



This godman is popular but has no real powers...the other one had two stampedes during his meetings

# **No lapses in NEET:** Five crore saplings to be planted across state: CM **Centre, NTA to SC**

The NTA, which conducts the NEET-UG, and the Union Education Ministry, in separate affidavits filed before the Supreme Court, have opposed a batch of pleas that have sought the scrapping of the controversy-hit

**NEET-PG TO BE HELD AUGUST 11** New Delhi: The NEET-PG 2024 entrance examination will be held

especially to the career prospects of the qualified candidates.' The agency said the entirety of NEET-UG 2024 exam was carried out fairly and with due confidentiality without any illegal practices, and the claim of malpractice' during the exam is 'completely unfounded, misleading, and lacks any basis'. "It is submitted that if the entire examination process is cancelled without there being any tangible factors warranting such actions it would be highly detrimental to the larger public interest involving the academic career of lakhs of students who have attempted the examination fairly without any wrongdoing or even an allegation of wrongdoing," the NTA said. The ministry and NTA said there was no proof of any largescale breach of confidentiality in the test which was taken by over 23 lakh candidates at 4,750 centres in 571 cities. The ministry said the Centre was committed to protecting the interests of lakhs of students who have attempted the question papers fairly and after years of hardwork, without trying to obtain any illegal advantage. The top court is scheduled to hear July 8 a batch of pleas, including those alleging irregularities in the examination and seeking a direction that it be held afresh.



#### Keir Starmer new **UK PM after** Labour landslide

AGENCIES

London, July 5: Keir Starmer became UK's new Prime Minister Friday and vowed to rebuild Britain, hours after his Labour Party secured a landslide victory in a general election in which the weary voters inflicted a 'sobering verdict' on Rishi Sunak-led Conservatives, who suffered their worst electoral drubbing.

Starmer, 61, assumed as the 58th PM after his customary audience with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, following Sunak's meeting with the British monarch. The Labour Party secured 412 seats in the 650-member House of Commons, up 211 from the last election in 2019. Sunak's Conservatives won just 121 seats, down 250 seats from the previous election. While the Labour had a vote share of 33.7 per cent the Conservatives had 23.7 per cent. "Our country has voted decisively for change, for national renewal and a return of politics for public service," said Starmer in his inaugural address from a lectern outside 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the British PM P10

MARKET WATCH									
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BOU	NIFTY	24323.85		21.70					
<b>CURRENCY BOURSES</b>	DOLLAR	83.55	₽	₹0.01					
CURR	EURO	90.43		₹0.22					
NO	GOLD	₹73,086		₹719					
BULLION	SILVER	₹93,620	1	₹1,659					

#### **WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.6°⊂	32.4°(
Min Temp	24.6°(	23.5°(
Humidity	97%	91%
Rainfall	3.2mm	Nil
FORECAST		Mr.
Generally cloud sky with one or spells of rain		30

all–India medical exam. The petitions also pleaded for re-test and a court-monitored probe into the entire gamut of issues involved. However, the Centre and NTA claim that there was no breach of confidentiality in the conduct of the test

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 5: Amid the growing clamour for cancellation of the controversy-ridden NEET-UG. 2024 exam over alleged malpractices, the Centre and the National Testing Agency told the Supreme Court Friday that scrapping it would be 'counterproductive' and 'seriously jeopardise' lakhs of honest candidates in the absence of proof of largescale breach of confidentiality. In their separate affidavits, the ministry and the NTA said the CBI, the country's premier investigating agency, has taken over the cases registered in dif-

ferent states. "It is also submitted that at the same time, in the absence of any proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in a

August 11 in two shifts, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences announced Friday. The exam was earlier scheduled to be held June 23. "In continuation of NBEMS notice dated 22.06.2024, the conduct of NEET-PG 2024 examination has been rescheduled. It will now be conducted on August 11 in two shifts. The cut-off date for the purpose of eligibility to appear in the NEET-PG 2024 shall continue to be August 15, 2024," the Board said.

pan-India examination, it would not be rational to scrap the entire examination and the results already declared," the Centre said in its preliminary affidavit filed by a director in the Ministry of Education. Scrapping the exam in en-

tirety would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper in 2024," the ministry said. The NTA, in its separate af-

fidavit, reiterated the Centre's stand and said: "The cancellation of the entire examination on the basis of the aforesaid factor, would be hugely counterproductive and significantly harmful to the larger public interest.

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday announced that over five crore saplings will be planted across Odisha to substantially increase the state's green cover.

The drive has been launched on the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the nationwide campaign - 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.

Attending the 75th Van Mahotsav at Dumuduma Government High School here, the Chief Minister said that people's participation in this campaign has

been encouraging. The campaign calls for planting saplings at individual level and uploading their pictures on social media. About 1.48 lakh pictures have been uploaded in Odisha so far in this campaign,

Majhi said. Stressing that there is a plan to plant over five crore saplings across the state, the CM called upon the people to get actively involved in this programme.

"As Odisha's population is four-and-a-half-crore, we should plant at least an equal number of trees in this campaign,' he said.



## Ruins of garden linked to Roman emperor uncovered

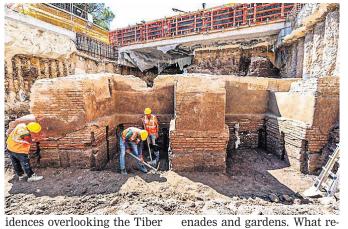
mains underground are a traver-

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, July 5: Archaeological excavations near the Vatican uncovered the remains of an ancient garden overlooking the right bank of the Tiber River that was likely owned by Roman Emperor Caligula, Italy's culture ministry has said.

The discovery was made during construction work to create a pedestrian piazza linking Castel Sant'Angelo to St. Peter's Basilica and its Via della Conciliazione boulevard, some of Rome's most visited tourist sites

In ancient times the area housed prestigious imperial res-



idences overlooking the Tiber with spectacular porticos, promtine wall, the foundations of a colonnaded portico and a garden, the ministry said. The excavations also uncovered a lead water pipe stamped with the name of the owner of the water supply and likely of the garden.

The details point to Caligula, son of Germanicus and Agrippina the Elder, and emperor of Rome from 37 to 41, the ministry said, adding that there are literary references that seem to confirm the connection of the site to Caligula.

The excavation also revealed an important series of figurative terracottas used to decorate roofs, with unusual mythologi-

cal scenes, reused as covers for the sewers, but originally probably made for the covering of some structure in the garden, the ministry said.

The construction project is part of the Vatican's 2025 Jubilee, a holy year that is expected to draw some 32 million pilgrims to Rome. The run-up to the Jubilee has involved launching dozens of long-delayed construction projects, including the 79.5 million euro piazza, with a tunnel below it redirecting traffic underground.

The project, located at Piazza Pia, is expected to be completed by December.

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Bridge collapses: 15** engineers suspended

Patna: The Bihar government Friday suspended 15 engineers in connection with a series of recent incidents of bridge collapse in the state, a senior official said. The decision was taken after a probe panel submitted its report to Water Resources Department (WRD). "It was found that engineers were negligent and monitoring was ineffective... that is the main reason behind the collapse of small bridges and causeways in the state," Additional Chief Secretary of WRD, Chaitanya Prasad, told reporters here. A total of 10 bridges collapsed in the past 17 days, **P**8 officials said.

#### **Amritpal, Rashid take** oath as LS members

New Delhi: Jailed radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh and Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, who were granted parole to take oath as members of the Lok Sabha, were sworn in as MPs Friday, amid heavy deployment of security personnel in and around the Parliament complex. While Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, is in Delhi's Tihar jail in a terror funding case registered under the UAPA, Singh is lodged in a prison in Assam's Dibrugarh district for offences under the National Security Act. Singh, 31, and Rashid 56, won the polls from Khadoor Sahib in Puniab and Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir, respectively. **P**9





elsure



#### **ESPOSITO MORTGAGES HOME FOR NEW MOVIE**

American actress Jennifer Esposito mortgaged her own home to make her directorial debut because she couldn't get financing for the film. The 51-year-old actress wrote, directed and stars in new movie Fresh Kills.

#### **ED SHEERAN PLANS TO HELP** SCHOOLS WITH MUSIC FUNDING

Castle on the Hill hitmaker Ed Sheeran, who wants to help schools nationwide, has sought more funding for their music programmes. Sheeran is taking a break from recording his own songs to spend several months helping to improve funding for lessons in schools.



#### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

> Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you have, says Ganesha, Besides, you have already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it. A date of romantic nature may turn out to be interesting or it may lead to a controversy; you have to decide on it.

#### TAURUS

You can expect a pleasant, comfortable day at the office today, so says Ganesha. You will be carrying out your work cheerfully and effortlessly. You could, later in the evening. have a strong urge to go out for dinner with your family and friends. If that does happen you're certain to go for an after dinner movie, or an ice cream treat. The day promis es you lots of fun and amusement

#### GEMINI

You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm. You may be prone to extreme mood swings as well. Meditative techniques should help you keep your mind calm, says Ganesha.

#### CANCER You will tend to try new

recipes at home. Family members will take advan tage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air

#### **LEO**

You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sportspersons will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields. You will square off against any obstacles in your way using your entire might. While it is a good day for you, keep a curb on your speculations, says Ganesha.

#### VIRGO

Take a little break today, and spend some time looking within. At your office there may be some bitter confrontations, so Ganesha advises you to be very careful and try to prevent things form getting too difficult. In matters of love, a new romance may develop. Ganesha says you may enjoy a peaceful evening with friends

#### LIBRA Ganesha says today you

will try to be adept in your favorite subject. Today you will be buying antique artistic things too. If there are any legal proceeding going on then the results will be in your favor.

# **Shweta's candid** take on TV shows

Mumbai: Shweta Tiwari, the beloved actress known for her iconic roles in shows like Kasautii Zindagi Kay, recently opened up about her new play, Ek Main Aur Ek Two, and her views on the current state of television content.

safes, and it just doesn't

Shweta elaborated

on the lack of re-

ΤV

latability in cur-

feel real.

rent

shows.

"Even

back in

the day,

we had

storylines

involving

large

individuals existing." She continued, "We have characters surviving snake bites When asked about the differwithout any repercussions, or ence between television shows people hanging from kites! I even during her time and now, Shweta saw a scene where a girl spins and offered a candid take. "The confalls on a curtain, only to have tent back then was better," she it somehow wrap around her

stated. "Nowadays, it seems like neck. anything goes. You have scenes When asked how she would have reacted if asked to do such with people getting locked in scenes, Shweta asserted,

sums of money, like characters

talking about crores of rupees.

While that wasn't entirely real-

istic either, viewers could still

connect with the idea of wealthy

"I would simply ask, What's happening here? I can't do this'," she said. "The shows I did never had these unrealistic quences," she concluded. AGENCIES



## **ZAREEN SHARES** HER DIET SECRETS

MUMBAI: With a career spanning over a decade, Zareen Khan has <u>established herself</u>

In a recent interview the Veer actress revealed her diet and fitness secrets and told what all she eats in a day. She said, "Diet and I have an old relationship. But now I have come to an understanding where diet and I under-stand each other. Now I eat just one or maxi-mum two meals. But they are big meals." When asked about her ideal breakfast, lunch

and dinner, she explained, "It all depends on my mood. But I love eggs. If at all I am having breakfast, I love to have eggs. Then I directly do dinner, whatever is cooked at home. I don' have cheat days. I cheat whenever I want to.' She further added, "At home I am a tea per on and outside I am a coffee person. "

he said, "When I am shooting, I am very ver lisciplined. I try to keep my meals light and avoid eating a lot of rice, roti's or carbs. It's not a con scious effort; I just prefer starters and appe

# Alia reflects on her future

up

Mumbai: Alia Bhatt has been carving a legacy for herself quietly as an actor. entrepreneur, producer and now a storyteller with her daughter Raha and husband Ranbir Kapoor in tow. And the one thing she

wants to steer off is to put pressure on her daughter along the way. The actor says she believes every kid is born with a distinctive personality and she wants Raha to find her

own. "When it comes to the legacy that Ienvisioned as an actor and mother, I don't think it has been cal culated from my side.

The choices, I make as a mother, are also very instinctive to what I feel is best for my child," Alia shared, adding, "I am very meticulous, but I can also be very random. So I'm kind of a mix of both"

And the actor wants her daughter to find her own personality as she grows

> "I do believe children are born with their own personality. You just have to nurture and care for them and let them find their own feet. Let them be their own person. I don't think I want her (Raha) to ever be any version of herself that she doesn't feel most comfortable with," added the actor.

Samantha comes clean ALTERNATIVE MEDICATION **SUGGESTION CONTROVERSY** 

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who earlier shared a post about alternative medication on her social media, has issued a clarification regarding the same.

Friday, the actress took to her Instagram and penned a lengthy note talking about her choices and expressing empathy for those who cannot afford expensive medication.

Samantha wrote: "Over the last couple of years, I've had to take many different types of medicines. I've tried everything I was strongly advised to take. Many of these treatments were also very very expensive.'

The actress further mentioned that she often thought about how fortunate she is to af-

ford these treatments and em-

pathised with those who cannot.

I KNEW HE WASN'T

SERIOUS ... HE WAS

JUST TALKING

TONGUE IN BEAK !!

Samantha shared that con-

ventional treatments weren't yielding positive results for her for a long time.

She continued: "These two factors led me to also read up on alternate therapies and treatments. And after trial and error, I found treatments that worked wonderfully for me. Treatments that also cost a

1 M

frac-

tion of what I was spending on conventional healthcare.

Samantha said that she consulted a highly qualified doctor who served with DRDO for 25 years, and he was the one who prescribed her the alternative medication. The

dressed a social media user who criticised her in a post on X and called for her to be imprisoned for advocating alternative medication.

Samantha stated, "A certain gentleman has attacked my post and my intentions with rather strong words. Said gentleman is a Doctor too. I have no doubt that he knows more than I do. And I am quite sure his intentions were noble. It would have been kind and compassionate of him had he not been so provocative with his words. Especially the bit where he suggests I should be thrown in prison. Never mind.'

The actress clarified that she shared her post as someone in need of medical treatments, not as a celebrity, and emphasised that she was not profiting from the post or endorsing anyone. IANS



You shall be a success in everything tha you touch today. Your artistic streak will come to the fore today and you will develop an interest in the fine arts

#### **SCORPIO**

A series of events at work front may keep you busy throughout the day. You may be unable to manage the clutter and confusion created by too many things at the same time. However, you emerge a fighter because of your power of resilience. Ganesha advises to go slow, yet steady: take one problem at a time and sort it out.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

You are caught in a whirlpool of emotions, pre dicts Ganesha. You may come across many ups and downs today. However, nothing seems to deter you from your determination and dedication towards work.

#### CAPRICORN

By and large, your life today will be dull. But, there isn't something unfavourable or negative about it, assures Ganesha, as the planetary movements signal a change, probably a positive one, happen ing in the near future. So, keep your chin up and get ready for a better tomorrow

#### 

You are armed with good communication skills, and like always, it will come to your aide today, too. There is one problem though. You are not clear about your emotions and it may make your arms blunt, foresees Ganesha. Make sure that you are able to identify your feelings and don't make any disastrous decisions based on that confusion

.....

#### PISCES

Your energy and enthusiasm will know no bounds today, as everything seems to fall into place, seemingly on its own. You will blaze a new trail at the work-place. Certain tough calls may leave you off-balance momentarily, but you will come out of it with flying colours. For those who are in artistic professions, fame could come knocking on your door, says Ganesha.



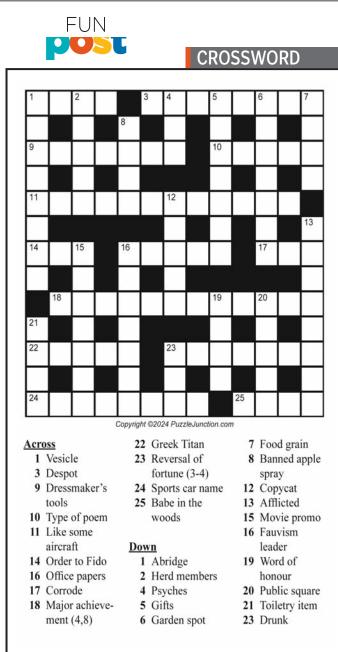
#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

PEANUTS



#### BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

#### SUDOKU

actress

then ad-

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.

	1	9			2	8		
		3	1	6				
2		7						
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downtown

HONOURED

Writer Babaji Charan Pattanayak being felicitated during the annual function of Baimundi Sahitya Sanskrutika Surakhya Samaj in Cuttack, Friday



# **Patients suffer as SCB CT scan machine fails**



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 5: Patients and their attendants at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here are having a tough time as one of the two computed tomography (CT) scan machines at Radiodiagnosis department of the state's premier healthcare facility is lying defunct since Friday morning.

said the Sources Radiodiagnosis department has been functioning with two CT scan machines, including one on public-private-partnership (PPP) mode. As both the machines have been developing snags almost every day, SCB au-

#### Cong workers gherao police headquarters

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP Bhubaneswar, July 5: Two days after a scuffle broke out

partment had written to the Health and Family Welfare department for a new CT scan machine last year. The Health department had informed the SCB that Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited will provide a new machine soon," said an official requesting anonymity. He said, "We were so opti-

'SCB's Radiodiagnosis de

mistic that the location to install the third CT scan machine was also finalised. But the machine is yet to land.' Sushant Mohapatra from

Balasore stood in the long queue at the Radiology department for his son for hours but to no avail.

Narrating his ordeal, Mohapatra said, "After standing in the queue for around four hours, I was told by the department that the machine was not working. I need to get my son's CT scan done without a delay as the doctor will start the treatment only after going through the report.'

The Balasore resident added that the only way for him was to get the scan done at a nearby private facility.

Acknowledging the breakdown, SCBMCH administrative officer Abinash Rout said the pricy equipment, deployed by a private agency under PPP arrangement, was being repaired as and when required.

"We had informed the previous government about the requirement of a new CT scan machine. The government had also sanctioned it. We have also appraised the new government about the hospital's needs. We are hopeful of having a new imaging machine soon," Rout pointed

for the imaging.

WALL COLLAPSE: The boundary wall of Netaji Seva Sadan at Odia Bazar in Cuttack collapsed resulting severe damage to at least two vehicles, Friday OP PHOTO

**GEARING UP FOR RATH YATRA** 

CRUT's special buses to ferry devotees

#### 15 to 17

The buses will operate from Khurda, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Kakatpur to Talabania bus stand in Puri at regular intervals. Buses will be available from

Bhubaneswar railway station, Baramunda bus stand, Malatipatpur bus stand, National

#### H&UD min to head all devpt authorities

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Housing and Urban Development (H&UD)

Service on routes AE1, AE2, 60 61 & 52 will be suspended during this period - from July 7 to 9, and July 15 to 17, 2024. Regular bus service will be available from July 10 to 14, 2024.

> Devotees will be able to reach their destinations in a hasslefree manner by availing the service. Buses will ply throughout the day at regular intervals for the convenience of the commuters. CRUT requests everyone to stay connected with its social media handles and website for further updates, including more details about the services and time schedules.

(shuttle service) for intra-city

bus service from Malatipatpur

to Talabania bus stand, Puri

with a flat fare of Rs 20 only.

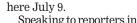
PREZ'S 4-DAY STATE VISIT STARTS TODAY

Speaking to reporters in Puri.



Law University, Cuttack, Khurda via Jatni, Kakatpur via Marine Drive, Konark, Jagatpur, Cuttack and Mahanadi Vihar (Cuttack)

for Talabania bus stand in Puri. Fare for intercity routes will be flat at Rs 80 for non-AC and Rs 100 for AC buses. Route no-53 shall be modified as Route 53 E



Ex-minister & BJD leader Surendranath Nayak dies

**Though the Health** department had informed the SCB that **Odisha State Medical** 

**Corporation Limited will** provide a new CT scan machine soon, the machine is yet to land at the state's premier healthcare facility

thorities have approached the state government for at least one new imaging machine.

July 15 to 17 POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: In order to ensure hassle-free journey for devotees travelling to Puri from the twin city and nearby places for the world famous Rath Yatra, Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) announced

special bus services, Friday. As

per the decision, altogether 33 spe-

cial buses will operate on seven

intercity routes and one intra-city

route from July 7 to 9 and July

#### While SCBMCH offers a 128slice CT scan for free, private facilities charge at least Rs 2,000

between BJP and Congress workers over Rahul Gandhi's remark in Parliament, the functionaries of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) here, Friday, gheraoed the police Seva Bhawan demanding action against the BJP cadres.

Congress party workers took out a protest march from Master Canteen Square to the state police headquarters. Later, they submitted a memorandum to Twin City police commissioner Sanieeb Panda and Bhubaneswar deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Prateek Singh for immediate arrest of the accused BJP members who had attacked their party workers.

Police City Twin Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said the cops have launched an investigation into the matter and would take necessary action against the guilty.

Notably, both  $\check{\text{B}}\text{JP}$  and Congress lodged a complaint at Capital police station following the violent clash here, July 3. However, the cops have not arrested anyone in this connection.

Congress' Sanakhemundi MLA Ramesh Jena, who was present at the protest site, said though 48 hours have passed since BJP workers pelted cow dung and stones at our office, the police have not made a single arrest. "At a time when Rahul Gandhi has been raising critical issues in the Parliament, the BJP, on the other hand, is resorting to cowardly tactics like attacks. Our demonstration strongly objects such attacks," he added.

Former OPCC president Jayadev Jena said, "Had the cops been sincere, we would not have gheraoed the CP office. The ironv is BJP, while it was in Opposition, used to criticise BJD for disrupting the law and order. However, they are playing the same game now. Less than a month after coming to power; BJP has ended democracy in the state."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Former minister and senior BJD leader Surendranath Nayak died here Friday morning, his family sources said. He was 87.

Nayak was suffering from agerelated ailments and died at his residence here.

He was elected to the Assembly seven times from Kakatpur constituency on Utkal Congress, Janata Dal and BJD tickets between 1971 and 2009.

Nayak had served as the minister of several departments, including Excise, Revenue, Agriculture, School and Mass Education and Panchayati Raj under the leadership of Biju

Patnaik and Naveen Patnaik. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, Speaker Surama Padhi and several others paid floral tributes to the departed soul in the state Assembly.

Majhi said Odisha has lost a tall leader and the vacuum created by his demise can never be



filled. He expressed condolences to the bereaved family of Nayak.

In a post on X, Singh Deo said, "Heartfelt condolences on the passing of Shri Surendranath Nayak, a true leader and dedicated seven-time MLA from Kakatpur. His contributions to our community will never be forgotten.<sup>3</sup>

Former CM and BJD president Naveen Patnaik condoled the demise of Nayak and said his dedication towards serving the Kakatpur people will always be remembered.

"As an able politician and public representative, his humanitarian work will be a source of inspiration for all. May his soul rest in peace and my condolences to the bereaved family members," Patnaik said.

The mortal remains of Nayak were taken to Sankha Bhawan, the BJD headquarters, where senior party leaders paid respect to him.

Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra has been appointed as the chairperson of all nine development authorities across Odisha.

According to a notification issued by the H&UD department July 4. Mahapatra will now be the chairman of Bhubaneswar

Development Authority (BDA), Cuttack Development Authority (CDA). Berhampur Development

Authority, Sambalpur Development Authority, Rourkela Development Authority (RDA), Paradip Development Authority, Puri-Konark Development Authority, Kalinga Nagar Development Authority and Talcher-Angul-Meramandali **Development Authority** 

Though ministers earlier served as chairpersons of development authorities, including BDA, the last few years of the BJD regime saw IAS officers being appointed to these posts.

Bhubaneswar, July 5: President Droupadi Murmu, who is scheduled to visit Odisha for four days starting July 6, will witness Rath Yatra in Puri July 7, an official release by the Rashtrapati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhavan said Friday. She will grace the 96th death anniversary of Utkalamani Pandit

Gopabandhu Das here July 6. The President will visit Udayagiri caves and interact with the students of Bibhuti Kanungo College of Art and Crafts

ADG (law and order) Sanjay Kumar said tight security arrangements have been made in and around Puri for smooth conduct of the Rath Yatra.

Special security arrangements have been made for the



and Utkal University of Culture July 8, it said.

On the same day, she will inaugurate the Divine Retreat Centre of Brahma Kumaris at Haridamada village here and launch the 'Lifestyle for Sustainability' campaign.

The President will grace the 13th graduation ceremony of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER)

President's visit to the festival. While a VIP zone has been planned for the Governor, Chief Minister, Union Ministers and other dignitaries, a buffer zone has been planned for the President, Kumar said.

A dedicated team, led by a senior SP-rank officer, has been formed to supervise the visit of Murmu to the Pilgrim Town, he added.

Study finds mechanism to reverse cancer's resistance to chemo USING A MICE STUDY, THE EARLY-STAGE RESEARCH, LED BY THE INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH (ICR), LONDON, AND SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY, CHINA SHOWED THAT STIRIPENTOL -- A DRUG CURRENTLY USED TO TREAT EPILEPSY -- CAN HELP REVERSE CANCER'S RESISTANCE TO CHEMOTHERAPY

n international team of researchers from the UK And China has shown how cancer builds up resistance to chemotherapy -- one of the biggest challenges in the treat-

Using a mice study, the early-

stage research, led by The

Institute of Cancer Research

(ICR), London, and Sun Yat-sen

University, China showed that

Stiripentol -- a drug currently

used to treat epilepsy -- can help

reverse cancer's resistance to

chemotherapy, which will help

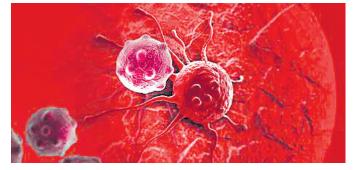
ment of the deadly disease.

vival. In the study, the team zeroed in on lactate -- the product that builds up as cancer cells convert nutrients to energy -- which

was found to be most abundant in chemotherapy-resistant cancer tissues. For the study, published in the journal 'Nature', the researchers examined tissue from

shrink tumours and prolong sur-

24 patients with stomach cancer, where 15 of the cancers were resistant to chemotherapy and the tumours had continued to



grow Stiripentol and chemotherapy reduced the size of tumours

-- for four weeks after treatment -- in mice with stomach cancer. These also survived for longer -

for more than 70 days. In comparison, tumours in

mice treated with chemotherapy alone shrunk for one week and started to grow again. With only chemotherapy, no mice survived for longer than 40 days after treatment.

Further, lactate was also found responsible for altering the structure of a key protein involved in DNA repair, called NBS1, and affecting its efficiency.

The researchers believe that lactate may be behind chemotherapy resistance in other cancers such as "pancreatic, lung and ovarian cancers"

'This extremely promising research has uncovered a likely mechanism for how cancer evades chemotherapy," said Axel Behrens, Professor of Stem Cell Biology at The Institute of 🛁 Cancer Research.

"In our early-stage study, we've seen that you can prevent the build-up of lactate and make a tumour that was resistant to chemotherapy sensitive again --- the treatment continues to work," Axel added.











# downtown

# **HEAVY RAIN FOR NEXT FOUR DAYS**



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 5: India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rain across several districts of the state during the next four days.

According to IMD's Bhubaneswar regional centre, under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over east-central Bay of Bengal, Mayurbhanj, Koraput and Malkangiri districts are expected to experience heavy rainfall Saturday.

The IMD bulletin said heavy to very heavy rainfall is anticipated in Gajapati, Rayagada,

Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Khurda, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Puri, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kandhamal and Ganjam districts July 7.

The Met office has issued yellow warnings for Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Ganjam and Kandhamal districts July 8; and Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts July 9.

IMD Bhubaneswar chief Manorama Mohanty said Angul recorded the highest rainfall of 55.2mm in last 24 hours, while heavy rainfall was reported in several districts.

The regional weather office said that cumulative rainfall received from June 1 to July 5 stands at 191.1mm, against the average rainfall of 255.8255.8mm during the period. While one district received excess rainfall, 11 districts got normal rainfall. Rainfall in two districts fell

under 'large deficient' category while it was 'deficient' in the remaining 16 districts during the period, the IMD said.



RAIN AHEAD: A man helps his son wear raincoat in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAI

### **Ex-Fire personnel** arrested for rape

#### DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 5: A dismissed Fire official was arrested by the twin city Commissionerate Police from Kendrapara on charges of raping a nurse here Friday.

Pahala inspector in-charge (IIC) Beauty Mohanty said Jitu Ranjan Das, a resident of Kendrapara district, was taken into custody for sexually assaulting the nurse at his rented accommodation under the police limits here June 15.

Mohanty said the nurse and Das met on Instagram around four months back, and later got into a relationship.

"Das met the nurse at the hospital where she works here June 15. A few minutes into the meeting, Das snatched away her mobile phone and ran towards the exit gate. When the woman caught hold of Das outside the hospital gate, he forced her to accompany him to his rented accommodation where he allegedly raped her.' Mohanty said as quoting the

survivor's complaint. The woman later mi



6 PGDS recipients felicitated

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: The recipients of 'Professor Ghanashyam Dash Scholarship' (PGDS) for academic year 2023-24 were felicitated by the social development arm of IMFA group-Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), recently.

The annual scholarship is given away to six meritorious students to help them pursue higher education in the fields of engineering, medicine and liberal arts. In the 19th edition this year, four students-KVM Prassana Kumar, Priyanshu Panda, Himanshu Sekhar Patra and Privanka Dalai – have been

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 5: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Friday announced that Rath Yatra will be held in Digha from next year on the lines of Puri. A Jagannath temple is being

constructed at the coastal town in Purba Medinipur district. "Happy to announce that, as in Puri, we in West Bengal are also erecting a pride-inspiring temple complex for Lord



Rath Yatra in Digha from next year: Mamata

Balabhadra and Subhadra will be worshipped here too, Rath Yatra also will be celebrated," she said in a post on X. Clearing the air about reports

that Rath Yatra will be held at the

under-construction temple from this year itself, she said, "Despite some discussions otherwise, fact is that the Rath Yatra will be performed at Digha from next year only. Some works and

processes are incomplete as of now, and they need to be concluded before the Lord's wheels start moving next year onwards." "The Rath Yatra of Digha will

be observed with fullest respect and solemnity. All are invited there. Let the Lord's abode at Digha emerge as the new place of amity for India," she added.

The grand new temple is being built under the supervision of state agency 'Digha Sankarpur' Development Authority' at a brisk pace over the last two years.

#### Van Mahotsav Week at **IISER** Berhampur

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Orissa Environmental Society (OES), in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Berhampur and Forest department organised tree plantation drive and awareness programme as part of Van Mahotsav Week celebration, Friday.

On the occasion, a campaign was launched for plantation of 10,000 saplings. At the inaugural

function, IISER Berhampur di-

rector Ashok Kumar Ganguli

said, "In order to address the

critical environmental issues,

tree plantation is the only way

Narayan Patro explained the

vital role of trees in maintaining ecological balance, reduc-

ing pollution, preventing tem-

perature rise and climate change. Participating in the pro-

gramme, students, staffers and members of IISER Berhampur

and OES planted two hundred saplings in the campus. OES secretary Java Krushna Panigrahi emphasised on build-

ing green cover and conserving

the environment and the ecosys-

Tree planting programme was

also held at Swami Vivekanand

National Institute of

Rehabilitation Training and

tem for a better future.

Research in Cuttack

OES president Sundar

forward."

## Jagannath at Digha. The Lord, KIIT hosts Divya Kala Mela

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment BL Verma inaugurated 'Divya Kala Mela' and 'Divya Kala Shakti' programme at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) here, Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Verma said, "Today, we are celebrating 'ability'. Our disabled brothers and sisters participating in the Divva Kala Mela are showcasing their unique and valuable skills, talents, and entrepreneurship, transcending boundaries." The minister said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision the government has introduced various schemes. "We believe that the empowerment of every section of the society is essential for the overall empowerment of the nation," he added. The programme was organised by the department of Empowerment of Persons with



courage and lodged a complaint with the Pahala police June 20. "Soon, we launched an investigation and managed to nab Das at his native place in Kandrapara," the IIC said. Das earlier worked with

the Fire Services department. He was dismissed from service in 2022 following his arrest by the Chauliaganj police in Cuttack in a rape case in 2021.

awarded scholarships to pursue engineering at IIIT Dharwad. IIT Madras, IGIT Sarang and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, respectively.

Additionally, Prayas Rout and Abhipsa Chowdhury have been awarded scholarships to pursue medicine at AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Executive director and CEO of AIIMS Bhubaneswar Ashutosh Biswas and BIPF trustee & CEO Shaifalika Panda felicitated the students at the ceremony.

ent of socio-economic barriers and carry out their professional education.

The annual scholarship

higher education in the

medicine and liberal arts

Panda said, "Education has the

power to transform an individ-

ual. Professor Ghanashyam Dash

Scholarship was instituted with

an aim to contribute for a pro-

gressive, inclusive and equitable

society. The opportunity allows

the recipients to be independ-

Speaking on the occasion,

fields of engineering,

is awarded to six

students, to pursue

meritorious

The scholarship grants a maximum of Rs 6 lakh per awardee for pursuing four-year professional courses. Beyond financial support, the recipients are also eligible for Utsah mentorship programme run by BIPF. The programme provides regular counseling, academic guidance, networking opportunities, and

assistance by IMFA executives.



Disabilities - under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowermentin collaboration with the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. It aims to celebrate the talent and craftsmanship of differently-abled entrepreneurs, artisans, and artistes from the state and provide them a platform to showcase their talent. In his address, Kishor B

Surwade, deputy director general of the department, said, "Our aim is to create an inclusive society where the differently-abled individuals of our country get equal opportunities for their development, leading to their physical, social, educational, and economic empowerment, enabling them to lead productive, safe, and dignified lives.

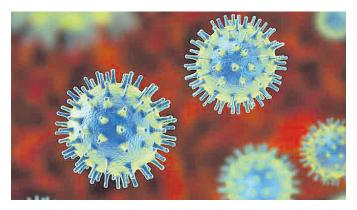
Human behaviour abetted deadly bacteria to become epidemic

THE BACTERIA SPREAD OCCURRED MOSTLY AS **PEOPLE BEGAN TO LIVE IN DENSELY POPULATED AREAS. WHERE AIR POLLUTION MADE OUR** LUNGS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFECTION AND WHERE THERE WERE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFECTIONS TO SPREAD

**C**ientists claim, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, an environmental bacteria can cause devastating multidrug resistant infections, particularly in people with underlying lung conditions, has evolved rapidly and then spread globally over the last 200 years, in a new study released Friday. Changes in human behaviour

helped the bacteria -- responsible for over 5.00.000 deaths per year worldwide, of which over 3,00,000 are associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR) -to become epidemic, said the team from the University of Cambridge in the UK.

People with conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) -- smoking-re-



lated lung damage -- cystic fibrosis (CF), and non-CF bronchiectasis, are particularly susceptible to the bacteria. P aeruginosa was found to exploit immune defects to persist in cystic fibrosis patients.

To probe how P aeruginosa evolved from an environmental organism into a specialised human pathogen the scientists examined DNA data from

almost 10,000 samples taken from infected individuals, animals, and environments around the world.

Using the data, the team created phylogenetic trees -- 'family trees' -- that show how the bacteria from the samples are related to each other.

Their results, published in the journal Science, showed that almost seven in 10 infections are caused by just 21 genetic clones, or 'branches' of the family tree. These have rapidly evolved (by acquiring new genes from neighbouring bacteria) and then spread globally over the last 200 years.

The bacteria spread occurred mostly as people began to live in densely populated areas,

where air pollution made our lungs more susceptible to infection and where there were more opportunities for infections to spread.

Besides spreading between CF patients, it can also spread with "worrying ease between other patients, too", the team said.

The study on P aeruginosa "has taught us new things about the biology of cystic fibrosis and revealed important ways we might be able to improve immunity against invading bacteria in this and potentially other conditions," said Professor Andres Floto, director of the UK Cystic Fibrosis Innovation Hub at the University of Cambridge.



#### FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STAT

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# state

# **5 hotels running inside** Bhitarkanika sanctuary

MEMORANDUM GIVEN TO TEHSILDAR, DFO CALLING FOR ACTION

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara/Rajnagar, July 5: Despite a host of steps being taken by the government for extensive plantation and protection of forests, the ecology and sensitive biodiversity of Bhitarkanika National Park are facing continuous threats of serious damage due to human interference. In a fresh instance, five hotels have been illegally constructed on forest land in Dangamal and Bankual, the entry points of the national park, for tourists flocking to Bhitarkanika

**OrissaPOST** 

SATURDAY | JULY 6 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Mandal, Vivekananda Das, Sahadeb Sethi, Debabrata Mishra, Debashis Raul --Thursday met Rajnagar tehsildar Ajay Kumar Mohanty and Divisional Forest Officer Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav along with proof and demanded action against the illegal hotels. Giving an ultimatum, they warned the officials that they will be forced to take to agitation if the illegal hotels are not removed within seven days.

As per the complaint of Bhitarkanika Suraksha Samiti, Hotel Bhitarkanika has been constructed on the forest land



Despite establishment of restaurant cottages to threestoreyed hotels in the sanctuary, Rajnagar forest division and tehsil administrations are sitting idle instead of taking administrative action

In this connection, members of Bhitarkanika Suraksha Samiti Sanjay Kumar Bag, Pabitra Sethi, Ranjan Pradhan, Madhab Sethi, Soumya Ranjan Choudhury, Debadatta Sethi, Jagbandhu Khatua, Surya Narayan Mishra, Sudam Kumar Ojha, Abhay Kumar Raut, Raghavendra Mohanty, Liton Sethi, Jagabandhu Das, Shambhu under Bankual Mauza Khata No 7 and Plot No 92. Similarly, Hotel Red Crab has been erected on forest type land under Bankual Mauza Khata No 7 and Plot No 39. A three-storeved hotel Kanika Sundari and its cottages have been built on three plots of forest land under Bankual Mauza Khata No 7 Plot No 85, Khata No 9 Plot

No 86, and Khata No 7 Plot No 86. Furthermore, Hotel Satyapriya has been constructed on Bankual Mauza forest land, Hotel Mangrove Pitta Homestay has been built under Dangamal Mauza, Khata No 246, Plot No 525 and on the canal in front of it under Durgaprasad Mauza. These four hotels have been erected entirely on forest type land and government land under Dangamal and Durgaprasad Mauza.

Hotels and resorts have mushroomed on government and forest land, despite absence of even an inch of private land or any land patta. However, the administration has remained silent without taking any action. This has created sharp resentment and anger among the local residents.

On the other hand, Congress leader Bidhu Bhushan Mahapatra, Bhagirathi Jena and social worker Bhubaneswar Pradhan have said that Bankual village is situated very close to the national park. This village comes under the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bhitarkanika as recently declared by the Central government. Complaints were raised in October 2023 regarding presence of Swad Hotel on uninhabited and cemetery land despite a ban on new construction in the area. The DFO and local tehsildar were also given a memorandum to investigate the type and location of the land and take action. Even after of frequent agitations over such irregularities, nothing has been achieved. Nowadays, there is a buzz on social media calling for action against the wrongdoers after proper investigation into the location of the land and the ownership. The matter of Swad Hotel came to the fore on social media after an inquiry with the local tehsildar Ajay Kumar Mohanty in this regard. Mohanty

said the matter will be investi-

gated soon and appropriate

action will be taken.

FOR A LIVING: An umbrella seller displays colourful umbrellas to the customers near Municipality Square at Sambalpur, Friday

#### Jagatsinghpur infant sold for ₹1L rescued from Vizag

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, July 5: An infant, who was sold by his mother in exchange of ₹1 lakh in this town of Jagatsinghpur district, has been rescued by the police from Vizag in Andhra Pradesh, Friday.

As per reports, the mother, a slumdweller, had given birth to the baby boy at Biju Patnaik Memorial Hospital June 29 night. Later the mother along with her newborn son returned to a person's house at Noliasahi slum in Nuabazar. Notably, the woman had been reportedly residing there for the last six months till the delivery of the child.

The person who had given shelter to the woman bore all her expenditures during her pregnancy and delivery. Surprisingly, the woman allegedly sold the three-day-old boy to a person from Vizag in Andhra Pradesh for ₹1 lakh. The matter came to the fore when the person who had given shelter to the woman returned home and found the baby missing.

Upon receiving complaint, police swung into action and acting on a tipoff a team of police officials rescued the infant from Vizag. The baby is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Paradip. Police have launched a manhunt to nab the mother of the newborn who is absconding after the news spread. Now, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) will decide where and with whom the baby will reside, said the police.

#### Husband's arrow shot leaves woman critical

Patana: In a shocking incident, a woman was critically injured after her husband allegedly shot her with an arrow from behind at Haridagotha village under this

# **Business feud behind** firing in Garjanbahal

#### RAJESH MONHANTY, OF

Rourkela, July 5: Business rivalry led to firing Thursday evening at an under-construction coal washery near Garjanbahal under Hemgiri police limits in Sundargarh district, police said Friday.

Sources said the washery belongs to two business partners from Raigarh in neighbouring Chhattisgarh. The business feud is a long drawn one.

The washery was idle for some time and some locals, who were hired as small-time contractors for different jobs, tried to operate it Wednesday.

Speaking about the incident, Sundargarh SDPO Himansu Bhusan Behera informed that police have detained 18 persons in this case including some locals. "We got the information about firing and rushed to the spot led by the SP. There were some broken vehicles and some injured persons," informed the SDPO. Only one of the injured was shifted to the DHH in a critical condition. "His condition is stated to be stable." informed the officer.

The SDPO further said a long drawn business feud over partnership claims led to the incident. One of the two partners held a major share. But



hurled. Seven vehicles have been damaged and six were injured. One seriously injured was shifted to the DHH at Sundargarh," added the SDPO. However, some other sources reported that more than 200

were thrown. A forensic team

went there Friday morning

youths of Sundargarh have

been shifted to a Raigarh-based

team from Odisha has reached

Chhattisgarh to interrogate

the injured persons of

Sundargarh. An investigation

is underway to get into the

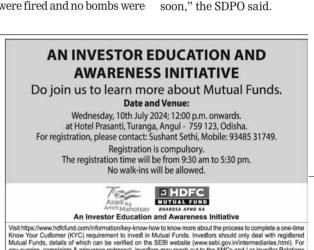
depth of the incident and we

will take necessary action

"We came to know that two

rounds were fired and bombs with due course of time the minor shareholder took over majority of the share and this for spot investigation, he said. was not acceptable to the other shareholder who claimed that the documents were forged. This led to rivalry between hospital for treatment. A police

the two. "One of the shareholders reached the spot last evening with 20-25 vehicles packed with his followers and started bashing the local vendors present over there. Nearly 10-15 rounds were fired and no bombs were





#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, July 5: At least ten tourists from West Bengal, including two women and two children, were injured when a minibus they were travelling in overturned on a hilly road in Ganjam district Friday.

The accident happened in Sorada area around 80 km from



Bhubaneswar, a police officer said. The driver lost control of the vehicle while it was returning from Khunteshwari temple located on a hilltop and overturned on the road. The tourists had gone there to visit the temple, the police officer said.

Out of the 10 tourists from West Bengal, eight were seriously injured. They were admitted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here, a police officer said.

A total of 15 people including the driver were in the vehicle at the time of the accident.

Daringbadi in Kandhamal dis-

trict. On their way to Daringbadi.

they had decided to travel to the

Police and Fire department personnel from Sorada rescued The tourists from Nadia disall the injured persons with the trict in West Bengal were travhelp of local volunteers. elling from Berhampur to

Mohapatra, said.

The injured were initially admitted to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Sorada.

Later the seriously injured people were referred to the Khunteshwari temple in Sorada. "The mishap might have oc-MKCG Medical College and curred due to the driver losing Hospital in Berhampur. The vehicle was seized and an invescontrol over the vehicle," the Sub Divisional Police Officer tigation was initiated, another (SDPO) of Aska, Sanjay Kumar police officer said.

police limits in Keonjhar district, Thursdav night. The injured woman was identified as Saiani Munda of the village. Sources said. Sajani was married some years ago to a person of Hatikucha village under Harichandanpur police limits. However, due to marital discord she was residing at her parental home where the incident took place. Sajani was critically injured as the arrow pierced on her back and its pointy end was visible on the front. Critically injured Saiani was first rushed to Karanija hospital and later shifted to Keonihar district headquarters hospital (DHH). However, as her condition deteriorated, she was later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack.

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender No. : 92245596 Item Description : BOGIE FRAME ASSEMBLY FOR HAND BRAKE

SIDE-LSLRD BOGIE WITH AI SPRING IN SECONDAR SUSPENSION CONFIRMING TO ICE DRAWING NO. LSLRD/US-0-3-001 ALT-NIL. Quantity : 09 Nos. [Warrant Period : 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Inspection Agency : TPI. Estimated Value: ₹ 42,48,000.00 Earnest Money : ₹ 84,960.00. Date and time of closing of Tender At 1500 hrs. on 22.07.2024 Complete details available at : www ireps.gov.in **Dy. Chief Materials Manager** 

Carriage Repair Workshop PR-273/P/24-25 Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar



भारतीय जन संचार संस्थान Indian Institute of Mass Communication (A Deemed to be University) Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, JNU New Campus, New Delhi - 110 067 (Advt. No.01/2024)

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), deemed to be University under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of India with its main campus in New Delhi and Regional Campuses at Aizawl, Amravati, Dhenkanal, Jammu and Kottayam, invites ONLINE applications from eligible candidates for the Non-Teaching Posts of Assistant Editor, Assitant Library & Information Officer, Section Officer, Senior Research Assistant, Library & Information Assistant, Technical Assistant (Audio) Visual) and Library Clerk.

Details of Proforma for application, pay scale, eligibility qualifications etc. are available in 'Vacancy' section on the website of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, i.e., http://www.iimc.gov.in/ vacancy

The last date to submit Online applications : 05.08.2024 CBC 22103/11/0003/2425



In the second res.gov.in. SCORE

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents careful

#### **OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT** EDUCATION OFFICER. KENDRAPARA DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT **PM POSHAN-MDM** Order No. 7018/M Date: 04.07.24 SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF TRANSPORTING AGENT UNDER PM Poshan (MDM) FEEDING PORGRAMME IN KENDRAPARA **DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 2024-25**

No. n-31: Sealed tenders in prescribed format under two bid system are invited from intending registered firms/authorized licensed Transport Contractor/Agents having valid TIN, PAN, GST Clearance for undertaking transportation of rice under PM Poshan (MDM) feeding programme in Kendrapara district from 18.07.24 to 31.03.25 for the year 2024-25. The cost of tender paper s Rs.15,000/- which can be deposited in shape of Banker Cheque or Bank Draft drawn in favour of DPMU MDM, Kendrapara. The Banker Cheque or Bank Draft should be enclosed with the technical bids. Last date and time for receipt of tender paper is 19.07.24 by 5.00 P.M. positively. The tender documents must be sent through Registered Post/Speed Post only addressed to District Education Officer-cum-District Nodal Officer (MDM) At: Duhuria, P.O.: Pandiri, Dist.: Kendrapara PIN - 754250. Sending of quotations through Couriers or by hand is not allowed. This office will not be responsible for any postal delay. The tender paper should be submitted in sealed cover superscribing as TENDER FOR UNDERTAKING TRANSPORTATION WORK UNDER MDM FEEDING PROGRAMME IN **KENDRAPARA DISTRICT 2024-25"** 

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. For the details of the tender call notice and downloading the tender paper (Bid documents) containing detailed specification with terms and conditions please visit Kendrapara district website: www.kendrapara.nic.in.

Sd./- By Order of Collector-cum-Chairman, PM Poshan-MDM, Kendrapara

Sd./- District Education Officer-Cum-District Nodal Officer, PM Poshan-MDM, Kendrapara OIPR-27017/11/0001/2425

## Making of world's tallest chariot in final stage

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 5: With the car festival drawing closer, growing enthusiasm is palpable among the devotees in Keonjhar district to see their presiding deity Lord Baladevjew, along with siblings Lord Jagannath and Goddess Subhadra, on the chariot.

Residents of the mineral rich district are waiting with excitement to take part in the festival and pull the world's tallest chariot to the Gundicha temple here. All kinds of efforts are being made by the district administration to make the major religious event successful and smooth

Sources said construction of the 72-feet tall chariot made of different varieties of wood is nearing completion. Under the leadership of 'Rathamaharana' Nilamani Maharana and under the supervision of the Endowment department, the construction of the chariot is in full swing. About 30 workers have been engaged to complete the



chariot construction. District Collector Vishal Singh recently went to the old city and reviewed the construction of the chariot and preparations for the procession. Similarly, the district

Culture department under Ramesh Chandra Navak is already prepared for the cultural programmes which will be showcased throughout the nine-day long

festival. "By Saturday, the chariot will be ready to roll. The painting work is getting slightly hampered owing to rain. However, there is still some more work to be done," said Panchanan Sahu, manager of the

Endowment department. On the other hand, Bhuvan tribals of Keonjhar district were also busy in preparing the special ropes made up of 'Siali' creepers, using which the chariot is pulled every year. This

tradition has been continuing for hundreds of years as the Bhuyan tribesmen are close to the King's dynasty.

Therefore, people of the tribal community under the leadership of Bhuyan Sardars Kunj Juang and Bhim Juang of Danla village under Banspal block have collected the 'Siali' climbers from Gandhamardan hill and are preparing ropes for the difficult to find the creepers and prepare ropes, we cannot leave this tradition,' they said. As per the legend, Lord

car festival. "Although it is

Krishna had died while swinging on the 'Siali' creeper in the forest after he was shot with an arrow by Jara, a hunter of Sabar community, who mistakes him as a deer. Locals say the king had ordered to use the rope made of 'Siali' creepers, Lord Krishna's favourite, to pull the chariot.





# power post

#### FOCUS US POLLS

Daily we must aspire to conquer all mistakes, all obscurities and all ignorance. THE MOTHER



## Show of Defiance

utting speculations to rest, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appointed Manoj Kumar Singh as the new Chief Secretary of the state. He took over from Durga Shanker Mishra, who was not granted a fourth extension beyond June 30.

For a while, there was widespread speculation in Lucknow about the possibility of another extension for Mishra. Sources told DKB that the state government had sent a proposal to the Centre seeking an extension for Mishra beyond June 30. However, the Centre indicated that no such proposal had reached Raisina Hill, effectively ruling out any further extension for Mishra.

Notably, when Mishra met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in mid-June, a former Union Secretary from Uttar Pradesh suggested it marked the end of Mishra's tenure as Uttar Pradesh's Chief Secretary. Certainly, the political landscape in Uttar Pradesh has become increasingly fluid following poor results for the ruling party in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Mishra's unexpected meeting with Amit Shah had fueled rumours that he might stay on, by securing another extension as Chief Secretary. That was not to be. But with Manoj Singh's appointment, Yogi has signalled to the Centre that he will continue to run the state government in his own chosen way

#### Extended tenures of key babus signal stability

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to keep some of his old team while bringing in fresh faces into his Cabinet is all about continuity and stability. This can be seen in the makeup of his Cabinet and the choices his government has been making lately

One big move was extending Tapan Kumar Deka's time as Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for another year beyond June 30, 2024. This shows that the NDA administration really trusts Modi's leader-

ship and experience. To make this happen, the government even relaxed some rules, which may raise concerns in some quarters. But when national security is such a high priority, it won't be questioned much.

BABUDOM BYTES Dilip Cherian

Another similar move was extending Bharat Lal's tenure as Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Serving in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India on a contract basis, Lal's extension beyond June 30, 2024, ensures the NHRC continues to benefit from his extensive experience and dedication.

These extensions are part of a bigger strategy to value seasoned babus who have proven their capabilities and earned Modi's trust. The NDA government seems to be all about stability and sticking with policies that work. Keeping experienced leaders in critical roles aims to ensure a smooth transition and continued progress.

#### Lucky Ali alleges land grab by IAS officer, sparks row

Popular singer Lucky Ali's recent allegations against IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri and her family have kicked up a storm. Ali claims that Sindhuri and her family have misused government resources and snatched his farmland in Yelahanka's Kanchenahalli area. This is a big deal and has got everyone talking.

Ali hasn't kept these claims to himself. He's gone public, filing a complaint with the Karnataka Lokayukta Police. He says that Sindhuri, her husband Sudhir Reddy, and her brother-in-law Madhusudan Reddy have illegally grabbed his land, using their clout to escape it.

Sources say that this isn't the first time Ali has brought this issue up. A few years ago, he accused the local police of taking Sindhuri's side and asked higher-ups to step in, claiming there was a 'land mafia' conspiracy. These recurring accusations point to a long-standing and troubling dispute.

At its core, this is about more than just land. It's about the misuse of power and the integrity of public officials. If Ali's allegations are true, a senior IAS officer used her position for personal gain, which is a major breach of trust. The alleged involvement of the local police makes things even messier.

Rohini Sindhuri's past controversies add another twist to this saga. She was previously involved in a public spat with IPS officer D Roopa, which led to both officers being removed from their posts. The episode was covered extensively in this column. This history makes the current allegations even more concerning and highlights the need to look closely at her actions.

# **DEFINING DEMOCRACY**

early everyone agrees that US President Joe Biden's awful performance in his debate with Donald Trump has increased the chances of a Republican victory in November's presidential election. Trump lied and ranted, but he did so with vigor. While Biden made some good points, he spoke and looked like a bewildered old man.

In the end, those good points may mean little. As Frank Luntz, an old hand in Republican electoral politics, wrote in The New York Times, it's not "the facts, the policies, or even the oneupmanship," by Biden and Trump that matters, it's "how they make voters feel." There is no doubt that Democratic voters felt bad after watching the disaster unfold.

Biden has acknowledged his stumble but continues to make the case that a second Trump administration poses an existential threat to democracy in the United States. A liberal democracy cannot function without an independent judiciary, a free press, and a non-partisan government bureaucracy. Biden believes in these key democratic pillars. Trump, for his part, plans to stack the civil service with loyalists, wants to use the judiciary and the Department of Justice as a political tool against his enemies, hates the press, and flirts with mob violence.

So, if Trump's threat to democracy is real, which I believe it is, Americans who care about their system of government would surely prefer a doddery old democrat to an authoritarian rabble-rouser. Even if Biden drops out of the campaign, the danger of a destructive second Trump administration remains as strong as ever.

Many people, especially those drawn to Trump's demagogy, may regard American democracy as a spent force anyway, a corrupt system governed by selfish elites who only pretend to care about ordinary people.



A recent poll of swing-state voters suggests that Americans do, in fact, care about democracy: 61% see threats to US democracy as extremely important. Astonishingly, 44% of all these voters believe that Trump would do a better job of handling these threats, compared to 33% who trust Biden more

Such feelings are prevalent among the middle-aged white people in red MAGA hats who attend Trump's rallies. But some Black and Latino people, as well as disaffected young voters, hold a similar view. They feel betrayed by Democrats who failed to keep their promises.

But a recent poll of swingstate voters suggests that Americans do, in fact, care about democracy: 61% see threats to US democracy as extremely important. Astonishingly, 44% of all these voters believe that Trump would do a better job of handling these threats, compared to 33% who trust Biden more.

This raises the question of what people mean by democracy. In a properly functioning liberal democracy, voters elect politicians who represent their interests. Winners are entitled to govern, but not to dictate from on high. That means political leaders should consider

the welfare of people who voted for the losing parties, or who didn't vote at all, and resolve conflicting interests with debate and compromise. Biden is of the old school: he still believes in negotiation and is willing to slap the odd back, whisper in the right ear, and even twist an arm when necessary to reach some sort of agreement. To people with a different

idea of democracy, this can seem like the way corrupt elites typically do their business. They feel that the voice of the people is not heard; that political leaders can't make decisions; that promises can't be kept; and that radical change is impossible. What they want is "direct democracy," whereby a strong leader, unencumbered by those selfish elected representatives in Congress, speaks for the people.

Fascism is one example of direct democracy. "Decisionism" - the leader decides - was the

phrase used in Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Italy. This was considered democratic because the leader is the direct and sole representative of the people. He is, in a very real sense, above the law. Carl Schmitt, the German jurist who justified this type of rule, wrote about Hitler that the Führer "creates law by virtue of his leadership as the supreme judge."

Communism, which positioned itself as the unyielding enemy of fascism, was another variant of direct democracy. The party, and especially its leader, was the voice of the people, or the proletariat. Both fascism and communism wished to abolish political conflict through the violent imposition of a monolithic state, rather than by negotiation. Communists called for eliminating class enemies, so that only the proletariat remains, whereas the Nazis aimed to create a "racially pure" society.

Most American voters who believe that Trump is the best defender of democracy are not fascists, much less communists. The very thought would horrify them. But they almost surely have a strong opinion on who constitutes the true American people: God-fearing, hard-working, and most probably white. And they worry that these ordinary Americans are being displaced by illegal immigrants, and that their way of life is being threatened by new ideas about gender, race, and sexuality emerging from elite universities.

Trump is stoking these fears and exaggerating these threats His line that the US courts are attacking not only him, but every right-thinking American is horribly effective. Since he is heard as the true voice of the people, he is the purest democrat. As a result, liberal democracy might not withstand another four years of his rule.

The writer is the author of Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah (Yale University Press, 2024). © PROJECT SYNDICATE

Each pull signifies progress to-

wards a shared goal, echoing

the principle that collective efforts

vield monumental results. The

involvement of Gajapati Maharaj

of Puri, who humbly sweeps the

chariot floors, known as

Chherapanhanra, epitomises servant leadership and rein-

forces that in true teamwork,

The Rath Yatra of Puri tran-

scends its role as a religious

festival, becoming a living tes-

tament to the essence of team-

work. It demonstrates how

shared vision, collaboration,

and unwavering dedication can

transform ordinary tasks into

extraordinary achievements.

no task is too menial.

#### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Ian Buruma

LIBERAL

**WHO** 

THEIR

**IN A PROPERLY** 

**FUNCTIONING** 

DEMOCRACY,

**VOTERS ELECT** 

**POLITICIANS** 

REPRESENT

**INTERESTS.** 

WINNERS ARE

**ENTITLED TO** 

**GOVERN, BUT** 

**NOT TO DICTATE** 

**FROM ON HIGH** 

**Big team lessons from Rath Yatra** 

**66** A lone we can do so little, **Tradition with precision:** 

**Orchestrated excellence:** bolise the power of unified effort.

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

#### WISDOM CORNER

Freedom from the desire for an answer is essential to the understanding of a problem. JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

Patriots always talk of dying for their country and never of killing for their country.

#### BERTRAND RUSSELL

The question of bread for myself is a material question, but the The question of bread for mysell is a material question. question of bread for my neighbor is a spiritual question. NIKOLAI BERDYAEV

#### THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- **1535:** English humanist and statesman Thomas More was beheaded for refusing to accept King Henry VIII as head of the Church of England.
- **1777:** British General John Burgovne captured Fort Ticonderoga from the Americans during the American Revolution.
- **1885:** Louis Pasteur successfully tested an antirabies vaccine.
- **1942:** Anne Frank and her family went into hiding in Amsterdam on this day and lived in a secret annex—an experience documented in her diary, which became a classic of war literature-until their capture August 4, 1944.
- **1957:** Paul McCartney met John Lennon for the first time, at a church event in Liverpool, England, where the latter's band was performing; the duo would later form the Beatles, perhaps the most influential band in history.

#### LOL

#### **Consultation fees**

lawyer's dog, running around Atown unleashed, heads for a butcher shop and steals a roast. The butcher goes to the lawyer's office and asks, "If a dog running unleashed steals a piece of meat from my store, do I have a right to demand payment for the meat from the dog's owner?' The lawyer answers, "Absolutely." "Then you owe me \$8.50. Your dog



was loose and stole a roast from me today.'

The lawyer, without a word, writes the butcher a check for \$8.50. The butcher, having a feeling of satisfaction, leaves. Three days later, the butcher finds a bill from the lawyer: \$100 due for a consultation.



THE FESTIVAL **DEMONSTRATES HOW SHARED VISION. COLLABORATION. AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION CAN** TRANSFORM **ORDINARY TASKS INTO** 

**EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

together we can do so Imuch."

This timeless wisdom from Helen Keller resonates powerfully, especially when we witness the spectacle of the annual Rath Yatra in Puri. The construction of the colossal chariots for Lord Jagannath. Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra exemplifies teamwork at its zenith, offering profound lessons even in today's digital age.

From concept to chariot: The journey of shared vision The Rath Yatra begins long

before the first log is carved. The vision for each chariot, meticulously detailed with its dimensions and specifications, guides over 200 artisans and craftsmen through a journey of collaboration and coordination. From selecting special trees in Dasapalla, (a small town 127 kms from Bhubaneswar) whose logs are set afloat in the river Mahanadi and collected at Puri (now they are brought on road), to the precise construction managed without any modern machinery, every step is a testament to teamwork's collaborative power.

The power of consistency

The towering chariots of Lord Jagannath and his siblings are freshly crafted each year without altering their traditional design. Employing ancient carpentry methods and eschewing modern technology, the army of carpenters and blacksmiths work tirelessly within a strict 58-day deadline. This commitment to tradition ensures seamless knowledge transfer across generations, exemplifying immaculate process management and consistency

#### Specialised roles: The symphony of skilled hands

During this annual ritual, 119 categories of servitors unite, each with specialised roles across various castes. Divided into seven groups, they perform their tasks with unwavering dedication: Viswakarma for construction, Kartias for wood cutting. Bhois for wood transport. Lohars for ironwork like axles. Roopkars for artwork, and Chitrakars for chariot painting. This division honours tradition while underscoring the importance of specialised skills in achieving collective goals.

#### The art of coordination

Managing an event of such magnitude demands flawless coordination. The chariot construction begins two months before the Rath Yatra, coinciding with Akshaya Tritiya. Multiple meetings with temple authorities, forest departments, police. and administrative bodies ensure seamless alignment of logistics. This synchronised effort culminates in a spectacle that draws millions, unified in their participation in the Yatra's momentum.

Renewal amidst reverence: Balancing work and life

Amidst the fervour of creation, the Yatra teaches a vital lesson in personal renewal. The annual journey of Lord Jagannath and his siblings to Gundicha's sanctuary (Lord's summer retreat) emphasises the importance of 'me-time' amidst busy schedules. This period of solitude and rejuvenation strengthens the team's collective spirit for future endeavours.

**Pulling together: The** power of unified effort As the chariots move forward, propelled by millions, they sym-

As the 'juggernaut' rolls each year with splendour and festivity, it serves as a reminder that together, we can accomplish wonders. In essence, the Rath Yatra teaches us that while each of us may be capable alone,

through Unity in Motion. The author is a Business **Consultant & a Certified** Life Coach.

true greatness is realised

#### Conversion concern

Sir, Allahabad High Court's concern on conversion is genuine. No doubt, if the conversion process continues unabated, majority becomes minority. Christianity, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ who lived in the Holy Land 2000 years ago, is the world's biggest religion with about 2.1 billion followers worldwide. Still the propagators of this religion are not satisfied with the present status of Christianity, Hinduism, the oldest religion according to many scholars, is said to be having 900 million followers but it is third largest religion followed by Islam. Conversion changes the demographic character of a nation or any region. Change of demographic character through conversion is artificial but change of demographic character by birth is natural. The present artificial demographic character change becomes natural after two or three generations. At least from fourth generation, the descendants may not be knowing what their ancestors belonged to. Even if they come to know, they may not take it seriously because they will be acclimatised to the present style of living according to the religion practiced by the people of today who become forefathers of fourth and subsequent generations. It would be no wonder if an oldest religion passes into history. Conversion bid from one faith to another must be nipped in the bud. There are 157 Christian countries, 57 Muslim countries and only 3 Hindu countries. The three Hindu countries are India, Nepal and Mauritius. If the conversion racket is not dented, it would not be long before India, Nepal and Mauritius lose Hindu majority status

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

#### Great Barbados crowd

Sir, What an action! Cricket has certainly come of age and Team India won the coveted T-20 cup after 17 years. Cricket is a team game, where performance is the name of the game. And this self emulating performance came at Bridgetown, Barbados when the chips were down and the odds were in favour of South Africa winning. As the dust settles on the celebrations, let's delve into other inspiring lessons we can learn  $\rightarrow$ from India's historic win. Nothing succeeds like success and it was proved beyond doubt at Barbados. Congratulations to the crowd for the exemplary behaviour and the extant ways of celebrations. It was indeed a great gala and a grand celebration.

CK Subramaniam, CHENNAI









### Orissapost SATURDAY | JULY 6 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

# **'Our budget proposals will** transform Maharashtra'

The state budget introduces various schemes like the Mukhyamanyti Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana and the Jalyukt Shivar Yojana to support women, youth, and water conservation

As the economy

grows the public

debt stock is bound to

is capable of bearing the

burden with the increased

revenue mobilisation. The

government estimates an

towards interest payment

AJIT PAWAR | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

that the public debt is expected

to be ₹7.82 lakh crore in 2024-25

which will be 18.35 per cent of the

Gross State Domestic Product

(GSDP) against the limit of 25 per

cent of the GSDP. He said that

as the economy grows the pub-

lic debt stock is bound to in-

crease but the government is

capable of bearing the burden

with the increased revenue mo-

bilisation. The government es-

timates an outgo of ₹56,722 crore

The Deputy Chief Minister

added that both the revenue

deficit of ₹20.051 crore and fiscal

deficit of ₹1.10 lakh crore esti-

mated in 2024-25 were well within

the limits of the GSDP as pre-

scribed in the Fiscal

Responsibility and Budgetary

Management Act and also as

per the limit laid down by the

**Finance Commission** 

towards interest payment.

outgo of ₹56,722 crore

increase but the government

**Oppn** walks out

allowed to speak

Mumbai: The Opposition in the

Friday staged a walkout for not

Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

being allowed to speak on Deputy

Chief Minister, Aiit Pawar's reply to

the debate on the additional budget

for 2024-25. Leader of Opposition.

Vijay Wadettiwar, who tried in vain

to put his point across, led the walk

out saying that the Chair should

Opposition members to speak on

the Dy CM's reply. Wadettiwar said

reply than the entire budget presen-

allowed to speak on what the Dv CM

said in his reply. The budget inflates

actual expenditure. The expenditure

Aiit Pawar took more time for his

tation. "The Opposition was not

the figures and understates the

for the agriculture department is

only 47 per cent of the total provi-

sion in the previous year 2023-24.

between the expenditure made on

the welfare of the Backward Class

"Don't indulge in making mis-

leading statements that may im-

pact investment flow," the Deputy

Chief Minister appealed to the

communities and the budgetary

provision." he added.

Opposition

"Besides, there is a huge gap

have allowed him and other

for not being

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 5: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who also holds Finance and Portfolio Departments, Friday said that their government's budget proposals will transform the state.

"A slew of proposals including Mukhamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana, free electricity up to 7.5 HP to farmers, three free cylinders to women, training to youth in the additional budget 2024-25 are not election Jumla but the government's firm commitment to transform the state, expedite growth and spur development of all sections of the society,' the Deputy Chief Minister said.

He said that the Opposition should not indulge in setting a "fake narrative" as done during the Lok Sabha elections, adding that it won't work in the upcoming Assembly election as the government is committed to implement the budget proposals backed by the necessary financial allocations.

Deputy Chief Minister in his reply to the budget debate in the state Assembly reiterated the state government's resolve to achieve Maharashtra a trilliondollar economy, saving that the government has taken several steps in this regard.

"At the current dollar rate the trillion dollar economy will be worth ₹82.92 lakh crore. The state economy is expected to be worth ₹44.44 lakh crore in 2024 25, which is an increase of 10.9 per cent compared to the GSDP of 2023-23," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

Responding to the Opposition's criticism over rising public debt, the Deputy Chief Minister said

#### TADOBA ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE

10 white-rumped vultures

tagged with GSM trackers

#### PORSCHE CAR CRASH Juvenile submits 300-word essay

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune. July 5: The 17-year-old minor allegedly involved in the Pune Porsche car crash that killed two techies has submitted a 300-word essay on road safety complying with the bail conditions of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), an official said Friday.

The teenager submitted the essay to the JJB Wednesday, the official said.

The juvenile was released from an observation home last month after the Bombay High Court held that the orders remanding him to the facility were illegal. Hours after the fatal accident

in the city's Kalyani Nagar area May 19, the JJB had ordered that he be kept under the care and supervision of his parents and grandfather. It also asked the minor to write a 300-word essay on road safety.

According to the police, the minor was driving a Porsche car under the influence of alcohol when it rammed into a two-wheeler, killing two soft ware engineers.

Amid a nationwide outrage over his quick bail on lenient terms, the police moved JJB, seeking an amendment of the bail order. The board ordered that the minor be sent to an observation home May 22.

The HC paved his release holding the orders illegal and stressed that the law regarding juveniles must be implemented fully.



# No tolerance for attempts to destroy SFI: AK Balan

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 5: A day after the CPI in Kerala said the SFI will become a liability for the Left Front if it does not mend its ways, CPI(M) leader AK Balan Friday said no one inside or outside the LDF would be permitted to destroy the student outfit.

Balan said that the Students Federation of India (SFI) was a movement created by the CPI(M) and it has grown over the years. "We will not let anyone de-

stroy it. What I said is meant for those inside and outside the Left front," he said. Balan further said

The

those who were not present in Kerala's politi-Students cal scene or **Federation of India** India when the SFI was (SFI) was a growing and movement created when it was in crisis, "would by the CPI(M) not understand its history."

He also said that if

the intention was to project SFI as a rabid dog and beat it to death, the Kerala society will not permit it.

"Let me make it clear, no one will be allowed to drink the blood of SFI," Balan said.

His comments were apparently in response to CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam's remarks Thursday when he strongly criticised the SFI, saying that if its ways were not corrected, it would become a liability for the Left front in the state.

Later Friday, Viswam said that he too does not want anyone to "drink the blood of SFI" and that is why he had said that the student outfit should mend its ways.

Meanwhile, SFI state secretary PM Arsho said leaders like the CPI state secretary should not fall into the trap of propaganda

by vested interests. Viswam had said that the ways of the CPI(M)'s

student wing "are not that of the Left student movement." "The SFI activists and com-

rades should read about the history of the student movement. They are not aware of their origins and what they stand for. The new SFI does not know the meaning of the term Left front. They do not know the depth of their political ideology.

"They also do not know about the obligations of the Left front in the new world. They have to be taught about all this. If they are not taught, if they are not corrected, SFI will become a liability for the Left front. That should not happen," he had said.

He was reportedly speaking with regard to the SFI's recent activities, including allegedly slapping a college principal and beating up a KSU leader in the

The SFI activists and comrades should read about the history of the student movement. They are not aware of their origins and

what they stand for. The new SFI does not know the meaning of the term Left front. They do not know the depth of their political ideology

AK BALAN CPI(M) LEADER

University of Kerala campus, which have been in the news.

Viswam had also said that there are thousands of youngsters in the SFI and keeping them in mind also, the student outfit should be guided on to the right path.

"They (SFI) should be made the strength of the Left front. For that, they have to be made aware that the ways they have adopted now are not the right ones," the CPI state secretary had said.

## African Swine Fever outbreak reported in Kerala's Thrissur

**ABOUT 310 PIGS AT MADAKKATHARA PANCHAYAT IN THRISSUR SET TO BE CULLED** 

Centre in Haryana's Pinjore, were successfully tagged with GSM-based tracking devices. It was a collaborative effort between Bombay Natural History Society team and the local Forest department staff," he said.

The disease was

detected among pigs

**Babu of Veliyanthara** 

owned by Kuttalapuzha

movement of pigs, pork, and

feed from the affected areas to

other parts of the district, as

well as the movement of these

items from other areas into the

affected area, have been pro-

hibited until further orders,'

Husbandry Department will in-

vestigate whether pigs were

transported from the affected

farm to other farms within the

last two months. The depart-

ment will also conduct strict

checks at checkposts and other

entry points in the district to

prevent the illegal transportation

of pigs and pork from Thrissur

of the disease in Madakkathara

panchayat, precautionary meas-

ures will be taken in other areas

of the district as well, officials

said. If the swine fever virus is

detected in other areas, the mu-

nicipal/government secretaries,

village officers and rural devel-

opment officials concerned

should inform the relevant vet-

erinary officer and then take the

Following the confirmation

or other areas, they said.

Officials said the Animal

the release said.



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, July 5: Ten whiterumped vultures, a critically endangered species, were tagged with GSM trackers in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, an official has said.

The initiative was part of the Jatayu conservation project, TATR field director Jitendra Ramgaokar said in a release Thursday. "Ten white-rumped vultures (Gyps bengalensis), previously relocated from the BNHS Vulture Conservation & Breeding

These vultures, which were released into a specially constructed pre-release aviary at Botezari within the Kolsa Range of TATR January 21 this year, underwent tagging to monitor their movements and behaviour. Along with tagging, blood and faecal samples were also collected from these birds as part of comprehensive health assessments to ensure the absence of diseases before their release into the wild," he added.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has categorised white-rumped vultures as critically endangered.



Maha Vikas Aghadi MLAs protest against the Mahayuti coalition government at Vidhan Bhavan over alleged price hike of essential commodities, during the Monsoon session of Maharashtra Assembly, in Mumbai, Friday PTI PHOTO

## **VICTORY PARADE AFTERMATH** BMC collects bottles, footwear among trash

Nariman Point after 7.30 pm and

went till the Wankhede Stadium.

Although it usually takes five

minutes to cover the distance

between these two points, it took

more than one-and-a-half-hour for

the parade to do so due to the

left behind piles of trash as

footwear and water bottles were

This huge congregation also

large gathering.

Thousands of fans thronged the Marine Drive in south Mumbai to witness the victory parade of the Indian cricket team Thursday evening

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 5: As a sea humanity turned up at the Mumbai's iconic Marine Drive promenade to give a hero's welcome to the T20 World Cup winning Indian team, this multitude also left behind loads of trash, including water bottles and footwear, that was later collected by the civic body in seven vehicles.

The cleanliness drive went on all through the intervening night of Thursday and Friday follow-



ing the victory parade, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Friday. Thousands of fans thronged the Marine Drive in south Mumbai to witness the victory parade of the Indian cricket team Thursday evening.

The open bus parade started from the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) in

- Of the total trash, shoes and chappals were collected in as many as five jeeps, adding that two dumpers were also used to lift the garbage from the spot
- Instead of sending this junk to the dumping ground, all these items will be sent to recycling plants

seen lying scattered on the stretch of road from where the victory parade passed

In a release, the BMC said that along with a large number of wrappers of food items and water bottles, a huge quantity of shoes and chappals (slippers), among other things, were collected during the cleanliness drive.

Of the total trash, shoes and chappals were collected in as many as five jeeps, it said, adding that two dumpers were also used to lift the garbage from the spot. Instead of sending this junk to the dumping ground, all these items will be sent to recycling plants, the civic body added.

The cleanliness drive started at 11.30 pm Thursday and ended at 8 am Friday. One hundred staffers of the Civic Solid Waste Management department and workers of some NGOs took part in it, it said.

With this operation, a neat and clean Marine Drive promenade was made available to people as scores of them use this spot for morning walk and exercising.

During the victory parade, police deployed a large number of personnel and made elaborate security arrangements between Marine Drive and Wankhede Stadium to avoid any untoward incident.

At least 11 persons were rushed to hospitals for sustaining minor injuries or feeling dizzy due to massive crowding along the route of the victory parade.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur (Kerala), July 5: An outbreak of African Swine Fever, a highly contagious and deadly swine disease that can affect both farm-raised and feral (wild) pigs, has been reported from a farm in a village in Kerala's Thrissur district, officials said Friday.

Due to the outbreak of swine fever, which can be readily transmitted from one pig to another through direct contact with bodily fluids from an infected pig, the Thrissur district collector has ordered the culling of 310 pigs at a private farm in Thrissur district's Madakkathara panchayat, they said.

'The disease was confirmed in the pigs owned by Kuttalapuzha Babu of Veliyanthara in the 14th ward. The district Collector has directed the district animal husbandry officer to cull the pigs and bury them," according to an official release here

A team consisting of doctors, livestock inspectors and attendants will conduct the culling process, and further primary disinfection measures will also be taken, it said.

The area within a one-kilometre radius of the affected farm has been declared a disease-affected area, and the area within a 10-km radius has been declared a disease surveillance area.

'The transportation of pork from the affected areas, the operation of such farms, and the

necessary steps to control the spread of the virus, they said. According to the officials, African Swine Fever (ASF) is different from other types of fever.





# national





We are asking the Centre to help in rebuilding the state. We did not ask for any ministerial post; whatever they offered, we accepted and we are happy N CHANDRABABU NAIDU ANDHRA PRADESH CM

#### **EMPOWERING WOMEN**

The National Commission for Women (NCW) and CyberPeace Foundation have launched the fifth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign, a nationwide initiative aimed at digitally empowering and upskilling women and girls in cyberspace, creating safer online environments for them



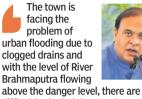


The coalition government will destroy Jharkhand. Farmers are in trouble as they have no electricity, youths are in trouble as there is no employment

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN UNION MINISTER

By hitting Hinduism and Sanatana dharma, the Congress party and the INDIA alliance is trying to woo the minority

community in view of the upcoming elections in some Indian states ANURAG THAKUR BJP MF



difficulties in draining out the water HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 📕 Delhi govt sets up flood control room

New Delhi: The Delhi government has set up a 24x7 flood control room to monitor real-time data from the Hathnikund barrage from where water is released in the Yamuna to Delhi. Ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj made the announcement at a joint press conference following a meeting of the apex committee on supervising, recommending and coordinating flood control measures in the National Capital Territory.

#### ED searches **Chowgule Group**

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it has searched the premises of the Goa-headquartered Chowgule Group and linked entities as part of a foreign exchange violation investigation against them. The searches were undertaken as per the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)

#### NCW seeks FIR against Mahua

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 5: The National Commission for Women (NCW) has taken suo moto cognizance of the derogatory remark made by TMC MP Mahua Moitra against its chairperson Rekha Sharma and sought an FIR against her.

This came a day after the TMC leader, commenting on a video posted on X showing the NCW chairperson's arrival at the site of a stampede that recently took place in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, wrote, "She is too busy holding up her boss's pajamas". Moitra later deleted

New Delhi, July 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin will review the whole range of bilateral ties, including in areas like defence, investment, energy cooperation, education, culture and people-topeople exchanges, at the upcoming annual India-Russia summit, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Friday. Modi will pay a two-day offi-

AGENCIES

cial visit to Russia from July 8 to 9 at the invitation of Putin for the 22nd India-Russia summit that will review the entire range of multi-faceted ties between the two countries. Putin will host a private dinner for Modi on the day of arrival. The two leaders will also share perspectives on "regional and global developments of mutual interest," Kwatra said at a media briefing here ahead of Modi's visit to Russia for the summit.

Sharing details about the

The original post showed a man walking behind the NCW chief holding an umbrella.

"The crude remarks are outrageous and a violation of a woman's right to dignity. The Commission observed that this remark attracts Section 79 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023,' the NCW said in a post on X.

The NCW said it strongly condemns the defamatory remarks and requests strict action against Moitra. "An FIR should be registered against Moitra and a detailed action report should be communicated to the Commission within 3 days," the NCW wrote.

Reposting the NCW's post on X, Moitra said, "come on Delhi Police, please take action immediately on these suo moto orders. Am in Nadia in case you need me in the next three days to make a quick arrest". In an apparent jibe at the NCW chief, she said, "I Can Hold My Own Umbrella." In another post, Moitra shared several screenshots of the posts made by Sharma, and said an FIR should also be lodged against those posts.

#### **India-Russia relations in focus** 9 die after inhaling toxic gas inside well



Russia itinerary, Kwatra said, as of now, the Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive in Moscow late afternoon of July 8. The next day, Modi's interactions would include an interface with the Indian community in Russia. The Prime Minister will also lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Kremlin. And, thereafter he will visit Rosatom pavilion at the exhibition venue in Moscow.

The annual India-Russia sum-

mit is taking place after three years, and "we attach great importance to it," Kwatra said. The issue of early discharge of Indian nationals who have been misled into the service of the Russian Army is expected to figure in the discussions," he added. After concluding his trip to Russia, Modi will travel to Austria, which will be the first visit by an Indian prime minister to that country in 41 years, the Ministry of External Affairs

said Thursday. This will be Modi's first trip to Russia in nearly five years. His last visit to that country was in 2019 when he attended an economic conclave in the Far East city of Vladivostok. This will also be his first visit to Russia since the conflict in Ukraine.

So far, 21 annual summits have taken place alternately in India and Russia. The last summit was held December 6, 2021 in New Delhi. Putin had visited India to attend the summit.

The leaders will also assess the status of bilateral engagements in groupings such as BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), G20, East Asia Summit, and the UN, the foreign secretary said. Other areas of interest will include cooperation across the range of areas. The last summit saw both sides sealing 28 MoUs and

agreements besides coming out with a joint statement titled "India-Russia Partnership for Peace, Progress and Prosperity".



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

police station limits in Janjgir-Champa, Ramchandra Jaiswal (60), Ramesh Patel (50), his two sons Rajendra (20) and Jitendra (25), and Tikeshwar Chandra (25) died, said Bilaspur Range **Inspector General of Police** Sanjeev Shukla.



Prima facie, it appears the men died after inhaling some poisonous gas inside the well, though the exact cause would be known once autopsy reports are received, a district administration official said.

Some officials said the old ring well that was 30 feet deep with 5-feet water level had not been used for around four months after Jaiswal dug a borewell in his house, which may have led to accumulation of toxic gases inside.

The owner had used wooden strips to cover the well, and following thunderstorms and rains in the area in the last few days, one of the strips had fallen in, they said.

In the second incident in neighbouring Korba, those killed were identified as Jahru Patel (60), his daughter Sapina (16), and two other members of the family, Shivcharan Patel (45) and Manbodh Patel (57), Korba Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari said.

In both the incidents, bodies were fished out by personnel of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and sent for the post mortem, as per police.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed grief over the two\_ incidents and instructed officials to provide compensation of ₹9 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

PROUD MOMENT: President Droupadi Murmu confers Kirti Chakra upon Constable/GD Bablu Rabha, 210 CoBRA, CRPF, posthumously during the Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-I), at Rashtrapati Bhayan in New Delhi PTI PHOTO





#### **Rahul meets** rlys loco pilots

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Friday met a group of Indian Railways loco pilots, who complained of "inadequate rest due to understaffing". Gandhi assured them that he would raise their issues in Parliament. Gandhi met around 50 loco pilots from all over India at the New Delhi railway station.

#### Rain disrupts life in U'khand, Himachal

New Delhi: Heavy rain disrupted daily life in vast swathes of north India including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand Friday while the flood situation in Assam remained grim with major rivers flowing above the danger mark and nearly 22 lakh people affected. In Uttarakhand, which has received heavy rain over the past few days, a five-yearold drowned in a rainwaterfilled pit in Dehradun and a teenager in a Haridwar rivulet Heavy rain also lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh in the past 24 hours, leading to the closure of 64 roads.

#### 7 Naxalites held

Sukma: Seven Naxalites were arrested and explosives recovered from them in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said Friday. The cadres, aged between 20 and 37 years, were apprehended Thursday from near Mukram village under Chintalnar police station limits when a joint team of the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters and district force was out on a search operation.

#### BRIDGE **COLLAPSE**

*Report found that the* engineers were "negligent" and monitoring was *"ineffective", which is the* main reason behind the collapse of small bridges and causeways in the state

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, July 5: The Bihar government Friday suspended 15 engineers in connection with a series of recent incidents of bridge collapse in the state, a senior official said. The decision was taken after

a probe panel submitted its report to the Water Resources Department (WRD). A total of 10 bridges collapsed in Siwan,

Saran, Madhubani, Araria, East Champaran and Kishanganj districts in the past 17 days, officials said.

The report found that the engineers were "negligent" and monitoring was "ineffective", which is the main reason behind the collapse of small bridges and causeways in the state, Additional Chief Secretary of WRD, Chaitanya Prasad, told reporters here. Those suspended include four executive engineers.

"The Rural Works Department has also initiated the process of blacklisting the contractor who was involved in the construction of the bridge in Araria district. The department has also stopped payment of the contractor/firm for its previous work till the completion of the probe," said Dipak Kumar Singh,



Additional Chief Secretary.

15 engineers suspended in Bihar

RWD. Besides, the department has sought explanation from officials concerned for the collapse of bridges in East Champaran June 23 and in Madhubani June 26

"A probe has already been ordered into the collapse of RWD bridges in these two districts,

said Singh. Commenting on the bridge collapse incidents, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav told reporters: "Why are leaders of the NDA-led Bihar government, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, maintaining a stoic silence... These incidents prove how corruption is rampant in the ruling dispensation.

'The portfolio of the RWD, which constructs most of the small bridges in the state, is always with JD(U) leaders. Who should be held responsible for this mess?" the former deputy CM said.

Reacting to Yadav's comments, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union minister and founder of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), which is an alliance partner of the NDA, said the matter should not be politicised.

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### BJP appoints state in-charges

New Delhi: The BJP Friday appointed its in-charges and coincharges for states, retaining the incumbent office-bearers in most places. Its national general secretaries Vinod Tawde, Tarun Chugh and Radha Mohan Das Agarwal will continue to steer the party's organisational affairs in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka respectively, while Prakash Javadekar and Satish Poonia will be the respective in-charges of Kerala and Haryana. Bihar MLA Nitin Nabin will be in-charge of Chhattisgarh, Ashish Sood of Goa, Shrikant Sharma of Himachal Pradesh, Laxmikant Bajpai of Jharkhand, Mahendra Singh of Madhya Pradesh and Vijaypal Singh Tomar of Odisha. BJP MP Sambit Patra has also been retained as the coordinator for the northeastern states.

#### Shiv Sena leader attacked with swords

Ludhiana: A Shiv Sena (Punjab) leader was grievously injured after he was attacked with swords by four unidentified assailants in full public view here Friday, police said. Sandeep Thapar (58) was attacked when he came out of the office of the Samvedna Trust near the Civil Hospital after attending a ceremony to mark the fourth death anniversary of the trust's founder-president Ravinder Arora, police said.

#### Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Airbus sign pact

New Delhi: Vadodara-based Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya and Airbus entered into a collaboration Friday to significantly strengthen the Indian aviation sector, a press statement from the Railway Ministry said. "Following up on the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed in September 2023, a definitive agreement was signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, between Mr Rémi Maillard (President and Managing Director, AIRBUS India and South Asia) and Prof. Manoj Choudhary (Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya)," the ministry added.

#### HC asks CBI to respond to Kejriwal's bail plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday asked the CBI to respond to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's bail plea in the corruption case registered by the CBI in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna issued a notice to the CBI on the bail plea and listed it for further hearing July 17. Kejriwal sought bail claiming that there was no necessity to arrest him in the CBI case and that his custody was illegal. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, representing Kejriwal, said the AAP leader is not a flight risk and not a terrorist, and the CBI arrested him after he got bail in the ED's money laundering case.

# Man bites back snake, reptile dies

**INCIDENT WAS REPORTED FROM BIHAR WHERE A SNAKE BIT A MAN,** WHO THEN BIT THE **REPTILE BACK IN THE BELIEF THAT IT WOULD REVERSE THE VENOM'S EFFECT. THE SNAKE DIED, WHILE THE MAN WAS RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL WHERE HE SURVIVED** 

**AN UNUSUAL** AGENCIES

> Patna, July 5: A Bihar man, who was bitten by a snake, bit it back, killing the reptile. Santosh Lohar, a resident of Navada, was sleeping at his base camp after a day's work on laying railway lines when the snake attacked him.

Driven by a superstition that biting the snake back would neutralise its venom, the 35-yearold took matters into his own hands and bit the snake twice. This unconventional response led to the snake's death, but it also landed Lohar in the hospital. His colleagues rushed him to

the Rajauli subdivision hospital where he received treatment. r Lohar recovered fast and was discharged the next day. The news of this unusual in-



cident quickly spread, and a crowd gathered at the hospital to catch a glimpse of Santosh and hear his story. Many locals speculated that the snake might not have been venomous, or else Santosh's life could have been in serious danger.

Earlier, a man in Uttar

Pradesh's Fatehpur miraculously survived five snake bites in nearly two months, leaving the doctors astonished. The bites occurred June 2, June 10, and June 17, and twice in July. His condition is now stable, and the case has been deemed "strange" by med ical professionals.







national



In spite of the state government's attempts to put impediments, I will listen to the people's woes H D KUMARASWAMY UNION MINISTER

#### **DELHI MARKETS STOP SALE OF GLUE TRAPS**

Markets in the national capital have stopped the sale of glue traps following an appeal from PETA India for the prohibition of manufacture, use and sale of glue traps across Delhi. The Delhi government banned the manufacture, sale and use of glue pads, a cruel method commonly used to kill rodents, in September 2023





Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government have been silent on every important issue for the last 10 years and wait for that issue to disappear from the 'public memory'

ASHOK GEHLOT FORMER RAJASTHAN CM



RAJNATH SINGH DEFENCE MINISTER

Inspired by the Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's 'Ek Ped (Tree). Maa ke Naam campaign, today participated in the statewide programme organised by

the Forest Department to plant 5,00,000 saplings in just 5 minutes

MANIK SAHA TRIPURA CM





@ibm\_in. With 1000 delegates, this event is vital for Kerala's innovation landscape, showcasing the transformative potential of generative AI in various industries and propelling our ambition to become a hub of generative AI in India. #GenAI #AI

@pinarayivijaya

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **BJP** lashes out at K'taka govt

Bangalore: The Karnataka government Friday transferred the District Commissioner of Mysuru, Dr KV Rajendra amid the controversy surrounding irregularities in plot allotments by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). Though the government transferred 21 senior IAS officers Friday. moving Dr KV Rajendra is bound to raise evebrows as he had written letters to the MUDA and the state government to cancel the allotments of sites.



Educational Research and Training - has failed to publish new textbooks for Science. Mathematics. and Social Sciences for Class XI

students," Ramesh said. The textbooks themselves have not been finalised by the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC), he said. Ramesh pointed out that printing will take another 10 to 15 days. Officials expect a delay of two months before they can make new books available to students, he claimed. "Either the rot runs deep, or the incompetence scales new

heights everyday!" Ramesh said. Later, Ramesh shared a media report which said the National

Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is working on a proposal to recreate 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' in a virtual format via a web platform. His remarks come a day after Education Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan reviewed the development of school textbooks in accordance with the New Curriculum Framework (NCF) at a meeting here.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had earlier announced that new textbooks for Classes III and VI will be introduced from the 2024-25 academic session.

"For the academic year 2024-25, new and engaging textbooks will be introduced in Classes III and VI. The textbook development work is in the final phase and nine textbooks for Grades 3 and 6 are already available. The remaining eight will be available very soon," a senior Ministry of Education (MoE) official said.

The NCERT had an initial aim of releasing the new textbooks based on the NCF 2023 only for Classes III and VI this vear. While the textbooks for Class III are available in the

"Even as the school year has begun, the NCERT - the National market, those for Class VI have (read Nagpur) Council of

# Rahul Gandhi meets Hathras victims' kin

AGENCIES

Hathras/Aligarh (UP), July 5: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Friday said there were lapses on the part of the administration in the Hathras stampede incident that killed over 100 people, but added that he did not want to make it a political issue.

Rahul, after meeting the victims of the stampede in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras Friday morning, urged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to release "maximum compensation" for the victims without any delay. One of the family members who met Gandhi said he assured them that he will raise the issue in Parliament so that such incidents do not happen in future.

Speaking to reporters in Hathras Friday morning, Gandhi said. "It is a matter of grief that so many families have suffered, so many people lost their lives." "I don't want to



speak from a political prism. but there have been some lapses on part of the administration. There have been mistakes, which should be identified," the senior Congress leader said.

A total of 121 people, mostly women, died in the stampede at self-styled godman Baba Bhole's satsang in Hathras Tuesday.

Gandhi said this is a tough time for the victims and they would need the compensation quickly as they are poor.

'They are poor people and they need it (compensation) now. If you give them after six months, after a year or delay it, then it will not benefit anyone. Compensation should be given as soon as possible. Gandhi said. The government has announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh for those killed and ₹50,000 for the injured. Gandhi also said that he had a

"personal" interaction with the family members of the stampede victims. Before meeting family members in Hathras, Gandhi made a stop at Aligarh and met the kin of victims from the district. According to police, 17 people from Aligarh and 19 from Hathras were killed in the stampede. Gandhi left from Delhi early morning by road and was accompanied by UP Congress

chief Ajay Rai, state Congress in-

#### 90 statements recorded: SIT

Hathras (UP): The Uttar Pradesh government's Special Investigation Team probing the Hathras stampede has recorded statements of 90 people so far, SIT chief Anupam Kulshrestha said Friday. Kulshrestha, also the Additional Director General of Police (Agra Zone), is leading the three-member SIT tasked with preparing a detailed report on the July 2 stampede at a 'satsang' here that claimed 121 lives. Speaking exclusively to PTI in Hathras, ADG Kulshrestha said, "Ninety statements have been recorded so far. A preliminary report has been submitted while work on the detailed report is underway."

charge Avinash Pande, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate and other office bearers of the party during his visit to Aligarh and Hathras



GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Women catch fish in a paddy field with traditional fishing equipment 'Jakoi' in Nagaon district, Assam

Modi govt could fall in August: Lalu Amritpal Singh, Er Rashid The remark was promptly dismissed by the take oath as LS members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 5: The Congress

Friday slammed the Centre over

the delay in publishing new Class

VI textbooks, alleging the

Education Ministry is

"sabotaging" the education of

children after doing the same

with the examination process

through the "incompetent"

Congress general secretary

Jairam Ramesh hit out at the

government over the issue, say-

ing that either the "rot runs

deep", or the incompetence scales

NCERT - the

National (read Nagpur)

**Council of Educational Research and Training - has** 

failed to publish new

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

new heights everyday.

JAIRAM RAMESH

textbooks for Science,

**Mathematics, and Social** 

**Sciences for Class VI students** 

In a post on X, he said, "After

sabotaging the examination

process through the incompetent

National Testing Authority, the

non-biological PM's Edu

cation Ministry is sabotaging the

education of our children.'

Even as the school

year has begun, the

National Testing Authority.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

been delayed.

#### Kavitha's judicial custody extended

. . . . . . . . . . . . .

New Delhi: A court here Friday extended till July 18 the judicial custody of BRS leader K Kavitha in a corruption case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja passed the order. The CBI had arrested Kavitha, the daughter of former **Telangana Chief Minister** K Chandrashekar Rao, in April from the Tihar Jail, where she was lodged after her arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The ED had arrested the 46-year-old from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad March 15, and she was in judicial custody in the case.

#### Man arrested for kidnapping kids

New Delhi: A man has been arrested for kidnapping a boy and his sister for ransom last month, a crime, police said, he committed after seeing that the children were alone in a car with their parents out to buy sweets from a East Delhi shop, Prateek Shrivastava 34 was apprehended Thursday evening from Mandawali. Police traced his location after examining footage from more than 300 CCTV cameras. **Deputy Commissioner of Police** (East) Apoorva Gupta said.

Patna, July 5: RJD president Lalu Prasad Friday claimed that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre was 'weak" and could "fall" as early as within a month.

Prasad, who spoke in a weak voice for less than 10 minutes. with younger son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav by his side, said "the Modi government is weak (kamzor). It can fall any time. It can fall in August".

He urged party workers to be prepared for such a scenario. He highlighted that in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the RJD had increased its seat count and vote share compared to five years ago.

"For quite some time, we have been the single largest party in the Bihar Assembly. Unlike many others, we have never compro-

BJP, which said the ailing septuagenarian was "hallucinating" and that the recent general elections were a reaffirmation of the people's faith in Modi's leadership

Drasad made these predictions at an event organised to commemorate 28 years of the formation of his party, which he founded by splitting the Janata Dal

mised on ideology," said Prasad, a staunch opponent of the BJP, recalling his tenure and achievements, including the arrest of Lal Krishna Advani in 1990. Prasad made the remark at a

time most leaders of the NDA were at a BJP function where the newly inducted Union ministers, from Bihar, were felicitated. Reacting to Prasad's statements later, Union Minister Nityanand Rai, a former Bihar BJP president, accused the RJD

supremo of hallucinating, using

a colloquial Hindi phrase "Mungeri Lal ke hasin sapne." However, sources in both RJD and NDA, who spoke on condition of anonymity, were unanimous in the opinion that Prasad had deftly tried to fish in troubled waters. In the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP fell short of maiority and a new government was formed with the help of allies like JD(U), headed by Nitish Kumar, who has been in and out of NDA more than once

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 5: Jailed radical Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh and Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, who were granted parole to take oath as members of the Lok Sabha, were sworn in as MPs Friday, amid heavy deployment of security personnel in and around the Parliament complex.

While Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, is in Delhi's Tihar jail in a terror funding case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Singh is lodged in a prison in Assam's Dibrugarh district for offences under the National Security Act.

The MPs-elect took oath in the chamber of the Lok Sabha speaker after completing for-

malities, a source said. Singh, 31, and Rashid, 56, won the recent Lok Sabha elections from Khadoor Sahib in Punjab and Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir, respectively, as Independents while being incarcerated. They could not take

oath as members of the 18th Lok Sabha June 24 and 25 along with the other winning candidates.

For taking oath, Rashid was granted a two-hour custody parole, excluding the travel time from Tihar to Parliament, and Singh a four-day custody parole, beginning July 5, in view of the travel from Assam to Delhi and back. Their parole orders stated that during their period of temporary release, they can neither speak to or address the media on any issue or make any statements.

7.2% this April-March fiscal year

is the highest among major

"Decreases in water supply

can disrupt agricultural pro-

duction and industrial opera-

tions, resulting in inflation in

food prices and declines in in-

come for affected businesses and

workers, especially farmers,

The government plans to more

than triple waste water recy-

cling by the end of the decade to

70%. according to a federal

government policy document

dated October 21, 2023 that listed

priorities for the next five years.

Krishna S Vatsa, a senior of-

while sparking social unrest,

economies.

Moody's said.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 5: The Supreme Court is scheduled to consider July 10 a batch of pleas seeking review of its last year's judgement which refused to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriage

Apex court to hear

review pleas on

same-sex marriage

According to the cause list of July 10 uploaded on the apex court website, a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud would consider in chambers the pleas seeking review of the October 17 last year verdict.

As per the practice, the review pleas are considered in chambers by judges.

Besides the CJI, the other members of the bench will be Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Hima Kohli, BV Nagarathna and PS Narasimha.

In a setback to gay rights activists, the apex court had October 17 last year refused to accord legal recognition to samesex marriage, saying there was 'no unqualified right' to marriage with the exception of those that are recognised by law.

The apex court, however, had made a strong pitch for the rights of queer people so they don't face discrimination in accessing goods and services that are available to others, safe houses known as 'Garima Greh' in all districts to provide shelter to members of the community facing harassment and violence and dedicated hotline numbers which they could use in case of trouble.

Holding that transgender people in heterosexual relationships have the freedom and entitlement to marry under the existing statutory provisions, the top court had said an entitlement to legal recognition of the right to union, akin to marriage or civil union, or conferring legalstatus to the relationship can be only done through "enacted law".

# India's surging economy at risk from water

in the last one decade.

World's most populous nation has suffered from water shortages for decades, but crises are coming around with increasing frequency

#### REUTERS

New Delhi, July 5: In the Vivekananda Camp slum, adjacent to the US embassy in New Delhi, communal taps supply brackish water for about two hours a day. Water delivered by tankers provides one additional bucket to each of its 1,000 resi-

dents for drinking and cooking. In parts of the arid state of Rajasthan, southwest of the Indian capital, tap water is available once every four days for an hour. In rural areas near Mumbai, women and children travel more than a mile to get water.

Bangalore, India's tech hub of 14 million people, reeled under a water shortage this year and had to rely on tanker deliveries. "We don't wash the floor or

This year, for example, the summer has been one of the hottest on record and the crunch has worsened with rivers and lakes drying up and the water table falling

do the laundry for days sometimes," said Sampa Rai, a 38-year-old in Delh's Vivekananda Camp, who scrambles before dawn every day to meet the first tanker delivering water. "Not even the dishes. We have to manage with what we have.

The world's most populous nation has suffered from water shortages for decades, but crises are coming around with increasing frequency. This year,



for example, the summer has been one of the hottest on record and the crunch has worsened with rivers and lakes drying up and the water table falling.

The shortages are affecting rural and urban Indians alike, disrupting agriculture and industry, stoking food inflation and risking social unrest. Contaminated water kills about 2,00,000 Indians each year, according to the government.

People and the economy are suffering

That is adding urgency to public and private-sector efforts to conserve the resource, find ways to recycle waste water and reduce the country's over-reliance on the annual monsoon, especially in the agricultural sector.

warned last week that India's growing water stress could affect its growth, which at a projected

Ratings agency Moody's

ficial at the state-run National Disaster Management Authority, confirmed the targets in an interview last week.







## international

The Conservative

Party - in power for 14

years - had increasingly

followed a more populist

agenda with a focus on

immigration, including a

plan to send asylum

seekers to Rwanda, while facing a challenge from

the even more staunchly

right-wing, anti-EU,

UK party of Nigel Farage

London, July 5: The centre-

left Labour Party's crushing vic-

tory in the British election stands

in stark contrast to recent gains

by the far right across Europe.

But the party's triumph was

Keir Starmer swept to power

Friday winning a large parlia-

mentary majority and con-

demning Rishi Sunak's

AGENCIES

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Keir Starmer on the remarkable victory in the UK general elections. I look forward to our positive and constructive collaboration to further strengthen the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in all areas, fostering mutual growth and prosperity NARENDRA MODI PM, INDIA

#### **MEXICO ISSUES 'RED ALERT'**

Mexico's top tourist destinations were on red alert as Hurricane Beryl churned toward the coast after leaving behind a deadly trail of destruction across several Caribbean islands



#### **CONGRATULATIONS POUR IN FOR NEW PM**

The state of relations between Italy and the United Kingdom is excellent and I am sure that we will continue to

cultivate a strong and reliable collaborative relationship between our great Nations, in the interests of our citizens and in line with common strategic objectives GIORGIA MELONI PM, ITALY

Lots of work ahead to build a more progressive, fail future for people on both sides of the Atlantic. Let's get to it, my friend

JUSTIN TRUDEAU PM. CANADA

Ukraine and the United Kingdom have been and will continue to be reliable allies through

thick and thin. We will continue to defend and advance our common values of life, freedom, and a rules-based international orde

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

#### **Record Indian-origin MPs elected to Parl**

A record number of around 26 Indian-origin members of Parliament have been elected to the House of Commons in the UK's general election as results were announced Friday, with several Conservatives surviving an overall brutal outcome for their party. Outgoing prime minister Rishi Sunak leads the Tory charge of British Indians holding on to their seats, with a decisive win in his Richmond and Northallerton constituency in Yorkshire. Other prominent British Indian Tories holding on to their seats included former home secretaries, Suella Braverman and Priti Patel, as did Sunak's Goan-origin Cabinet ally Claire Coutinho. Gagan Mohindra held on to his South West Hertfordshire seat for the Conservatives, with Shivani Raja registering a gain for the party in the keenly watched constituency of Leicester East where she was contesting against fellow Indian-origin Labour candidate Rajesh Agrawal. Reflective of the overall election results tally, it was the Labour Party that saw the maximum number of winning Indian diaspora candidates, starting with party veterans such as Seema Malhotra – who held on to her Feltham and Heston constituency with a comfortable margin. Goan-origin Valerie Vaz, sister of Keith Vaz, won in Walsall and Bloxwich, as did Lisa Nandy with a big margin in Wigan.

# anti-establishment Reform

#### LABOUR'S SUCCESS BUILT

ON DESIRE FOR CHANGE INCUMBENT PARTIES PUNISHED AFTER TURBULENT YEARS

BREXIT, PANDEMIC, INFLATION MARKED CONSERVATIVE YEARS IN POWER

not so much a rejection of populism by voters, but rather an Conservative Party to its worst echo of the same disenchantment with their political leaders. defeat in history.

The victory comes days after Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) party scored historic gains to win the first round of the parliamentary election in France.

That followed similar advances by populist parties in last month's **European Parliament elections** where German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats recorded their worst result ever. Before his poll triumph, Starmer said progressive politi-

cians had to demonstrate that they had learned the lessons from the rise of nationalism and populism. "We have to show ... in the UK and across Europe and the world that only progressives have the answers to the challenges we face," he said. But rather than a bulwark against a European populism

wave, Starmer's success was built on the same voter desire for change and to punish perceived incompetence by incumbent governments that is driving support for the far right.

Britain, once renowned for political stability, has lurched from crisis to crisis since the 2016 vote to leave the European Union, through the Covid-19 pandemic, increasingly stretched public services and a cost of living crisis.

"I think there are cycles in politics and I think in a way the UK

is coming out of a cycle of quite a populist flavoured government since the Brexit vote," said Peter Ricketts, a former top official in Britain's foreign office and a former ambassador to France. FAR RIGHT RISING

Across Europe, far-right parties are rising.

Le Pen's National Rally has moved closer than ever to forming a government in France, while the centrist alliance that Emmanuel Macron formed has seen a collapse in support only two years after he won a second term as president.

The outcome - for France and its EU partners - will depend Sunday's run-off vote.

The Alternative for Germany (AfD) came second in the European Parliament elections in Germany and party membership is at a record high.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's arch-conservative Brothers of Italy group saw its position strengthened by winning the most votes in those elections, while Dutch anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders saw ministers from his party sworn into government for the first time this week.

TURNS RIGHT UK rejects Conservative populism **TORIES IN TROUBLE** 

The Conservative government had increasingly become associated with scandals under former PM Boris Johnson and his successor Liz Truss's disastrous 44-day premiership and her economic plans which brought chaos to financial markets.

Sunak tried and failed to reverse that image

Outgoing British prime min-ister Rishi Sunak said he will step down as the leader of the Conservative Party, taking "responsibility" for its debacle in the general election.

Several lawmakers are expected to compete to replace Sunak, the party sources said, with the right wing likely to promote two former interior ministers known for a tough line on immigration - Priti Patel and Suella Braverman - as well as former trade minister Kemi Badenoch, named minister of the year by the website ConservativeHome in 2023 after she took a robust position on trans issues

Braverman was quick to prom-

ise change to voters. "I'm sorry that

my party didn't listen to you," she said in a speech after winning reelection. "I will do everything in my power to rebuild trust. We need to listen to you, you have spoken to us very clearly."

The party sources said centrist candidates were also preparing campaigns, with James Cleverly and Tom Tugendhat, interior and security ministers under Sunak respectively, named as possible contenders

Indicating the likely arguments ahead, three Conservatives questioned the right-wing credentials of Robert Jenrick, a former immigration minister who has been working hard to shore up his support, after he previously adopted more centrist positions.



#### SHORT TAKES

#### Fifth floor test for Nepal PM

Kathmandu: Nepal's embattled Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who lost support from two major alliance

## Philippines turns down US help: Military chief

how they could help us in any way." he said. "We try to exhaust all possible options that we have before we ask for help. Manila and Washingto

## Gaza ceasefire hopes rise Israeli PM Benjamin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo. July 5: The indictment of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro for money laundering and criminal association in connection with undeclared diamonds from Saudi Arabia marked the far-right leader's second formal accusation with more potentially in store. Two sources with knowledge of the case confirmed Thursday's indictment by Federal Police, which followed another formal accusation in May against Bolsonaro for allegedly falsifying his Covid-19 vaccination certificate.

Money laundering case:

**Brazil ex-Prez indicted** 



partners earlier this week, is set to seek a vote of confidence from the House of Representatives July 12, it was announced Thursday. He requires 138 votes for the government to win the vote of confidence in the House. This will be the fifth time Prachanda, 69, will seek a vote of confidence within a term of one and a half years.

#### Pak bans social media for peace

Lahore: The government in Pakistan's Punjab province is now set to ban all social media platforms, YouTube. WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, for six days between July 13 and 18. citing the need to control "hate material" during the Islamic month of Muharram. The provincial government has decided to go beyond the routine measures of internet suspension and mobile jamming over Ashura, after getting reports that 'external forces' were involved in the sharing of hate content and memes, Dawn News reported.

#### Iranians vote

Dubai: Polls opened in Iran Friday for a run-off presidential election that will test the clerical rulers' popularity amid voter apathy at a time of regional tensions and a standoff with the West over Tehran's nuclear programme. The run-off follows a June 28 ballot with historic low turnout, when over 60% of Iranian voters abstained from the snap election for a successor to Ebrahim Raisi, following his death in a helicopter crash. The low participation is seen by critics as a vote of no confidence in the Islamic Republic.

REUTERS

Manila, July 5: The Philippines has turned down offers from the United States to assist operations in the South China Sea, after a flare-up with China over missions to resupply Filipino troops on a contested shoal, its military chief said.

Tensions in the disputed waterway have boiled over into violence in the past year, with a Filipino sailor losing a finger in the latest June 17 clash that Manila described as "intentionalhigh speed ramming" by the Chinese coast guard. The US, a treaty ally, has offered support but Manila prefers to handle operations on its own, Armed Forces Chief General Romeo Brawner told Reuters late Thursday.

"Yes, of course, they have been offering help and they asked us

bound by the 1951-Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), a military pact that can be invoked in the case of armed attacks on Philippine

forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the South China Sea. Confrontations between the

Philippines and China in Asia's most contested waters have increased in frequency over the past year as Beijing has pressed its claim to the waterway and Manila continued missions to bring supplies to soldiers living aboard a rusty, aging warship that it grounded on a contested shoal. Some observers, including former deputy US National Security Adviser Matt Pottinger, have called for direct US naval support

for the resupply missions. But Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said the Philippines wanted them to be a "pure Philippine operation".

send a delegation to resume negotiations

Netanyahu tells US

President Joe Biden he will

#### REUTERS

Cairo, July 5: Efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza were gathering momentum Friday after Hamas made a revised proposal on the terms of a deal and Israel said it would resume stalled negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US President Joe Biden Thursday he would send a delegation to resume negotiations, and an Israeli official said his country's team would be led by the head of the Mossad intelligence agency.

A source in Israel's negotiating team, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was a real chance of achieving agreement after Hamas made its re-



vised proposal on the terms of a deal, received by Israel Wednesday.

'The proposal put forward by Hamas includes a very significant breakthrough," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity and giving no details. The Israeli response to the Hamas proposal, submitted via mediators, was in marked contrast to past instances during the nearly nine-month-old war in Gaza, when Israel said conditions attached by the militant Islamist group were not acceptable.

A Palestinian official close to the internationally mediated

peace efforts told Reuters the new Hamas proposal could lead to a framework agreement if it is embraced by Israel

He said Hamas was no longer demanding as a pre-condition an Israeli commitment to permanently cease fire before the signing of an agreement, and would allow negotiations to achieve that throughout a first six-week phase.

"Should the sides need more time to seal an agreement on a permanent ceasefire, the two sides should agree there would be no return to the fighting until they do that," the official told Reuters.

Brazil's Supreme Court has yet to receive the police report with the latest indictment. Once it does, the country's prosecutor-general, Paulo Gonet, will analyse the document and decide whether to file charges and force Bolsonaro to stand trial.

The indictment dramatically raises the legal threats facing the divisive ex-leader that are applauded by his opponents but denounced as political persecution by his supporters.

## RUSSIAN ELITES MAKE PEACE WITH WAR

hen the conflict in Ukraine began, the Russian upper class was taken aback. As the West enforced sanctions and travel restrictions, Russia's wealthy and politically influential citizens became convinced that their previous lifestyles were over. The losses on the battlefield quickly accumulated, and many considered the invasion a dis-

astrous error. "The Russia we hold dear has fallen into the hands of fools,' Roman Trotsenko, the former head of the country's largest shipbuilding company, confided to another businessperson during a leaked phone conversa-tion in April 2023. "They adhere to strange, outdated nineteenth-century ideologies. This will not end well. It will end in catastrophe.'

In another leaked conversation, the renowned music producer Iosif Prigozhin (not related to Yevgeny Prigozhin) referred to Russian President Vladimir Putin and his government as "criminals." Some of the oligarchs who were abroad at the time of the invasion refused to return to Russia, including Mikhail Fridman, the owner of the country's largest private bank. However, that was then. As

2023 progressed, the elites began to support the war. More musicians started traveling to perform in the occupied territories. In October, Fridman returned to Moscow from London, having concluded that life in the West under sanctions was unbearable and that the situation in Russia was relatively comfortable. And there have been no new recordings of oligarchs complaining about the war. In fact, it is difficult to imagine such conversations taking place.

This is because Russian elites have learned to stop worrying about the conflict. They have come to the conclusion that the invasion, even if they do not openly support it, is an acceptable fact of life. As a result, the likelihood that they might challenge the Kremlin's decisionswhich was always slim-has disappeared entirely. And instead of debating whether to support Putin, Russian elites are now

discussing a different question: how the war might end.

They have different answers Some believe that a big battlefield win would allow Putin to claim a partial victory and, therefore, pause the war. Others think that Putin will not stop until he has gone all the way to Kyiv. Some are convinced that what truly matters to Putin is confrontation with the West, not victory in Ukraine, and that he will thus

attack another state in Europe irrespective of what happens with the current conflict. But a few pessimists maintain that the premise of the question itself is wrong. As they see it, the war suits Putin's political interests, and so he will keep fighting for as long as he lives.

There are multiple reasons why Russian elites have shifted toward Putin. One is that they have become more cautious as Moscow cracks down on dissent. Another, relatedly, is that they understand it is meaningless to protest. But perhaps the biggest reason for their change is they have begun to see the invasion in a fundamentally different light. Today, they believe Russia is prevailing. Moscow, after all, is making steady, if slow, battlefield gains. Ukraine is battered and outgunned, operating with a massive artillery-shell disadvantage. And Western support for Kyiv is waning, jeop ardizing Ukraine's access to military supplies.

"It's bad to be an outcast as a winner, but it's worse to be an outcast as a loser." one Russian oligarch, who had criticized the war before but now seems to understand it, told me. (He, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity, to protect his safety.) The oligarch said that everything in Russia has changed: attitudes toward Putin, views of Ukraine, and outlooks on the West. "We must win this war," he told me. "Otherwise, they won't allow us to live. And, of course, Russia would collapse.'

The notion of an endless war in Ukraine terrifies Russia's elite, who still hope that the invasion will conclude. They dream of returning as quickly as possible to the peaceful time of February 23, 2022.-But for now, they are silent. They see no way back. AGENCIES









# business



India wishes to become a high-income country by 2047. That is unlikely to be achieved. But it should become an upper middleincome country by then MARTIN WOLF CHIEF ECONOMICS COMMENTATOR FINANCIAL TIMES

#### FOCUS ON TOY INDUSTRY

Government officials and industry will hold a detailed discussions on ways to further boost domestic manufacturing and exports of toys July 8, an official said. The meeting is organised by Invest India, an arm of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). in collaboration with the Toy Association of India

**MAKE IN INDIA FEAT** 

Defence production



# uote

While the Indian EV and Lithium ecosystem is early, we're gaining momentum quickly. It'll be too late for Tesla when they look at India seriously again in a few years

BHAVESH AGGRAWAL CEO, OLA

I hope that the Labour Party will notice that the FTA with India offers a significant price advantage to the UK exporters, potentially boosting their exports to India almost immediately AJAY SRIVASTAVA FOUNDER, GTRI

India's cybersecurity landscape is maturing quickly. With the exponential growth of large SaaS (software as a service) and consumer companies in India, security teams have become highly skilled at combating increasing threat surfaces PRAYANK SWAROOP PARTNER, ACCEL

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Tea output falls to decade low in May

Mumbai: India's tea production in May plunged more than 30% from a year earlier to 90.92 million kilograms (kg), its lowest level in more than a decade, the state-run Tea Board said on Friday, hurt by excessive heat and scant rainfall. Production in Assam, which accounts for more than half the country's output, fell by more than 26% to 49.84 million kg, the board said. Exports of CTC (crushtear-curl) grade tea went mainly to Egypt and the United Kingdom, with the orthodox variety shipped to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

#### **JSW Energy plans ₹15k-crore capex**

New Delhi: JSW Energy Chairman & Managing Director Sajjan Jindal Friday said the company has planned

# BAJAJ UNVEILS WORLD'S FIRST CNG BIKE

**THE CNG BIKE WILL** START AT ₹95,000 **AND WILL GO UP TO ₹1.10 LAKH** 

New Delhi, July 5: Bajaj Auto

has launched its much-awaited

Freedom motorcycle, which runs

on petrol but also has the option

of CNG (compressed natural

gas), Friday. The Bajaj Freedom

125 is a one-of-a-kind product

Road Transport and Highways.

direct rivals as of now.

AGENCIES

₹95,000 and will go up to ₹1.10 lakh. The CNG motorcycle will offer a range of 330 kilometre. It will have a 2 kilogram CNG tank along with a 2 litre petrol tank. The CNG tank is housed under the seat.

'We are the highest exports of 2-wheelers in the world. I am 100% confident that you'll get more market for it in comparison to petrol bikes as the cost is less, Gadkari noted. "For petrol 2-wheeler cost is ₹2.25 per kilometre, CNG is only ₹1 per km. that is a great saving, I am very happy about it," he added.

globally and doesn't have any Bajaj also states that it emits The bike was unveiled by Nitin 26 percent less carbon dioxide Gadkari. Union Minister for and 43 percent less nitrogen oxide than a regular petrol-powered The CNG bike will start at motorcycle.



"It is the outcome of a very intense exercise over the last two to three years. We will be showcasing through this, the power of innovation at Bajaj Auto. It addresses a very large market size. Almost 70% of the one million per month market of motorcycles has some level of



sensitivity to fuel economy,' Rakesh Sharma, ED, Bajaj Auto said earlier this week.

"A very average customer who is earning ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 per month can expect to save depending on how much they tried about ₹1.500 per month. Secondly. with all the thrust of the gov-

It is the outcome of a very intense exercise over the last two to three years. We will be showcasing through this, the power of innovation at Bajaj Auto. It addresses a very large market size

RAKESH SHARMA | ED, BAJAJ AUTO

ernment and also with the companies on decarbonization, CNG, while still a carbon-based fuel, has far less carbon content, and to that extent, it is much more beneficial from an environmental point of view than let us say a diesel or petrol, particularly in the carbon-based emissions. So, there is a significant reduction in that," Sharma had said

#### Forex kitty dips to \$651.99bn

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 5: India's forex reserves dropped \$1.713 billion to \$651.997 billion for the week ended June 28, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had dropped \$2.922 billion to \$652.895 billion. The reserves had touched an alltime high of \$655.817 billion as June 7 this year.

For the week ended June 28, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased \$1.252 billion to \$572.881 billion, the data released Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound, and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were down \$427 million to \$56.528 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) declined \$35 million to \$18.014 billion, the central bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was up \$1 million to \$4.573 billion in the reporting week, the data added.

**TECH SECTOR BLEEDS** 

#### **Microsoft announces**

**3rd round of layoffs** 

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 5: Microsoft has announced a new round of job cuts with the end of its financial year June 30, according to reports.

Several LinkedIn posts revealed that employees in product and program management roles were among those affected, the reports stated.

The layoffs impacted multiple teams across various geographical locations.

In June this year, Microsoft laid off more than 1,000 employees across different businesses.

The tech industry is experiencing a significant wave of job cuts, with more than 100,000 employees losing their jobs this\_ year alone, according to Layoffs.fyi, a platform monitoring tech lavoffs.

Over 330 companies worldwide have laid off employees in the first half of 2024, including prominent firms like Apple, Google, Microsoft, and Meta.

# Nifty scales new highs

Sensex retreats from record to slip below 80k



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 5: The broader NSE benchmark Nifty advanced further to settle at an all-time high for the third straight session on Friday, while the BSE gauge Sensex retreated from the record to slip below the 80k mark, as investors were indecisive at the

current levels. In a volatile session, the broader NSE Nifty continued its record-breaking run and inched up 21.70 points or 0.09 per cent to close at its lifetime high of 24,323.85, helped by fagend buying on select counters. As many as 34 Nifty shares advanced, and 16 declined.



On a weekly basis, the **BSE Sensex jumped** 963.87 points and Nifty gained 313.25 points

cating market indecisiveness. A total of 2.242 stocks advanced, while 1,686 declined and 88 remained unchanged on

the BSE. "Nifty traded in negative territory throughout the day. However, recovery in the last half hour of the session helped indices to close with minor gains ... ' Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial

Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro, Nestle India, Power Grid, ITC, JSW Steel and Sun Pharmaceuticals were the major gainers.

On the other hand, HDFC Bank, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors, HCL Technologies and Asian

Paints were among the laggards. "The domestic market traded with a mixed bias, with the heavy-weight banking sector acting as a laggard. Adding to the worry are the top lending banks, which recorded a sequential decline in deposit growth in the June quarter. Midcap and Small Cap outperformed, and the respective BSE indices hit an all time high," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

In the broader market, the BSE Smallcap gauge rose 0.70 per cent, and the midcap index climbed 0.75 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets Thursday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 2,575.85 crore, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, the 30-share BSE Sensex scaled an intraday record high of 80,392.64 in early trade. Later, the Sensex closed

at record high in FY24 Annual defence production has hit a record high of approximately ₹1.27L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 5: India's annual defence production has hit a record high of approximately ₹1.27 lakh crore in 2023-24, with the Make in India programme crossing new milestones, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Friday.

The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was ₹1,08,684 crore, it added.

In a post on X, Singh also said that the government is committed to creating a more conducive regime for developing India as a leading global defence manufacturing hub.

'The Ministry of Defence has achieved the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in value terms during financial year (FY) 2023-24, on the back of successful implementation of the policies and initiatives of the government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focussing on achieving 'Aatmanirbharta'," the defence ministry said in a statement Friday. "As per the data received from all Defence Public Sector un-

In the last five years (since 2019-20), the value of defence production has been

increasing steadily, and grown by over 60% dertakings (DPSUs), other PSUs manufacturing defence items and private companies, the value

Singh congratulated the

of defence production in the country has gone up to a recordhigh figure, i.e., ₹1,26,887 crore, reflecting a growth of 16.7 per cent over the defence production of the previous financial vear" the statement said

a capital expenditure of ₹15,000 crore during the current fiscal year. In his address to shareholders at the annual general meeting, he said, the company intends to spend around ₹1,15,000 crore to reach the goal of 20 GW generation and 40 GWh storage under 'Strategy 2.0'. He further said the company's plan is to spend approximately ₹15,000 crore in current fiscal year and it is also actively scouting for acquisition opportunities in the power sector.

#### realme partners Sony

Bangkok: Mobile phone-maker realme has announced a partnership with Japanese consumer electronics giant Sony for its upcoming 5G smartphone, with which the company will foray into a new segment of device having AIimaging feature. The announcement was made by realme officials at a prelaunch event in Bangkok

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 53.07 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,996.60, indi-

Services Ltd, said. pack, State Bank of India,

Among the 30-share Sensex

62.87 points or 0.08 per cent higher at 80,049.67, its all-time closing high.

dertakings manufacturing defence items, and the private industry for the feat.

Indian industry, including de-

fence public sector undertak-

ings and other public sector un-

#### **BIZ BUZZ**

#### Shalimar Paints expands HERO product line

Cuttack: Shalimar Paints Ltd, a pioneer in the Indian paints industry with a legacy of over 120 years, celebrated the success of their flagship product, HERO, and introduced innovative products that expand their extensive portfolio at an event in Kolkata. At the heart



of the event was the HERO 5-in-1 Super Premium Interior Emulsion's triumph, accompanied by the launch of HERO Super Premium Exterior Emulsion and HERO Interior Exterior. Embodying the vision of transformation and advancement, these introductions were part of the trailblazing campaign 'Upgrade Kiya Kya', which inspires consumers to enhance their homes with paints formulated using superior technology. Shalimar Paints leverages robust research and development capabilities to deliver innovative products. Kuldip Raina, Director - Sales and Marketing at Shalimar Paints said, "This event underscores Shalimar Paints' relentless pursuit of innovation and excellence. We are overwhelmed by the success of HERO Super Premium Interior Emulsion which has become the preferred choice among consumers within a year."

**THE REAL ESTATE** SECTOR ACCOUNTS FOR 65% OF TOTAL **INFLOW** 

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 5: Foreign investors infused \$3.1 billion in Indian real estate during January-June this year, accounting for 65 per cent of the total institutional investment, according to JLL India.

Real estate consultant JLL India data released Friday showed that the total institutional investment in real estate rose 62 per cent to \$4,760 million in January-June 2024 from \$2,939 million in



Foreign investors put \$3.1bn in realty in H1

the same period of last year.

In complete contrast, another property consultant Colliers India, earlier this week, reported a 6 per cent decline in total institutional investment in real estate at \$3,523.6 million during the first half of 2024 as against \$3,764.7 million in the year-ago period.

The first half of 2024 exhibited nearly twice the number of deals compared to the same period last year, with an average deal size of \$113mn

According to JLL India, institutional investments in real estate surged to \$4.8 billion in January-June this year.

"This already represents 81 per cent of the total investments in 2023, which amounted to \$5.8 billion," the consultant said, adding that "unshakeable investor confidence in India prevails amidst global uncertainties and the election season, exemplifying the country's robust economic growth story"

Out of the total inflows, the warehousing sector led at 34 per cent share of investments followed closely by residential at 33 per cent share and office at 27 per cent.

The first half of 2024 exhibited nearly twice the number of deals compared to the same period last year, with an average deal size of \$113 million.

'Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) dominate Indian investments amounting to \$3.1 billion which is a 65 per cent share of the total investments in January-June 2024," JLL said.

#### UPI marking presence ahead of Paris Olympics HIT BY HEATWAVE PV retail sales dip 7% in June

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, july 5: After the successful implementation of the Unified Payments Interface or UPI for online ticket booking at Eiffel Tower, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) today enabled the acceptance of UPI at Galeries Lafayette's flagship store in Haussmann, ahead of Paris **Olympics** 

This is in partnership with Lyra, a French leader in securing e-commerce and proximity payments.

Starting July 26, the Paris Olympics is expected to draw a large number of Indian visitors. According to Jawed Ashraf,



Ambassador of India to France and Monaco, this will pave the way for the wide acceptance of UPI in France and support its internationalisation as a means of digital payments.

**Our collaboration** with Galeries Lafayette in Paris not only enables UPI payments at a prestigious venue but also boosts UPI adoption as a convenient and secure cross-border payment

method for Indian tourists RITESH SHUKLA | CEO, NPCI INTERNATIONAL

"Our collaboration with Galeries Lafayette in Paris not only enables UPI payments at a prestigious venue but also boosts UPI adoption as a convenient and secure cross-border payment method for Indian tourists," Ritesh Shukla, CEO

of NPCI International, said.

As per NPCI, this partnership will benefit a multitude of Indian tourists visiting Paris every year, allowing them to use UPI at the Galeries Lafayette flagship store.

"Lyra is happy to have enabled for the first time in Europe the in-store acceptance of UPI in the iconic Department stores Galeries Lafayette Haussmann in Paris," said Christophe Mariette, Chairman of Lyra India

NPCI also mentioned that this initiative aims to broaden UPI's market presence in France and Europe, driving further growth and adoption as a secure payment solution.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 5: Passenger vehicle retail sales in India witnessed a 7 per cent on-year decline in June as severe heatwave conditions resulted in 15 per cent less showroom walk-ins. industry body FADA said Friday.

Overall passenger vehicle registrations stood at 2,81,566 units last month, as compared to 3.02.000 units in June 2023.

'Despite improved product availability and substantial discounts aimed at stimulating demand, market sentiment remains subdued due to extreme heat resulting in 15 per cent less walkins and delayed monsoons," the Federation of Automobile



Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement.

Dealer feedback highlights challenges such as low customer inquiries and postponed purchase decisions, he added.

Singhania also highlighted that inventory levels of passenger vehicles have reached an alltime high, ranging from 62 to

**Factors such as** extreme heat resulted in 13 per cent less walk-ins by probable customers in showrooms MANISH RAJ SINGHANIA | PRESIDENT, FADA

67 days. With the festive season still some time away, it is crucial for passenger vehicle Original **Equipment Manufacturers** (OEMs) to exercise caution, he stated.

Two-wheeler registrations rose 5 per cent year-on-year to 13,75,889 units in June. Commercial vehicle sales dropped 5 per cent to 72,747 unitslast month, from 76,364 units in June 2023







# Martinez saves Messi the blushes Bumrah snubs retirement rumours

GOALKEEPER COMES TO ARGENTINA'S RESCUE WITH TWO SUPERB SAVES IN THE SHOOT-OUT

#### AGENCIES

Houston, July 5: Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez was the hero saving two penalties and Lionel Messi's blushes as holders Argentina defeated Ecuador in a penalty shoot-out to book their place in the Copa America semifinals here Thursday night. A Lisandro Martinez header had put World Champions Argentina 1-0 up 10 minutes before half time but Kevin Rodriguez headed in a stoppage-time leveller for Ecuador, who had risen to the occasion in front of 69,456 fans at the NRG Stadium here.

Messi missed the opening penalty, chipping against the bar, but thanks to heroics from Emiliano, the La Albiceleste recovered to win the shoot-out 4-2 and progress into the semifinals. Messi's 'panenka' miss brought

back memories of his miss in the shoot-out loss to Chile in the 2016 Copa final but luckily for him goalkeeper Emiliano was in the mood to repeat his own past. He pulled off superb diving saves to deny Angel Mena and Alan Minda and get his team in front before Nicolas Otamendi slotted home the decisive fourth kick. Martinez had saved three spot-

kicks in a 3-2 penalty shootout victory for Argentina over Colombia in the semifinal of the 2021 Copa America and famously saved two in the World Cup final win against France in Qatar.

Ecuador were left crestfallen after a match in which they had created enough opportunities to have won the game.

Felix Sanchez's (who was sacked as manager immediately

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Tame draws

Bucharest: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Fabiano Caruana of the United States, while World Championship challenger D Gukesh also split a point with Dutchman Anish Giri in the eighth and penultimate round of the Superbet Classic chess tournament here. After exchanging crucial pieces in the middle game, Praggnanandhaa and Caruna decided to spilt the point after 31 moves. The game between Gukesh and Giri was shorter with both players agreeing to a draw after 30 moves. Both Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa have 4.5 points after eight rounds.

AT FULL STRETCH: Emiliano Martinez saves a shot taken by Ecuador's Alan Minda during the shootout Thursday night PHOTOX

after the game) team made a bright start, dominating the ball in midfield and stretching the Argentine defence at times. Moises Caicedo had an early

opportunity, latching on to a header from Enner Valencia, but his shot was tame and easily dealt with by Emiliano ..

Then Caicedo threaded a clever pass through to the impressive Jeremy Sarmiento but Emiliano was out quick to save with an outstretched foot and Kendry Paez blasted the loose ball over the bar.

foothold in the game but it was not until the 28th minute that they had their first opening when Enzo Fernandez headed wide a Nahuel Molina cross from the right.

Seven minutes later, they had the lead however, Messi driving in a corner which Alexis Mac Allister met at the near post with a flick-on and Lisandro arrived with a powerful header that Ecuador keeper Alexander Dominguez was unable to keep out. Ecuador were given a life-

have handled inside the box but Valencia's penalty struck the outside of the post

But in added-on time, Ecuador stunned the 15-time Copa champions when Rodriguez glanced in a header from a John Yeboah cross. Moments later Caicedo had a great chance to win the game but he glanced a left-wing cross wide from a great, central position.

"I was really nervous after missing the penalty," Messi said after the match. "I talked with others before taking the shot and they asked me to do it," he added.



very happy that I have done well. Hopefully, it (retirement) is far away now," Bumrah said on the sidelines of Team India's felicitation at the Wankhede Stadium here Thursday. Bumrah said that he is amazed at the way the large

"It (retirement) is a long way

(away). I have just started. I am

**SAYS HE IS STILL** 

**MORE TROPHIES** 

**TO WIN MANY** 

FOR INDIA

AGENCIES

last Saturday.

from him.

number of people gathered at the stadium and also those who walked along with the bus during the victory parade.

'It feels amazing. This ground is really special in my life. I came as an U-19 kid. What I have seen today on the ground, on the streets and the people





To experience this reception and the emotions we felt after the final are unreal. I will never ever forget them JASPRIT BUMRAH

over here, I have never seen anything like that. To experience this and the emotions that we felt after the game is unreal. I will never ever forget them and the memories I have with me now,' Bumrah added.

Bumrah also praised his



**INDIA'S FIVE-GAME T20I SERIES AGAINST ZIMBABWE BEGINS TODAY** 



teammates and talked about the vision the senior players have set for the side.

"I will count myself as a young lad as well. The experienced players and the variety that we have, the confidence that we have, that all the players are so confident to take the game by the scruff of the neck. Like Rohit and Virat just said that all our aim is to take Indian cricket forward," Bumrah pointed out.

"Hopefully we will try to help the team as much as we can and bring more glory to the country. We have never won a World Cup before. This gives us more motivation," Bumrah added.

# Mixed day for Indian shuttlers

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Calgary (Canada), July 5: Rising Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat continued his fine form and advanced to the men's singles quarterfinal of the Canada Open with a straight-game win over Japan's Takuma Obayashi here Thursday.

Rajawat, World No. 39, defeated 33rd ranked Obayashi 21-19, 21-11 in 38 minutes. He will now face top seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark.

Besides Rajawat, the thirdseeded Indian women's doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gavatri Gopichand also progressed to the quarterfinals. The Indian duo fought back from a game down to beat Natasja P Anthonisen of Denmark and Netherland's Alyssa Tirtosentono 17-21, 21-7, 21-8 in a round of 16 match that lasted 48 minutes. But it was curtains for all other Indians in action here in the second round. Both Anupama Upadhyaya and Tanya Hemanth lost their second round women's singles matches. While Anupama fought hard against Canada's Michelle Li before going down 14-21, 21-17, 13-21, Tanya bowed out in straight games 11-21, 13-21 against third seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand.

Harare, July 5: The Gen-Next of Indian cricket led by Shubman Gill will be out to make a point or two when the take on hosts Zimbabwe in the first of the five T20 games here Saturday. This is probably one of the rarest of rare occasions when there will neither be a Virat Kohli or a Rohit Sharma to guide them.

A number of fresh faces are expected to make their international debut during the series. Two young men, who are lined up for debut could be Punjab's Abhishek Sharma, who had a stupendous IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad and the

#### line in the 62nd minute when Rodrigo De Paul was ruled to Argentina gradually got a Anthony appointed

## **OFC** assistant coach

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: ISL side Odisha FC (OFC) announced Friday that Anthony Fernandes has been appointed as the assistant coach of the club in place of Floyd Pinto. The club said that Pinto quit due to 'personal reasons'

In a release issued Friday, Odisha FC said that Anthony's coaching experience and his tenure as a footballer in various clubs will benefit OFC. Anthony had coached Air India FC and also worked as an assistant coach with the youth set-up of Mumbai City FC

#### Top lady ref retires

New Delhi: India's Uvena Fernandes, who officiated as an assistant referee at the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cun. has announced her retirement. the AIFF said Friday. She officiated in the final of the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2016 at Jordan. The 43-year-old Uvena, who hails from Goa, wil continue to serve as a referee assessor and instructor. "I have been a referee for almost 20 years, and I think I have already done justice to my badge. Now, I thought, it is time to make way for youngsters," she said in an AIFF release.

He has had the necessary exposure in the ISL. His tactical acumen, ability to motivate players, and experience in grooming youngsters have been instrumental in the Islanders' recent

success, OFC said in a release. Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera expressed happiness at Anthony's appointment. "I was lucky enough to work with him in Mumbai City FC and we achieved success together. A professional and an excellent person with whom I am delighted to work again, he will help me

a lot," Lobera stated Anthony also exuded confi-

dence about his new assignment. "I'm delighted to join Odisha FC in this next chapter of my career. Odisha are an ambitious club, wanting to fight for titles and their recent progress is a testament to that. I'm looking forward to linking up again with Sergio in a fruitful manner," Anthony stated. In the recent past OFC have

been doing well qualifying for the play-offs in the ISL. They also made their maiden appearance in the 2023-24 AFC Cup and topped their group.

young Assamese lad Rivan Parag, who has given ample demonstration of his capabilities as a competent T20 batter. Zimbabwe certainly aren't the

most formidable opposition but in T20 format, the gulf between sides is comparatively lesser than the other two traditional forms of the game. The hosts, led by the gutsy Sikandar Raza, who played for Punjab Kings in the IPL recently, could prove to be a handful on nippy afternoons at the Harare Sports Club where the ball will jag around during the afternoon starts.

Some solid performances in

**Bellingham put** 

on 'probation'

Dusseldorf: Jude Bellingham has

avoided an immediate ban after the

England midfielder appeared to make

an offensive gesture in his team's win

over Slovakia. He will be available for

Switzerland. UEFA imposed Friday a

immediately enforced and is subject

to a probationary period' of a year.

UEFA said the punishment was 'for

violating the basic rules of decent

England's game Saturday against

one-game ban but said it 'is not



Ruturaj Gaikwad has a stint Friday in the nets at Harare Sports Club РНОТО ВССІ Х

this series will keep these youngsters in contention for future when the first team players of the World Champion side are back on national duty. Shivam Dube, Sanju Samson, and Yashasvi Jaiswal will be available from the third match onwards and some of the young men would only get a couple of games to prove their mettle.

While skipper Gill is expected to open, one needs to see whether Abhishek gets his maiden India cap or the seasoned CSK skipper and captain of the Asian Games gold medalwinning team Ruturaj Gaikwad ends up being the chosen one. Gaikwad can also come in at No.3 followed by Parag and finisher Rinku Singh.

#### Advani in final

Riyadh: Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani is one step away from registering a hattrick of Asian Billiards titles as he advanced to the final after registering a comprehensive 5-0 win over compatriot Sourav Kothari here. Advani's mastery of the billiards table was evident as he scored 100 in each frame. Advani won 100-29, 100-33, 101-38, 100-21, 100-0. Earlier in the quarterfinals, Advani got the better of another Indian, Shrikrishna Suryanarayanan, by an identical 5-0 margin.

#### 1st win for SA eves

Chennai: South Africa eves registered their maiden win in their ongoing tour of India defeating the hosts by 12 runs here Friday in the first T20 international between the two sides. After scoring 189 for four, the visitors restricted India to 177 for four to win the game. Tazmin Brits (81) and Marizanne Kapp (57) were the star performers for South Africa. For the hosts, Jemimah Rorigues (53 n o) and Smriti Mandhana (46) batted well.

# England await Swiss test

#### **IN-FORM SWITZERLAND SEEK THEIR FIRST EURO SEMIFINAL SPOT**



England will hope that Harry Kane (left) and Jude Bellingham strike form against Switzerland

#### AGENCIES

Dusseldorf, July 5: Switzerland have never reached the last four of a major international tournament but have shown that they can battle with the big boys ahead of their Euro 2024 clash with England here Saturday. Murat Yakin's side were ruthless in dumping hapless holders Italy out of the tournament last week-

hand, England huffed and puffed before managing to win against Slovakia in extra-time.

Switzerland have reached their second straight Euros quarterfinal with a squad that contain very few stars, with Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Granit Xhaka and Manuel Akanji of Manchester City their biggest names.

"How they've played this tournament and the players they've got, they've been brilliant," said

conduct' in the Slovakia game. England defender John Stones Thursday. "They've got some great players and I think it will be a

really good match up, a test for us." Swiss coach Murat Yakin stated that his team are not vet finished. "We're on the right track and doing things the right way. We've earned the right to be here but we're not done yet," he said.

> TIMING and vs Switzerland

#### Alcaraz subdues **Tiafoe challenge**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 5: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz came back to eliminate Frances Tiafoe 5-7, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 to reach Wimbledon's fourth round here Friday in an entertaining match between two pals that was filled with moments of brilliance and a series of momentum swings. The third-seeded Alcaraz was outplayed for stretches by the No. 29 Tiafoe but surged to the finish and improved to 12-1 for his career in fifth sets.

Tiafoe was not able to pull out what would have been a surprising victory for someone who arrived at Wimbledon with a sprained ligament in his right knee and a losing record this season. In the end it was the durability and never-say-die attitude that helped the defending champion.

When the fourth set tie-breaker started Tiafoe tried his very best to win, but Alcaraz always had the one extra shot to subdue his opponent. And once Alcaraz won the fourth set, his game improved by a couple of notches that left Tiafoe struggling.

# Thrilling win for Odisha Cheetahs

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Odisha Cheetahs and Odisha Pumas won their respective matches of the T20 Odisha Cricket League played Friday at the Barabati Stadium. While Odisha Cheetahs overcame Odisha Panthers in a rain-interrupted thrilling game by one run, Odisha Pumas trounced Odisha Jaguars by five wickets.

Riding on a fine half century by Shreyansh Bharadwaj (53, 38b), Odisha Cheetahs scored 167 for seven in their 20 overs. Debabrata Pradhan (4/30) bowled well for the Panthers. However, the target for the Panthers was reduced to 128 in 15 overs due to rain interruption by the DLS method. Despite a fine innings from Raghunath Malla (42, 27b), the Panthers could score only 127 for seven to lose the game by one run. Sushil K Barik (2/17) was the pick of the bowlers for the Cheetahs.



Shreyansh Bharadwaj receives his man of the match award OP PHOTO

the Pumas and were restricted to 98 for nine in their 20 overs. Rajesh Mohanty (4/20) and Biswajit Mohapatra (2/14) kept the opposition batters in check. Odisha Pumas then scored 104 for five in 15.1 overs to win the game easily, Swastik Samal (42, 26b) batted well for the winners.

The Jaguars were no match for

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end by a 2-0 margin. On the other



