

#### Sustainable practice

Actor Sonam says she used to borrow clothes from designers which was common internationally but not in India

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 109 | www.orissapost.com

LEISURE | P2



#### Unrest rises

Thousands of students fight with armed police as the Bangladesh authorities race to quell anti-quota protests

INTERNATIONAL | P10



#### Stocks sizzle

Stock markets shine with Sensex breaching the 81,000mark for the first time and Nifty scaling the record 24,800 level



#### Surya named skipper

BCCI announces Suryakumar Yadav will lead the Indian T20 squad for a three-game series against

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

### **Needles found in girl's**

Kantabanji police Thursday arrested a sorcerer after a 19-year-old girl, on whom he had allegedly performed 'black magic' to cure her from some disease, was admitted

The sorcerer has been identified as Tejraj Rana while the victim is Reshma, daughter of Bishnu Behera of Sindhekela

The girl was admitted to Kantabanji hospital Wednesday after her family found a needle stuck to her head. She was later shifted to the Bhima Bhoi MCH Thursday after a bunch of needles was found inside her skull during scanning. Doctors who managed to take out eight needles, shifted her to VIMSAR after 10 more needles were found during further scanning. Investigations revealed almost four years ago, Rana and his wife, who live in Jamutjhala village, had performed some treatment on the girl to cure her from an unknown disease after doctors allegedly failed to cure her.

#### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



cart, or include everyone who

**MARKET WATCH** 

NIFTY

EURO

GOLD

WEATHER

**Max Temp** 

Min Temp

**Humidity** 

**FORECAST** 

Partly cloudy sky

with possibility of

moderate rain

**DOLLAR 83.65** 

SILVER **₹92,044** 

ANOTHER TRAIN MISHAP: Passengers and locals near the derailed coaches of the Dibrugarh Express after an

accident, in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh, Thursday. Two persons were killed and 34 injured after eight



BUSINESS | P11

Sri Lanka beginning July 27

**BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY JULY 19, 2024** 

#### head; sorcerer held POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, July 18:

coaches of the train derailed

**ROOPA ROSHAN SAHOO RELIEVED** 

Bhubaneswar: A day after appointing Cuttack Collector Arindam

government Thursday relieved senior IAS officer Roopa Roshan

Sahoo from her role as Special Secretary in the CMO. However,

the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the ST & SC Development,

a notification issued by the General Administration and Public

Chief Minister, Odisha with additional charge of Commissioner-

cum-Secretary, ST & SC Development, M & BCW department is

SC Development, M & BCW department," the notification said.

appointed as Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, ST &

Sahoo, a 2006-batch IAS officer, will continue to serve full-time as

Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department, according to

Grievance department, "Roopa Roshan Sahoo, Special Secretary to

FROM CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE

Dakua as Private Secretary to the Chief Minister, the state

to a hospital in a critical condition.

village in Bolangir district.



Should I put only my name on the contributed to growing these fruits?

SENSEX **81343.46 1** 626.91

24800.85

₹74,389

34.1°C

15.4mm

**VARIATION** 

187.85

**1** ₹0.04

**1** ₹0.36

**1** ₹252

**1** ₹102

CTC

32.6°(

25.5°(

7.4mm

83%

### **RAIDS ON MINES, STONE**

**QUARRIES IN JAJPUR DIST** 

Jajpur: The state mines department Thursday conducted extensive raids on mines and black stone quarries in the district following allegations by newly elected MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo of widespread irregularities during the previous BJD government. Led by joint director of mines Nirmalendu Narayan Singhdeo, the team included local MLA Sahoo, deputy director of mines TB Munda from Jajpur Road, mining officer Jay Prakash Navak, and local police. The raids were carried out in areas such as Lunibar, Chadheidhara, and Dankari, resulting in the seizure of an illegal poclain

# **SC** for centre, city-wise **NEET-UG results July 20**

Amid demands for scrapping the NEET-UG 2024 by a batch of pleas alleging large-scale irregularities in the conduct of the exam, the Supreme Court Thursday directed the NTA to submit by 12 noon July 20 the centre-wise and city-wise results of the May 5 test while masking identity of aspirants. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, however, observed that prima facie it appeared that the question paper leak was limited to Patna and Hazaribagh while nothing of this sort can be said to have happened in Godhra in Gujarat. The bench made it clear that any order to scrap the test and conducting it afresh has to be backed by concrete conclusion that the sanctity of the entire process had been affected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: The Supreme Court Thursday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to declare by 12 noon of July 20 the centre and city-wise results of NEET-UG 2024 while masking the identities of aspirants.

As it strove to address the allegations of malpractices in the conduct of the examination, a

#### **4 AIIMS PATNA** STUDENTS HELD

New Delhi: The CBI Thursday arrested four MBBS students of AIIMS Patna in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case, officials said. Three students of MBBS third year --Chandan Singh, Rahul Anant, and Kumar Shanu -- and one second year student -- Karan Jain -- were arrested after detailed questioning by a CBI team, they said. The students were taken away from their hostel rooms Wednesday in the presence of senior faculty members of AIIMS who were informed in advance that the students needed for the probe, the officials said.

bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said any order for conducting it afresh has to be on concrete conclusion that the sanctity of the entire process was affected. The top court will resume hearing the arguments July 22 on a batch of pleas seeking cancellation, re-test and a court-monitored probe into the allegations of large-scale malpractices in the prestigious test held May 5.

During the day-long hearing, the bench asked the counsel for the aspirants to establish their claim about extensive irregularities in

holding the examination, including leak of question paper, warranting cancellation and a re-test.

The court said it prima facie appeared that the question paper leak was limited to Patna and Hazaribagh, and nothing of this sort can be said to have happened in Godhra in Gujarat.

In Patna and Hazaribagh, the question papers allegedly got leaked, while in Godhra there were claims that a person involved in holding the test took money for filling up the OMR sheets of certain candidates.

Questioning the claims about leak of question paper on social media platform 'Telegram', the bench said, You have to bear in mind that the idea of somebody doing this was not to make a national charade. People did it for money. So, it was not to bring disrepute to the exam and somebody was doing it to make money which is evident. Mass leakage requires contacts also at that level so that you connect to all such key contacts in different cities.'

The bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwla and Manoj Misra, which commenced the crucial hearing on a batch of petitions related to the controversy-ridden medical entrance exam, said it has "social ramifications".

# Ratna Bhandar valuables shifted; list after repairs

AGENCIES

Puri, July 18: The process of shifting valuables from the inner chamber of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar in Puri was completed within seven hours Thursday, while the list of the valuables will be prepared after completion of repairs of the shrine vault by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), official sources said.

"All valuables from the inner chamber of Ratna Bhandar have been successfully relocated to a temporary strongroom on the temple premises. The entire shifting process, which involved seven containers including wooden and steel almirahs and chests, took seven hours," SJTA chief Arabinda Padhee said. Padhee said both the inner chamber

and the temporary strongroom have been locked and sealed as per the SOP guidelines.

Former Orissa High Court judge Justice Biswanath Rath, chairman of the committee to supervise Ratna Bhandar reopening, said all the valuables were carefully put in new containers and later shifted to the temporary strongroom. He added that the strongroom was sealed and keys were given to the Puri Collector.

About the treasures, Justice Rath said, "The details of what we saw inside the inner chamber remain confidential. Just

#### ASI to unravel tunnel mystery

As the mystery surrounding the existence of a tunnel inside the inner chamber of Ratna Bhandar continues, Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb suggested that the ASI could employ modern technology to investigate. "The ASI could utilise advanced tools like laser scanning to evaluate the condition of the chamber. A survey using such technology could provide insights into any existing structures, such as tunnels," Deb said. However, Justice Biswnath Rath said, "Based on our inspection, we didn't find any evidence of such features like a tunnel."

their own home, it would be inappropriate to divulge the Lord's treasures

Earlier in the day, an 11-member team, including Justice Rath, ceremoniously opened the inner Ratna Bhandar at 9.51am in the presence of Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb.

Deb said the outer chamber has been cleaned after shifting the valuables from there. The inner one requires repairs as it was being opened after 46 years.

"The temporary strongroom will be sealed and repairs of the Ratna Bhandar will be taken up by the ASI. The list of ornaments and other valuables will be prepared only after the completion of re-

#### Switzerland to use portable suicide pods AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE feel disorientated, uncoordinated and

Zurich, July 18: An assisted dying group expects a portable suicide pod to be used for the first time in Switzerland, potentially within months, providing death without medical supervision. The space-age-looking Sarco cap-

sule, first unveiled in 2019, replaces the oxygen inside it with nitrogen, causing death by hypoxia. It would cost \$20 to use. The Last Resort organisation said Wednesday it saw no legal obstacle to its use in Switzerland, where the law generally allows assisted suicide if the person commits the lethal act themselves. "Since we have people indeed queuing up, asking to use the Sarco, it's very likely that it will take place pretty soon," The Last Resort's chief executive Florian Willet told a press conference. "I cannot imagine a more beautiful way (to die), of breathing air without oxygen until falling into an eternal sleep," he added. The person wishing to die must first pass a psychiatric assessment of their mental capacity – a key legal requirement.



The person climbs into the purple capsule, closes the lid, and is asked automated questions such as who they are, where they are and if they know what happens when they press the button. "If you want to die', the voice says in the processor, 'Press this button'," said Sarco inventor Philip Nitschke, a leading global figure in right-to-die activism.

He explained that once the button is pressed, the amount of oxygen in the air plummets from 21 per cent to 0.05

low level of oxygen, they will start to

per cent in less than 30 seconds. "Within two breaths of air of that

slightly euphoric before losing consciousness." Nitschke said.

"They will then stay in that state of unconsciousness for... around about five minutes before death will take place," he added. The Sarco monitors the oxygen level in the capsule, the person's heart rate and the oxygen saturation of the blood. "We will be able to see quite quickly when that person has died," said Nitschke.

As for someone changing their mind at the very last minute, Nitschke said, "Once you press that button, there's no way of going back." No decision has been made over the date and location of the first death, or who the first user might be. Such details would not be made public until after the event.

'We really don't want a person's desire for a peaceful passing Switzerland to turn into a media circus," said lawyer Fiona Stewart, who is on The Last Resort's advisory board. She said it would be used 'in a very secluded location, in the beauty of nature', though it had to be on private property.





# eisure



#### **OZZY OSBOURNE FED UP WITH BRITNEY'S VIRAL DANCING VIDEOS**

Black metal legend Ozzy Osbourne has issued a brutal swipe at the viral dancing videos of pop icon Britney Spears. He recently spoke about Britney's popular dance videos during a recent episode of The Osbournes Podcast, reports *People* magazine.

#### KIM KARDASHIAN FEARS SHE'S **BECOMING A 'FULL ROBOT'**

Socialite Kim Kardashian worries she is 'turning into a full robot' after using 'calmness' as a 'superpower' in the wake of being robbed at gunpoint. The 43year-old beauty was robbed in 2016 and the trauma has left her 'frozen' in knowing that staying cool saved her from being seriously hurt.



#### FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.co™ accuracy • reliability • trust

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

Today, you will turn an attentive ear to your inner voice. As a result, you will able to execute all your plans with precision. Besides being cheerful, you will even take disappointments with a pinch of salt. Why just today, says Ganesha, you can have this rare quality for keeps.

#### **TAURUS**

You will win the heart of your family members today, forecasts Ganesha. Try and delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Job aspirants may look forward to belated success in interviews. Ganesha advises you to take abundant precautions in all critical matters.

#### GEMINI

Interactions with member of the opposite sex may yield positive and pleasurable results today. Public servants will get the much-needed encouragement and moral support from bosses and family members. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problem you set your mind to

#### CANCER

Today, you are likely to remain open-minded while dealing with others. However, it doesn't mean that you will always be soft on others. Later in the day your approach may be different and stub born. In the evening, you will enjoy the company of family and friends

Pack your bags, and don't the shades. Look at the stars today - Ganesha foresees for you a strong prospect of going on a tour. If not an individual backpacking adventure. then an elaborate family holiday, but travel you shall. With Lady Luck smiling upon you all day long, getting work done to the satisfaction of all is not an issue.

Today, find yourself rummaging through the vast recesses of your inner self. You will make fabulous money to spend on your loved ones. Face up to work pressures by indulging in corporeal pleasures. You may warrant the company of someone special to think out loud all that is inside you, says Ganesha

#### LIBRA

All things passionate seem to engulf you today. It is one of those moments when chance dictates every possibility of a new romantic love episode in your life. The last time a moment like this came by, Romeo met Juliet.

#### SCORPIO

You shall also work like a donkey and yet be smart as hell in what you do today. It is favourable if you engage in household activities - gardening, cooking, cleaning and the likes. Work pressure will be displaced by family pleasure, predicts Ganesha.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Amid chaos and confusion. don't forget the direction and destination, advises Ganesha. You may be running short of time today and may not find a single moment in peace. Taking a break at this point of time won't be a crime, go for it.

#### CAPRICORN

Money will flow in from various quarters today, but it will also find its way out of your pockets. Keep a tab on your income and more on your expenses, says Ganesha. Situation at work may get a little trying, but you will overcome all prob lems by means of your innate and acquired skills, and past experience.

#### **AQUARIUS**

Planning to buy a house or vehicle? Then today's the day to make the booking However, don't buy anything in haste. when it involves a huge sum of money.

**PISCES** Well begun is half done. With this in mind, you will set out to actively seek the cooperation of your colleagues and the sanction of vour seniors to tackle some important proi ects, says Ganesha. The evening should find you heading out to watch a movie or doing something creative, like painting.

# Sonam's sustainable practice

Mumbai: Actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor shared that while she bought a lot of clothes when she was younger, borrowing them from designers proved to be more practical and sustainable, something which was common internationally but

Talking about her love for fashion and clothes, she said: "I just wanted to wear what I liked from the designers I knew. It was just me being myself, influenced by the education I got from my mom and my passion for fashion.

'I considered fashion designers, both interna-

tional and Indian, as stars because I grew up

admiring them through my mom. This wasn't about projecting an image; it was about my genuine love for fash ion," she said. The actress added: "I realised people didn't often borrow clothes, so I started borrowing them. It didn't make sense to buy everything all the time. I did buy a lot, but borrowing was more practical and sustainable. This practice was common internationally but not in

India, so I just did what felt right at the time. I was a 20-year-old girl, just following my passion for fashion without any strategic intent." 'To represent India to the world is something I am very proud of. South Asians I've met abroad also love representing their culture and appreciate when people recognise and understand it. Whether it's

through museums, red carpets, or any platform, I take every opportunity to showcase the beauty and richness of Indian culture,' con cluded.



# Seerat defines fitness

Mumbai: Actress Seerat Kapoor has opened up about her fitness regime, emphasising that her body will function well only if she is mentally and physically fit.

Seerat shared: "When I am shooting for 12 hours, it is quite difficult to manage a proper workout, so I try to at least do my morning yoga. It helps me concentrate on my work

The actress added: "I know that only if I am physically fit and healthy can I do my work properly. That is my motivation and goal. In order to be efficient, I need to be mentally and physically fit.

However, Seerat focuses on a fit body rather than a toned one. "I have faced challenges in maintaining a healthy body and lifestyle during hectic schedules. I don't believe in having a chiselled body for show. My main focus is having a healthy and fit body that helps me do whatever I want," she said.

Secrat is currently seen as Mannat in the show Rabb Se Hai Dua, which stars Yesha Rughani as Ibaadat, Dheeraj Dhoopar as Subhaan, and

Raymon Kakar. Produced by Prateek Sharma's Studio LSD, the show airs on Zee TV.

# Richa, Ali welcome daughter

Mumbai: B-town couple Richa ilies are overjoyed, and we thank Chadha and Ali Fazal have anour well-wishers for their love nounced the arrival and blessings! Love, Richa of their first Chadha and Ali Fazal,' child, a daughthe couple shared in ter. In a joint their statement. In February, Richa statement. Richa and and Ali announced Ali conon social media that firmed that they were expecting they weltheir first child. Their comed Instagram announcehealthy baby ment read, "1+1=3," and girl, July 16. was captioned, "A tiny We are tickled heartbeat is the loudest sound pink with joy to announce in our world. the arrival of a healthy baby

girl on 16.07.24!

Richa and Ali first met on the sets of Fukrey in 2013 and decided to get married in 2020 during the pandemic.

### Influencer dies falling into gorge

Mumbai: A 27-year-old Mumbai influencer, Aanvi Kamdar, died after falling into a 300 ft gorge near the popular Kumbhe waterfall in Mangaon in Maharashtra's Raigad district. The incident occurred on Tuesday while Kamdar was on a monsoon outing with seven friends, the police said.

Kamdar, who stayed in Mumbai, was on a trip to the waterfall with seven friends July 16. The outing turned tragic around 10.30 am when she slipped into a deep crevice while recording a video.

Known as @theglocaljournal on Instagram, Kamdar had 2,57,000 followers and shared content on travel, luxury discoveries, cafés, itineraries, tips, and personal experi-

she was a chartered accountant and had previously worked at Deloitte. According to a police official

from Mangaon police station, Kamdar had gone to the scenic waterfall with her friends during the rainy season, as reported by PTI. In the report, he explained that while filming the surroundings, she fell into the gorge. He added that after her friends raised an alarm, the police and local rescuers reached the spot and took her to the nearby Mangaon Taluka Government Hospital She passed away during treatment there. Her final reel was

posted just two days ago where she shared suggestions for the upcoming long weekend August 15. Upon hearing the news, social media users flooded her last reel with condolences



### Janhvi hospitalised

Mumbai: Actress Janhvi Kapoor, who was recently seen in the sports drama Mr. & Mrs. Mahi, has been hospitalised.

The actress has been feeling unwell for the last few days. As per a media report, the actress had cancelled all her appointments for Wednesday in order to rest and recuperate. However, when her health deteriorated

Thursday, her family rushed her to the hospital. The media reports have stated that it's a case of severe food poisoning.

As Mumbai battling torrential rains, the city has witnessed a spike in infections and illhealth. The actress will be in the hospital for 1-2 days till her condition improves under the observation of doctors.



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

9

4

MILITIA

2

5

6

8

5

2

9

4

3 2

9

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5

1 3

SUDOKU

8

2

6

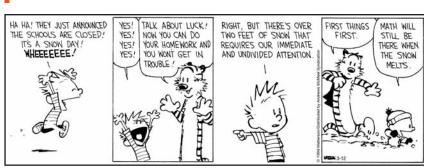
SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

#### PEANUTS



#### CALVIN AND HOBBES

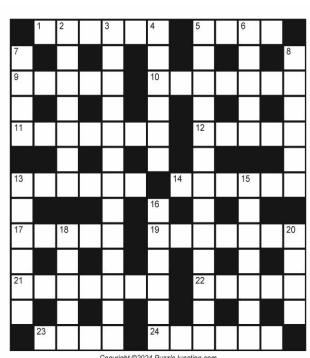


#### BREVITY



#### FUN POST

#### **CROSSWORD**



#### Copyright @2024 PuzzleJunction.com 19 Ben Hur's

transport

21 Freeze, in a way

dog of Australia

22 Wolflike wild

1 Halvah ingredient

Across

- 5 Dutch treat 9 Museum piece
- 10 Dangerous storm
- 11 Egyptian
- attraction
- 12 Bedlam

isle

13 Wiggle room

17 Bay of Naples

- 14 Coerced
- **Down**

23 Shock

24 Shackles

- 2 Blow up
- 3 Singer's support 18 Basil-based
- 4 Cape Verde

- - - sauce
    - 20 "Iliad" city

5 Reference book

6 Something in

7 Links hazard

13 Short-horned

15 Hairstyle

16 Sour to the

taste

grasshopper

the air

8 Razzed

SUDOKU

2 6 9 7 3 8 8 5 4 9 7 3 1 2 6 8 9 4 5 4 8 2 5 | 1 | 9 6 3

1 7 3 4 8 6 2 9 5

#### CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

#### **SEEKING ACTION**

BJD leaders stage a demonstration outside Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar Thursday demanding action against alleged assault on ASO Baikuntha Pradhan by Governor's son



### Double toll if FASTag not affixed on front windshield

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: In a bid to deter highway users from deliberately not fixing FASTag on the windscreen of the vehicle. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has issued guidelines to collect double user fee from such users entering the toll lane with non-affixed FASTag on the front windshield from the inside, an official release said Thursday.

NHAI said deliberate non-affixation of FASTag on the windscreen leads to unnecessary delays at the toll plazas causing inconvenience to fellow National Highway users.

"Detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) has been issued to all user fee collection agencies and concessionaires to charge double user fee in case of non-affixation of FASTag on the front windshield," it said.

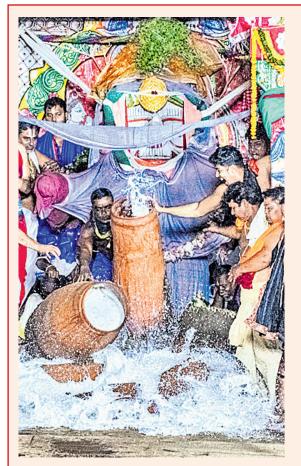
According to the statement, the information will also be prominently displayed at all toll plazas, informing highway users about the penalties for non-compliance of entering a toll lane without a fixed FASTag on front windshield.

In addition, the statement said CCTV footage with vehicle registration number (VRN) at the toll plaza shall be recorded of the non-affixed FASTag cases. This will help in maintaining proper record regarding the fee charged and presence of the vehicle in the

In accordance with already established rules, the statement said NHAI aims to enforce the standard procedural guidelines for affixation of FASTag on the front windshield of the assigned vehicle from inside.

The statement said any FASTag that is not affixed on the assigned vehicle as per standard process is not entitled to carry out Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) transaction at a user fee plaza and will have to pay double toll fee as well as can be duly blacklisted.

Issuer banks have also been directed to ensure fixation of the FASTag to the assigned vehicle on the front windshield at the time of issuance from various point-of-sale (POS), it added.



'Adhara Pana' offered to deities on chariots in Puri, Thursday





# Nod to 50 MBBS seats in Jajpur med college

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Newlyestablished Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hospital (MCH) in Jajpur district will commence MBBS course from this academic session following approval for 50 seats from the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) of the NMC.

"Happy to share that 50 MBBS seats have been approved by National Medical Commission (NMC), MARB, New Delhi for the academic year 2024-25 for the new government MCH at Jajpur," Health and Family Welfare department posted on X Thursday.

The Letter of Permission (LoP) has been issued by the NMC, making it the 12th government MCH in the state and the first to start operations this year.

Sitaram Mahapatro, dean and principal of the MCH, said that the institute was ready to welcome the inaugural batch of MBBS students



We initially applied for 100 MBBS seats, but the NMC has approved 50. We have requested the commission to consider increasing the seat allocation to 100 for this academic year

SITARAM MAHAPATRO I DEAN & PRINCIPAL OF JAJATI KESHARI MCH

ready recruited 120 faculty members, including professors, associate professors, assistant professors, senior residents, and tutors for the medical college and hospital. Additional nursing and support staff are also in place, he said.

Out of the 50 MBBS seats, seven will be filled through the The state government has al- All India Quota, while the re- hospital on the campus is near-

maining seats will be filled via the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE), accord-

ing to the dean. The medical college has begun functioning from its new campus, utilising the existing 420-bed district headquarters hospital (DHH) as a teaching facility. Construction of a new 500-bed

ing completion. We initially applied for 100 MBBS seats, but the NMC has approved 50. We have requested the commission to consider increasing the seat allocation to 100 for this academic year," Mahapatro added. The medical college and hospital has been constructed at a cost of ₹526.21 crore on a 46-acre campus.

■ The state government has already recruited 120 faculty members, including professors, associate

professors, assistant professors.

■ Out of the 50 MBBS seats, seven will

while the remaining seats will be

■ The medical college has begun

utilising the existing 420-bed

DHH as a teaching facility,

is nearing completion

while construction of a new

500-bed hospital on the campus

filled via the Odisha Joint Entrance

functioning from its new campus,

be filled through the All India Quota,

senior residents, and tutors for

Jajati Keshari MCH

Examination (OJEE)

# ₹288.61 CRORE FOR RLY FLYOVER IN SAMBALPU

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ₹288.61 crore towards the construction of a flyover in Sambalpur in a bid to enhance train operations and alleviate congestion in the region, official sources said, Thursday.

The flyover which will connect Sambalpur Station to Sambalpur City Station, covering a distance of 8.10 km, will enhance train operations and alleviate congestion at these critical junctions, East Coast Railway

(ECoR) sources said. "The flyover will help facilitate simultaneous train movements from all directions at Sambalpur, easing train traffic and ensuring hassle-free operations towards Titlagarh, Angul and Jharsuguda. It will also eliminate cross-traffic delays and operational inefficiencies, and boost the average speed and efficiency of trains in the region," added the mitment to sustainable and effi-



#### **Easing traffic**

Currently, cross-traffic from Jharsuguda, Titlagarh and Angul directions leads to delays and operational inefficiencies at Sambalpur Station and Sambalpur City Station

The flyover which will connect Sambalpur Station to Sambalpur City Station, covering a distance of 8.10 km, will enhance train operations and alleviate congestion at these critical junctions

The construction is part of the Energy Corridor of Indian Railways, showcasing a commitment to sustainable and efficient infrastructure development

ECoR sources.

"The construction is part of the Energy Corridor of Indian Railways, showcasing a comcient infrastructure development," they said.

With the construction of the flyover, the train traffic will no longer be detained at Sambalpur and Sambalpur City Stations and nearby stations, significantly reducing waiting periods for trains approaching this busy junction, ECoR sources said.

Currently, cross-traffic from Jharsuguda, Titlagarh and Angul directions leads to delays and operational inefficiencies at Sambalpur Station and Sambalpur City Station.

The project will facilitate smooth movement of passenger-carrying trains in Titlagarh, Jharsuguda, and Angul directions

The new flyover at Sambalpur is a crucial step towards reducing congestion and enhancing the efficiency of train operations, ultimately improving the travel experience for passengers and boosting the operational capabilities of Indian Railways in this region, ECoR sources said.

#### POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# 4 of Tamil Nadu theft gang held

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The Commissionerate Police Thursday claimed to have arrested four members of an interstate gang from Tamil Nadu that was involved in at least a dozen cases of theft here.

The police also seized four laptops, 25 mobile phones, iron balls, mud pellets and several incriminating materials from their possession.

Twin city police commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said the accused, identified as B Mohit, 48, Nanda Kumar, 47, S Dinesh, 47 and P Murthy, 42, used to break windscreens of cars with iron catapults before decamping with



valuables from these vehicles. Using the same trick, the gang members had made away with several articles and valuables from the car of Sarthak Sourav Mohapatra, an OAS officer, last week, said Panda, adding that they also target passengers in crowded Mo Buses.

Police found that the accused used to sell the booty at

Tiruchirappalli market at a premium. "The cops swung into action after a victim lodged a complaint at Saheed Nagar police station July 15 alleging his phone was snatched away by four bikeborne miscreants near Vani Vihar Mo Bus stand. July 27, the cops were tipped about some miscreants selling mobile phones at inflated rates near Science Park. Later, the cops rushed to the spot and rounded up the accused. They were arrested when they failed to produce valid documents of the mobile phones," said Panda

The men were booked under various Sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and produced in a local court.

#### **Plaint filed against** Naveen, 7 others

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The All Odisha Contractors' Association (AOCA) Thursday lodged a complaint against Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik and seven others at Mancheswar police station by leveling allegations of 'cheating' and 'crim-

inal conspiracy' against them. The six BJD leaders whose names have been mentioned in the FIR are: Niranjan Pujari, Prafulla Kumar Mallik, Pratap Jena, Sudam Marndi, Susanta Singh and Raghunandan Das. They have also named principal secretary of Works department

Vir Vikram Yadav in the FIR. The association alleged that although the then Naveen Patnaik government had committed to fulfil their 10-point charter of demands within a month during a demonstration they staged November 11, 2019, precious little was done. The association had urged the ruling BJD to handover public tenders to local construction companies. Besides, it had also requested the government to hike the wages of contractors and labourers. Later, Naveen had formed a committee and assured them of fulfilling their demands on the basis of which the association called off the stir November 27, 2019. However, nothing was done, said the outfit.

"Odisha has 55,000 registered contractors while 15,000 remain unregistered owing to loopholes in government procedures,' AOCA president Pravat Dash said, adding that the BJD government prioritised non-Odia contractors and awarded them multi-crore projects.



Bhubaneswar, Thursday

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Aahaar

scheme will continue in the state

as it serves common man's inter-

est, Housing and Urban

Development Minister Krushna

Chandra Mahapatra said Thursday.

visit to Aahaar centre at Capital

Hospital premises. On this oc-

casion, he bought a coupon and ate the meal alongside the people.

He engaged with diners, asking

them about the quality of food and

The minister laid emphasis

on providing quality food at

the centre and ordered the of-

ficials to ensure repair of a bro-

ken dishwashing machine at

their overall experience.

Mahapatra paid a surprise

# Singapore delegation meets CM, Deputy CMs



DELEGATES EXPRESS **WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN** COLLABORATION WITH **GOVERNMENT ACROSS MULTIPLE SECTORS** 

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday met with Republic of Singapore High Commissioner Simon Wong, and Consul General Cheong Ming Foong at Lok Seva Bhawan here and discussed fu-



ture investments prospects and job creation opportunities in the state. The delegates expressed their willingness to collaborate with the state government across multiple sectors

Earlier, Wong called on Deputy CMs Pravati Parida and Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. They discussed various ways to improve skills of women from the state for better job opportunities, as well as potential collaboration in tourism sectors.

We seek a long-term partnership with Singapore which prioritises the mutual interests of both the countries," Deo said.

Deo proposed Singapore government to invest in Buddhist monasteries and beaches in the

In the meeting, Wong said, "Odisha is an investment-friendly state. We are planning to invest in various sectors here. We have already invested 15 billion US dollars in Odisha.'

Wong informed that they are interested in promoting investment in tourism sectors and ports, and sought the cooperation of the state government in this direction. He appealed to the deputy CMs to accept Singapore as a partner country for investment in the coming days and invited the minister to visit Singapore.

With the launch of direct flights connecting Bhubaneswar to Singapore, the state government is hopeful of increase in number of foreign tourist arrivals in the state by 2025, an of-

### Rasagola anthem launched in City

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Every year Rasagola Dibasa is celebrated on the day of Niladri Bije. This year, author Subhransu Panda has created a Rasagola anthem which was launched at Soochana Bhawan here,

The anthem depicts the

"The song is a fusion of mediaeval-era traditional Odia music and modern composition. Three parts of this anthem follow the pattern of three traditional songs composed by Upendra Bhanja,

Odia Language Literature and Culture Minister Survabanshi Suraj and acclaimed Odissi vocalist Shvamamani Devi attended the event. On the occasion, Saswat Joshi and his students



DELIBERATION: Utkal University VC Sabita Acharya, department of English head Tanutrushna Panigrahi and Prof Asima Ranjan Parhi during an

international conference on 'Translating Literatures of the Global South: Challenges, Questions and Debates' by university's department of English in

Aahaar will continue in state: Mahapatra

the earliest.

He also instructed officials to maintain cleanliness and ensure the proper placement of dustbins at the centre.

Highlighting the state gov-

ernment's commitment to providing nutritious food in a clean and healthy environment, Mahapatra stressed the importance of serving the poor

Department of English Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

**International Conference** 

on anslating Literatures of the Global South: Shallenges, Quantities and Cates

He advised involving self-supporting mothers in the service to improve the quality further, considering the rising costs. The minister pointed out that the government subsidises the meals, with the state paying ₹23 and people paying ₹5.

He mentioned that a review of the scheme's name might take place in the future.

Launched on April 1, 2015 on the day of Utkal Dibasa, the affordable cooked food scheme currently operates 168 centres in 115 urban areas of the state. All centres and kitchens are ISO-certified and GEO-linked, with 61 centres offering night meals. The scheme supplies one lakh meals daily.

Heavy rain likely

during next 4 days

### JMG Group's Sandeep Agarwal passes away

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Sandeep Agarwal, the elder brother of Pradeep Agarwal of the JMG Group, passed away at the Amarnath Shrine July 17 at the age of 54, informed the company sources Thursday.

He is survived by wife, one son and one daughter.

Born June 8, 1970 in Cuttack, Sandeep completed his engineering in industrial production from the Manipal Institute of Technology and Science.

He belonged to the renowned Joharimall Gajanand family of Cuttack, which sponsors the Joharimal Public Charitable Trust. The trust supports Emerti Devi Women's College, Emerti Devi Girls High School, and Joharimall High School.

As a trustee and joint secretary of Joharimall Public Charitable Trust and Joharimall High School, Sandeep made significant contributions in the school's infrastructure and education.

He served as the secretary of Marwari Yuva Munch and was recognised as the Best Secretary in all of India. His deep involvement with Sri Sri University led to his appointment as an



Sandeep belonged to the renowned Joharimall Gajanand family of **Cuttack**, which sponsors the Joharimall Public **Charitable Trust** 

apex body member of Odisha. Sandeep was also the promoter of the Megha Apartment complex under the name JMG Sky Park. He was actively associated with many cultural and social organisations and was known for his amiable nature.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagannath culture, temple tradition entangled with the sweet dish, and the divine discord between Jagannath and Laxmi. Panda conceptualised and wrote the anthem, while Abhijeet Mishra composed and sang it.

On the occasion, Panda said, Salabega, and Banamali Dasa.

performed the song live on stage.

Previously, the author-musician duo had made anthems on Chhenapoda and Odia Language, which made sensations on social media.

# Min holds session with entrepreneurs



Bhubaneswar, July 18: Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain attended an interactive session with young entrepreneurs from Coimbatore and Bhubaneswar at IDCO auditorium here, Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Swain nation for entrepreneurs from Coimbatore for setting up expansion units, specifically in the textiles and apparel sector and the en-

gineering goods sectors. Industrial Policy Resolution 2022 and Odisha Apparel and

"Apart from offering best-inclass policy incentives under Technical Textile Policy 2022,

tages in terms of availability of skilled manpower, large markets for the products, and worldclass infrastructure," he added.

the state offers strategic advan-

Highlighting the 'Skilled in Odisha' programme, the minister said, "With top-tier engineering colleges, an efficient ITI ecosystem, and the new World Skill Center, developed in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the Institute of Technical Education and Educational Services, Singapore, the state is emerging as the Skill Hub of the East.'

The meeting provided a platform for delegates to explore the benefits of expanding operations to the state and leveraging the state's robust infra-

structure and skilled workforce. Senior officials from the department were also present in the

#### Bhubaneswar, July 18: Heavy rains are likely in the state over the next four days with a low-pressure area forming over the Bay of Bengal (BoB) Thursday, the weather office said.

The low-pressure area formed over the central and adjoining north BoB, and it is likely to become more marked over the next two days and move northwestwards towards the Odisha coast, Regional Met Centre director Manorama Mohanty told PTI. "Under its impact, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely in many places across the state over the

next four days," she said. The weather office issued alerts for several districts, including Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi.

Fisherfolks were advised not to venture into the deep sea from July 19 to 22.

Since June 1, the state recorded a cumulative rainfall of 288.3 mm against the normal of 394.1 mm. While 13 districts of the state received normal rainfall, 17 districts remained rain deficient, accord-

In view of the forecast, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu asked district collectors to remain prepared for any eventuality

ing to the weather office.

He asked the engineers concerned to keep a close watch on the embankments, especially the vulnerable ones, of rivers and canals.

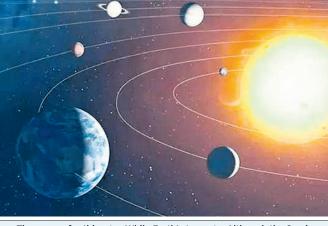
"Flood fighting materials should be kept ready at strategic places and immediate action may be taken to prevent any breach or to close the breach, damage of roads, if any," advised the SRC.

### Earth not technically revolving around the Sun Jupiter and Saturn can occa-

ur early conceptions of planets orbiting perfectly around the Sun might need to be slightly revised. While the Sun is unquestionably dominant in our solar system, a fresh look at planetary motion highlights an interesting detail: Earth isn't actually orbiting the Sun. The reason for this update is

the barycentre, the centre of mass in an orbiting body system. Imagine a cosmic playground where the Sun and Earth serve as the fulcrum around which both objects bal ance and rotate. This point, known as the barycentre, is not fixed within the Sun. Although the Sun is the heavy

weight champion of our solar system, it doesn't always claim the barycentre as its throne. The immense mass of the Sun pulls Earth into its orbit, but accord-



The reason for this update is the barvcentre, the centre of mass in an orbiting body system. which is not fixed within the Sun

While Earth's tug is negligible compared to the Sun's grip, it's enough to nudge the barvcentre

slightly

Although the Sun is the heavyweight champion of our solar system, it doesn't always claim the barvcentre as its

**Planets orbit the Sun in** general terms, but technically they don't orbit the Sun alone because

the gravitational influence of Jupiter means planets must orbit a new point in space

JAMES O'DONOGHUE I PLANETARY ASTRONOMER

ing to Newton's law of universal gravitation, this attraction is a two-way street. Earth, in its own small way, exerts a gravitational pull on the Sun too.

While Earth's tug is negligible compared to the Sun's grip, it's enough to nudge the barycentre slightly. This point typically resides very close to the Sun's centre but not always. The influence of giant planets like Jupiter and Saturn can occasionally pull the barycentre outside the Sun's

NASA explains, "Kepler's third law describes the relationship between the masses of two objects mutually revolving around each other and the determination of orbital parameters.

NASA further elaborates, "Consider a small star in orbit about a more massive one. Both stars actually revolve about a common centre of mass, which is called the barycentre. This is true no matter what the size or mass of each of the objects involved. Measuring a star's motion about its barycentre with a massive planet is one method that has been used to discover planetary systems associated with distant stars.

Due to the Sun's immense mass, the barycentre usually lies very close to, but not necessarily within, the Sun's centre. The influence of giant planets like

sionally pull the barycentre outside the Sun. Therefore, Earth's orbit is more accurately described as a path around this shared centre of mass, rather than strictly around the Sun itself. "Planets orbit the Sun in gen-

eral terms," planetary as-

tronomer James O'Donoghue explains on X, "but technically they don't orbit the Sun alone because the gravitational influence of Jupiter means planets must orbit a new point in space.' "The planets do orbit the Sun

of course, we are just being pedantic about the situation, he added. "The natural thinking is that we orbit the Sun's centre, but that very rarely happens, it's very rare for the solar system's centre of mass to align with the Sun's centre.

#### FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488,

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

# **OrissaPOST**

# BeMC struggles to contain mosquito menace in Silk City

**A SINGLE TIFA FOGGING MACHINE AT** ITS DISPOSAL WHICH IS IN **RUNDOWN** CONDITION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 18: With vector borne diseases like malaria and dengue spreading fear in Silk City following the onset of monsoon, various measures adopted by the civic body to contain the spread of these diseases here have been mostly unsuccessful.

The city is witnessing a spurt in dengue cases while incidents of malaria and filariasis are close behind. The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) is taking a series of steps including awareness measures to contain the mosquito menace in the city but has got little success. Meanwhile, the BeMC has decided to control the mosquito population through fogging of the wards with the help of TIFA fogging machine.

The sanitation department of the civic body has decided to complete the fogging of at least two wards on a daily basis so that it can cover all 42 wards by this month end. BeMC expects that this measure will help contain the mosquito menace to a

BeMC had adopted similar measures last year. However, the fogging machine failed to take rounds of all the 42 wards. This



frustrated the plans of the civic body in containing the mosquito population. The main reason behind this failure was the lack of adequate number of fogging machines with the civic body. Reports said that the BeMC has a single TIFA fogging machine which is in rundown condition.

The machine is fitted to a tractor and fogging is done in the wards by mixing mosquito oil with diesel which helps in controlling the mosquito population to a considerable extent.

As per rules, fogging has to be done before the start and after the end of monsoon season. However, BeMC authorities are not abiding by the rules.

Two years back, the sanitation department of BeMC had purchased 40 hand fogging machines for the 40 wards in the city and the sub-inspectors and zamadars of each ward were given the charge. Fogging of the drains

under the direct supervision of these two officials.

However, fogging was stopped completely after the machines developed technical snags. BeMC authorities also did not take any steps to repair the machines and funds worth several lakhs spent in purchasing the machines went down the drain.

Now, with a single machine at its disposal, the BeMC authorities have failed to contain the mosquito population

Notably, the civic body had 27 wards in past but the numbers rose to 37 wards during 2008 municipality elections. Later in 2013, the number increased to 40. The Berhampur Municipality was upgraded to a Municipal Corporation and the number of wards increased to 42 in the 2022 urban local body elections.

However, the BeMC authorities have failed to deliver a clean environment. The civic body is spending crores for improvement of sanitation in the city but has failed to purchase additional fogging machines to contain the mosquito menace.

Furthermore, the concerned fogging machine was in use during the period of Berhampur Municipality in 1990. Instead of buying a new machine, BeMC is still using the same old and ramshackle fogging machine.

When contacted, BeMC Deputy Commissioner Ashirbad Parida said a decision has been taken to purchase six hand fogging machines and one TIFA fogging machine once the proposal gets a nod at the council meeting of



GEARING UP: A farmer readying a power tiller to plough his farmland for paddy cultivation on Chaunrpur road in Sambalpur, Thursday

# Raids on mines, stone quarries in Jajpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, July 18: The state Mines department Thursday conducted extensive raids on mines and black stone quarries in Jajpur district, following allegations by newly elected MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo of widespread irregularities during the previous BJD government.

Led by Joint Director of Mines Nirmalendu Narayan Singhdeo, the team included local MLA

Sahoo, Deputy Director of Mines TB Munda from Jajpur Road, mining officer Jay Prakash Navak, and local police.

The raids were carried out in areas such as Lunibar. Chadheidhara, and Dankari, resulting in the seizure of an illegal poclain excavator and the sealing of a stone crusher.

Sahoo had previously petitioned the Director of Minor Minerals, Jajpur Collector, and revenue department, alleging rampant illegal mining in Dharmasala under the previous administration. He demanded a thorough investigation and emphasised the need for stringent action against those responsible.

Speaking to reporters, Sahoo claimed that rampant illegal mining activities were going on in Rahadpur, Bichhakhandi, Anjira, Bajabati, Kusunpur, Chadheidhara, Lunibar, and Dankari, asserting that many quarry operators had exceeded their permitted extraction limits for significant profit.

Singhdeo said, "We are here to investigate based on the MLA's complaint. The Directorate of Minor Minerals has formed a team to conduct a preliminary inquiry. Further investigations will determine if excessive mining occurred and whether regulations were breached. Surveys and additional measures

#### 2 arrested for poaching porcupine, selling meat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 18: Forest personnel have arrested two persons and forwarded them to court in connection with poaching, and trade of Indian porcupine meat in Pithabata range under south division of Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district, sources said Thursday

The accused persons have been identified as Chamtu Hembram, 40, and Baidhar Soren, 54, from Alubani village under Kuliana police limits of the district. Chamtu reportedly poached a porcupine and sold its meat to Baidhar who is the headmaster (in charge) of Haldibani UP School under Samakhunta tehsil limits.

The accused were forwarded to the court for jail custody for violating the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, by illegally hunting an Indian porcupine, which is a Schedule-1 species.

The officials recovered one country-made gun, one bow, three arrows, one paniki (cutting instrument), 1.15 kg porcupine meat and 88 quills of Indian porcupine from them.

### RSP sewage water treatment plant to be ready in a couple of months

Plant authorities adopt MBBR technology for the state-of-the-art facility which will not only treat sewage water, but also make it reusable

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, July 18: The ambitious sewage water treatment plant built by Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) is likely to be completed in the next couple of months.

The treatment plant, built using moving bed biofilm reactor (MBBR) based technology, has a capacity to clean 30 million it reusable. This plant is being constructed at a cost of ₹97 crores.

The captive township of RSP produces over 20 million litres of sewage water from its residential households and slums on a daily basis. A massive and well-planned network of drains carries the sewage water to a mother drain.

The RSP has dug three big ponds in Sector-14 where the sewage water is stored and treated before it is released into a river. However, during rainy



season, spillage and overflow three ponds become a major issue. It was precisely on account of this reason, the RSP management decided to go for a permanent solution by constructing a state-of-the-art treatment plant which could make the sewage water reusable.

For the purpose, plant authorities decided to adopt MBBRbased technology in the construction of the ultra-modern plant though that meant spending a few more crores of rupees.

A committee was formed af-

It is worth mentioning here that the captive township of RSP which was set up in 1958 has over 80,000 residents

could treat over 30 million litres

of sewage and recycle it for use

every day. Following the report,

work on the project near

Tumkela began last year.

Sources in the RSP informed

that once the plant becomes

functional, the treated sewage

water would no more be re-

leased into the river as it will be

# Man held with 35kg silver, ₹6.5 lakh cash

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 18: Railways Protection Force (RPF) personnel have arrested one person while he was moving in suspicious condition at Rourkela railway station.

Sources in the Government Railway Police (GRP) said one person was arrested from Platform No 4 as he was found to be moving suspiciously. "He was wearing a jacket in such hot and humid conditions,' said a GRP official in the know of

After a search, the GRP personnel found 35 kg silver and ₹6.5 lakh cash kept hidden inside the jacket very

According to a source, the arrested man is from Agra in Uttar Pradesh. The recovery of such a huge amount of cash and silver indicates that illegal smuggling is rampant through Rourkela railway

"Earlier, we had intelligence input that gold and silver were being brought to Rourkela from Mumbai, Kolkata and UP. Now it has become clear," said the source.

Meanwhile, interrogation is going on and the GST and IT departments are involved in it.

#### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.B-92 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO.I, BERHAMPUR Phone/Fax:(0680) 2233683, e-mail:eernb1\_bam@yahoo.com

"e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.EE R&B Divn.No.I,Bam 01/2024-25 Lr.No.6841, dtd.16.07.2024

Name of Work: Building Works. No. of Works: 04 (Four) Nos. Estimated Cost: Approximately Rs.9.70 to Rs.24.64 Lakh. Period of Completion Two & Four Calendar Months. Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal: From 10.00 hours of 25.07.2024 to 16.00 hours of 05.08.2024. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: Upto 16.00 hours of 05.08.2024. Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid Executive Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division, No.I, Berhampur. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https:

Bid Cost

Sd./- Executive Engineer Ganjam (R&B) Division No.I, Berhampur

#### OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI Email: ori-baliapal@nic.in INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No.PSBPL-01 of 2024-25 Invitation for Bids 1. The BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BALIAPAL.

BALASORE, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building work as detailed below Nature of Work
 No. of Work Civil Works 03 Nos.

Class of Contractor Availability of Bid doc-"C" & "D" License From 10.00 AM of uments in the website 22.07.2024 to 5.00 P.M. of | 05.08.2024. | Date of Opening of Bid |: Dt.08.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M. 8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website

https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the

Sd./- Block Development Officer, OIPR-19141/11/0001/2425 Baliapal, Balasore

Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd

the Multi Storied Residentia Project over a Plot Area of 9549.43 Sq. Mt. located at Mouza Raghunathpur Bhubaneswar, District Khordha been accorded Environmental Clearance from Environment Assessment Authority (SEIAA)
Odisha vide EC Identification EC23C3801OR5934218N dated 11.07.2024. The Copy of the Environmental Clearance Letter is available with the SPCB, Odisha & may also be seen or the website of SEIAA. Odisha. **Uditi Dwellings Private Limited** 

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 19-KUR-TRD-OT-2024-25

NAMEOFWORK EXECUTION OF OHE
MODIFICATION WORK IN
CONNECTION WITH GRID
SEPARATION WORK AT PARADEP
(PRDP) FOR SIMULTANEOUS
RECEPTION OF UP TRAINS BOTH
FROM CUTTACK AND HARIDASPUR
DIRECTION TO ADB GRID AND
DISPATCH OF DN TRAINS FROM ADB
GRID WITH SOME LEFT OVER OHE
MODIFICATION WORKIN PPT YARD.

Advertised Value : ₹2,99,87,119.01, Advertised Value : ₹2,99,87,119.01, EMD : ₹2,99,900/-, Period of Completion:180 Days.

Bidding Start Date: 19.07.2024 Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1300 Hrs. of 02.08.2024. Manual offers are not allowed against this ender, and any such manual

0192SB

received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-Tende documents and corrigendum is available n website www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-318/P/24-25

VISTAAR Registered Office: Plot No 59 & 60-23,22nd Cross, 29th Main BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560076. www.vistaarfinance.com **DEMAND NOTICE** NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 NOTICE is hereby given by Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd (VFSPL), that the following borrowers who have availed loan against property from Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd and failed to pay Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) of their loan to and that their loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. The Borrowers have provided security of the immovable property wards the loan, the details of which are described herein below. The details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrowers to Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd as on date are also indicated here below. The borrowers as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrowers under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and nforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrowers ils to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice along with further interest and other charges if any, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property and sell the same. The public in general is advised not to deal with property described here below.

unt	Name of the Borrowers and Co-Borrowers	Total Loan Outstanding (in INR)	Total Loa Outstandin As On
BM !	1. Mr/Mrs NIRANJAN PATRA 2. Mr/Mrs ANJALI PATRA	Rs. 24,93,517.61/-	03-07-202
ption c	of the Secured Asset: All the piece a	and parcel of the immov	eable prop

bearing an extent Ac.0.070Dec (3049.2Sft) Khata No.182, Plot No. 535, MOUZA-DURGAPUR, PS-Nimpada, Tahasil-Nimpada, Dist -Puri, Odisha-752 114,The total Area( Extent) of the Site/Land: Ac0.070 dcml. Bounded by: Towards East: Road, Towards South: Uma Swain, Towards West: Pond, Towards North: Bhikari Patra.

Date: 19-07-2024 For Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd.

# Mango pulp makers suffer due to lack of support

Thousands of tribal families eke out their livelihood from this business every year. However, due to lack of promotion and proper market facilities, they are unable to sell the product at right price

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 18: After mangoes, distress sale of mango pulp, locally known as 'Amba Sadha', has left tribals in Keonjhar district worried. The situation has arisen due to absence of proper market facilities and support.

Mango pulp is the concentrated mango juice obtained after processing various local varieties of mangoes. The processed mango pulp has enhanced shelf life and significant export potential. It can further be used to produce various other products such as mango jelly.

Mango pulp prepared by tribals of Keonjhar district is in high demand not only in the state, but also outside. According to sources,



of promotion and proper market facilities, they are unable to sell the

product at right price. The number of mango trees in forest and village areas of Keonjhar district has been declining due to massive deforestation. On the other hand, introduction of hybrid varieties of mango trees has severely affected the mango pulp production in the district as it is mostly prepared from local vari-

eties of mangoes. During the summer season, tribal

families collect ripe mangoes from the forest and rural orchards. After extracting the juice, they spread it properly over a mat and leave it under the direct sun to dry. Layer after layers of mango juice is poured over it and dried gradually. It takes about a fortnight to prepare mango pulp. Then they cut the whole piece into a proper size for

sale in the local market. Many a time unseasonal rains severely affect the mango pulp production. "A piece of mango pulp of about 5-6 feet length and one foot width costs about ₹100-120. But we have to sell it to traders at low prices, as there is no proper market facility," said Sunita Naik, a tribal woman

Every year several quintals of mango pulp is exported from this district to other districts and outside state. "If the government promotes this business in Keonjhar and gives it the much needed support, it will be a big help for thousands of tribal families and prove to be an alternative source of earning for them. Its demand will rise further if it is sold after being properly processed through engaging different women groups," said Pranav Raoutray, a social activist.



When we have passed beyond mowings, then we shall have

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



Renzo R. Guinto

temperatures rising

at an alarming rate,

we have no choice

but to adapt to a

warmer world

With global

# Panic & Neglect

eople across Asia have eagerly awaited the end of heat-wave season, which now appears to be drawing to a close. In my home country, the Philippines, the first typhoon of the year arrived in late May, lowering temperatures that had climbed to nearly 50° Celsius (122° Fahrenheit). Over the previous few months, the record-breaking heat led to school closures, a spike in emergency-room visits, reduced productivity, and a return to remote work

While the public-health effects and economic impact of extreme heat waves can be difficult to measure, the speed at which they are forgotten is alarming. This mirrors the cycle of panic and neglect that often follows pandemics: societies forget the lessons of past health crises and are caught unprepared when the next one arrives.

Just as we must improve pandemic preparedness, we must mitigate the health risks posed by life-threatening temperatures. As climate change accelerates, heat waves are expected to become increasingly frequent and intense, especially in Asia. To survive this "new normal," we cannot rely on inadequate public-health guidelines like drinking more water and staying in air-conditioned spaces, as if the vast majority of the world's population has access to air conditioning or even clean water. Nor is

it acceptable to suggest that women should cope with extreme heat by not wearing underwear, as a former Philippine health minister recently suggested.

Instead, governments must adopt a more proactive approach and accelerate efforts to build heat resilience. By the time the next historic heat wave hits, all countries should have a national plan to address it, along with adaptation measures for local communities. In fact, every aspect of policymaking should be viewed through the lens of resilience. Beyond the health sector, the top priorities should be housing, transportation, and water - which are all targets under the Sustainable Development Goals.

Housing should come first. Many of Asia's most vulnerable people live in poorly ventilated public housing or densely populated slums. Globally, an estimated 1.6 billion people suffer from inadequate living conditions. Given that such surveys do not usually account for ventilation, this could well be an underestimate.

There are more viable options for adaptation than advising poor people to live in

air-conditioned buildings. In addition to being costly, air conditioners consume vast amounts of electricity, with researchers estimating that they are responsible for 3.9 per cent of global greenhouse-gas emissions. Instead of burning more fossil fuels to meet this increased energy demand, policymakers must re-imagine urban development to protect both the planet and public health. For example, some countries in Asia, including Indonesia and Singapore, have begun using low-cost "cool roof" paint to lower indoor temperatures without air conditioners.

Transportation is another heat-sensitive sector. Whether riding in overcrowded buses or waiting for extended periods on sweltering train platforms, commuters in low- and middle-income countries are often exposed to extreme temperatures. Investing in sustainable transportation systems that also provide comfort during heat waves is crucial to achieving vital climate and public-health goals.

To build heat resilience, governments must also address the global water crisis. Although hydration is crucial for protection against extreme heat, nearly one-third of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water. Single-use plastic water bottles are not the answer; like air conditioning, they are costly, carbon-intensive, and polluting

Heat-preparedness programmes must focus on highly vulnerable groups, such as farmers and fisherfolk, construction and factory workers, the elderly, and people with comorbidities. This effort must also be extended to prisoners, detained migrants, and psychiatric patients, all of whom are often confined to extremely hot, cramped spaces.

Like storm and pandemic-response protocols, heat preparedness must be embedded in health policies. To this end, Asian countries' disease-surveillance systems should be updated to account for heat-related illnesses before the region endures another historic heat wave. Maintaining adequate supplies of medical equipment, from basic items like intravenous fluids to cooling vests, is also crucial.

Moreover, the potential effects of extreme heat must be integrated into the education and training of emergency doctors, community-health workers, and primary-care providers, who are often the first point of contact for underprivileged patients. Regrettably, the clinical management of heat-related illnesses like heatstroke was mentioned only

in passing when I was a medical student. Lastly, researchers must focus not only on the epidemiology of heat, but also the effectiveness of our policies and interventions. The National University of Singapore, for example, launched a research center dedicated to heat resilience in 2023; my institute will complement this with a new initiative on planetary health that will help health systems and communities across Asia build climate resilience.

With global temperatures rising at an alarming rate, we have no choice but to adapt to a warmer world. At the same time, accelerating decarbonisation could enable us to reduce the frequency and intensity of extreme heat waves. By pressuring governments and corporations to stop burning fossil fuels, we can build true heat resilience and improve

The writer is Associate Professor of Global and Planetary Health at the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore.

#### WISDOM CORNER

Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established. that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it

The first principle is that you must not fool yourself and you are the easiest person to fool

Selfishness must always be forgiven you know, because there is no

#### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1848:** US women's suffrage movement begins. On this day in 1848, the women's suffrage movement in the United States was launched with the opening of the Seneca Falls Convention, which sought to gain certain rights and privileges for women, notably the right to vote.
- **1870:** The French emperor Napoleon III declared war on Prussia, beginning the Franco-German War.
- **1903:** French bicyclist Maurice Garin won the first Tour de France, which covered 2,428 km (1,508 miles).
- 1947: Aung San, Burmese nationalist leader and prime minister, was assassinated in Rangoon (Yangon, Myanmar).
- 1980: The Summer Olympics opened in Moscow, though some 60 countries refused to attend because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979; it was the largest boycott in the history of the Olympic movement.

FOCUS SOCIETY

# **TAGORE'S INDIA**



Anwesh Satpathy

**TAGORE'S LOVE FOR THE PARTICULAR DOES NOT PERMIT THE STATE TO HARM CIVILIANS** 

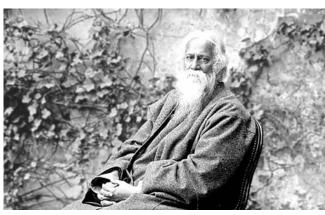
abindranath Tagore's influence on the literary world cannot be overstated. Born and raised in the confluence of Hindu, Muslim and British culture, Tagore went on to found a university and serve as a crucial intellectual influence during the nationalist struggle. Tagore cannot be reduced to a mere literary figure. He was a polymath, a poet, a novelist and a philosopher who astutely wrote and lectured around the world on contemporary political events, nationalism, religion, art, culture, literature and much more. Both India and Bangladesh's national anthems are penned by him. Yet, Tagore can hardly be called a nationalist in the conventional sense. His critique of modern nationalism was unsparing. His critique of nationalism is crucial to make sense of the ideological underpinnings of India's international relation policies, particularly concerning minimal deterrence. This is not to say that Tagore directly or consciously intended to influence post-Independent India's foreign policies. However, he articulated a coherent and rooted argument that helps us make

sational entities. For Tagore, India is characterised by its constant ability of social adjustment. He discards the "colourless vagueness of cosmopolitanism" as well as the "self-idolatry of nation worship." This is not to say that Indian society doesn't have any problem. Tagore criticises the rigidity of the Indian caste system. Nevertheless. India's true tradition is still rooted in "the realization of the unity of man.' The history of India is not the history of its nation but its people. India had previously dealt with kings and invaders but it never treated them as a nation but as members of the human

sense of India's historical tra-

jectory concerning its reaction

to other territorial and civili-



Indian history, Tagore asserts, is not a history of any particular race. It is the history of Greeks and Persians as much as it is the history of Arvans. All of these races have contributed to building the destiny of India

race. India's confrontation with a nation started only with the arrival of the Empire. A nation is an "organization of politics and commerce." It is a machine which reduced the individual human being to a phantom. The opposition of the human heart is not enough to disturb the apparatus of the automaton. Indian history, Tagore asserts, is not a history of any particular race. It is the history of Greeks and Persians as much as it is the history of Aryans. All of these races have contributed to building the destiny of India. Indian history is not very different than the history of man in general. While Tagore praises the British people, he critiques the British nation for its impersonality, lack of touch with humanity and monotony. Inherent in Tagore's critique is the dislike for "organized power for defence and aggression." Such an imagination of the Indian collective clearly does not allow any grounds or reasoning for of-

This is evident in Tagore's reconfiguration of love in his novel "Gora" as well. The novel centres on questions of belonging and love in the particular. Abstract love is characterised by its striving towards the ideal while love in the particular is shaped by encounters, often deeply personal. A politics based on the particular love may appear as impractical. Nevertheless, it is this love that characterises the intimacy of the imagined community. In the novel. Gora is transformed from adhering to a hierarchical and abstract conception of belonging based on religious-membership to the universal. Such a transformation, explicitly political, is bought out by encounters that are intensely personal. Tagore's attempt at promoting this universal, particular love can be glimpsed through efforts at fostering crosscultural dialogue as well as the establishment of Visva Bharati i.e. World University. By placing his novel in the context of contentious nationalist movements, Tagore signals the importance of his universal love even in times of crisis. There is nevertheless a demarcation of love into circles of concern constituting the principles and the people that we love on one hand and its hierarchical, motivated ordering on the other. This

framework gives way to a love that is crucial as well as pragmatic for world-making. Tagore operates and responses to both the language of justice that characterise debates around nationalism and cosmopolitanism as well as the language of love, which continues to be grossly overlooked. Tagore reconfigures the questions of politics in the language of the personal, particular love.

This approach continues to be reflected in India's contemporary policy decisions. India's interventions in other South Asian nations, insofar as they manifest in a public manner, are never offensive. Military conflict is minimised with the exception of Pakistan. Even in the case of Pakistan, taking historical peculiarities into account, it is worth mentioning that India has repeatedly tried to establish and differentiate between the personal and the abstract. The most visible manifestation of such an effort was the bus service to Pakistan in the aftermath of the Lahore Declaration. India's ideological reasoning for military intervention is always couched in the language and reasoning of defence, not offense. Such an attitude is reflective of the sort of military intervention that the general public supports. Thus, India's foreign policy can be characterised by a consistent adherence to minimal deterrence whose ideological moor ings Tagore articulated. Tagore's love for the particular does not permit the state to harm civilians. The insistence on the commonality of humans provides little rationale for extended interventions in less-powerful neighbours for ideological reasons, though such an impact is by no means alien to many countries in contemporary times including the United States.

> The writer is a columnist and a student at Jindal School of International

#### **SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS**

# Strategic imperative of India, Europe ties



DK Giri

**INDIA AND EUROPE TOGETHER AIM AT CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWING MULTI-POLARITY IN WORLD POLITICS** 

in Vienna from 9-10 July it a "capitalist club." Russia. Remarkably, the visit took place after 41 years of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to that country. The Indian diaspora in Austria was ecstatic about it. This was also significant inasmuch as it contributed to the process of cultivating Europe. This is in line with the Indian foreign policy strategy vis-à-vis the big powers

Pertinent to remember what the Foreign Minister said about dealing with big powers, "India's great power strategy is about engaging America, managing China, reassuring Russia, cultivating Europe and drawing in Japan," a profound strategic statement that signifies one of the major shifts in India's foreign policy in the decade since 2014. The shift consists of elevating Europe, including the United Kingdom to a higher strategic profile. In the 1960s and 70s, when Europe was integrating into a supranational entity, which is now known as the European Union (EU), India was wary of its revival. Europe had a colonial past and a capitalist mode of production that continues to frighten countries of the South. Pt. Nehru was dismissive of the

rime Minister Modi stayed European integration and called as an alternative source for im-skilled development and mobil-

represented to India as the epicentre of the 'end of history' with its overwhelming focus on economic integration instead of building a political profile and engaging in geopolitical competition. For large parts, its foreign policy was being supportive and subservient to the US. The situation did not change much even after the Cold War, despite India readjusting its foreign policy and Europe wanting to emerge as a major geopolitical player in the world. India did not focus on Europe's strategic potential and Europe was pre-occupied with its integration process that looked at China for enhancing its trade and economy, which was still its

driving force The dramatic shifts in great power relations somewhat compelled India and Europe to reconnect. India has welcomed Europe's increasing interest in Indo-Pacific while EU's characterisation of belligerent China as a systemic threat has provided new opportunities for geoeconomic convergence. Europe now views India as a counterweight and as an alternative market to China for European exports, while India finds Europe ports of technology and defence ity of skilled workers is seen as together aim at contributing to the growing multi-polarity in world politics.

Prime Minister Modi has direct contact with Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni and this has been hailed in social media as a portmanteau called 'Melodi'. Likewise, Germany has emerged as a significant defence partner. France is arguably the most trusted partner India has today in the West. Paris is less interested in meddling in India's internal affairs while supporting New Delhi on security issues and transferring advanced military technology.

The above premise on India-Europe relation should provide as the prism to view the PM's visit to Austria. Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Nehammer stressed the need for democratic countries like India and Austria to come together for regional and international peace. The two leaders agreed to enhance partnership on economic and technological collaboration especially green and digital technology, renewable energy, water management, life sciences, smart cities, mobility and transportation. Among other agreements,

view. As the largest population in the world, India should constantly strive to relocate its demography by enabling people to work abroad and earn foreign currency. Another interesting development is the Prime Minister's initiative in generating interest in Yoga and Ayurveda in Austria. This goes with promoting cultural ties and tourism.

Many people may not remember that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose married an Austrian woman during his selfexile to Europe. While members of the Indian diaspora were excited about Modi's visit after four decades, they were pleading that it should not take another 40 years for an Indian Prime Minister's visit to the country.

Europe has become a central point in India's strategy and expectation for a multi-polar world. Europe's interest in India as an alternative market to China can be sustained only by creating a robust investment and manufacturing climate. The onus therefore is more on India than on Europe.

> The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### **Exacerbating polarisation**

Sir, The recent brazen attempt on the life of Donald Trump during a fervent campaign rally in Pennsylvania serves as an alarming testament to the escalating menace of political violence that increasingly looms over the United States. This unfortunate incident, far from an isolated anomaly, epitomizes a pervasive malady afflicting the democratic fabric. Both antecedent and subsequent to the electoral process, such acts of violence wield a deleterious impact on the sanctity of democracy, aiming to instill fear, stifle dissent, and coerce conformity to a singular ideological agenda. In a robust democracy, the vitality of diverse viewpoints and peaceful dissent are indispensable pillars that fortify the electoral process and safeguard the freedoms cherished by all citizens. Furthermore, the attribution of blame that ensues in the aftermath of each instance of political violence only exacerbates societal polarisation, stoking the fires of entrenched partisanship that breed fertile ground for such reprehensible acts. To break free from this pernicious cycle of animosity and rancor, it is imperative that we pivot towards cultivating a culture characterised by mutual respect, compassion, and a profound capacity for empathy. Only through concerted collaborative efforts can we engender a democracy that resonates with the true essence of "of the people, by the people, and for the people" - a democracy that cherishes diversity, espouses inclusivity, and unwaveringly upholds the sanctity of human life as its foremost priority.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

#### Icons of communication

Sir, Emojis have revolutionised digital communication by adding colour, emotion, and nuance to text-based conversations. In 1999, Japanese software developer Shigetaka Kurita created a series of 176 colourful pictorial icons for the cell phone company NTT DOCOMO. These emojis depicted concepts that were simple yet universal, such as weather, moods, foods, and animals. Everyone uses emojis; these are bright expressions that people of all ages can use to display their emotions in advertising, journalism, and a vast range of other professional and personal ways. Emojis serve as visual cues for a range of feelings, yet their meanings aren't universally fixed

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI





# Row as eateries asked to display employee names

**OPPOSITION GROUPS FEAR THE MOVE WILL CREATE A DEEPER COMMUNAL DIVIDE AND LEAD TO HINDUS AVOIDING EATERIES EMPLOYING MUSLIMS** 

Lucknow, July 18: Police in northern India have asked owners of restaurants to list the names of their workers on display boards during a Hindu holy month that begins next week, sparking fears it is an attempt to identify Muslims and create a communal divide.

Muzaffarnagar police chief Abhishek Singh Monday said, "About 240 km of Kanwar Yatra route falls in the district. All the eateries, including hotels, dhabas and carts, on the route, have been asked to display the names of their proprietors or those working on these shops.

"This has been done to ensure that there should be no confusion among kanwariyas and no law and order situation arises. All are following this voluntarily," he had told reporters.

Hundreds of thousands of devotees of Lord Shiva undertake a pilgrimage on foot to holy sites in the northern states of Uttarakhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP) during the period to collect water from the river Ganga, which is then offered at local Shiva temples

Devotees also follow dietary restrictions, such as no meat, during their journey - a practice that has been cited by police officers to justify the directions given earlier this week.

Police in Muzaffarnagar district of UP said the order, com-



#### Akhilesh, Mayawati slam order

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said Thursday the Muzaffarnagar police order asking eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners' names is a "social crime", and appealed to courts to take suo motu cognisance of the matter, Bahujan Samai Party (BSP) president Mayawati also hit out at the order and asked for it to be withdrawn. Police in Muzaffarnagar have ordered all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of owners to avoid any "confusion", a move seen by Opposition parties as targeting Muslim traders. Reacting to a news article on the order. Yadav, a former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, wrote on 'X', "... And what if the name of the owner is Guddu, Munna, Chhotu or Fatte? What can you find out from these names?" "Court should take suo motu cognisance of the matter. investigate the intentions of the government and take appropriate punitive action." he said in the post in Hindi. "Such an order is a social crime aimed at spoiling harmony...." Yaday added, Hitting out at the order, Mayawati posted in Hindi on 'X', "The new government order for all the hotels, dhabas, carts, shopkeepers etc. on the Kanwar Yatra route in western Uttar Pradesh and Muzaffarnagar district to prominently display the full name of the owners is a wrong tradition which can spoil harmony. The government should immediately withdraw it in the public interest."

municated orally, was given every year during the holy month and was nothing new.

This time one saint requested us that it should be done in order to avoid eating anything which might corrupt their efforts during this holy month, Inspector Rakesh Kumar, Muzaffarnagar police's public relations officer,

Leaders of Opposition groups fear the move will create a deeper communal divide and lead to Hindus avoiding eateries em-

Pawan Khera, spokesperson for the main Opposition Congress, asked in a post on X, whether the direction was a step towards economic boycott

Located in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state which is ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Muzaffarnagar witnessed communal clashes in 2013 that killed about 65 people, mostly Muslims, and displaced thousands.

### Assam abolishes Muslim marriages, divorce Act

Opposition parties had decried the decision, terming it 'discriminatory against the Muslims' brought in to polarise voters in an election year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 18: The Assam Cabinet Thursday approved a Bill to abolish the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act and Rules of 1935, which permitted underage marriages under specific conditions, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The Repealing Bill 2024 will be presented during the upcoming monsoon session of the Assembly. Earlier this year, the Cabinet approved the abolition of the Act, and Thursday's meeting authorised the Repealing Bill required to implement this decision.

"We have taken a significant step to ensure justice for our daughters and sisters by putting additional safeguards against child marriage," he posted on X, soon after chairing the meeting of Council of Ministers here.

'In the meeting of the



**This Act contained** provisions allowing marriage registration even if the bride and groom had not reached the legal ages of 18 and 21, as required by law. This move marks another significant step towards prohibiting child marriages in Assam

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER. ASSAM

#AssamCabinet today we have decided to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act and Rules 1935 vide the Assam Repealing Bill 2024," he added.

The CM said the decision to repeal it is aimed in bringing "parity in registration of marriage and divorce'

The Repealing Bill will be placed before the Assembly in the next Monsoon session for consideration, he said.

"The State Cabinet has also been directed that a suitable legislation be brought for registration of Muslim marriages in Assam, to be considered by the next session of Assembly," the CM added.

The Cabinet had approved the decision to repeal the Act February 23, in a bid to end the social menace of child marriage

'This Act contained provisions allowing marriage registration even if the bride and groom had not reached the legal ages of 18 and 21, as required by law. This move marks another significant step towards prohibiting child marriages in Assam,' Sarma had posted on X then.

Opposition parties had decried the decision, terming it 'discriminatory against the Muslims' brought in to polarise voters in an election year.

Sharing other decisions of Thursday's Cabinet meet, Sarma said it was decided to reduce VAT on CNG to 5 per cent, funds were approved for development of BTC areas, financial approval was given for key healthcare efforts and cabinet ministers mandated to visited Barak Valley every month.

To combat air pollution through the use of clean fuel.

the Cabinet decided to reduce VAT on CNG from 14.5 per cent to 5 per cent, effective until March

Additionally, funds were allocated for the development of the **Bodoland Territorial Council** (BTC) areas, and financial approval was given for key healthcare initiatives. Cabinet ministers are now mandated to visit

the Barak Valley every month. The meeting approved a financial sanction of Rs 200 crore for the **Assam Cancer Care Foundation** to support the Assam Cancer Care Project for 2024-25. This project includes the establishment of 17 cancer care hospitals, expected to benefit around 30,000 patients annually, the CM said.

To ensure continued free-ofcost treatment for the poor, the Cabinet approved Rs 375 crore for the Mukhya Mantri Ayushman Asom Yojana (MMAAY) for 2024-25. Under MMAAY, families receive cashless medical benefits up to Rs 5 lakh per year, covering 36 lakh families.

The Cabinet also mandated that ministers visit the three Barak Valley districts every month for three days on a rotational basis to ensure the proper implementation of good governance initiatives



Villagers repair a breach in embankment caused due to floods following rains in Baksa district of Assam, Thursday

### Over 300 entered Meghalaya from violence-hit Bangladesh

*Of the 310 people, 202 are* Indians, 101 are from Nepal and seven Bhutanese, adding that most of them are students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong/Guwahati, July 18: Over 300 Indians, Nepalese and Bhutanese, mostly students, who were stranded in neighbouring Bangladesh due to the ongoing violence there, have crossed over to Meghalaya, officials said Thursday.

The government of another northeastern state Assam said it is in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure the safety of its people staying in the neighbouring country. At least 11 more people were

killed in Bangladesh Thursday as violence escalated in the capital Dhaka and elsewhere over student protests demanding reforms of the quota system for government jobs, taking the toll to 18 since the protests erupted. "Till this evening, 310 Indians,

Nepalese and Bhutanese stranded due to violence in



to India through the Dawki Integrated Check Post here," a senior Home department official told PTI.

Of the 310 people, 202 are Indians, 101 are from Nepal and seven Bhutanese, he said, adding that most of them are students. The Meghalaya government

has kept constant touch with Bangladesh High Commission and the Land Port Authority to facilitate safe returns of Indians.

A helpline number, 1800 345 3644, has also been introduced to help the Meghalava people in distress in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in Assam also came up with a helpline number +880-1937400591 for those who want to return to the state from the neighbouring nation.

# NATIONAL Additional measures to curb TRIBUNAL offerings in Ganga, Yamuna

Routine monitoring should be undertaken to ensure that religious offerings are properly managed without hurting religious feelings and sentiments: NGT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: To prevent the throwing of religious offerings in rivers Ganga and Yamuna, the National Green Tribunal has suggested additional steps, including developing dedicated places for holding ceremonies, rituals and immersion of idols.

The tribunal also directed the district magistrates of Garhmukteshwar, Kanpur, Bithur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra and Mathura to mark and monitor the spots, which were prone to throwing or immersion of such offerings.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was hearing a matter where it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a newspaper report regarding the throwing of worship offerings of flowers and garlands, which were packed in polythene bags in rivers Yamuna and Ganga.

In a recent order, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said the problem of pollution because of throwing worship materials and garlands had persisted despite the tribunal's earlier directions and various decisions of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and the highlevel committee formed to deal with Yamuna pollution.

The bench also comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel noted the DPCC's report dated June 26, according to which, by May 31 this year, the committee had issued 3,916 challans for dumping of construction waste and illegal parking on Yamuna floodplain and around ₹1.06 crore

was recovered as fine. It said that some additional



steps could be taken for proper implementation of the tribunal's earlier orders to prevent pollution in rivers Yamuna and Ganga.

These included the installation of display boards mentioning not to throw religious offerings and about the imposition of fines for violating the direction.

"Mass awareness at the school level be encouraged about the impact of religious offerings on rivers and attempt be made to restrict religious offerings 100 metres away from the edge of the river and along the bank to protect the river flood plain," the tribunal said.

It said the authorities concerned could identify suitable locations for developing a dedicated ghat for holding ceremonies, rituals and immersion of idols and offerings.

"These ghats should have all arrangements for the said purposes. Routine monitoring should be undertaken to ensure that religious offerings are properly managed without hurting religious feelings and sentiments,' the tribunal said.

It said each ghat could have a "distinct plan" regarding idol immersion, collection and processing of flowers, coconut and other offerings along with controlling and preventing direct or indirect disposal of offerings into the rivers from bridges, drains and other places.

"Collection and composting arrangements for treating the organic waste such as flowers, fruits, leaves, food material etc. should be established at identified locations to prevent open decomposition along the ghats or river stretches," the tribunal said.

#### **NATIONAL PARK** Wild animals bear

**KAZIRANGA** 

### the brunt of floods

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, July 18: The ongoing floods in Assam have claimed the lives of over 200 wild animals, including 10 rhinos at the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) despite the authorities taking multipronged measures to save the lives of animals.

According to the KNPTR authorities, flood intensity this year was the highest in the last 10 years in terms of area inundation and depth of the flood

KNPTR Director Sonali Ghosh said that Kaziranga has witnessed all-time high floods this year with HFL (Highest Flood Level) recorded at 87.47 metres July 1 at Nimatighat.

While flood waters have receded now, the wild animals continue to migrate and cross between Kaziranga and the Karbi Anglong hills, she said. Forest and wildlife officials have so far rescued 143 wild animals.

The KNPTR authorities over the years have been taking manifold measures to protect the wild animals from the recurring floods. These include the construction of scientifically designed highlands for housing animals during floods, and restrictions on vehicle movement along the national highways and highways passing through the national park.

The wildlife casualty this year includes 167 hog deer, 10 rhinos, two swamp deer, and two sambars. Fourteen wild animals including 10 hog deer died during treatment.

Sensors used in the corridor areas and drones have also been mobilised to monitor the situation. Awareness campaigns involving the communities were conductedto save the lives of the animals. the KNPTR Director said.

#### **BOTANIC BREAKTHROUGH**

**Phlogacanthus** Sudhansusekharii', the plant species recently discovered from Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Papum Pare district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, July 18: Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new plant species from a wildlife sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh, officials said.

# Scientists discover new plant species in Arunachal Pradesh

'Phlogacanthus

Sudhansusekharii', the plant species recently discovered from Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Papum Pare district, belongs to the family 'Acanthaceae' and the 'Phlogacanthus' genus, they

The species is named to honor Dr Sudhansu Sekhar Dash, a scientist at the BSI, for his "significant contribution" to plant and ecological research in the Indian Himalayan region, the BSI officials said.

The detailed research paper on the new species has been published by the authors Samrat



Goswami and Rohan Maity in the Indian Journal of Forestry The genus 'Phlogacanthus' comprises 13 species in India and is spread over mainly the northeastern and eastern Himalayan states, they said. 'The newly described species

is closely allied to Phlogacanthus Guttatus (Wall) Nees, but differ in various mor-

phological characters, mainly in its shape and size of calyx, staminodes and strikingly different corona colour," a BSI official said.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has expressed delight over the development.

"The biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh is wide &

varied. In addition to the findings of new flora, researchers from @bsi\_moefcc have identified a new plant species, named

Phlogacanthus the family sudhan-'Acanthaceae' and the susekharii, in 'Phlogacanthus' genus the Itanagar The genus 'Phlogacanthus' Wildlife Sanctuary,' and is spread over mainly the Khandu said in

northeastern and eastern

a post in X. Himalayan states This discovery reminds us of our rich natural heritage & our responsibility to preserve it for

future generations," he added.

# national



government has decided to withhold the bill mandating job reservation for **Kannadigas in private** sector due to certain confusion

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

#### **ASSAM FLOOD CRISIS**

The flood situation in Assam has shown signs of improvement with the affected population reducing to about 2.72 lakh, though fresh areas were inundated as the number of deluge-hit districts rose to 13 Thursday, an official bulletin said





Six months ago, minister and the home minister vowed to end Naxalism in three years. I believe we will be able to do it



VISHNU DEO SAI CHHATTISGARH CM

We demand withdrawal of all cases filed against those who have waved the Palestinian flag in Bihar and other parts of the country. India recognises Palestine and the policy has continued under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Hence, those people cannot be accused of any wrongdoing

DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA CPI(MI) LIBERATION GENERAL SECRETARY

We condemn this (verbal order). This is a violation of Article 17 of the Constitution, which talks about untouchability. The Uttar Pradesh government is promoting untouchability. Ever since the order was given, the owners of 'dhabas' in Muzaffarnagar have removed muslim employees. It is clear discrimination of Muslims. Spirit of the Constitution is being

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

right to livelihood

# PAPER LEAK CBI arrests 4 MBBS students

The move comes two days after the CBI arrested Pankaj Kumar alias Aditya, a 2017-batch civil engineer from the National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, for allegedly stealing the NEET-UG 2024 paper from a trunk of the National Testing Agency (NTA) in Hazaribagh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: The CBI  $\,$ Thursday arrested four medical students of AIIMS Patna, who are alleged to be part of the 'solver module' working in collusion with a key accused held two days ago, in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case, officials said.

Three students of MBBS third year -- Chandan Singh, Rahul Anant, and Kumar Shanu - and one second year student -- Karan Jain -- were arrested after detailed questioning by a CBI team, they said.

The move comes two days after the CBI arrested Pankaj Kumar alias Aditya, a 2017-batch civil engineer from the National

Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, for allegedly stealing the NEET-UG 2024 paper from a trunk of the National

Testing Agency (NTA) in

Hazaribagh. It is alleged that the four arrested students were part of the solver module which was working in collusion with Kumar, the officials said. Kumar had allegedly stolen the paper from the NTA trunk and given it to a group of solvers in Hazaribagh, they said, adding the arrested medical students were allegedly

part of that group. With the four arrests Thursday, the total number of persons arrested in connection with cases pertaining to leakage, impersonation and other irregularities in the medical entrance exam

has now reached 18. Meanwhile, the CBI produced the arrested MBBS students before a special court in Patna Thursday. The court sent them to four-day CBI custody.

The students were taken away from their hostel rooms on Wednesday in the presence of senior faculty members of AIIMS who were informed in advance that the students needed for the probe, the officials said.

The agency has sealed their hostel rooms, they said. "The CBI has taken away four students. Chandan Singh, Rahul Anant, and Kumar Shanu are third year students and Karan Jain is a second year student," AIIMS Patna Director G K Paul said.

He said a senior officer had sent them photographs and mobile numbers of students who were required in the probe.

A team of CBI picked up the students in the presence of dean, hostel warden, and OSD to director, Paul said. Kumar, a resident of Bokaro, was arrested from Patna Tuesday, officials had earlier said.

The CBI had also arrested one Raju Singh who allegedly helped Kumar in stealing the paper, they said, adding that Raju was arrested from Hazaribagh. The central probe agency, which is investigating the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam, has lodged six FIRs. The FIR from Bihar pertains to paper leak while the remaining ones from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are regarding 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 NEET-UG 2024.

The 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  $conducted\,May\,5\,at\,4,\!750\,centres$ in 571 cities, including 14 abroad. More than 23 lakh candidates had appeared for the test

as two judges take oath

SC attains full strength

New Delhi, July 18: Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice N Kotiswar Singh Thursday took oath of office and became the first judge to have been elevated to the

Supreme Court from Manipur. Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court R Mahadevan was also sworn in as judge of the apex court.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud administered the oath of office to both judges at a function in the apex court premises here. With the swearing-in, the top court has attained its full strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice of India. The Supreme Court will func-

tion with 34 judges until Justice Hima Kohli retires September 1, 2024, followed by CJI Chandrachud, who superannuates November 10 this year. Two posts have fallen vacant after the retirement of Justice AS Bopanna and Aniruddha Bose.

The Centre has cleared the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegiu July 16. The fivemember collegium presided July 11 over by the CJI had recommended to the Centre the names of Singh and Mahadevan for elevation to

"His appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court will provide representation to the North-East, and in particular he will be the first judge from the state of Manipur to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court,' the SC Collegium said July 11 while recommending Justice Singh's name along with that of Justice Mahadevan.

Justice Singh was appointed as a judge of the Gauhati High Court in October 2011.

Following the formation of the Manipur High Court, he was transferred there. In February 2023, he was appointed as Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court and will demit office in February 2028 on attaining the age of 65 years. While recommending Justice Mahadevan's name for elevation, the collegium had noted that he belongs to a backward community from Tamil Nadu and his appointment will bring diversity to the (SC) Bench

The Collegium has taken due note of the fact that Justice Mahadevan ranks third in the order of presently serving judges of the Madras High Court including the judges who have been posted as chief justices outside the Madras High Court.

### SHORT TAKES

hurt. It is against the right to life and

#### Three killed as car overturns in Unnao

Unnao (UP): Three persons were killed and as many injured when a car overturned on Agra-Lucknow expressway in Bangarmau area here Thursday, police said. According to Circle Officer Bangarmau, the incident took place at 6 pm when a car going from Delhi to Ayodhya lost control and overturned. The injured have been admitted to the district hospital and their condition was stated to be stable, the officer said. The bodies of the victims have been sent for postmortem, he added.

#### **Half-burnt body** of woman found

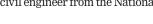
Dumka: The half-burnt body of a 21-year-old woman was found in Jharkhand's Dumka district Thursday, police said. The woman hailed from Banka district in Bihar, they said. The body was found on Gumro hill in Masaliya police station area, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ikud Dungdung said. "Prima facie it appears that the woman was killed over a love affair. A special team has reached the spot. Forensic evidence is being collected. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination," he said.

#### Court extends ED custody of Nagendra

Bengaluru: A special court here Thursday extended by five days the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of former Karnataka Minister B Nagendra in connection with a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd. The Ballari Rural Congress MLA was today produced before the court as his ED custody ended today.

#### **Delhi court refers Kavitha to AIIMS**

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday referred BRS leader K Kavitha, lodged in Tihar jail in two cases related to the alleged excise scam, to AIIMS for a medical check-up. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC was taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital after she developed some gynaecological problem and high fever Tuesday.



ANDROID MOBILE DEVICE CASE

#### SC to hear pleas of Google, CCI in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: The Supreme Court Thursday said it will hear in the second week of September the cross-pleas of Google and the Competition Commission of India challenging a verdict of an appellate tribunal in a case related to the tech giant's alleged anti-competitive practices in the Android mobile device matter.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took up the appeals and said the pleas can be taken up later.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for one of the parties, said the plea may be kept for final disposal later. The bench then said the cross-pleas can be listed for final disposal in the second week of September.

Earlier, the bench had appointed lawyer Sameer Bansal as the nodal counsel for preparing common digital pleadings with the help of lawvers from both sides for easy adjudication of the matter. The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) March 29 last year had handed out a mixed verdict on Google's alleged anticompetitive practices in the case -- upholding a fine of ₹1,338 crore but scrapping conditions like allowing hosting of third-party app stores on its Play Store.

While upholding the fine imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for exploiting its dominant position in Android, the NCLAT had struck down an anti-trust regulator order that had said Google will not restrict the removal of its pre-installed apps by the users.



ROTEST TURNS UGLY: Police personnel detain an agitator during a protest by various student organisations demanding the conduct of Rajasthan University Students Union elections in Jaipur

#### Puja Khedkar's mother in police custody till July 20

Pune: Police Thursday told a court in Maharashtra's Pune district that they had invoked IPC section 307 for attempt to murder against Manorama Khedkar, mother of IAS probationer Puia Khedkar, as they sought her custody for five days in a land dispute case. Cops also called Manorama, her husband Dilip and three others, all shown as accused in the FIR, as "influential and politically active" persons, in the court in Paud that remanded Manorama in police custody till July 20. Police had launched a search for Manorama and her husband Dilip Khedkar after a video surfaced showing her allegedly threatening some persons with a gun over a land dispute at Dhadwali village in Pune's Mulshi tehsil in 2023.

#### 10 die in rain-related incidents in UP

Lucknow: Ten people lost their lives in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh in the past 24 hours until Thursday evening. according an official report. Three of these deaths were reported in Gorakhpur, two in Hardoi and one each in Sambhal, Raebareli, Chitrakoot, Kaushambi and Sant Kabii Nagar, data recorded till 6 pm showed. According to the report from the state relief commissioner's office, floods have hit 13 districts in the state -- Lakhimpur Kheri. Kushinagar, Shahiahanpur, Barabanki, Siddharthnagar, Ballia, Gorakhpur, Unnao, Hardoi, Avodhva, Budaun, Maharaigani and Basti. The rivers flowing above the danger mark are Rapti in Gorakhpur.

#### Raj minister voices regret over remark against tribals

Jaipur: Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar expressed regret in the assembly Thursday over his remark against tribals. As soon as the proceedings of the House began, Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani said the education minister wanted to present his point. When Dilawar stood up to answer questions related to his department, the Opposition created a ruckus and demanded that he should applicate and be removed from the post. "They (tribals) are the best part of Hindu society, I don't believe in speaking negatively about them. So if the Opposition or any tribal brother has been hurt by my speech, or my words, then I express regret," the minister said. A war of words broke out between Dilawar and Banswara's newly elected MP Raikumar Roat June 22. The minister had allegedly suggested a DNA test to confirm whether the tribal leader is a Hindu or not.

# Why are most lung cancer patients non-smokers?

A recent research, published in the Lancet's eClinical Medicine *Journal, showed that the* ratio of lung cancer research output in India to global research output is 0.51

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 18: Air pollution, exposure to secondhand smoke, occupational hazards, and indoor pollutants like cooking fumes are responsible for the rising cases of lung cancer, even among people who do not smoke, said experts Thursday.

A recent research, published in the Lancet's eClinical Medicine Journal, showed that the ratio of lung cancer research output in India to global research output is 0.51. The study revealed that lung cancer develops 10 years earlier in India than in Western countries, where the age of diagnosis ranges from 54 to 70.

It could also be the result of India's younger population where the median age is 28.2 years, compared to the US' 38 years and China's 39 years.

Speaking to IANS, Dr. Shrinidhi Nathany from the Department of Molecular Hematology and Oncology at Fortis Memorial Research Institute said increased lung cancer incidences among nonsmokers in Southeast Asia are



also linked to high PM 2.5 levels. Dr. Nathany added that lung

cancer affects "a large part of Indians due to passive smoking as well as genetic /hereditary susceptibility"

The doctor noted that Delhi, also known as the pollution capital, and urban India's threedigit PM 2.5 levels significantly contribute to tumorigenesis -

the formation of cancer.

Dr. Ashish Gupta, Chief of Medical Oncology, at Unique Hospital Cancer Centre, also pointed out the alarming trend of lung cancer cases in India "to factors such as air pollution, exposure to secondhand smoke. occupational hazards, and indoor pollutants like cooking fumes". To mitigate this growing health issue, it is crucial to enforce stringent air quality regulations, raise public awareness about the dangers of secondhand smoke and environmental pollutants, and promote regular screenings for highrisk groups. to reduce the incidence of lung cancer among non-smokers in India, the experts said.

Dr. Shrinidhi further said that regular screening of predisposed individuals living in polluted cities of the country, farmers exposed to harmful pesticides as well those having strong personal and /or family history of cancers could help in early detection, while stressing that being informed was the important thing one could be for this issue.

#### **Ensure rights for LGBTQ+ community** in jail: MHA to states $^{+}$

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: The Centre has asked state governments to ensure that members of the queer community lodged in jails can meet a person of their choice without any discrimination or judgement as part of their prison visitation rights.

In a communication to all state governments, the Union home ministry said it has been the constant endeavour of the Centre to reach out to all states and Union territories and share the contemporary guidelines and best practices on varied aspects of efficient prison administration and management.

The ministry said it has come to its notice that members of the queer community (LGBTQ+) are often discriminated against because of their gender identity or sexual orientation and often face violence and disrespect.

With the objective of ensuring that there is no discrimination in access to goods and services to the queer community, which are available to the



reference to prison visitation rights, the home ministry has prepared 'Model Prison Manual, 2016' and the 'Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023' and these should be followed by all state governments and Union territories, it said. "It is reiterated that these provisions equally apply to the members of queercommunity and they can meet a person of their choice without anydiscrimination or judgement," the communication said.

According to the Model Prison Manual, 2016, every prisoner shall be allowed reasonable facilities for seeing or communicating with, his/her family members, relatives, friends and legal advisers for the preparation of an appeal or forprocuring bail or for arranging the management of his/her property and family affairs.

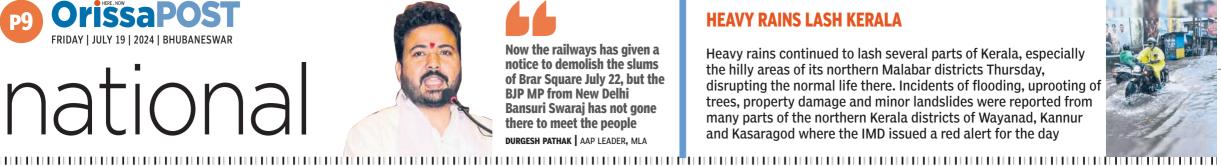
# national



Now the railways has given a notice to demolish the slums of Brar Square July 22, but the **BJP MP from New Delhi** Bansuri Swarai has not gone there to meet the people DURGESH PATHAK | AAP LEADER, MLA

#### **HEAVY RAINS LASH KERALA**

Heavy rains continued to lash several parts of Kerala, especially the hilly areas of its northern Malabar districts Thursday, disrupting the normal life there. Incidents of flooding, uprooting of trees, property damage and minor landslides were reported from many parts of the northern Kerala districts of Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod where the IMD issued a red alert for the day





human qualities, man aspires to become superman with supernatural powers and then attain the status of 'Devta' and 'Bhagwan'. He then aspires for vishwaroop (the supreme power's allpervading form). What is beyond that, no one is certain

government copied the Madhya Pradesh government's (Ladli Behna) scheme to provide women

MOHAN BHAGWAT RSS CHIEF

. ₹1,500 per month, while under the Ladka Bhau scheme, men who are Class 12 pass will get ₹6,000 and unemployed graduates will get ₹10,000. So why should women get just ₹1,500..Will they be able to run their houses in this amount?

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER



ANIL DESHMUKH FORMER MAHA HM





Kricharam filed a blaming two Muslim boys Munna and Sonu for breaking Ganesh Idol inside a

temple at SiddharthNagar District, UP. During the Police interrogation, It was found that the Poojari himself broke the Ganesh Idol and blamed it on Muslim

@SachinGuptaUP

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### 6 killed after car rams into truck

Jaipur: Six people, including two children, were killed after their car rear-ended a truck in Rajasthan's Bikaner district Thursday night, police said. Superintendent of Police (SP) Tejaswini Gautam said the car, with a Haryana registration number, rammed into the truck. "Two men and as many women and children died in the accident," she said.

#### Two STF men killed, woman Naxal shot dead

Dantewada: Two Special Task Force (STF) personnel were killed after Maoists detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, while a woman Naxalite was gunned down by security personnel in Dantewada district Thursday, police said. Four STF personnel were injured in the IED blast in Bijapur, while two jawans of the state police's DRG were wounded.

#### Protest over power cuts turns violent

Manikchak: Several people were injured as a protest by locals over frequent power cuts in West Bengal's Malda district Thursday turned violent, leading to a clash with the police, officials said. Protesting frequent power cuts in the area, locals blocked the state highway at Enavatpur in Manikchak in the morning, causing a traffic snarl that stretched for kilometres, they said. When police went to clear the road for traffic, they refused to lift the blockade and started hurling stones at the personnel, SP Pradeep Kumar Yadav said.

### AAP to contest solo in Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 18: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Thursday said it will contest all 90 assembly seats in Haryana, where people want "badlav" (change) and are looking at it with great hope. The AAP said it will announce party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal's guarantees July 20.

The Haryana Assembly elections are due later this year. Addressing the media here, Sanjay Singh said the AAP will fight the Haryana Assembly polls strongly.

"The AAP will contest all 90 seats," said the Rajya Sabha MP, who was flanked by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, senior AAP leaders Sandeep Pathak and Anurag Dhanda, and party state unit president Sushil Gupta. Though the AAP has contested multiple elections in Haryana, it has yet to taste electoral success

The AAP had contested the recent Lok Sabha elections in alliance with its INDIA bloc partner Congress. While the Congress won five of the nine Lok Sabha seats it contested, the AAP unsuccessfully contested the Kurukshetra seat.

Haryana Congress leaders, including Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Udai Bhan, have hinted that the party might go solo in the Assembly polls, with both saying that it is capable of contesting all 90 seats on its own.

Singh targeted the BJP government in Haryana over the issues of unemployment, law and order, and the Agnipath scheme. Today, there is an industry of extortion in Haryana. We saw how farmers were crushed during their agitation. Unemployment is also a big problem in Haryana," he said.

#### **Telangana CM launches** farm loan waiver scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 18: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Thursday launched the farm loan waiver scheme with ₹6,098 crore being credited, in the first phase, to the bank accounts of farmers, whose loans of up to ₹1 lakh would be waived.

Reddy handed over cheques to some farmers at an event held in the Secretariat here and also interacted with some ryots via video conferencing. The ₹6,098 crore released to banks would benefit approximately 11 lakh families. The rollout of the loan waiver scheme would be completed in two other phases.

While crop loans of up to ₹1.5 lakh would be waived by the end of July in the second phase, those up to ₹2 lakh would be dispensed with in August in the third phase. Speaking on the occasion, the CM said the loan waiver programme is being implemented in three phases with ₹31,000 crore which would conclude in August. He alleged that the previous BRS government did not properly implement its promise of farm loan waiver despite being in power for two terms.

The Congress government is paying an interest of about ₹7,000 crore every month on the ₹7lakh crore debt made during the BRS regime, he claimed.

The CM also noted that ₹29,000 crore has been spent on welfare programmes in the last seven months since his party came to power in December last year.

# Cong attacks govt over train derailment in UP repulse terror repulse terror attack on camp

apart from the probe by the Commission of Railway Safety

and his Railway

Minister, who leaves no

must take direct

**Indian Railways** 

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

CONGRESS PRESIDENT

in a statement.

opportunity for self-publicity,

responsibility of the massive

lapses that have plagued the

our thoughts and prayers are

with the injured. A month ago,

11 people lost their lives

when a goods train collided with

Kanchanjunga Express," he said

Commissioner of Railway Safety

has stated that the accident was

"waiting to happen". "Failure

of automatic signal, lapses at

multiple levels in managing op-

erations and non-availability of

critical safety equipment such as

walkie-talkie with the loco pilot

and train manager are some of

Kharge pointed out that the

Sealdah-Agartala



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: In the wake of the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailment, the Congress Thursday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw must take responsibility of the "massive lapses" and the Kavach anti-collision system should be installed expeditiously on all routes.

Two people were killed and 34 injured when eight coaches of the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailed near Gonda in Uttar Pradesh Thursday, officials said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the derailment of Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express in Uttar Pradesh is yet another instance of how the Modi government has "systematically jeopardised" rail safety.

"Our deepest condolences to the families of the bereaved and Kharge said.

"PM Narendra Modi and his Railway Minister, who leaves no opportunity for self-publicity, must take direct responsibility of the massive lapses that have plagued the Indian Railways," he

The Congress president said his party's single demand was that the Kavach anti-collision system be "installed expeditiously" on all routes across India to ensure enhanced safety

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the news of fatalities due to the derailment of Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, is very saddening. "May the departed souls rest in peace. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I pray to God that the injured get well soon,' she said in a post in Hindi on X.

"Hundreds of lives have been lost in the frequent major rail accidents. Lakhs of posts are lying vacant in the railways. Systems like Kavach are victims of government's lackadaisical attitude, but no responsibility is fixed by the government,"

held responsible for railway

the reasons cited for collision in the probe report,'

measures and prevent accidents.

Priyanka Gandhi said.

Why is the government silent on these important questions related to the safety of common people and why is no one being accidents, she asked.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 18: Two army personnel were injured in a gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district Thursday, officials said, as security forces continued their search in the region for the ultras who killed four soldiers three days ago.

The gunfight, lasting more than an hour, took place at Jaddan Bata village in the Kastigarh area around 2 am when the terrorists opened fire on a temporary camp established in a government school for the ongoing search operation, they said.

One of the critically injured army personnel was evacuated to the Udhampur-based command hospital by an advanced light helicopter (ALH) despite challenging weather conditions, a defence spokesperson said. "Swift action by ALH from Air Force Station, Udhampur, saved a critically injured soldier's life in Doda (J&K). Despite challenging weather, the evacuation was successful, ensuring timely medical care at Command Hospital, Udhampur. Kudos to the team for their dedication and bravery," PRO Defence, Jammu, posted on X. In a separate incident, security

forces guarding a forward post opened fire after observing suspicious movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district late Wednesday night. The area was searched Thursday morning but nothing linked to the suspicious movement was found on the ground, the officials said. On the search operation in Doda, launched following the killing of the four soldiers, including a captain, the officials said despite inclement weather and challenging terrain, secu-

#### Two terrorists killed

Srinagar: Two terrorists were killed as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district Thursday, officials said. The officials said security forces had received intelligence inputs about the terrorists' attempts to infiltrate into the Valley along the LoC in the Keran sector of the north Kashmir district. The alert security forces noticed the movement of the terrorists and challenged them. Two terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire, they said.

rity forces are conducting the operation to track down the terrorists. They are determined to eliminate them and restore peace in the area, they added.

The officials said the terrorists after opening fire on the temporary camp Thursday attack inside the school building fled into a dense forest area. Meanwhile, Kashmir Tigers, a shadow group of proscribed Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit, released a purported video of the Monday attack on social media that showed a brutal display of running a knife on the throat of an army officer.

Army sources dismissed the video as doctored and said the attack had taken place around 9 pm Monday. It is simply a propaganda video by Pakistani terror handlers to mislead and create fear among the people, the sources said

The Doda district, which was cleared of terrorism in 2005, has witnessed a series of attacks since June 12 when six security personnel were injured in a terror attack in Chattergala pass, followed by a firefight in Gandoh the next day which left one policeman injured.

# Natural herb 'Chhoti Kateli' prevents tuberculosis effectively

POST NEWS NETWORK

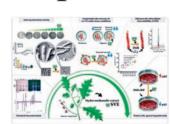
Haridwar, July 18: TB is caused by bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) and it most often affects the lungs. TB is spread through the air when people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit. A person needs to inhale only a few germs to become infected

According to WHO, over 1 crore people worldwide were affected in the year 2022 by this disease. Despite being a preventable and curable disease, many people die from TB each year – making it one of the top

SEEKING SHELTER: People take cover under a large polythene sheet during rain in New Delhi

infectious killers in the world. On this occasion, Acharya Balkrishna said that the current treatment modalities include the limited bioavailability of anti-tubercular drugs and the propensity of the bacteria to develop single- or multi-drug resistant. Also, the long treatment period of anti-tubercular drugs induces drug-associated hepatotoxicity. All this makes it apparent that there is a desperate need for new TB drugs or adjunct therapy that make the existing line of treat-

ment more effective.



In a significant move towards developing herbal medicines for tuberculosis (TB) treatment, a recent study at Patanjali has highlighted the potential of Solanum virginianum extract (SVE) or 'Chhoti Kateli' as anti-tubercular therapy. This research is part

of an initiative aimed at developing herbal therapies that can either stand alone or complement existing anti-TB drugs, with defined mechanisms of action and herb-drug synergism.

The current study tested the biological activity of SVE in Mycobacterium smegmatis, mc2155, a model system for the investigation of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) showed that bacteria treated with SVE exhibited reduced growth and viability, indicating the extract's anti-tubercular effects.

The study further employed

a targeted metabolomics approach using UPLC/QToF-MS to detect and quantify intracellular isoniazid (INH) in a complex biological matrix of bacteria which showed that SVE increased the bioavailability of the modern TB drug isoniazid (INH), enhancing the bacteria's sensitivity to the drug and improving its efficacy.

Acharya Balkrishna said Patanjali is delighted to announce that this research has been published in the renowned peer-reviewed journal, 'Frontiers in Microbiology'.

# Irregular sleep can lead to increased diabetes risk: Study

**ACCORDING TO THE STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL DIABETES CARE. THE LINK WAS** "MORE PRONOUNCED" AMONG THOSE **SLEEPING FOR LONGER DURATIONS AND HAVING A LOWER GENETIC RISK OF DIABETES** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: Weeklong irregular sleep can increase the risk of type 2 diabetes in middleaged and older people by 34 per cent, a new study has found.

Even as researchers acknowledged assessing sleep duration over seven days may not capture long-term sleep patterns,

they said changing this lifestyle factor can help lower the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

According to the study published in the journal Diabetes Care, the link was "more pronounced" among those sleeping for longer durations and having a lower genetic risk of diabetes. "Our findings underscore the importance of con-



sistent sleep patterns as a strategy to reduce type 2 diabetes,' Sina Kianersi, a research fellow at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in the US and lead author of the study, said. The researchers followed more than 84,000 participants from the UK

Biobank dataset who were aged 62 years on average and did not have diabetes to begin with. Over seven years, they monitored the development of the metabolic dis-

ease through medical records. The authors wanted to find out if irregular sleep lengths could promote diabetes by disrupting the body's biological clock. They also wanted to examine the effects of irregular sleep in people with a low genetic risk of the disease. The team found that the individuals with a sleep duration changing by more than 60 minutes had a 34 per cent higher diabetes risk, compared to those whose sleep lengths changed by less than 60 minutes.

However, after adjusting for lifestyle, health conditions, environmental factors and body fat, the risk among these individuals was found to drop to 11 per cent.

The researchers said they were interested in exploring the biological reasons why sleep irregularity increases the risk of diabetes. They also plan to study participants from younger age groups and with diverse racial backgrounds.

"More research is needed to fully understand the mechanismand confirm the results in other populations," said Kianersi.

# international



The fact that the West is exhibiting its displeasure to powers like China. like India. well. it shows the lack of erudition, the inability to partake in diplomacy, and also speaks to the failure of political analysts SERGEY LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA CURBS**

After successfully blocking X for over six months, the Pakistan government has targeted more social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, and restricted their access to the people, a step seen as a plan to impose a complete ban on



It is the United death of 100,000 young people each year. Instead of blaming the migrants, why not review the internal crisis in the US

PRESIDENT, MEXICO

It has been nine months since the Israel-Hamas conflict, and the continuing

humanitarian crisis is deeply concerning. We have also condemned the loss of civilian lives in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict R RAVINDRA DEPUTY PERMANENT

REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UN AMBASSADOR



KEIR STARMER | PM. UK

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Fire in department store kills 16

Beijing: At least 16 people were killed in a department store fire in Zigong City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, according to the local fire and rescue headquarters. China's Ministry of Emergency Management and National Fire and Rescue Administration said that a working team has been dispatched to southwest China's Sichuan Province following a fire at a department store, Xinhua news agency reported. The fire broke out around 6 pm Wednesday at a 14-story building in Zigong City.

#### Russia sentences US citizen to 13 yrs jail

Moscow: A Russian court Thursday sentenced US citizen Michael Travis Leake to 13 years in prison on drug smuggling charges, Moscow's court service said in a statement. Leake, a musician and former US paratrooper who was arrested in June 2023, was found quilty of selling drugs on a large scale. the court service said. It was not clear how he pleaded. Leake is one of about a dozen Americans currently held in Russian detention.

#### US cop fired over insensitive laughter

New York: A Seattle police officer, whose insensitive comments and laughter following the death of an Indian student had caused outrage, has been fired. Jaahnavi Kandula, 23, was struck by a police vehicle driven by Seattle Police Officer Kevin Dave as she was crossing a street January 23. Dave was driving 74 mph on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. Kandula was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol

#### Spain swelters

Barcelona: Spain sweated under its first official heatwave of the year with temperatures expected to reach 40 degrees Celcius in a large swathe of the country Thursday, while Italy, Greece and other areas of southern Europe also struggled to stay cool. After a relatively bearable spring compared to record heat in 2023 and 2022. millions of Spaniards will be sweltering at least through Saturday before feeling any

# BANGLADESH ON BOIL Trump to accept

Death toll rises to 16 in nationwide anti-quota protests

REUTERS

Dhaka, July 18: Thousands of students armed with sticks and rocks clashed with armed police in Dhaka Thursday as the Bangladesh authorities cut some mobile internet services to quell anti-quota protests that have killed at least 16 people this week.

The nationwide agitation, the biggest since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was re-elected for a fourth time, is fuelled by high unemployment among the youth, with nearly a fifth of the 170 million population out of work or education.

Protesters are demanding the state stop setting aside 30% of government jobs for families of those who fought in the 1971 war of independence from

Ten people died in clashes with police Thursday in Dhaka, the highest toll in a single day so far, including a bus driver whose body was brought to a hospital with a bullet wound to his chest, a rickshaw-puller and three students, officials told Reuters.

Hundreds more were injured as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to break up protesters who torched vehicles, police posts and other establishments, witnesses said.

Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government was willing to hold talks with the protesters, but they refused, saying "discus-



#### India issues travel advisory

Dhaka: India Thursday advised its citizens residing in Bangladesh to avoid travel and minimise their movement after ongoing protests demanding reforms in the quota system in government jobs turned violent and left at least six people dead across the country. The violence prompted the government to close all public and private universities alongside schools and colleges across Bangladesh for an indefinite period on late Tuesday asking residential students to leave dormitories. In view of the ongoing situation in Bangladesh, the Indian community members and members and the Indian students residing in Bangladesh are advised to avoid travel and minimise their movement outside their living premises, the Indian High Commission here said in a statement. The mission also provided multiple 24-hour Emergency numbers for any assistance.

sions and opening fire do not go hand in hand".

'We cannot trample over dead bodies to hold discussions. Discussions could have taken place earlier," protest co-ordi-

nator Nahid Islam told Reuters. Mujibur Rahman who led

Bangladesh to independence, has so far rejected the demands

Hasina, the daughter of Sheikh

■ At least 10 dead in clashes Thursday, hundreds injured

- Riot police battle with protesters, fire tear gas
- Some mobile internet services shut down temporarily

Earlier, police fired tear gas to scatter protesters near a Dhaka university campus and authorities cut some mobile internet services to limit the demonstrations.

Police also fired tear gas to disperse stone-throwing students who blocked a highway in the southern port city of

Chittagong.
The US Embassy in Dhaka said it would close Thursday and advised its citizens to avoid demonstrations and large gath-

Authorities had shut all public and private universities indefinitely from Wednesday and sent riot police and the Border Guard paramilitary force to university campuses to keep order.

The Supreme Court will hear August 7 the government's appeal against a High Court verdict that ordered the reinstatement of the quota. Hasina has asked the students to be patient until the verdict.

Rights groups such as Amnesty International, as well as the United Nations and the United States have urged Bangladesh to protect peaceful protesters from violence.

# party's nomination

**PARTY MEMBERS ARE FAITHFUL TO SEAL** TRUMP'S TAKEOVER OF **REPUBLICAN PARTY** 

REUTERS

Milwaukee, July 18: Five days after narrowly escaping assassination, Donald Trump will accept his presidential nomination Thursday before an adoring crowd of supporters, the final act in his transformation of the Republican Party into the party of Trump.

His brush with death has fueled the growing quasi-religious fervor among the party faithful, elevating him from political leader to a man they believe is protected by God.

"Trump, Trump, Trump," attendees roared at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee when he appeared each night this week, his right ear bandaged, to listen to speaker after speaker intone reverentially about him and reference God's hand in his survival from a would-be assassin's bullet.

Republicans are uniting behind him this week. With most dissent quelled and his grip on the party never tighter, Trump will be in a much stronger position than in his 2017-2021 term to follow through on his agenda if he



wins the November 5 election. Untrammeled by the internal divisions that sometimes stymied him in his first term, Trump would be free to pursue hardedged policies that include mass deportations as part of a crackdown on illegal migration, aggressive trade policies, and dismissing government officials

seen as insufficiently loyal. Even if Trump retakes the White House, Republicans take control of both houses of Congress, and conservatives go on holding a Supreme Court super majority, there would still be institutional checks on a second Trump term. He could be kept in check by

Congress, the courts and a public that elects a new Congress every two years and a President every four years, constitutional experts say. Nevertheless, many Trump supporters want to see a powerful President.

Nepal, India, B'desh

power trading deal

Kathmandu, July 18: Nepal

will sign a tripartite power trad-

ing deal next week to export 40

to sign tripartite

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### CCP drops former foreign, defence mins from top body China Communist

Party policy meeting endorses leader Xi's high-tech vision for economy

Beijing, July 18: China's Communist Party (CCP) removed its former foreign and defence ministers. Qin Gang and Li Shangfu, from its Central Committee Thursday during a meeting of its largest top decisionmaking body, state news agency Xinhua reported.

The two officials had been removed from their jobs last year.

The ruling Communist Party ended its long-delayed third plenum Thursday, a meeting of the 205-member Central Committee held roughly once every five years to map out the general direction of the country's long-term social and economic policies. Removals of Central Committee members would also be approved at such meetings.

The Central Committee said



in a communique released by Xinhua that it accepted Qin Gang's resignation from the body. and confirmed the expulsion of Li Shangfu, 66, as well as former PLA Rocket Force commander Li Yuchao, 61, from the Communist Party for "serious violations of discipline and law", a euphemism for corruption. Li Yuchao was also removed from his job last year.

The decision to expel Li Shangfu and Li Yuchao from the Communist Party and its Central Committee by extension suggests harsher political consequences for the pair, compared to Qin Gang's resignation. Qin remains a Communist Party member.

Chinese President Xi Jinping

since becoming leader of the Communist Party in 2012. In the first half of this year alone, the party's top graft watchdog has investigated 36 officials at the viceministerial level and above.

Li Shangfu and his predecessor Wei Fenghe were both expelled from the Communist Party last month on bribery charges. as China's People's Liberation Army undergoes a sweeping anticorruption purge which has implicated two former defence ministers and nine top generals.

Qin, 58, was abruptly removed as foreign minister in July last year after seven months in the job, and has not been seen in public since following rumours of an extramarital affair. He was removed from China's cabinet, the State Council, in October and "resigned" from the national legislative body in February.

He became one of the country's youngest foreign ministers when he was appointed in December 2022, enjoying a meteoric rise which analysts partly attributed to his closeness to President Xi.

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### Ursula re-elected as EU President

Strasbourg: Lawmakers at the European Parliament Thursday re-elected Ursula von der Leven to a second 5-vear term as president of the European Union's executive commission, giving her a comfortable majority and heading off a possible leadership vacuum. Von der Leyen raised both fists in victory as the Parliament President Roberta Metsola read out the result at the legislature. Von der Leven gained 401 of the 707 votes cast. "I will never let the extreme



polarisation of our societies become accepted. I will never accept that demagogues and extremists destroy our European way of life. And I stand here today ready to lead the fight with all the Democratic forces in this house," von der Leven said.

#### SA's Prez to open Parl after historic election



Cape Town: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will open a new parliamentary term Thursday to mark the official start of business for his 11-party coalition government, an uneasy union brought together by an historic election result. Ramaphosa's speech will likely outline the priorities for the new government, which were made clear after his once-dominant African National Congress party lost its parliamentary majority for the

first time in the country's May 29 election. In the biggest shift in South African politics since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule in 1994, the long-ruling ANC dropped to just 40 per cent of the vote and no party won a majority. That means Ramaphosa will also come face-to-face Thursday with a new opposition.

#### MW of electricity to Bangladesh via India, a senior official said Thursday This will be the first time in

history that the Himalayan nation will sell electricity to a third country other than India. Ground has been cleared for

the three countries to sign the agreement on exporting electricity to Bangladesh, said Chandan Kumar Ghosh, spokesperson at Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), the government-owned electricity body.

The Power Sales Agreement will be signed by officials from the NEA, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and the NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN) of India at a function here July 28, Ghosh said.

Nepal's Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Dipak Khadka, India's Power Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar and Bangladesh's Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, Nasrul Hamid, will witness the signing ceremony, he said.

Under the agreement, the NEA will export 40 MW of hydroelectricity to Bangladesh via India from June 15 to November 15 every year. As per the agreement, Nepal

will get a tariff of \$0.064 per unit for selling electricity to Bangladesh.

Nepal will transmit the energy to India through the 400KV Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur crossborder transmission line. India will then transmit the equivalent to Bangladesh.

The delivery point will be a 400kV substation at Muzaffarpur in India, and Bangladesh will pay the transmission charge for using the Indian transmission infrastructure. According to an estimate by the NEA, Nepal will receive around Rs 330 million through the sale of electricity.

Last month, a meeting of the 'Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase' of Bangladesh approved a proposal to import 40 MW of electricity from Nepal.

In January, Nepal signed a 🔫 long-term agreement for the export of 10,000 MW of power to India, and jointly inaugurated three cross-border transmission lines during the two-day visit of External Affairs Minister S-Jaishankar to the Himalayan

# **RULING**

# SK's top court grants state benefits to gay couples

It is an act of

THERE IS NO LEGAL **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LGBTQ PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTH KOREA, FORCING COUPLES** TO MOVE ABROAD IF THEY WANT TO GET **MARRIED LEGALLY** 

Seoul, July 18: South Korea's Supreme Court Thursday upheld a ruling that a same-sex partner was eligible for spousal benefits from state health insurance, a move hailed as a win for LGBTQ rights in a country that has lagged others in the re-

The court confirmed a landmark decision by the Seoul High Court early last year that the National Health Insurance Service should provide equal spousal coverage to So Sung-



"I couldn't believe when I heard the ruling. I was extremely happy and I started crying," Kim told Reuters outside the court.

"It took four years to earn this dependent status," he said. "We need to fight harder to legalize same-sex marriage going for-Chief Justice Jo Hee-de said

that denying the couple bene-

fits, even though there are no

clauses in the National Health Insurance Act that specifically refer to same-sex unions, constituted dis-

crimination based on sexual orientation. "It is an act of dis-

crimination that violates human dignity and value, the right to pursue happiness, freedom of privacy and the right to equality before the law, and the degree of violation is serious, Judge Jo told a televised trial. So Kim refer to themselves as a married couple, but their mar-

South Korea. Lawyers and advocates said the ruling marks the first legal recognition of same-sex unions.

riage is not legally recognised in

'With this ruling today, the legal status of same-sex couples will be recognised in the public system, so I think the existence of same-sex cou-

ples will become more visible," Chang Suh-yeon, discrimination that violates one of the human dignity and value, the lawyers who represented right to pursue happiness, the couple, told freedom of privacy and the

reporters. right to equality before the While camlaw, and the degree of paigns to legalviolation is serious ize same-sex mar-JO HEE-DE | CHIEF JUSTICE, riage

succeeded in Taiwan and Thailand, there is no legal acknowledgement of LGBTQ partnerships in South Korea, forcing couples to move abroad if they want to get married legally.

The Supreme Court's ruling is a "stepping stone for progress" towards marriage equality, said Horim Yi, an activist at the LGBTQ campaign group Marriage For All.

"It's going to be a very hopeful ruling for same-sex couples living in South Korea," Yi said.

Last year, the couple told Reuters they were being open about their story to help "change people's opinions and help other LGBTQ people like us gather up the courage"

Conservative religious groups in South Korea have mounted fierce resistance to efforts to pass laws promoting LGBTQ rights, prompting many people to hide their identity in the workplace as they struggle for equal recognition and acceptance.

Ahead of the ruling, members of conservative Christian groups held a rally outside the court, waving a banner reading "Same-sex families are nonsense. Supreme Court, overturn the Seoul High Court's ruling!"

## LANDMARK

# business



The Indian fintech industry is estimated to be around \$110 billion in 2024 and its projected to reach about \$420 billion by 2029

AJAY KUMAR CHOUDHARY NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN AND INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR, NPCI

TOP GAINERS

2.57 Bajaj Finserv

3.33 TCS

2.32 M&M

TOP

LOSERS

-0.71 NTPC

-1.48 Asian Paints

-0.89 JSW Steel

0.42 Power Grid

#### FLIPKART ANNOUNCES 'G.O.A.T' SALE

Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, Thursday announced its first-ever G.O.A.T (Greatest of All Time) sale, slated for July 20-25, with early access starting July 19, offering attractive deals on a wide array of products such as large home appliances





Strengthening of local governments is crucial in realizing Sustainable Development Goals, fostering grassroot engagement, and nurturing citizen

ownership and accountability GIRISH CHANDRA MURMU | COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

India has competitive advantage in these products and hence the potential to export more to Russia, India should



AJAY SRIVASTAVA FOUNDER, GTRI

Having import duties on Aluminium scrap could be retrograde and would



DHAWAL SHAH | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, AI

#### 01 **RESULTS**

#### Infosys profit up 7%

Bangalore: IT major Infosys Thursday reported 7 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹6,368 crore for June quarter FY25 and raised its growth outlook for the financial year. In the year-ago period, the company clocked a profit of ₹5,945 crore, according to a BSE filing. The net profit in April-June fell 20 per cent from ₹7,969 crore in the preceding March quarter. For the current fiscal year, the company raised revenue growth guidance to 3-4 per cent in constant currency terms from 1-3 per cent projected earlier. It expects to hire 15.000-20.000 freshers depending on the growth during the year.

#### Tata Tech PAT falls

New Delhi: Global engineering and product development digital services firm Tata Technologies Ltd Thursday reported a 15.4 per cent decline in consolidated profit the June 2024 quarter, impacted by higher expenses. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of ₹191.53 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. Tata Technologies Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the first quarter stood at ₹1.268.97 crore as against ₹1.257.53 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

#### Havells profit rises

New Delhi: Havells India Ltd Thursday reported a 42 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹407.51 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2024 as a scorching summer led to robust sales growth. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹287.07 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Havells India said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the first quarter stood at ₹5,806.21 crore, as compared to ₹4,833.8 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, the company said.

#### Ceat net surges 7%

New Delhi: Tyre maker Ceat Thursday said its consolidated net profit increased by 7 per cent to ₹154 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024. The company had reported a net profit of ₹144 crore in the April-June period of last fiscal. Revenue increased to ₹3,193 crore in the first quarter as against ₹2,935 crore in the year-ago period, Ceat Ltd said in a regulatory filing. "We are encouraged by the strong growth we've had in the replacement and export segments across all categories during the quarter," Ceat MD & CEO Arnab Banerjee said.

# D-St's record-smashing rally

Change +626.91

IT boost lift shares to record closing highs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 18: Stock markets remained on record-smashing course for the fourth straight day Thursday with benchmark Sensex breaching the 81,000 mark for the first time and Nifty scaling the record 24,800 level driven by buying in IT, oil & gas and FMCG shares.

Rebounding from its early lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 626.91 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a fresh closing high of 81,343.46. The index opened on a weak note and hit a low of 80,390.37 points in early

However buying in IT shares TCS, Infosys and Tech Mahindra and index heavyweight Reliance Industries helped the index pare losses in the afternoon session. The barometer surged 806 points or 0.99 per cent to hit a new record intra-day peak of 81,522.55.

The broader Nifty also pared early losses and climbed 187.85 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,800.85. During the day, it zoomed 224.75 points or 0.91 per cent to hit a fresh

INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS

**BYJU'S KNOCKS** 

AT NCLAT DOOR

New Delhi, July 18: Crisis-rid-

den Byju's has moved the

National Company Law Appellate

Tribunal (NCLAT) against the re-

cent order of NCLT that allowed

cricket board BCCI's petition

for initiating insolvency pro-

ceedings against the once-famed

Sources privy to the develop-

ment said that the company is

seeking an urgent hearing on

the matter. According to sources,

Byju's Thursday moved the ap-

pellate tribunal, NCLAT, con-

testing the recent order of NCLT's

Bangalore bench that had ad-

mitted the cricket board's plea

to start insolvency proceedings

against the parent company Think

and Learn, after the edtech firm

Founder and CEO Byju

Raveendran will report to the res-

olution professional. NCLT has

appointed Pankaj Srivastava as

the interim resolution professional.

Byju's had previously sponsored

the Indian cricket team. Earlier this

week. Byiu's had said it is hope-

ful of reaching "an amicable set-

tlement" with the Board of Control

said: "As we have always main-

tained, we wish to reach an am-

icable settlement with BCCI and

we are confident that, despite

this order, a settlement can be

reached. In the meantime, our

lawyers are reviewing the order

and will take necessary steps to

protect the company's interests."

billion but reopening of schools

after easing of pandemic re-

strictions led to its unravelling.

BlackRock recently slashed its

valuation of \$1 billion.

Byjus was once valued at \$22

A Byju's spokesperson had

for Cricket in India (BCCI).

failed to pay ₹158.9 crore dues.

edtech company, sources said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

80,300 -GRAPHICS firmed up in the second half, reaching fresh iighs driven by renewed buying in IT stocks. Investor optimism for the sector grew after strong performance reports from the country's

**BSE Sensex** 

Previous day close: 80,716.55

81,500

leading IT firms in the June quarter, coupled with a weakening rupee INOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

timents.

Mumbai, July 18: Rupee de-

preciated 5 paise and settled at

its all-time low of 83.63 against

the US dollar Thursday, as the

strength of the American cur-

rency in the overseas market

and overnight surge in crude oil

prices weighed on investor sen-

Forex traders expect the rupee

to trade with a slight negative bias

on strong US dollar and weak

Asian as well as European cur-

rencies. The US dollar strength-

ened, while the pound weakened

amid disappointing labour mar-

However, positive domestic

markets and foreign fund inflows

cushioned the downside in the do-

mestic unit to a certain extent.

At the interbank foreign ex-

change market, the local unit

opened at 83.57, and touched an

intraday high of 83.55 and a low

ket data from the UK.

lifetime high of 24,837.75. Softening US bond yields on growing hopes of a US Fed rate

Nifty have been on a record-breaking run since Friday. The indices have traded at lifetime high levels in the four straight sessions. Nifty advanced nearly 1.98% while Sensex rose 1.79% since Friday

**Benchmark Sensex and** 

cut by September also boosted FII flows into Indian equities, an-

₹ falls to lowest-ever 83.63 against \$

ANUJ CHOUDHARY | RESEARCH ANALYST, SHAREKHAN

of 83.66 against the dollar during

It finally settled at 83.63 against

the American currency, regis-

tering a loss of 5 paise from its

On Tuesday the rupee

the session.

previous close.

■ NIFTY CLOSES AT RECORD 24,800

Among Sensex shares, Tata Consultancy Services rose the most by 3.33 per cent.

Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India and HCL Technologies were among the gainers.

On the contrary, Asian Paints, JSW Steel, NTPC and Adani Ports were among the laggards. In total, 22 Sensex shares advanced and eight declined.

The BSE smallcap gauge dropped 1.15 per cent and the midcap index dipped 0.99 per

Among the indices, capital goods dropped 2.03 per cent, industrials by 1.95 per cent, utilities by 1.08 per cent and services by 0.87 per cent.

Healthcare, IT, telecommunication, auto and teck were the gainers

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.14 per cent to \$84.96 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹1,271.45 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data. Stock markets were closed Wednesday on account of Muharram

currency. The rupee had wit-

nessed its previous lowest clos-

Meanwhile, the dollar index.

which gauges the greenback's

strength against a basket of six

currencies, was trading higher

ing level of 83.61 July 15.

Superimposed on this 'per-

an enduring character. Food prices are clearly dominating the behaviour of headline inflation and households' inflation expectations, undermining the gains of lowering core and fuel inflation through a combi-

Given the high uncertainty shrouding the inflation outlook, it is prudent to eschew the temptation of time inconsistency and stay the course on the straight and narrow path of aligning infla-

ticle said.

The central bank, however, said the views expressed in the Bulletin article are of the authors and do not represent the

# Growth pace speeds up in Q2: RBI Bulletin

#### **FOOD INFLATION A CONCERN**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 18: The second quarter of 2024-25 has begun with signs of quickening momentum in the economy though inflation in the food basket remains a concern, said the Reserve Bank's July Bulletin released Thursday.

An article authored by a team led by RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra on 'State of the Economy' in the monthly Bulletin also said the improvement in the outlook for agriculture and the revival of rural spending have turned out to be the bright spots in the evolution of demand conditions.

Consumer price inflation ticked up in June 2024 after three consecutive months of moderation as a broad flare-up in vegetable prices halted the overall disinflation that had been underway, it said.

sistent' component are sporadic spikes in prices of a range of vegetables that overlap across constituents to give the broader category of vegetable inflation

nation of monetary policy and supply management, they said.

tion with the target of 4 per cent.

'This does not imply that inflation should reach 4 per cent and stay there before monetary policy considers a change in stance; instead, based on a careful evaluation of the balance of risks, an enduring movement towards the target should provide signals to forward-looking monetary policy to respond," the ar-

views of the RBI.

The argument that food price shocks are transitory does not seem to be borne out by the actual experience over the past one year - too long a period for a shock to be termed as transitory

MICHAEL DEBABRATA PATRA

The detailed article on the state of the economy said that after remaining in surplus in the early part of June 2024, system liquidity turned into a deficit in the second half of the month due to advance tax payments and goods and services tax (GST) related outflows amidst sluggish government spending.

It again turned into a surplus from June 28, 2024, with the usual drawdown in government cash balances at the month-end.

Gross inward foreign direct investment (FDI) at \$15.2 billion during April-May 2024 was higher than \$12.3 billion recorded a year ago. More than 80 per cent of the gross FDI inflows were concentrated in sectors such as manufacturing, financial services, computer services, business services, and electricity and other energy.

Major source countries included Mauritius, Singapore, the Netherlands, the US and Cyprus, accounting for more than 80 per cent of the flows.

Net FDI at \$7.1 billion in April-May 2024 more than doubled from \$3.4 billion a year ago, due to a rise in gross inflows and a moderation in repatriation.

Also, non-resident deposits recorded net inflows of \$2.7 billion in April-May 2024 as compared to \$0.6 billion a year ago, led by higher inflows in all three accounts namely, Non-Resident (External) Rupee Accounts, Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) and Foreign Currency Non-Resident

# [FCNR(B)] accounts.

#### **BIZ BUZZ**

at 83.58 against the American by 0.09 per cent at 103.83.

A bounce back in crude oil prices may further pressurise

fresh foreign inflows may support the rupee at lower levels

the rupee. However, record high domestic equities and

#### Mitesh Khimji's Budget wishlist

Bhubaneswar: Mitesh Khimji, Director at Khimji Jewellers says, "For the forthcoming budget, we anticipate two crucial actions from the government, particularly the Ministry of Finance. Firstly, we reiterate our longstanding request for a reduction in the duty imposed on gold imports. This measure would effectively align domestic gold prices with international standards,





to a range of 3.5 to 4 lakh rupees would be better. This will help the industry and save customers from a lot of paperwork". Finance Ministry is going to table the Budget July 23.

### PNB's Dura Branch shifted to new premises

Berhampur: Punjab National Bank, Dura Branch under Berhampur tehsil of Ganjam district has been shifted to new premises July 17. The premises got formally inaugurated by Rajesh Kumar Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar Zone in presence of Dr Alok Ranjan Senapaty, Circle Head of Berhampur Circle and Guest of Honor



Bishnupriya Behera, Sarpanch of Dura panchayat. On this occasion a customer meet was organised wherein Kumar emphasised on bank's digital products, online loan facilities and the bank's commitment to ensure banking with ease to all its customers. Senapaty, Circle Head, addressed the customers and SHG groups about the loan products and utility of the loan to enhance living standard of common man. Amongst others, the programme was organised and attended by Chief Manager Subrat Kumar Sethi, Jagajyoti Mishra, Manager, D Maheswari Patra, Manager and other staffs of the bank. At the end, Simanchal Sahu, Branch Head, Srinibas Panda, Deputy Manager thanked all customers and senior officials for their support and cooperation.

#### Realty deals jump nearly 8X from Q1 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: Indian real estate market saw deals worth \$1.56 billion during April-June period, a jump of nearly eight-fold from the preceding quarter, according to Grant Thornton report.

In its report Real Estate/REITs Dealtracker-Providing M&A and PE deal insights, consulting firm Grant Thornton Bharat mentioned that Indian real estate market witnessed 19 deals valued at \$1.56 billion during the second quarter of this calendar year. During the preceding January-

March quarter, deals worth only \$200 million were closed.

The consultant noted that there has been a robust growth trajectory in overall deal activity, primarily driven by substantial increases in domestic transactions and private equity (PE) investments.

As per the report, the M&A (merger and acquisition) deals during the second quarter were valued at \$123 million, as against \$32 million in the preceding

The private equity deals jumped 8.5 times to \$1,439 million in April-June 2024 from \$168 million in the preceding quarter.

Grant Thornton report highlighted that four top deals (all from the PE segment) alone accounted for 85 per cent of the total deal value.

Brookfield India Real Estate Trust's acquisition of four grade A commercial assets from Bharti Enterprises in Delhi for \$723 million marked the largesttransaction of the quarter, it added.

### Stocks surge to record: Govt may ease rice export curbs With rice supplies

LOWERING THE MEP WOULD HELP INDIA RETAIN ITS MARKET SHARE AGAINST PAKISTAN, WHICH **EXPORTED A RECORD AMOUNT OF RICE THIS** YEAR DUE TO INDIA'S EXPORT CURBS

New Delhi, July 18: India is likely to cut the floor price for basmati rice exports and replace the 20% export tax on parboiled rice with a fixed duty on overseas shipments, government sources said, as rice inventories in the country jumped a record high.

The world's biggest rice exporter imposed various curbs on exports in 2023 and continued them in 2024 in an effort to keep local prices in check ahead of the general elections held in

New Delhi is expected to lower the basmati rice's minimum export price (MEP) to \$800-\$850 a metric ton, down from \$950 a ton, to boost shipments, said the sources.

India and Pakistan are the leading exporters of basmati rice. New Delhi exports more than 4 million metric tons of basmati the premium long-grain variety famed for its aroma - to countries such as Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.



New Delhi is also expected to drop the 20% export tax on parboiled rice and introduce a minimum export tax to stop underinvoicing of shipments, the sources said.

The government was examining possibilities of easing rice export curb, including resuming white rice exports, Reuters

lower output due to the El Nino weather pattern, India banned overseas shipments of non-basmati white rice varieties in July 2023 and imposed curbs on other grades. The country's rice stocks at state warehouses have jumped to 48.51 million metric tons as of

July 1, the highest ever for the month and nearly 19% more than last year, according to the Food Corporation of India. reported last month. New Delhi would also review Worried over expectations of the export ban on non-basmati

> sources said. Farmers have so far planted 11.6 million hectares with rice paddy during the current planting, up 20.7% on the same pe-

> white rice after assessing the

progress of rice planting, the

riod last year.

significantly exceeding

local demand, it's

crucial to reduce stockpiles

most effective solution is to

to prevent spoilage. The

lift export restrictions

BV KRISHNA RAO | PRESIDENT, REA

# Sindhu eyes 3rd Olympic medal

If she does manage to achieve her goal, she will be the only Indian to do so



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: Badminton ace PV Sindhu has said that she will be 'going all-out' in her quest to become the first Indian to win an unprecedented third individual Olympic medal in Paris, drawing on her experience from a successful past. Sindhu stands on the brink of history as she pursues the gold medal in the upcoming Games, having won a silver and bronze in 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo edition respectively.

Sindhu spoke about her unwavering focus on making history at Paris, though it is going to be an extremely difficult task for the Indian shuttler.

"That third medal at Paris definitely motivates me, and I am going all-out to get that gold medal. For me, the Olympics is where I give my 200%,' Sindhu said in an exclusive conver■ Sindhu is currently ranked No. 13 in Sindhu won silver in 2016 at Rio and

bronze in 2021 at Tokyo

Sindhu also has 5 BWF World Championship medals in her kiitv

Sindhu has 2 CWG gold medals, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal

Sindhu has also won a silver at the 2018 Asian Games

ing about the colour of the medals," Sindhu stated.

Sindhu spoke at length about her preparation for the mega event, which will run from July 26 to August 11. "My preparations are focused on putting in the hard work while being smart and aggressive on that particular match day," she stated.

The former World Champion is aware the fierce competition that awaits here and she respects the calibre of her opponents.

"The Olympics is extremely competitive, and all the athletes are at their peak. The top 10-15 players in the world are of the same standard, be it the likes of AN Se Young, Akane Yamaguchi, Carolina Marin or Tai Tzu Ying. There are no easy points at the Olympics. Anything can happen at the Olympics; one small mistake can change everything," Sindhu said.

Sindhu also shared her perspective on working with Indian badminton legend Prakash Padukone, terming it her good fortune to be associated with the 1980 All England champion.

'This time, we have a whole new team with Prakash (Padukone) sir as my mentor and Agus (Dwi Santoso) as the new coach. Our practice is focused at getting everything perfect and to the point. It is my fortune that Prakash sir is my mentor and a part of my journey, and I hope his support can help me win that third medal," Sindhu stated.



It's time for **METTLE MEET**an initiative by the state's only homegrown English daily to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the **Preliminaries** will take place August 3 and the Grand Finale August 4. Like in previous years, most of the top educational institutions of Odisha - both schools and colleges will be competing for the Grand Prize of ₹1,00,000 in the Junior and Senior segments.



- Everyone will have to mail their answers to met-
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- **Orissa POST's** decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address. Otherwise the entries will be rejected.
- There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of Valid ID proof - Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee of **Orissa POST** or their family members can be part of the competition

#### THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



AYUSHI PRADHAN AHAANA PAIKRAY

Others who answered correctly are Bhumika Subhalaxmi, Ashish Agarwalla, Jaba Dasgupta and TN Mishra

#### sation on JioCinema's The Dreamers. "The journeys in 2016 and 2020 were wonderful, filled with immense effort and unforgettable moments. As I prepare for Paris 2024, it's a fresh start,

Ranked among the world's top players, Sindhu draws from her past experiences to fuel her quest for gold. "There are a lot of experiences from my previous outings at the Olympics that I will take into Paris 2024, but I don't want to get overconfident think-

and I have to give my 100 per cent no

matter what," Sindhu added.

hopes of the nation and get the third medal because

getting three consecutive medals is not a joke

#### TODAY'S QUESTION

Originally named Namgyal Wangdi his name was changed to a new name that translates as "wealthy fortunate follower of religion." How do we better know this individual who served as the first Director of Field Training of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling?

s a reader of Orissa POST, this is a great chance for

you to be part of the exciting Grand Finale if you

can predict the correct answer. There will be one

question on each day for you to answer till July 31, 2024. Every day there will be two winners. If there are more than two

correct entries, then the winners will be decided by draw of

lots. All the winners will be invited for the Grand Finale which

will be conducted by nationally acclaimed quizmaster Ajay

Poonia. There will be prizes for the daily winners too. So buckle

up your seatbelts and get set for some brainstorming.

ANSWER TO Thursday's QUESTION

**Dinosaur game on Google** chrome when offline

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Nagal bows out** Bastad (Sweden): India's No.1

singles player Sumit Nagal lost his pre-quarterfinal match against fourth-seeded Argentine Mariano Navone in straight sets 4-6, 2-6 here Thursday. Had Nagal won this round, he could have had a possible face-off with Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals but the world No. 36 was too good for the Indian. Nagal, a clay court specialist has qualified for the singles event at Paris Olympics and this was his last tournament before the quadrennial extravaganza which begins in Paris

#### No improvement

New Delhi: Success-starved India held on to the 124th position in the FIFA men's rankings released Thursday, even as reigning World Champions and Copa America winners Argentina strengthened their grip at the top of the pecking order. Since December last year, India have been sliding down. They had broken into the top 100 last year, with a best ranking of 99, but since then it has been a downward spiral. In Asia, India remained on 22nd position, behind the likes of Lebanon and Palestine Having successfully defended their Copa América crown, Argentina (first) tightened their grip at the top of the table. France were second while Spain rose five places to third after their Euro Championships victory

# Surva named T20 team skipper

#### **ROHIT, VIRAT AVAILABLE FOR ODI SERIES AGAINST SRI LANKA**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: Big-hitting batter Suryakumar Yadav was named Thursday captain of the Indian T20 team for this month's three-match series against Sri Lanka. In a separate development ODI skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli made themselves available for the 50 overs three-game series against the same team next month.

Shubman Gill has been named vice-captain for both the formats. The team will depart early next week for the tour, which will mark the beginning of new head coach Gautam Gambhir's three-vear tenure.

Riyan Parag, who scored seven half centuries in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Delhi speedster Harshit

#### R Premadasa Stadium

Rana are the two new faces in the ODI squad. However, seasoned allrounder Ravindra Jadeja did not find a place in the ODI squad. As expected Jasprit Bumrah was rested on expected lines.

Survakumar, 33, was chosen as skipper for the T20 series over Hardik Pandya, the designated vice-captain during India's title run in the Americas. Pandya is three years younger to the Mumbai swashbuckler but was not the preferred choice of both chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Gambhir. However, Pandya is in the T20 squad, but has opted out of the ODIs due to personal reasons.

Shreyas Iyer, despite losing his national contract for missing domestic cricket, made a comeback to the ODI squad alongside KL Rahul, who performed the dual role of keeper-batter during the 50over World Cup last year at home. The squads:

T20I: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill (vicecaptainVC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Mohd. Siraj. ODI: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed and Harshit Rana

# MIXED DAY FOR **ODISHA SQUADS**



Two Hockey Odisha players (in red) try to stop a Bengal attacker

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata, 18th July 2024: It was a day of contrasting fortunes for the women's and men's teams of Hockey Odisha in the 2nd Hockey India Junior Men & Women East Zone Championships 2024 here Thursday. While the women's team went down to hosts Hockey Bengal 0-2, the men overcame Hockey Jharkhand by an identical margin. It was the fourth victory on the trot for the men's team while the eves suffered their first reverse in four outings.

Hosts Bengal were always the dominant side against the Odisha eves. They controlled the ball

India start favourites against Pak

and defended well. Shanti Horo (27th) broke the deadlock for Bengal close to the interval. Captain Subila Tirkey (33rd) then converted a penalty corner to put Bengal in control. A sublime field goal from Laltlanchhungi (49th) put the issue beyond doubt for the hosts.

The men's segment game between Odisha and Jharkhand was a hard-fought affair. After a barren first half, Hockey Odisha took the lead in the 44th when Sunil Lakra converted a penalty corner. Odisha then doubled the lead four minutes later with Deepak Pradhan scoring a lovely

### KIIT awards ₹7 lakh to its Paris-bound athletes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: KIIT felicitated Thursday 11 students from the institution who are in the Indian contingent for the Paris Olympics starting July 26. Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta announced Thursday an award of ₹7 lakh to each of the athletes, encouraging them to give their best on the field and bring glory to the country.

The sportspersons from KIIT and KISS who are in the Indian squad are Amit Rohidas (Hockey), Kishore Kumar Jena (Javelin), Parul Chaudhary (3000m steeplechase & 5000m),



Priyanka (20km walk), Annu Rani (Javelin), Jyothi Yarraji (100m hurdles), Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Shot Put), Prachi (4x400m relay), Ankita (5000m), Paramjeet Singh Bisht (20km walk) and Suraj Panwar (marathon walk mixed relay).

"Your hard work and dedication have brought you to this prestigious stage," Samanta said during a felicitation programme for the athletes here.

### Hardik, Natasa call it quits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jul 18: India allrounder Hardik Pandya, announced Thursday his separation with wife Natasa Stankovic after a relationship of four years. The couple disclosed the decision in a joint statement on their official Instagram accounts. Pandya and Stankovic got married May 31, 2020, and welcomed their first child, son Agastya July 30 of the same year.

"After 4 years Natasa and I have decided to mutually part ways. We believe this is in the best interest for both of us. We are blessed with Agastya, who will continue to be at the centre of both of our lives," they said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dambulla, July 18: The Women's Asia Cup is set for a blockbuster start when defending champions India take on arch foes Pakistan in a primetime clash here Friday, with the eight competing teams hoping to firm up their combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup in October.

Harmanpreet Kaur's India are the team to beat going into this edition of the Asia Cup, having won the competition three out of four times in the T20 version and each of the four times in 50 overs format. Additionally, India are also the most successful team in the Women's Asia Cup T20 with 17



Harmanpreet Kaur talks to the media Thursday

wins in 20 matches. They beat Bangladesh in the final of the last edition in 2022.

India's record against Pakistan has also been stellar in the short

est format with 11 wins against three defeats in 14 matches so far and Kaur's team will lean on it in addition to the rich form shown in recent outings to clinch the Group A clash here.

While India are coming off a 1-1 draw against South Africa earlier this month with the second of the three T20Is being washed out, Pakistan will be short on game time as well as confidence since their last outing was in England in May when the hosts blanked them 3-0.

Smriti Mandhana's rich form with the bat will be India's greatest weapon at the top of the order but the biggest gain from recent all-format outings has been the way their bowling has shaped up,

with pacers and spinners putting on a combined show.

"This tournament is very important for all of us because we give equal respect to this tournament and want to improve at the Asian as well as at the world level," Harmanpreet said.

"Our focus remains same as we prepare for the T20 World Cup or any other tournament. Each and every game is important for us and we will try to give our best," Harmanpreet said at the captains' press conference. "The challenge will be to keep doing the right things which we have done in the past Asia Cups, keep playing the same type of cricket, and keep dominating other teams and enjoy our cricket," she added.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159