

**PROUDLY INDIAN**

**Picture perfect visuals for a stadium like experience with BPL TVs!**

**3 YEARS COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY**

**DOWN PAYMENT**

**BPL Happy Little Things**

Finance partners: **BAJAJ FINSERV**

\*T&C apply. Warranty applicable only on Google TV. Offer applicable on select models.

## POLICEMAN DIES IN CRACKER EXPLOSION

**Cuttack:** A policeman died Friday when seized firecrackers exploded during disposal on the bank of Kathajodi river in Cuttack, officials said. The policeman Havildar Pradip Mallick, who was a resident of Jagatpur, died on the spot, Additional DCP Anil Kumar Mishra said. Mallick had been serving the police department for 24 years and recently joined the bomb disposal squad, he said. Mishra said that a team of investigators was examining the spot to determine the circumstances leading to the accident.

## MONSOON TO ARRIVE IN STATE IN 4-5 DAYS

**Bhubaneswar:** After a spell of pre-monsoon showers on the first day of Raja Friday that brought relief to the sweltering heatwave conditions in the Capital, a top Met official told **Orissa POST** that southwest monsoon is all set to make its arrival in the state in the next four-five days. The IMD has predicted heavy rainfall and thunderstorm activities in several districts, Saturday and Sunday. **P4**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No jobs, inflation, communalism, hubris were not the reasons. We lost because of the '400 paar' slogan

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX			VARIATION
SENSEX	76992.77	↑	181.87
NIFTY	23465.60	↑	66.70
DOLLAR	83.54	↓	₹0.04
EURO	89.19	↓	₹0.50
GOLD	₹71,890	↑	₹752
SILVER	₹88,337	↑	₹354

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	
Max Temp	33.1°C	33.2°C	
Min Temp	25.5°C	23.0°C	
Humidity	73%	80%	
Rainfall	3.2mm	28.8mm	
<b>FORECAST</b>			
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY			



**FUN & FROLIC:** Girls enjoy swinging during Raja celebration at the State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Friday PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

## Wholesale inflation at 15-month high of 2.61%

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**New Delhi, June 14:** The wholesale inflation rose to a 15-month high of 2.61 per cent in May, as heatwave conditions pushed up prices of food items, specially vegetables, and on costlier manufactured products.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation has been rising for three months in a row. It was 1.26 per cent in the previous month and (-) 3.61 per cent in May 2023. "Positive rate of inflation in May, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement Friday.

The May WPI print is at a 15-month high. The last high was seen in February, 2023, when inflation was 3.85 per cent.

As per the data, inflation in food articles rose to a 10-month high of 9.82 per cent in May. Inflation in vegetables was 32.42 per cent in May, up from 23.60 per cent in the previous month. Onion inflation was at 58.05 per cent, while potato was 64.05 per cent. Pulses inflation rose 21.95 per cent in May.

# 'Arrogant stopped at 241' SC notice to Centre, NTA over CBI probe into NEET

*The BJP's ideological parent the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is calling out the party for its below-expectation performance in the recently held Lok Sabha elections. Days after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat remarked that a true 'sevak' does not have arrogance and serves the people by maintaining 'dignity', another senior Sangh leader Indresh Kumar has slammed the BJP for 'arrogance' that, according to him, led to the party falling way behind the magic figure of 272 seats. Similarly, an article in the RSS mouthpiece 'Organiser', penned by an ideologue, has called the poll results a 'reality check' for 'overconfident' BJP workers.*



**INDRESH KUMAR | RSS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

**PNN & AGENCIES**

**Jaipur, June 14:** In hard-hitting remarks on the outcome of the Lok Sabha polls, RSS leader Indresh Kumar has slammed the ruling BJP for 'arrogance' and the Opposition INDIA bloc for being 'anti-Ram'.

Speaking at the 'Ramrath Aayodhya Yatra Darshan Poojan Samaroh' at Kanota near Jaipur Thursday, the RSS national executive member did not men-

tion the rivals by name but suggested that the poll outcome reflected their attitudes.

"The party which did the bhakti (of Lord Ram) but became arrogant was stopped at 241 but it was made the biggest party," Kumar said, in an apparent reference to the BJP which got 240 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

"And those who had no faith in Ram, they together were stopped at 234," he said, apparently referring to the Opposition

INDIA bloc. "See the 'Vidhan' of Ram Rajya in democracy; those who did Bhakti of Ram but gradually turned arrogant, that party emerged as the biggest party, but the vote and power that should have been given was stopped by God due to their arrogance," he said.

"Those who opposed Ram, none of them was given power. Even all of them together were made number two. God's justice is true and enjoyable," the RSS leader said.

**See the 'Vidhan' of Ram Rajya in democracy; those who did Bhakti (worshipped) of Ram but gradually turned arrogant, that party emerged as the biggest party, but the vote and power that should have been given was stopped by God due to their arrogance**

"Those who worship Ram should be humble and those who oppose Ram, the Lord himself dealt with them," he said.

He said Lord Ram does not discriminate and does not punish. "Ram does not make anyone lament. Ram gives justice to everyone. He gives and will keep on giving. Lord Ram was always just and will remain so," Kumar said.

Meanwhile, the RSS Friday sought to quell the suggestions of its rift with the BJP and that Bhagwat's recent critical references related to the Lok Sabha polls were aimed at the ruling party insisting that such claims are just speculation meant to create confusion.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**New Delhi, June 14:** In a significant development amid a raging row over the NEET-UG, the Supreme Court Friday sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a CBI probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

A vacation bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which was hearing a batch of pleas including a PIL filed by Hiten Singh Kashyap, also sought responses from the CBI and the Bihar government within two weeks. It said the pleas will be taken up with other pending ones July 8, when the top court will start functioning after the summer vacation. During brief hearing, the bench got irked when a lawyer referred to the students committing suicides at Kota, a hub of coaching centres, in Rajasthan as an argument to buttress his case for a CBI probe.

"Don't make unnecessary emotional arguments here," Justice Nath said.

Responding to the submission for ordering a CBI probe, the bench said the reply of the NTA

was necessary before an order could be passed.

"It is the future of 24 lakh students," the lawyer said.

"We understand. We are conscious of all that," the bench said.

The Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) had Thursday told the Supreme Court they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses. They will have the option to either take a re-test or forgo the compensatory marks awarded to them for the loss of time, the Centre had said.

The examination was held May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared June 14 but were announced June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier.

There have been allegations of question paper leaks in states like Bihar and other irregularities in the prestigious exam.

The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of cases in seven high courts as also the Supreme Court.

## Booker winner Arundhati Roy to be prosecuted under UAPA

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

**New Delhi, June 14:** Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has accorded sanction to prosecute author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event here in 2010, Raj Niwas officials said Friday.

The FIR against Roy and former Central University of Kashmir professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain was registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi, they added. There was no immediate reaction from Roy and Hussain.

The FIR in the matter was registered on a complaint made by Sushil Pandit, a social activist

## In search of a female partner for world's 'loneliest' plant

"Surely this is the most solitary organism in the world," wrote palaeontologist Richard Fortey in his book about the evolution of life.

He was talking about Encephalartos woodii (E. woodii), a plant from South Africa. E. woodii is a member of the cycad family, heavy plants with thick trunks and large stiff leaves that form a majestic crown. These resilient survivors have outlasted dinosaurs and multiple mass extinctions. Once widespread, they are today one of the most threatened species on the planet.

The only known wild E. Woodii was discovered in 1895 by the botanist John Medley Wood while he was on a botanical expedition in the Ngoye Forest in South Africa. He searched the vicinity for others, but none could be

found. Over the next couple of decades, botanists removed stems and offshoots and cultivated them in gardens.

Fearing that the final stem would be destroyed, the Forestry Department removed it from the wild in 1916 for safekeeping in a protective enclosure in Pretoria, South Africa, making it extinct in the wild. The plant has since been propagated worldwide. However, the E. woodii faces an existential crisis. All the plants are clones from the Ngoye specimen. They are all males, and without a female, natural reproduction is impossible. E. woodii's story is one of both survival and solitude.

Cycads are the oldest surviving plant groups alive today and are often referred to as 'living fossils' or 'dinosaur plants'



due to their evolutionary history dating back to the Carboniferous period, approximately 300 million years ago. During the Mesozoic era (250-66 million years ago), also known as the Age of Cycads, these plants were ubiquitous, thriving in the warm, humid climates that characterised the period.

Although they resemble ferns or palms, cycads are not related to either. Cycads are gymnosperms, a group that includes conifers and ginkgos. Unlike flowering plants (angiosperms), cycads reproduce using cones. It is impossible to tell male and female apart until they mature and produce their magnificent cones.

Female cones are typically wide and round, and male cones appear elongated and narrower. The male cones produce pollen, which is carried by insects (weevils) to the female cones. This ancient method of reproduction has remained largely unchanged for millions of years.

Despite their longevity, today cycads are ranked as the most endangered living organisms on Earth with the majority of the species considered threatened with extinction.

Finding a female would mean E. woodii is no longer at the brink of extinction and could revive the species. A female would allow for sexual reproduction, bring in genetic diversity, and signify a breakthrough in conservation efforts.

**THE CONVERSATION**



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
Good news may bring cheer to you today! A job, a wedding, some profit... it could be personal or professional. Giving your best is almost a habit with you, says Ganesh, and it will pay off today.

**TAURUS**  
Ganesh predicts that today, you will be successful in money matters. There is, at best, only an outside chance that any stimulating event or thrilling escapade will occur today. In short, the day may be boring. Fret not as the dreary day may change into an exhilarating evening, feels Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will long for some privacy today, says Ganesh. You may end up earning a large amount of money, mostly through some private venture. The day will be a greatly profitable one for cashiers, money lenders and those in retail business. Keep working hard to achieve success.

**CANCER**  
Today, there is a strong possibility that you may face unexpected job changes. You are likely to spend lavishly to please family and friends. You may feel we make money to spend on loved ones. Still it would probably be a good idea to count every penny before using it, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
Being good to oneself is not vanity. To Ganesh, it seems as if you take this statement to heart, since it looks quite possible that you make your personal care number one priority today. On the flip side though, you become aware of the fact that the harder you try the more it seems you have to.

**VIRGO**  
The time today is ripe to venture into a new business. Projects that have been put-off will finally be completed. Looking into the week ahead, you are most likely to give yourself an energy zap. Parties will be all fun and entertainment. Your kids will bring home joy and pride and this will brighten the mood even more, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
The Bhagavad Gita says, "Do your duty without expecting the fruit." Remember this important lesson and strive hard to put in extra efforts to finish off whatever you undertake to do. Worrying about results will only hamper your progress. Go with the flow and let results come to you.

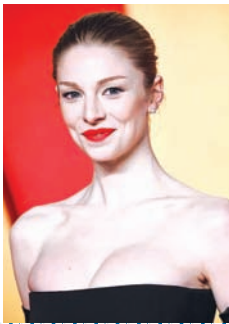
**SCORPIO**  
Life is the best teacher, they say. And today, you even experience this. You may learn to survive the neck-tight competition in the market. This may invite a lot of envy, but nothing shall bother you. Ganesh reminds you of the adage, 'To err is human, to forgive is divine,' so, it's fine even if you commit some errors.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Today shall be a rather decisive day, speculates Ganesh. Situations that have pushed you into a corner will force you to make rash decisions. But take stock of the situation and assess the long-term consequences of your actions beforehand, advises Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Mark this date on the calendar as today is going to be one of the most important days of life, the reason being you are going to meet somebody who is will stay with you through out your life. Though it may some time bore you, but your relationships will keep you busy today. Visits to religious places are on the cards for you. Most of the day you will spend time with your friends and family.

**AQUARIUS**  
You may rave and rant, but all you'll get from colleagues or juniors are wishy-washy excuses for a job not done. Ganesh advises that you take care to finish your own work before you help others. The stars say that your beloved will smoothen your creased brow.

**PISCES**  
You will need broad shoulders to deal with the added responsibilities which will be heaped on your plate today. And while the job will be draining, the satisfaction of a job well done will more than ease your stress.

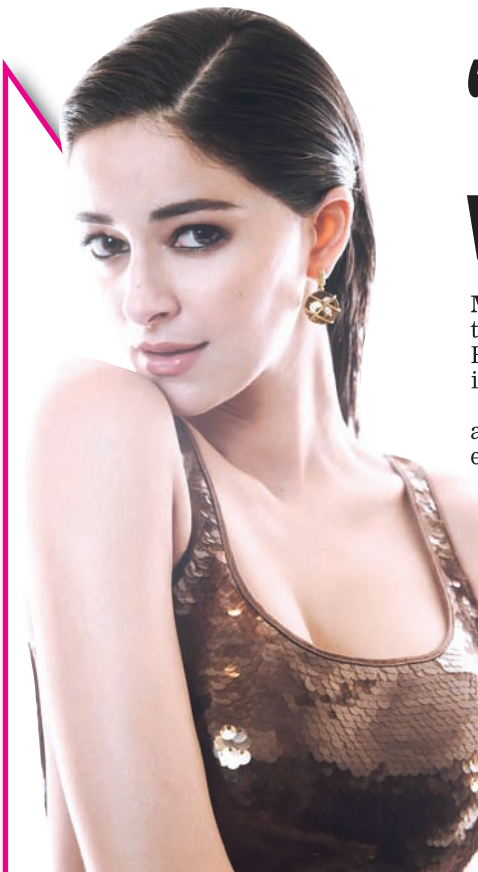


## HUNTER SCHAFER JOINS BLADE RUNNER CAST

Actress Hunter Schafer, who is known for *Euphoria* and *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, has been roped in to star opposite Michelle Yeoh in the upcoming *Blade Runner 2099* TV series. The show is a sequel to both the original *Blade Runner* film and the follow-up film, *Blade Runner 2049*.

## SWIFT CONFIRMS END OF ERAS TOUR IN DEC 2025

Pop icon Taylor Swift's *Eras Tour* will not extend into its third calendar year with added dates in 2025. The singer-songwriter announced that her global trek will conclude with its currently scheduled final dates in North America in December of this year, reports *Variety*.



## MULTIFACETED ANANYA

**Mumbai:** Following her critical acclaim for performance in the recent release *Kho Gaye Hum Kahaan*, Ananya Panday continues to captivate her fans. Recently, she shared an Instagram story from the set of her recent shoot, showcasing her multifaceted talent and passion for filmmaking.

In her latest Instagram story, Ananya is seen enjoying a massage while on set, captioning the moment with, "best shoot ever, massages and getting to be an AD." This candid glimpse highlights her excitement about her new role as an Assistant Director (AD) for the shoot and seems to be enjoying the perks of being on set.

Her various Instagram stories have given fans an insider's view of her projects, demonstrating her eagerness to learn and grow within the film industry. Recently, she has also been sharing various stylish outfits, proving her flair for fashion and her fans are loving this stylish side of hers.

The actress will make her voice acting debut dubbing the Hindi version of the International film *Inside Out 2*, where she is dubbed for the lead character Riley. Her upcoming project, *Call Me Bae*, is highly anticipated by her audience. The web show will stream on Amazon Prime Video, however, the makers haven't announced the release date. Besides this, she also has a film with Vikramaditya Motwane, titled *Control*.

AGENCIES

## 'Exciting time for women in industry'

**Mumbai:** Actor Sharvari Wagh is ecstatic to feature alongside Alia Bhatt in Yash Raj Films' (YRF) female spy universe movie, calling it a 'big responsibility'.

The yet-to-be-titled film will see Bhatt and Wagh play super-agents in the action entertainer.

The movie will go on floors this year.

"It is an exciting time for women in the industry because roles are written for them. The fact that films like spy universe which were headlined by big superstars, and for me to be sharing screen with Alia Bhatt, who is a huge star, is a big deal and big responsibility," Wagh, who made her debut with YRF's 2021 film *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, told this agency.

The actor,

who looks up to Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone, and Bhatt as female action stars, believes it's about time that women took the lead in action films and set an example for the next generation.

"The expectations are high but there's always a first time. I'm fortunate to be part of a first-time thing (female led action film). I'm very proud to be part of such a film because I know a lot of young women and girls of every age group will watch a film like this," the actress said.

Sharvari is basking in the glory of her latest film, *Munhya*, which has earned Rs 32.47 crore at the box office.

PTI

## Saba slams showbiz's 'regressive mindset'

**Mumbai:** Actress Saba Azad, who is known for *Mujhse Fraaandship Karoge*, *Rocket Boys* and *Ladies Room*, slammed 'patriarchal mindset' for not being able to do the work she loves the most for two years - voice-overs.

Recently, the actress took to the Stories section of her

Instagram and shared a series of videos and pictures.

The first picture is of her from a recording studio, on which she wrote: "Back in my natural habitat - recording a VO...after more than 2 yrs!!!!!!?"

In other Instagram Stories, she shared that she has been a voice-over artist for over 15 years and called it one of the 'most rewarding' careers creatively and monetarily.

The actress, who is reportedly dating actor Hrithik Roshan, questioned the mindset of people in the current times as she wrote: "Are we really still living in the dark ages where we assume a woman in a relationship with a successful partner no longer has to put food on her own table?? Or pay her rent and bills? Or take pride in her work and take care of herself and her family??? What kind of an archaic assumption to make!!!!!!?"

She further mentioned: "So I basically lost a whole career that I absolutely loved and appreciated because people thought I didn't need to work anymore!!!!!!? This is sadly a one-dimensional patriarchal and regressive mindset."

IANS

## Taapsee's attitude irks netizens

**Mumbai:** Taapsee Pannu was not in the mood to pose for photographs after she was spotted recently in the city. The actor got irritated at the paparazzi after they crowded around her. In a video shared by a paparazzo account on Instagram, Taapsee said, "Please hatt jaiye," as a fan stood in front of her car and requested a selfie.

Taapsee was seen in a light green shirt and white skirt Wednesday evening. She looked irritated when a bunch of photographers called her name to pose for photographs as she got out of the exit door. The actor seemed to be in a rush and headed straight towards her car, parked just beside the complex.

When a fan interrupted with a request for a selfie, she said: "Please hatt jaiye (Please movie aside)!!" She then proceeded to get inside and then shut the door of her car immediately after.

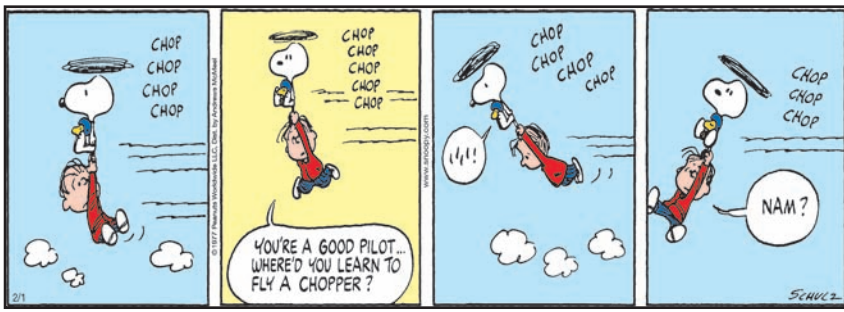
Reacting to the video a per-

son commented, "Her behaviour is pathetic. Why show this much attitude? They are just doing their job. She should respect them." Another user defended her and said, "She was absolutely right btw... at least people should maintain their basic hygiene and a safe distance." A comment read, "Young Jaya Bachchan." "What is this attitude?" read a second comment.

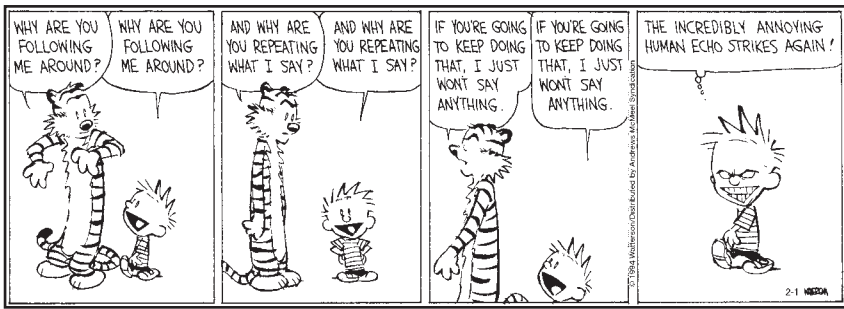
Taapsee recently married longtime boyfriend and badminton player Mathias Boe in Udaipur in March.

AGENCIES

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

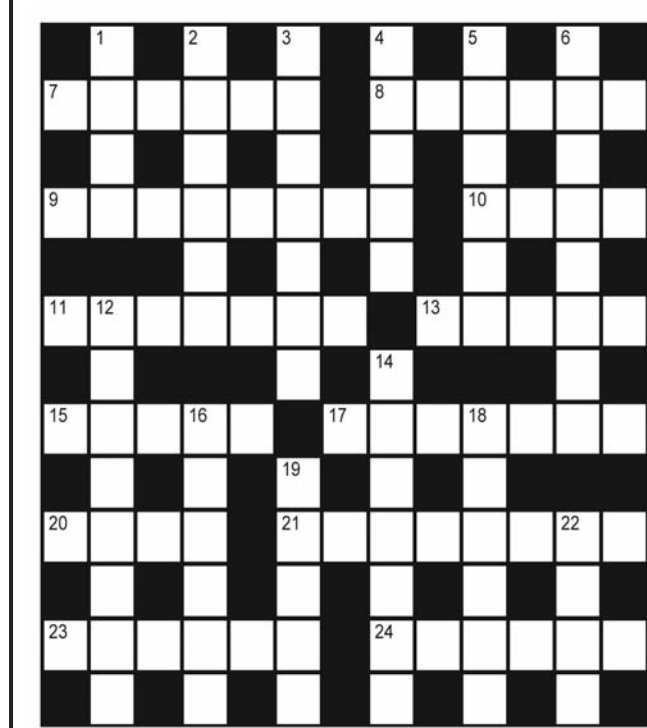


## BREVITY



## FUN post

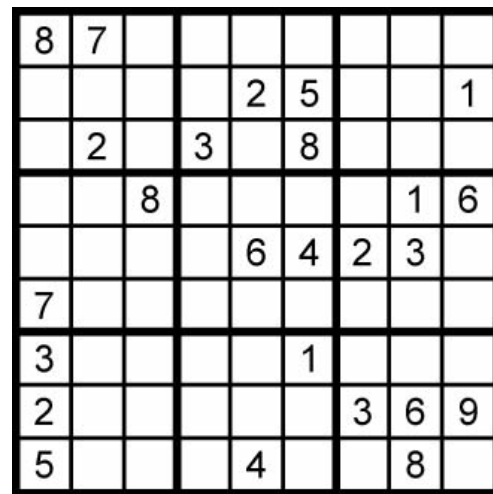
## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Land on Lake Victoria
  - 8 Wit
  - 9 Tax bureaucrat
  - 10 "My bad!"
  - 11 Threatening
  - 13 German wine valley
  - 15 Cuban dance
  - 17 Deep-dish dessert
  - 20 Bunsen burner
  - 21 Shaky
  - 23 Gloomy
  - 24 After bottle or can
- Down**
- 1 Historic periods
  - 2 Apprentice
  - 3 Swoon (4,3)
  - 4 Amulet
  - 5 Osculation
  - 6 Film genre
  - 12 Ski venue
  - 14 Slammer
  - 16 Type of bull on the Weser River
  - 18 German city
  - 19 Construct
  - 22 Affaire d'honneur

## SUDOKU

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

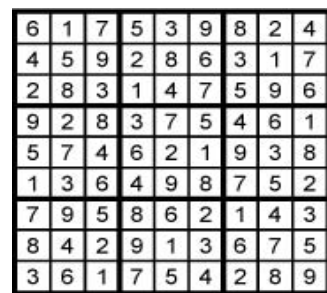


## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## CBI searches in Odisha over ₹5,717 crore fraud

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Friday launched a probe into the alleged Rs 5,717-crore bank fraud by Chhattisgarh-based SKS Power Generation Limited and carried out searches at 14 locations in five states, including Odisha, in connection with the 'scam'.

Following the Allahabad High Court's order, the CBI took over the investigation of the case (115/2021) registered with the Zafraabad police of Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh.

The central agency conducted searches at Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Bhubaneswar and Trichy, and has claimed to have seized incriminating documents and materials.

In the case registered under multiple Sections of the IPC including 420, 467, 468, 471, 474, 476, 506 and 507 against 28 persons, the CBI claimed that SKS Power Generation Limited, promoted by SKS Ispat and Power Limited (SKSIPL) that was engaged in the business of generation and distribution of electricity, had availed Rs 6,170 crore loan from State Bank of India (SBI), L&T Infrastructure Finance Limited, PTC India Finance Limited, and State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur.

"The company didn't pay the

instalments, resulting in the default of Rs 5,717 crore. The financial institutions auctioned the defaulted loan which was settled at Rs 2,000 crore in favour of Entwickeln India Energy Private Limited," the central investigating agency said.

It was found that Entwickeln India Energy Private Limited was registered at the same address as SKS Power Generation Limited. The two companies had merged in 2019 allegedly indicating unauthorised actions, the CBI said.

The FIR has alleged that under a criminal conspiracy, the accused wilfully diverted and round-tripped bank funds through bogus share transactions using shell companies with 'mala fide intention' to enrich themselves.

A significant loan amount was transferred to British Virgin Islands and British Overseas Territories of Bermuda through fictitious companies, the FIR has alleged.

The CBI has booked 28 persons including SKS Power Generation (Chhattisgarh) Limited Anil Mahabir Gupta, SKS Ispat and Power Limited (Mumbai) Director Anish Anil Gupta, Shree Krishna Structures Private Limited (Raipur) Director Premalata Gupta, Chartered Accountant Pritam Beria, SBI Chief Manager Rohit Parashar and the Branch Manager of SBI Civil Lines, Jaunpur.



A significant loan amount was transferred to British Virgin Islands and British Overseas Territories of Bermuda through fictitious companies

## Majhi condoles death of Odias in Kuwait fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday expressed grief over the death of two persons from the state in a massive fire in Kuwait.

"Many people lost their lives in the terrible fire in Kuwait. The news of the death of two Odia sons Muhammad Jahur and Santosh Kumar Gouda is very sad. I offer my condolences to the bereaved family and pray

**The duo was working for a private company and residing in the seven-storey building in Mangaf where the fire broke out early Wednesday morning**

to Lord Jagannath to give peace to the departed souls," Majhi said in an X post.

Gouda hailed from Ranajhalli village in Purosottampur block of Ganjam district, while Jahur was a native of Karadapalli village under Tigiria police limits in Cuttack district.

They were working for a private company and residing in the seven-storey building in Mangaf in southern Kuwait, where the fire broke out early Wednesday morning.

Their mortal remains would be brought to Odisha from Delhi by Friday evening, officials said.

Jahur's family members said he was married for only two years and his wife was seven-month pregnant. He had been working in Kuwait since 2017 and had visited his village only a month ago.

Similarly, Gouda had visited his village in March and had returned to Kuwait in April.

## Raja true example of Odia Asmita: CM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Newly sworn-in Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday extended his greetings to the people of Odisha on the occasion of 'Pahili Raja' (the first day of the three-day long festival celebrating womanhood) by saying that this festival is true example of 'Odia Asmita'.

"Taking to X, the CM said: "Greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Pahili Raja. May this mass festival of Odia tradition and culture bring happiness to the lives of all Odias."

Majhi also visited the State Museum and performed rituals like watering plants to celebrate the agrarian festival.

On the occasion, Majhi said, "My wishes to everybody on the occasion of Pahili Raja. This is first Raja celebration of the new government. People eagerly wait for Raja festival every year and enjoy it with Poda Pitha and Raja Paan. They also enjoy swing rides. This festival is true example of Odia Asmita."

He also paid floral tributes at the statue of freedom fighters of the state, and warriors of Paika Rebellion such as Buxi Jagabandhu, Jayee Rajguru, Chakhi Khuntia and others.

Meanwhile, 'Pahili Raja' was celebrated in the Capital city Friday with much fun and fervour. The very first day of the three-day long festival is called 'Pahili Raja' which is also considered the last day of the month Jyestha, as per Odia almanac.

The second day of the festival signifies the beginning of the solar month of 'Mithuna', marking the arrival of monsoon.

The third is 'Bhumi Dahana' or 'Sesa Raja'. During this period, it is believed that mother earth menstruates and the land gets ready for agricultural activities with the arrival of monsoon.



Extending his wishes on the occasion of Raja Friday, former CM Naveen Patnaik said, "Heartiest greetings and congratulations to all on the occasion of Raja. May this Raja festival fill everyone's life with joy and happiness."

The Odisha Tourism

Development Corporation (OTDC) has made special arrangements to provide 'Pithas' (types of sweetmeat) during the festival. Celebrate the vibrant festivities of Raja festival with our special menu that features mouthwatering pithas and dishes such as such as Poda Pitha,

Kakara Pitha, Khira Pitha, Arisa Pitha, Manda Pitha, Labangalata, Chhena Poda, refreshing Raja Pana and more.

The festival celebrated at Patrapada on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar drew huge crowd as the organisers have put up 130 swings for the girls.



IN FULL SWING: A Maharana servitor busy building chariot at Rath Yard in Puri, Friday

SITA

## BILL ON WATER DISPUTE ADJUDICATION LAPSES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Pending in Rajya Sabha since 2019 following its passage in the Lower House, a Bill which sought to address the adjudication of disputes concerning interstate rivers and river valleys has lapsed following the dissolution of 17th Lok Sabha.

Bills passed by Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha or those passed by Rajya Sabha and pending in Lok Sabha lapse after the Lower House is dissolved.

However, Bills introduced and pending in Rajya Sabha do not lapse.

A Rajya Sabha bulletin issued Thursday said 'The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019', passed by Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha, has lapsed under clause (5) of Article 107 of the Constitution, following the dissolution of 17th Lok Sabha.

The amendment Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha July 25, 2019, by then minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The Bill sought to amend the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, which addresses the ad-

**Bills passed by Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha or those passed by Rajya Sabha and pending in Lok Sabha lapse after the Lower House is dissolved**

judication of disputes concerning inter-state rivers and river valleys.

According to the original Act, a state government can request the Union to refer an interstate river dispute to a tribunal for adjudication.

If the Central government believes the dispute cannot be resolved through negotiations, it is required to establish a water disputes tribunal within a year of receiving the complaint. The 2019 Bill proposes to replace this mechanism.

Under the amendment bill, when a state raises a water dispute, the Central government

will form a Disputes Resolution Committee (DRC) to attempt to resolve the issue amicably. The DRC will be composed of a chairperson and experts with at least 15 years of experience in relevant sectors, nominated by the Centre.

Additionally, it will include one member from each state involved in the dispute, at the joint secretary level, nominated by the respective state governments.

Separately, two private member Bills moved in Rajya Sabha have been removed from the list of pending private members' Bills as while one of the members Ram Nath Thakur has been inducted in the Union Council of Ministers and Biplab Deb has been elected to Lok Sabha and ceases to represent the Upper House.

Earlier, another Bill, which aimed to bring uniformity in the age of marriage for men and women, had lapsed as it was pending in Lok Sabha since its introduction in December 2021.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha in December 2021 and was referred to the standing committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

## 7 IN EVERY 100 ELDERLY FACED ABUSES: STUDY

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Seven in every 100 elderly persons faced abuses of various forms, while one in every three elderly persons didn't earn a penny in the past one year, according to a study by the HelpAge India.

They include 37 per cent in the age group of 80 and above, and 36 per cent in the age group of 71-79.

The report of the pan-India study conducted in 20 Tier I and Tier II cities across 10 states in the country was released during a function on the eve of the 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day', at the Centre for Youth and Social Development here Friday.

As per the study, only around 15 per cent of elderly persons (60 and above) reported currently working.

A small proportion of the elderly (29 per cent) reported having access to social security schemes such as old-age pension, contributory pension and provident fund.

Bharati Chakra of HelpAge India said, "Awareness on the issue of elder abuse cannot be created only by discussion. Strong initiatives have to be taken with large number of youth involvement. To bring change and improve the condition of the elderly, we have to take each and every problem of theirs into consideration."

Loneliness is one of the major

### WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY



issues faced by the senior citizens having a serious effect on their overall health and quality of life. It can be overcome by encouraging communities and their own people to reach out them

and provide companionship and support to them, she said.

As per the study, more than half of elderly persons (52 per cent) reported facing at least one challenge related to activi-

ties of daily living (ADL). Around 54 per cent elderly female reported facing at least one difficulty related to ADL, which is marginally higher than the male respondents.

Majority of the respondents in the age group of 70-79 (63 per cent) and 80 and above (71 per cent) reported facing difficulties related to ADL.

On the digital empowerment front, 59 per cent of those surveyed had no access to gadgets. The most common device being used was smartphones.

Amongst those using of digital devices, 34 per cent of all elderly surveyed used them for entertainment and social media regularly, very often or sometimes.

## CM holds 1st meet with Secys

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi held discussions with the Chief Secretary and secretaries of various departments on the state's economy, development in different sectors and the challenges, Friday.

This is the first formal meeting of the CM with heads of various departments after the new government was formed, Chief Secretary PK Jena said.

The Chief Secretary apart, Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, Finance Secretary Vishal Dev, Agriculture Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee,



Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth were present at the meeting.

"We gave a presentation on the prevailing situation in the state. The presentation covered Odisha's population, its geographical situation, economy, and probable challenges. Two-three more such meetings will be held in the next three to four days," Jena said.



# Monsoon to arrive in state in 4-5 days: IMD



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** After the first pre-monsoon spell on the first day of Raja Friday that brought relief to the sweltering heatwave conditions in the Capital city, a top Met official told **Orissa POST** that the southwest monsoon is all set to make its arrival in the state in the next four-five days.

The IMD has predicted heavy rainfall and thunderstorm activities in several districts, Saturday and Sunday.

It said that thunderstorm with lightning accompanied with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely to occur at one or two places over Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh,

or two places in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Saturday.

Hot and humid weather condition is likely to prevail at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati districts during the period. Bhubaneswar Friday received 3.2mm rainfall while neighbouring Cuttack received 28.8mm rains.

Meanwhile, IMD, Bhubaneswar chief Manorama Mohanty said conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and northwest Bay of Bengal, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal, remaining parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal and some parts of Bihar during next four-five days.

The weather bureau predicted no large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) in the next three days. Temperatures will gradually fall by 2-4 degree Celsius thereafter at many places over the districts of Odisha, it said.

On Friday Baripada recorded highest temperature of 43.8 degree Celsius, while Bhubaneswar recorded 33.1 degree Celsius.



SOME RESPITE: Girls enjoy the first spell of pre-monsoon showers that lashed parts of Capital city, Friday

OP PHOTO

## Tackle overcrowding in trains: Vaishnav

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 14:** Amid reports of overcrowding in trains, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Friday reviewed the security, punctuality and services in stations and trains during a meeting with members and officials of the Railway Board, zones and divisions.

At the high-level meeting held through videoconferencing, the minister emphasised that safety and infrastructure are paramount and there cannot be any compromise on this front, officials said.

"A detailed discussion on all issues related to passenger

safety and amenities took place. The special focus of the meeting was on ways to improve services as well as punctuality of trains and avoid overcrowding by identifying busy routes and introducing special trains on them," a senior Railway official, who attended the meeting, said.

"Also, regular services of equipment such as ACs, fans, and water coolers at stations to be ensured during summer rush," he said.

A divisional railway manager said the minister has stressed that punctual running of trains will go hand in hand with safety and passenger amenities.

On the punctuality front, Vaishnav has directed officials to analyse the root cause of train detention on certain stretches which impacts the overall punctuality, he said.

"The minister also emphasised that unwarranted train detentions shall not be acceptable and punctuality figures are to be strictly monitored and overall punctuality should be improved," the official said.

Railway sources also said the minister took cognizance of the menace of overcrowding in the trains during the summer rush and urged officials to take immediate measures to resolve the problem.

## Man rapes woman on pretext of job



DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Airfield police here Friday arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly raping a woman on the pretext of providing her a job.

Airfield police station IIC Sashikanta Rout said the accused was identified as Diptiranjana Palei, a native of Orada village in Khurda district. The accused, a food safety official of the government, came across the victim's husband during an event in 2023, when the latter requested Palei to find a job for his wife. Following this, the couple also paid ₹6 lakh to Diptiranjana, Rout added.

Following the payment, Diptiranjana asked the victim to come to a hotel for training purposes, said the IIC, adding that he then raped the woman and threatened to murder her, if she discloses the matter before others.

The victim, however, lodged a complaint at Airfield police station seeking immediate action against Diptiranjana.

The police booked Diptiranjana under Sections 376 (1), 417, 420 and 506 of IPC and produced him before a local court Friday.

## Funkwal reviews railway projects



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 14:** East Coast Railway (ECOR) general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal inspected the ongoing infrastructure works in Cuttack-Paradip and Paradip-Haridaspur railway sections here, Friday.

During the visit, Funkwal reviewed the works related to traffic facility in Paradip and inspected different railway sidings under the sections.

Funkwal stressed on hassle-free railway operations and improvement in mobility in both the railway sections and Paradip Port area. He also reviewed different ongoing developmental works and advised to expedite the ongoing projects.

The general manager also emphasised on maintaining close coordination with Paradip Port Trust and other nearby industries to optimise operations, for effective utilisation of assets for all stakeholders.

Divisional railway manager of Khurda Road HS Bajwa and senior officials from different departments accompanied Funkwal during the inspection.

## Tribal education, health to be top priorities: Jual

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Veteran BJP leader Jual Oram, who holds the distinction of being the country's first Tribal Affairs Minister, assumed the responsibility again Friday and said tribal education and health will be the top priorities of the Modi government.

The 63-year-old leader made his way to the Lok Sabha for the fifth time after defeating BJD candidate and former Indian Hockey captain Dilip Tirkey by 1,38,808 votes on his home turf Sundargarh in Odisha.

"This is the third time I am taking charge of the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry. I pray to Lord Jagannath, and I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this responsibility," Oram told reporters after taking charge.

He said tribal education and health will be the Modi government's top priorities.

"The biggest issue in the tribal areas of the country is education. I thank PM Modi for working



on the issue. I told PM Modi this when I met him in the first Modi government. He asked what one thing is the most important for tribals. I said education. We have been able to create a robust education infrastructure and network of Eklavya Model Residential Schools in the country. This rivals the network of Kendriya Vidyalayas and I think we can do better than KVs," Oram said.

"The second priority issue in tribal areas is health. We will address this issue in the Modi government's third term. We will further improve the road, communication and irrigation network in the tribal regions of the country," the minister said.

## Ranendra takes oath as pro-tem Speaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 14:** Eight-time MLA Ranendra Pratap Swain was Friday administered oath as the pro-tem Speaker of the Assembly by Governor Raghubar Das.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi was also present at Raj Bhawan here when Swain took oath. "I was appointed as the Pro-tem Speaker on the recommendation of the CM," Swain said.

Swain, a former minister and lawmaker from Athagarh Assembly segment in Cuttack district, will also conduct the election for appointment of a regular Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly June 20.

The newly-elected members of the Assembly will be adminis-



tered oath by the Pro-tem Speaker for two days June 18 and June 19, Swain said. Sources

said senior BJP leader Surama Padhy is tipped to be the next Speaker of the Odisha Assembly.

# Women with epilepsy face a rollercoaster of symptoms

About 50 million people globally have epilepsy. Half of these are women. Until now, treatments for men and women have been identical. But men and women experience epilepsy differently.

For women, fluctuating hormones – spanning from the reproductive years, to pregnancy, perimenopause and menopause – can affect the frequency of seizures at multiple stages in their lives.

**What is epilepsy?**  
In people without epilepsy, the brain's overall electrical activity is stable. Signals acting on the neurons (brain cells) allow a fine balancing act between excitation (increased brain electrical activity) and inhibition (reduced brain electrical activity).

However, in epilepsy this balance is disrupted. When there is a burst of uncontrolled electrical activity, some or all the neurons are temporarily over-excited or are "in overdrive". This leads to a seizure (or fit).

This disruption can occur unpredictably, a bit like an earthquake, where the seizure comes out of the blue and then generally stops abruptly.

Epilepsy can severely affect people's quality of life. People with epilepsy also face an increased risk of premature death not only from the epilepsy itself but from other complications of seizures, and from suicide.

**What part do hormones play?**  
The hormones oestrogen and progesterone are made in the ovaries and brain. Whether or not a woman has epilepsy, levels of these hormones fluctuate throughout her life. But having epilepsy can also affect the production of oestrogen and progesterone.

In general, oestrogen signals

more electrical activity and progesterone signals less. The ratio of these two hormones is important for the fine balance of electrical activity in the brain.

But an unfavourable ratio disrupts the balance, leading to a rollercoaster of symptoms. Some specific anti-seizure



medications can also alter this ratio by reducing levels of oestrogen and progesterone.

Take the example of "catamenial epilepsy", which one study shows affects about half of women with epilepsy.

In this type of epilepsy women can have more seizures at certain

times of the menstrual cycle. This most commonly happens just before their periods, when levels of progesterone are falling and the ratio of oestrogen to progesterone is changing.

Around menopause is another time of hormonal change. If a woman has catamenial epilepsy, this can lead to an increase in seizures during perimenopause

when both hormone levels are becoming erratic and periods are increasingly irregular.

**What should we be doing?**  
We need to better understand if we can reduce the frequency of seizures with progesterones during certain times in the menstrual cycle. We also need to better understand if oestrogens (in menopausal replacement therapy, also known as hormone replacement therapy or HRT) can make seizures worse in later life.

If we do not research the influence of hormonal fluctuations on epilepsy, we risk not treating the specific trigger of many women's seizures.

Roughly 30 per cent of women with epilepsy do not respond to drug treatment. However, we do know seizures play an enormous role in adding to the burden of this disease. And that burden can be improved by better treating the seizures.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.





**LIVELIHOOD MATTERS:** Braving scorching heat, an elderly woman from Bhatra village selling hand fans wait for customers under a flyover opposite the district Collectorate in Sambalpur, Friday  
OP PHOTO

## Youth stabs woman, her daughter over land dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, June 14:** In a shocking incident, a youth allegedly stabbed a woman and her daughter while they were going to their tailoring shop at Danipali village under Ainthapali police limits here Friday.

Following the incident, locals rescued the duo in a critical condition and rushed them to Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla where they are undergoing treatment.



According to sources, Indu Das and her daughter Payal were heading towards their shop when the accused identified as Suraj Hati attacked the mother-daughter duo with a knife. Sources said Suraj and Indu's families are not on good terms and have been at loggerheads over a land dispute.

Both Indu and Payal sustained grievous injuries on different parts of their body. A complaint in this regard was lodged at Ainthapali police station and police launched a manhunt to nab the accused.

## NHRC seeks ATR on death of toddler inside Astaranga PS



PNN & AGENCIES

**Kendrapara, June 14:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) within four weeks from the Puri District Collector and Superintendent of Police on the death of a toddler inside Astaranga police station.

The apex human rights body passed the order Thursday after considering the submissions of Radhakanta Tripathy, a human rights activist and lawyer.

The petitioner stated that a two-year-old child died from snakebite at Astaranga police station in Puri district.

The toddler had come to the police station with his mother, who had visited there to lodge a complaint May 27, 2024.

Due to the lack of a safe environment and proper vigilance at the police station, such an incident occurred, Tripathy said and alleged that the child died due to the negligence and lackadaisical attitude of the police officials in providing immediate medical care.

He stated that it is the responsibility of government officials, the police in this case,

to maintain a safe workplace. The child could not receive medical care after he was bitten by a viper inside the police station and succumbed. The mother of the deceased baby boy is broken with tears.

The petitioner further mentioned that no inquiry or investigation has been conducted in this unfortunate case and no compensation has been paid to the mother of the victim. Tripathy sought an independent and impartial investigation into the incident and urged for safety measures and a safe environment in all police stations with child care facilities.

The commission took cognizance of the matter and issued notices to the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, Puri, Odisha, calling for an ATR within four weeks.

The commission shall be constrained to invoke a coercive process under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, calling for the personal appearance of the concerned authority for submission of the report if the same is not received within the stipulated time, the NHRC order said.

## ESZ curbs soon around Bhitarkanika

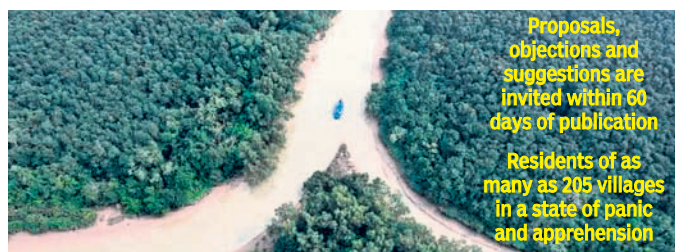
Residents of as many as 205 villages to come within the ESZ are in a state of panic and apprehension

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rajnagar, June 14:** An area measuring 497.67 sq. km with an extent of 0.10 km to 8.7 km around the boundary of Bhitarkanika National Park, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary has been declared as Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ).

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) of the Central government had issued a draft notification September 6, 2023, which was published June 9, 2024. As per the notification, proposals, objections and suggestions are invited within 60 days of publication as it will come into force thereafter. This has pushed residents of as many as 205 villages in the ESZ to a state of panic and apprehension.

By delineating an ESZ spanning from 0.10 km to 8.7 km around the three protected areas of Mangrove Forest (Wildlife



Proposals, objections and suggestions are invited within 60 days of publication  
Residents of as many as 205 villages in a state of panic and apprehension

Division - Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary (1975), Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary (1997), Bhitarkanika National Park (1998), encompassing an area of 497.67 sq. km, the government aims to protect critical habitats, migration routes, and nesting sites.

The sanctuary is home to 88 species of rare mangrove species and a famed crocodile project. Bhitarkanika boasts of the largest population of estuarine crocodiles in India and is renowned for its reptilian diversity. It is recognised as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention. Gahirmatha is globally celebrated for the mass nesting of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.

Home to 61 species of invertebrates, 20 species of fish, five species of amphibians, 42 species of reptiles, more than 280 species

of birds and 28 species of mammals, the region is teeming with biodiversity, making it imperative to conserve the ecosystem.

As many as 205 villages - 52 in Rajnagar, eight in Pattamundai, 38 in Mahakalapara, 32 in Aul, 30 in Rajkanika blocks in Kendrapara and 45 villages in Bhadrak district's Chandbali, Bansada and Tihidi blocks - fall under the specified area or ESZ.

After the publication of the final gazette of the ESZ, curbs and regulations will be enforced to control noise pollution, air pollution, land usage and management, water usage, waste management and vehicular traffic.

It has also been informed that new construction in the ESZ will be restricted, while tourism-based programmes will also be taken up as per guidelines.

To effectively manage the ESZ, the state government will pre-

pare a Zonal Master Plan within two years with inputs from the local residents. It will be prepared in consultation with the state government's Forest and Wildlife, Environment, Urban and Rural Development, Tourism, Municipality, Revenue, Agriculture, Irrigation and Flood Control, Public Works and Panchayati Raj departments based on the environmental laws of the Central and state government.

The gazette mandates setting up of a monitoring committee by the Central government for the environmentally sensitive areas. The Kendrapara Collector will be the chairperson of this committee while representatives of Bhadrak Collector and SP, Kendrapara SP, NGO members, environmentalists nominated by the state government, representative of SPCB secretary, Bhadrak and Rajnagar DFOs will be its member secretaries.

The ESZ designation serves to safeguard this unique and sensitive region from a host of threats and seeks to strike a balance between conservation and development, recognising the need to preserve the eco-system while allowing for sustainable human activities.

## District level natural calamity mgmt committee meeting

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, June 14:** A district level natural calamity management committee meeting was held Friday at Vikash Bhawan in Sundargarh where detailed discussions were taken up on possible issues during the upcoming monsoon and remedial measures. The meeting mainly stressed on



the maintenance of the drains, identification of low-lying areas, readying the shelter homes for any emergency and ways to solve issues of water logging under Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) and other civic bodies in the district.

Besides, BDOs in the district were instructed to visit areas under their jurisdiction and take note of issues pertaining to unsafe houses, emergency measures such as evacuation of people and identifying and maintaining the shelter homes to keep them ready.

## Two sent to jail for poaching wild boar

**Kendrapara:** Two persons, including a senior citizen, were arrested by Mahakalapara forest range personnel for poaching a wild boar. The poachers were booked under the Wildlife Protection Act and produced before the local court Friday, which remanded them to judicial custody. The Forest personnel also seized the wild boar, weighing about 50 kg, a chopper and a meat-cutting instrument from those arrested, ranger of Mahakalapara forest range Nalinikanta Behera said. The two accused killed the wild boar to sell its meat at Barajabakhuda village. A team of Forest personnel led by the ranger conducted a raid and managed to nab the two persons while they were trying to distribute the wild boar meat at the backyard of Samal's house. The seized meat was sent for autopsy and later buried inside the Mahakalapara forest range.

## 9 years on, Rourkela waits for elected municipal body

Protests over inclusion of six tribal villages in the civic body territory have led to the impasse as the matter is sub-judice at the high court

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, June 14:** With the BJP coming to power in Odisha, hopes have once more surfaced that elections to the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) will be held soon. Elections for office-bearers of the RMC were last held in 2008. The term of the office-bearers ended in 2013 and since then elections have not been conducted for more than nine years. This has affected the functioning of the RMC, locals pointed out.

BJP candidate in the recently-concluded Assembly elections in Odisha, Dilip Ray, had during his campaign asserted that if his party comes to power in the state, RMC elections will be con-



ducted soon. Even though Ray lost to BJD's Sarada Prasad Nayak, the BJP has come to power in the state. The question is whether the new government will take the initiative to hold elections to various positions in the RMC. Despite his defeat, Ray has time and again reiterated that elections to the RMC should be held as it will be beneficial for this town.

However, there are hindrances that are preventing RMC elections. One of the major issues is the inclusion of tribal villages in the RMC. The BJD government in 2013 had upgraded the Rourkela Municipality to Corporation. Then through a notification issued by the Urban Development Ministry, it had brought six peripheral villages under the RMC. This led to massive protests by the tribals living

in those villages.

Following the massive protests, the ministry removed four of the six villages from the jurisdiction of the RMC. However, that did not satisfy the agitators led by local leader George Tirkey, who was then in the opposition. He moved the Orissa High Court on this issue and in an order dated March 17, 2015, it stayed the notification of the ministry.

Since then the matter is pending in court. As the issue is still sub-judice, elections to the RMC cannot be conducted, officials in know of things pointed out. Rebel BJP candidate Nihar Ray informed that he has also moved the court so that elections to the various posts in the RMC are conducted. However, there has not been any development in the case so far, he added.

## Accident claims one; 3 critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, June 14:** A person died and three others were seriously injured Friday morning in a head-on collision between a scooter and a bike near Khuntgaon under Mahulpada police limits in Sundargarh district. The three injured have been admitted to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) in critical condition, sources said.



The mishap occurred when three friends - Kartik Nayak, Chandan Nayak and Mana Dehury - had gone to purchase chicken for Raja celebration on a bike. While returning they

picked up another friend Sambaru Nayak.

Meanwhile, two persons identified as Paresh Munda and Jethu Thakur were coming from the opposite side on a scooter.

Both the vehicles had a head-on collision near Mukulapani village. Mana Dehury died on the spot and the scooter was badly damaged in the impact of the collision.

Locals rescued them and rushed them to the local PHC. However, when the condition of three injured deteriorated, they were shifted to RGH where their condition was stated to be critical.

Apart from this, three valuable lives have been lost to three separate accidents in the last eight days in the district. More than six persons were seriously injured in those mishaps. If one looks at last six months records, including Friday's incident, as many as 19 persons have lost their lives and over 30 have been left with severe injuries.

## Minor girl killed in lightning strike

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pottangi, June 14:** In a tragic incident amid Raja festivities, a minor girl died after being struck by lightning at Bundulpadu village under Ralegada panchayat and this block in Koraput district, Friday.



The deceased was identified as Maria Tamal, daughter of Ramachandra Tamal, a resident of Bundulpadu village.

According to sources, Maria was grazing cattle in an open field at a distance from the village when lightning struck her making her collapse on the ground. Some villagers rescued her in an unconscious state and brought her home. However, Maria had already died by then.

Ramachandra, the father of the deceased, then lodged a written complaint in this regard at the local police station. Informed, police officials reached the spot, seized the body and initiated an investigation into the incident as per the instruction of Pottangi PS IIC Chaturbhuj Nayak.

On the other hand, local tehsildar Debendra Bahadur Singh expressed sorrow and assured that proper compensation will be provided to the next of kin of the deceased after getting police investigation and post-mortem reports.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

**E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILET**  
Station & Location : PURI-Pay & Use Toilet (Near outward parcel office).  
Auction Start Date & Time: 25.06.2024 at 11:00 hrs., Auction End Date & Time: 25.06.2024 at 11:30 hrs.  
Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PR-208/P/24-25 Khurda Road

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

**E-AUCTION OF CATERING STALL**  
Sl. No. 1: Station & Location- JAKHAPURA JUNCTION (Platform-1). Sl. No. 2: Station & Location- DASPALLA (Platform-1). Sl. No. 3: Station & Location- NIRAKARPUR (Platform-2/3). Sl. No. 4: Station & Location- MANCHESWAR (Platform-2/3). Sl. No. 5: Station & Location- PALASA (Platform-2/3, near RMS office).  
Category of Reservation: GMU (for Sl. No. 1 to 4) & SMU (OBC) (for Sl. No. 5).  
Auction Start Date & Time: 24.06.2024 from 11:00 hrs. to 12:10 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 to 5).  
Note: Prospective Bidders are advised to visit the website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information with regard to this e-auction.  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PR-208/P/24-25 Khurda Road

**Registered Office :** 19-A Dhuleshwar Garden, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, 302001.  
[www.aubank.in](http://www.aubank.in)

**LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS**  
The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from AU Small Finance Bank Limited ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/their dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on 21 Jun 2024 between 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Time) at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In the case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.

**E-Auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink <https://gold.samil.in>)**

**BHADRAK** - 23660001629719 23660002179947 24660000181115 24660000230454 24660000238510 | **HINJILICUT** - 23660001702862 | **JAJPUR** - 23660000479097 24660000202948 24660000223838 | **KUAKHIA** - 23660002231690 |

Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.

Sd/-  
Manager  
AU Small Finance Bank Limited

### राष्ट्रीय गतिशील दिव्यांगजन संस्थान

National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan)  
(दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग, सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

(Department of Empowerment of PwDs (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India)

की.टी. रोड बनहगली कोलकाता -700090/ B.T. Road, Bon-Hooghly, Kolkata- 700090

Phone: 2531-0279, 2531-0610/ Tele Fax: 2531-8379 / E-mail: [mail@nioh.in](mailto:mail@nioh.in) / [www.niohkol.nic.in](http://www.niohkol.nic.in)

No. RECRUIT-CONTRACT-2024/2971/ESTT./NILD/455 Date: 12.06.2024

**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION**

Eligible Indian Nationals are hereby notified to appear for the selection to the following posts purely on contract basis in the Institute. The details of the posts are as given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts / No. of Posts	Mode of Selection	Date of Selection
1	Consultant (Admin.)-01	Through Interview	09.07.2024
2	Consultant (Accounts)-01	Through Interview	
3	Clinical Tutor (Physiotherapy)-02	Through Written Test	
4	Physiotherapist-01 (Against leave vacancy)	Through Written Test	11.07.2024
5	Professional Trainee (Physiotherapy)-01	Through Written Test	
6	Clinical Tutor (Prosthetics & Orthotics)-01	Through Written Test	
7	Professional Trainee (Prosthetics & Orthotics)-01	Through Written Test	16.07.2024
8	Core Faculty for CBID Course-02 (Full time)	Through Written Test	23.07.2024

For details of advertisement & application format log in to [www.niohkol.nic.in](http://www.niohkol.nic.in)  
cbc 38113/11/0003/2425

Director



FOCUS INDIAN AGRICULTURE

# CLIMATE CHALLENGES



India's farm sector needs technological advances, optimal resource use, policy restructuring, and capability enhancement to overcome its challenges

age facilities. Agriculture needs soil management to adapt to climate change, strengthen soil, and promote sustainable farming. To achieve these goals, the government should mandate diverse soil management. Methodical crop rotation can also improve soil health by increasing organic matter and decreasing the need for fertilisers and chemicals.

Water management and agricultural policies and investments are essential for climate-resilient agriculture production systems. Groundwater sustainability requires regulatory, economic, and collective strategies. Because aquifers are the world's largest water reservoirs, they support irrigated agriculture in key production areas. Water policies include allocation systems that manage demand and supply in response to precipitation.

Policy formulation addresses local, regional, national, and international adaptation principles with strategies and guidelines. These policies aim to replicate adaptation factors across scales. Past experiences with agricultural adaptation technologies have shown that effective policies and recommendations are needed to successfully implement these technologies to adapt agriculture to climate change.

Despite these strategies, adapting to climate change has many benefits that mitigate its effects. These benefits include energy efficiency, reduced urban energy and water usage from greening and recycling, sustainable farming, and ecosystem preservation. India's agriculture sector needs technological advances, optimal resource use, policy restructuring, and capability enhancement to overcome its challenges. These adaptation strategies can help India achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by increasing agricultural productivity and food security.

The writer, a Development Economist, is an alumna of the London School of Economics

Agriculture and climate are linked globally. Even minor climate changes can hurt agricultural productivity and goods production. Agriculture's contribution to India's economy has been declining, but 75% of the population relies on rural incomes. To feed an expanding population with rising incomes, India must grow cereal crops and produce more fruits, vegetables, and milk. However, severe weather events like floods, droughts, heatwaves, and others have hampered productivity in the Indian agricultural sector. Thus, policies that boost agricultural productivity, diversification, and sustainability are essential.

Specifically, India's agriculture sector faces many challenges: Due to climate change, droughts, floods, heatwaves, and coastal flooding occur. These events reduced crop yield, livestock productivity, and made millions of people poor and food insecure. In India, a 1.5° C temperature rise and 2 mm precipitation decrease rice yield by 3% to 15%. Excessive fertiliser and chemical use degrades and erodes soil. This makes the soil more susceptible to pests and diseases. Soil nutrient deficiency has slowed productivity. In addition, improper land use practices and crop residue burning during harvest season have caused soil erosion, which has had lasting effects on agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Lack of agricultural infrastructure like storage, pack houses, and efficient supply chains increases post-harvest losses in India. Lack of road and rail connectivity hinders farmers' market access and raises production costs. The Indian agricultural sector uses primitive agri-technologies to produce goods. Modern technologies are scarce, making it difficult to adopt innovative agricultural practices.

Farmers in rural areas often have trouble getting loans and credit due to a lack of banks. Exorbitant interest rates and limited formal credit also reduce farmer productivity. This

prevents them from adopting modern farming methods, managing market risks, and promoting sustainable agriculture. In India, landholdings are fragmented, so individuals own small amounts of land. This makes modern farming and economies of scale difficult.

Agriculture still uses sickles and wooden ploughs, indicating insufficient mechanisation. Large-scale production requires a shift from traditional to modern methods. Farmers depend on local traders and intermediaries to sell their produce at low prices due to poor agricultural marketing infrastructure. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare estimates that rainfed rice yields in India will decrease by 20% in 2050 and 47% in 2080 without adaptation measures. Also, irrigated rice yields are expected to drop 3.5% in 2050 and 5% in 2080. Climate change reduces crop yields and nutrition. Droughts and flash floods reduce food and nutrient consumption, worsening farmer welfare. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2020) report states that India produced 314 million metric tonnes of food in 2021-22, but this is not enough to meet food security and the Global Goals for Adaptation.

To overcome these ever-changing challenges, the Indian government has developed climate-adaptive agriculture strategies. The National Action Plan on Climate Change includes the National Mission for Sustainable

Agriculture (NMSA). Its goal is to develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies for Indian agriculture. Climate-resilient agricultural adaptation strategies must be prioritised. These practices should improve agricultural productivity to meet global and food security goals, strengthen agricultural systems' climate change resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate risks.

India must use a variety of adaptation strategies and climate-resilient practices to address climate change challenges. Technology for adaptation reduces climate change susceptibility or improves resilience. Technologies for adaptation involve identifying and assessing agricultural practices and technologies that boost productivity, food security, and resilience in specific agro-ecological zones and farming systems.

The government must also build capacity to adapt to and mitigate climate change in any policy. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development recommends increasing absorptive capacity, a system's ability to handle immediate climate impacts. This includes early warning systems to help farmers adapt and crop insurance to cover losses. For productivity to increase, infrastructure capacity must be climate-resilient. To reduce post-harvest losses, the government should build and improve stor-

## Coalition Dynamics

The political dynamics have shifted with the entry of coalition dharma, and as Prime Minister Narendra Modi starts his third term as head of the NDA government, there is hope as well as trepidation among babus about the potential changes within the ministries and departments. Who is in and who is out? But all eyes are on the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which has been an invincible force during Modi's two previous tenures.

Now that the Cabinet has been formed and portfolios allocated, with major ministries retained by old trusted hands, it is clear that the big message of the exercise is continuity. This theme will likely be reflected in the composition of the PMO as well. Observers believe that trusted officers from the Gujarat cadre may largely remain intact. These officers, who have served under Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister in Gujarat, are expected to continue due to the deep trust and familiarity they share with the Prime Minister.

But the recent electoral setback in Uttar Pradesh could prompt a reassessment, some feel. Ravind Sharma, a Gujarat cadre IAS officer who has been Modi's key liaison with Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow, might be called back to the PMO during this period of reevaluation.

Names of trusted aides Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Comptroller and Auditor General G.C. Murmu are reported to be under scrutiny. Their long tenures in their high offices may soon come to an end as part of a broader strategy to infuse fresh perspectives into the government. The coalition angle has further complicated the scenario, with even the Speaker's post now in contention. Any movement will significantly impact the functioning of various key institutions over the new NDA government's tenure.

Still, despite the current uncertainty, most observers expect that the core team handling communications, secretarial work and policy matters will likely remain stable. The expertise of these officers and continuity are crucial factors for maintaining continuity and efficiency during this tumultuous period.



BABUDOM BYTES  
Dilip Cherian

### Babus on edge after TDP victory in Andhra Pradesh

As N. Chandrababu Naidu, the TDP national president, has assumed charge of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after an overwhelming win for the TDP-led alliance (including JSP and BJP), several IAS and IPS officers who haven't exactly been TDP-friendly are feeling the heat.

Naidu, often hailed for his visionary leadership and technological prowess, is known for his administrative acumen and forward-thinking approach. His return to power is being seen by many as a herald of renewed progress and efficiency. Already, changes are underway.

The first major change is the appointment of Special Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad as the new Chief Secretary, replacing K.S. Jawahar Reddy who was asked to take a leave of absence. And he's not alone—several IPS officers who handled key cases against top TDP leaders are also reportedly on edge. This includes names like P.S.R. Anjaneyulu, P.V. Sunil Kumar, N. Sanjay, Kanthi Rana Tata, Kolli Raghuram Reddy, Y. Ravi Sankar Reddy, and Y. Rishant Reddy, along with another senior IAS officer, S.S. Rawat.

Sources informed DKB that initially, Naidu wasn't too keen on meeting IPS officers like Raghuram Reddy and Anjaneyulu without appointments. It is also almost certain that the new administration is planning to transfer all district Collectors, Superintendents of Police, Commissioners of Police, and other senior officials. With this looming, officials are reportedly lobbying for favourable postings through Naidu's close contacts.

Meanwhile, senior IAS officers are also eyeing positions in the Chief Minister's Office as secretaries-Principal Secretaries, and Special Chief Secretaries. The shake-up is proceeding well.

### High voltage drama: Babu ex-couple in power struggle

There's some high drama unfolding in Thairur, Tamil Nadu. Justice Anitha Sumanth has put a hold on the decision regarding former Director General of Police (DGP) Rajesh Das' plea to restore power to a bungalow. This isn't just any bungalow—both Das and his estranged wife, Tamil Nadu Energy Secretary Beela Venkatesan, are laying claim to it!

Earlier this week, the lawyer representing Venkatesan argued that Das has no right to demand the power be turned back on. After all, it was disconnected at Venkatesan's request. He also mentioned that Das had been MIA for two months before suddenly resurfacing and trying to take over the property. To add to the interest, there's even a criminal case against Das for trespassing and allegedly assaulting the security guard.

On the flip side, the lawyer representing the ex-DGP argued that despite the land being in Venkatesan's name, Das has been footing the bill for the housing loan and living there all along. When the judge suggested mediation, Venkatesan's counsel promptly declined.

So, we've got a missing ex-DGP reappearing, an energy secretary cutting the power, and a bungalow at the centre of it all. Who needs soap operas when real life gives us plots like these?

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

### WISDOM CORNER

- Not only does God play dice, but... he sometimes throws them where they cannot be seen. STEPHEN HAWKING
- Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. THOMAS A. EDISON
- I'm a visual thinker, not a language-based thinker. My brain is like Google Images. TEMPLE GRANDIN

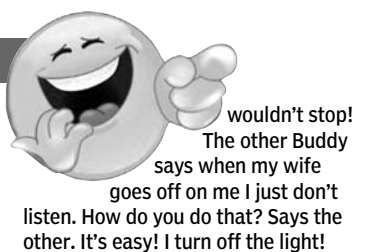
### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1389: The Battle of Kosovo, fought between the armies of the Serbian prince Lazar and the forces of the Ottoman sultan Murad I, concluded with an Ottoman victory.
- 1775: George Washington was named commander in chief of the colonies by the Continental Congress.
- 1864: Arlington National Cemetery was established when 200 acres (81 hectares) of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's estate in Virginia—which had been seized by the U.S. government—was authorized for a national cemetery.

### LOL

#### Wife was mad at me

Two deaf men were in a coffee shop discussing their wives. One signs to the other, boy was my wife mad at me last night! She went on and on and



### SPECTRUM GLOBAL COOPERATION

# An economic order fit for 21st Century

Eighty years ago, delegates from 44 countries gathered in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to coordinate reconstruction in the aftermath of World War II and promote international economic cooperation. The institutions for which they laid the groundwork—the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank—stand at the heart of the global monetary and financial order.

In recent years, however, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have laid bare just how out of step these institutions are with changing global economic realities and development priorities. If the international community is to have a chance of addressing twenty-first-century challenges effectively and equitably, the global economic and financial architecture must be reformed. Here're a few priorities stand out.

First, developing economies must be given greater voice in multilateral institutions. As has been widely recognized, global economic power has shifted significantly since 1944, with emerging markets and developing

economies carrying far more weight. Quotas and voting systems at the Bretton Woods institutions, however, are still skewed heavily in favor of the advanced economies. Moreover, a 'gentlemen's agreement' whereby a European leads the IMF and an American leads the World Bank persists.

This state of affairs not only undermines the Bretton Woods institutions' legitimacy; it also impedes their ability to meet the urgent and complex challenges of our time. That is why quotas and voting shares must be reallocated—a change that the advanced economies, especially the United States, have so far resisted—and a 'double-majority' leadership-selection procedure should be adopted. In such a system, successful candidates would have to obtain both a majority of weighted votes (which reflect countries' shares in the institution) and the support of a majority of member countries.

Second, the Global Financial Safety Net (GFSN)—the network of institutions that provide critical financing in times of crisis—must be strengthened and made

more responsive to the needs of developing economies facing evolving climate and macroeconomic risks. As it stands, the GFSN not only falls far short in terms of the amount of support it provides, it also suffers from built-in structural inequalities that leave developing countries more exposed. A bigger, more equitable GFSN would better safeguard countries against climate shocks and other crises, freeing up resources to foster development locally.

Third, an international mechanism must be established to deliver fair and swift resolutions to sovereign-debt crises. Work on such a sovereign-debt workout mechanism—including an institution that is independent from creditors and debtors (crucial to ensure fair treatment)—should begin now. But near-term solutions will also be needed to tackle the sovereign-debt crisis that is currently obstructing development in the Global South, as it hampers critical investments in climate action and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fourth, climate finance must

be vastly scaled up, and all public and private financial flows—including lending by international financial institutions—must be aligned with the goals set out in the Paris climate agreement. International standard-setting bodies must commit to addressing climate-related financial risks and supporting this 'Paris alignment.'

Last but not the least, international, national, and subnational development banks must be strengthened. Climate-change adaptation and mitigation will require huge amounts of investment, and there are limits to what commercial financial institutions can do.

Therefore, public development banks and funds must play a much larger role in financing structural transformation and sustainable development.

Ulrich Volz is Co-Chair of the Debt Relief for Green and Inclusive Recovery Project while Janak Raj is a senior fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress.

© PROJECT SYNDICATE



Ulrich Volz, Janak Raj

THE DEVELOPING ECONOMIES MUST BE GIVEN GREATER VOICE IN MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

### Real life villain

Sir, Apropos, "3 more held in Renukaswamy murder case," Orissa POST, June 14. The alleged role of Kannada actor Darshan in the murder of his ardent fan, for posting a derogatory comment against a woman said to be close to him, amounts to brutality. But, the actor isn't new to the controversial and despicable acts. He was also arrested a couple of years ago on charges of domestic violence. It's infelicitous, the hero in real life with massive mass following among the Kannada audience turned into a villain in real life. The celebrities with commandable influence over society are expected to be the role models, in setting examples for moral standards and etiquette, for the people to consume and adopt. But Darshan's deeds are quite opposite and reprehensible. The egocentrism, lack of empathy and guilt drove the actor to gross boundaries and allegedly caused the murder of his own idoliser. Against this backdrop, not only the trouper's image has been dented, several protests are being held demanding a complete ban on him by the film industry. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Biannual admission

Sir, UGC has allowed Indian universities to have biannual admissions from the next academic year. There will now be two admission seasons, one in January/ February and another in June/July. The students who will miss the initial phase of admission due to personal reasons and late results will benefit from this change. The decision by UGC will also open the door for students, who want to pursue their higher studies in foreign countries. Most developed countries follow this practice. Hopefully, this decision will be followed by many more changes in the education system. Deba Prasad Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

### NEET, not so neat

Sir, This is with reference to the news article, "NEET Grace Marks junked" on June 14 in Orissa POST. Number of marks scored as 720/720 in the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 stood as 2,3,0 and 2 respectively whereas in 2024 it has shot up to 67 which is quite alarming, and there is an indication that something fishy has taken place in the background. It is the responsibility of the newly elected government to see that things are set right by booking culprits and doing justice to the aspiring students. Nagendra Kumar Vempally, HYDERABAD

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rasulpur Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010





## Heatwave hits Delhi street vendors

### 50% SHOPKEEPERS REPORT SIGNIFICANT INCOME LOSS DUE TO EXTREME HEAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: Over 80 per cent of the street vendors surveyed in Delhi reported a decline in customers during heatwave days in April and May, and around 50 per cent experienced significant income loss, according to a new report by the think tank Greenpeace India and the National Hawker Federation.

The study, involving 721 street vendors, was conducted in April and May in various locations including Meena Bazaar, Old Delhi Railway Station area, Red Fort area, Nehru Place, Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar, Karol Bagh, India Gate, Janpath, Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar Road, Saket, Sarojini Market, among others.

Data from over 700 respondents highlight the devastating impact on their health, productivity, and livelihoods. We demand immediate government intervention, including the establishment of heat shelters in markets with essential facilities, safety kits, and institutional support for the most vulnerable, said Sandeep Verma, Convener of the National Hawker Federation Delhi.

80.08 per cent of street vendors observed a decline in customer numbers during heatwaves. 49.27 per cent of them have been experiencing a loss of income due to extreme climatic conditions, the report said.



A large number of respondents experienced health issues due to the hot weather. Irritability was the most common issue, affecting 73.44 per cent of respondents, followed by headaches (66.93 per cent), dehydration (67.46 per cent), sunburn (66.53 per cent), fatigue (60.82 per cent), and muscle cramps (57.37 per cent).

Seven out of eight women street vendors reported experiencing high blood pressure, while women in the middle age group raised concerns about delays in their menstrual cycles due to the extreme heat.

All the women who participated in the study reported that

sleeplessness during the night has become quite common due to increased heat, and this results in exhaustion throughout the day.

Women working as street vendors, tea estate workers, and 'safai sathis' in low-paid precarious occupations are on the streets exposed to extreme heat. Their productivity is impacted, and they are exposed to illnesses. For women, sustenance tasks like fetching water, fuel wood, and fodder take longer and impact their health. Pregnant women can face issues of stillbirth and miscarriages, she said.

The participants also flagged the issue of children in their

families exhibiting symptoms like vomiting, diarrhoea, and nosebleeds, further complicating the vendors' challenges.

Over 82 per cent of street vendors said they have not received any guidance on how to handle heatwaves.

The study found that a majority (71.05 per cent) of street vendors struggled to get medical care due to financial constraints.

Around 20 per cent said they could not afford healthcare at all. Only 27 per cent could afford healthcare without compromising other household necessities.

India experienced multiple intense and prolonged heatwaves in April and May which tested the limits of human endurance and the country's disaster preparedness, with many states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha, reporting heatwave-related deaths.

According to the India Meteorological Department, 14 of the 36 sub-divisions in the country have recorded over 15 heatwave days (when the maximum temperature is at least 40 degrees Celsius and 4.5 degrees above normal) from March 1 to June 9.

Similar heatwaves, which once occurred every 30 years, have become about 45 times more likely due to climate change, according to 'World Weather Attribution', a group of leading climate scientists.

## Assam's veteran MLA resigns after LS victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 14: Assam's longest-serving legislator Phani Bhusan Choudhury of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) resigned from the Assam Friday, following his election to the Lok Sabha.

Choudhury, who won the Barpeta Lok Sabha seat, handed over his resignation letter to Speaker Biswajit Daimary, flanked by senior AGP leaders, including party chief Atul Bora and Rajya Sabha MP Birendra Prasad Baishya.

He had been representing the Bongaigaon Assembly segment continuously since 1985 and was a minister during the second AGP government from 1996 to 2001. He was also a minister in the BJP-led government from 2016 to 2021.

He tasted victory in the Lok Sabha elections in his second attempt, having fought the 2014 polls unsuccessfully when AGP had no alliance with any other party.

Speaking to reporters, an emotional Choudhury expressed his gratitude to the people of Bongaigaon for their continued faith in him.

"I thank the people of Bongaigaon, whom I had considered my family and they too had reciprocated my feelings. I am forever indebted to those who have always supported me," said Choudhury, 72, famous for



**I thank the people of Bongaigaon, whom I had considered my family and they too had reciprocated my feelings. I am forever indebted to those who have always supported me**

PHANI BHUSAN CHOUDHURY

living a simple life, as tears rolled down his cheeks.

He said some of his dreams for Bongaigaon have remained unfulfilled, even as he hoped that as the MP of Barpeta, he would be able to do equal justice to all the Assembly segments in his constituency.

Party president Bora, in a post on X, said the Barpeta constituency stands to benefit from Choudhury's experience.

Expressing gratitude to the people of Bongaigaon for their

unwavering support of Choudhury over the last four decades, he said, "Now, the people of Barpeta LS Constituency have chosen him as their Member of Parliament. We are confident that Phani da's extensive experience will elevate the development of Barpeta Parliamentary Constituency to new heights."

"We are confident that Phani da will be a strong advocate for Assam's interests in the Lok Sabha. We wish him all the best in his new endeavour," Bora added.

Choudhury is the first AGP leader to be elected to the Lok Sabha in the last 15 years, with the previous representative from the party in the Lower House of Parliament being Joseph Toppo in 2009. The party had contested two seats in this Lok Sabha polls as part of the BJP-led alliance in the state.

### ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

## Delhi HC restrains illegal streaming



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: The Delhi High Court has restrained the unauthorised streaming and broadcast of the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup on a plea by its official broadcaster expressing strong apprehension over illegal dissemination of major sporting events in the past.

Justice Sanjeev Naurla passed the interim order on a lawsuit by Star India Private Limited against several rogue websites which were likely to indulge in the unauthorised dissemination of cricket matches on their platforms.

Star India said it held the media rights in respect of various sporting events, including domestic and international

cricket matches organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

It submitted that based on past instances of illegal dissemination of major sporting events, there was a strong apprehension that certain online platforms were likely to indulge in such unauthorised streaming of the T20 World Cup being held from June 2 to June 24 in West Indies and the US.

Stating that it recognised the widespread appeal and significance of ICC events, particularly in the Indian subcontinent, the court observed that unauthorised telecasting of these events poses a significant threat to the revenue streams of the

plaintiff which owns several channels and online video-streaming platform Hotstar.

"Therefore, swift action to prevent such infringements is crucial to preserving the plaintiff's investment in the broadcasting rights and maintaining their copyright protection," the court said in a recent order.

"Defendants No 1 to 9, and/or any person acting on their behalf, are restrained from communicating, hosting, streaming, screening, disseminating or making available for viewing downloading, without authorisation, any part of the ICC events, specifically the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, on any electronic or digital platform in any manner whatsoever," the court ordered.

If any further infringing websites are discovered, the plaintiff has the liberty to communicate the details of such sites to the telecom department and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for issuance of blocking orders, the court said.

The court also asked the Internet Service Providers and Telecom Service Providers to block access to such rogue websites.



Pro-tem Speaker Ninong Ering conducts proceedings during the inaugural session of the 8th Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, in Itanagar, Friday

## Sikkim CM relinquishes Soreng, retains Rhenock

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, June 14: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang Friday resigned as the MLA of Soreng-Chakung Assembly constituency and decided to retain his other seat, Rhenock.

His resignation was accepted by Speaker M N Sherpa, according to a notification issued by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly (SLA). Tamang was elected from the two seats in the Assembly elections. The SKM swept the polls, winning 31 of the 32 constituencies.

"In pursuance of Section 70 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 read with Rule 91 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, P S Tamang, member, elected from 07-Soreng-Chakung and 19-Rhenock Assembly constituencies has tendered his resignation from 07-Soreng-Chakung Assembly constituency on June 14, 2024," the notification issued by SLA secretary Lalit Kumar Gurung said.

Consequently, Soreng-Chakung Assembly constituency stands vacant with effect from the afternoon of June 14, 2024, it said.

The 56-year-old Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president will represent Rhenock seat in the Assembly.

### CHANDNI CHOWK FIRE

## LOSSES LIKELY TO BE IN CRORES

### TWO BUILDINGS HOUSING MULTIPLE SHOPS COLLAPSE DUE TO THE BLAZE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

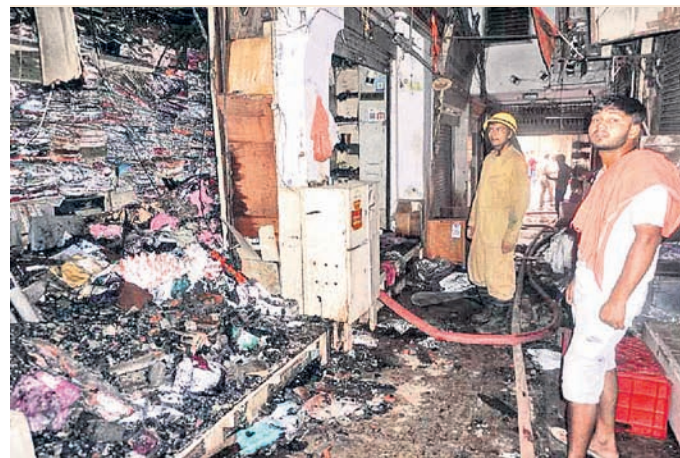
New Delhi, June 14: Everything has turned to ashes — dreams, the shop and all its goods, said a trader whose shop was destroyed in the massive blaze in Delhi's Chandni Chowk that even brought down two buildings in the area.

His was among over 50 shops that were reduced to cinders in a fire that required 50 fire tenders and 200 on-the-ground personnel to be brought under control after a 12-hour effort.

The number of shops that were damaged by the fire could still go up and the losses made by the traders could be in crores. The fire broke out in Chandni Chowk's Old Katra Marwadi Market Thursday evening. There were no casualties.

It was 4.15pm Thursday when Narendra, 60, was having a regular call with one of his customers when he heard screaming.

People were shouting about a fire. "We already knew that our shop was in a narrow place. I immediately asked everyone in the shop to evacuate. Within a few minutes, everything was reduced to ashes," he said.



The shops that were gutted sold sarees, dupattas and other combustible items, according to officials.

Delhi Fire Services Chief Atul Garg said two buildings housing multiple shops, including the one where the fire started, collapsed due to the blaze.

Deepak Mahendru, president of Nai Sadak Traders Association, said that police and Fire brigade teams are still keeping traders away from their shops

THE BLAZE REQUIRED 50 FIRE TENDERS AND 200 ON-THE-GROUND PERSONNEL TO BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AFTER A 12-HOUR EFFORT

as more buildings could still collapse.

"So far, I got to know that more than 50 shops are gutted causing a loss of ₹70-80 crore of products only," Mahendru said.

The fire started from shop number 1580 or 1581, and within no time it engulfed the entire area. Fortunately, no one received any injuries, else it could have been drastic, he added.

Police have not allowed the shopkeepers to enter their shops

as the Fire department continues its operation. So, a total estimate of the losses incurred has not been made by the traders.

According to the Fire department, the blaze erupted from a shop due to a short circuit in an air conditioner (AC) which spread to other shops. Due to the intensity of the fire, two buildings collapsed.

DFS officials said firefighters had to face several challenges in the operation. "Due to the (narrow) lanes, we had to extend our fire hose for more than 300 metres and had to add extra pressure," an official said.

The Fire department also had to use water bowlers and robots to douse the flames.

The official further said that there was no water sources nearby which added to the problem of refilling the water tanks.

He said, "The shops had combustible material which only needs a small spark."

Dangling power lines in the area was also a challenge for the firefighters, the official added.

The fire was brought under control at 4.30am Friday, which was followed by a cooling operation at the spot with the help of eight fire tenders.

## Elected MLAs take oath in Arunachal Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, June 14: Newly elected MLAs of Arunachal Pradesh took oath Friday.

Pro-tem Speaker Ninong Ering administered the oath to the newly elected members during the inaugural day of the two-day special session summoned by Governor Lt Gen (Retd) KT Parnaik.

Eleven of the newly elected MLAs took oath in Hindi.

Fifty-nine of the sixty MLAs took oath during the day, while Ering was administered the oath by the governor on the previous day.

As many as 35 members of the outgoing Assembly were re-elected while five former members also got elected this time. There are 20 fresh faces in the current Assembly.

A total of four woman candidates were also elected to the Assembly in the April 19 polls.

Ering, while congratulating the elected members, advised them to perform their duties diligently to keep the tradition of the House and the aspirations of the people alive.

Participate in healthy delib-



eration and debates to uphold the dignity of the temple of democracy, Ering said.

The House also observed a two-minute silence for all the former members who have died.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker would be elected Saturday.

The ruling BJP bagged 46 seats in the 60-member House, while the National People's Party (NPP) won five seats and the Ajit Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) secured three seats.

The People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) won two seats and the Congress one. There are also three Independent MLAs.



## of the day quote

Let the elections take place. We will win the polls and then decide



SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

I congratulate all my colleagues in the cabinet on being assigned their portfolios. Together, we have taken a solemn oath to serve the people of Andhra Pradesh and usher in an era of People's Governance. I'm confident that you shall strive to deliver on our people's expectations as Ministers. My best wishes to you all as you embark on this journey of service and devotion



N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

In this election, the voters of the state rejected the 'ICE' (Income Tax, CBI and Enforcement Directorate) and their repression, and it is the real strength of Maharashtra



SUPRIYA SULE | NCP (SP) LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### V Somanna's son, 2 others booked

**Bangalore:** An FIR has been registered against three persons, including Arun B S, son of Union Minister V Somanna, for alleged fraud and falsification of accounts in an event management company and also threatening a couple associated with the firm, police said Friday. The FIR was filed as per the direction of the 37th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate here, they said. There was no immediate comment from Arun or his family on the matter.

### Five killed in road mishap

**Datia (MP):** Five persons, including a 11-year-old girl, were killed and 20 injured after a tractor-trolley overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district in the early hours of Friday, police said. The victims were on their way to Ratangarh Mata shrine when the vehicle veered off the road near Maithana Pali around 4:30am, overturned and plunged 15 feet into a culvert, a police official said.

### HC seeks police stand on Bibhav's bail plea

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Friday sought the city police's stand on the bail plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the case pertaining to the alleged assault on AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. A vacation bench of Justice Amit Sharma issued notice on the bail plea and asked the Delhi Police to file a status report. Kumar, presently in judicial custody, allegedly assaulted Maliwal May 13 at Kejriwal's official residence. He was arrested May 18.

### Massive fire at shopping mall

**Kolkata:** Three days after a blaze erupted in a closed restaurant in Park Street area, another massive fire broke out in a shopping mall in the southern part of Kolkata Friday, a fire department official said. No injuries were reported in the blaze that erupted on the third floor of the shopping mall in Kasba area even as 16 fire tenders took nearly two-and-half hours to bring it under control, he said. "The fire has been brought under control and the cooling process is underway. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, although it could have originated from the air conditioning system," the official told PTI.

## POLITICAL RUMBLINGS IN MAHA

# Rifts, threats emerge within alliance govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 14:** Tensions are rising within the ruling Mahayuti coalition in Maharashtra amid internal conflicts and open threats over unresolved issues like cabinet expansion and Rajya Sabha nominations.

Discord within the Nationalist Congress Party has surfaced with reports of discontent over the nomination of Sunetra Pawar, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's wife, for a vacant Rajya Sabha seat.

The move has sparked dissent within the NCP, notably expressed by veteran leader Chhagan Bhujbal. Bhujbal, a prominent OBC leader, hinted at feelings of being sidelined in the party's decision-making process, raising questions about the fairness of ticket allocations for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections.

Asked if injustice was meted out to him over Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha tickets, an apparently sulking Bhujbal said the question should be asked to "them". "It is my desire (to become an MP). That is why I was ready to contest from Nashik Lok Sabha seat. As I had been told that my ticket was finalised in Delhi, I had started working, but when the decision (to announce the name) dragged on for a month, I stopped

as there was enough humiliation," Bhujbal said. The Nashik ticket was eventually bagged by the Shiv Sena's Hemant Godse who lost to Rajabhau Waje of the rival Shiv Sena (UBT) in the polls.

Ajit Pawar Friday sought to downplay the apparent resentment in his party, stating that the decision to field his wife for Rajya Sabha bypoll was taken by the NCP's apex body, and denied reports that Bhujbal was upset. Asked about media reports that Bhujbal, a cabinet minister, was sulking after Sunetra Pawar's nomination, the NCP president maintained that his party colleague himself told him that he was not upset.

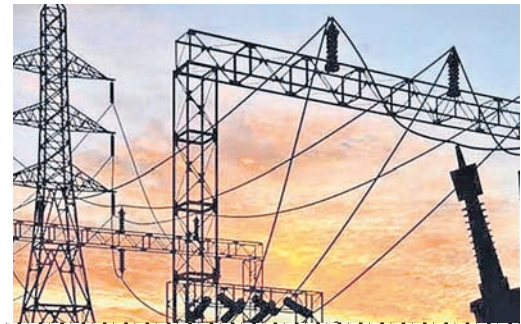
Some people, including those from the Opposition, and "our close friends" are planting such reports but there was no truth to them, Ajit Pawar said. Key NCP leaders, including Praful Patel and Bhujbal, were present when his wife submitted nomination papers, Ajit pointed out.

**Around 3,000 proposals were received under the CSIR-ASPIRE scheme which is a testimony of the government's efforts to support women scientists**

JITENDRA SINGH | SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

## PUNJAB HIKES POWER RATES

Punjab Friday hiked power tariff for domestic users by 11 paise per unit, while for industry it was 15 paise per unit. The new tariff will be applicable from June 16 to March 31, 2025



# MASSIVE LANDSLIDES HIT SIKKIM

At least six people were killed as landslides and heavy rain impacted the Himalayan state severely, damaging properties and disrupting road connectivity, power and food supplies and mobile networks in several areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gangtok, June 14:** More than 1,200 tourists, including 15 foreigners, were stranded as massive landslides triggered by incessant rainfall caused devastation in northern Sikkim's Mangan district, an official said Friday.

At least six people were killed as landslides and heavy rain impacted the Himalayan state severely, damaging properties and disrupting road connectivity, power and food supplies and mobile networks in several areas.

"As per the ground report, around 1,200 domestic and 15 foreign tourists (Thailand:2, Nepal:3, Bangladesh:10) are stranded in Lachung, Mangan district, due to road blockages caused by heavy rainfall and landslides," Sikkim Tourism & Civil Aviation Department's Principal Secretary C S Rao said in a statement. Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang chaired a high-level meeting in Mintokgang to take stock of the situation, another official said.

The local authorities have requested the stranded tourists to



stay put in their respective places and avoid taking risks, Rao said. He also stated that there is adequate stock of food supplies and rations to cater to all the stranded tourists.

The office of the chief secretary has already initiated talks with the Centre for airlifting of all the tourists, depending on the weather conditions, he said. If required, the tourists will be evacuated by road, and the department is "working in close co-

ordination with the district administration, police and tourism officials in Mangan" along with the local tourism stakeholders for the safe evacuation of those stranded there, he said.

Rao assured the tourists of extending all possible support and assistance to them during this period of distress due to natural calamity.

Only Lachung is cut off from the rest of the state and all other parts of Sikkim are open and

safe for travel, he said. Landslides blocked stretches of roads and several houses were inundated or damaged due to heavy rain in the district, while electricity poles were swept away, another official said.

The Chief Minister's meeting was "crucial for strategising and coordinating our response to restore normalcy and ensure the safety and well-being of our residents", he said.

During the meeting, officials concerned provided details on the extent of damages on critical roads and the immediate challenges for affected people.

They apprised the Chief Minister of the damaged infrastructure, especially roads and bridges vital for transportation, and relief operations. They also briefed the CM about immediate relief measures, including the deployment of emergency service personnel, and the supplies of essential commodities.

Tamang directed the officials to monitor the situation closely and expedite the process of reestablishing connectivity and relief efforts.

## Rajat Sharma files defamation case against Cong leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Veteran journalist Rajat Sharma Friday claimed before the Delhi High Court that he was defamed by Congress leaders Ragini Nayak, Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Khara over use of "abusive language" during his show on the Lok Sabha elections result day.

Sharma's counsel urged the court to grant ex-parte relief by ordering removal of the alleged defamatory tweets and videos against him on social media and restraining the political leaders from making allegations against him.

The lawsuit came up for hearing before a vacation bench of Justice Neema Bansal Krishna who, after hearing arguments on behalf of Sharma, reserved the order on the interim prayer. "Arguments heard. Order in chamber," the judge said.

Sharma, the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Independent News Service Private Limited (INDIA TV), was also present during the hearing. The controversy arose after Nayak accused Sharma of abusing her on national television during a debate on the show on the counting day of 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Sharma's counsel said while the debate was happening on the channel on the evening of June 4, the day when election results came, the Congress leaders started tweeting only June 10 and 11.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing Sharma, contended that a clip of the show was being circulated in which an abuse had been inserted whereas the original footage does not contain any such content. He also played the video clip for perusal of the court.



Cash recovered after police busted an international gang of bookies involved in online trading in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. Police arrested nine people of a gang hailing from Punjab, Rajasthan, MP and recovered around 15 crores cash currency including laptops, mobile phones and sims from their possession

## Several houses set afire in Jiribam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jiribam (Manipur), June 14:** In fresh violence in Manipur's trouble-torn Jiribam district, several houses in Borobekra subdivision were set afire by unknown persons early Friday, police said.

According to the police, a low-grade explosion was also reported from the area. "Two makeshift houses in that area were razed by miscreants. Some abandoned makeshift houses and standalone homes were also burned down around 2.30 am Friday. The incident happened in the Bhutanakhal locality, the remotest part of the Borobekra subdivision," Superintendent of Police, Jiribam, Maharbam PS, told IANS. Nearly 1,000 people be-



longing to the Meitei community in villages like Lamtaikhunou, Madhupur, Loukoipung, etc. under the Borobekra subdivision have taken refuge in seven shelter camps in Jiribam town after the district witnessed violence since June 6 in the wake of the killing of 59-year-old farmer, Soibam

Saratkumar Singh.

On the other hand, around 600 Hmar-Kuki-Zomi tribal residents of Jiribam, which abuts Assam, have crossed the inter-state border and have taken shelter in the Cachar district of the neighbouring state.

Security has been bolstered in Jiribam with six companies of the CRPF, ten companies of the Assam Rifles, and the state Police and Village Defence Forces (VDF) deployed to maintain law and order in the area. The district administration has imposed Section 144 in the entire district.

Although several shops and business establishments were kept open Friday in Jiribam town, few people came out of their residences as tension prevailed in the locality.

## Army gets Nagastra-1, India's first indigenous suicide drone

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 14:** The Indian Army has received its first indigenously-made suicide drones.

These unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), known as Nagastra-1, are manufactured by Solar Industries Nagpur.

The company in April 2023 bagged an order to supply unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) Nagastra to the Indian Army, beating competitors from Israel and Poland.

Nagastra-1 is a cutting-edge unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) designed for loitering munitions with advanced features such as abort, recover, and reuse capabilities. The army ordered these drones using its emergency pro-



urement powers, and they were delivered within a year to address urgent needs along the Pakistan and China borders. Furthermore, these drones are capable of operating from high-altitude areas in extreme temperatures.

These systems can target a variety of soft-skin threats and offer a cost-effective alternative to traditional missiles and precision munitions.

# Only 29% elderly have access to social security schemes: Study

Financial insecurity is a prevalent issue among the elderly. A mere 29 per cent reported having access to social security schemes, such as old-age pensions or provident funds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 14:** Only 29 per cent elderly people reported to have access to social security schemes, such as old-age pensions or provident funds, according to a study by the NGO HelpAge.

A similar proportion receives financial support from family members, with elderly women slightly more likely to receive support than their male counterparts, the study -- 'Ageing in India - Exploring Preparedness

& Response to Care Challenges - A HelpAge India Report' -- released Friday on the eve of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day said.

The study, which surveyed 5,169 elders and 1,333 caregivers from different socio-economic categories across 20 Tier I and Tier II cities in 10 states, sheds light on issues related to work participation, financial security, health, caregiving, social participation, and digital access.

It reveals that only around 15 per cent of elderly persons are currently working, with a stark gender disparity: 24 per cent of elderly males compared to just seven per cent of elderly females. Work participation is slightly higher in Tier I cities (17 per cent) than in Tier II cities (14 per cent).

Alarmingly, one-third of the elderly reported having no income in the past year. Financial



insecurity is a common concern, with 65 per cent feeling financially insecure. Only 29 per cent receive financial support from family members, with elderly females slightly more likely to receive support than their male counterparts.

Health issues are widespread

among the elderly, with nearly half (48 per cent) diagnosed with hypertension and 43 per cent with diabetes. Arthritis or other bone/joint diseases affect 35 per cent and 19 per cent report high cholesterol. Multiple morbidities are common, with 54 per cent suffering from two or more

non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The prevalence of NCDs increases with age, especially among those aged 80 and above. Access to healthcare remains a challenge. While 79 per cent visited government healthcare facilities in the past year, awareness of geriatric healthcare facilities is low at just 15 per cent.

Health insurance coverage is limited to 31 per cent of the elderly. Caregiving primarily falls on family members, especially spouses and children.

This support is more common in Tier II cities, where 66 per cent of elderly live with their spouse and children compared to 57 per cent in Tier I cities. Despite the support, caregiving poses significant physical and financial challenges for caregivers, with 29 per cent reporting physical challenges and 32 per cent facing financial difficulties.

Social participation among the elderly is minimal, with only seven per cent being members of any social organisation. Elder abuse is reported by 7 per cent of respondents. Awareness of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007, is low at 9 per cent.

Digital access remains limited, with 59 per cent of elders having no access to digital devices. Smart phones are the most commonly used device among those who do have access. There is a significant gender divide, with 48 per cent of elderly males having access to digital devices compared to 33 per cent of elderly females.

Digital usage decreases with age, with only 26 per cent of those above 80 years using digital devices. Among users, the primary purposes are entertainment, social media, and information searches.



# national



The Indian Navy is continuously becoming stronger, factored by growing industrial infrastructure. Our shipyards are expanding, aircraft carriers increasing, and our Navy is emerging as a new powerful force. We will give momentum to our efforts in this tenure as well

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

## 'MAHARAJ' DOESN'T DROP ON NETFLIX

YRF Entertainment's "Maharaj" did not premiere on Netflix Friday as scheduled after the Gujarat High Court stayed its release following a petition by members of a Hindu sect who claimed the film would hurt their religious sentiments



## of the day quote

Our nation has achieved remarkable feats- aircraft carrier Vikrant, frigates, Tejas aircraft were all indigenously made



JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

Due to less water reaching Yamuna, water production in Delhi is continuously decreasing. Under normal circumstances, 1005 MGD of water is produced in Delhi, but it has been continuously decreasing since last one week



ATISHI MARLENA | DELHI WATER MINISTER

A lot of leaders are expressing their views and opinions after the polls. In a democracy, it is their right to express their opinions and I do not want to react to them. I have focussed myself on development, how we can provide additional help and complete more development works



AJIT PAWAR | MAHA DEPUTY CM

## POST OF THE DAY

After a long time seeing a BJP Post, by a BJP MLA, on BJP schemes of BJP Chief Minister without Modi ji's photo. Winds of change. @saptagiriulaka

## SHORT TAKES

### Home Minister reviews J&K security situation

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of several terror incidents there, including an attack on a bus ferrying pilgrims, sources said. He called a high-level meeting June 16, to be attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, top officials of the Army, CRPF and others to review the prevailing situation in the Union Territory and steps taken to check terror incidents.

### Yaba tablets worth ₹6cr seized; 3 held

Guwahati: Narcotic drugs valued at Rs six crore were seized in Assam's Cachar district Friday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. Three persons, including a woman, from Mizoram were arrested in this connection. "Based on secret inputs, @cacharpolice carried out a special operation in an inter-state border area and apprehended 3 people who were in possession of 21,000 YABA tablets worth Rs 6cr," Sarma posted on X.

### Hunt on for leopard

Tirupathur (Tamil Nadu): A leopard strayed into a private school campus here Friday, triggering panic among the locals, a senior forest official said. While a hunt is on for the big cat, the district collector has declared all schools here closed for the next three days. According to the official, a parent who had come to the school to pick up his child at about 4 pm noticed the leopard on the campus of the school located near the Collectorate. He immediately informed the authorities. Police and forest department personnel rushed to the spot and ensured that the children returned home safely.

# POCSO case: Reprieve for Yedi till June 17

Yediyurappa has been booked under the POCSO Act and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the IPC based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting February 2 this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 14: Karnataka High Court Friday restrained the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from arresting former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.

It also directed the veteran BJP leader to appear before the CID, which is probing the case, June 17.

A Bangalore court Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Yediyurappa in the case registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act March 14 this year.

The Special Investigation Team of the CID had moved the First Fast Track Court seeking an arrest warrant against him since he failed to appear for questioning Wednesday.

Yediyurappa had sought time to join the probe. According to reports, the veteran BJP leader has gone to an "undisclosed" location in New Delhi.

According to police, Yediyurappa has been booked under the POCSO Act and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting February 2 this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony here. Yediyurappa, who has denied the charge and said he would



Yediyurappa is not in Karnataka, adding that without a warrant other state police would not support them to take the accused into custody.

Nagesh countered this by arguing that Yediyurappa had already appeared for questioning, given his voice sample and completely cooperated with the police.

On the other hand, the advocate appearing for the victim, senior Advocate Balan told the court that the police did not investigate the case properly and hence the arrest was needed. He also said the accused is highly influential and to protect the evidence from being tampered with, it is necessary to take him into custody and continue the investigation.

Nagesh drew the attention of the court regarding other cases filed by the victim's 54-year-old mother, who passed away recently, against her own son and husband.

The victim's brother had filed a petition in the court earlier this week alleging that though the case was registered March 14, no progress has been made in the investigation. The petitioner prayed that Yediyurappa should be arrested and interrogated.

After the Sadashivanagar police registered the case in March, the Karnataka Director General of Police Alok Mohan had issued an order transferring it to the CID for further investigation.

In April, the CID collected the voice sample of Yediyurappa after summoning him to the office.

fight the case legally, had filed two separate petitions in the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail and quashing of the FIR. The High Court, which adjourned the hearing for two weeks, during the hearing observed that the 81-year-old Yediyurappa is now in the sunset of his life and it is not appropriate to arrest him. Noting that Yediyurappa had sent a letter to the police volunteering to appear for inquiry July 17, Justice Krishna S Dixit said, "the court cannot jump to the conclusion that a case is made out for arrest or detention or for custodial interrogation of the petitioner who happens to

be the former Chief Minister of the state and in the late evening of his life with ailments natural to that age."

Senior Advocate C V Nagesh appeared for Yediyurappa and argued that the latter had been served notice under 41 (a) of CrPC and, hence, there was no requirement for his arrest. Nagesh also cited Supreme Court verdicts and requested the court to grant anticipatory bail.

On behalf of the Government, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty appeared and tried to convince the court by saying Yediyurappa skipped two notices served by SIT. Shetty also said that an arrest warrant was necessary since

A BANGALORE COURT THURSDAY ISSUED A NON-BAILABLE ARREST WARRANT AGAINST YEDIYURAPPA IN THE CASE REGISTERED AGAINST HIM UNDER THE POCSO ACT MARCH 14 THIS YEAR. THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM OF THE CID HAD MOVED THE FIRST FAST TRACK COURT SEEKING AN ARREST WARRANT AGAINST HIM SINCE HE FAILED TO APPEAR FOR QUESTIONING WEDNESDAY.

## SNIPPETS

### Passengers jump off train over fire rumour; three mowed down on adjacent track

NEW DELHI: Three passengers of the Sasaram Intercity Express were killed Friday evening after they jumped off the train over rumours of a fire, and were hit by a goods train on the adjacent track, officials said. Some of the passengers were injured in the incident around 8 pm at Kumandih railway station in Dhanbad Division, its Divisional Railway Manager said. A rumour was spread by some miscreants that a fire has broken out in the train which caused a stampede. Many passengers jumped off the train on the adjacent track. A goods train was coming from the other direction and ran over them. Three were killed.

### Renukaswamy murder case: Two more held

BANGALORE: Two more persons were arrested Friday in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, in which Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is an accused along with his friend Pavithra Gowda, police sources said. Jagadish and Anukumar were taken into custody from the district headquarters town of Chitradurga by a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dinakar. They are reportedly involved in kidnapping Renukaswamy from Chitradurga, the sources said. Darshan, popularly known as "Challenging Star", and 12 of his close associates were arrested Tuesday for the murder of the 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor. Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga, allegedly commented on the social media account of Gowda, a small-time actress, accusing her of creating a rift between the actor and his wife.

### ED makes fresh arrest in Jal Jeevan Mission case

JAIPUR/NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it has made a fresh arrest in connection with its money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme being implemented in Rajasthan. Padamchand Jain, proprietor of Shree Shyam Tubewell Company, was taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Jaipur Thursday. He was produced before a special court in Jaipur Friday and was sent to the ED custody until June 18, the federal agency said in a statement. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) launched by the Union government aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through household tap connections and it is being implemented in Rajasthan by the state's Public Health Engineering (PHE) department.



BJP MPs Yogendra Chandolia, Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Bansuri Swaraj and other leaders pay respects as bodies of the Kuwait fire tragedy victims are brought at the Palam Technical Airport in New Delhi. A special flight carrying the bodies of 14 out of the 45 Indians from Kochi landed in Delhi

## Pawan Kalyan named Andhra Deputy CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), June 14: The Andhra Pradesh government Friday designated Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan as Deputy Chief Minister.

The actor-turned-politician has been allotted Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Environment, Forests, and Science and Technology portfolios. Rural Water Supply department would also be handled by Kalyan.

"Congratulations to Pawan Kalyan on becoming the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. I congratulate all my colleagues in the cabinet on being assigned their portfolios," said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in a post on X. Noting that the new ministers have taken a solemn oath to serve the people of Andhra Pradesh and usher in an era of people's governance, Naidu exuded confidence that all the ministers will strive to deliver and meet people's expectations.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's son Nara Lokesh was given Human Resources Development, Information Technology and Communication portfolios. During the erstwhile TDP government between 2014 and 2019, Lokesh had worked as the IT Minister. Along with Naidu, as many as 24 ministers were sworn in Wednesday. Anitha Vangalapati was given Home Affairs and Disaster Management portfolios while K Atchannaidu, Andhra Pradesh TDP president, has been allotted Agriculture, Co-operation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development & Fisheries departments.

## Textbooks in T'gana carry KCR's name; state govt embarrassed

Sources Friday claimed that the officials initially sought the textbooks to be returned but now suggested pasting the foreword page on the backside of the (inner) cover page so that the reference to the previous government is not visible

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, June 14: In a goof-up, Telugu textbooks carrying the previous year's foreword referring to K Chandrasekhar Rao as the Chief Minister was used in this year's books causing embarrassment to the Congress government in Telangana. Books for classes I to X, carrying the old foreword, were also distributed to students of state-run schools when they reopened June 12 after the summer vacation.

Sources Friday claimed that the officials initially sought the textbooks to be returned but



now suggested pasting the foreword page on the backside of the (inner) cover page so that the reference to the previous government is not visible. When contacted, a senior Education department official Thursday said a particular textbook was not distributed to students as some rectifications are

to be carried out, but did not elaborate.

The Telangana State United Teachers Federation Friday sought the state government to conduct an inquiry and take action against officials who are responsible for the error. The Federation General Secretary Chava Ravi alleged that the error was due to the negligence of the officials of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).

He said the government should inquire into the matter and take action against those responsible. Ravi recalled that, in another act of alleged negligence,

the Preamble of the Constitution was published on the cover page of a school textbook without the words 'socialist' and 'secular' last year.

The opposition BRS Thursday attacked the Congress government for allegedly withdrawing textbooks meant for distribution to government school students as they contained reference to KCR.

BRS MLA and former Education minister P Sabita Indra Reddy asked whether it was justified to "withdraw the books or tear off the pages or paste another page on it because they had KCR's name."

## Sheena Bora's bones 'missing', CBI admits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 14: In a bizarre development, the CBI has told a special Mumbai court that the bones and mortal remains purportedly of Mumbai executive Sheena Bora recovered by Raigad police after her murder 12 years ago, are reportedly "missing" and untraceable.

The revelation came up during the examination of a witness, Dr Zeba Khan, a forensic expert at the Sir J J Hospital here, who was the first person to confirm that the bones and other remains found were of a human being. With the help of a local policeman, the bones were recovered by the Pen police in Raigad from the spot where Bora's body was allegedly burnt and dumped in the deep forests near Gagode-Khurd village.

Police said that Bora, an executive with Mumbai Metro, was allegedly eliminated by her mother, and her ex-husband in connivance with her driver April 24, 2012, but the shocking killing came to light only around August 2015.



At the court hearing May 7, Public Prosecutor CJ Nandode, appearing for the CBI, sought to show the bones that were recovered, for identification by Dr Khan, but despite a diligent search, they could not be located. At the next hearing Thursday, the CBI admitted that the two marked packets containing the evidence (bones) could not be traced, and the examination of the witness (Dr Khan) would continue without showing it to her, though it was crucial for the case.

According to the prosecution, Bora's mother and former media baroness Indrani Mukerjea, along with her ex-husband Sanjeev Khanna and her driver Shyamvar Rai, had strangled her in a car on the night of April 24, 2012. Later that night, they took her body, concealed in a suitcase, down to Gagode-Khurd, burnt the bag, and dumped the remnants in the forest before returning home early the next morning.



# international

of the day quote

We have consistently urged the PRC to avoid coercive or provocative actions both in the Taiwan Straits and in other areas like the South China Sea and off Japan

SANDRA OUDKIRK | DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN

We receive letters, complaints and oral complaints that interference is being done in the judiciary in which a few institutions, naming them is not appropriate, are involved

MALIK SHAHZAD AHMAD | CHIEF JUSTICE OF LAHORE HIGH COURT, PAKISTAN

We encourage the (Sri Lankan) authorities to continue to build on these hard-won gains and remain steadfast with their reform commitments

PETER BREUER | HEAD OF THE IMF MISSION, SRI LANKA

## SHORT TAKES

### UN urges rebels to free staffers

**United Nations:** The heads of six UN agencies and three international humanitarian organisations issued a joint appeal Thursday to Yemen's Houthi rebels for the immediate release of 17 members of their staff who were recently detained along with many others also being held by the Iranian-backed group. Their appeal was echoed by a statement from several dozen nations and the European Union ahead of a UN Security Council meeting on Yemen where UN special envoy Hans Grundberg said the Houthis were holding all those detained in the crackdown incommunicado.

### Greece PM tweaks government

**Athens:** Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis tweaked his Cabinet Friday with a focus on cost-of-living and labour policies after his center-right party's victory in Europe's parliamentary elections. Despite a recent dip in inflation, polls consistently show most Greeks' top concern is cost of living since the pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine contributed to rising prices in the southern European country. Takis

### Niger court lifts ex-Prez immunity

**Dakar:** Niger's highest court lifted the immunity of the country's democratically elected President, Mohamed Bazoum, nearly a year after he was overthrown by mutinous soldiers, his lawyer said Friday, opening the door for the military junta to prosecute him for alleged high treason. Bazoum and his family have been under house arrest since a military coup that overthrew his rule last summer. The junta authorities said they planned to prosecute him for "high treason" and for undermining national security.

### Russia downs 87 Ukrainian drones

**Moscow:** Russia said Friday it had downed 87 Ukrainian drones overnight, of which 70 had targeted the southern Rostov region that houses the headquarters of its military operation against Kyiv. "During the night, an attempt by the Kyiv regime to commit a terrorist attack with drones... was foiled," the defence ministry said. There were no human casualties in Rostov, but the attacks sparked power cuts in several areas, regional governor Vasily Golubev said on Telegram.



We celebrate the election that happened in India. It was the largest exercise of the electoral franchise in any country anytime in history

MATTHEW MILLER | STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

## SC REVERSES TRUMP-ERA BAN

The Supreme Court Friday struck down a Trump-era ban on bump stocks, a gun accessory that allows semi-automatic weapons to fire rapidly like machine guns and was used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history



## Kuwait blaze: One more Indian dies; toll rises to 46

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, June 14:** The death toll of Indians killed in the massive fire in Kuwait has risen to 46 with one more person succumbing to injuries as authorities said that an electrical short circuit in the room of the guard on the ground floor of the building caused the blaze that killed 50 people.

Most deaths were due to smoke inhalation while residents in the six-storey building were sleeping when the fire broke out early Wednesday in Kuwait's southern Ahmadi Governorate. The building was home to 196 migrant workers, mostly Indians. "One of the injured died" overnight, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya told reporters, raising the death toll of Indians to 46.

Three other deceased are Filipinos and the identity of one of the victims has not been established, the Kuwait Times newspaper reported Friday.

The investigation team of the fire department said Thursday that the fire was caused by an electric short circuit in the room of the building guard and spread to other places. The guard's room is located on the ground floor.

Citing security sources, the paper said that there were 179 workers inside the building when the fire broke out, while 17 were outside. Of the 196 residents, 175 are Indians, 11 are Filipinos and the rest are from Thailand, Pakistan and Egypt.

# 2ND DAY OF SUMMIT G7 draft attacks China

### GROUP OF SEVEN NATIONS CONFRONTS CHINA'S 'UNFAIR' BUSINESS COMPETITION

REUTERS

**Borgo Egnazia, June 14:** The Group of Seven (G7) nations vowed Friday to tackle what they called unfair business practices by China that were undermining their workers and industries, according to a draft statement on the final day of their annual summit.

The G7 also warned of action against Chinese financial institutions that helped Russia obtain weaponry for its war against Ukraine.

The draft summit statement, reviewed by Reuters, stressed the G7 was not trying to harm China or thwart its economic development but would "continue to take actions to protect our businesses from unfair practices, to level the playing field and remedy ongoing harm".

Washington expected to see unprecedented unity across the G7 in confronting China's non-market policies and practices, a senior US official at the G7 said.

The US this week imposed fresh sanctions on China-based firms supplying semiconductors to Russia amid worries over Beijing's increasingly aggressive stance against Taiwan and run-ins with the Philippines over rival maritime claims.

"China is not supplying weapons, but the ability to produce those weapons and the technology available to do it, so it is, in fact, helping Russia," Biden told reporters at the summit



Thursday after signing a bilateral security pact with Zelenskyy. During the first day of their meeting in southern Italy, the G7 nations agreed on a deal to provide \$50 billion of loans for Ukraine backed by interest from frozen Russian assets - hailing the accord as a powerful signal of Western resolve.

Biden held talks Friday with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the summit host, where they agreed to pursue all options to impose further costs on Russia.

In the draft, G7 leaders also promised sanctions against entities that helped Russia circumvent sanctions on its oil by transporting it fraudulently.

### FOCUS ON MIGRATION

Leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations also turned their attention to migration at the start of the second day of their summit Friday,

seeking ways to combat trafficking and increase investment in countries from where migrants start out on often life-threatening journeys.

The gathering in a luxury resort in Italy's southern Puglia region is also discussing other major topics, such as financial support for Ukraine, the war in Gaza, artificial intelligence, climate change, as well as China's industrial policy and economic security.

But some divisions also appeared to emerge over the wording of the summit's final declaration, with disagreement reported over the inclusion of a reference to abortion.

Migration is of particular interest to summit host Italy, which lies on one of the major routes into the European Union for people fleeing war and poverty in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Right-wing Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, known for her

## Modi meets Pope Francis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pope Francis met with a warm embrace at the Outreach session of the G7 Summit in Apulia, southern Italy, Friday, where they joined other world leaders to discuss pressing global issues. Modi was seen in a light-hearted exchange with the 87-year-old head of the worldwide Catholic Church, who was taken around the table in a wheelchair to greet each of the world leaders gathered at the summit venue of Borgo Egnazia. "It is up to each of us to make good use of AI," the Pope said in his address at the Outreach session on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean, attended by the participants of the G7 and other leaders of the Global South invited by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in her capacity as President of this year's summit. The Prime Minister met Pope Francis during a private audience at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican in October 2021. At the time, the two leaders discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for people across the world. They also discussed the challenges posed by climate change. The Prime Minister briefed the Pope about the ambitious initiatives taken by India in combating climate change as well as India's success in administering one billion Covid-19 vaccination doses. His Holiness is said to have appreciated India's assistance to countries in need during the pandemic.

According to the PMO, India and The Holy See, the Vatican-based government of the Catholic Church, have friendly relations dating back to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948. India being home to the second-largest Catholic population in Asia is hopeful of a papal visit next year.



hard-line stance on the issue, has been eager to increase investment and funding for African nations as a means of reducing migratory pressure on Europe. Italy "wanted to dedicate ample

space to another continent that is fundamental to the future of all of us, which is Africa, with its difficulties, its opportunities," Meloni said at the summit opening Thursday.

## SNIPPETS

### Iran expanding N-capacities: UN watchdog

**Vienna:** Iran is further expanding its nuclear capacities, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Thursday, one week after the agency's board of governors passed a resolution criticising Tehran's lack of cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog. The IAEA informed its members that Tehran told the agency it was installing more cascades at the enrichment facilities in Natanz and Fordow, according to a statement sent to AFP. A cascade is a series of centrifuges, machines used in the process of enriching uranium. A diplomatic source deemed this development as "moderate". The motion brought by Britain, France and Germany, but opposed by China and Russia, at the IAEA's 35-nation board last week was the first of its kind since November 2022. The resolution, which Tehran slammed as "hasty and unwise", came amid an impasse over Iran's escalating nuclear activities and as Western powers fear Tehran may be seeking to develop a nuclear weapon, a claim Iran denies.



### White-led DA party joins ANC in SA unity govt



**Cape Town:** The African National Congress and its largest rival, the white-led, pro-business Democratic Alliance, agreed Friday to work together in South Africa's new government of national unity, a step change after 30 years of ANC majority rule. Once unthinkable, the deal between

two sharply antagonistic parties is the most momentous political shift in South Africa since Nelson Mandela led the ANC to victory in the 1994 elections that marked the end of apartheid. "Today, South Africa is a better country than it was yesterday. For the first time since 1994, we've embarked on a peaceful and democratic transfer of power to a new government that will be different from the previous one," DA leader John Steenhuisen said in a televised address. "From today, the DA will co-govern the Republic of South Africa in a spirit of unity and collaboration," he said, adding that multi-party government was the "new normal".

## Journo behind #MeToo sentenced to 5 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, June 14:** Supporters say a Chinese journalist who promoted women's rights as part of the country's nascent #MeToo movement has been sentenced to five years in prison on charges of incitement to subvert state authority, almost three years after she and an activist were detained.

The verdict provided to The Associated Press stated that Huang Xueqin would also face a fine of 100,000 yuan (\$14,000), underscoring the ruling Communist Party's intolerance of any activism outside its control in a system whose upper echelons are dominated by men.

China's #MeToo movement flourished briefly before being snuffed out by the government. China often silences activists by holding them incommunicado for a long time and then sentencing them to prison.



## Ukraine junks Putin's truce demands

Putin demands more Ukrainian land to end war; Kyiv rejects 'ultimatum'

REUTERS

**Moscow, June 14:** President Vladimir Putin said Friday Russia would end the war in Ukraine only if Kyiv agreed to drop its NATO ambitions and hand over the entirety of four provinces claimed by Moscow, demands Kyiv swiftly rejected as tantamount to surrender.

On the eve of a conference in Switzerland to which Russia has not been invited, Putin set out maximalist conditions wholly at odds with the terms demanded by Ukraine, apparently reflecting Moscow's growing confidence that its forces have the upper hand in the war.

He restated his demand for Ukraine's demilitarisation, unchanged from the day he sent in his troops February 24, 2022, and said an end to Western sanctions must also be part of a peace deal.

He also repeated his call for Ukraine's "denazification", based on what Kyiv calls an unfounded slur against its leadership.

Ukraine said the conditions were "absurd".

"He is offering for Ukraine to admit defeat. He is offering for Ukraine to legally give up its territories to Russia. He is offering for Ukraine to sign away its geopolitical sovereignty,"



He (Putin) is not in any position to dictate to Ukraine what they must do to bring about peace

LOYD AUSTIN | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak told Reuters. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told Italy's SkyTG24 news channel: "These are ultimatum messages that are no different from messages from the past."

The timing of Putin's speech was clearly intended to preempt the Swiss summit, billed as a "peace conference" despite Russia's exclusion, where Zelenskyy seeks a show of international support for Kyiv's terms to end the war.

"The conditions are very simple," Putin said, listing them as the full withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the entire territory of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions in eastern and southern

Putin sets out most detailed conditions so far to end war Offer comes on eve of Swiss peace summit

Ukraine. Russia claimed the four regions, which its forces control only partially, as part of its own territory in 2022, an act rejected by most countries at the United Nations as illegal.

"As soon as they declare in Kyiv that they are ready for such a decision and begin a real withdrawal of troops from these regions, and also officially announce the abandonment of their plans to join NATO - on our side, immediately, literally at the same minute, an order will follow to cease fire and begin negotiations," Putin said.

"I repeat, we will do this immediately. Naturally, we will simultaneously guarantee the unhindered and safe withdrawal of Ukrainian units and formations."

The weekend summit in Switzerland, which will be attended by representatives of more than 90 nations and organisations, is expected to shy away from territorial issues and focus instead on matters such as food security and nuclear safety in Ukraine.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC Pentagon ran secret anti-vax campaign to undermine China

The US military launched a clandestine programme amid the Covid crisis to discredit China's Sinovac inoculation - payback for Beijing's efforts to blame Washington for the pandemic

REUTERS

**Washington, June 14:** At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the US military launched a secret campaign to counter what it perceived as China's growing influence in the Philippines, a nation hit especially hard by the deadly virus.

The clandestine operation has not been previously reported. It aimed to sow doubt about the safety and efficacy of vaccines and other life-saving aid that was being supplied by China, a Reuters investigation found.

Through phony internet accounts meant to impersonate Filipinos, the military's propaganda efforts morphed into an

anti-vax campaign. Social media posts decried the quality of face masks, test kits and the first vaccine that would become available in the Philippines - China's Sinovac inoculation.

Reuters identified at least 300 accounts on X, formerly Twitter, that matched descriptions shared by former US military officials familiar with the Philippines operation. Almost all were created in the summer of 2020 and centered on the slogan #Chinaangvirus - Tagalog for China is the virus.

"Covid came from China and the VACCINE also came from China, don't trust China!" one typical tweet from July 2020 read in Tagalog. The words were next



to a photo of a syringe beside a Chinese flag and a soaring chart of infections. Another post read: "From China - PPE, Face Mask, Vaccine: FAKE. But the Coronavirus is real."

After Reuters asked X about the accounts, the social media company removed the profiles, determining they were part of a coordinated bot campaign based on activity patterns and

internal data.

The US military's anti-vax effort began in the spring of 2020 and expanded beyond Southeast Asia before it was terminated in mid-2021, Reuters determined.

Tailoring the propaganda campaign to local audiences across Central Asia and the Middle East, the Pentagon used a combination of fake social media accounts on multiple platforms

to spread fear of China's vaccines among Muslims at a time when the virus was killing tens of thousands of people each day.

A key part of the strategy: amplify the disputed contention that, because vaccines sometimes contain pork gelatin, China's shots could be considered forbidden under Islamic law.

The military programme started under former President Donald Trump and continued months into Joe Biden's presidency, Reuters found - even after alarmed social media executives warned the new administration that the Pentagon had been trafficking in Covid misinformation.

The Biden White House issued an edict in spring 2021 banning the anti-vax effort, which also disparaged vaccines produced by other rivals, and the Pentagon initiated an internal review, Reuters found.

In an email, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said

that it has long maintained the US government manipulates social media and spreads misinformation.

The effort to stoke fear about Chinese inoculations risked undermining overall public trust in government health initiatives, including US-made vaccines that became available later, Lucey and others said. Although the Chinese vaccines were found to be less effective than the American-led shots by Pfizer and Moderna, all were approved by the World Health Organization.

Clandestine psychological operations are among the government's most highly sensitive programs. Knowledge of their existence is limited to a small group of people within US intelligence and military agencies. Such programs are treated with special caution because their exposure could damage foreign alliances or escalate conflict with rivals.



# business



**Retail investors should not participate in F&O trading. They should invest in equities through mutual fund route**  
**ASHISH KUMAR CHAUHAN** | MD AND CEO, NSE

## INDIA-UK TRADE PACT DRAGS

The outstanding issues with regard to the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the UK will be taken up after the general elections in Britain, a senior government official said Friday. The issues which need to be ironed out include duties in sectors like electric vehicles, alcoholic beverages, and services



## of the day quote

India's tax to GDP ratio suffers from the presence of a thriving informal sector, which still accounts for 30 per cent to 35 per cent of the economy  
**KAUSHIK DUTTA** | DIRECTOR, THOUGHT ARBITRAGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

We have given the proposal to the government that corporate entities who invest in ZCZPs should get the benefits of CSR. We are hopeful that the government will soon approve the proposal  
**KAMLESH CHANDRA VARSHNEY** | WHOLE TIME MEMBER, SEBI

We are excited about supporting the first mover in agriculture value chain financing in India  
**AMY WANG** | HEAD OF PRIVATE CREDIT, BLUE EARTH CAPITAL

# Hyundai plans India's biggest ever IPO

**THE FIRM IS LIKELY TO SELL UP TO 17.5% STAKE IN INDIA UNIT IPO TO RAISE UP TO \$3BN**

REUTERS

**Mumbai, June 14:** South Korea's Hyundai Motor is looking to sell a stake of up to 17.5% in the planned initial public offering of its India unit to raise up to \$3 billion, three sources familiar with the matter said, in what could be India's biggest ever IPO. Hyundai is expected to file papers for the listing with the stock market regulator as early as Friday, the sources said.

Once approved by the regulator, Hyundai can list in Mumbai. Hyundai Motor India Ltd, India's second-biggest carmaker behind Maruti Suzuki will issue new shares in the IPO which will involve its South Korean parent selling part of its stake in the wholly owned unit to retail and other investors via a so-called "offer for sale" route, the sources said. The issue will be Hyundai's first such listing outside South Korea, with the sources saying



the company aimed to raise between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion from the stake sale in the offer. Hyundai is seeking approval to sell an up to 17.5% stake in the IPO to investors, but the final percentage could be lower, the sources said. Sources previously estimated Hyundai's India unit to be valued at up to \$30 billion.

The India IPO is aimed at accelerating Hyundai's expansion in a country where it has operated for over 25 years and where its affordable cars like Santro and sports-utility vehicle Creta are popular with Indian buyers. The listing will reduce Hyundai Motor India's dependence on its Korean parent for funds, giving it the financial muscle to take on local rivals such as Tata Motors and chart its own growth plans in a market that accounts for 14% of Hyundai's total global sales. The company has plans to sell locally made electric vehicles in India, as well as set up

a charging network and a battery facility. It also plans to expand its manufacturing capacity in the country, Reuters has previously reported. In its planned filing with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Hyundai was required to list "risk factors" for investors in the IPO and cited its dependence on its Korean parent as well as related party transactions within the Hyundai Group, the sources said. Hyundai plans to issue up to 142 million shares in the IPO, out of a total 800 million outstanding shares, the sources said.

## Voda plans to sell entire \$2.3bn Indus stake to repay debt



REUTERS

**Mumbai, June 14:** Vodafone Group is looking to sell its entire \$2.3 billion stake in India's Indus Towers through stock market block deals next week, two sources with direct knowledge said, as part of the British firm's effort to repay debt.

Vodafone owns 21.5% of mobile-tower operator Indus via various group entities. As of Friday's closing stock price in Mumbai, the investment is worth \$2.3 billion.

The final size of the stake sale is yet to be decided and could be lower than 21.5% if demand, which is still being assessed, is insufficient, said the sources, who declined to be named as the discussions were private.

Shares of Vodafone Idea extended gains, rising as much as 4.8% after the report, while Indus Towers pared gains and closed up 0.3%. Vodafone has hired Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and BNP Paribas to manage the stake sale in Indian stock markets, the sources said.

Vodafone in 2022 announced it would sell all of its then-28% stake, but has managed to sell only a small portion so far. The sources said the talks with rival telecom firms for a stake sale had not materialised.

Vodafone plans to repay part of its \$42.17 billion net debt using proceeds from the Indus stake sale, the sources said.

Indus, which says it is one of the world's biggest tower companies, also counts India's second biggest telecom firm, Bharti Airtel, as a shareholder. It has nearly 220,000 towers, with services also including providing power, space and green technology for tower equipment.

Private equity giant KKR and Canadian fund CPPIB were also investors in Indus, but sold their entire stakes in February.

Block deals, where investors sell shares in stock markets, have become increasingly popular in India as the market has surged to record highs.

In March, British American Tobacco sold its entire \$2 billion stake in Indian tobacco firm ITC.

## Benchmarks continue record-breaking rally

**SENSEX, NIFTY HIT FRESH LIFETIME HIGHS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 14:** Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty hit their new closing lifetime highs Friday, following buying in market heavyweights HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra amid encouraging export data.

However, foreign capital outflows amid lack of fresh triggers capped sharp gains, traders said. Rising for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 181.87 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,992.77. During the day, it jumped 270.4 points or 0.35 per cent to 77,081.30.

The NSE Nifty rallied 66.70 points or 0.29 per cent to hit a record closing high of 23,465.60. Intra-day, it rose 91.5 points or 0.39 per cent to hit a fresh all-time high of 23,490.40.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark climbed 299.41 points or 0.39 per cent, while the Nifty advanced 175.45 points or 0.75 per cent.

"There is a temporary blip in the market momentum, due to a lack of fresh triggers after the hawkish commentary from the US Fed, lowering the plausibility of a rate cut in the short-term. A near-term consolidation seems probable as domestic investors await cues from the upcoming union budget," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research,

## BSE-listed firms' mcap at peak

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit another record high of ₹434.88 lakh crore Friday as the BSE benchmark scaled new closing peak, rallying for the third day running. Following the rally in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies hit a fresh all-time high of ₹4,34,88,147.51 crore (\$5.21 trillion). In three days of rally, investors' wealth has gone up ₹7.93 lakh crore.

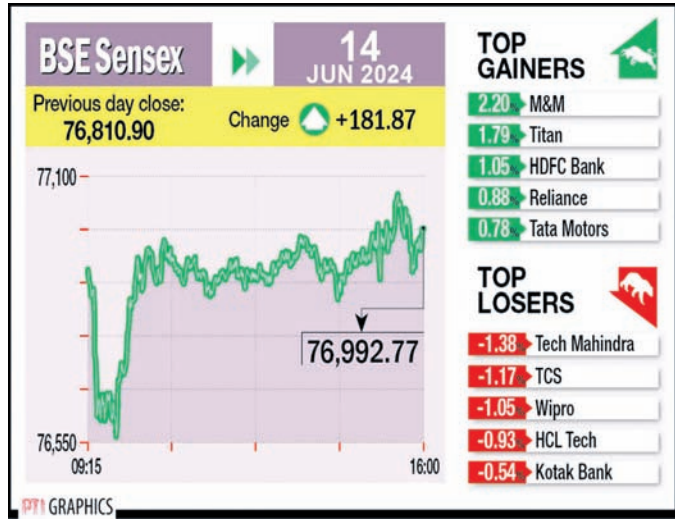
Geojit Financial Services.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Tata Motors and Asian Paints were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India were among the major laggards.

Equity markets will remain closed Monday on account of Bakri Id.

The BSE benchmark jumped 538.89 points or 0.70 to hit its lifetime peak of 77,145.46 Thursday. It later ended at 76,810.90, up 204.33 points or 0.27 per cent. The Nifty rallied 75.95 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 23,398.90.



## FASTEST-GROWING AVIATION MARKETS

# Global airlines bet on India travel boom

**Domestic air travel market may double to 300mn passengers from record 152mn in 2023**

REUTERS

**Dubai, June 14:** Global airlines are launching new flights and expanding schedules in India, betting the South Asian giant will become one of the hottest travel markets over the next decade, airline officials and analysts say.

India, among the fastest-growing major aviation markets, took centre stage at the industry's largest gathering of global airline CEOs and aircraft leasing companies in Dubai last week, with domestic and international air travel surging.

International traffic is set to grow faster, reaching 160 million passengers by 2030 from 64 million last year, estimates from aviation research group CAPA India show.

To tap that growth, Turkish Airlines is evaluating flights be-

Turkish turns to partner airlines to boost India flights  
 Wizz Air aims to launch first India flight in 2025  
 International passengers to grow to 160 million by 2030  
 Local carriers IndiGo, Air India expand with new planes  
 Aircraft lessor DAE says India demand "unlike" elsewhere

tween its southern beach town of Antalya and India, chairman Ahmet Bolat said at The International Air Transport Association (IATA) summit.

Turkish Airlines may run the route through Sun Express, a carrier it operates jointly with Lufthansa or through its Indian codeshare partner IndiGo, he said.

Hungary-based budget carrier Wizz Air is aiming to launch its first flights to the country next year, CEO Jozsef Varadi told Reuters at a separate aviation conference in New Delhi last week, organised by CAPA India.

The strong outlook has prompted India's two biggest airlines - budget carrier IndiGo and Tata Group's Air

The demand growth is unlike what we see in any other jurisdictions. If you say that (fare) price discipline is good and demand is on a secular uptrend then I think it's a market that we as a lessor community will want to be part of that growth

**FIROZ TARAPORE** | CEO, DUBAI AEROSPACE ENTERPRISE

largely be delivered over 10 years. Tesco said Friday it was 'well positioned' and set to hit its targets for the year.

**HUGE FLEET GROWTH**  
 India's total aircraft fleet is expected to increase to more than 1,500 by 2030 from around 700 currently, with most planes

## Domestic air traffic rises 4.4% in May

Domestic air passenger traffic went up 4.4 per cent to around 1.37 crore in May, according to official data released Friday. The Indian scheduled air operators flew 1.32 crore passengers on domestic routes in May last year. "Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-May 2024 were 661.42 lakhs as against 636.07 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 3.99 per cent and monthly growth of 4.40 per cent," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said. In terms of on-time performance (OTP), Akasa Air topped the list at 85.9 per cent, followed by Vistara (81.9 per cent), AIX Connect (74.9 per cent), IndiGo (72.8 per cent), Air India (68.4 per cent) and SpiceJet (60.7 per cent), as per the data. During the previous month, no-frills carrier IndiGo saw its market share growing to 61.6 per cent, while that of Air India declined to 13.7 per cent from 14.2 per cent in April. The market share of Vistara stood at 9.2 per cent but that of AIX Connect fell to 5.1 per cent from 5.4 per cent, the DGCA said. Air India, Vistara, and AIX Connect are part of the Tata Group. Meanwhile, Akasa Air's market share increased to 4.8 per cent in May from 4.4 per cent in April. At the same time, SpiceJet's market share declined to 4 per cent from 4.7 per cent in the previous month.

capacity rights in India, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is prioritising domestic carriers.

Much of India's travel growth is expected to come from its huge diaspora of 35 million people, who mostly live in North America, Europe and South Africa, as well as a growing crop of adventurous, young Indian travellers with rising incomes.



## SHORT TAKES

### 10th round of coal mines auction

**New Delhi:** Union Minister G Kishan Reddy will next week launch the 10th round of commercial coal mines auction in which about 62 blocks will be put on sale. A BJP leader from Telangana, Reddy has been allocated the coal as well as mines ministries in the Modi 3.0 government. "During 10th round of auction, about 62 blocks are likely to be offered without end user restrictions," the coal ministry said in a statement. Reddy said that complete transparency and revenue maximisation will be ensured in the auction.

### FinMin invites views on tax rates

**New Delhi:** The Finance Ministry has invited suggestions on direct and indirect taxes and changes in laws to reduce compliances for the 2024-25 Budget from trade and industry associations. The suggestions are to be sent to the ministry by June 17 and the full budget for 2024-25 is expected to be presented in Parliament in the second half of July. The suggestions could include changes in the duty structure, rates and ideas on broadening of tax base on both direct and indirect taxes giving economic justification for the same, as per the ministry.

### BHEL bags mega orders from Adani

**New Delhi:** State-owned BHEL Friday said it has secured orders for two power plants worth ₹7,000 crore from Adani Group. The first order for the 2x800 MW Raipur supercritical thermal power plant, being set up in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh, has been received from Adani Power Limited, BHEL said in a statement. The second order for the 2x800 MW Mirzapur supercritical thermal power plant, being set up in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh, has been received from MTEUPPL (a subsidiary of Adani Power Limited), it said.

### US court levies \$194mn fine on TCS

**New Delhi:** A US court has ruled that Tata Consultancy Services is liable for misappropriation of trade secrets and levied penal charges of around \$194 million on the IT major, a regulatory filing said Friday. TCS, however, said it has strong arguments against the judgement and is taking necessary steps to protect its interest through review or appeal. The court also passed certain injunctions and other reliefs against TCS.



PREMIER INDIAN BATTER HAS BEEN AWFULLY SHORT OF RUNS IN THE T20 WORLD CUP

# Mates back Kohli to succeed

AGENCIES

Lauderhill (USA), June 14: With their Super Eight position already sealed, the Indian cricketers will be in a much more relaxed frame of mind when they face minnows Canada in their last group encounter here Saturday. However, the constant rain threat (there is every possibility that the game may be washed out due to heavy rains in Florida) and the poor string of scores from Virat Kohli are the two factors that are bothering Team India. More than anything else they want the game to happen so that Kohli gets to spend some quality time in the middle.

By Kohli's standards, he has had a very poor T20 World Cup so far with scores of 1, 4 and 0 in the three games India have played. He also would like to get some runs under his belt, before the tournament shifts to a different gear in the Super Eight. There is a school of thought doing the rounds that Kohli should drop down to No.3 instead of opening the innings with Rohit Sharma. However, two legends of the game, Sunil Gavaskar and Brian Lara have rubbished the idea.

Gavaskar has backed Kohli to get back into form soon. "The pitches at New York were not conducive for batting at all. Everyone struggled, so why blame Kohli alone," Gavaskar has been quoted as saying by a section of the media here. "I am sure he will get back into runs soon. Let's just leave him alone. He is great enough to assess the situation," Gavaskar added.

Lara, on the other hand, has said that if India are to change the opening pair, then they will have to drop an all-rounder to accom-



Virat Kohli walks back after being dismissed for a first-ball duck in the game against the USA

PTI FILE PHOTO

## PAK ELIMINATED

Lauderhill: Pakistan were eliminated from the T20 World Cup after the game between the USA and Ireland was washed out here Thursday. It meant that the USA and Ireland got a point each from the game. USA thus finished on five points from four matches. For Pakistan to stay alive in the tournament, they needed Ireland to beat the USA.

modate an extra batter: "It will affect the balance of the side. Rohit

and Kohli are greats of the game. When they walk in together, they always put the opposition under pressure," Lara said Thursday.

The pitch at the Broward County stadium here might not be as spiteful as the one in New York, where the uneven bounce and the slow nature of tracks became bigger talking points than the cricket that was played. Everybody is hoping that the change of venue will bring in some luck for Kohli.

While India's batting might,

just as other teams, has been neutralised by the drop-in pitches in New York, their bowling worked like a well-oiled machine on those very tracks. The trio of Jasprit Bumrah (five wickets), Hardik Pandya (seven wickets) and Arshdeep Singh (seven wickets) have not given anything to the rival batters.

### TIMINGS

India vs Canada  
Star Sports 8.00pm

## SHORT TAKES

### CFC, East Bengal sign top players

Chennai: Former champions Chennaiyin FC (CFC) announced Friday that they have signed forward Kiyan Nassiri from Kolkata heavyweights Mohun Bagan. Son of East Bengal great Jamshid Nassiri, the 23-year-old made his senior professional debut with the Mariners in 2019. He has signed a three-year contract, the club said. In a separate development, East Bengal club said that they have signed Greek striker Dimitrios Diamantakos for the upcoming season of ISL. The 31-year-old has vast experience with him, including Indian football, having played for Kerala Blasters since 2022. For KBFC, Diamantakos has scored 28 goals in 44 appearances. He found the back of the net 13 times last season which earned him the 'Golden Boot' award.

### Nagal in semis

Perugia (Italy): Sumit Nagal continued his splendid form by entering the semifinals of the ongoing Perugia Challenger tennis tournament here Friday. The sixth-seeded Indian overcame the challenge from the unseeded Maks Kasnikowski of Poland, winning in straight sets 6-4, 7-5. This is his eighth successive win since the start of Heilbronn Challenger in Germany. Nagal is coming off a title triumph during the Heilbronn Challenger last week, which happens to be his second Challenger title this season after the Chennai Challenger in February.

### Shocking defeat

Antalya (Turkey): The Indian women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Bhajan Kaur and Ankita Bhakat squandered their lead to suffer a shock 3-5 loss to lower-ranked Ukraine in the pre-quarterfinals of the Final Olympic Qualifier here Friday. Having qualified as fifth seed, India got a bye into the pre-quarters and needed two wins in the elimination round to seal the Paris Olympic team quota place. The four semifinalists in the women's recurve section get team quotas in the Olympics.

## Afghans in Super 8



Gulbadin Naib of Afghanistan flexes his muscles after hitting the winning six in the game against PNG

PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

Tarouba (Trinidad), June 14: The pace combination of Fazalhaq Farooqi (3/16) and Naveen-ul-Haq (2/4) led Afghanistan's seven-wicket rout of Papua New Guinea here Thursday as the strife-torn country stormed into the T20 World Cup's Super Eight stage for the first time, knocking out group favourites New Zealand in the process.

Gulbadin Naib (49 n o, 36b, 4x4, 2x6) played a fine knock as Afghanistan gunned down the target of 96 in 15.1 overs overcoming early jitters. Put in to bat, PNG were bundled out for 95 with Farooqi and Naveen ripping through the line-up. The Afghans will face June 20 title

favourites India in their first Super Eight clash in Barbados.

Farooqi took two wickets in two balls in his second over and after Rashid Khan opted to bowl. He now has tournament figures of 11.20-42-12 to lead the bowling chart. His pace bowling partner Naveen provided the perfect assistance as PNG were bowled out in 19.5 overs. Kiplin Doriga (27) was the top-scorer for PNG.

"It is for the first time Afghanistan are in Super Eight in T20Is. The boys have done well, adjusting to the conditions very quickly," said Khan.

**Brief scores:** PNG 95 in 19.1 overs (Fazalhaq Farooqi 3/16) lost to Afghanistan 101 for 3 (Gulbadin Naib 49 n o) by seven wickets.

## Poor show by Indian shuttlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, June 14: India's top ranked singles player HS Prannoy went down to higher-ranked Kodai Naraoka of Japan 19-21, 13-21 as none among the country's shuttlers failed to progress beyond the quarterfinals of the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Friday.

World No. 10 Prannoy was the latest to be eliminated on a day when his singles compatriot Sameer Verma, mixed doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and B Sumeeth Reddy along with Aakarshi Kashyap in women's singles also drew blank.

Prannoy fought back from 10-16 down to level the proceedings at 18-all before taking a one-point lead in the first game, but Naraoka held his nerves to win it. The Japanese was far superior in the second game and closed out the match in an hour.

Verma was no match for World No. 17 Chinese Taipei opponent Lin Chun-Yi who cruised to a 21-12, 13-13 win in 38 minutes.

In mixed doubles, the eighth-seeded husband-wife duo of Summeth and Sikki also faced tough opposition in top seeds Jian Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin, who took just about 30 minutes to secure an easy 21-12, 21-14 victory.

# Yet to achieve my best: Neeraj

JAVELIN STAR REVEALS HIS YET UNKNOWN PERSONAL SIDE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 14: Olympic and World Champion Neeraj Chopra is of the opinion that he is yet to achieve his best results in the javelin despite winning multiple medals in the sport.

The star Indian athlete exhibited the basics of throwing a javelin to Dinesh Karthik on JioCinema's *Get Set Gold*, where he also showed his personable side by discussing some of his off-court interests such as his hobbies, favourite movies, and the kind of music he listens to before competing.

Neeraj stated that his throw in the World Under-20 Championships in 2016, is the only one he has been satisfied with. "To date, I am only satisfied with one throw of mine, which was 86.48m. That was one throw where I felt it was a special, unique one, but I have not been satisfied with any throw since," Neeraj stated.

"I feel I haven't got to my peak yet. I have won gold and won a lot of competitions, but I still believe I have not reached my best and I am not satisfied with my throw yet," added the star athlete.

The 2023 World Champion opened up on his hobbies, including a short-lived habit of shopping that led to a complicated overseas purchase.

"I have many hobbies. I like hanging out with my friends. I also liked shopping a lot, but now I shop less because it feels like a waste of money. I like collecting unique things. I once went past a shop in Germany that had art pieces. I liked the statue of a warrior sitting on a horse, throwing a spear, more like throwing a javelin, so I bought it without even think-



I have won gold medals in lot of competitions, but I still believe that my peak is yet to come

NEERAJ CHOPRA

Asian Games and I had listened to *Shiv Tandav*, it gave me goosebumps. I like (adrenaline-pumping music) because normally, I'm cool, but when I compete, I get very aggressive," Neeraj informed.

The World Champion also informed that he took a liking to English movie especially those streaming on 'Netflix' during the lockdown period. It is a habit which has stayed with him.

"I saw movies like *A Beautiful Mind*, *The Pianist*, *Forest Gump* and *Cast Away*, films that impressed me," Neeraj said. "Recently I saw this movie *Society of the Snow*. It was fascinating and I would recommend everyone to see it. The film will make our lives better," Neeraj signed off.

ing. It was of 20kgs. Later, I thought, 'How will I take it to India?' Finally, a brother of mine managed it," the javelin star informed.

Neeraj also stated about the kind of music he listens to before competing. "I don't have a favourite playlist but during events, I mostly listen to loud music, like *Imagine Dragons*. Once I was competing in the

## Process to revive HIL after 8 years initiated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 14: Hockey India (HI) said Friday it has started the registration process for its flagship national league, which is set to be revived after a gap of eight years and will feature both the men's and women's teams. The Hockey India League (HIL) will feature eight men's and six women's teams and the registration deadline for it is June 30.

HI has also invited applications for players and support staff to register their interest in featuring in the league, which is set to run between December 2024 and February 2025. The window has been approved by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

"This step signifies that we are close to restarting the HIL, a league that was loved by hockey players and fans across the world," HI president Dilip Tirkey said in a media release.

"We are confident that budding Indian hockey players will grab the opportunity to play with and against some of the best players in the world," Tirkey added.

The HIL started in 2013, and its last edition was played in

LAST EDITION OF HIL PLAYED IN 2017, WON BY KALINGA LANCERS  
8 MEN'S AND 6 WOMEN'S TEAM TO TAKE PART IN NEW HIL  
TOURNAMENT TO BE PLAYED BETWEEN DEC 2024 AND FEB 2025

2017 which was won by Kalinga Lancers. All five editions were won by five different sides.

Ranchi have won two titles, but with two different names. The inaugural edition was won by Ranchi Rhinos before the franchise was discontinued. Later, a new Ranchi franchise was created - Ranchi Rays - owned by Mahendra Singh Dhoni. They won the tournament in their debut season in 2015.

HI secretary general, Bholanath Singh expressed satisfaction that the league will once again start. "The HIL played a pivotal role in the resurgence of the Indian hockey teams, and it is a matter of great joy and pride that we are on the verge of restarting it," Singh said.

## Double crown for Odisha's Ayush

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 14: Odisha's Ayush Pattanaik bagged a double crown by winning the singles and doubles titles in the AITA-PDTA Tennis Championship Series (CS7) which ended Thursday in Puri. Even though Ayush had to fight hard to win the singles title, the doubles final was comparatively easy for him.



In the boys' singles final, Ayush defeated statemate Shreyan Patnaik 6-0, 4-6, 6-3. Shreyan came back strongly in the second to restore parity. However, in the third set Ayush was much superior.

In the doubles final, Ayush and his partner Jagat Jyoti Pati trounced Vir Chhatr (Maharashtra) and Suyash Patnaik (Odisha) 6-2, 6-0. It was a one-sided affair for the winning duo.

## War motivating Ukrainian footballers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wiesbaden (Germany), June 14: Most of them have lost one or more than one close relative in the war against Russia. Most of them go to sleep at night expecting some bad news the next day. However, for the Ukrainian footballers and their support staff, the Euro Championships 2024 is a stage to protest against Russian atrocities and attract the attention of Europe, if not the world.

When the team arrived at the downtown stadium of Wehen Wiesbaden here Thursday, patriotic songs by thousands of exiled Ukrainians welcomed them. The men's national team were made to feel at home at their first training session in Germany.

After the national anthem played, and before the warm-ups began, there was a vivid reminder of the war at home that is a constant and uniting force for this Ukraine squad. Each player had a ball to give to a fan and Oleksandr Zinchenko pre-



Ukrainian footballers during a training session at Wiesbaden in Germany

sented his to a military veteran who had prosthetic legs below each knee.

"We need to talk about this (war)," coach Serhiy Rebrov said. "I know that some people are tired about the news of the war but we are continuing to fight and we need your support. It's very important that Ukraine is represented in the Euro because we, all Ukrainians, we want to be in (the) European family. It is not just a Ukraine-Russia war. On

the war we are fighting for all of Europe," Rebrov stated.

Zinchenko was a part of the team that reached the quarterfinals three years ago. That was the last European summer before the Russians attacked. Zinchenko is probably one of the high profile members of this team as he plays for Arsenal.

"This tournament is 100% different and special," Zinchenko said. "There are still people dying for no reason and we have to

There are people dying for no reason and in this situation we have to stick together. The soldiers on the war front are our motivation

OLEKSANDR ZINCHENKO

stick together. The soldiers on the war front are our motivation. It is for them, we want to do something," he asserted.

Ukraine first play Monday against Romania in Munich. Four days later, they play Slovakia in Duesseldorf and then finish in Group F against favoured Belgium June 26 in Stuttgart.

"I hope when we play, people in Ukraine have lights to watch the games on TV," midfielder Ruslan Malinovskyi said. "Every day, I see on my phone screen, messages about air (raids). So every morning I phone my parents to ask if everything is okay. But every day I go to sleep with fear," Malinovskyi added.

## EASY WINS FOR JAJPUR, BOLANGIR, GAJAPATI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 14: Jajpur, Bolangir and Gajapati scripted facile victories in matches of the OCA Under-19 Inter-District cricket tournament played Friday at various grounds in Cuttack. At Ravenshaw Ground (2), Jajpur defeated Kalahandi by seven wickets, at Nimpur Ground Bolangir overcame Malkangiri by 63 runs while at the Bidanasi Ground, Gajapati trounced Ganjam by eight wickets.

Among the batters Susanta Nayak (73 n o) of Jajpur, Adhibas Patnaik (53) of Kalahandi, Samarpeet Patel (81) and Sakshyam Agarwal (63) of Bolangir scored half centuries. Sohan Jena (6/32) of Gajapati and Jogeshwar Bag (4/17) were the standout bowlers for the respective teams on the day.

In the two-day senior men's tournament for the Kalahandi Cup, the game between Rest of Odisha (D) and Bhadrak ended



SOHAN JENA

on the first day itself. Rest Odisha (D) after being put in, were bundled out for 203 with Aryashree D Bhatta (57) getting a half century. However, in reply Bhadrak were bowled out for a paltry total of 85 losing the game by 118 runs. Sk Azharuddin got five wickets for Rest of Odisha (D).

In another game played on the day at the Bidanasi Ground, ECORSA piled up a massive 459 all out against Rest of Odisha (A). Girija Rout (112) got a century for ECORSA while Suryakant Pradhan (95) missed out on a ton by just five runs.