan for Russian crude

**New Delhi:** Indian refiners have settled some payments for Russian oil imports in Chinese yuan, but the US dollar remains the dominant currency for such payments, a senior government official said. India became one of the biggest buyers of Russian crude after Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over the Ukraine war dragged down prices, but the South Asian country has been on the lookout for alternatives to the dollar for settling payments. "Use of yuan for payment by India will remain limited, given India doesn't accumulate much yuan as export to China is low," the official said.

### Tata may acquire Wistron's factory

**New Delhi:** Tata Group is understood to be in advanced stages to acquire the Karnataka manufacturing unit of Taiwan-based Wistron, a contract manufacturer for Apple, to become the first Indian iPhone maker, sources said. The acquisition will be carried out through Tata Electronics, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, the promoter holding firm of salt-to-software conglomerate Tata Group, they added. According to one of the sources, a public announcement on the development would depend on what Apple chooses as the company closely controls its ecosystem. It is likely that apart from iPhone, once Tata Group takes over the Karnataka plant, other new Apple products could also be assembled from the unit.

# Worried about obscenity, India asks OTTs for content checks

Top Bollywood stars feature in online material, some of which has faced criticism from lawmakers and the public for scenes deemed vulgar or offensive to religious sentiments

REUTERS

**New Delhi, July 14:** India has told Netflix, Disney and other streaming services that their content should be independently reviewed for obscenity and violence before being shown online, according to a government document and sources.

The proposal was delivered to the streaming platforms at a June 20 meeting at the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. The streaming companies, also referred to as OTT platforms, objected and no decision was reached, according to government minutes of the talks and an industry source who attended. The ministry "highlighted concerns regarding obscene and vulgar content on OTT platforms, as expressed by Members

## 3-YEAR LOW

# EXPORTS SEE STEEPEST DIP

INDIA'S TRADE PERFORMANCE, AFTER WITNESSING HIGH GROWTH IN 2022-23, HAS SHOWN DECLINING TRENDS COMPARED TO THE HIGH BASE OF LAST YEAR IN THE BACKDROP OF A GLOBAL SLOWDOWN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** India's exports contracted by 22 per cent, the steepest decline in the last three years, to \$32.97 billion in June on account of global demand slowdown, especially in the Western markets like the US and Europe.

According to the data of the commerce ministry, the trade deficit in June stood at \$20.3 billion against \$22.07 billion in the same month last year due to a fall in exports and imports.

The inbound shipments during the month under review declined by a steep 17.48 per cent to \$53.10 billion.

Exports in May 2023 contracted by 36.47 per cent when the world was reeling under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the numbers, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said trade sector growth is in the hands of global factors.

As the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has projected a slowdown in world trade, "that fear is coming true", he added.

Citing reasons for the dip in trade growth, he said there is a slowdown in major economies, including the US and Europe; and inflationary pressure.



He also attributed the slowdown to the tightening of monetary policies by the rich nations as it is affecting manufacturing and businesses.

Export promotion councils are expecting the demand to pick up in the coming months. "From July, there should be pick up," the secretary said.

Cumulatively, exports dipped by 15.13 per cent to \$102.68 billion during April-June this fiscal. Imports too declined by 12.67 per cent to \$160.28 billion.

The trade deficit during April-June 2023 improved by 7.9 per cent to \$57.6 billion from \$62.6 billion in the same period last year.

### TRADE IN SECTORS

Oil imports in June contracted by 33.8 per cent to \$12.54 billion, while during the April-June quarter, the shipments slipped 18.52 per cent to \$43.4 billion.

However, gold imports in June rose 82.38 per cent to about \$5 billion, while it dipped by 7.54 per cent to \$9.7 billion in the April-June quarter.

On the exports front, 21 of the 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in June. These include petroleum products, plastic, ready-made garments of all textiles, engineering, chemicals, gems and jewellery, leather and marine.

However, exports of electronic goods increased by 45.36 per cent

### RUPEE TRADE GUIDELINES SOON BY RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon issue guidelines for banks for the resolution of certain issues being faced by exporters while undertaking rupee trade with other countries, a senior government official said Friday. The official said that as far as the rupee trading mechanism is concerned, initially there were some teething troubles but in many of these areas the transactions have started

# Wholesale inflation slides to 8-year low

Decline in WPI is in contrast with June retail inflation which inched up to 4.8% in June from 4.3% in May

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

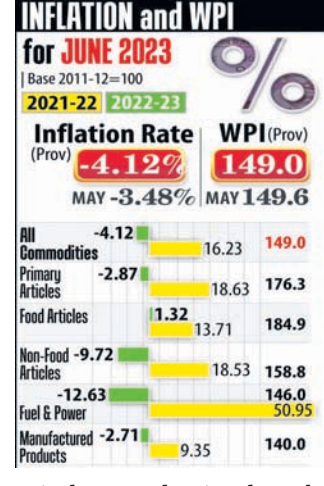
**New Delhi, July 14:** The deflation in the wholesale price continued for the third month in a row in June, with WPI contracting to a nearly eight-year low at (-) 4.12 per cent on account of falling prices of food products, fuel and basic metals, according to official data released Friday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood at (-) 3.48 per cent in May and at 16.23 per cent in June 2022. The lowest WPI was recorded at (-) 4.76 per cent in October 2015.

"The decline in the rate of inflation in June 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of mineral oils, food products, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas and textiles," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

As per the data, the index for fuel and power contracted by 12.63 per cent in June, primary articles by 2.87 per cent, and manufactured products by 2.71 per cent. The food index shrank by 1.24 per cent.

In June, the prices of non-food articles compared to May contracted by 2.40 per cent, crude



petroleum and natural gas by 3.01 per cent, and minerals by 4.32 per cent. Also, prices of mineral oils (-2.30 per cent) and electricity (-2.96 per cent) declined in June on a sequential basis.

Regarding manufactured products, the release said 11 groups witnessed a decrease in prices while 9 groups saw an increase in prices in June.

The decrease in prices was mainly due to basic metals, chemical and chemical products; textiles; rubber and plastic products; and paper and paper products, among others.

Some of the groups that witnessed an increase in prices include tobacco products; computer, electronic and optical products; leather and related products; and motor vehicles.

## WORLD'S LARGEST EV PRODUCER

# BYD submits \$1 billion India plan to make EVs, batteries

REUTERS

**New Delhi, July 14:** China's BYD Co has submitted a \$1 billion investment proposal to build electric cars and batteries in India in partnership with a local company, three people with direct knowledge of the plan said.

BYD and privately held Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructures have submitted a proposal to Indian regulators to form an EV joint venture, the people said, asking not to be named because the application is private.

The longer-term plan is to build a full line-up of BYD-brand electric cars in India from hatchbacks to luxury models, one of the three people said.

BYD, the world's largest producer of EVs and plug-in hybrid vehicles, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The company previously said it planned to set up manufacturing in India, now the world's third-largest car market.

India's commerce and heavy industries ministries did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

BYD's push into India is part of its rapid global expansion to challenge Tesla, which still leads



in sales of EVs alone. If the India investment is approved, it would give BYD a presence in all major global car markets with the exception of the United States.

Tesla has recently restarted talks with India's government after putting on hold plans to enter the market last year when it failed to secure lower tax duties on imported vehicles in talks with officials.

BYD, which stands for Build Your Dreams, sold a total of 1.86 million BEVs and plug-in hybrids in 2022. In India, EVs made up just over 1% of total car sales of 3.8 million in 2022 but the government wants to grow this to 30% by 2030.

In India, BYD will compete with domestic automaker Tata Motors and Chinese rival MG Motor that currently dominate electric car sales.

## STOCKS SIZZLE

# Equities at historic highs

Sensex closes above 66K-mark for 1st time, Nifty settles at new record high on FII inflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 14:** Benchmark BSE Sensex closed above the historic 66,000 mark for the first time while NSE Nifty hit a new all-time closing high Friday driven by heavy buying in IT counters and fresh foreign fund inflows.

Optimism in global equity markets also helped the local markets maintain their winning momentum for a second day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 502.01 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at its new all-time closing high of 66,060.90. During the day, it rallied 600.9 points or 0.91 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 66,159.79.

The NSE Nifty went up by 150.75 points or 0.78 per cent to end at a new record high of 19,564.50. During the day, it reached its lifetime intra-day peak of 19,595.35, registering a jump of 181.6 points or 0.93 per cent.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services jumped over 5 per cent and Tech Mahindra rallied 4.51 per cent. Infosys, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Tata Steel, Nestle, Asian Paints, Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever were also among the major gainers.

On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Titan, Maruti, UltraTech Cement, NTPC



and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.14 per cent and midcap index jumped 1 per cent.

Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said that benchmark indices settled at their fresh record closing highs on Friday on gains led by shares of IT majors.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.14 per cent and midcap index jumped 1 per cent.

Among the indices, IT zoomed 4.30 per cent, teck jumped 3.74 per cent, metal (1.37 per cent), realty (1.19 per cent), services (1.14 per cent), telecommunication

(1.08 per cent) and commodities (0.81 per cent).

Utilities, consumer durables and power were the laggards.

A total of 2,206 stocks advanced while 1,212 declined and 149 remained unchanged.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading mostly with gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers Thursday as they bought equities worth Rs 2,237.93 crore after a day's breather.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.09 per cent to \$81.29 a barrel.



INDIA HAS BEEN STRICTLY REGULATING STREAMING PLATFORMS WANTS EXPERT PANEL FOR AGE RATINGS, CONTENT REVIEW INDUSTRY SAYS REVIEW COULD IMPACT GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT INDIA STREAMING MARKET TO BE WORTH \$7 BILLION BY 2027

the need for a "more proactive approach" to ensure that streaming content, "including international content", aligns with a so-called code of ethics, the

minutes showed. That code already mandates providers to exercise caution on content that could incite violence or be sensitive for reli-

Pre-censorship could hurt the industry growth and cost jobs. Given the high volume of content there is a need to specifically act against obscene and vulgar content

SUHASHINI MANIRATNAM | DIGITAL PUBLISHER CONTENT GRIEVANCE COUNCIL

gious reasons. The meeting was attended by Amazon, Disney, Netflix, Reliance's broadcast unit, Viacom18, and Apple TV.

'DON'T PROPAGATE VULGARITY' The discussions signal growing scrutiny of India's fast-growing streaming market.

The proposal also comes as streaming giants protest a government order to add 50-second tobacco health warnings in each piece of content, and two years after India ordered the setting up self-regulatory bodies for complaints about streaming content. Industry executives say India's

## Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Directorate of Treasuries & Inspection



**Bhubaneswar:** Bank of Baroda, a leading public sector bank, has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Directorate of Treasuries & Inspection, Odisha for providing payment gateway aggregation services for government challan payments Friday. The MoU was accorded by Rupa Narayan Das, Director, Treasury & Inspection Department, Odisha and Sonam T Bhutia, Zonal Head, Patna Zone, Bank of Baroda. It was signed in presence of dignitaries from both organisations and was attended by Snigdharani Swain, Joint Director; Anil Kumar Panigrahi, Asst Director; Debidutta Tripathy, Additional Director; Deepak Ranjan Choudhury, Joint Director; Nishikant Mishra, Deputy Director from Treasuries & Inspection; Ramesh Kumar Mohanty, Network DGM-1, Patna Zone, Bank of Baroda, and Rajeev Krishna, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region, Bank of Baroda.

## Forex kitty rises to \$596.28 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 14:** India's foreign exchange reserves jumped \$1.229 billion to \$596.28 billion in the week ended July 7, the Reserve Bank of India said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall forex reserves increased \$1.85 billion to \$595.05 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended July 7, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased \$969 million to \$528.968 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.



# INDIA IN COMPLETE CONTROL

Jaiswal scores 171 in his debut Test innings before Kohli, Jadeja take the visitors to 400/4 at stumps, having a lead of 250 runs over West Indies in first Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Roseau (Dominica), July 14:** Yashasvi Jaiswal became only the third Indian to score 150 (171, 387b, 16x4, 1x6) on debut while Virat Kohli had to toil for a half century (72 batting, 170b, 5x4) as the visitors reached 400/4 at lunch on day three of the first Test against the West Indies here.

Resuming the day at 312/2, India managed 88 runs in 29 overs in the morning session for loss of Jaiswal and Ajinkya Rahane (3). The away team, who are looking to bat West Indies out of the game, extended their first innings lead to 250 runs.

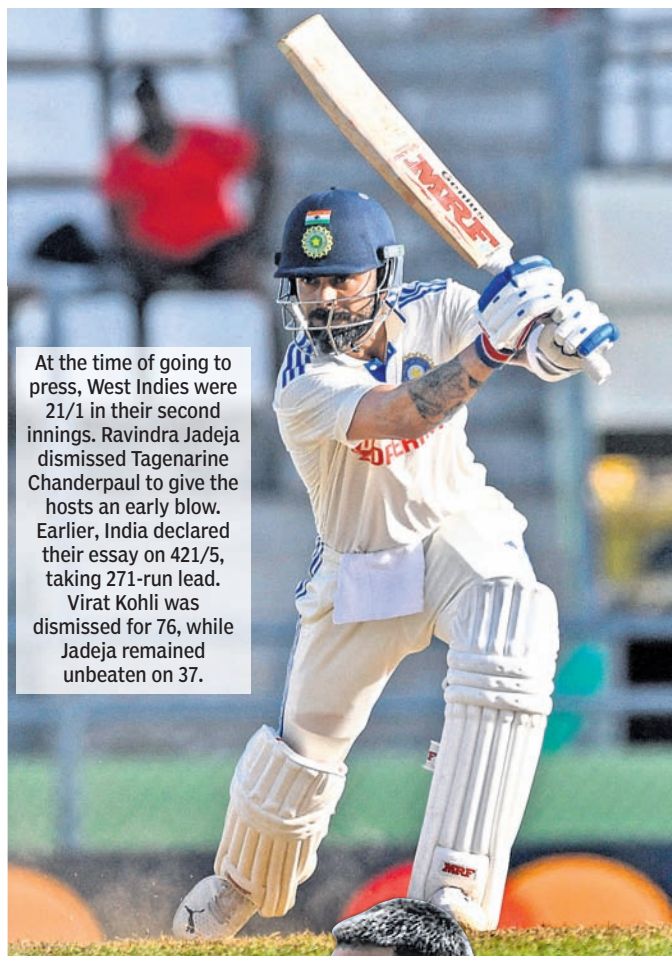
The Indian batters had to work for their runs on a slow pitch offering a lot of turn and a heavy outfield. Kohli celebrating after hitting a rare boundary was proof of that. Jaiswal started with a crisp straight drive off Jason Holder. Left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican opened the bowling alongside Holder and instantly created issues for Kohli.

The former India skipper got a life when he was on dropped on 40 by West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite. A double hundred was in the offing for Jaiswal but it wasn't to be as he edged one that angled away from Alzarri Joseph.

Soon after, Rahane attempted a drive on the up on a slow pitch off Kemar Roach and ended up offering a simple catch at cover. Ravindra Jadeja (21 batting) joined Kohli in the middle and they ended up forging an unbeaten 44-run stand.

Earlier, Jaiswal, a young man from Bhadohi who toughened up on ruthless Mumbai Maidans, enjoyed his finest day on a cricket pitch with an unconquered debut hundred Thursday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (103, 221b, 10x4, 2x6), also eschewed his natural flair en route his 10th Test hundred and a record 229-run opening stand with Jaiswal (143 batting overnight) as India batted cautiously but still did well enough to slowly bat West Indies out of the game, finishing the second day on 312/2. In the whole



At the time of going to press, West Indies were 21/1 in their second innings. Ravindra Jadeja dismissed Tegenarine Chanderpaul to give the hosts an early blow. Earlier, India declared their essay on 421/5, taking 271-run lead. Virat Kohli was dismissed for 76, while Jadeja remained unbeaten on 37.

day, India managed only 232 runs in 90 overs.

Jaiswal, who batted the entire second day, has the seasoned Kohli (36 batting overnight) for company as the duo added 72 runs for the third wicket at stumps on Day 2.

With India already have a lead of 250, they are expected to bat better part of the third day before Ravichandran Ashwin and Jadeja are once again unleashed on an opposition that don't have enough technical wherewithal to counter them for two days.

The 21-year-old Jaiswal

## MATCH SCHEDULE

1st Test (Day 4)

Time: 7:30 pm

Telecast

DD Sports

Live stream

Jio Cinema & FanCode

and 36-year-old Rohit are players, who could be called antithesis to what Mumbai school of 'Khadoos' batsmanship stands for. Both are flamboyant in their own rights.

But Thursday, they channelised their inner 'Khadoos Mumbaikar' as Jaiswal took 215 balls to become the 14th Indian debutant to score hundred while Rohit had to wait for 220 balls to reach his landmark.

After 41 long years, since India's 1982 tour of England where Suru Nayak and Sunil Gavaskar opened, there were two Mumbai men opening for the country and put up the best

ever stand of 229 against the West Indies, beating previous best of 201 set by Sanjay Bangar and Virender Sehwag back in 2001.

**BRIEF SCORES:** West Indies 150; India 400/4 at lunch (Yashasvi Jaiswal 171, Rohit Sharma 103, Virat Kohli 72 batting, Ravindra Jadeja 21 batting; Kemar Roach 1/41, Alick Athanaze 1/53). Match to continue.

YASHASVI JAISWAL BECAME THE THIRD INDIAN TO SCORE 150-PLUS ON DEBUT, MATCHING THE FEATS OF SHIKHAR DHAWAN (187) AND HIS CURRENT SKIPPER ROHIT SHARMA (177)

# Toor, Parul bag gold medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangkok, July 14:** India's shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor stamped his authority in the continental circuit by defending his Asian Athletics Championships title but limped out of the competition after his gold-winning second round throw here Friday.

The Asian record holder Toor sent the iron ball to a distance of 20.23m in his second round throw but did not take further part as he limped out after the effort, holding his groin. Saberi Mehdi (19.98m) of Iran and Ivan Ivanov (19.87m) of Kazakhstan took the silver and bronze respectively.

Parul Chaudhary then won her maiden 3000m steeplechase title in a major international event to swell India's gold tally to five. Young long jumper Shaile Singh also clinched her maiden medal - a silver - in her first major international event on yet another productive day for India.

India has so far won nine medals - five gold, one silver and three bronze. After a bronze Wednesday, India added three gold and two bronze medals Thursday. All the gold winners in the Asian Championships have a high chance of qualifying for the World Championships (August 19-27) in Budapest, Hungary.

Under the World Championships qualifying criteria, continental champions qualify for the showpiece on the condition that there is no better



entry (by world rankings) of another athlete from the same area in the same event.

Toor was the outright favourite to win the shot put gold. He began with a 19.80m effort before his gold-winning 20.23m throw. The 28-year-old Toor became only the third shot putter to defend the Asian Championships title.

Qatari Bilal Saad Mubarak had achieved the feat twice by winning consecutive titles in 1995 and 1998, and again in 2002 and 2003. Mohd Gharib Al Zinkawi of Kuwait had won the title thrice in a row - 1979, 1981 and 1983.

Seven Indians had earlier won shot put gold in the Asian Championships. The extent of Toor's injury is not yet known but it could be a cause of concern for him as the World Championships begin in Budapest in just over a month.

He had qualified for the World

Championships with his new Asian record throw of 21.77m in the National Inter-State Championships in Bhubaneswar last month.

Toor had also missed the 2022 World Championships due to a groin strain he developed just before the event, which also forced him to skip the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Toor had undergone surgery on the left wrist of his throwing arm just after the Tokyo Olympics.

The 28-year-old Chaudhary broke off from the leading pack towards the end and won comfortably with a time of 9 minutes and 38.76 seconds. Her timing was well outside her personal best of 9:29.51s which she had clocked in May in the USA. Shuangshuang Xu (9:44.54s) of China and Yoshimura Reimi (9:48.48s) of Japan took the silver and bronze respectively.

For the 19-year-old Shaile, a prodigy of legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George, it was her first major international event at the senior level and she celebrated it with a silver. She had won a silver in the World Junior Championships in 2021.

Shaile, the Asian leader before Friday with a 6.76m jump earlier this year, was ahead of the pack till midway of the competition with her first round effort of 6.54m. But eventual gold winner Sumire Hata of Japan took the lead with her fourth round effort of 6.74m, which she improved to 6.97m in her sixth and final leap. China's Zhong Jiawei took the bronze with a fifth round jump of 6.46m.



# Kwiatkowski wins stage 13, Pogacar closes in on yellow

AGENCIES

**Culoz (France), July 14:** Michal Kwiatkowski, the World Champion-turned-domestique, gave another superb reminder of his individual class when he soloed to victory in the 13th stage of the Tour de France, Friday.

A domestique is a cyclist in a road racing team whose role is to help their team leader during a race. The Polish rider won the day on the summit of the Grand Colombier with a brave and determined ride from the breakaway to give Ineos Grenadiers a prestigious stage victory.

Tadej Pogacar (UAE Team Emirates) left it late but attacked Jonas Vingegaard (Jumbo-Visma) in the final kilometre to distance him by four seconds and move eight seconds closer to the yellow jersey with the time bonus for third on stage 13.

Maxim Van Gils (Lotto-Dstny) also did a great ride to finish second at 47 seconds, with Pogacar leaping away for third at 50 seconds.

# Sindhu, Sen march into US Open quarterfinals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Council Bluffs (US), July 14:** Star Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen notched up straight game wins to progress to the women's and men's singles quarterfinals of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament here.

Double Olympic medallist Sindhu, seeded third, defeated Korea's Sung Shuo Yun 21-14, 21-12. Fresh from his Canada Open Super 500 title last week, Sen beat Czech Republic's Jan Louda 21-8, 23-21 in 39 minutes.

Sindhu will face China's Gao Fang Jie next, while it will be an all-Indian clash in men's singles

when third seed Sen takes on promising 19-year-old S Sankar Muthusamy from Chennai.

It has been an impressive run for the 2022 World Junior Championships silver medalist who registered a fighting 21-18, 21-23, 21-13 win over Israel's Misha Zilberman.

Sindhu didn't break much sweat against Sung, who couldn't pose any real challenge to the Indian during the match. Sindhu jumped to a 7-2 lead early on before extending it to 13-5. Sung managed to narrow down the deficit to 11-14 but Sindhu dashed any hope of a comeback, keeping a grip on the rallies to eventually earn the bragging rights.

After the change of sides, Sung started to match up to the Indian initially as she had a slender 5-3 lead but it soon evaporated with Sindhu breaking off from 7-7 to march ahead. At the interval, Sindhu had an 11-8 lead and she kept moving ahead as Sung crumbled. From 16-12, Sindhu reeled off the remaining points without much ado.

# SERBIAN WORLD NO.2 A WIN AWAY FROM RECORD-EXTENDING 24TH GRAND SLAM TITLE

# Djoko eases into final, to face Alcaraz

REUTERS

**London, July 14:** Novak Djokovic barely got out of second gear as he swept past a subdued Jannik Sinner at Wimbledon, easing into a record 35th Grand Slam final with a whirlwind 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(7-4) victory Friday.

The second semifinal saw Spain's Carlos Alcaraz deliver the final the world wants to see with a brutal, and at times breathtaking, demolition job on unfortunate Russian Daniil Medvedev, roaring to a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

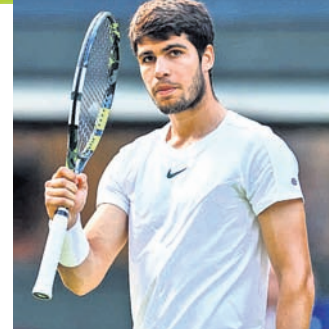
Earlier, Djokovic has turned Centre Court into his own personal fiefdom having not lost there in 10 years, and the Serbian is now one win away from a record-equalling eighth title at the grasscourt major to match the mark of Roger Federer.

The 21-year-old Sinner, who was aiming to become the youngest man to reach the Wimbledon final since 2007, was outclassed, falling flat on the big occasion and allowing Djokovic to turn the screw at key moments in the contest.



He let break points slip through his fingers, including two set points in the third, while Djokovic was clinical as usual, applying constant pressure on the Italian eighth seed's serve and pouncing on opportunities when they arose.

He wrapped up the match when Sinner dumped a backhand into the net, leaving the Serbian to accept the applause of the Centre Court crowd, who had vociferously backed his opponent throughout, teeing up a final against top seed Carlos Alcaraz.



He will be aiming for a record-extending 24th Grand Slam crown after breaking the previous record

## MATCH SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S FINAL

Marketa Vondrousova

VS

Ons Jabeur

Time: 6:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports channels

holder Rafael Nadal's 22 Grand Slam title-count. The Serbian World No.2 first equalised the Spaniard in the list winning the Australian Open - the first Major of the year, before eclipsing him with the French Open triumph at Roland Garros.

Later in the day, the 20-year-old phenomenon will now face a battle of the generations against 36-year-old seven-time champion Novak Djokovic, who earlier on Centre Court eased past Italian Jannik Sinner to reach his 35th Grand Slam final.

For seven games under the roof this felt like it could be a contest as third seed Medvedev, who like Alcaraz was contesting his first Wimbledon semi-final, kept pace with the top seed.

# Messi mania engulfs Miami over his arrival

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Miami, July 14:** A hamburger and drink combination called the Lionel Messi. A huge sketch of the football star's smiling face on a restaurant wall beside a viral meme from the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. A beer with a pink label matching the color of the Inter Miami jersey he will wear.

Whenever you turn in Miami these days something reminds you of the arrival of the Argentine football legend. There is no hiding the euphoria generated by Messi in Miami as he begins the new Major League Soccer (MLS) phase of his career in one of the most Latino cities in the United States. But his arrival is also bringing a note of sadness as fans know that at age 36 he is nearing the end of his career.

Messi announced June 7 that

he will play for Inter Miami in a move that is expected to energize football in the United States and South Florida with one of the sporting world's best-known figures. More than 100,000 Argentines live in Miami, which will host World Cup matches in 2026.

The seven-time winner of the Ballon d'Or, the soccer world's most prestigious individual award, is coming off two years with PSG and is expected to make his Inter Miami debut against Mexican team Cruz Azul, July 21.

"I love that he's in Miami because my children will be able to experience him like I experienced (fellow Argentina great Diego) Maradona," said Maximiliano Alvarez, one of the owners of the Fiorito restaurant, where a wall has a giant mural of Messi. "It also makes



me sad, nostalgic, because it looks like it is the beginning of his retirement."

Alvarez and his brother Cristian had the original mural with Messi's face painted in the restaurant in 2018, when many people criticized the football star for his role in the Argentine national team's poor performance.

His idea was to honour him and the resilience he brings, never giving up.

To the south, in Wynwood district, an area near downtown Miami known for its warehouse-turned-art galleries, other artists have painted murals of Messi. There are two giant images of the player, one with a smiling face,

the other with him running as if in a game. And there are plans for more, including a 10-meter-high (32-foot-high) mural of Messi kissing the World Cup in an open parking lot.

Messi's arrival has also impacted breweries like Prison Pals Brewing Co., which sells a beer bearing Messi's No.10. The can is painted pink with black lettering, a replica of Inter Miami's colors.

The Argentine grill The Knife offers a Messi mojito and the Hard Rock Cafe is launching a new "Messi Chicken Sandwich" made from the football star's favorite "milanesas." Messi t-shirts, pants, sweatshirts with a hood and water bottles will also be for sale. Near Miami Beach, at the Cafe Ragazzi of Argentine-Venezuelan singer-songwriter Ricardo Montaner, they are welcoming his return.

# GAIKWAD TO LEAD INDIA AT HANGZHOU ASIAN GAMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 14:** Rituraj Gaikwad was Friday named captain of India's squad for the Hangzhou Asian Games with IPL star Rinku Singh also getting his due. Rinku, whose exclusion from the T20s series in the Caribbean was questioned, has made the cut for the Asian Games scheduled from September 23 to October 8.

The continental showpiece coincides with the start of the ODI World Cup and that is why a B team has been named.

Shivam Dube, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma and Prabhsimran Singh are the others who have been picked at the back of a stellar IPL. It was a coming of age season for Dube who helped CSK win a record equalling fifth title. Wicketkeeper-

batter Jitesh Sharma and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh are also part of the squad.

Tilak has also been named in the team which will face the West Indies in a five-match series from August 3.

Cricket was last played the Asian Games in 2014 when India did not take part. The BCCI Apex Council cleared the participation of men and women teams earlier this month.

**THE SQUAD:** Rituraj Gaikwad (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rahul Tripathi, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Shivam Mavi, Shivam Dube, Prabhsimran Singh (wk); **Standby:** Yash Thakur, R Sai Kishore, Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Sai Sudarsan.