

SC asks Odisha on Dara's release

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 9: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought the Odisha government's response on a plea for premature release of a "repenting" Ravindra Pal alias Dara Singh, who is serving life sentence for the ghastly killing of Australian missionary Graham

rituals here, an official said. An



TIMELINE

A mob led by Dara Singh attacked Staines and his two sons - 11-year-old Philip and 8-year-old Timothy - while they slept in their station wagon and set the vehicle on fire in Manoharpur village of Keonihar district on the intervening night of January 22-23, 1999

material tied to the idol. Parida said

Committee suggests Ratna Bhandar reopening July 14

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 9: The highlevel committee, set up to su-

pervise the listing of jewellery

and other valuable items stored

in 'Ratna Bhandar' (treasury) of

Puri Jagannath temple, Tuesday

"However, the SJTA administration could not produce the ____ duplicate key as the temple authority was busy conducting Rath Yatra. The chief administrator is now asked to submit the key before the panel July 14." Rath said.

meeting, Rath said.

SENSEX	80351.64		391.26
NIFTY	24433.20		112.65
DOLLAR	83.54	₽	₹0.05
EURO	90.46	₽	₹0.07
GOLD	₹72,247	₽	₹85
SILVER	₹ 92,652		₹100
	NIFTY DOLLAR EURO	NIFTY 24433.20 DOLLAR 83.54 EURO 90.46 GOLD ₹72,247	DOLLAR 83.54 ↓ EURO 90.46 ↓ GOLD ₹72,247 ↓

No looking for gold. Just

checking whether the road will

cave in when I step on it

VARIATION

MARKET WATCH

INDEX

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.4℃	32.8°(
Min Temp	27.0°C	25.5°(
Humidity	81%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain	Ê	2

Stuart Staines and his two minor sons in Keonjhar district in 1999. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh

Roy and SVN Bhatti issued notice to the Odisha government and sought its response within six weeks.

In the plea, Dara Singh's advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain said, "The petitioner, having spent over 24 years being incarcerated in the prison, has well understood and is repenting the consequences of his action taken in the fit of his youthful rage and at present seeks the mercy of this court so that he can give back to the society through his service-oriented actions.³

He sought a direction to the state government to consider his case for premature release in accordance with the guidelines for premature release of life convicts issued in 2022 in the three cases in which he was convicted. "The petitioner herein who



Sources meanwhile, said two of

happens to be about 61 years of age has already undergone more than the qualified period i.e. 14 years of sentence as stipulated in policy dated April 19, 2022 whereas the petitioner has served more than 24 years of actual imprisonment (without remission). 'It is noteworthy that the pe-

titioner has never been released on parole and even when his mother passed away, he could not perform her last rites as he was not allowed to be released on parole," he submitted.

tors first carried the idols of

Singh said the appropriate authorities are under legal obligation to consider his case for premature release under the 'Guideline for Premature Release 2022' passed by the Odisha government. He claimed they have failed to act in accordance with the related rules due to which his right to liberty, as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution, was jeopardised.

In his petition, Singh referred to the 2022 decision in former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case in which convict AG Perarivalan, serving life

- Singh was convicted and sentenced to death by a CBI court in 2003
- The Orissa HC commuted his death sentence to life imprison ment in 2005 and it was upheld by the SC in 2011
- Singh's aide Mehendra Hembram is also serving life imprisonment, while 11 others were acquitted by the HC due to lack of evidence
- Gladys, who was awarded the Padmashree in 2005, had said she had forgiven the killers of her husband and sons and that she holds no bitterness against them

sentence, was ordered to be released by the apex court.

It's worth mentioning that Staines and his wife Gladys worked with Mayurbhanj Evangelical Missionary organisation and cared for leprosy patients.

Yes, some animals can have babies without a mate

A BOA CONSTRICTOR IN THE UK GIVES BIRTH TO 14 BABIES — WITHOUT A MATE

recommended the reopening of the inner chamber of the treasury July 14, panel chairman Justice Biswanath Rath said.

The recommendation will be sent to the temple managing committee, which will forward it to the Odisha government for approval, he said.

The temple treasury was last opened 46 years ago in 1978 and the reopening of it was a major political issue in the state during the recently concluded elections.

"We have unanimously decided that the committee would request the government to reopen the inner chamber of the 'Ratna Bhandar' July 14," Rath said after a committee meeting in Puri Tuesday.

The chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), who is the member convenor of the panel, was asked to produce the duplicate key of the 'Ratna Bhandar' before the committee during the

It's unclear how prevalent

treasury would be opened by breaking the lock if the duplicate key fails to unlock it, he said. A detailed discussion was held on several standard operating procedures (SOPs) needed for

It was also decided that the

making an inventory of ornaments and repairing the 'Ratna Bhandar'. "As per the rules, the minutes of the meeting will be sent to the temple managing committee, which will send it to the government for approval. After that, the 'Ratna Bhandar' can be opened," Rath said.

The BJP had promised to reopen the 'Ratna Bhandar' for necessary repair work and make an inventory after it came to power in Odisha. "A consensus was reached that the ornaments and other valuable items of Lord Jagannath will be shifted to a designated place on the temple premises during the repair work of the treasury." he said.

Modi meets Russian Prez; Zelenskyy takes dig at hug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

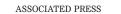
Moscow, July 9: Delivering an unambiguous message. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday told Russian President Vladimir Putin that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets, even as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took objection to the Indian leader hugging Putin.

In his televised opening remarks at summit talks with Putin in the Kremlin, Modi - who was conferred the 'Order of St Andrew the Apostle' award for his contribution to fostering bilateral ties between the two countries - in an apparent reference to the bombing of a children's hospital in Ukraine, said the death of innocent children is heart-wrench-



ing and very painful. Russia has broadly heeded to India's call to end the recruitment of Indians as support staff to the Russian military and ensure the return of those still operating in the force.

Meanwhile, taking objection to Modi hugging Putin, Zelenskyy said on X: "A Russian missile struck the largest children's hospital in Ukraine, targeting young cancer patients. Many were buried under the rubble. It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day.



Washington, July 9: Is it a miracle? The result of a secret rendezvous? Probably not. Females of species have the ability to reproduce asexually, without sperm from a male. The process is called parthenogenesis, from the Greek words for "virgin" and "birth."

Some plants and insects can do it, as well as some amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish. A stingray named Charlotte that was thought to have become pregnant by this method died this week at an aquarium in North Carolina, though she never delivered and it is unclear if she

was ever pregnant. Some wasps, crustaceans and lizards reproduce only through parthenogenesis. But in other species it's rare and usually observed in captivity.

It tends to occur in situations where females are separated from males, said Demian Chapman, who directs the Sharks & Rays Conservation Research Program at the Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida.

The boa in the UK, a 6-foot, 13-year-old Brazilian Rainbow Boa named Ronaldo, gave birth last week after having no contact with other snakes for at least nine years, according to the City of Portsmouth College, which kept the snake.

One way parthenogenesis can occur is when a female's egg fuses with another cell. often a cell leftover from a process that allows the female to create the



egg. That cell, known as a polar viding and that leads to the crebody, gives the egg the genetic ination of an embryo. formation it would normally get from sperm. The cell starts diparthenogenesis is in the wild,

Chapman said. But it has happened outside captivity among smalltooth sawfish, an endangered species in Florida's coastal waters

'We think the females reproduce like that on some occasions because they haven't found a male because there are so few of them." Chapman said.

Offspring from parthenogenesis have less genetic variation, Chapman said, which can lead to developmental problems.

"A litter produced by sexual re- ২ production is usually much larger than one produced via parthenogenesis if it's an animal that gives birth to litters," Chapman said. "And you will often see individuals in that litter produced by –(parthenogenesis that don't develop correctly in some way.'







NICOLAS CAGE ON HAVING 3 KIDS WITH 3 WOMEN

Hollywood actor Nicolas Cage has spoken about his relationship with his three children. The star told The New Yorker: "They're all different experiences. Each one has a different mother. It's not what I had originally thought would happen when I fell in love or got married -- that I would have three different children with three different moms."

JULIA FOX APPEARS TO COME OUT AS LESBIAN

Actress Julia Fox, who earlier dated rapper Kanye West, has seemingly come out of the closet. She made the revelation following a viral TikTok by comedian Gracin. The Uncut Gems actress commented: "Hey, that was me. I was that lesbian. So sorry, boys. Um, won't happen again."



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

Your ability to let go things will reflect in your personal as well as your professional life. Today could be a significant day for you, and Ganesha advises you not to forget your special abilities. Make good use of them so that others too can benefit.

TAURUS

This day you will be prone to be stubborn and uncompromising in your business and professional dealings and thereby inviting unnecessary problems. Ganesha urges you to guard against this tendency and conduct yourself cordially and amiably with your colleagues and clients. The day will turn out well for executives and administrators.

GEMINI

You need to break free from the shackles of your daily routine. Trying to finish all your tasks as per your schedule will give rise to unnecessary worry. To manage you time creatively is the best way to beat the stress. Talking to your elders is a good way to calm your shot nerves, says Ganesha

Your social prestige will go up. People will praise your personality traits and try to emulate you. You will be a role model, too. Ganesha feels that this will be highly profitable day for you

LEO

You will try to take up new projects to the best of your abilities today. You will be able to successfully tackle all your tasks today. You will face a little instability in your personal relationships, but will be able to solve all issues successfully, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Today you will feel monetar ily much stronger than you have ever felt, says Ganesha. You will realise the need to make monetary arrangements for some unforeseen financial instability that may occur in the future. Your leadership qualities will be appreciat ed by people around you. Ganesha warns that there may be wild fluctua tions in monetary transactions

LIBRA

Ganesha says today you will use your mental competency to complete all your wor

Jacqueline's meatless lifestyle

Mumbai: Jacqueline Fernandez recently attended a conference as a panelist on the topic of Achieving Fitness Goals Without Meat. She spoke about her personal journey towards adopting a meatless lifestyle.

Jacqueline's exploration of a meatless diet stemmed from her desire to lead a more holistic lifestyle with mental clarity and less on aesthetics and conforming to beauty standards

Speaking about how her journey began, Jacqueline said "I started reading about Paramahansa Yogananda Baba Ji, and I started following his teachings about how we need to be one with nature and we need to have a lot of mental clarity if we want to live a good life."

She continued about her experience and said, 'About three years ago, I went to his ashram in Madh Island, it was

> a tumultuous time for me as my mother suffered from a stroke around the same time and I couldn't be with her in Bahrain. So. I decided that really wanted to utilise this time and be at one with

self and send her a lot of energy. And then 1st Jan 2022, I decided that I'm never ever going to touch meat again.'

my-

Her meatless lifestyle has shifted focus her Jacqueline's journey not only sheds light on the personal motivations behind such a significant lifestyle change,

but also serves

as a powerful in-

spiration for

AGENCIES

others.

Sharvari on her surreal feeling

Mumbai: Sharvari Wagh is being hailed as the rising star of showbiz after delivering two back to back hits and garnering heaps of praise for her acting in Munjya and Maharaj.

In Munjya, Sharvari showcased her dancing skills with the hit song Taras and played the lead heroine Bela as well as the ghost Munjya in the film. Munjya has become the Rs. 100 crore blockbuster this year.

In Maharaj, now a global hit film on Netflix, Sharvari received rave reviews from critics and audiences for her performance opposite Junaid Khan.

Mumbai: For Shreya Chaudhury, it is travelling

that helps her over come stress and fatigue.

In fact, it is this activity

that totally works

as therapy

for her.

Recently,

Bandish

Bandits ac

tress who

was in Mexico

attending her

rejuvenates me.

in Mumbai

family wedding

told us, "I per-

sonally love travel-

ling. It does work emo-

tionally and mentally for

me. I feel it always

I get a fresh perspective to

questions I felt stuck with. I re-

alised that every time I travelled

it helped me comeback rejuve-

nated for my work and routine life

She further continues saying,

'For me, speaking to locals, trying

local things and living the life like

locals do breaks the mundane cycle

of routine life and excites me. Just

sitting on one of those beaches, all

by myself and reading a book,

listening to music feels so good

and soothing. This kind of break

makes you feel excited to get

back to work. Traveling helps

Talking about her Mexican

trip, where she attended a big

fat Indian wedding of her

cousin, Shreya said, "It was

really lovely to see a lot of

tourists there and local people

seeing an Indian wedding for the

first time. They were surprised

seeing how celebratory we are

with our outfits, music, food, baraat

and how we bring two people to-

'MY CLIENT WAS

CONFUSED, YOUR HONOR

HE THOUGHT HE WAS

A BEAVER!

I THINK THAT'S ALSO

WHY SOME PEOPLE DON'T

LIKE CATS

N

gether" AGENCIES

THAT DRIVES PEOPLE YAWWNN

ITS

STAND BEING

NSULTING AND

IGNORED.

... HEY !

me get fresh perspective.'

the

Sharvari said, "To have two back-to-back hits under my belt is a surreal feeling! First, Munjya becoming a theatrical blockbuster for me by getting into the 100 crore club and now Maharaj, a global hit on the world's biggest streaming platform, Netflix! The love is pouring in from all directions and I

couldn't be happier.' She added, "This is a dream come true run for me, something I had never imagined. So, it feels overwhelming at times. I just want this momentum to continue into my next theatrical release Vedaa.

Sharvari further continued, "With Munjya and Maharaj, I have

Fighting fatigue: Shreya's way

been able to showcase variety as an actor. I'm drawn to challenges and I hope I have been able to reach out to all the disruptive film-makers with my per formance on screen.'

On the work front, Sharvari will be next seen in Nikkhil Advani's directorial Vedaa and Aditya Chopra's Alpha, a YRF Spy Universe action spectacle.

Slumdog Millionaire damaged India's reputation: Kailash Kher

Mumbai: Singer Kailash Kher recently talked about Indian cinema's stint at the Oscars. Talking to a leading newspaper, Kailash blasted Slumdog Millionaire (2009) as he believed that it showed India in a negative light. Though he didn't name the Danny Boyle directorial, it's clear which film he was referring to. He also applauded SS Rajamouli's

RRR and Baahubali for glorifving India's culture. The singer said, "I believe

that the energy



ated, is the most prominent. I have created both film and The power of the south Indian non-film music, I am known in temples has enabled movies my concerts for the latter. The from this part of the country reason I received the Padma to reach the Oscars. In the past, Shri title in the short tenure of there was another film that 12 years is because I could

utation. But, films like RRR, which also make a reference to Lord Ram, are the ones that shone on international turf."

Kailash further added that his upbringing in an ashram in Rishikesh, in the company of saints, helped him to stand out

"I was never exposed to film music. So, when I entered the industry with the idea of showcasing my music, I introduced a fresh take to Bollywood music. Our successive five albums were hits," he shared. He continued, "Even though

on time. You may not give complete attention to your family as you will be spending time in the office or at work Your extraordinary intelligence will be showcased at work today. Ganesha says do not forget your family which has played a huge role in your success.

SCORPIO

Be vigilant; keep your eyes and ears open for all the events happening around you, says Ganesha. Your intuition is trying to tell you something, trust it. Think and act positively, the rest would fall in place.

SAGITTARIUS

Keeping all the work aside, you may be painting the town red today. Falling ir love is exciting, isn't it? However, for all those who are already in a relationship. Ganesha shows a red signal. Avoid argu ments with your loved one, He suggests

CAPRICORN

Opportunities don't knock on the door twice. Today, you'll answer the door and utilise the opportunity to the most, pre dicts Ganesha. Positive results will be visible and you'll stand a chance to overtake your competitors. Even if the competition is fierce and opponents try everything to pull you down, you'll not let them win the battle. Socially, you will be very popular today.

AOUARIUS

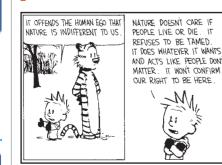
You have changed your approach towards life from materialism to mysticism. Your friends and family members are pleasantly surprised to see this change. Later on the day, you may plan to visit a temple or other reli gious places, foresees Ganesha.

PISCES

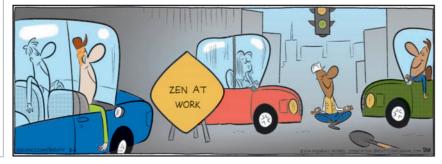
You are striving hard to influence your destiny. You are not going to kneel down without a fight against heavy odds. With persistent efforts you will succeed in achieving your goals. While victory is a given, hard work will be necessary

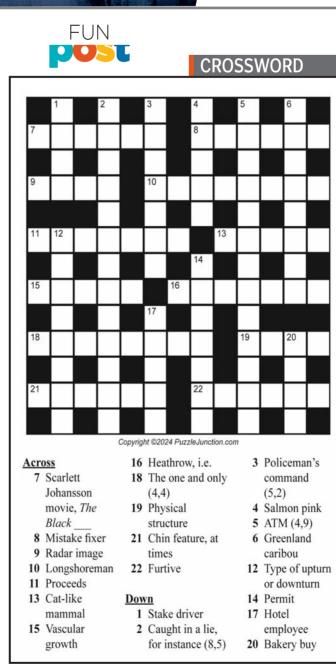


CALVIN AND HOBBES









CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

reached the Oscars; one that of the places, where the bigshowed Indians jumping into ger Indian tema pile of shit. Think about how ples are situmuch that damaged our rep-

bring spiritual music to the mainstream, and change the course of the creation of romantic music. AGENCIES

SUDOKU

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

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SO

ODISSI TREAT

Artistes perform Odissi during a cultural programme organised near Chandni Chowk Gundicha Temple in Cuttack, Tuesday



downtown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Orissapost

WEDNESDAY | JULY 10 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

New Delhi, July 9: The Supreme Court Tuesday took strong note of the failure to set up Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs), meant to streamline the adoption process of abandoned and surrendered children, in 370 out of 760 districts across the country. and ordered the Chief Secretaries of 29 states and Union territories (UTs) to either comply with the order or face contempt proceedings

According to the top court's orders, all the states and UTs had to mandatorily set up SAAs in every district by January 31, 2024, but only five have complied.

It has now directed the Chief Secretaries of the rest of the states and UTs to file a compliance report on or before August 30, failing which they will have to appear before this court September 2 to explain why contempt proceedings should not be started against them.

The SAAs prepare the home study report of the prospective adoptive parents, and after finding them eligible, refer a child declared legally free for adoption to them along with the child study report and the medical report.

To have functional SAAs is a necessary legal requirement under the Juvenile Justice Act.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra lamented the non-setting up of SAAs in 370 districts by states and UTs after it was flagged by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, and decided to take



"coercive" measures. Out of 34 states and UTs. Chandigarh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Rajasthan have fully complied with the direction, the law officer said.

Twenty-nine states and UTs have not complied with the direction, with Andhra Pradesh, Pradesh, Arunachal Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand being the major defaulters.

The law officer said in UP, 61 out of 75 districts, and in Uttarakhand, 10 out of 13 districts lacked functional SAAs.

"We are compelled to take coercive proceedings against the state governments and the Union territories (UTs) since despite repeated efforts and repeated opportunities, the SAAs have not been set up in all districts.

We accordingly direct the chief secretaries of all the states and UTs as mentioned in Annexure to file a compliance report on or before 30 August, failing which they shall remain personally present before this court on September 2 to explain why they should not be proceeded against the exercise of contempt jurisdiction," the



bench ordered. It also asked the states and the UTs to file affidavits explaining whether the timelines

stipulated under the adoption regulations of 2022 for facilitating the process of adoption are being duly complied with. The bench asked them to also

disclose the data on the actual time taken to complete the adoption process. "They (affidavits) shall also indicate the reasons why the

timelines as stipulated in the regulations are not being complied with," it said. At the outset, the bench was apprised by the law officer that

in 2023-24, over 4,000 children have been adopted and 13,000 registrations have been made by prospective persons seeking to adopt children. The law officer, however, raised

the issue of non-functional SAAs in districts as a detriment in the successful completion of the adoption process. The bench, during the hearing,

said that there were difficulties for the court to lav down guidelines for adoptions and their registrations under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) "Once the statute is very clear

about the conditions, it may not be appropriate for the court to prescribe guidelines now...," the bench said. The matter will now be taken up September 2.

Earlier also, the bench had voiced displeasure over the failure to set up SAAs in 370 districts across the country and warned states and union territories of "coercive steps" for non-compliance with its directions.

The court had also expressed displeasure over the "stark tale" told by the annual adoption figures in the country.

"Between 2013 and 2023, the annual figure of total adoptions, both in-country and inter-country, ranges between 3,158 on the lower end of the spectrum (2022-2023) to 4,362 (2014-2015)...," it had said.

Earlier, the bench had noted the "mismatch" between the number of children legally available for adoption and registered prospective adoptive parents.

It had directed all states and UTs to carry out a drive every two months to identify the children in abandoned and surrendered (OAS) category in childcare institutions. It had said the first of such an exercise should be carried out by December 7.

The bench had also directed all states and UTs to compile and submit to the Director, CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority) data on adoptions under the HAMA by January 31, 2024.

The apex court was hearing a PIL by 'The Temple of Healing' which sought simplification of the legal process for child adoption in India.

Non-functional SAAs irk SC 800 schools in state to be developed under PM SHRI

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 9: Around 800 schools in the state will be developed under PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) that will help them function in spirit of the National Education Policy (NEP) and exhibit all the basic elements, official sources said Tuesday

An MoU was signed between the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education and the state government at an event organised in New Delhi Tuesday for the implementation of PM SHRI yojana in Odisha.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhuri and the Education Secretary of Odisha Aswathy S.

So far, 31 states and Union Territories along with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodava Vidvalava Samiti (NVS) have signed MoUs with the Ministry of Education to up grade their schools under the PM SHRI yojana.

Official sources said two schools in every block and urban area of the state will be devel-

oped under PM SHRI. The initiative aims to improve the infrastructure and quality of schools under the Central government, state and Union Territory governments, local bodies,



Bhubaneswar, July 9: High drama unfolded at Rasulgarh Square here, Tuesday evening, when a woman waylaid Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi's carcade.

A senior police official at Mancheswar police station said, "CM Majhi was returning to his residence after attending an event at VSS Nagar around 5:15pm. Meanwhile, when his carcade was passing

for 10-15 minutes." The cops tried to placate her saving that it was a regular security arrangement adhered to during any CM's itinerary. However, the woman refused to calm down and was seen obstructing a police van for several minutes. Later, a lady cop forcefully escorted the woman to roadside, he added.

"Prima facie, it is not clear whether the woman had any medical emer-



KVS and NVS.

These schools will reflect the curriculum and teaching methods recommended by the NEP, and enhance the skills of teachers in one school which will transform India into a knowledge society.

PM SHRI schools will provide comprehensive and inclusive education to students in a stimulating environment with quality education. These schools will not only emphasise the development of knowledge but will also help in creating a holistic person with key skills of the 21st century

PM SHRI schools will take

care of all the students and provide a lot of experience based education with good infrastructure and adequate resources for their studies.

The school will provide education in a modern and comprehensive manner.

Emphasis will be placed on innovation-based, new technology, smart classrooms and sports and other aspects.

This initiative will benefit lakhs of students of Odisha. The teaching and learning in these schools will be technology based and there will be provision of ICT, digital lab, digital library and digital learning tools.









POST NEWS NETWORK



Rasulgarh Square, traffic came to a standstill. During this, the woman came forward and asked the cops as to why the traffic had been stopped

gency or she is associated with a political party." the cop added. Meanwhile, Mancheswar police have launched an investigation into the incident.

CJI: Every SC judge Identify dengue hotspots, DMs told is very experienced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: "Every judge of the Supreme Court is very experienced," Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud told a lawyer Tuesday while admonishing him for complaining about another apex court judge.

Advocate Ashok Pandey, who got an unfavourable order from a bench headed by Justice BR Gavai, had rushed to the CJI's courtroom claiming he was threatened with cancellation of his advocate's licence.

Visibly unimpressed with the allegation, the CJI said, "This court has no intra-court appeal. If you are aggrieved by an order of this court, you have a remedy of review petition. Every judge of this court is very experienced and they have decades of experience as lawyers as well."

Pandey said he appeared as a petitioner in-person in his PILs and was slapped with fines by earlier orders.

"I was only asking for the recall of the order imposing fine but instead the judge asked me to go out of the courtroom and even threatened that my licence will be cancelled," he told the bench which also comprised Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

Exasperated by his remonstration, Chandrachud told Pandey, "I have been hearing you for a while and now I am beginning to lose my patience. I can understand what would happen in other courts. You please seek remedy as per the law."

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 9: Amid a spurt in dengue cases, the state government has directed all District Magistrates (DMs) and five municipal commissioners to remain vigilant, identify hotspots and review availability of frontline workers, logistics and drugs for prevention and control of the vector-borne diseases.

In her letter, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit said Odisha may witness an uptick in cases of vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria during and after the monsoon

"However, timely implementation of adequate measures can significantly reduce morbidity and mortality, she said

The Collectors were asked to convene district or municipal level meetings of all stakeholders to review the joint action plan.

They were directed to map vulnerable pockets by analysing the epidemiological trend of the last five years and undertake intensified surveillance in these pockets.

Pandit also asked the Collectors and municipal commissioners to ensure adequate tests, treatment and timely referral to higher health facilities, whenever required

"District and block Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to be kept in readiness to manage adverse situations, and anti-larval and anti-adult (for vector) measures should be undertaken in addition to massive source reduction activities,' she mentioned.

"Ensure availability of adequate drugs and diagnostics and dedicated wards with mosquito proofing in health institutions," the H&FW Commissionercum-Secretary further stated in the letter.

The Collectors and municipal commissioners were also asked to ensure observation of weekly dry day and strengthening IEC-BCC activities on inter-personal communication so as to disseminate messages for prevention and control of dengue as per local need.

According to sources, the state has so far reported at least 200 dengue cases, with Khurda district that registered 30 incidents being the worst affected. The Capital City accounts for almost 50 per cen to the cases in Khurda.

Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das said the civic body has been undertaking a host of measures to curb vector-borne diseases.

"We are leaving no stone unturned towards curbing stagnation of water in residential areas. Soon, we'll be hosting roadshows, especially in slums, to create awareness among the people. Fogging has been intensified," added Das.



DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 9: Two days after a few unidentified miscreants fired gunshots in the air near Gadhikhala Sahi. the Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested four persons in this connection.

Two billhooks, one cricket stump, one scooter and an empty cartridge have been seized from the possession of the accused, said a senior official at Badagada police station.

Twin city Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said Sagar Jena, 25, T Biju, 27, Sumanta

Pradhan, 20 and Gunu Kanhar. 20 - all locals have been arrested, while two other miscreants are still at large.

Panda said the hoodlums, who were under the influence of alcohol, were loitering near the area and troubling commuters around 9:30 pm. When complainant Balaram Behera opposed them, the anti-socials started verbally abusing him and threatened him with sharp weapons. Subsequently, when

some locals joined Balaram and took objection to their nuisance in the public, the

ing gunshots in the air and vandalised the vehicles parked nearby. "During the entire incident, the hood-

lums had fired a total of three rounds from their firearms", added Panda.

Badagada police booked the four men under Sections 324 (4), 351 (3), 296 and 3 (5) of BNS, along with Sections 25 and 27 of Arms Act. They were produced before a local court Tuesday.

Notably, the arrested men were previously arrested by Badagada police for similar crimes

Water level in key reservoirs rise for first time since Sept 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Amid heavy rains across India, the water level of the country's main reservoirs has risen for the first time since September last year, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said.

Despite the marginal rise of 2 per cent from the previous week, this marks a departure from the consistent week-on-week decline reported since the bulletin issued on September 29, 2023, when the storage capacity stood at 73 per cent, according to the analysis of the data.

This improvement comes amid widespread rainfall across the country.

The CWC, which monitors the live storage status of 150 reservoirs across India, released its latest bulletin detailing these de-

velopments on July 4. The CWC issues a weekly bulletin every Thursday, providing updates on the status of these reservoirs

According to the bulletin, out of the 150 reservoirs, 20 are ded-

icated to hydroelectric projects, with a total live storage capacity of 35.30 billion cubic meters (BCM).

The CWC bulletin July 4 said the live storage available in these reservoirs was 39.729 BCM, which is 22 per cent of their total live storage capacity.

In comparison, the live storage available during the corresponding period last year was 50.422 BCM, with a normal storage level of 44.06 BCM.

This indicates that the current live storage is 79 per cent of last year's corresponding period and 90 per cent of the normal storage level, the CWC said.

The northern region, comprising Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, has 10 reservoirs with a total live storage capacity of 19.663 BCM.

The current storage is 5.39 BCM (27 per cent), compared to 45 per cent during the same period last year and a normal storage level of 31 per cent.

The eastern region, including Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland,

and Bihar, has 23 reservoirs with a total live storage capacity of 20.430 BCM

The current storage stands at 3.979 BCM (19 per cent), down from 20 per cent last year and a normal level of 23 per cent.

The western region, which includes Gujarat and Maharashtra, has 49 reservoirs with a total live storage capacity of 37.130 BCM. The storage is now at 7.949 BCM (21 per cent), compared to 27 per cent last year and a normal storage level of 22 per cent.

The central region, comprising Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhva Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, has 26 reservoirs with a total live storage capacity of 48.227 BCM.

The current storage is 12.26 BCM (25 per cent), compared to 35 per cent last year and a normal storage level of 26 per cent.

The southern region, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, has 42 reservoirs with atotal live storage capacity of 53.334 BCM.







downtown

Technologies creating new challenges: Prez

Cas9, which has made gene ed-

iting easy, the President said,

"This technology is a huge step

towards solving many incurable

diseases. However, problems re-

lated to ethical and social issues

are also arising due to the use of

Due to the advances in the

field of generative artificial in-

telligence (AI), the problem of

deep fake and many regulatory

challenges are coming to the

The President hoped that along

with their achievements in their

profession, the students would

also discharge their social duties

seven social sins, one of which

"Mahatma Gandhi has defined

with full accountability.

this technology.

fore, she said.

ues of tradition.



Bhubaneswar, July 9: New technological developments are providing capabilities to society, but at the same time, they are also creating new challenges for humanity, President Droupadi Murmu said Tuesday.

OrissaPOST

WEDNESDAY | JULY 10 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Murmu was addressing the 13th graduation ceremony of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), here.

"Today, very rapid changes are taking place in the field of science and technology. Along with the boon of science, there is always the danger of its curse. Similarly, new technological developments are providing capabilities to human society, but at the same time, they are also creating new challenges for humanity," she said.

Citing an example of CRISPR-

IMD predicts heavy rain for five days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 9: Heavy rainfall, accompanied with thunderstorm and lighting, will continue in several parts of the state for next five days, said the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) regional centre head Manorama Mohanty here, Tuesday.

According to the weather of fice. thunderstorm along with lightning is likely to occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts.

Southwest monsoon's cumu ative rainfall from June 1 to Due to the advances in the field of generative AI. the problem of deep fake and many regulatory challenges are coming to the fore, said the President

is merciless science. That is, promoting science without sensitivity towards humanity is like committing a sin," she said, advising students to remember this message.

"Experiments and research in the field of fundamental science often take a lot of time to get the results. Many a times breakthroughs have been achieved after facing disappointment for many vears," she added. The President told the stu-

dents that they may go through such a phase at times when their patience is tested but they should never be discouraged. Murmu advised the students

to always remember that devel-Murmu said she is happy to opments in fundamental research note that NISER is moving forprove to be extremely beneficial ward by synchronising the rain other areas as well. tionality of science and the val-

The President Tuesday left the state following the programme at NISER, concluding her four-day visit to Odisha. Governor Raghubar Das and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi accompanied her to the Biju Patnaik International Airport here.



not say that you can't pay cost. You pay the cost or we will issue contempt notice against you," the bench said.

The lawyer submitted that he did not get any case since 2023 and his trip abroad was spon-

sored by his children. The bench refused to accept his submission and directed him to

submit the amount. The top court had January 2, 2023 dismissed with a cost of ₹50,000 his plea seeking a direction to not consider advocates practising in the apex court for judgeship in the high courts, saying it is 'meritless' and a 'complete wastage of judicial time'.

the top court to be appointed as a judge of the high courts.

Pandey had told the bench that as per his interpretation of Article 217 of the Constitution, a person who may have been enrolled with a state bar council and subsequently shifted practice to the apex court is ineligible to be appointed as a judge of that court.

Later, another bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan slammed Pandey for not depositing an amount of ₹1 lakh imposed on him when he had challenged reinstatement of Lok Sabha membership of NCP MP Mohammed Faizal.

RAISING VOICE: Members of Communist Party of India protest against hike in prices of vegetables and essential commodities at Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Deposit fine or face contempt: SC raps lawyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Supreme Court Tuesday rapped an advocate for not depositing a cost of ₹50,000 imposed on him for filing a 'meritless' plea, and directed him to submit the amount within two weeks.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih rejected the submission of the lawyer Ashok Pandey seeking more time to deposit the amount.

"You are a practising lawyer and despite your assurance to the court to pay ₹50,000 cost, you did not pay the money and thereafter went abroad. Now you can-

Work as a team to bolster education system: Pradhan

It had observed there is noth-

ing in the Constitution which

prohibits lawyers practising in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Tuesday called upon states to work with the Centre as a team to strengthen the education ecosystem and replicate and amplify the best practices across all states and Union Territories (UTs).

The minister made the comments at a review meeting of the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy with states and (UTs). The meeting focused on implementation of the new National Education Policy (NEP) and alignment of the ministry's flagship schemes such as the Samagra Shiksha, PM SHRI, PM Poshan and ULLAS with the policy. "Both states and the Centre have to work as a team to

Stool samples can help diagnose autism

strengthen the education ecosystem as well as to replicate and amplify the best practices across all states and UTs. All stakeholders should work cohesively

for strengthening capacities,

building a collaborative educa-

National Education Policy, the ed-

ucation ecosystem in the coun-

try has made tremendous

progress. Implementation of the

For their analysis, the team

used metagenomic sequencing,

which helps study genetic ma-

terial recovered from clinical

The authors found differences

in more than 50 types of bacte-

ria, seven fungi and 18 viruses

in the gut microbiomes of the

samples (such as stool)

children with autism

NEP was the key to transform Bharat into a knowledge superpower and enabling equitable and inclusive access to quality education," he added.

Speaking about education in Indian languages, Pradhan said NEP 2020 stresses upon the importance of education in the mother tongue and all Indian languages.

"India is a young country and our challenge is to make global citizens for the 21st century world which is rapidly changing and being driven by technology. Ensuring an education





July 9 stood at 216.3 mm against its normal value of 295.0 mm.

During this period, 13 districts have recorded normal rainfall while 16 districts received deficient rainfall. Likewise, one district has experienced large deficient rainfall.



EVENING MELODY: Artistes perform at Shraddhanjali, a classical music programme dedicated to late Suramani Bauri Bandhu Sethi at Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

tion system and leveraging education as the key pillar of Viksit Bharat," Pradhan said. "In almost four years of the

futuristic is our collective responsibility," he said. The minister also stressed on the importance of building technology readiness in schools with a holistic approach and ensuring crit-

ical thinking among students.

system which is both rooted and

Vedangi's world cycling tour begins from INS Chilka

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 9: Vedangi Kulkarni, an endurance athlete who holds a Guinness World Record for becoming the fastest woman to cycle from Manali to Leh, has started her historic cycling journey around the globe July 8, 2024, according to a release issued by INS Chilka, Tuesday.

The release said Vedangi, who visited INS Chilka July 7, is all set to create history by cycling around the globe twice. During an interactive session, she shared her incredible journey, emphasising the importance of discipline and courage that resonates with the Agniveers. Her stories of resilience and perseverance were met with admiration and enthusiasm from the audience.

Comrade NP Pradeep. Commanding Officer of INS Chilka, flagged off Vedangi's cy-



cling journey, Monday. This momentous event marks the beginning of the epic adventure that will see her cycling through 19 countries. Vedangi, who started her journey from INS Chilka, will be completing the feat at picturesque Chilika Lake in November this year - an inspiring story for all to push their boundaries and pursue their dreams, the release added.

THE RESEARCHERS ANALYSED THE STOOL SAMPLES FROM NEARLY 1.630 CHILDREN AGED **BETWEEN ONE AND 13 IN CHINA. ALONG WITH** DATA OF THEIR DIETS AND MEDICATIONS

range of gut bugs may be contributing to the development of autism in children, a recent study published in the Nature Microbiology journal has found

Stool samples can, therefore, help diagnose the neurodevelopmental condition in which one displays repetitive behaviour and affected social behaviour, researchers said. 'Usually it takes three to four

years to make a confirmed diagnosis for suspected autism, with most children diagnosed at six years old," the study's first author, Qi Su of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, told The Guardian.

"Our microbiome biomarker panel has a high performance in children under the age of four, which may help facilitate an early diagnosis," Su said.

Over the past decade, studies have shown that gut bugs play a role in a child developing autism. Children with autism differ with regard to the microbes in their guts and also show delayed development in the diversity of gut bugs, according to previous studies.

However, the researchers said that these studies had largely looked at bacteria in these children's guts.

In this study, the authors looked at other microbes - fungi,



and viruses, among others -along with their functions in the guts of children diagnosed with autism.

The researchers analysed the stool samples from nearly 1,630 children aged between one and 13 in China, along with data of their diets and medications. Around 900 children had autism

Further, 12 metabolic functions were found to be different in these children.

The researchers also developed an artificial intelligence-based model to see if the results -- the presence of 31 different bugs or functions -- could be used to predict if a child had autism.

They found that the model showed 'higher diagnostic accuracy' than just looking at one bug, such as bacteria, alone.

'While genetic factors play a substantial role in autism, the microbiome could act as a contributing factor by modulating immune responses, neurotransmitter production, and metabolic pathways," The Guardian quoted Su as saying.

'This does not necessarily imply causation but suggests that the microbiome might influence the severity or expression of autism spectrum symptoms," she said.

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OrissaPOST WEDNESDAY | JULY 10 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

state

NHM team to probe 'irregularities' at RGH

AJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, July 9: From fake nurse to doctor, from mortuary freezer theft to inflated billing. Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) has been in the news for all the wrong reasons that are being unearthed by the incumbent director of the governmentrun hospital, according to reports

Following allegations of irregularities in cleaning contract, a probe team is scheduled to visit this premier healthcare facility Wednesday to look into the complaints after 18 months.

Mediaid Medical Ancillary (MMA), a Bhubaneswar-based agency, was given the cleaning contract of RGH. It got the tender on L1 basis and was allowed to operate for five years by then director in 2020. The agency claimed to have provided 'excellent service'.

As per Clause 5 of the agreement, the agency would get an annual enhancement of 10 per cent for providing 'excellent service'. Based on that, MMA raised a bill of Rs 20, 39, 789. The hospi

a Christian

tal manager, Mohit Kumar, prepared a note sheet and got it approved by the then director of RGH. The agency got the money in its account after other signatories approved this.

However, the then director himself had written an official letter (No- 2844) November 14, 2022 to MMA asking the agency to return the amount it had claimed for providing 'excellent service'. This letter certainly raised a few eyebrows.

This raised several questions

like who actually had certified that the company had provided the so-called 'excellent service' and on what parameters it was decided. Meanwhile, the then incumbent director was transferred and the new director

Ganesh Das took charge started an internal investigation. He also brought this to the notice of the Health department of Odisha in January 2023. Following his intimation to the department, Health secre-

tary Bijay Mohapatra wrote a

letter to the National Health Mission (NHM) to investigate the case.

It is learnt that NHM has formed a three-member team in this regard and the team will be visiting the RGH Wednesday to investigate the case. The team will stay here for two days –Wednesday and Thursday, as per the letter of joint director of NHM Elora Bharati Jena.

Last month, the director had found that four freezers meant for preserving bodies were missing. An FIR was also lodged at Raghunathpalli police station. The role of the hospital manager Mohit Kumar in this case is under suspicion. Speaking about the issue, the director had said, "When I enquired about the case he tried to give me confusing answers and later he accepted in front of me that he had given those four freezers to one agency of Mumbai. And in fact, Ram Dev Enterprises, which supplied the new freezers, had taken away the old ones.' Meanwhile, it is learnt the manager has got an anticipatory bail from High Court in this regard.

NGT orders probe, supply of clean drinking water

CHROMIUM IN SUKINDA GROUNDWATER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 9: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered for a probe into the water pollution in Sukinda mining valley in Jajpur district and directed the state government to supply safe potable drinking water to the residents of mineral bearing areas.

Justice B Amit Sthalekar and judicial member Arun Kumar Verma from the East Zone Bench of the tribunal in Kolkata also directed the state government to submit an action taken report within four weeks.

The green tribunal expressed its displeasure over the Central Groundwater Board authorities not filing a separate affidavit and asked to conduct a fresh probe into the contamination of groundwater in Sukinda valley and submit its report.

The matter came up before the tribunal following a petition filed by social activist Mantu Das over contamination of groundwater due to chromium pollution in Sukinda valley. In his petition, Das had alleged that 10-15 persons in Sukinda valley area have died of kidney ailments after consuming polluted water.

The NGT registered a case (73/2024/EZ) and ordered a probe after taking up the matter for hearing. Advocate Shankar Prasad Pani pleaded the matter on behalf of Das

The probe highlighted pres-



ence of 0.015 to 0.117 mg chromium in groundwater of Sukinda valley. Presence of high chromium content was found in groundwater in Saruabila mining area Sources said that the mining

firms in Jajpur district are lifting water from Brahmani river for their use and discharging untreated effluents into Damsala nullah and other water bodies in the locality. As a result, rivers, nullahs, ponds and groundwater get extremely polluted.

Hearing the matter, the tribunal directed to constitute a fourmember special joint inspection committee and conduct a probe into the allegations. Accordingly a joint inspection committee under the chairmanship of Jajpur Collector was formed.

The team comprised Kalinganagar ADM Lankeswar Amat, SPCB's Kalinganagar regional officer Pramod Kumar Behera, scientist Abhijit Pathak of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and scientist Sinos PK of Central Groundwater Board. The committee members visited Sukinda mining valley and col-

lected the samples discharged effluents of various mining firms and the groundwater for examination. SPCB submitted the examina-

tion report and filed an affidavit before the tribunal May 7, 2024. Toxic chromium was found in nine water samples collected from Sukinda valley during the hearing of the tribunal, July 7, 2024.

However, the Central Groundwater Board, which had a representative in the joint committee neglected in probe, the tribunal indicated during the hearing. Meanwhile, the tribunal has scheduled the next date of hearing to August 16, 2024.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

er Notice No.: DRM/ENGG/KUR/24-2 E-TENDER/33, Dtd.: 03.07.2024 Notice No.: e-TENDER-HQ-KUR-115-202 Dtd.: 28.06.2024

Name of Work: MISCELLANEOUS REPAIR: FOR P-WAY MAINTENANCE WORKS OF TRACI IN BETWEEN KHURDA ROAD-DASPALL/ ECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION O SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER HEA QUARTER KHURDA Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 249.68 Lakhs

EMD: Rs.2,74,900/-, Completion Period: 12 (Twelv Nonths, Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. 19.07.2024

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such a-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm and the set of the ter head and received in time. All such man ffers shall be considered invalid and shall t elected summarily without any consider he tenderers/bidders must have Class-li igital Signature Certificate and must bu gistered on IREPS portal. Only registerer inderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to evisit the website **10** days before the date o losing of tender to note any changes orrigenda issued for this tender Website:www.ireps.gov.in Manager (Engg) Divl. Railway Ma

E-AUCTION

Two men run over by train in Balasore 12 girls fall sick in **Keonjhar school** Ramachandrapur/Anandapur: As

many as 12 girl students fell sick after they experienced chest pain and difficulty in breathing during classes at Keshdurapal Janamangal High School under Ghasipura block of Keonjhar district, Tuesday. The incident occurred in the school when students of both Class IX and X were attending their respective classes at around 11am, Tuesday. They experienced chest pain and difficulty in breathing and started crying in pain. The school teachers rushed them to the Keshdurapal CHC from where they were shifted to the Anandapur SDH in

ambulance after primary treatment. When contacted, medical officer Dr Dhaneswar Sethi of Anandapur SDH said that the affected girls are undergoing treatment but they do not have any health problem. Locals suspect that the incident might have occurred due to sorcery or due to exorcism.

23 injured in group

clash over plantation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, July 9: Two young men were run over by a train in Balasore district, police said Tuesday.

The incident happened near Dandaharipur railway gate between Soro and Bahanaga stations in the Kharagpur division of South Eastern Railway Monday night, they said.

The deceased were identified as Hemant Sahu and Rakesh Padhi, they added.

They were crossing the railway tracks on a motorcycle but by that time, the gate had already closed, a Government Railway Police (GRP) officer said. "The pillion rider suddenly

got down the motorcycle and



moved onto the tracks as the Puri-Howrah Express was approaching. The other person immediately ran to rescue him. Both of them were hit by the train, which then dragged them for nearly 100 metres," he said. "It looks like suicide. An in-

IndianOil

vestigation is underway," he added. Railway gatekeeper Niranjan

Behera said he doesn't know who took their motorcycle away. Police sent the mutilated bod ies for post-mortem examina-

where an accident involving three trains happened in June last year, killing over 290 persons and injuring more than 1,000



	SI. No	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Notice / Date of Possession Notice/ Outstanding Dues	/ EMD / Bid Increment Amount	
(Refinery Division)			All that piece and parcel of Land and Building			
PARADIP REFINERY	1.	Prop.: Late Sharad Agrawal.	in the name of Late Sharad Agrawal and Ms. Neha Agrawal, at Khata No.: 368/516 at Plot	₹ 19,64,141/-	₹31,00,000/-	
Notice Inviting Expression Of Interest (EOI)	11	Represented by Legal Heir Smt. Gudi Agrawal. /Guarantor/Mortgagor:	No.: 1025/2849, Area: Ac. 0.030 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.:	as on 02.07.2024 +	/ ₹3,10,000/-	l
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Name of Work: Engagement of Liasioning Agency cum Consultant for carrying out liasioning work with Odisha State Electricity Authorities (i.e. OPTCL, TPCODL & GRIDCO) for obtaining timely sanctions and	11	Agrawal, Both are At: Indira Niwas, Balaji Mandir Lane, Ward No.: 3, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur	Sambalpur, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1024, South: Plot No.: 1025, East: Road, West: Plot No.: 1019 and 1020	costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹ 10,000/-	
approvals of power, for grid power import, matching with power demand		Tender E-aucti	on Website Location	Im	age-1	

requirement of IOCL Paradip Refinery in phased manner. Period: From 09.07.2024, 17:00 Hrs to 23.07.2024, 17:00

Hrs (IST)

No. 2085

navoidable reasons.

one Nila Jani inside the reserve forest. This led to a dispute between the residents of two villages.

Naksapadar dug up pits in

tractors and bikes and at-



However, all hell broke loose when the villagers of Naksapadar came on tion The incident occurred near the spot

people.

this block in Nabarangpur district, late Monday night. The injured were ad-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharigaon, July 9: As

many as 23 persons were injured in a clash between

two groups of warring vil-

lagers over plantation on

Dhohadakote village under

forest land at

mitted to the Jharigaon community health centre and their health condition was stated to be stable after primary treatment.

Jharigaon police launched an investigation after both the groups filed separate complaints.

According to Dhohadakote villagers, they have been carrying out farming in Bangyani jungle for many years after clearing the forest. The dispute arose after villagers the of tacked the Dhohadakote villagers late Monday night. The Naksapadar villagers barged into houses of villagers and attacked them. Manadhar Jani of

Naksapadar village alleged that some residents of Dhohadakote picked up a fight and even assaulted him near Kangra over plantation inside the reserve forest. The Naksapadar villagers had gone to Dhohadakote village for a discussion when the latter attacked them.

Miscreants open fire, loot ₹12L from petrol pump employee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, July 9: A petrol pump employee was injured when miscreants fired at him and snatched a bag containing Rs 12 lakh in cash from him in front of a nationalised bank in Balasore district Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred

at Bartana under Khaira police station limits in the district when two employees of the petrol pump went to deposit the money in the bank. One of the two persons

who suffered gunshot injuries in his leg was ad-

Couple dies in lightning strike

Boipariguda: A couple died in lightning strike at Paral village of Mahuli panchayat under this police limits in Koraput district Tuesday. The deceased couple was identified as Rabi Muduli and his wife Bati Muduli of Paral village. Rabi and Bati had gone to their farmland to sow ragi seeds. However, when they did not return home till evening, their family members went to the farmland to know their whereabouts. They found the body of Bati on the field and rescued Rabi in a critical condition. They rushed him to Koraput DHH located at Jevpore. However, Rabi died while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

mitted to a hospital.

Khaira police station IIC Gayadhar Behera said two employees of a petrol pump at Kupari went to Bartana in a motorcycle to deposit the cash in the bank. Some miscreants fired on them in front of the bank and snatched the bag before fleeing from the spot, he said. According to preliminary investigations, six

miscreants came in two motorcycles, who had prior knowledge of money being carried to be deposited in the bank. Police have launched a search

operation for the culprits.

b) Availability of Tender On-line for bidding

Nature of Work

Tender Cost

Other Details

a) Procurement Officer

3. 4.

6.

Total No. of Works

Bid Identification No

Class of Contractor

Period of completion

c) Last date & time of submission of bid document

d) Date, time & place of Opening of Bid

e) Date of Lottery (if required) : 30.07.2024 at 11.30 A.M. Further details can be

tendersodisha.gov.in. Sd./- Superintending Engineer







power post

FOCUS NATION

AGENDA FOR 'MIG'-47

We are alwavs surrounded by the things of which we think THE MOTHER



Putin-Modi Hug

The two-day visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Russia coincides with the NATO summit gathering in Washington beginning 9 July. This gives an opportunity to both Russian President Vladimir Putin and India's Prime Minister Modi to further their mutual geopolitical interests. Putin is desperate to project to the world that he is not as isolated as the US-led West would like the world to believe. Modi should also be anxious that Moscow is increasingly being pushed towards China seeking military and material aid from it. Tilting Putin a little is the least India can expect, given its increasingly hostile relations with China and its farcical policy of denial of Chinese aggression and occupation of Indian territories.

Putin welcomed Modi to Moscow by offering him tea, berries and sweets and took him on a tour of the grounds of his Dacha in the suburbs of Moscow in a motorised cart. Modi in turn posted photos of his arrival in Moscow on X, in both Russian and English, saying he was "looking forward to further deepening the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between our nations.'

The optics may seem to be to India's advantage. However, Putin's very recent visit to North Korea and his obvious bonhomie with Kim has not gone unnoticed by those observing the international arena in the present day world. Right from the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, India has been playing the role of seeming neutrality. It neither condemns the Russian invasion nor defends it, but harps on the theme of diplomatic and not military solution to the problem. Accepting that there is no problem except a very simple Russian invasion that has been constantly killing civilians has resulted in distancing India from the public in the West. Governments may play friendly for short periods of time, keeping benefits in mind. It should however never be forgotten that public opinion eventually overrides all such diplomatic niceties. Such a stand of neither here nor there has, so far, proved beneficial to interests of a few Indian business houses dealing with petroleum imports that have not benefitted Indians but are diverted to Europe. This also helped Russia to sell its oil and circumvent the severe sanctions it is facing from the West. India has definitely not been the beneficiary in this whole affair.

With all this, the US seems not happy with India's relationship with Russia and at the time Modi was meeting Putin 8 July, the State Department said Washington had raised concerns with India's closeness to Russia amid Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The picture of Modi embracing Putin also came under fire from Ukraine President Zelenskyy who termed it as a "huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day," while posting photos of children killed and buildings destroyed by Russian rockets on X. All this destruction of Ukraine's cities and killing of at least 37 people took place a few hours before Modi arrived in Moscow. In a no-nonsense manner the US made it clear to India that any resolution of the conflict in Ukraine needs to be one that respects the UN Charter, Ukraine's territorial integrity and Ukraine's sovereignty.

Russia and India may have had strong ties that date back to the height of the Cold War. Undoubtedly the present world has completely changed and those heading India's foreign policy need to understand that our democracy, economy and history make a unique combination in Asia, if not in the whole world. However there is serious doubt if anyone in the establishment is capable of understanding these finer details, much less creating a bipartisan strategy and implementing it. India will most likely muddle along, happy being in the middle and simply getting photographed at the G20. Sandwiched between cyber crooks in Cambodia, construction labour in Israel and support soldiers on the Ukraine front as well as attempted immigration all over the world, we might be frittering away our demographic dividend and trying to flaunt the Indian diaspora that consists of people who deserted this country when it needed them the most.

WISDOM CORNER

We have to abandon the idea that schooling is something restricted to youth. How can it be, in a world where half the things a man



Ajit Ranade

SINCE INCOME **GROWTH WILL BE ENERGY INTENSIVE, IT IS IMPERATIVE** THAT RENEWABLE **ENERGY GROWTH IS FASTER BY A FACTOR OF TWO OR THREE**

text usually refers to fighter aircraft from Russia that have been a cornerstone of Indo-Russian defence relations. This column is about a different 'MIG', a new and more ambitious project that gives the acronym 'MIG'-47, which is short for "Make India Great by 2047." This may sound like 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) campaign of former US President Trump! Or it is in the same spirit of 'Vikasit Bharat 2047' announced by our PM, which aims to see India a developed country by 2047 when we celebrate hundred years as an independent nation.

'MIG'-47 is about working for the glory of our nation. Before we proceed, we need to ask a basic question. Is nationalism going out of fashion, or is there a resurgence? Is it waning or waxing? The concept of nations bounded by geography is perhaps only three centuries old. hence the nation state is a rel atively new concept. And the factors leading to its waning influence are globalisation, technology and existence of supranational entities like the European Union, customs unions, military alliances, trade blocs and so on. Nationalist sentiments can be diluted by exposure to international and multi-cultural influences. Member states in entities such as the European Union happily surrender their sovereignty at least partially. For instance, the member nations do not control monetary policy, and have to abide by free trade rules applicable across two dozen nations. The recent electoral outcome in the UK might be a vote to roll back BREXIT.

Movement of refugees and presence of large diaspora also somewhat dilute nationalist sentiments. Conversely, there is evidence of resurgence of aggressive nationalism too, especially manifesting in anti-refugee and anti-immigrant movements. We see some of this in Hungary, Poland or in sub-national independence movements in Catalonia and Scotland. There is anxiety about unemployment, blamed on outsiders i.e. people from other nations (e.g. Bangladeshi intruders).



Our country has been blessed with unimaginable diversity in every conceivable facet, and yet we also are the world's showcase for harmony and unity in diversity. The key message of India to the world is 'samanyay,' not tolerance but acceptance, not just co-existence but co-flourishing and blooming

Remember Obama campaigned about how jobs were being stolen from Buffalo to Bangalore? Or by China? Nationalist feelings are also stirred by geopolitics, border conflicts, threat to national security and sabre-rattling rhetoric. And to add to all this is muscular and sometimes ugly manifestation on social media. The jury is out whether nationalism is going out of fashion, or will become even more entrenched

Hence let's talk about 'MIG' 47. This has economic dimensions, of raising India's percapita income in the high middle-income bracket (say 20,000 dollars per person, in present terms). For that to happen the national income must go up ten-fold in the next twentyfive years. This means a growth rate of 9.6 per cent per year in dollar terms. Since the rupee as a currency may remain stable, or if inflation is in control. then can even become stronger. this growth rate is quite feasible, not impossible. It has to be sustained for more than two

decades. 'MIG'-47 also has ease of living dimension. That refers to safe and abundant drinking water availability, housing made from environmentally sustainable resources, extensive public transportation availability in cities, and air quality which is much less toxic. Since income growth will be energy intensive, it is imperative that renewable energy growth is faster by a factor of two or three. India is the global leader of solar alliance. The night storage of solar energy should be planned in distributed and diffused manner, sitting in millions of small automotive rechargeable batteries. That is, we invert the role of car and scooter batteries. They drain at night, run ning household electricity, and get recharged by solar in the day. Each one of us, like the proverbial squirrels who along with monkeys helped build the stone bridge to Lanka for Lord Ram, act as solar energy

storage devices. Air quality will improve greatly with a focus on sus-

tainable strategies in the automotive and housing sectors. The latter consumes cement, which is made from calcium carbonate, a major source of carbon diox ide. Hence construction sector has to be radically reoriented to reduce its carbon footprint. The third dimension of 'MIG'-47 is building of human capital, through education, skilling, training and enhancing productivity and innovation capabilities. This is the toughest ask. It calls for herculean effort and reforms on multiple fronts. Education (along with agricul ture) continues to be unreformed and shackled, although the National Education Policy 2020 is a step in the right direction. Here is a small tweak. How about if we mandate that senior civil servants must educate their child till class 5 in the panchayat or municipal schools where they have their posting? That will align incentives magically. How about that parent teacher associations will assess the performance of teachers in every government school, annually? That is to say that parents will have a say in the school governance.

The fourth dimension of 'MIG'-47 is aggressive, relentless and continuous decentralisation of power, to the lowest i.e. the third tier of government. This is the closest to the people but is least empowered in terms of decision autonomy, funding and functioning. The more power gets centralised, the more we get deeper into the rut or quicksand of politics of power. The only long-term way is massive effort of decentralisation of governance and power. The fifth dimension of 'MIG'-47 is cultural. social, religious and spiritual. Our country has been blessed with unimaginable diversity in every conceivable facet, and yet we also are the world's showcase for harmony and unity in diversity. The key message of India to the world is "samanvay", not tolerance but acceptance, not just co-existence but co-flourishing and blooming.

> The writer is a noted Pune-based economist.

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IN JEST THIS

- are no longer true at 40 • and half the at 40 hadn't been discovered when he was 20? **ARTHUR C. CLARKE**
- Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged; life is a luminous halo, a semi-transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end. VIRGINIA WOOLI
- The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it. JOHN STUART MI JOHN STUART MILL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1940:** Battle of Britain. The German air force or Luftwaffe launched an air campaign against England. It was one of the first battles during the Second World War fought entirely between air forces and it ended a few months later with a British victory.
- **1952:** The constitution of Eritrea, prepared by the United Nations in consultation with Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia, was adopted.
- **1962:** Telstar, the world's first communication satellite is launched in space. The satellite, made by a collaboration between organizations in the U.S., the U.K., and France, transmitted the first live television images in the world.
- 1962: Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin was issued a U.S. patent for a three-point seatbelt for cars: a major safety innovation, it featured a strap that extended across the upper body in addition to a standard lap restraint.
- 1965: British rock band the Rolling Stones topped U.S. charts for the first time with the single (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction.
- **1967:** New Zealand adopts new currency. The New Zealand pound was replaced by the New Zealand dollar. The denominations of the new currency followed a decimal system.
- **1985:** The Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior was sunk by two bomb explosions while berthed in Auckland Harbour, New Zealand: it was later revealed that French intelligence agents had planted the explosives.

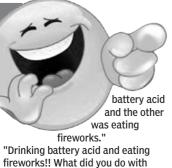
LO

Dealing with criminals

Alocal policeman had just finished his shift one cold November evening and was at home with his wife

"You just won't believe what happened this evening, in all my years on the force I've never seen anything like it."

"Oh ves dear, what happened ?" "I came across two guys down by the canal, one of them was drinking



them ? "Oh that was easy, I charged one and let the other off.'



WHEN I BREAK A **PLATE OR OTHER OBJECT AT HOME** I SAY TO MYSELF,

'ONE LESS THING FOR THE KIDS TO **SELL AT THE ESTATE SALE'**

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, opinior

105

4

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

consider myself an optimist. The glass is always half-full to L me, not half-empty. If every cloud has a silver lining, I try to find it. When I break a plate or other object at home, I say to mvself. "One less thing for the kids to sell at the estate sale. When I accidentally cut off another driver on the highway and he puts down his window to yell obscenities and show me the middle finger, I say to myself, "Well, at least I didn't cut off a gentleman." When my wife complains that she woke up with a headache, I say to myself, "Well, at least she isn't calling me something worse.'

If I were running for public office and lost the election in a landslide, 1,000 votes to 1, I'd say to myself, "Well, at least they counted my vote." If I managed to get two votes, I'd say to myself, "Well, at least my wife voted for

her headache." If I managed to get five votes, I'd say to myself, 'Well, at least my kids remembered to vote."

Even a 'zero' can make you feel like hero

But I really don't know how I'd feel if I got zero votes. Would I be able to find a silver lining?

Félix-Antoine Hamel, a 45year-old musician from Montreal, Canada, certainly seems to have done so.

Hamel recently made history when he became the first fed eral candidate to get zero votes in a contested Canadian election. Yes, ZERO, as in "the number of 'likes' Justin Trudeau has received on social media from Narendra Modi this year.' Despite finishing below 83 other candidates, Hamel managed to find a silver lining. As he told CBC News, "When I saw the result, I was like, 'Well, I am the true unity candidate. Everyone agrees not to vote for me."

Hamel was a candidate to represent Toronto-St. Paul's, an electoral district in Toronto, in the House of Commons in Ottawa (not to be confused with Patty's Pub, the House of Commoners). Most of the 84 candidates, like Hamel, were independents who added their names to the ballot as part of a coordinated protest against Canada's winner-takeall plurality voting system.

The winner was Don Stewart of the Conservative Party, who gained 15,565 votes, nipping Leslie Church of the Liberal Party (14,932). Danny Légaré of the Marijuana Party managed to get 30 votes -- and only 15 candidates finished higher, though that's debatable.

Out of the 84 candidates, 48 received fewer than 10 votes each, but Hamel was the only one to get zero votes, partly because he doesn't live in Toronto-St. Paul's

and couldn't vote for himself. He also didn't put any effort into campaigning, didn't even release a Tik-Tok video playing a saxophone beside a sign that says, "More Sax in Ottawa." As a result, he made Canadian history and got lots of publicity -- another silver lining.

"I'm one of the last people that would be expected to make Canadian history in any way," he said.

Hamel told the CBC that he was glad to make a statement about election reform and to participate in a fair democratic process. He's concerned about declining democracy in other parts of the world.

"As long as I have the right and the privilege to get zero votes in an election, then we are truly in a democracy," he said.

And there's another silver lining!

Fatal pollution

Sir, The State of Global Air 2024 report published by the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and UNICEF highlights air pollution as a critical global health concern and the second leading cause of child deaths worldwide, surpassing poor sanitation and inadequate clean water. In 2021, air pollution was responsible for 8.1 million deaths globally, including nearly 464 daily deaths of children under five in India, primarily due to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, lung cancer, and COPD exacerbated by pollutants such as ozone and PM2.5. The report also links deteriorating air quality to severe climate events like droughts, wildfires, and dust storms, which release persistent particles harmful to global health. Beyond health, air pollution strains healthcare systems, economies, and exacerbates inequalities. particularly affecting vulnerable groups.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Thumping victory

Sir, This refers to "New Hope." A strong anti-incumbency sentiment brought the conservative party's tumultuous 14-year rule to an end as the Labour Party recorded a thumping victory in the British parliamentary elections. In the end, PM Rishi Sunak seemed more like a captain trying to bring ashore a sinking ship with a mutiny on board. On the other hand, Keir Starmer quietly rebuilt Labour Party, The UK was once known for its political stability within Europe. but the past 14 years of Tory rule have seen the country lurching from one crisis to another, especially after the disastrous 2016 vote to leave the EU. Years of austerity and pressure on stretched public services were compounded by the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis. But, Keir Starmer and his Labour Party have little time to celebrate their landslide triumph. The nation's tax burden is set to touch its highest since just after World War II, while the net debt is almost equivalent to the annual economic output. With so many problems at home, the new UK government may struggle to maintain continuity in foreign policy, such as offering unequivocal support to Ukraine in the war against Russia. With 28 Indian-origin candidates winning, the real point of interest for India is the Free Trade Agreement, which has been in the works for quite some time.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE















OrissaPOS WEDNESDAY | JULY 10 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

Rahul visits Raebareli, meets Kirti Chakra awardee's family

IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED LOK SABHA ELECTIONS, GANDHI WON FROM THE **RAEBARELI LOK SABHA SEAT BY A MARGIN OF MORE THAN 3.90 LAKH VOTES**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raebareli (UP), July 9: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday met here the family members of Kirti Chakra recipient late Captain Anshuman Singh, whose mother later spoke out against the Agniveer scheme.

Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, also visited AIIMS-Raebareli and met party workers and local residents of his constituency during his short visit before leaving for Lucknow.

"I request the government not to divide the Army into two categories," the late captain's mother Manju Singh told reporters after Gandhi met her at a guest house here

Speaking further about the about the Army scheme launched in 2022 for short-term recruitment of jawans. Singh said the four-year job role is not appropriate as Agniveers who are let go would struggle to find another suitable career.

"They (Agniveers) will be mentally and physically weak after four years after which they would be unable to pursue their studies... this is not good," she added.

Her son was posthumously conferred the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award, by President Droupadi Murmu July 5 during an investiture ceremony

Capt Singh died while rescuing people from a major fire in July last year.

Gandhi had called the martyr's family, which resides in Lucknow, to meet them at the Churwa. guest house.



Congress MP and Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi interacts with a young patient during his visit at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), in Raebareli, Tuesday

I request the aovernment not to divide the Army into two categories. They (Agniveers) will be mentally and physically weak after four years after which they would be unable to pursue their

studies... this is not good MANJU SINGH | LATE CAPTAIN ANSHUMAN SINGH'S MOTHER

After meeting the Congress leader, the late officer's mother told reporters that Gandhi assured all possible support to their family.

Gandhi said that he requested the government to end the Agniveer scheme as it is not appropriate for the Army, she said. Earlier on the way to Raebareli after landing in Lucknow, Gandhi prayed at a Hanuman temple in

After landing at the Chaudhary

Charan Singh Airport in Lucknow, Gandhi left by road for Raebareli, which is about 80 km from the state capital.

On the way to Raebareli, he stopped at Churwa temple near Bachchrawan and paid obeisance to Lord Hanuman.

Rahul Gandhi worshipped at the Churwa Hanuman temple and prayed to Lord Hanuman for the happiness, peace and prosperity of the country, the

Congress party said on X. Gandhi reached the Bhuemau guest house, where he met party workers, delegations including that of Indian Industries Association (IIA) and locals, a

local party leader said. Gandhi also visited the martyrs' memorial in Lalganj and laid a wreath there and planted

a sapling. In the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, Gandhi won from the Raebareli Lok Sabha seat by a margin of more than 3.90 lakh votes

Bloodstains on the road and helmets, bullet shells, vehicles with shattered windscreens and flattened tyres... A day after terrorists ambushed an Army patrol, a wooded mountain road Tuesday told the story of fierce resistance by troops and a gunbattle that carried on for several hours.

Five Army personnel were killed and five injured Monday when heavily armed terrorists hurled a grenade and opened indiscriminate fire on two army ve hicles around 3.30pm on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar mountainous road near Badnota village, about 150 km from the district headquarters Kathua.

Jammu in a month, an escalation in the relatively peaceful region compared to Kashmir Valley officials attributed to attempts by Pakistani handlers to reignite terrorism.

Recapping what had happened, officials said the soldiers displayed courage and resilience despite facing casualties and engaged them for several hours.

The terrorists, believed to be a group of three, are likely to have taken cover of the thick foliage on a hill to surprise the troops who retaliated immediately, responding with gunfire and fighting back till the terrorists disappeared into the dense woods, they said.

The search for the terrorists, which was suspended late Monday because of heavy rain, resumed Tuesday with joint search parties of the Army, police and CRPF launched from various directions, including Kathua, Udhampur and Doda. The Army's elite para-com

mandos and sniffer dogs joined the search operation while drones and helicopters were also pressed into service for surveillance, of-

violence, were the two vehicles, parked about 300 metres away from each other. Given the state of the road, officials said they were probably not going at too much speed and came under fire while they were taking a turn.

cial role in the operation, joining rescue efforts to evacuate the casualties. There were anti-Pakistan protests in several areas as agitated villagers took to the streets to condemn the terror

"A civil bus passed the road about 10 minutes before the attack. We heard a loud explosion and initially took it as a tyre burst but the subsequent heavy

before bullet fire rang out. Kathua Senior Superintendent

of Police Anayat Ali Choudhary, who reached the spot hours of the incident, is camping at Lawang-Machedi along with other officers to supervise the anti-terrorist operation.

'Efforts are on to track down and neutralise the terrorists. The joint search parties have fanned out from all sides and it is a matter of investigation how the terrorists reached the area, a police official said.

Director General of Police RR Swain is personally overseeing the anti-terrorist operation in the dense forest area, connected to Basantgarh in Udhampur district where several encounters have occurred in the past.

A village defence guard was killed April 28 in an encounter with terrorists in Panara village of Basantgarh.

According to officials, this route could be used by terrorists to reach the hinterland after they managed to sneak in from across the border.

The Jammu region has been The heavy firing continued shaken by a series of recent amtill 5pm, followed by intermittent bushes and terror attacks, particularly in the border districts "About 12 villagers were at of Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, and my shop. We hid ourselves inside Reasi

For instance, terrorists attacked a bus carrying pilgrims from the Shiv Khori temple in Reasi district June 9, claiming the lives of nine persons and injuring 41 others.

Earlier in May, terrorists ambushed an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy in Poonch district, killing a soldier and injuring several others

Kashmir Tigers, a shadow outfit of the banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), has claimed responsibility for the attack.

UP govt waives off road tax on hybrid cars INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

casualties," he said.

decades ago.

firing made us realise that an en-

counter has started," Puran

Chand Sharma, a villager who

runs a shop just a few metres

Vijay Kumar, another local,

said this is the first terror inci-

dent in the village since cross-bor-

der terrorism broke out in

Jammu and Kashmir over three

movement of terrorists in our

he said. In his view, the terror-

ists might have reached in the bus

that had passed by a short while

area having over 100 families,'

We have not noticed any

Lucknow, July 9: In a key step to boost green transportation and adoption of eco-friendly vehicles, the Uttar Pradesh government has announced a waiver of road tax on hybrid cars.

The state, through a directive, reportedly offering a "100 per





Mountain road speaks of stiff resistance

KATHUA AMBUSH

It was the fifth terror attack within a month in Jammu region, which has been shaken by a series of recent ambushes and attacks, particularly in the border districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, and Reasi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Machedi (J&K), July 9:

It was the fifth terror attack in

ficials said.

from the scene, told PTI. Amid the telltale signs of the firing for another one hour. to avoid getting caught in the crossfire. After the firing stopped, we rushed to help evacuate the

Villagers also played a cruattack.

BURNING IRE: People stage a protest following a terrorist attack on an Army convoy in J&K's Kathua, in Jammu, Tuesday

cent waiver on registration fees for strong hybrid electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles'

The move is set to benefit hybrid cars being offered by automakers like Maruti, Toyota and Honda.

Maruti Suzuki has a popular hybrid model like Grand Vitara and Toyota offers Innova Hycross and Urban Cruiser Hyryder.

The average registration cost for the hybrid trims of Grand Vitara and Urban Cruiser Hyryder is about Rs 1.80 lakh in UP. The road tax waiver will significantly bring down the cost of these cars.

The Innova Hycross and Invicto buyers are likely to benefit up to Rs 3 lakh in on-road prices, depending on the variant.

Since this is an amendment to the existing EV policy, the relaxation in registration costs will be valid till October 2025.

According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), this policy will boost strong hybrid vehicle sales in UP, even though the market is currently small.

"Most buyers of such vehicles are not first-time owners. This move by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is set to aid the auto sector," according to FADA. Kunal Behl, Vice President,

Marketing & Sales, Honda Cars India, said, "Waving off 100 per cent road tax on strong hybrid vehicles is a milestone decision by the Uttar Pradesh government which will encourage adoption of these environmentfriendly vehicles."

"This is also aligned with our global commitment to sustainable mobility and our global vision of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050," said Behl. This progressive step marks a significant milestone in Uttar Pradesh's journey towards a greener future.

Ban imposed on display of Over 2 lakh devotees perform Amaranth Yatra in 10 days arms during Kanwar Yatra INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

PTI PHOTO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 9: The Uttar Pradesh government has issued an advisory forbidding the display of weapons during Kanwar Yatras.

DJs and religious songs will be played within permissible limits during the month-long Kanwar Yatra which will commence from July 22 and conclude August 19.

The DGP Prashant Kumar said that changes have been made in the traffic system in view of the Yatra. The entry of heavy vehicles will be banned on the routes from which the Yatra starts. Additionally, heavy vehicles will be banned from midnight of July 21 on the Delhi Expressway, Dehradun Expressway and Chaudhary Charan Singh Kanwar Marg. He further said that kanwariyas are advised not to carry spears, tridents, or any kind of

weapon. He said there would be no ban on playing DJs on the Kanwar Yatra route, but the sound must be within the permissible limit as per the Supreme Court directives.

He said liquor and meat shops along the Yatra routes would be closed as well and the local authorities have been asked to ensure that stray animals like pigs should not be found straying

onto the routes of the Yatra. Kanwar Yatra will be monitored through CCTVs and drones.

He said normal traffic on Ayodhya-Basti Road would be restricted as a huge number of devotees use it. Only ambulances and other emergency vehicles would be allowed on it, he stated.

Another official said that police officials were coordinating with registered organisations and devotees who set up roadside camps to offer food, water and lodging to Kanwariyas.

Jammu, July 9: More than two lakh devotees had 'darshan' inside the holy Amarnath cave shrine during the last 10 days as another batch of 5,433 Yatris left for the Valley Tuesday, officials said.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board officials said that more than two lakh Yatris have performed the ongoing Yatra during the last 10 days since it started June 29.

"Another batch of 5,433 Yatris left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in the morning Tuesday in two escorted convoys for the Valley. The first escorted convoy carrying 1,971 Yatris in 89 vehicles left at 3:13am Tuesday for north Kashmir's Baltal base camp. A second escorted convoy carrying 3,462 Yatris in 124 vehicles left at 4:03am Tuesday for south Kashmir's Nunwan (Pahalgam)

base camp," officials added. The Meteorological Department has forecast par-



tially cloudy weather on both Yatra routes, with the possibility of light rain during the day.

Yatris take either the 48-kmlong traditional Pahalgam cave shrine route or the shorter 14-kmlong Baltal cave shrine route to perform the Yatra.

Those using the Pahalgam route take four days to reach the cave shrine, while those taking the Baltal route reach back to the base camp the same day after having 'darshan' inside the cave shrine.

The cave shrine, situated 3,888 metres above sea level, houses an ice stalagmite structure that wanes and waxes with the phases of the moon.

Devotees believe that the ice stalagmite structure symbolises

the mythical powers of Lord Shiva. Extensive security arrangements have been made this year all along the nearly 300-km-long Jammu-Srinagar highway, at the twin Yatra routes, the two base camps, and the cave shrine to ensure a smooth and incidentfree Yatra.

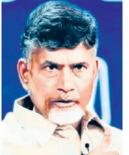
More than 124 'langars' (community kitchens) have been set

up along both the routes and also at transit camps and the cave shrines. More than 7,000 'sevadars' (volunteers) are serving the Yatris during this year's Yatra.

To manage the rush of the Yatris, the Railways has decided to add additional trains starting July 3. Helicopter services arealso available for the Yatris on both routes.



national



We have introduced power sector reforms 1.0 and 2.0, now we need reforms 3.0 to transform the sector for empowering the society N CHANDRABABII NAIDII ANDHRA CHIEF MINISTER

LIZARD FOUND IN BREAKFAST

A lizard was allegedly found in the breakfast served to students of a girls' hostel attached to a government school in Medak district of Telangana Tuesday, an official said. As many as 17 students who had eaten the breakfast were taken to a primary health centre





(Congress) are like parasites. They have a poor strike rate on their own. They won only two of the 60-plus seats where they were competing directly against the BJP J P NADDA BJP PRESIDENT

I have asked officials to prepare projects for development and will place them before the prime minister for his consideration. There is no dearth of funds for development during the Modi era MANIK SAHA TRIPURA CM

In Satara, we had problems during the Lok Sabha election over these symbols....Now, this issue is before the court, a hearing is scheduled for the next week SHARAD PAWAR NCP (SP) PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Justice Nagu sworn-in as CJ

Chandigarh: Justice Sheel Nagu was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit here Tuesday. Justice Nagu was earlier serving as the acting chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The oath-taking ceremony at the Raj Bhavan was also attended by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, **Punjab Chief Minister** Bhagwant Mann and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.



New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation over the alleged molestation of a boy by the Dalai Lama. as claimed to have been shown in a video clip that went viral last year, saying the religious leader was "being playful" and has already apologised for the incident. In the clip, the Dalai Lama was seen kissing the boy on the lips and asking him to "suck his tongue", which sparked a row on social media.

ED CHARGESHEET IN EXCISE POLICY CASE AAP claims 'big conspiracy' to finish it off

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS OF THIS INVESTIGATION, THE ED AND THE CBI HAVE FRAMED A FALSE CASE IN THE COURTS WHILE THE BJP HAS RUN A **FALSE NARRATIVE IN PUBLIC AGAINST AAP** AND ITS LEADERS. THE **PARTY ALLEGED**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: The BJP-led Centre is hatching a "big con-spiracy" against AAP, its national secretary Pankaj Gupta alleged Tuesday over a supplementary ED charge sheet naming the party in the alleged excise policy scam.

Gupta also accused the BJP of wanting to finish off AAP, which governs Punjab and Delhi, at any cost. AAP in a statement alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was functioning as a "political wing" of the BJP and claimed there was no

money trail in the case. "The ED's intention from the very beginning of this fake investigation was to frame AAP, arrest all its top leaders and crush the party. The BJP sees AAP as the biggest threat and has deployed the ED and the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) to ensure AAP is finished," the party charged.

The party said it suspected the intention of the ED's "mission" was to "cripple AAP and stop its functioning" and claimed it would now proceed to "seize" all properties and bank accounts of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP, causing "huge harassment and injustice" to a national party. Over the last two years of this investigation, the ED and the CBI have framed a

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarakhand State

Licensing Authority

these products.

in April.

stopped the sale of the 14 prod-

ucts whose manufacturing li-

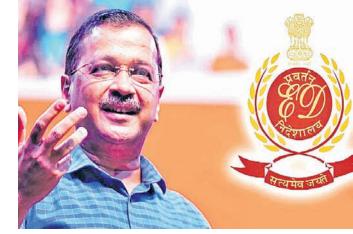
cences were suspended by the

The company told a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and

Sandeep Mehta that it has

issued instructions to 5,606

franchise stores to withdraw



Court issues production warrant for Kejriwal

New Delhi: A court here Tuesday issued a production warrant for jailed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure his appearance in the alleged Delhi excise policy scam case July 12. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja issued direction for physical production of Kejriwal, lodged in Tihar jail, after taking cognisance of the seventh supplementary chargesheet filed by Enforcement Directorate (ED). The federal probe agency has named Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party as accused in the supplementary chargesheet that was filed May 17 this year.

false case in the courts while the BJP has run a false narrative in public against AAP and its

leaders, the party alleged. The BJP's Delhi president Virendra Sachdeva hit back at AAP over its allegations and said Kejriwal should have shown moral courage after his party

was named in the "iquor scam". With the court taking cognisance of the ED charge sheet, he has lost all authority to continue as Delhi Chief Minister, the BJP leader said. "This charge sheet itself says that Arvind Kejriwal is the main beneficiary and conspirator of the liquor scam and the court summoning Kejriwal clearly establishes that prima facie the court has found some evidence to believe in the alle-

gations of the ED on the Delhi chief minister," he said. A city court Tuesday took cognisance of the seventh supplementary charge sheet filed by the ED in the money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy "scam". The federal probe agency has named Keiriwal

and AAP in the supplementary charge sheet.

The anti-money laundering agency arrested Kejriwal, also the national convenor of AAP, from his official residence in Delhi March 21. He is currently lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody. It has alleged that Kejriwal was the "kingpin and key conspirator" of the excise "scam' and was "vicariously responsible" for it. The AAP said the ED, despite probing into the case for two years, conducting 500 raids and submitting charge sheets, could not show recovery of even one rupee from any party leader.

Statements of the co-accused cannot be a starting point for ascertainment of guilt of an accused, said the party.

"The entire case of the ED is built on statements of accused turned approvers, which suffer from grave defects. First, most of these approvers have strong links to the BJP. Second, these persons have made statements contradicting their earlier state ments." it claimed.

HATHRAS STAMPEDE Overcrowding main reason: Probe team submits report

'godman' July 6 claimed "some

by "some unidentified men"

also found the event organisers

and the tehsil-level police and administration guilty. It said the

local SDM, circle officer, tehsil-

dar (revenue official), inspec-

tor, and outpost in charge were

guilty of negligence in dis-

of Sikandrarau granted per-

mission for the event without

inspecting the venue and did

not even inform the senior offi-

cials," the report said, adding

the official did not take the event

seriously. The SIT recommended

action against the concerned of-

ficials posted in Sikdanararau,

including the SDM, circle officer,

SHO Sikandrarau police station,

tehsildar, and police outpost in

mission to organise the pro-

gramme by hiding facts. The

conditions applicable for per-

mission were not followed. The

organisers did not make ade-

quate and smooth arrangements

by inviting an unexpected crowd.

Nor were the conditions of per-

mission given by the local ad-

ministration for the program

followed," the SIT report said.

People associated with the or-

ganising committee have been

found guilty of creating chaos,

it said, adding that they engaged

volunteers without proper po-

lice verification. The

Satsangkarta or preacher (bhole

baba) was allowed to meet the

crowd without any security

arrangements, it said.

"The organisers took per-

charge of Kachora and Pora.

"The Sub-District Magistrate

charging their duties.

The investigation committee

triggered the stampede.

The stampede at the 'satsang' of self-styled godman Surajpal alias Narayan Sakar Hari alias Bhole Baba claimed 121 lives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 9: The Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday suspended the local SDM, a circle officer and four others based on the SIT report on the Hathras stampede that did not rule out a "big conspiracy" behind the incident.

The SIT report also flagged lapses on the part of the local administration that led to the incident that claimed 121 lives July 2. The report held the organisers responsible for the stampede, claiming they did not make arrangements to manage the crowd and also fixed the responsibility of administration, according to official sources.

It said the local police and administration did not take the event seriously and failed to provide proper information to senior officers.

The stampede at the 'satsang of self-styled godman Surajpal alias Narayan Sakar Hari alias Bhole Baba claimed 121 lives.

"In its preliminary investigation, the SIT has held the event organisers primarily responsible for the stampede on the basis of eyewitnesses and other evidence. The SIT did not rule out any big conspiracy behind the incident and has stated the need for a thorough investigation," officials said. The lawyer of the



NEET-UG LEAK CASE CBI arrests two more from Patna PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: The CBI has arrested two more persons, including a candidate, from Patna poisonous substance" sprayed in the NEET-UG paper leak case, taking the total number of arrests by the agency to 11, officials said Tuesday.

This is the first time the CBI has arrested a candidate in connection with the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG, they said. NEET-UG aspirant Sunny, who hails from Nalanda, and the father of another candidate Ranjit Kumar, who is from Gaya, have been arrested, they said.

The CBI has so far arrested eight people in the Bihar NEET-UG paper leak case, one each in connection with alleged exam manipulation in Gujarat's Latur and Godhra, and one from Dehradun in connection with general conspiracy, the officials said

The agency had earlier arrested the principal and vice principal of Jharkhand's Hazaribagh-based Oasis school in the case and two persons who allegedly provided safe premises to NEET candidates where burnt question papers were recovered by the Bihar Police. The CBI, which is probing the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam, has registered six FIRs.

The FIR from Bihar pertains to paper leaks while the remaining from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are linked to the impersonation of candidates and cheating. The agency's own FIR on a reference from the Union Education Ministry pertains to a "comprehensive investigation" into the alleged irregularities in the examination.

NEET-UG is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS. AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions. This year, the exam was conducted on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. More than 23 lakh candidates had appeared for the test.

ED conducts raids in VAT 'scam' case $^+$

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 9: The

34 roads shut in Himachal

Shimla: Moderate rainfall continued in parts of Himachal Pradesh, causing the closure of 34 roads, officials said Tuesday. The State Emergency Operation Centre said 18 roads in Shimla, 10 in Mandi, three in Kangra, two in Kullu and one in Kinnaur district were closed till the evening.

Kidnev transplant racket busted

.

New Delhi: At least seven people, including a 50-year-old Delhi-based woman doctor, have been arrested in connection with an alleged kidney transplant racket running across Bangladesh and the Delhi-NCR region, police officials said Tuesday Acting on a tip-off, the Delhi Police Crime Branch had been working on the case for two months.

UP: Six killed in separate mishaps

Hardoi/Sultanpur (UP): Six persons were killed Tuesday in separate incidents in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi and Sultanpur districts, police said. In Hardoi, four persons were killed and six others injured in the Madhoganj area when a bus lost control and overturned on a hut, they said.

Stopped sale of 14 products: Patanjali

request made to social media intermediaries for the removal New Delhi, July 9: Patanjali of advertisements has been Ayurved Ltd Tuesday informed acceded to and whether adverthe Supreme Court that it has tisements of these 14 products

have been withdrawn. The bench posted the matter for further hearing July 30. The top court is MISLEADING ADS CASE hearing a plea

filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) alleging a smear campaign by Patanjali against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine.

The Uttarakhand State It said media platforms have Licensing Authority had earalso been instructed to withlier told the apex court that draw advertisements of these manufacturing licences of 14 14 products in any form. The products of Patanjali Ayurved bench directed Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and Divya Pharmacy have Ltd to file an affidavit within been "suspended with immetwo weeks stating whether the diate effect".

unconscious upon receiving the

news of his death. The scene

was similar at Havildar Kamal

Singh's home who has left

behind his mother, wife and two

daughters aged eight and four



join the Garhwal Rifles, he said.

over the phone. He had come

home in February and returned

"I spoke to him last July 7

Bikers fall off a bike on a road after rains, at ITO in New Delhi

Tuesday conducted multiple searches in Harvana, including against three former state administrative service officers, as part of a money-laundering investigation linked to an alleged VAT scam, official sources said.

About 14 locations in the state are being raided, the sources said. Three retired Haryana state civil service officers -- excise and taxation officer Ashok Sukhija and former deputy excise taxation commissioners Narender Ranga and Gopi Chand Chaudhary -- and some private persons are also being covered during the searches, they said.

Sukhija and Chaudhary were arrested by the state police last vear as part of the investigation. The money-laundering case stems from a 2020 FIR by the Haryana Police related to a case of illegal issuance of Form C worth Rs 1,000 crore in Gurugram.

KATHUA TERROR ATTACK

Darkness descends on homes of martyrs in U'khand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Tehri/Pauri (U'khand), July 9: Rifleman Adarsh Negi spoke to his father over the phone Sunday. The next day, Dalbir Singh Negi got another call, informing him about his son's death in the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua.

He was among the five soldiers

from Uttarakhand killed in a

terror attack on an Army convoy

in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua

Monday. It was the fifth terror at-

tack in the Jammu region within

a month. In Pauri, Rifleman

Anuj Negi's mother and wife fell

years The 32-year-old Singh, who had just completed 10 years in service, had come home in Papadi The phone call Monday Naudanu village two-and-a-half evening left the family in Thati months ago to get his youngest Dagar village of Uttarakhand's daughter admitted to school, a Tehri district in a state of shock.

local told PTI. His father Kesar Singh died a few years ago. Adarsh Negi (25), a farmer's son, was the youngest of the three siblings. He had left his college studies midway to fulfil his dream of serving the country by being in the army. Dalbir Singh Negi said his son studied



up to class 12 at Government Inter College in Piplidhar and then joined Garhwal University to do BSc. He left his studies to

March 26 to join duty," Dalbir Singh Negi said, fighting back his tears. In Pauri's Dobariya village, friends and relatives flocked to Anuj Negi's home to console his mother and wife, but in vain.

The only son of his parents, Anuj Negi (26) got married in December last year. He rejoined duty four months after tying the knot, said Subhash Chandra Jakhmola, the gram pradhan of the nearby Jamri village. After doing his intermediate, Anuj Negi joined the Garhwal Rifles about five years ago and his mother had distributed sweets in the village, Jakhmola said.

Uttarakhand Assembly Speaker and Kotdwar MLA Ritu Khanduri expressed grief over the death of the soldiers and

said the country stands with their families. Khanduri said she is the daughter of an army man and can the pain of the bereaved families. "The armed forces will give a fitting reply to the terror attack," she said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Cabinet ministers Premchand Aggarwal and Ganesh Joshi placed a wreath on the coffins of the five martyrs as their mortal remains were brought to the Jolly Grant airport here. Terrorists, who are the enemies of humanity and guilty of this cowardly attack, will not be spared at any cost, he said, adding the people who sheltered them will also have to face the consequences. He said the entire state stands with their families in this hour of grief.





national

REUTERS

claims to the region.

dropower project in the north-

eastern region, the sources said.

billion rupees will likely be al-

lotted for the 12 hydropower proj-

ects in Arunachal Pradesh, said

the sources, who have direct

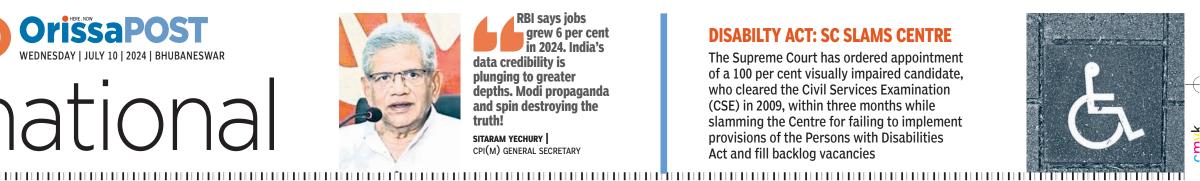
Under the scheme, about 90



RBI says jobs grew 6 per cent in 2024. India's data credibility is plunging to greater depths. Modi propaganda and spin destroying the SITARAM YECHURY CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

DISABILTY ACT: SC SLAMS CENTRE

The Supreme Court has ordered appointment of a 100 per cent visually impaired candidate, who cleared the Civil Services Examination (CSE) in 2009, within three months while slamming the Centre for failing to implement provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act and fill backlog vacancies



India races to build power plants in Arunachal uote

CENTRE SAYS ARUNACHAL PRADESH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY. BUT CHINA CLAIMS IT IS A PART OF SOUTHERN TIBET. AND HAS OBJECTED TO OTHER INDIAN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THERE

erosion response need a long-term solution and significant financial investment ... Unfortunately, very little has been done over the last eight years by the 'double-engine'

Flood and

BJP government at the state and central levels

GAURAV GOGOI CONGRESS LEADER

Those suffering from Nehruphobia like our nonbiological PM and. especially since 2019, our erudite and dapper External Affairs Minister will also do well to recall it JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS LEADER

Chaired the allimportant Power Minister's Conference (North-Eastern Region) in Guwahati today

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR JNION POWER MINISTER





Out of 100 Unicorn founders in India: 30 people are from IIT Delhi. 18 from IIT Bombay and 16 from IIT Kanpur. A good formal edu

AGENCIES

situation.

and Kashmir.

New Delhi, July 9: The Congress

said Tuesday that the Jammu

region "becoming the centre of

terror incidents" reflects the

"strategic failure" of the Modi

government and demanded that

the Centre should take the

country into confidence on steps

it is taking to deal with the

also called for a befitting reply

to Pakistan in the wake of the

The Opposition party

cation from an elite institute helps provides a strong

network, funding opportunities & an ecosystem of highly intelligent peers. With the freelancing world picking up. And, many kids wanting to become YouTubers, more and more people question the need of formal college education. They are partially correct. Average/bad colleges are dying a fast death. However, education from an exceptional

college still holds value. Who knows what would happen in the future. But, the compounding benefits

of a strong pedigree is still massive. @Akshat World

SHORT TAKES



knowledge of the matter.

The scheme is likely to support northeastern states and help them finance equity holdings in the projects they host. Having state governments on board generally helps in expediting regu-

latory clearances, locals reha-

bilitation and negotiations on sharing electricity with the host state.

The plans for the hydropower stations are expected to be announced in the 2024/2025 federal budget that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government

SAME-SEX

ndia has built less than 15-gigawatt hydropower plants in the last 20 years, while installations of new coal and other renewable sources of energy were nearly 10 times of the new hydropower projects

ndia and China share a 2.500 km (1553.43 mile) largely un-demarcated border, over which they fought a war in 1962

will unveil July 23, the sources said, declining to be named as the information remained confidential.

Last August, the government awarded contracts to state-run firms NHPC, SJVNL and NEEPCO for the construction of the 11.5-gigawatt-capacity plants entailing an estimated investment of \$11

billion, as part of a broader project to develop infrastructure in the border region.

None of the companies responded to a request for comments.

These power plants were earlier enlisted with private sector firms, but remained nonstarters due to various reasons. The Indian government is

pushing projects in the eastern region following reports that Beijing could construct dams on a section of the Brahmaputra river, known as the Yarlung Tsangbo in China, that flows from Tibet through Arunachal Pradesh.

India is concerned that Chinese projects in the region could trigger flash floods or create water scarcity.

Govt extends ban on SFJ for 5 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: The ban on pro-Khalistan group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), founded by USbased lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has been extended by the Centre for five years for its relentless anti-India activities.

In a notification issued Tuesday, the Union Home Ministry said the SFJ was declared a banned organisation five years ago under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for its anti-national activities.

The notification said the Central government is of the opinion that the SFJ continues to indulge in the activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and security of the country and is involved in anti-national and subversive activities in Punjab and elsewhere, intended to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India

Cong slams centre over terror attacks MARRIAGE VERDICT SC refuses open Encounter breaks out

Jammu: An encounter broke out

between security forces and terrorists in a remote forest area in Jammu and

Kashmir's Doda district Tuesday, officials said. The gunfight started when security forces launched a search and cordon operation in Ghadi Bhagwah forest following information about the presence of terrorists in the area, they said. Heavy firing was going on between the two sides when last

rorist attack in Doda June 26.

attacks should be strict action, not empty promises, Hooda said. Figures show that the number of civilians and security forces personnel martyred in terrorist incidents in the Jammu region has almost doubled since

rising terror incidents in Jammu The Modi government is not The Congress' assertion serious about the ground situacame a day after five army pertion in J&K and instead is more busy presenting its narrative to the country, he alleged. "Whenever the Modi government introduces any scheme, it links it to terrorism and says that terrorism will be eradicated. When demonetisation took place in the country and the Article 370 was removed from Jammu and Kashmir, even then there was talk of elimination of terrorism. But now the government should think about the situation

court hearing of review pleas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to allow open court hearing of pleas seeking review of its last year's judgement declining legal recognition to same-sex marriage.

In a setback to gay rights activists, a five judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud had October 17 last year refused to accord legal backing to same-sex 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



Students of Saraswati Shishu Mandir being escorted to a safer place by teachers and police personnel during a mock drill of NSG commandos at RSS' Hedgewar Smriti Bhawan in Nagpur

Polling in 13 seats today ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Bypolls to 13 Assembly constituencies in seven states will be held Wednesday. The electoral exercise, the first since the Lok



Kalyani from Raiganj and Mukut Mani Adhikari from Ranaghat Dakshin.

In Badgah, a Matua-majority constituency, the TMC has fielded Madhuparna Thakur, a member of the Matua Thakurbari

reports were received, the officials said

A terrorist attack was also carried out on a bus June 9." Hooda said, listing the recent terror attacks in J&K. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has asserted that the solution to the persistent terror

January 2023." he said.

BMW hit-and-run: Main accused held

Mumbai: Mihir Shah, the absconding accused in the BMW hit-and-run case and son of a Shiv Sena politician, was arrested Tuesday by Mumbai Police, two days after he allegedly rammed his luxury car into a two-wheeler, killing a woman and injuring her husband. Mihir, 24, who managed to evade the police since Sunday morning, was arrested from Virar near Mumbai, a senior police official said.

Seven dead in Assam flood

.

Guwahati: The Assam flood situation remained grim Tuesday when seven more people died, though the number of the affected people declined to 17.70 lakh with the water level of major rivers and their tributaries showing a receding trend, according to an official bulletin. Two persons died in Cachar while one death each was reported in Dhubri, Dhemaji, South Salmara Nagaon and Sivasagar districts.

Pardeep Chhabra passes away at 65

Chandigarh: AAP senior leader and former Chandigarh mayor Pardeep Chhabra passed away here Tuesday, his nephew Puneet Chhabra said. He was 65. Chhabra is survived by his wife and two daughters. Puneet Chhabra said his uncle had been undergoing treatment for jaundice and complained of ill health in the morning. "We called an ambulance to take him to PGIMER but he passed away," he said. Chhabra was AAP's Chandigarh co-in-charge.

sonnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer, were killed and as many were injured when heavily armed terrorists ambushed a patrolling party in the remote Machedi area of J&K's Kathua district. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here. Congress spokesperson Deepender Hooda said this attack is highly condemnable.

He said the government should suo motu give a statement on the steps it is taking in the wake of the recent terror attacks in the state.

"Even before this, in December 2023, four of our soldiers were martyred in Rajouri. There was an encounter in Kulgam. in which two of our soldiers were martyred." "There was a ter-

that has arisen," he said. Pakistan has reached the brink of becoming a "failed state" and yet it is daring to do this, Hooda said, adding that now it is the time to give a befitting reply to Pakistan. "As a responsible Opposition, we are with the government for the security of the country," he said.

could use in case of trouble.

A five judge bench comprising the CJI and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Hima Kohli, B V Nagarathna and PS Narasimha are scheduled to consider in chambers the pleas seeking review of the judgement July 10.

Senior advocates Abhishek Singhvi and NK Kaul mentioned the matter and urged the CJI to hear the review petitions in an open court Tuesdav.

"I say that if these petitions can be heard in the open court..., Kaul asked the court.

These are the constitution bench review matters which are listed in chambers, the CJI told him. As per the practice, the review pleas are considered in chambers by judges.

Sabha elections, will decide the fate of many veterans and some debutantes including Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur.

The Assembly seats going to polls are Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, Bagda and Maniktala (West Bengal); Badrinath and Manglaur (Uttarakhand); Jalandhar West (Punjab); Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh (Himachal Pradesh); Rupauli (Bihar); Vikravandi (Tamil Nadu) and Amarwara (Madhya Pradesh).

The bypolls are to be held against vacancies created either due to deaths or resignation of incumbent members.

In West Bengal, the stakes are high for both the ruling TMC,

which is looking to capitalise on its improved performance in the Lok Sabha polls, and the BJP, which is seeking to leverage the significant leads it made in the four constituencies in the parliamentary polls. The TMC won Maniktala seat

in the 2021 West Bengal elections while the BJP won Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin and Bagda. Later, the BJP MLAs switched to the TMC. The Maniktala bypoll was necessitated by the death of sitting TMC MLA Sadhan Pandey in February 2022.

The TMC has fielded Pandey's wife Supti from the seat. The ruling party has fielded Krishna

and daughter of party Rajya Sabha MP Mamatabala Thakur. Kalyani, Adhikari and Biswajit Das had unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls on TMC tickets after resigning from the BJP. The BJP has fielded All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey from Maniktala, Manoj Kumar Biswas from Ranaghat Dakshin, Binay Kumar Biswas from Bagdah and Manas Kumar Ghosh from Raiganj. Buoyed by its Lok Sabha poll performance, the TMC hopes to win all four Assembly seats.

The BJP has fielded the three former Independent MLAs from their respective seats after they ioined the party. A total of 13 candidates are contesting the bypolls in the three segments with 2,59,340 voters

Govt to launch survey to assess vulnerability of glacial lakes

Research worldwide has consistently shown unprecedented rates of glacier retreat and *thinning due to* human-caused climate change, leading to the formation of new lakes and the enlargement of existing ones in the Himalayan region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Four states and a Union territory in the Himalavas will commence ground surveys to determine the vulnerability of glacial lakes after the monsoon season, officials said Tuesday.

A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in Sikkim in October 2023 has prompted this initia-

tive, they said. Monitoring systems will also be established to provide crucial information about GLOFs, the officials said. "Himachal Pradesh. Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are setting up survey teams and identifying routes to the glacial lakes. The teams will include officials and experts from agencies, such as the National Remote Sensing Centre, the Indian Army and the Geological Survey of India," an official from the National Disaster Management Authority told PTI.

The survey, set to launch after the monsoon season, will target select glacial lakes based on their risk profiles. "It is humanly not possible to cover all the glacial lakes," the official said.

Most of these lakes are situated at altitudes of 5,000 metres or higher.

The survey teams will comprise experts in hydrology, to-



pography and other relevant fields who are equipped to endure harsh weather and difficult terrain. The glacial lake outburst in Sikkim resulted in at least

60 fatalities and extensive damage in the Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi districts. It also destroyed the Chungthang dam (Teesta III

dam), a crucial part of a major hydropower project.

Glacial lakes are formed by the melting of glaciers and accumulation of meltwater in depressions on or near the glacier's surface. GLOFs occur when these lakes suddenly burst open due to factors, such as excessive water accumulation or triggers like earthquakes.

These floods can cause significant destruction and pose serious risks to people and the environment downstream.

The officials said that the current understanding of glacial lakes is primarily based on remote sensing, which is insufficient to determine their vulnerability comprehensively. Conducting ground surveys is essential but challenging due to the remote, high-altitude locations of these lakes.

According to an April report by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), 676 of the 2,431 glacial lakes larger than 10 hectares in the Himalayas have notably expanded since 1984. Of these, 130 lakes are in India, with 65, 7, and 58 located in the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins, respectively.

The report noted that 601 lakes have more than doubled in size. 10 have grown between 1.5 to 2 times, and 65 lakes have expanded by 1.5 times.

An elevation-based analysis reveals that 314 lakes are located between 4.000 and 5,000 metres, and 296 lakes are above 5,000 metres in elevation.

The Ghepang Ghat glacial lake in the Indus River Basin, situated at an elevation of 4,068 metres in Himachal Pradesh, has seen a 178 per cent increase in size from 36.49 to 101.30 hectares between 1989 and 2022.

The Himalayas, often referred to as the Third Pole due to their extensive glaciers and snowcover, are highly sensitive to climate change.



international

I have one job and that is to beat Donald Trump. I am absolutely certain I am the best person to be able to do that. So we are done talking about the debate. it is time to put Trump in a bulls eye JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

MOUNTAINEER FOUND MUMMIFIED

The preserved body of an American mountaineer, who disappeared 22 years ago, has been found after being exposed by climate change-induced ice melt, police said



uote

The securities

of the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific are inseparable, and Russia's aggressior against Ukraine and its deepened military cooperation with North Korea are strong reminders of that

FUMIO KISHIDA PM, JAPAN

In history, there are many cases where the few win out over the many, and there are countless ways to win over oldfashioned enemies with new thinking LAI CHING-TE PRESIDENT, TAIWAN



SHORT TAKES

French far-right leader probed

Paris: The Paris prosecutor's office said Tuesday it opened a preliminary investigation last week into suspicions of illicit financing of far-right French leader Marine Le Pen's campaign during the 2022 presidential election. The office told The Associated Press that the judicial probe opened July 2 into allegations of accepting a financial loan, misappropriation of property, fraud and forgery. But it did not give details. Le Pen hasn't commented.

PNG min to resign amid assault case

Wellington: A minister in Papua New Guinea's government who has been charged over an alleged domestic assault in Australia will step down from his post as a court case against him unfolds, the country's Prime Minister said. Police in the Australian state of New South Wales said in a

statement Saturday that a

Russia heeds to India's call An announcement on Russia's decision to discharge all Indians working as support staff to Russian Army is expected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, July 9: Russia has broadly heeded to India's call to end the recruitment of Indians as support staff to the Russian military and ensure repatriation of those still working in the force, top sources said Tuesday.

It is learnt that Moscow agreed to release the Indians after the issue was brought up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an informal meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin Monday night.

Modi Monday began a twoday high-profile visit to Russia for the 22nd India-Russia annual summit with President Putin, his first trip since the start of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Last month, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the issue of Indian nationals serving with the Russian Army remains a matter of "utmost con-

cern" and demanded action from

decision to discharge all the

Indians working as support staff

to the Russian Army is expected

to be made after summit talks be-

tween Modi and Putin Tuesday.

Russia has broadly agreed to

An announcement on Russia's

Moscow over it.



Indian nationals by the Russian

Army" and that such activities

would not be in "consonance

Earlier in March, 30-year-old

Hyderabad resident Mohammed

Asfan succumbed to injuries

sustained while serving with

the Russian troops on the front-

Ashwinbhai Mangua, a 23-year-

old resident of Surat, died in a

Ukrainian air strike while serv-

ing as a "security helper" in the

The Russian President hosted

a private dinner for the Indian

February,

Hemal

with our partnership."

lines with Ukraine.

Donetsk region.

In

our request on the issue, the sources said. On June 11, India said two Indian nationals, who were re-

cruited by the Russian Army, had been killed in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, which took the number of such deaths to four. Following the deaths of two

Indians, the MEA demanded a "verified stop" to further recruitment of Indian nationals by the Russian Army.

In a strongly-worded statement, it said India demanded that there be a "verified stop to any further recruitment of

Peace talk fails amidst violence: PM Modi

Delivering an unambiguous message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday told Russian President Vladimir Putin that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets. In his televised opening remarks at summit talks with Putin in the Kremlin, Modi, in an apparent reference to the bombing of a children's hospital in Ukraine, said the death of innocent children is heart-wrenching and very painful. The Indian Prime Minister assured the world community that India is on the side of peace and the conflict must be resolved through talks. "For a bright future of the new generation, peace is most essential. A solution is not possible on the battlefield. Peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets." he said. "For restoration of peace, India is ready to cooperate in all possible ways.' Modi said.

Prime Minister at the former's residence in Novo-Ogaryovo on the outskirts of Moscow late Monday evening.



SHEHBAZ SHARIF URGES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RECOGNISE 'BURDEN OF AFGHAN REFUGEES' IN MEETING WITH UNHCR CHIEF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 9: The head of the UN refugee agency Filippo Grandi Tuesday met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the situation of millions of Afghan refugees living in uncertainty since Islamabad announced a repatriation plan of what it called undocumented aliens last year.

During his meeting with Grandi Commissioner of the UNHCR, Sharif urged the international community to recognise the "burden of Afghan refugees" being shouldered by Pakistan and demonstrate "collective responsibility" to deal with the issue, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) arrived in Pakistan



Sunday on a three-day visit.

"The Prime Minister stressed that the international community must recognise the burden being shouldered by Pakistan while hosting such a large refugee population, and demonstrate collective responsibility," a statement from the PM's Office said.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader added that despite numerous challenges, the country had hosted Afghan refugees with exemplary respect and dignity.

Sharif sought UNHCR's support in mobilising adequate resources to supplement Pakistan's efforts in this regard, urging the global refugee agency to play its role in coming up with durable solutions to address the situation of Afghan refugees.

Flooding in B'desh displaces 40,000

REUTERS

Dhaka. July 9: Flooding in Bangladesh has swept away homes and shut schools, displacing tens of thousands of people, the disaster and relief ministry said Tuesday, and a forecast for more heavy rain over the next few days is expected to worsen the situation.

Some 40,000 people are taking refuge at government shelters and more than 600 medical teams have been formed to treat flood victims, the ministry said.

Television footage showed in-_ undated roads, broken bridges and dams, as well as villagers wading through knee-deep water. Farmers also had to rescue cattle from the gushing waters.

"Bangladeshis are used to



nal order of our country," Alvarez said.

The US State Department said it was aware of the most recent allegations.

'US law enforcement prosecutes individuals based on US law and does not take direction from foreign governments," a state department official told Reuters Monday via email.

Cuban authorities provided Reuters with what they said was a videotaped confession from Ardenys García, who allegedly entered Cuba by jetski in November before proceeding to recruit others to join him.

Officials said Garcia, who is now detained in Cuba, also faces human trafficking charges in the United States



year-old man was arrested and charged after a domestic dispute in Sydney. A 31-year-old woman known to him had injuries to her face after the altercation, the statement said.

EU freezes aid to **Georgian** army

Tbilisi: The European Union's ambassador to Georgia said Tuesday that the bloc had frozen 30 million euros (\$32 million) in military aid to Georgia amid what he said was "a low point" in relations between the two. Georgia's Parliament in June passed into law a bill requiring groups that receive funding from abroad to register as foreign agents. criticised by the domestic opposition and the West as a Russian-inspired measure to crack down on dissent. Speaking at an event in Tbilisi. ambassador Pawel Herczvnski said "For the moment, the money that we have planned to transfer to the Georgian ministry of defence, which is 30 million euros, has been frozen. And this is only a first step. There will be other steps.

PIO sentenced for raping minor

Singapore: An Indian-origin Singaporean bar owner, Raj Kumar Bala, was sentenced to jail for 13 years and four weeks Monday and will receive nine strokes of the cane for raping a runaway 17-year-old girl after allowing her to work for him. The bar owner faces 22 more charges relating to five other victims, mainly for sex offences, according to a report by "The Straits Times". These charges are pending in court.

thorities said a Cuban man residing in the United States arrived on the island by jetski, armed with guns, ammunition and military gear, to recruit others and commit acts of violence.

Havana, July 9: Cuba has foiled

a plot to sneak arms and am-

munition onto the Caribbean is-

land from the United States, de-

taining nearly three dozen people

in a broader scheme authorities

say sought to destabilize its gov-

ernment, a Cuba Interior

Ministry official said Monday.

Cuba first unveiled details of

the plot last December, when au-

REUTERS

A subsequent seven-month investigation, said Víctor Alvarez, a lead criminal investigator with Cuba's Interior Ministry, unveiled a broader plan that includes participation by 32 Cuban residents and a USbased group called La Nueva Nación Cubana, which Cuban authorities say continues to plot attacks on Cuba from US soil.

Cuba said it had notified the US government agencies of the results of the investigation, but said the individuals continue to act with impunity.

"These individuals continue to act with impunity in North American territory, organizing, financing and supporting activities of a violent nature in order to subvert the inter-

Cuba has for decades alleged the United States turns a blind eye to plots hatched by Cuban nationals residing in the United States to foment unrest on the island and upend its government. Cuba in December published a list of foreign nationals and en-

tities, including La Nueva Nación Cubana - that it accuses of involvement with terrorism, including many long-time dissidents who reside in the United States.

The list includes dozens of people Cuba says have been implicated in hotel bombings, plots to foment unrest, and assassination attempts against Fidel Castro, many of which date back decades. The Cuban list appears to be

the island's response to a US decision to keep Cuba on its own list of state sponsors of terrorism, a designation that subjects Cuba to harsh sanctions and considerable economic hardship.

"His party represents pure an-

tisemitism and expresses a sig-

Cairo, July 9: Gaza City residents fled under Israeli fire as tanks thrust deeper into the heart of the city Tuesday, the second day of a stepped-up military offensive that Palestinian militant group Hamas said could jeopardise ceasefire talks.

REUTERS

Qatari and Egyptian mediators, backed by the United States, have accelerated their efforts this week to seal a ceasefire deal aimed at ending the Gaza war and releasing Israeli hostages in the enclave in return for Palestinian prisoners jailed in Israel.

On Tuesday, Israeli tanks deep ened their incursion into some Gaza City districts including Shejaia, Sabra and Tel Al-Hawa, where residents reported the previous day some of the most

GAZANS FLEE

Israeli assault may threaten ceasefire bid: Hamas

Tropical Storm Beryl brought howling winds and torrential rain to southeast Texas, flooding highways, closing oil ports,

canceling more than 1,300 flights and knocking out power to more than 2.7 million homes and businesses



fierce fighting since the start of the war between Israel and the Islamist Hamas

Footage circulated on social media Tuesday showed families packed onto donkey carts and in the backs of trucks piled with mattresses and other belongings racing through the city's streets to flee areas under Israeli evacuation orders.

"Gaza City is being wiped out, this is what is happening. Israel is forcing us to leave homes under

fire," Um Tamer, a mother of seven, told Reuters via a chat app.

She said it was the seventh time her family had fled their house in Gaza City, in the north of the enclave and one of Israel's first targets at the start of the war in October.

'We can't take it anymore, enough of death and humiliation. End the war now," she said.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said all of its medical clinics were out of service in Gaza City due to the evacuation orders. The assault has unfolded as

senior US officials were in the region pushing for a ceasefire after Hamas made concessions last week. But the renewed campaign "could bring the negotiation process back to square one. Hamas quoted leader Ismail Haniyeh as saying Monday.

flooding, but the water is coming up so high and so quickly in lowlying areas that people are being forced to shelter on anything, even rafts made of banana trees, said Liakath Ali, head of climate change programme at development agency BRAC.

The local meteorological office has forecast more rain for the central and southern regions, but the swollen Brahmaputra river is expected to recede in the next few days

"Heavy rains in the Indian upstream region mean that the suffering is far from over. We have taken measures to cope with the situation," said Rezwanul Rahman, the head of Bangladesh's disaster manage ment department.

Seasonal monsoon rains, which start at the end of May, have triggered widespread flooding in India and neighbouring Bangladesh in recent vears

France poll results: Call for French Jews to flee to Israel

AGENCIES

Tel Aviv, July 9: Former Israeli minister Avigdor Liberman has urged French Jews to immigrate to Israel following the results of the French elections Sunday.

The bloc is headed by the far-

left strong anti-Israel figure Jean-

Luc Mélenchon, who Liberman,

along with various other fig-

ures, including the president of

the Representative Council of

Jewish Institutions of France

(CRIF) has accused of anti-

Liberman declared.

He made the call during a party meeting Monday, after the New Popular Front (NFP) bloc, which leans towards the broadleft, received the most votes. "I call on the French Jews to leave France and immigrate to the State of Israel. No time,'

nificant increase in hatred of Israel and antisemitism," Liberman said at the party meeting. The elections saw no clear winner, but the NFP emerged with the largest vote share, giving them the best chance to form

a coalition. The bloc is made up of five major parties and numerous smaller ones, spanning from center-left to far-left, resulting in dozens of member parties in total. The far-left faction is championed by Mélenchon's France Unbowed (La France Insoumise), the Greens are backed by the Ecologists, and the center-left is supported by the Socialist Party. Additionally, there are other parties and factions within



the broad bloc, including the French Communist Party and various separatist and regionalist groups. The bloc also receives

support from major trade unions and left-wing NGOs. On the other hand, the right formed a smaller bloc consisting of the traditional

conservative party of France, Les Republicans, and the farright National Rally.

In the center lies the ailing Ensemble party of President Macron, which took heavy losses to both the left and the right, losing 77 seats in the election.

French Jews were effectively disenfranchised by the current political climate, which saw them unwilling to vote for Macron's party due to the rising anti-Semitic violence experienced by French Jews, unable to vote for the left due to their alliance with far-left anti-Semites and strong anti-Israel stances, with some even justifying October 7, and regretting being forced to look to the far-right as ironically the only party willing to tackle anti-Semitism in France. Liberman's call for a mass

French Aliyah is not the first call for such a move, with the Rabbi of Paris Grand Synagogue Moshe Sebbag telling The 'Post' "There is no future for Jews in France.

Immigration and Absorption Minister Ofir Sofer responded to criticism that the government had not done enough to help Jews from Western countries make aliyah, saying, "The State of Israel is the home of the Jewish people, and the State of Israel invites you to return home. and we will welcome the Jews of France.

He added that they were working to speed up procedures for French Jews, and a minister in the Immigration Ministry said they were planning for a "sig-nificant wave of aliyah" from Western countries.



business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tuesday.

said.

Mumbai, July 9: Investors

pumped in a record ₹40,608 crore

into equity mutual funds in June,

17 per cent higher than in May

2024, industry body Amfi said

investment plans (SIPs) also

reached a new high at ₹ 21,262

crore for the month, which was

higher than the previous high of

₹20.904 crore recorded in May it

The net assets under man-

agement (AUM) for the entire

MF industry on equity schemes

stood at ₹ 27.67 lakh crore, while

the same from SIPs was ₹12.43

lakh crore, the body said.

tured or were shut down.

the outflows.

The flows into the systematic



I would like to mention that today the banking sector is at a decadal high in terms of all financial parameters that we monitor, and the sector is well poised to support the growth of the Indian economy SWAMINATHAN J RESERVE BANK DEPUTY GOVERNOR

FOOD SERVICES SECTOR TO REACH ₹7.76L-CR BY FY28

India's food services sector is estimated to grow by 8.1 per cent to reach a size of ₹7.76 lakh crore by FY28 from ₹5.69 lakh crore in FY24, National Restaurant Association of India said Tuesday. In its India Food Services Report 2024, the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) said the organised segment of the food services sector is pegged to grow at a CAGR of 13.2 per cent by FY28.





For the first time, over 10 lakh new jobs were created and our turnover crossed ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2023-24

MANOJ KUMAR | KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES CHAIRMAN

In today's dynamic real estate market. accurate property valuation is more important than ever SUDHIR PAI

MAGICBRICKS CEO



regulatory approvals which should be around the corner we will see the complete acquisition

SWARUP MOHANTY MIRAF ASSET INVESTMENT MANAGERS (INDIA) PVT LTD VICE CHAIRMAN AND CEO

SHORT TAKES

Domestic air traffic momentum persists

Mumbai: The momentum in air passenger traffic is expected to continue and airlines' net loss is projected to be ₹3,000-4,000 crore in the year ending March 2025, both trends similar to the previous financial year, a report said Tuesday. In June, the domestic air passenger traffic was estimated at 132.8 lakh, around 3.7 per cent lower than seen in May but about 6.3 per cent higher compared to the year-ago period. Rating agency Icra said the outlook for the country's aviation industry is stable amid the continued recovery in domestic and international air passenger traffic, with a relatively stable cost environment and expectations of the trend continuing in FY2025.

PNB introduces Safety Ring

₹20,904 CRORE RECORDED IN MAY, ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY BODY AMFI

Equity MF inflows at ₹40,000cr in June

THE FLOWS INTO THE SYSTEMATIC INVESTMENT PLANS ALSO REACHED A NEW HIGH AT

₹21.262 CRORE FOR THE MONTH. WHICH WAS HIGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS HIGH OF

compared with May. "After two successive months

A total of 55 lakh new SIPs of higher inflows, the mutual fund industry witnessed net outwere registered in June, taking flows to the tune of ₹43.637 crore the total number to 8.98 crore, he said, adding that 32.35 lakh mafor the first time since the beginning of this financial year," Amfi Chief Executive Venkat domestic rating agency Icra's Chalasani, however, did not anhead market data Ashwini swer a question on the net SIP in-Kumar said.

vestments after accounting for Courtesy the record inflows into the segment, the equity The overall AUM of the MF in-AUM grew to ₹27.67 lakh crore dustry stood at over ₹61.15 lakh at the end of June, as per data crore as of June, which was shared by the body. Chalasani said there was an higher by about 4 per cent when

outflow of ₹1.07 lakh crore in debt schemes due to advance tax redemptions, which took the overall AUM in the segment down to 14.13 lakh crore as June 30.

The net inflows into large cap schemes grew to ₹970 crore, which was higher than the ₹663 crore in May, but continued to trail small and midcap schemes that witnessed an inflow of ₹2.263 crore and ₹2,527 crore, respectively, even as concerns were raised about valuations.

On the continued interest

among investors in MFs despite the high valuations, Chalasani said there is a need to take a longer-term view and added that the valuations are 'reasonable'. The high interest among the

investors in the market is due to the stable returns which have been delivered and also the confidence in the market, he said.

The growth in sector and thematic funds was the highest at 13.16 per cent. to take the overall AUM to ₹3.83 lakh crore, Chalasani said, attributing the jump primarily to the launch of new fund offerings by asset management companies.

Among other schemes, the hvbrid segment saw inflows of ₹8,854 crore, taking the overall AUM to ₹8.09 lakh crore.

Passive schemes surpassed the ₹10 lakh crore of AUM mark. on the back of the rally in gold prices that helped the gold exchange traded fund holdings and also inflows of ₹14.601 crore. Chalasani said.

The Amfi CEO declined comment on issues surrounding Quant Mutual Fund, and added that the industry body has not written any communication to the house.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: (The government may relax the requirement of making payments to MSMEs within 45 days of buying goods and services to check large corporate from looking at other sourcing avenues, sources said. The announcement to this ef-

fect could be made in the Budget likely to be presented July 23. The government is considering suggestions regarding changes to Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act made by MSMEs

during pre-Budget consultations, sources said. The government in last year's Budget added a new clause under Section 43B of the Income Tax Act to address the challenge of delaved payments faced by MSMEs in the country.

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

MSMEs fear that due to this provision, large buyers could cold-shoulder MSME suppliers and start buying either from those MSMEs that are not registered with Udyam or from non-



MSMEs.

Govt may relax 45-day

payment rule for MSMEs

The amendment was brought in for MSMEs to get timely payment, but there are a lot of fear were raised by them, sources said, adding that they feared that large corporate, in bid to safeguard their interest, can shift their sourcing requirement to bigger firms or ask their vendors

to give up their MSME registration to do business with them. Earlier in May, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the changes, if any, to

the rule will have to be done in the full Budget in July under the new government as per the representations submitted by MSMEs. The MSME sector accounts for

30 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and the second largest employer after agriculture. The share of exports from products specified for MSMEs constituted 45.56 per cent of the country's total exports.

India added 4.7 crore jobs in FY24: RBI data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 9: India added nearly 4.7 crore jobs during 2023-24. taking the total number of employed people to 64.33 crore spread over 27 sectors covering the entire economy, according to Reserve Bank data.

The number of employed people was 59.67 crore at the end of March 2023, said the RBI's update on 'Measuring Productivity at the Industry Level-The India KLEMS [Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M) and Services (S)] Database'.

Using the Tornqvist Aggregation formula, the RBI said the annual growth in em-



2022-23 data suggested

segments in 2022-23.

describes the procedures, methodologies and approaches used in the construction of India KLEMS database version 2024. 'The production and publication of India KLEMS database are meant to support empirical research in the area of economic growth and its sources," the RBI

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time closing highs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tuesday, hitting their fresh record gains in auto and FMCG shares

The 30-share BSE Sensex high of 80,397.17.

The NSE Nifty went up by 112.65 points or 0.46 per cent to 24,433.20 -- its record closing high. During the day, it surged 123.05 points or 0.50 per cent to hit a new record peak of 24,443.60.

tors continue to drive the mar-



A total of 2,010 stocks advanced while 1,924

declined and 92 remained unchanged on the BSE. Also, 320 stocks hit their upper circuit limit while 242 firms hit the lower circuit levels

cretionary (1.21 per cent), healthcare (1 per cent) and utilities (0.76 per cent) also closed higher. Telecommunication, capital goods and teck were the laggards. A total of 2.010 stocks advanced while 1,924 declined and 92 remained unchanged on the BSE. Also, 320 stocks hit their upper

25.3 crore individuals, up from 24.82 crore in 2021-22, the fiscal

Construction, trade, and transport and storage were among the leading employment provider

The RBI said the document

Mumbai, July 9: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded closing levels on the back of

and foreign fund inflows. climbed 391.26 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 80,351.64. During the day, it jumped 436.79 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a new lifetime

"Both domestic and global fac-

New Delhi: State-owned Puniab National Bank (PNB) Tuesday introduced a new security feature 'Safety Ring' within its internet banking system and mobile banking system in response to the increasing number of cyber frauds. This mechanism provides an additional safety layer to minimise potential losses in case of unauthorised access by fraudsters, PNB said in a statement. Safety Ring is an optional feature that allows customers to set a daily transaction limit with respect to term deposits (TDs) on online closure or availing overdraft facility on TDs up to the set limit amount, it said. The limit set by the customer should be the consolidated digital channels limit up to which the customer can close the TD or avail overdraft facility on TD, it said.

Infosys ties up with Sector Alarm

New Delhi: Indian IT services company Infosys Tuesday announced a five-year collaboration with Sector Alarm, one of Europe's leading providers in security, to migrate their core enterprise business systems on the cloud. According to a release, Infosys will work closely with Sector Alarm to migrate their disparate, on-premises Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform onto Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and Operations (F&O), helping them modernise their financial and business operating models. "Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, today announced a strategic five-year collaboration with Sector Alarm, one of Europe's leading providers in security, who are partially owned by global investment firm KKR, to transform their core enterprise business systems on the cloud," the release said.

ployment during 2023-24 was 6 per cent compared to 3.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

In the last five years, the India KLEMS database revealed that total employment increased from 53.44 crore in 2019-20 to 64.33 crore during the previous fissaid.

The data for financial 2022-23 is a provisional estimate of productivity for the total economy. The 'agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing' employed

Most importantly, the database is meant to support the conduct of policies aimed at supporting the acceleration of productivity growth in the Indian economy, it added.

ket momentum. Currently, consumption sectors like FMCG and auto are leading the gains, buoyed by progress in the monsoon and kharif sowing," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Among Sensex shares, Maruti Suzuki India jumped over 6 per cent amid reports that the UP government waived registration taxes on hybrid cars as part of its initiative to promote environmentally friendly vehicles

GRAPHICS

in the state.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, Sun Pharma, ITC, Nestle and Tata Motors were the other big gainers.

Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance and JSW Steel were among the laggard.

Investors are eagerly awaiting the first-quarter earnings results, which will guide market

direction, Nair said, adding, "Additionally, continuous positive FII inflow contributes to the prevailing positive sentiment."

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.36 per cent and smallcap index went up by 0.22 per cent.

Among the indices, auto jumped 2.17 per cent. Consumer durables (2.01 per cent), realty (1.23 per cent), consumer dis-

ONGC to invest ₹2 lakh cr to meet net zero emission target

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

cal

New Delhi, July 9: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will invest about ₹2 lakh crore in setting up renewable energy sites and green hydrogen plants and cutting gas flaring to zero to achieve its 2038 net-zero carbon emission goal.

The company, which produces about two-thirds of India's crude oil and about 58 per cent of natural gas, Tuesday released a 200page document, detailing its path to achieving net zero emissions

It listed clean energy projects even as it looks to boost its hydrocarbon output to meet the country's energy needs.

ONGC will invest ₹97,000 crore by 2030 in setting up 5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, green hydrogen, biogas, pump storage plant and offshore wind project, according to the document. Another ₹65,500 crore will be invested by 2035, mostly in a green hydrogen or green ammonia plant, and the remaining ₹38,000 crore by 2038, primarily in setting up 1 GW of

offshore wind projects. These projects will help the firm offset 9 million tonnes of carbon emissions it is directly (Scope-1 emissions) or indirectly



(Scope-2 emissions) responsible for: ONGC said it will invest v5,000 crore to cut gas flaring to zero by 2030 through technological intervention.

The firm released into the atmosphere 554 million cubic metres of methane in 2021-22 (base year), mostly because it was an incidental by-product of oil or the quantity was not economical enough to pipe it to consumers.

ONGC will spend ₹30,000 crore in setting up 5 GW solar parks that will convert sunlight into electricity and turbines that will

do the same with wind energy. It will add 1 GW of solar and onshore wind capacity by 2035 and 2038 at a cost of ₹5,000 crore each.

It will invest ₹40,000 crore by 2030 and a similar amount by 2035 to set up two 1.80.000 tonnes per annum green hydrogen and/or 1 million tonnes of green ammonia projects.

ONGC, which has installations in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal to produce oil and gas from below the seabed, is also looking at installing off-

shore wind turbines to generate 0.5 GW of electricity by 2030 and double it by 2035. The first 0.5 GW offshore wind project is likely to cost ₹12,500 crore and the next about ₹12,000 crore.

By 2038, it will add another 1 GW of offshore wind energy capacity at an investment of ₹25,000 crore, the document said.

The company is also looking at investing ₹20,000 crore for setting up 3 GW of pump storage plants to meet electricity requirements when renewable sources like sunlight and wind energy are not available. The remaining investment will be in biogas, carbon capture and other clean energy proj-

ects All this while it continues to hunt and produce more oil and gas.

Crude oil, which companies like ONGC pump out from below the seabed and from underground reservoirs, is a primary source of energy. It is processed in oil refineries to produce petrol, diesel and jet fuel. With the world looking to transition away from fossil fuels, companies around the globe are looking at new avenues to use crude oil.

Gas produced in a similar fashion is used to generate electricity, produce fertiliser or convert into CNG to power automobiles or into PNG to fire kitchen stoves

Scope 1 emissions are from directly emitting sources that are owned or controlled by a company. Scope 2 emissions are from the consumption of purchased electricity, steam, or other sources of energy generated upstream from a company's direct operations.

ONGC produced 21.14 million tonnes of oil in 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024) and 20.648 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas.

circuit limit while 242 firms hit the lower circuit levels.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹60.98 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.51 per cent to USD 85.31 a barrel

The BSE benchmark declined 36.22 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 79,960.38 Monday. The NSE Nifty dipped 3.30 points or 0.01 per cent to 24,320.55.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms at record high of ₹451.27 lakh cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms Tuesday hit a fresh lifetime high of ₹451.27 lakh crore on a day when the BSE Sensex reached a record closing level.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit an all-time high of ₹4,51,27,853.30 crore (USD 5.41 trillion). Investors' wealth also went up ₹1.56 lakh crore Tuesday.

"After consolidating in the last few days, markets bounced back to make fresh high amid buying seen in index heavyweights,' said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.











GAMBHIR ERA BEGINS Another feather in Bumrah's hat

KKR MENTOR REPLACES RAHUL DRAVID WHOSE TENURE ENDED WITH THE T20 WORLD CUP

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 9: World Cupwinning former opener Gautam Gambhir was Tuesday named head coach of the Indian cricket team by the BCCI, which hoped that he would bring 'tenacity and leadership' to the position which was held with 'remarkable success' by Rahul Dravid until recently.

The 42-year-old was the frontrunner to replace Dravid whose tenure ended with the country's title win in the T20 World Cup in Barbados last month.

"It is an absolute honour to serve my Tricolour, my people, my country," said Gambhir in a BCCI statement. "I am honoured and excited to take on the role of head coach for Team India. I have always taken pride while donning the Indian jersey during my playing days and it is going to be no different when I take up this new role," the new head coach added.

Gambhir said he looks forward to working closely with the BCCI, Head of Cricket VVS Laxman, the support staff, and, 'most importantly, the players, as we work towards achieving success in the upcoming tournaments'.

Gambhir's first assignment as India coach will be the of tour Sri Lanka for three T20Is and as many ODIs starting July 27. 'Team India now embark on

a journey under a new coach -Gautam Gambhir," said BCCI president Roger Binny in an

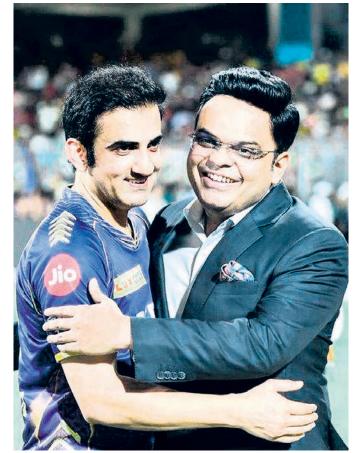
SHORT TAKES

Free hand for **Gillespie, Kirsten**

Lahore: In the wake of Pakistan's dismal showing in the T20 World Cup, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, Mohsin Naqvi have given head coaches Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie a free hand to turn the fortunes of the team, sources said here Tuesday Naqvi met the white ball and red ball coaches, where Kirsten and Gillespie shared their plans for the national team. According to the PCB, Naqvi told both the coaches that he had full confidence in them and they would get full backing from the cricket board. "Kirsten was blunt in laying down his concerns about the white ball team based on the World Cup," said a PCB source.

Nagal advances

Braunschweig (Germany): India's top ranked tennis player Sumit Nagal moved to the second roun with a facile win over Brazil's Felipe Meligeni Alves in the Braunschweig ATP challenger tennis tournament here Tuesday. The Olympic-bound Nagal, seeded second, cruised to a 6-1, 6-4 win over Alves in the clay event. The World No. 73 will next take on Argentina's Pedro Cachin in the round of 16 Wednesday. The tournament will serve as preparation for the Paris Olympics for Nagal, which begins later this month at the Roland Garros Stadium. Last week, Nagal had made a first round exit from Wimbledon, losing to higher-ranked Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia. However, the year has been successful so far for Nagal.



elaborate statement. "His (Gambhir's) experience, dedication, and vision for the game make him the ideal candidate to guide our team forward. We are confident that under his leadership, Team India

will continue to excel and make the nation proud," Binny added. petitor and a brilliant strategist.

The sentiment was echoed by BCCI secretary Jay Shah. "Gambhir has been a fierce com-

We believe he will bring the

KKR want Dravid as new mentor Kolkata: With mentor Gautam Gambhir being appointed head

coach of Team India, the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), are looking for a suitable replacement for him. Sources informed here Tuesday that KKR officials have already approached Rahul Dravid for the role. Dravid is not too keen to do a long duration job and the role offered by KKR which basically will be for two-three months, may just be the opportunity he wants. If sources are to be believed, then KKR have offered ₹12 crore to Dravid as salary.

same tenacity and leadership to his role as head coach. His transition to the role of head coach is a natural progression, and I believe he will bring out the best in our players," Shah stated.

Shah said he expects Gambhir, who played key roles in India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup triumphs, to inspire and lead the team to new heights. "His vision for the future of Indian cricket aligns perfectly with our goals," Shah added.

As a player, Gambhir led Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to IPL titles in 2012 and 2014. He then proved his coaching credentials as the mentor of the KKR team that won the IPL title in 2024.



JASPRIT BUMRAH

Double delight for India as Smriti Mandhana named women's 'Player of the Month' for June

AGENCIES

Dubai, July 9: Hero of India's victorious T20 World Cup campaign, Jasprit Bumrah added another feather to his hat when he was Tuesday named the 'ICC Men's Player of the Month for June'

It was double delight for India as women's team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was also named the 'Women's Player of the Month' by the global body. Mandhana won her first ICC 'Women's Player of the Month' after playing a starring role in India's sweep over South Africa in the ODI series last month.

Bumrah came out on top in the men's vote from compatriot Rohit Sharma and Rahmanullah Gurbaz of Afghanistan, while



SMRITI MANDHANA

to have been chosen as the winner," the fast bowler added.

Bouchier and Sri Lanka's Vishmi Gunaratne. Bumrah, bagged 15 wickets to be adjudged the 'Player of the Tournament' in the T20 global showpiece last month.

Mandhana won the women's

"I am delighted to be named the ICC 'Men's Player of the month for June," Bumrah said in the ICC statement. "It's a special honour for me following a memorable few weeks spent in the USA and West Indies. We have had a lot to celebrate as a team, and I'm delighted to be able to add this personal accolade to the list," he added. The 30-year-old was at his de-

pendable best in the USA and Caribbean and bowled at an average of 8.26 and an astonishing economy rate of 4.17. "To perform as well as we did at the tournament and lift the trophy at the end is incredibly special, and I will carry those memories with me forever," Bumrah said.

"I wish to congratulate my captain Rohit Sharma and Rahmanullah Gurbaz for their excellent performances in the same period, and I am humbled

award by pipping England's Maia In the women's game, Mandhana set the tone with a commanding 117 in the first ODI in Bangalore. She went one better in the second match, hitting her second successive century

and top scoring in a game that saw 646 runs in total. The opener blitzed the South African bowling attack, smashing 136 in 120 balls. She came close to sealing a hattrick of hundreds in the final outing, falling agonizingly on 90 in a stylish effort that ensured India recorded a comfortable victory to close out the series.

During the period, Mandhana recorded 343 runs at an average of 114.33, with a strike rate of over 100, earning her the 'Player of the Series' award.

"I'm really glad to have won the ICC 'Women's Player of the Month' for June. I'm really happy with the way the team have performed and I'm happy to have contributed. For us, we won the ODI and the Test series and hopefully we can continue our form and I can further contribute to win more matches for India,' Mandhana said.

BATTING REJIG ON Medvedev ousts Sinner **CARDS FOR INDIA** AGENCIES PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Harare, July 9: India will find it tough to choose between Yashasvi Jaiswal's seemingly effortless flamboyance and Abhishek Sharma's uber-cool aggression at the top when they rejig their combination to accommodate for World Cup-winning squad members in the third T20 International against Zimbabwe here Wednesday.

The arrival of Jaiswal, Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube gives the Indian team a formidable look in the most important game of the series as visitors look to press home the advantage after the booster shot of a series-levelling 100-run victory in the second match.

Abhishek did enough to live up to his pre-series hype with a 46-ball century in only his second game. However, Jaiswal, with a handsome strike rate of 161-plus in 17 T20I matches does have the first claim to be skipper Shubman Gill's opening partner by virtue of being the reserve opener of the first-choice T20 team.

London, July 9: Top-seeded Jannik Sinner was treated by a trainer and left the court during the third set, seemingly surged in the fourth and then faltered again in the fifth, eventually losing to Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (9-7), 4-6 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 3-6 in the Wimbledon quarterfinals here Tuesday. Medvedev will now play Carlos Alcaraz in the semifinals. The Spaniard defeated Tommy Paul of the US, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. After losing the first set, Alcaraz raised his game a couple of notches more to run away with the match.

It was not immediately clear what was wrong with Sinner, who had his heart



CARLOS ALCARAZ

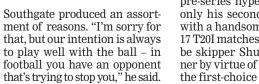
rate checked while sitting on the sideline before heading to the locker room. The 22-year-old from Italy returned after about 10 minutes and resumed playing, but lost the first game back at love

After getting broken by 2021 US Open champion Medvedev to fall behind 1-2 in the third, Sinner requested

medical attention and leaned back in his chair at Centre Court. He rested his head in a hand at one point while speaking with the trainer before they headed toward the locker room.

During a later changeover, Sinner draped a towel over his head. While he did regain his usual verve, particularly on his booming forehand, and pushed the match to a fifth set — the 36th this fortnight and the most at any Grand Slam tournament in the Open era, which dates to 1968 - Sinner could not get over the line.

Sinner was broken by Medvedev in the eight game of the fifth set after which the latter had no difficulty in closing out the match.



РНОТО Х

So, it could well be a case of one of the two



Dortmund, July 9: England manager Gareth Southgate has led his country to a third semifinal in four major tournaments but ahead of Wednesday's last-

England look to end goal drought



four showdown against the Netherlands at Euro 2024, critics of the Three Lions' boring football are mounting. Should England end a 58-year wait to win a major trophy in Berlin, Sunday, supporters would not take umbrage with the team's style, or lack thereof, but the inability of such an array of attacking stars to excite has stunned

viewers across the continent. Southgate's team produced just five shots on target in 240 minutes of action against Switzerland and Slovakia in the prior two rounds, needing penalties and extra-time respectively to progress. Told his team were 'not easy on the eye' by a German reporter, matches, these are national events with huge pressures, with really young men in the middle of it. Our team have been under enormous pressure from the start. They are doing so well," asserted the coach.

"These are not normal football

Southgate pointed to England's opponents using defensive formations and also blamed the grass in Germany for hampering his players. "We're not able to score a load of goals at the moment, but we've played three teams that play a back five, well-organised defences," Southgate stated.

"Pitches are a little bit bobbly, so sometimes you need the extra touch and then the space is gone," the coach added.

southpaws batting at one drop. Sanju Samson, who normally bats at No. 3 for Rajasthan Royals, might come in at No. 5, while Ruturaj Gaikwad, who batted at No. 3, will probably drop down a place to No. 4.

As far as the changes in the playing XI are concerned, Jaiswal will replace B Sai Sudharsan, Samson will come in place of Dhruv Jurel and Dube will replace Riyan Parag.

As far as Zimbabwe are concerned, their batting has left a lot to be desired with scores of 115 while batting first and 134 in the second essay chasing 235. On the Harare Sports Club track where there is a bit of extra bounce available for the spinners, Ravi Bishnoi (6/24 from 8 overs) and Washington Sundar (3/39 in 8 overs) have proved to be unplayable at times in the two games.

Anderson ready to walk into sunset

188 TESTS, 700 WICKETS, CRICKET'S MOST PROLIFIC FAST BOWLER READY FOR LAST HURRAH

AGENCIES

London, July 9: Cricket will never be the same again, July 14 onwards or even before that. The game is all set to lose one of its legends as fast bowler James Anderson takes the field Wednesday one last time at the Lord's Test between England and the West Indies. He will bow out as the most prolific fast bowler in Test history with 700 wickets or maybe more, a feat which has not been achieved by any other pacer.

Anderson has recently been quoted as saying by espncricinfo.com that he is 'at peace' with his impending retirement from Test cricket, despite admitting that he didn't have much say in the decision and feeling that he is 'still bowling as well as I ever have'. The Test against the West Indies will be his 188th, a feat no other fast bowler has achieved. His England career will come to end at the same ground where he took a five-wicket haul on Test debut 21 years ago, and



emotions during the week will

change, but right now that's what

I'm trying to focus on to stop my-

self crying. I'm just excited for

Anderson was asked if he could

have stayed fit enough to play in the

2025-26 Ashes, which formed part

the week," he added.

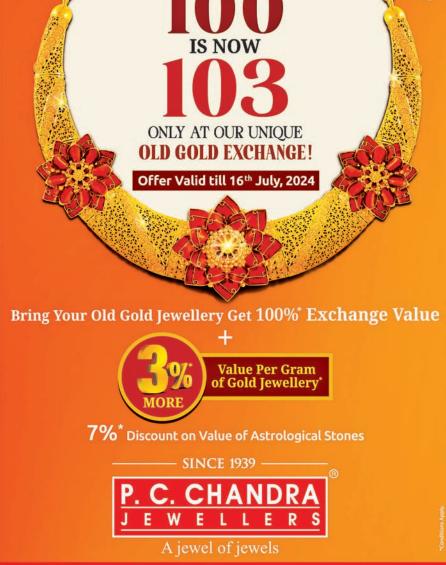
Anderson admitted that it would be an emotional few days.

"I'm trying not to think too much about the game itself yet, or certainly how I'd feel about it," he said. "I'm trying to be as focused as I can. The big thing for me is craving to play well, bowl well and get a win. That's what I'm try-

of England's decision-making. "It is impossible to say," Anderson stated. "It's always difficult to answer that sort of question. You never know what's going to happen. Throughout my whole career, I've never really focused on too far ahead. I've always tried to take it series by series and focus on little goals," the fast bowler informed.

Anderson did not hold any grudge when the management told him that the Lord's game would be his last. "I can completely understand the decision and the way the team and management want to go. As I've said, the last couple of months I've made peace with that and I'm excited to see what the future holds," he stated.

'Obviously I feel like I'm still bowling as well as I ever have. I knew it had to end at some point, whether it's now or a year or two years. The fact that it's now is just something that I've got to deal with and accept," Anderson said with a smile.



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