



**Shweta's candid take**  
Actor Shweta Tiwari, who is set to act in a play, opens up about her views on the current state of television content

LEISURE | P2



**Gaza truce likely**

Efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza are gathering momentum after Hamas makes a revised proposal

INTERNATIONAL | P10



**Defence production**

India's annual defence production has hit a record high of approximately ₹1.27 lakh crore in 2023-24

BUSINESS | P11



**Bumrah snubs rumours**

Jasprit Bumrah quashes rumours about his retirement from T20 cricket and says he will continue in all formats as he is young

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VOLUME 14, ISSUE 96 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY JULY 6, 2024

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

## Assembly session from July 22; Budget July 25

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 5:** The first session of the 17th Odisha Assembly is scheduled to begin July 22 and continue till September 13 in two phases.

The annual State Budget for 2024-25 fiscal year will be tabled July 25 by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the Finance portfolio.

Governor Raghubar Das will address the House on the opening day. The Motion of Thanks on the Governor's address will be presented on the same day. The election of the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly is scheduled to be held July 24.

The Assembly session will continue till September 13 with a break from August 1 to 19.

The BJP has formed the government for the first time in the state after the party won 78 of the total 147 Assembly seats in the 2024 polls.

Notably, the previous BJD government had presented an interim Budget of ₹1.18 lakh crore for the first four months of 2024-25 fiscal year in the Assembly in February this year.



**SETTING THE STAGE:** Police personnel take part in a mock drill ahead of Rath Yatra at Police Line field in Puri, Friday

PICTURE: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

# No lapses in NEET: Centre, NTA to SC

The NTA, which conducts the NEET-UG, and the Union Education Ministry, in separate affidavits filed before the Supreme Court, have opposed a batch of pleas that have sought the scrapping of the controversy-hit all-India medical exam. The petitions also pleaded for re-test and a court-monitored probe into the entire gamut of issues involved. However, the Centre and NTA claim that there was no breach of confidentiality in the conduct of the test

AGENCIES

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

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

## NEET-PG TO BE HELD AUGUST 11

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

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

"Scrapping the exam in entirety would seriously jeopardise the lakhs of honest candidates who attempted the question paper in 2024," the ministry said.

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

especially to the career prospects of the qualified candidates."

The agency said the entirety of NEET-UG 2024 exam was carried out fairly and with due confidentiality without any illegal practices, and the claim of 'mass malpractice' during the exam is 'completely unfounded, misleading, and lacks any basis'.

"It is submitted that if the entire examination process is cancelled without there being any tangible factors warranting such actions it would be highly detrimental to the larger public interest involving the academic career of lakhs of students who have attempted the examination fairly without any wrongdoing or even an allegation of wrongdoing," the NTA said.

The ministry and NTA said there was no proof of any large-scale breach of confidentiality in the test which was taken by over 23 lakh candidates at 4,750 centres in 571 cities. The ministry said the Centre was committed to protecting the interests of lakhs of students who have attempted the question papers fairly and after years of hardwork, without trying to obtain any illegal advantage.

The top court is scheduled to hear July 8 a batch of pleas, including those alleging irregularities in the examination and seeking a direction that it be held afresh.

## Five crore saplings to be planted across state: CM



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

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

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

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

been encouraging.

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

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

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

## Keir Starmer new UK PM after Labour landslide

AGENCIES

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

Starmer, 61, assumed charge as the 58th PM after his customary audience with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, following Sunak's meeting with the British monarch.

The Labour Party secured 412 seats in the 650-member House of Commons, up 211 from the last election in 2019. Sunak's Conservatives won just 121 seats, down 250 seats from the previous election. While the Labour had a vote share of 33.7 per cent the Conservatives had 23.7 per cent.

"Our country has voted decisively for change, for national renewal and a return of politics for public service," said Starmer in his inaugural address from a lectern outside 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the British PM.



P10

# Ruins of garden linked to Roman emperor uncovered

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

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

In ancient times the area housed prestigious imperial residences overlooking the Tiber with spectacular porticos, promenades and gardens. What remains underground are a travertine wall, the foundations of a colonnaded portico and a garden, the ministry said.



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

The excavation also revealed an important series of figurative terracottas used to decorate roofs, with unusual mythological scenes, reused as covers for the sewers, but originally probably made for the covering of some structure in the garden, the ministry said.

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

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

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

## SHORT TAKES

### Bridge collapses: 15 engineers suspended

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

### Amritpal, Rashid take oath as LS members

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

P8

P9

# leisure



## ESPOSITO MORTGAGES HOME FOR NEW MOVIE

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

## ED SHEERAN PLANS TO HELP SCHOOLS WITH MUSIC FUNDING

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



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

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

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

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

**CANCER**  
You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advantage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesh.

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

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

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you will try to be adept in your favorite subject. Today you will be buying antique artistic things too. If there are any legal proceeding going on then the results will be in your favor. You shall be a success in everything that you touch today. Your artistic streak will come to the fore today and you will develop an interest in the fine arts

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

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

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

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

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

## Shweta's candid take on TV shows

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

When asked about the difference between television shows during her time and now, Shweta offered a candid take. "The content back then was better," she stated. "Nowadays, it seems like anything goes. You have scenes with people getting locked in safes, and it just doesn't feel real."

Shweta elaborated on the lack of relatability in current TV shows. "Even back in the day, we had storylines involving large

sums of money, like characters talking about crores of rupees. While that wasn't entirely realistic either; viewers could still connect with the idea of wealthy individuals existing."

She continued, "We have characters surviving snake bites without any repercussions, or people hanging from kites! I even saw a scene where a girl spins and falls on a curtain, only to have it somehow wrap around her neck."

When asked how she would have reacted if asked to do such scenes, Shweta asserted,

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



## ZAREEN SHARES HER DIET SECRETS

**MUMBAI:** With a career spanning over a decade, Zareen Khan has established herself as a versatile actress.

In a recent interview the *Veer* actress revealed her diet and fitness secrets and told what all she eats in a day. She said, "Diet and I have an old relationship. But now I have come to an understanding where diet and I understand each other. Now I eat just one or maximum two meals. But they are big meals."

When asked about her ideal breakfast, lunch and dinner, she explained, "It all depends on my mood. But I love eggs. If at all I am having breakfast, I love to have eggs. Then I directly do dinner, whatever is cooked at home. I don't have cheat days. I cheat whenever I want to."

She further added, "At home I am a tea person and outside I am a coffee person."

When asked about her diet while shooting, she said, "When I am shooting, I am very very disciplined. I try to keep my meals light and avoid eating a lot of rice, roti's or carbs. It's not a conscious effort; I just prefer starters and appetizers." AGENCIES

## Alia reflects on her future

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

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

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

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



## ALTERNATIVE MEDICATION SUGGESTION CONTROVERSY

## Samantha comes clean

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

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

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

The actress further mentioned that she often thought about how fortunate she is to afford these treatments and empathised with those who cannot. Samantha shared that con-

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

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

tion of what I was spending on conventional healthcare."

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

The actress then ad-

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

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

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



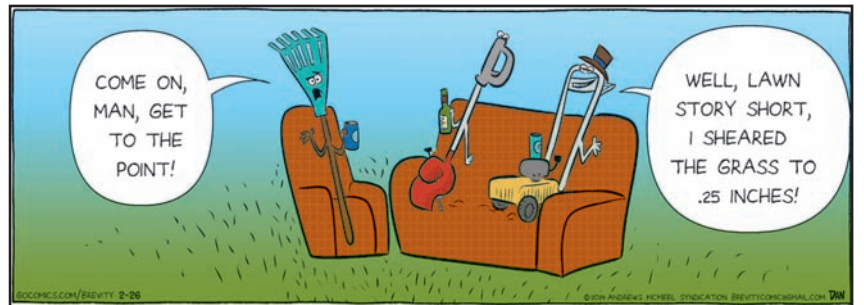
### PEANUTS



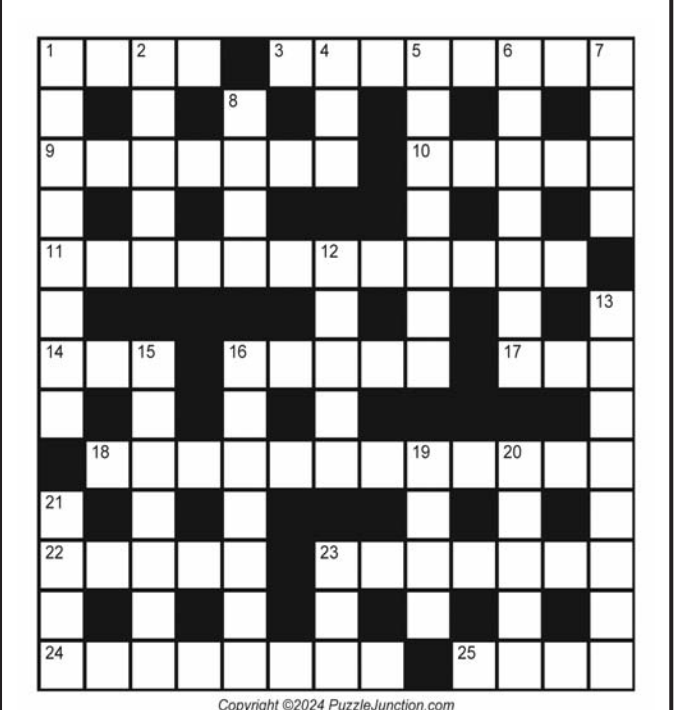
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



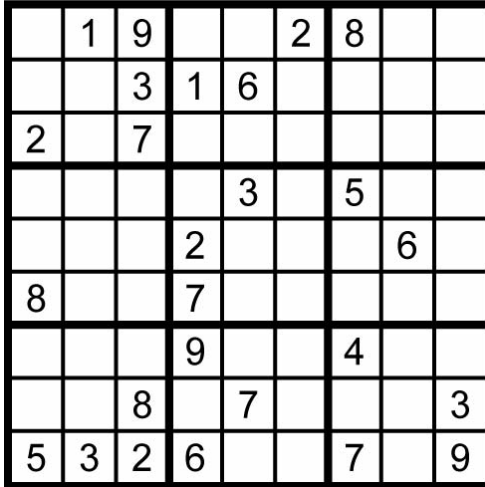
### FUN post CROSSWORD



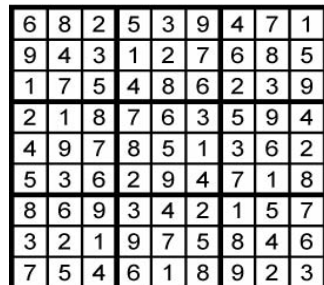
- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Vesicle
  - 3 Despot
  - 9 Dressmaker's tools
  - 10 Type of poem
  - 11 Like some aircraft
  - 14 Order to Fido
  - 16 Office papers
  - 17 Corrode
  - 18 Major achievement (4,8)
  - 22 Greek Titan
  - 23 Reversal of fortune (3-4)
  - 24 Sports car name
  - 25 Babe in the woods
  - 7 Food grain
  - 8 Banned apple spray
  - 12 Copycat
  - 13 Afflicted
  - 15 Movie promo
  - 16 Fauvism leader
  - 19 Word of honour
  - 20 Public square
  - 21 Toiletry item
  - 23 Drunk
- Down**
- 1 Abridge
  - 2 Herd members
  - 4 Psyches
  - 5 Gifts
  - 6 Garden spot

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

HONOURED

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



Patients suffer as SCB CT scan machine fails



Patients waiting for their turn

"SCB's Radiodiagnosis department had written to the Health and Family Welfare department for a new CT scan machine last year. The Health department had informed the SCB that Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited will provide a new machine soon..."

Though the Health department had informed the SCB that Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited will provide a new CT scan machine soon, the machine is yet to land at the state's premier healthcare facility

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

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



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

GEARING UP FOR RATH YATRA

CRUT's special buses to ferry devotees

A total of 33 buses will operate on seven inter-city routes and one intra-city route from July 7 to 9 & July 15 to 17



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

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

Law University, Cuttack, Khurda via Jatni, Kakatpur via Marine Drive, Konark, Jagatpur, Cuttack and Mahanadi Vihar (Cuttack) for Talabania bus stand in Puri. Fare for intercity routes will be flat at Rs 80 for non-AC and Rs 100 for AC buses. Route no-53 shall be modified as Route 53 E

Cong workers gherao police headquarters

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Two days after a scuffle broke out between BJP and Congress workers over Rahul Gandhi's remark in Parliament, the functionaries of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) here, Friday, gheraoed the police Seva Bhawan demanding action against the BJP cadres.

Ex-minister & BJD leader Surendranath Nayak dies

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Former minister and senior BJD leader Surendranath Nayak died here Friday morning, his family sources said. He was 87. Nayak was suffering from age-related ailments and died at his residence here. He was elected to the Assembly seven times from Kakatpur constituency on Utkal Congress, Janata Dal and BJD tickets between 1971 and 2009.



filled. He expressed condolences to the bereaved family of Nayak. In a post on X, Singh Deo said, "Heartfelt condolences on the passing of Shri Surendranath Nayak, a true leader and dedicated seven-time MLA from Kakatpur. His contributions to our community will never be forgotten."

H&UD min to head all devpt authorities

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra has been appointed as the chairperson of all nine development authorities across Odisha. According to a notification issued by the H&UD department July 4, Mahapatra will now be the chairman of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), Cuttack Development Authority (CDA), Berhampur Development Authority, Sambalpur Development Authority, Rourkela Development Authority (RDA), Paradip Development Authority, Puri-Konark Development Authority, Kalinga Nagar Development Authority and Talcher-Angul-Meramandali Development Authority.

PREZ'S 4-DAY STATE VISIT STARTS TODAY

Bhubaneswar, July 5: President Droupadi Murmu, who is scheduled to visit Odisha for four days starting July 6, will witness Rath Yatra in Puri July 7, an official release by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said Friday. She will grace the 96th death anniversary of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das here July 6. The President will visit Udayagiri caves and interact with the students of Bibhuti Kanungo College of Art and Crafts and Utkal University of Culture July 8, it said. On the same day, she will inaugurate the Divine Retreat Centre of Brahma Kumaris at Haridamada village here and launch the 'Lifestyle for Sustainability' campaign. The President will grace the 13th graduation ceremony of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) here July 9.

Study finds mechanism to reverse cancer's resistance to chemo

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

An international team of researchers from the UK and China has shown how cancer builds up resistance to chemotherapy -- one of the biggest challenges in the treatment of the deadly disease. Using a mice study, the early-stage research, led by The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), London, and Sun Yat-sen University, China showed that Stiripentol -- a drug currently used to treat epilepsy -- can help reverse cancer's resistance to chemotherapy, which will help



Stiripentol and chemotherapy reduced the size of tumours -- for four weeks after treatment -- in mice with stomach cancer. These also survived for longer -

for more than 70 days. In comparison, tumours in mice treated with chemotherapy alone shrunk for one week and started to grow again. With only chemotherapy, no mice survived for longer than 40 days after treatment. Further, lactate was also found responsible for altering the structure of a key protein involved in DNA repair, called NBS1, and affecting its efficiency. The researchers believe that lactate may be behind chemotherapy resistance in other cancers such as "pancreatic, lung and ovarian cancers". "This extremely promising research has uncovered a likely mechanism for how cancer evades chemotherapy," said Axel Behrens, Professor of Stem Cell Biology at The Institute of Cancer Research. "In our early-stage study, we've seen that you can prevent the build-up of lactate and make a tumour that was resistant to chemotherapy sensitive again - the treatment continues to work," Axel added.

















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

MEXICO ISSUES 'RED ALERT'

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



CONGRATULATIONS POUR IN FOR NEW PM

The state of relations between Italy and the United Kingdom is excellent and I am sure that we will continue to cultivate a strong and reliable collaborative relationship between our great Nations...



GIORGIA MELONI | PM, ITALY

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



JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

Ukraine and the United Kingdom have been and will continue to be reliable allies through thick and thin. We will continue to defend and advance our common values...



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

EUROPE TURNS RIGHT

UK rejects Conservative populism

The Conservative Party - in power for 14 years - had increasingly followed a more populist agenda with a focus on immigration, including a plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda...



- LABOUR'S SUCCESS BUILT ON DESIRE FOR CHANGE
INCUMBENT PARTIES PUNISHED AFTER TURBULENT YEARS
BREXIT, PANDEMIC, INFLATION MARKED CONSERVATIVE YEARS IN POWER

London, July 5: The centre-left Labour Party's crushing victory in the British election stands in stark contrast to recent gains by the far right across Europe.

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

Britain, once renowned for political stability, has lurched from crisis to crisis since the 2016 vote to leave the European Union...

is coming out of a cycle of quite a populist flavoured government since the Brexit vote...

FAR RIGHT RISING

Across Europe, far-right parties are rising. Le Pen's National Rally has moved closer than ever to forming a government in France...

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

The Alternative for Germany (AfD) came second in the European Parliament elections in Germany...

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's arch-conservative Brothers of Italy group saw its position strengthened by winning the most votes in those elections...



KEIR STARMER | LEADER OF THE LABOUR PARTY

TORIES IN TROUBLE

The Conservative government had increasingly become associated with scandals under former PM Boris Johnson and his successor Liz Truss's disastrous 44-day premiership...

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

Several lawmakers are expected to compete to replace Sunak, the party sources said, with the right wing likely to promote two former interior ministers...

Braverman was quick to promise change to voters. "I'm sorry that

my party didn't listen to you," she said in a speech after winning reelection.

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

Indicating the likely arguments ahead, three Conservatives questioned the right-wing credentials of Robert Jenrick...



RISHI SUNAK | OUTGOING PM

Record Indian-origin MPs elected to Parl

A record number of around 26 Indian-origin members of Parliament have been elected to the House of Commons in the UK's general election...

SHORT TAKES

Fifth floor test for Nepal PM

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

Pak bans social media for peace

Lahore: The government in Pakistan's Punjab province is now set to ban all social media platforms, YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok...

Iranians vote

Dubai: Polls opened in Iran Friday for a run-off presidential election that will test the clerical rulers' popularity amid voter apathy...

Philippines turns down US help: Military chief



REUTERS

Manila, July 5: The Philippines has turned down offers from the United States to assist operations in the South China Sea...

Tensions in the disputed waterway have boiled over into violence in the past year, with a Filipino sailor losing a finger in the latest June 17 clash...

"Yes, of course, they have been offering help and they asked us how they could help us in any way," he said.

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

Confrontations between the Philippines and China in Asia's most contested waters have increased in frequency over the past year...

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

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

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Some observers, including former deputy US National Security Adviser Matt Pottinger, have called for direct US naval support for the resupply missions.

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

Gaza ceasefire hopes rise

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu tells US President Joe Biden he will send a delegation to resume negotiations

REUTERS

Cairo, July 5: Efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza were gathering momentum Friday after Hamas made a revised proposal...

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US President Joe Biden Thursday he would send a delegation to resume negotiations...

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



REUTERS

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

"The proposal put forward by Hamas includes a very significant breakthrough," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity...

A Palestinian official close to the internationally mediated peace efforts told Reuters the new Hamas proposal could lead to a framework agreement...

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

Money laundering case: Brazil ex-Prez indicted

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, July 5: The indictment of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro for money laundering and criminal association...

Two sources with knowledge of the case confirmed Thursday's indictment by Federal Police, which followed another formal accusation in May against Bolsonaro...

Brazil's Supreme Court has yet to receive the police report with the latest indictment. Once it does, the country's prosecutor-general, Paulo Gonet, will analyse the document...

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

RUSSIAN ELITES MAKE PEACE WITH WAR

When the conflict in Ukraine began, the Russian upper class was taken aback. As the West enforced sanctions and travel restrictions...

"The Russia we hold dear has fallen into the hands of fools," Roman Trotsenko, the former head of the country's largest shipbuilding company, confided to another businessperson during a leaked phone conversation in April 2023.

ducer Iosif Prigozhin (not related to Yevgeny Prigozhin) referred to Russian President Vladimir Putin and his government as "criminals."

However, that was then. As 2023 progressed, the elites began to support the war. More musicians started traveling to perform in the occupied territories.



This is because Russian elites have learned to stop worrying about the conflict. They have come to the conclusion that the invasion, even if they do not openly support it, is an acceptable fact of life.

attack another state in Europe irrespective of what happens with the current conflict. But a few pessimists maintain that the premise of the question itself is wrong.

There are multiple reasons why Russian elites have shifted toward Putin. One is that they have become more cautious as Moscow cracks down on dissent.

port for Kyiv is waning, jeopardizing Ukraine's access to military supplies.

"It's bad to be an outcast as a winner, but it's worse to be an outcast as a loser," one Russian oligarch, who had criticized the war before but now seems to understand it, told me.

The notion of an endless war in Ukraine terrifies Russia's elite, who still hope that the invasion will conclude. They dream of returning as quickly as possible to the peaceful time of February 23, 2022.



