



## Victim of exploitation

Actor Shalini Pandey says her managers took advantage of her naivety at the beginning and made her take wrong decisions

LEISURE | P2



## Modi in Austria

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says he held "fruitful discussions" with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, Wednesday

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Profit booking

Sensex and Nifty buckle under heavy selling pressure to sink below record high levels Wednesday, amid widespread profit booking

BUSINESS | P11



## Argentina in finals

Lionel Messi was on target as World Champions Argentina turn on the style to beat Canada 2-0 and reach the Copa America final

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 101 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY JULY 11, 2024

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

## Major IAS reshuffle

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** In a major bureaucratic rejig, the state government Wednesday appointed IAS officer G Mathivathanan as the Director General, Training Coordination, Gopabandhu Academy of Administration.

Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Nikunja Bihari Dhal has been given additional charge as Chairman of IDCO, Bhubaneswar. "The additional appointment of Hemant Sharma as chairman of IDCO shall cease upon Dhal assuming office," a notification issued by the government said.

IAS officer Surendra Kumar, who is the Additional Chief Secretary of GA & PG department with additional charge as Additional Chief Secretary of Tourism department, was allowed to continue as Additional Chief Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs department.

R Vineel Krishna, who was the Special Secretary to the CM, was appointed as the Commissioner, Land Records and Settlement, Cuttack.

IAS officer Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma was appointed as the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Sports and Youth Services department. Vishal Kumar Dev was appointed as the Principal Secretary of E&IT department. He will remain in additional charge of OFDC Chairman.

Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary of SD&TE department with additional charge as Principal Secretary of C&T department, was allowed to remain in additional charge of Principal Secretary of H&UD department.

"Saswat Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Governor with additional charge of the OSSSC Chairman, is allowed to remain in additional charge of the Principal Secretary of Finance and Energy departments," it said.

## 18 killed in UP bus mishap

**Unnao (UP):** Eighteen people were killed and 19 others injured when a double-decker sleeper bus heading for Delhi hit a milk tanker on Agra-Lucknow Expressway here Wednesday, officials said.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I can't tell you what I achieved on this foreign trip. You should talk to my videographers and photographers

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VI	VA
SENSEX	79924.77	↓	426.87
NIFTY	24324.45	↓	108.75
DOLLAR	83.50	↑	₹0.01
EURO	90.44	↓	₹0.03
GOLD	₹72,838	↑	₹440
SILVER	₹93,231	↑	₹262

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.9°C	34.6°C
Min Temp	26.6°C	25.5°C
Humidity	80%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST  
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain



**GALLOPING SPEED:** Contestants during a bullock race at a paddy field in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

## Muslim women can seek alimony: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** In a judgement of far-reaching implications, the Supreme Court Wednesday ruled that a Muslim woman can seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC and said the "religion neutral" provision is applicable to all married women irrespective of their religion.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 will not prevail over the secular law, a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih said while stressing that maintenance is not charity but the right of all married women.

"We are hereby dismissing the criminal appeal with the major conclusion that Section 125 would be applicable to all women..." Justice Nagarathna said while pronouncing the verdict. The two judges gave separate but concurring verdicts.

The erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure's Section 125, which deals with a wife's legal right to maintenance, covers Muslim women, the bench said.

The apex court dismissed the petition of one Mohammed Abdul Samad, who has challenged a Telangana High Court order refusing to interfere with the maintenance order of the family court.

## ₹200cr 'Odia Asmita' fund

Acting in line with the election manifesto, newly-formed BJP government, in its second Cabinet meeting, gave in-principle approval to five crucial proposals including formation of ₹200-crore corpus fund for revival of 'Odia Asmita (pride)' and promotion of art, culture and heritage of the state. The Cabinet also cleared the decks for recruitment of 18,788 junior teachers, hike in minimum wages across categories, revival of defunct lift irrigation points and inclusion of 5-6 lakh farmers under PM Kisan scheme



OP PHOTO

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** The state Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Wednesday, approved a proposal to create ₹200-crore corpus fund for taking a slew of initiatives towards revival of 'Odia Asmita (pride)' and promotion of art, culture and heritage of the state.

The fund will be utilised for establishment of Odisha Asmita Bhawan, Odia Translation Academy, a world-class palm leaf manuscript museum, development of Paika Rebellion Memorial and e-Library at district level, the Chief Minister said after the Cabinet meet here.

Setting up Odia chair at national and international uni-

versities, financial assistance for training in Odissi music and dance and development of a cultural troupe management system will also be part of the initiatives, the CM said.

"The Cabinet decided to create ₹200-crore corpus fund for revival of Odia Asmita and promotion of Odia art, culture, and heritage," he told reporters after the three-hour long meeting.

This was the second meeting of the Cabinet of the BJP government since it assumed office June 12. The state government will also make efforts to get international recognition for Bali Yatra being held every year in Cuttack.

The Odia Language, Literature and Culture department has been asked to prepare detailed guidelines for promotion of Odia pride, he said, adding that an expert committee would be

formed for the purpose and the corpus fund will be enhanced.

The Council of Ministers also gave its nod to revise the minimum daily wages of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled labourers in the state. Minimum daily wages for unskilled and highly skilled workers have been enhanced by ₹98 while the wages of semi-skilled and skilled workers have been increased by ₹108 per day, he said.

The daily wages are now in the range of ₹450 to ₹600, the CM said. Majhi said the state government decided to revive 2,065 non-functional lift irrigation (LI) projects and strengthen 10,152 old ones with an estimated cost of ₹1,084.38 crore over five years, starting this fiscal.

These irrigation facilities can cover more than 2.85 lakh hectares of land, he added.

## Nod to ₹5,992.92cr investment projects

The state government Wednesday approved 26 investment projects worth ₹5,992.92 crore which are expected to create employment for more than 19,000 persons, an official statement said. The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority led by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja approved a series of projects across diverse sectors including steel, chemicals, renewable energy, textiles, manufacturing, packaging, food processing, IT, infrastructure, and tourism, it said. These projects will be implemented in 14 districts - Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Jharsuguda, Boudh, Koraput, Balasore, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri.

P3

He said about 5-6 lakh more eligible farmers, who were denied benefit under the PM Kisan Yojana due to certain criteria of KALIA scheme of the previous government, will be now covered.

As per the Orissa High Court direction, a merit list of 18,788 teacher aspirants has been prepared and it was put forth before the Cabinet Wednesday for its consideration, Majhi said, adding that the School and Mass Education department has been directed to expedite the recruitment process, he added.

## Balabhadra's fall minor incident, says Pravati

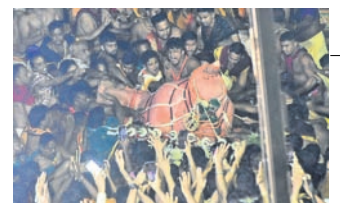
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** As if the administration facing public ignominy due to falling of Lord Balabhadra's idol on the Charamala (ramp) of Taladhawaja chariot while being taken to 'Adapa Mandap' of Gundicha temple in Puri Tuesday was not enough, Deputy Chief Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Wednesday courted controversy by underplaying the incident.

When asked, Parida said, "It was a minor mishap. It was God's grace that nothing major happened. All the servitors had minor injuries."

Harichandan said, "The servitors who sustained injuries in the mishap are out of danger. Most of them immediately participated in the rituals after being discharged from the hospital. It's nobody's mistake. Lord Mahaprabhu knows what led to such a mishap. Instead of dwelling upon such things, we should pray for speedy recovery of the injured servitors. Steps will be taken to make the Rath Yatra hassle-free in the coming days."

However, temple servitors have expressed concern over the lack of measures in place to en-



sure safety of the Lord's idol and the servitors themselves.

"Such an incident has never happened in the history of Rath Yatra," said one of the servitors. Despite repeated requests to make 'Pahandi Bije' ritual more disciplined, no measures have been taken, he rued.

Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said, "Injured servitors were hospitalised soon after the mishap. A probe will begin soon to ascertain the cause of the incident."

**3-MEMBER PANEL TO PROBE**  
Meanwhile, the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, chaired by Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb, Wednesday formed a three-member panel to investigate the incident.

The panel, comprising an additional district magistrate, a DSP-rank officer, and SJTA administrator (Development), will probe the incident and submit a report to the temple managing committee within 10 days of Niladri Bije.

## 125-mn-yr-old herbivorous dinosaur's fossil found in England

### THE DINOSAUR 'COMPTONATUS CHASEI' IS NAMED AFTER LATE FOSSIL COLLECTOR NICK CHASE

AGENCIES

**London, July 10:** Dinosaurs have always been a mystery as they lived millions of years ago, and are now extinct. Stories about these mysterious creatures spark a sense of curiosity and fascination among wildlife enthusiasts and kids. In a recent development, fossil remains of a plant-eating dinosaur, estimated to have roamed

the earth some 125 million years ago, have been discovered on England's Isle of Wight, what scientists believe is the most complete new specimen found in Britain in a century.

Weighing roughly the same as a large male American bison at about 900 kg (1990 lbs), the herbivorous species was likely a herding animal, Jeremy Lockwood, a PhD student at the University of Portsmouth who helped with the excavation, said in a statement.

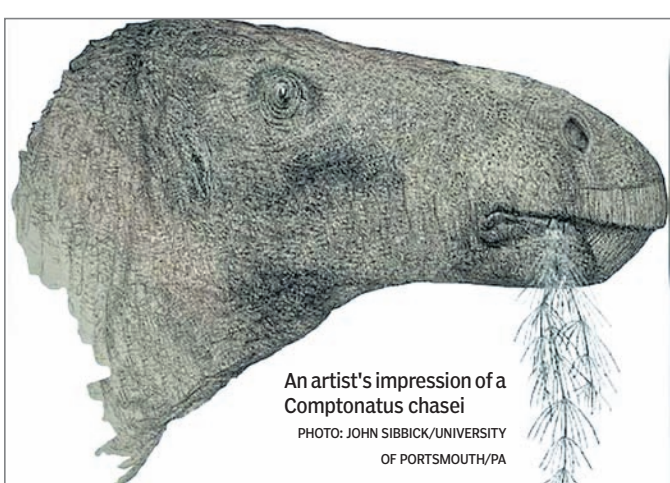
The dinosaur, made up of 149 bones, was found in the cliffs of Compton Bay on the Isle of Wight, off the southern coast of England, in 2013 by late fossil collector Nick Chase, who died of cancer just before the Covid-

19 pandemic. It took several years for the specimen to be prepared for analysis by Lockwood and his colleagues.

It was named 'Comptonatus chasei' as a tribute to Chase. "Nick had a phenomenal nose for finding dinosaur bones ... This really is a remarkable find," Lockwood said.

"It helps us understand more about the different types of dinosaurs that lived in England in the Early Cretaceous," said Lockwood, also the lead author of a new paper describing the species published in the Journal of Systematic Palaeontology.

The remains of a meat-eating dinosaur belonging to an ancient predator bigger than any thing known from the whole of



An artist's impression of a Comptonatus chasei  
PHOTO: JOHN SIBBICK/UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH/PA

Europe were discovered on the island in 2022. It was also from the Cretaceous Period.

Significantly, the first dinosaur fossil was found in 1676 by Robert Plot, an English naturalist and

professor of chemistry at the University of Oxford. He discovered a large femur (thigh bone) in a limestone quarry in Oxfordshire, England. However, at that time, Plot didn't recognise the bone as belonging to a dinosaur. Instead, he thought it belonged to a giant human or a biblical giant.

It wasn't until 1824 that William Buckland, another English scientist, described and named the first dinosaur, Megalosaurus bucklandi, from a collection of fossilised bones, including the same femur found by Plot. Buckland's discovery marked the beginning of dinosaur research and the recognition of these fascinating creatures as a distinct group of animals.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You are likely to give in to the demands of your children today. Ganesh says it is for times like this that you labour so hard. You will finish the tasks that you have been postponing for a long time. It is a good day for people in the medical field and in the public sector.

**TAURUS**  
Ganesh finds this an excellent day for managers and administrators. If you are one, the results you will achieve by the end of the day will far exceed the efforts you put in. This is mainly because your subordinates will be enthusiastic, compliant and cooperative. You will be focusing on the elements of leadership and team work and will use them resourcefully.

**GEMINI**  
You will listen to your heart over your head, swept away as you will be in a flood of emotions today. This could mean that you will be unable to distinguish between good and bad. However, looking back upon your day in the evening, you are unlikely to regret any of the decisions you made, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will be involved in a team effort and associated with work like inspection and examination. You will base your opinions on your friends' choices. So select good friends, says Ganesh. You will spend time with close circle.

**LEO**  
Your natural self-confidence and capability will help you attain a position of strength today. As a result, all your tasks will be completed easily and you will reap rewards greater than your expectations, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will be faced with serious financial problems today. You may even have to pay through your nose to get what you desire. Later in the evening, you might accomplish some short-term goals. Ganesh predicts that some vital business agreements will end your day in high spirits.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will be able to improve your relations abroad. There will be good news coming from friends or relatives living abroad. Your working ability and efficiency will make you popular in the office today. In the day today you shall have a variety of good and bad experiences

**SCORPIO**  
An electric wire of 440 volts is apt to describe you today. According to Ganesh, you are in a belligerent mood today and can burst like a fireball. Meditation and yoga is likely to improve the situation. Remember, treat others the way you want to be treated by them.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Ganesh foresees a day full of promises. People in the creative field, especially artists are going to benefit more. Radio jockey and television anchors can make a note of this day in their diary, as it may serve as a memorable day, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You have projected yourself as a confused individual. You may have a tendency to remain in a double mind. But, today you'll come up with a very specific plan that will surprise many of the people around you. Be clear about what you want to do in life, how you want your life to be and make sincere efforts to achieve it, guides Ganesh. Rest assured, success shall be with you!

**AQUARIUS**  
You are disappointed and you seek solace in spirituality. Don't run away from the problems; rather face them with strength and confidence, advises Ganesh, to bring your life back on track. With patience and belief in the Almighty, you will be sail through the storm. Understand that challenges are a part of everyone's life.

**PISCES**  
You will display kindness and generosity today and will do your best to help anyone in need. At work you will receive praise for the efforts that you've put in and your dedication will be validated. Even though you intend to give utmost importance to your family, this intention will trail in the shadow of pending work which will require long hours. Find a way to balance your professional and personal life to avoid any conflict, says Ganesh.



## STONE 'REINCARNATED' INTO HER OWN BODY

Hollywood actress Sharon Stone recently shared her unique experience following her stroke in 2001 which led to a nine-day brain bleed. "A Buddhist monk told me that I had been reincarnated into my same body," Stone told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

## WHEN DUCHOVNY LOST ALL THREE FULL HOUSE MALE LEAD ROLES

Hollywood star David Duchovny revealed that he auditioned for all three male roles -- Danny Tanner, Joey Gladstone, and Jesse Katsopolis -- in the iconic TV sitcom *Full House* in the 1980s. The roles ultimately went to actors Bob Saget, Dave Coulier, and John Stamos, respectively.



## My naivety was exploited: Shalini

**Mumbai:** Shalini Pandey, widely known for her leading role as Preethi in the Vijay Deverakonda starrer *Arjun Reddy*, revealed how she was body-shamed after the film. In an interaction with a news magazine, the actress was asked why she did not receive the same kind of acclaim as Kiara Advani, who played the role in *Kabir Singh*. In response, the actress shared, "I was really body-shamed back then. Also, since I was new and down South, I didn't understand the language, and my managers at the time just exploited my naivety and made me do things."

**Hyderabad:** Actress Urvashi Rautela has been rushed to the hospital in Hyderabad due to a severe injury sustained during film shoot. The actress reportedly got injured while filming for an action sequence for Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming Telugu movie *NBK 109* in Hyderabad. Her team, as cited by news reports, confirmed her hospitalisation, disclosing that she has suffered a 'terrible' fracture.

According to reports, the actress is receiving top-quality medical care and her condition is being monitored. The film also stars Dulquer Salmaan and Prakash Raj in the lead. It is directed by Bobby Kolli. More updates on her health are now awaited.

Interestingly, the news of Urvashi's injury comes a year after Rishabh Pant had a tragic accident. That time, Urvashi had shared a picture of the Kokilaben Ambani Hospital where Pant was admitted. Urvashi's mother also dropped a picture on her social media and she wrote, "Every thing is all right don't worry beta @urvashirautela."

However, the actress and her mother got trolled for stalk-

ing Pant. Users had dropped comments like, "This is mental harassment. If a man did this, he'd either be in jail or have a Netflix crime documentary in his name."

Urvashi and Rishabh were dating according to reports but parted ways on an ugly note. But the cricketer has maintained that he does not know her. Though, Urvashi has always expressed love for Rishabh through cryptic notes and hints and became a target for the trolls due to this.

people," she noted. For those unversed, *Arjun Reddy* starring Vijay Deverakonda and Shalini Pandey in the lead roles, is a romantic drama movie written and directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The film tells the story of a highly talented alcoholic surgeon who suffers from anger management issues and is on a destructive path in life after losing his girlfriend, Preethi.

Deepika took to Instagram and shared a photo of the bright blue sky and flowers. The actress wrote: "It's Self-Care Month! But why celebrate 'Self-Care Month' when you can practice simple acts of Self-Care every day? I know a lot of you often look at my feed and go 'Here we go again! Another picture of the Sky...or Flowers...or the Ocean!'"

"But the truth is, that I find spending time outdoors and in nature truly relaxing and therapeutic. However, for most of us, finding those spaces may not be the most convenient, accessible, or may not even exist!"

The actress explained that's why, whenever she gets the opportunity, she tries to make the most of it.

"Because, it's where I don't just survive, I thrive!," concluded the actress.

Deepika, who is married to Bollywood's livewire star Ranveer Singh, urged others to make "self-care a daily practice."

On the work front, Deepika will next be seen in Rohit Shetty's *Singham Again*, alongside Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Jackie Shroff, and Kareena Kapoor Khan, among many others.

# DEEPIKA 'thrives' in nature

**Mumbai:** Actress and soon-to-be mother Deepika Padukone shared that she posts pictures of the sky, flowers, or the ocean because she finds spending time outdoors and in nature relaxing and therapeutic.

Deepika took to Instagram and shared a photo of the bright blue sky and flowers.

The actress wrote: "It's Self-Care Month! But why celebrate 'Self-Care Month' when you can practice simple acts of Self-Care every day? I know a lot of you often look at my feed and go 'Here we go again! Another picture of the Sky...or Flowers...or the Ocean!'"

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## Urvashi hurt during shoot, hospitalised



## Mukesh apologises for his comment on Odisha, Bihar



**Mumbai:** Mukesh Khanna, famous for his role as Shaktimaan, recently reviewed the film *Kalki 2898 AD* on YouTube. In his review, Khanna commented that the film's Western sensibilities might not appeal to audiences in Bihar and Odisha, whom he controversially described as intellectually inferior to Western audiences. Following backlash on the

internet, Khanna has now apologised for his remarks.

The actor addressed the controversy on X (formerly Twitter), clarifying his comments about Bihar and Odisha.

He expressed his desire to clear any misconceptions, stating that his intention was to critique *Kalki 2898 AD* rather than demean the citizens of Bihar and Odisha. He said, "I travel around Bihar and Odisha extensively. I have campaigned there. I have attended functions there. I have paid my respects at the temple in Puri. Why would I disrespect the people from Bihar and Odisha? I was only commenting about the film, and I wasn't demeaning anybody from Bihar and

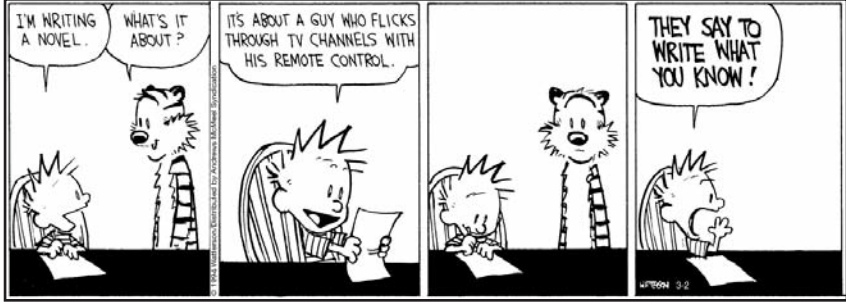
Odisha".

In his original review of *Kalki 2898 AD*, Khanna said, "The level of intellect with which the film has been made is fine for Hollywood. People are more intelligent than us over there. Forgive me, but audiences in Odisha and Bihar are not going to understand this kind of filmmaking."

## PEANUTS



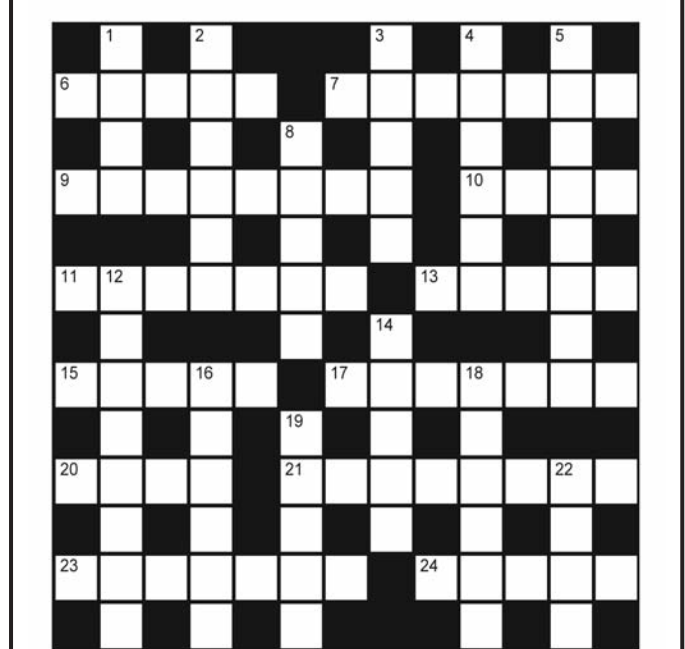
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



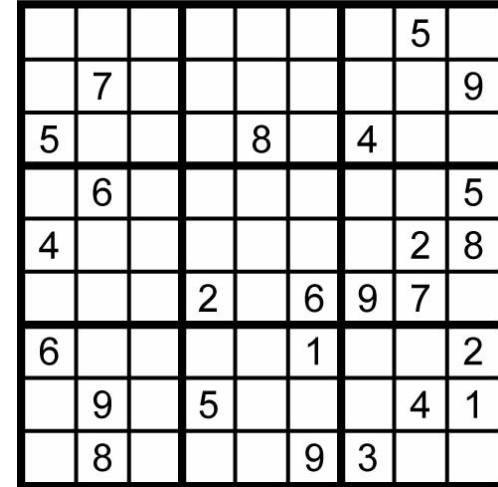
## FUN post CROSSWORD



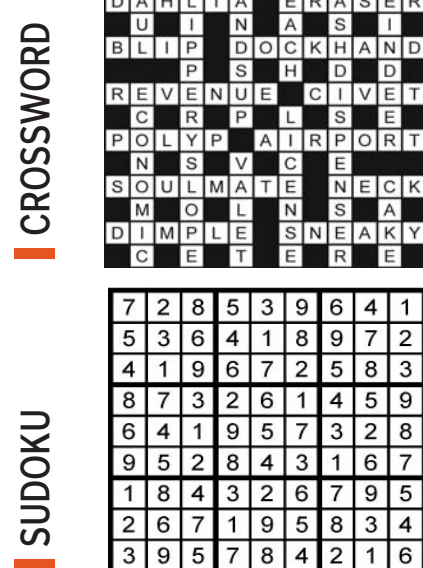
- Across**
- 6 Before time or rib
  - 7 Short and snappy
  - 9 Conflict
  - 10 Jessica of *Sin City*
  - 11 Driveway type
  - 13 Full-grown
  - 15 Garlicky mayonnaise
  - 17 Mountain sheep
  - 20 Aquatic bird
  - 21 Brasseries
  - 23 Rhythmic pattern
  - 24 Son of Zeus and Europa
  - 3 Stream
  - 4 Majorca, e.g.
  - 5 Petty objections raiser
  - 8 Twinkle-toed
  - 12 Bikini
  - 14 Panorama
  - 16 Dawdle
  - 18 Lone wolf
  - 19 Sailing ship
  - 22 Deep black
- Down**
- 1 Race pace
  - 2 Waylay

## 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

## TROPICAL FRUIT

A roadside vendor sells black plum in Jobra area of Cuttack, Wednesday

PIC: RAKISHORE MOHANTY



## Crime Branch busts gang of cybercriminals; 15 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** The Crime Branch (CB) of Odisha Police claimed to have busted an interstate gang of cybercriminals involved in a series of crypto, stock and IPO investment frauds, with the arrest of its 15 members Wednesday.

The gang was cheating people in the guise of investment schemes promising high returns. The gang members used to pursue people to make investments by transferring funds into the accounts of cyber fraudsters, he said.

"We have arrested 15 people of the gang, which is involved in frauds in different states. While the two masterminds belong to New Delhi, the other 13 accused are from Odisha," CB ADG Arun Bothra said.

The arrests were made on the basis of a complaint lodged by a victim from the Capital city in the cybercrime unit.

On March 29, the victim received a message on Facebook inviting him to join a WhatsApp group focused on institutional trading with discounts on shares and promising high investment returns, a police official said.

The victim initially invested ₹5 lakh from his wife's account. Over a period of time, he transferred a total of ₹3.04 crore from five of his accounts to various accounts specified by the cybercriminals until June 11.

Despite his attempts, the victim was unable to withdraw any funds, the police said. From the verification in the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the CB found that these accused have been involved in a series of cyber frauds in the country.

The police have seized 20 mobile phones, 42 SIM cards, 20 debit cards, three chequebooks, three PAN cards and five Aadhaar cards from the accused.



**FOR DEITIES' DARSHAN:** Devotees make a beeline to have Adapa Mandap darshan of Lord Jagannath and His siblings— Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra — at Gundicha temple in Puri, Wednesday  
PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

## Nod to ₹5,992.92cr industrial projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), led by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, approved 26 investment proposals worth ₹5,992.92 crore, Wednesday.

Spread across diverse sectors like steel, chemicals, renewable energy, textiles, manufacturing, packaging, food processing, IT, infrastructure and tourism, the projects which would come up in 14 districts will provide jobs to over 19,364 individuals and transform Odisha's economic landscape, reinforcing its status as a premier investment destination, said Ahuja while chairing the 130th SLSWCA meeting here.

The SLSWCA approved the proposal of GM Iron and Steel Company Limited to set up a 0.23 MTPA integrated steel plant along with downstream and upstream facilities and a 45 MW CPP in Mayurbhanj with an investment of ₹745 crore.

The proposal of Shree Ganesh Metaliks Limited to expand its integrated steel plant in Sundargarh, encompassing SMS, MS pipe, sponge iron, CPP, and coal washery facilities, with a projected cost of ₹604.99 crore was



approved in the meeting.

Times Steel And Power Private Limited's plan to expand its existing plant by adding beneficiation, pellet, ferro alloys, billet, rolling mill facilities, and CPP in Sundargarh with an investment of ₹432.50 crore also received the SLSWCA's nod.

Aryan Ispat and Power Pvt Limited's proposal to invest ₹323 crore towards enhancing its existing project by setting up SMS, CPP, rolling mill, and MS pipe manufacturing units in Sambalpur was also approved in the meeting.

The SLSWCA gave nod to Shyamshakti Metals Private Limited's proposal to set up a

pipe manufacturing unit in Sambalpur with an investment of ₹650 crore and Cabcon India Limited's plan to set up a manufacturing unit for aluminium conductors, wire rods and cables in Sundargarh with an estimated cost of ₹160 crore.

Following the state government's Wednesday nod, Odisha Chemtech Private Limited will establish a specialty chemical production unit in Jagatsinghpur with an investment of ₹149.45 crore, and Indian Explosives Private Limited will set up a commercial bulk explosives manufacturing unit in Keonjhar with an investment of ₹54.60 crore.

While Envirocare Infracolution

Private Limited got approval to set up a 100 MW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic captive power plant in Boudh with an investment of ₹351 crore, Shree Hari Spinners Private Limited's plan to set up a cotton yarn spinning mill unit in Sundargarh with an investment of ₹129.68 crore was also approved.

The SLSWCA also approved the proposals of Rushil Decor Ltd to set up an MDF and pre-laminated MDF manufacturing unit in Koraput with an investment of ₹504 crore and Pratap Synthetics Limited to establish a manufacturing unit for PP woven bags, laminated bags, block bottom bags and FIBC in Balasore with an investment of ₹102.50 crore.

The state government also approved the proposals of Panda Estates to develop IT infrastructure in Khurda with an investment of ₹112.80 crore and Sailabala Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd to establish a resort in Puri with an investment of ₹73.20 crore.

Among other projects, Godavari Commodities Ltd's plan to set up a 3 MTPA coal washery in Sundargarh with an investment of ₹88.58 crore also got the state's nod.

## 3-MEMBER PANEL TO PROBE PURI 'IDOL FALL'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee Wednesday formed a three-member panel to probe the falling of Lord Balabhadra's idol on some servitors while it was being taken from the chariot to Gundicha temple as part of the Rath Yatra, an official said.

"The committee has expressed concern over the idol of Lord Balabhadra falling on some servitors during the 'Pahandi' ritual Tuesday night and also held a detailed discussion on the incident," said Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator VV Yadav in Puri.

The three-member panel consisting of an additional district magistrate (ADM), SJTA administrator (development), and a DSP-rank police officer will investigate the matter and submit a report within 10 days after completion of 'Niladri Bije', he said.

The committee will examine

down from Lord Balabhadra's chariot to be taken to the Gundicha temple.

Out of the 12 injured servitors, only one person has been shifted to a health facility for observation only, Swain said.

Similarly, Puri Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb, who is also the chairman of the managing committee, expressed concerns over the mishap and said it has hurt all the devotees of Lord Jagannath across the world.

The managing committee meeting held a detailed discussion including the presence of a higher number of servitors on the chariot and during the 'Pahandi' ritual, he said.

The committee will meet again after 'Niladri Bije' and take appropriate steps so that such an incident would not occur in future, Deb said.

From the incident, the servitors have learnt a lesson and they will ensure that such incidents do not happen again, he asserted.

Meanwhile, opposition BJD and Congress have targeted the state government over the issue.

The incident has severely hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees of Lord Jagannath including 4.5 crore Odias, BJD leader and Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das said and urged the BJP government to ensure smooth conduct of the remaining rituals of Rath Yatra.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said the party (BJP), which came to power for Lord Jagannath, is unable to protect the Lord. "For ministers, the chief minister and BJD, it is a minor thing. But it is not a small thing for the devotees," he added.

In his reaction, state BJP vice-president Biranchi Tripathy said the BJD has no right to make any statement as it has been involved in a series of irregularities in the management of the temple.

**“The party (BJP), which came to power for Lord Jagannath, is unable to protect the Lord. For ministers, the CM and BJD, it is a minor thing. But it is not a small thing for the devotees”**

TARA PRASAD BAHINIPATI | CONGRESS MLA

the available video footage and see whether designated servitors were there or not along with other aspects that led to such an incident, Yadav told reporters.

Yadav said that the managing committee has also recommended the state government to reopen Ratna Bhandar (treasury) for inventory and repair works.

A dozen of servitors of Srimandir were injured Tuesday when the idol of Lord Balabhadra fell on them while it was being taken from the chariot to a temple as part of the Rath Yatra festival, Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said.

The mishap happened shortly after 9 pm when the heavy wooden idol was being brought

## Centre fast-tracks ₹4,882cr railway projects in state

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 10:** Centre's high-level Network Planning Group (NPG) under PM Gati Shakti has fast-tracked two new railway line projects in Odisha, entailing an investment of ₹4,882 crore, official sources said Wednesday.

Balaram-Tentuloi New Railway Line (MCRL Phase II) greenfield project involves the construction of a 49.58 km rail line at an estimated cost of ₹1,404 crore in Angul district to provide vital first-mile rail connectivity for 11 coal blocks.

The second project is the Budhapank-Luburi New Railway Line (MCRL outer corridor) which involves an investment of ₹3,478 crore. The 106 km railway line will support efficient coal evacuation from the Mahanadi River Basin.

The proposed alignment facilitates the transportation of coal from Talcher Coal Fields, providing first-mile rail connectivity to 21 coal blocks. It reduces the average distance to rail head from 43 km to 4.2 km, enhancing logistical efficiency and reducing costs for core industries like iron and steel, the statement added.



**WITH TOP COP:** SAI International School students with twin city police commissioner Sanjeeb Panda during their visit to Police Commissionerate office in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday  
PIC: MANORANJAN MISRA

## NASA's new telescope aims to detect alien life on Earth-like planets

In an attempt to find habitable planets by 2050, NASA, the independent space agency of the United States, is getting ready to launch the cutting-edge Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO). NASA's chief scientist for the search for extraterrestrial life, Jessie Christiansen, has said that he is optimistic that HWO will detect signals from planets in the habitable zones of sun-like stars within our lifetime.

According to NASA, the goal of the HWO is to identify the numerous forms of biosignatures

that are released by living things. Twenty-five Earth-like planets orbiting sun-like stars have already been identified by the NASA team as possible candidates for additional research. These planets are important targets in the hunt for extraterrestrial life because they might have circumstances suitable to life.

To enhance the HWO's capabilities, NASA has secured three contracts worth \$17.5 million. This funding will help develop advanced technologies, improving the detail and precision



of exoplanet data. HWO, dubbed 'Super Hubble' will feature ultraprecise optics to image Earth-sized planets and scrutinise their

atmospheres for signs of life. Courtney Dressing, a Berkeley astronomer and co-leader of HWO's Science Architecture re-

view team, proposed equipping HWO with the ability to detect various biosignatures, including biogenic gases, aerosols, surface biosignatures, and even technosignatures from advanced civilizations.

Despite over 5,000 exoplanet discoveries, Christiansen notes that finding a rocky planet in the habitable zone of a sun-like star remains elusive. However, she believes HWO, set to launch in 2040, holds the potential to find proof of extraterrestrial life.

The HWO project involves

contributions from military contractors Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, and Ball Aerospace. The project's current year spending is \$17.5 million, with the US government potentially investing up to \$11 billion.

HWO aims to extend the achievements of the Hubble Space Telescope and deepen our understanding of the universe, possibly confirming that we are not alone and sparking a new era of space exploration and scientific innovation.

NAT'L DEWORMING DAY AUGUST 10

# Collectors told to ensure effective implementation



The children will be given Albendazole (in tablet or suspension form) and women of reproductive age will be distributed Albendazole tablets. For those who would miss the dose August 10, a deworming mop-up round will be held August 17

term well-being," she said in the letter.

"The children will be given Albendazole (in tablet or suspension form) and women of reproductive age will be distributed Albendazole tablets Pandit said adding that for those who would miss the dose August 10, a deworming mop-up round (MUD) will be held August 17," Pandit said.

Also, Lymphatic Filariasis-Mass Drug Administration (LFMDA) will be implemented in some IU/blocks of 11 districts viz Angul, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Ganjam Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundargarh, she said in the letter.

The mop-up round will cover 19 districts i.e. Balasore, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada and Puri, the letter said.

This year's target group of NDD is children aged between 1 and 19 years and women of reproductive age of 20 to 24 years (non-pregnant, non-lactating), the officials said.

In a letter to all concerned department secretaries, Health and Family Welfare Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit said, "Soil-transmitted helminths (STH) is a significant public health concern in India. As per official estimate, 29.4 per cent of children of the state have STH which is detrimental to physical and cognitive development of the child."

"In areas where parasitic worms are endemic, administering safe and effective deworming drug to the children at schools and AWCs leads to significant improvement in outcomes related to education, career choice, earnings, and long-

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** In order to combat the problem of intestinal worms among women of reproductive age (WRA) and children, the state government Wednesday directed all district Collectors and five municipal corporations' commissioners to prepare for effective implementation of the national deworming day (NDD) August 10. Health and Family Welfare department, in collaboration with Women and Child Development department, School and Mass Education department, SC & ST Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department and Panchayati Raj and DW department will conduct the biannual mass deworming across the state in all schools and Anaganwadi Centers (AWCs), officials said.



ANNIV CELEBRATION: Guests participate in a cultural programme during the birth anniversary celebration of Guru Gangadhar Pradhan at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

## AVNL, KISS ink pact for collaborative research

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** With an aim to boost collaborative research and aid research scholars, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) here, Wednesday. The MoU was signed between AVNL HR director Biswaranjan Pattanaik and KISS registrar Prashanta Kumar Routray.

AVNL is a Central government enterprise under Ministry of Defence. Both organisations



will jointly work on a research park and an incubation cell, consultancy, advisory, education, community outreach and social responsibility projects, skill de-

velopment programmes and short-term training programmes. AVNL will provide scholarships for research aligned with Central government schemes

- Both the organisations will jointly work on a research park and an incubation cell, consultancy, advisory, education, community outreach and social responsibility projects
- AVNL will provide scholarships for research aligned with Central government schemes for PhD students

for PhD students. On the occasion AVNL HR general manager Ranjan Kumar Bal, KISS-DU VC Deepak Kumar Behera and KIIT-DU VC Saranjit Singh were also present.

## Lobby revamped for ECoR crew comfort



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** In a continued effort to prioritise the well-being of the dedicated loco pilots, assistant loco pilots, and guards, the crew lobby in Bhubaneswar railway station has undergone significant development and was equipped with modern facilities.

Understanding the need for proper rest and relaxation for the crew, each room has comfortable beds, air conditioning, and lounges. The crew lobby has been meticulously designed to create a homely environment.

"The facilities provide highest standard of cleanliness, hygiene, and healthy environment for all employees. Nutritious meals prepared by trained culinary staff are also provided," an East Coast Railway (ECoR) official said.

## Young astronomers term SAC visit a blessing

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** The winners of Tata Steel Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) 2023-24, recently returned from a trip to the Space Application Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Ahmedabad.

The initiative by Tata Steel, in collaboration with Pathani Samanta Planetarium, under Science and Technology department, provided the students an opportunity to interact with SAC director Nilesh M Desai.

Desai shared insights into the diverse range of ISRO's facilities and ongoing projects. Students got the opportunity to tour the Vikram Sarabhai Space



Exhibition Centre and had engaging sessions with space scientists.

"Interacting with the scientists was a blessing. Visiting ISRO and the Vikram Sarabhai Space Exhibition Centre was also remarkable. I am thankful to Tata Steel and Pathani

Samanta Planetarium, for this opportunity," said Om Raj Mishra, one of the winners from Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir in Kalahandi.

"During our visit to ISRO and Gujarat Science City, we learned about the robotic technologies, augmented and virtual reality at

the robotic gallery and gained knowledge about the underwater world at the aquatic gallery," said Krutika Prataya Panigrahi from Adarsha Vidyalaya in Boudh.

With an aim to develop curiosity and passion for astronomy and space science among the high school students across the state, the 17th edition of YATS saw participation over 80,000 students, who competed on the theme 'The Moon Base - Future Launchpad for Space'.

The winners were accompanied by their teachers on a week-long exposure trip, under the leadership of Pathani Samanta Planetarium director Prasanna Patra, Science and Technology department deputy secretary Urmiprava Maharana and Tata Steel officials.

## 30 drivers honoured for securing jobs in Japan

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** Thirty drivers from the state who secured lucrative jobs in Japan were felicitated by Commerce and Transport, Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena at a ceremony held at Kharavel Bhawan here, Wednesday.

These drivers have been trained at state government's Heavy Vehicle Training Centre in Jajpur district, said the Commerce and Transport department officials.

Speaking on this occasion, Jena said, "Good behaviour, zero casualty and safety must be the motto of the newly-re-

cruited drivers." "Odisha is the first state in the country to create such innovative employment opportunities for the drivers," he said.

"The Commerce and Transport department is actively taking steps to facilitate employment for state's drivers. Previously, employment arrangements were made through various prestigious companies within the state and the country. Now, the state has gone further to create job opportunities abroad for its drivers. These drivers will be employed in Japan with high salaries and benefits," Jena said.

## Extreme 'hot Jupiter' exoplanet stinks like rotten eggs

The planet known as HD 189733b, discovered in 2005, already had a reputation as a rather extreme place, a scorching hot gas giant a bit larger than Jupiter that is a striking cobalt blue color and has molten glass rain that blows sideways in its fierce atmospheric winds. So how can you top that?

Add hydrogen sulfide, the chemical compound behind the stench of rotten eggs. Researchers said new data from the James Webb Space Telescope is giving a fuller picture of HD 189733b, already among the most thoroughly studied exoplanets, as planets beyond our solar system are called. A trace amount of hydrogen sulfide was detected in its atmosphere, a first for any exoplanet.

"Yes, the stinky smell would certainly add to its already infamous reputation. This is not a planet we humans want to visit, but a valuable target for

furthering our understanding of planetary science," said astrophysicist Guangwei Fu of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, lead author of the study published in the journal Nature.

It is a type called a 'hot Jupiter' - gas giants similar to the largest planet in our solar system, only much hotter owing to their close proximity to their host stars. This planet orbits 170 times closer to its host star than Jupiter does to the sun. It completes one orbit every two days as opposed to the 12 years Jupiter takes for one orbit of the sun.

In fact, its orbit is 13 times nearer to its host star than our innermost planet Mercury is to the sun, leaving the temperature on the side of the planet facing the star at about 1,700 degrees Fahrenheit (930 degrees Celsius).

"They are quite rare," Fu said of hot Jupiters. "About less than



one in 100 star systems have them."

This planet is located 64 light-years from Earth, considered in our neighborhood within the Milky Way galaxy, in the constellation Vulpecula. A light-year is the distance light travels

in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km).

"The close distance makes it bright and easy for detailed studies. For example, the hydrogen sulfide detection reported here would be much more challenging to make on other faraway

It is a type called a 'hot Jupiter' - gas giants similar to the largest planet in our solar system, only much hotter owing to their close proximity to their host stars

The planet orbits 170 times closer to its host star than Jupiter does to the sun. It completes one orbit every two days as opposed to the 12 years Jupiter takes for one orbit of the sun

planets," Fu said.

The star it orbits is smaller and cooler than the sun, and only about a third as luminous. That star is part of a binary system, meaning it is gravitationally bound to another star. Webb, which became operational in 2022, observes a wider wavelength range than earlier space telescopes, allowing for more thorough examinations of exoplanet atmospheres.

"Our research finds that HD 189733b is more similar to Jupiter

than previously known," Arizona State University astrophysicist and study co-author Luis Welbanks said. "This planet is very much like Jupiter, but just hotter."

Jupiter, too, has trace amounts of hydrogen sulfide in its atmosphere. This planet is about 10 per cent larger than Jupiter in diameter and mass.

In addition to detecting hydrogen sulfide, a sulfur-containing molecule, Webb observations showed that this planet has water and carbon dioxide in its atmosphere, as earlier data also indicated.

"With these three molecules, we are able to count the amount of oxygen, carbon and sulfur the planet has, giving us an opportunity to understand how the planet may have formed and whether it is different or not to the planets in our solar system," Welbanks said.

REUTERS

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# Girl dies as malaria hits Rayagada hard

MORE THAN 400 STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE DISEASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, July 10: Malaria is spreading rapidly among students residing in hostels of various educational institutions including Sevashram and high schools in this district, sources stated here Tuesday. They added that the majority of the students affected by malaria belong to tribal residential schools under the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste department. This development has sparked concern among the parents of the students, more so after a Class VI girl fell prey to the disease, Tuesday. The sources said that more than 400 students have tested positive for the disease.

Sources said that 12 students are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital here while nine have been admitted in Muniguda, Kolnara and Kalyansinghpur hospitals. The disease has hit approximately 40 schools. Among other places where students are undergoing treat-



ment are the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur and SLN Medical College and Hospital in Koraput.

A medical team has been pressed into service to tackle the disease. So far, blood samples of 2,000 students have been tested, out of which 400 returned posi-

tive for malaria, Health officials informed here. They added that 10 students of Kereda High School, 11 of Bilesu High School in Rayagada block, nine students of Anvesha hostel on the outskirts of the town are undergoing treatment after testing positive for malaria.

Among other institutions where the presence of malaria has been found are Parasali Girls' HS, (55 students), Polama HS (24), Talaanchal School (103) and Belakana School (15). This apart, many students of various schools under Kolnara, Bissam Cuttack and Muniguda blocks have tested positive for malaria.

Health department officials are conducting regular screening of the afflicted students in various schools. However, their work has been hampered due to the scarcity of malaria examination kits. As a result, Health officials have decided not to conduct blood tests of all the students. They are identifying those suffering from fever and showing other symptoms of malaria and then testing them.

Locals alleged that the unavailability of mosquito nets is the major reason behind the spread of malaria. They stated most of the hostels have not been supplied nets since 2020. Parents

also alleged that in many schools, authorities are not providing proper treatment to the affected students.

However, this allegation was denied by chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Lalmohan Routray. He said the health department personnel are working round the clock to conduct tests and are providing medicines to affected students.

State ST and SC minister Nityananda Gond was on a visit to this town Tuesday gave instructions so that the students down with malaria are treated in a proper manner. He also informed that he will look into the allegation of mosquito nets not being supplied.

When contacted, District Welfare Officer Bharat Bhushan Biswal said all the affected inmates of hostels are undergoing treatment in coordination with the Health department officials. Directions have been issued to keep the premises of all the schools," he added.

# NH-16 expansion hits roadblock in Ganjam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, July 10: Even though two years have elapsed to the approval of the expansion work for Puintola-Girisola stretch on National Highway (NH)-16, passing through Ganjam district, the project has hit roadblocks due to land acquisition issues, said sources.

The expansion of the stretch from Puintala to Girisola was excluded initially from the NH project, but the National Highway Authorities of India (NHAI) had to take a decision in favour of it due to huge demand by the locals, who had alleged that lack of expansion of the NH was causing frequent mishaps.

Meanwhile, locals expressed their resentment as the work is yet to begin even after two years of the approval of the project by the NHAI. Moreover, the work from Puintala to Narayani Chhak is yet to be completed, said sources.

According to project details, flyovers were also planned to come up at Chhatrapur DRDA Chhak, Lanjipalli and Pukudibandha Chhak, while underpasses were proposed to be built at Kalia Bali and Haladiapadar Chhak.

Though NHAI had earlier said that tenders were finalised and construction would start by the end of 2023, the work is yet to commence.

In December 2023, the then Berhampur MP Chandrasekhar

**Locals expressed their resentment as the work is yet to begin even after two years of the approval of the project by NHAI**

Sahu had raised the issue in Lok Sabha, expressing concern over the undue delay in the NH expansion work. Former Chhatrapur MLA Subash Chandra Behera had also raised the issue with NH authorities several times. Moreover, MLA Krishna Chandra Nayak has also drawn the attention of the NHAI in this connection, but to no avail.

Sources said the delay in construction is partly due to private land acquisition issues. Expansion of Puintola-Girisola stretch of NH-16 was necessary as the existing narrow stretch has caused several fatal accidents and the issue was also raised in the district road safety committee meetings. This stretch is having at least 10 black spots, as identified by NHAI.

Meanwhile, an ongoing dispute has halted the Galashankha construction on the Puintola-Narayani stretch of the NH at Humma. This has led to frequent mishaps and traffic issues, said sources.

# 3 dead, 3 injured in Sundargarh mishap

RAJESH MOHANTY,OP

Rourkela, July 10: Three members of a family were killed in a road mishap on national highway at Rengalbedha under Koira police limits in Sundargarh district, Wednesday. Three other occupants of the car suffered serious injuries. The mishap occurred after the car they were travelling in crashed into a parked dumper on the side of the road.

The deceased were identified as Supriya Nayak, 25, Piyush Nayak, 13 and Trishan Nayak, six. The accident occurred around 3.00am near Koira. Officials said that the family of Koira sarpanch Sandhyarani Keonjhar was returning from Keonjhar after participating in a marriage programme when the accident occurred. They were travelling in an SUV.

IIC Koira, Manoranjan

Kumar said, "Probably the driver had fallen asleep while driving. As a result he lost control of the vehicle and collided with the dumper. Three persons, one woman and two boys died on the spot due to the impact. Police said that the deceased were the grandsons and granddaughter of Sandhyarani.

Police informed that Sandhyarani also suffered serious injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital here. Police also did not blame the parked vehicle for the mishap. "It had suffered a burst tire and hence it was parked on the side of the road. It did not hamper traffic movement," Kumar stated. "Even though the driver of the SUV, Krishna Nayak is responsible for the accident, he escaped with minor injuries," Kumar added.

# 50K indigenous birds spotted in Bhitarkanika

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, July 10: There is a surge in the population of native birds in the world-renowned Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, following the activation of the monsoon in the state. More than 50,000 birds have flocked to regions such as Mathadia, Durgaprasaddia, and Lakshmiprasaddia of the sanctuary in Kendrapara district, according to a report. The chirping of these birds has made Bhitarkanika one of the most sought after destinations for nature lovers.

After the onset of the monsoon, the winged creatures have headed



to the region for food and breeding purposes, say experts. It is believed that they also come to establish bonds with the migratory birds that have stayed back in Bhitarkanika. Species such as the open-bill stork, water hen, egret, cormorant, black ibis, jacana, and various types of ducks are mostly seen in the aforementioned regions. These birds can be seen nesting in trees like banyan, guava, tamarind, and neem, creating a beautiful ambience in the sanctuary region.

Mathadia hosts a large number of open-bill storks, while egrets and water hens are mostly seen in Durgaprasaddia. Lakshmiprasaddia, on the other hand, houses about 30,000 birds belonging to different species.

Significantly, native birds used to flock to Bhitarkanika for over 20 years. To facilitate bird-watching for tourists, watchtowers were also constructed there. However, for the past eight years, their number has declined drastically. The rise in the number of native birds this year brought cheer among the locals as well as the environmentalists.

# Woman gangraped, brutally assaulted

Kabisuryanagar: A woman was gangraped by four persons and brutally assaulted atop a hill in Khairapalli village under this police limits in Ganjam district, police said Wednesday. The matter came to the fore after police rescued the woman lying in a critical condition on the hilltop near the village. Police said the incident occurred late Tuesday night when four persons brutally beat up the woman near the village and took turns to rape her. They added that the victim alleged that one of the accused had even shoved a liquor bottle into her private parts. Police also said that there were several injury marks on the body of the woman. Preliminary inquiries suggested that the woman was gangraped and assaulted over illegal ganja trade. She was lying in a debilitated condition when police rescued her and admitted her to the Kabisuryanagar hospital for treatment. Police so far have detained two youths of Babanpur locality. Police suspect them to be the mastermind behind the incident and are questioning them to find their involvement and that of others in the gruesome act.

# KARANJIA AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE

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No. 01/OHEPEE/KACK/2024 Dated: 08.07.2024  
Sealed Tenders are invited from the intending distributors / dealers / registered firms for supply, installation and commissioning of non-civil items at Karanjia Autonomous College, Karanjia. The tender papers along with DD of Rs.500/- and EMDs must reach the undersigned by 05.00 PM on 26.07.2024. For details, visit the college website <http://www.karanjiacollege.com>.  
Sd./- Principal

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, NUAPADA

**TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
Notification No. CDM & PHO/02USG/2024-25  
No.E-114: Sealed tenders are invited from registered Firms/Suppliers/Manufacturers / Authorized distributors for supply of Ultrasound Machine with 4 probes to the undersigned. Details regarding items with terms and conditions may be downloaded from District website [www.nuapada.odisha.gov.in](http://www.nuapada.odisha.gov.in). The tenders should reach the office of the undersigned by Date - 31.07.2024 up to 05.00 PM through Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier Services only. The tender will be opened on date 01.08.2024 at 11.30 AM in the office chamber / conference hall of the undersigned.  
The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.  
Sd./- Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer  
OIPR-10055/11/0004/2425 Nuapada

# DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION, JAJPUR

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The details of the advertisement are available in the district website ([www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in](http://www.jajpur.odisha.gov.in)). For further details please contact Mr. Tushar Ranjan Bala (Mob. 9437850176/9438560048) & Mr. Salika Kumar Parida (Mob. 9337449749).  
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## UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK

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Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, At/PO: Dhanupali, Dist.: Sambalpur  
Mob.: 9861133922, 7325905368, E-mail id: [sarb@ukgb.in](mailto:sarb@ukgb.in)

### E-Auction / Sale Notice

**SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.**  
The undersigned as Authorized Officer of Utkal Grameen Bank has taken over Possession of the following property/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and on the terms & conditions specified hereunder.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Property Details & Name of the Owner of the property	Outstanding dues for recovery of which property/ies are being sold / Demand Notice date	Reserve Price / EMD / BID Increment Amount
1.	(1) Borrower: Smt. Sanju Patel, W/o- Late Mahendra Kumar Patel/ Guarantor: Prabhakar Kumar alias Prabhakar Mahendra Patel, S/o- Late Mahendra Kumar Patel, Both are At: New Colony (Siba Nagar), Mission Chowk, PO/Dist.: Sundergarh-770001. (2) Borrower: Prabhakar Kumar alias Prabhakar Mahendra Patel, S/o- Late Mahendra Kumar Patel / Guarantor: Smt. Sanju Patel, W/o- Late Mahendra Kumar Patel, Both are At: New Colony (Siba Nagar), Mission Chowk, PO/Dist.: Sundergarh-770001.	Property situated at Mouza: Talasankara, Tahasil/PS/ Dist.: Sundergarh, Khata No.: 5167/788, Plot No.: 313/4897, Area: Ac.0.10 dec., KISSAM: Gharbari, standing in the name of Smt. Sanju Patel.	(1) ₹ 1,41,40,261/- as on 10.07.2024 with further interest & costs No.: 5167/788, Plot No.: 313/4897, Area: Ac.0.10 dec., KISSAM: Gharbari, standing in the name of Smt. Sanju Patel. (2) ₹ 1,16,09,291/- as on 10.07.2024 with further interest & costs / 07.08.2017	₹ 1,36,08,000/- / ₹ 14,00,000/- / ₹ 1,00,000/-

**DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LETTER OF PARTICIPATION/KYC DOCUMENTS/PROOF OF EMD ETC.: ON OR BEFORE: 13.08.2024 upto 05.00 P.M.**  
**DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF THE PROPERTIES: 12.08.2024 from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM**  
**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 14.08.2024 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM (with unlimited extensions of time up to 5 minutes each)**

**The terms and conditions of the E-Auction are as under :**

- E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad at the web portal (<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>). E-Auction Tender Document containing online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in websites.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues.
- The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT/ RTGS / Cash Deposit (at any UGB Branches) in the Account No.: 84034557626, Name of the A/C: Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sambalpur, IFSC Code No.: SBIN0RRUKGB or by way of demand draft drawn in favour Utkal Grameen Bank, A/C- Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sambalpur, payable at Sambalpur, drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank. Bidders shall hold a valid email ID (e-mail ID is absolutely necessary for the intending bidder as all the relevant information and allotment of ID & password by M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad may be conveyed through e-mail). Contact: Mr. Ram Prasad Sharma- 8000023297, Email Id: [orissa@auctiontiger.net](mailto:orissa@auctiontiger.net) & [support@auctiontiger.net](mailto:support@auctiontiger.net)
- The intending bidder should submit the evidence for EMD deposit like UTR number along with Request Letter for participation in the E-auction, counterfoiled incase deposited across counter of any branch of ours, self-attested copies of (i) Proof of Identification (KYC) viz. Voter ID Card/ Driving License/ Passport etc., (ii) Current Address-Proof for communication, (iii) PAN card of the bidder, (iv) valid e-mail ID, (v) contact number (Mobile/Landline) of the bidder etc. to the Authorized Officer of Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, At/PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur & Address by 13.08.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Scanned copies of the original of these documents can also be submitted to e-mail ID of Authorized officer.
- Names of the Eligible Bidders will be identified by the Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, At/PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur to participate in online e-auction on the portal (<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>). M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad will provide User ID & Password after due verification of PAN of the Eligible Bidders.
- It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the property before submission of the bid.
- The e-auction/bidding of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date & Time as mentioned against the property by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidder shall improve their offer in multiple of the amount mentioned under the columns "Bid Increment Amount" against the property. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of e-auction process shall be declared as Successful Bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price immediately within 48 hour on acceptance of bid price by the Authorized Officer and the balance of the sale price on or before 15th day of the sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing and solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. Default in deposit of amount by the successful bidder would entail forfeiture of the whole money, already deposited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidder shall have no claim/ right in respect of property/ amount.
- The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-auction from M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad prior to the date of e-auction. Neither the Authorized Officer / Bank nor M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad will be held responsible for any internet Network problem/Power failure/ any other technical lapses/failure etc. In order to ward-off such contingent situation the interested bidders are requested to ensure that they are technically well equipped with adequate power back-up etc. for successfully participating in the e-auction event.
- The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties / additional stamp duty / transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory/ non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment charges, fees etc. owing to anybody.
- The Authorized Officer/Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/ postpone/ cancel the e-auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from the auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason therefor.
- The Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser(s) / applicant(s) only and will not be issued in any other name(s).
- The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: 10.07.2024, Place : Sambalpur Sd./- Authorised Officer, Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sambalpur

# THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL (ODISHA), PIN - 759001

E-mail: [dhenkanal.m.hud@gmail.com](mailto:dhenkanal.m.hud@gmail.com)  
NO. 2565 DATE: 09.07.24

## QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No. C-184: Sealed quotations in plain paper are invited from intending reputed suppliers/firms/agency having valid GST in Certificate for supply of sanitary article. The quotations should quote their rates for the following each items of sanitary articles including cost, conveyance, delivery charges with all taxes etc. The quotation must be submitted in the Tender Box by hand of the quotationers or their authorized agent, which is available in the office of the undersigned on or before Dtd.19.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. and will be opened on same date at 3.00 P.M. in the Office of the undersigned in presence of the quotationers or their authorized agent. In absence of both, the quotation can be opened.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof. The quotationer should mention on the envelope "Quotation for sanitary articles".

Sl. No.	Description of Sanitary Article	Unit	Rate Per Unit (In Rs.)
1	Broom Stick (1 Kg. each Bundle)	1 Bundles (1 Kg.)	
2	Basket (Made with Bamboo Mat)	1 No.	
3	Kanta Chhani with long Wooden Handle	1 No.	
4	Sardi with long Woden Handle	1 No.	
5	Nail Spade (Kanta Fauda) (TATA)	1 No.	
6	Bill Hook (Katuri)	1 No.	
7	Hoe (Gainti)	1 No.	
8	Spade (TATA) with Short Handle (Kodi)	1 No.	
9	Sickle (TATA)	1 No.	
10	Crow Bar (TATA) 6'-0" dia and long	1 No.	
11	Spade (TATA) with Long Handle (Fauda)	1 No.	
12	Shovel (TATA)	1 No.	
13	Handle (Woden) (Non-Sal) for Spade & Kodi	1 No.	
14	Long Handle (6'-0") Long Non-Sal Wooden	1 No.	
15	Axe - 3 Kg.	1 No.	
16	Aluminum Bucket (10 Ltr. Capacity)	1 No.	
17	Hawai Sleeper (Chappal)	Per Pair	
18	300 Ltr. Capacity with Trolley Wheel based on 18 Gaze MS Sheet with Middle partition in Blue and Green Color	1 Unit	
19	3 Wheeler Rickshaws made from heavy angle chechis and 18 SWG MS Sheet, Complete Steel Body, 24 Spokes with Ball bearing	1 Unit	
20	18 Gaze MS Plain Wheel Barrow written with Dhenkanal Municipality	1 Unit	
21	Lifebuoy Shop (75 gm)	Per Pc.	
22	Aluminium Gangula	Per Pc.	
23	Polythene Pala	1 Pc.	
24	Tractor Hood	1 Pc.	
25	Helmet	1 Pc.	
26	Rain Coat	1 No.	
27	Gum Boot	1 Pair	
28	Gloves	1 Pair	
29	Apron	1 Pc.	
30	Mask	1 Pc.	
31	Bleaching Powder (25 Kg.)	1 Pkt.	
32	Phenyl	1 Ltr.	
33	240 Ltr. Fiber Dustbin	1 Pc.	
34	100 Ltr. Fiber Dustbin	1 Pc.	
35	30 Ltr. Fiber Dustbin	1 Pc.	
36	Lime Powder	1 Kg.	

Sd./- Executive Officer  
Dhenkanal Municipality  
OIPR-13146/11/0009/2425

FOCUS ECONOMY

# GROWTH OF P2P LENDING



P2P lending, commonly branded as 'social lending' or 'crowd lending,' is often categorised under the umbrella of the 'sharing economy' for the sake of mass appeal

The Sumerian civilisation, one of the earliest known societies, had sophisticated systems of lending, borrowing, credit, and debt. These systems were based on mutual trust and social currency, allowing individuals to engage in economic transactions without the need for physical money or barter. Instead, social bonds and communal trust underpinned these interactions, facilitating trade and the distribution of resources. This foundation of trust was crucial for the development of early markets and the overall growth of human civilisation. Social currency operated on the principle that individuals could rely on each other within their communities, creating a network of reciprocal obligations and support. These informal financial systems were essential for maintaining social cohesion and enabling economic activities.

As human societies evolved, the rise of feudalism and capitalism introduced significant changes to these trust-based systems. Economic relationships that were once informal and personal became formalised, legalised and institutionalised. The establishment of legal frameworks and banking institutions standardised lending and borrowing practices, providing a more structured and reliable system for managing credit and debt. This formalisation helped to support larger-scale economic activities and fostered the growth of global trade. In the modern era, technological advancements and the digital revolution are once again transforming the landscape of lending and borrowing. The development of peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms represents a significant shift in how financial transactions are conducted. The history of lending and borrowing reveals a continuous evolution from informal, trust-based systems to formalised, institutionalised practices, and now to digitally enabled P2P platforms.

As a result of technological innovations and the growth of platform economy, the P2P lending market has experienced substantial growth over the past decade. Analysts predict that this trend will continue, with the volume of P2P lending expected to reach an astounding one trillion US dollars by 2050. Online platforms and digital tools have streamlined the lending process, offering greater accessibility, convenience, and efficiency. These platforms use sophisticated algorithms to match lenders with borrowers, assess creditworthiness, and manage transactions, thereby reducing the time and costs associated with traditional lending methods. It is argued that the digital revolution has not only expanded the reach and capabilities of P2P lending but has also positioned it as a major player in the future of global finance.

These platforms enable lenders to directly lend money to individuals or small businesses, bypassing traditional financial institutions. The P2P lending solves problems of the institutional lending crisis by developing online marketplace platforms. It is argued further that P2P lending promotes alternative financing methods. By eliminating the need for traditional financial institutions in the lending process, P2P platforms not only provide more accessible funding options for borrowers but also offer attractive investment opportunities for lenders. This innovative approach helps to democratise finance, making it more inclusive and efficient.

Peer-to-peer lending, commonly branded to as "social lending" or "crowd lending," is often categorised under the umbrella of the "sharing economy" for the sake of mass appeal. This designation suggests a system where resources are shared among individuals, fostering a sense of community and collective benefit. However, the actual mechanics of P2P lending diverge significantly from these idealist claims.

While this might seem to align with the principles of a sharing economy—where goods and services are distributed among a community—P2P lending lacks the communal and altruistic aspects typically associated with such economies. The primary motivation behind P2P lending is financial gain rather than social good. Lenders participate to earn interest on their money, and borrowers seek loans often because they can obtain more favourable terms than those offered by traditional banks. This transactional nature emphasises profit over community welfare, contrasting sharply with the sharing economy's ethos of mutual benefit and resource sharing.

Moreover, the risk involved in P2P lending is borne individually by the lenders, who may face significant financial loss if borrowers default on their loans. This individual risk fur-

ther underscores the lack of collective support and communal risk-sharing that would be present in a true sharing economy model.

There is no doubt that the P2P lending and borrowing system fundamentally transforms traditional financial interactions. Unlike conventional banking, which relies heavily on institutional trust and regulatory frameworks, P2P platforms leverage personal trust and social networks to facilitate financial transactions. This shift allows individuals to directly lend and borrow money from each other without intermediaries, thus monetising the informal processes that have historically existed in many communities. By commodifying these social foundations, P2P lending alters the dynamics of economic interactions. It turns personal relationships and trust into marketable assets, creating new opportunities for individuals who might be underserved by traditional banking systems. However, it also introduces new risks and challenges, as the absence of formal regulatory oversight can lead to issues related to trustworthiness, repayment, and legal recourse.

Despite its innovative approach, P2P lending should not be seen as a replacement for the cooperative banking system. Cooperative banks are member-owned financial institutions that operate based on principles of shared ownership and democratic decision-making. They are designed to serve the financial needs of their members, often focusing on community development and social goals alongside profitability.

It can be said that while P2P lending provides an intriguing alternative to traditional banking by leveraging social trust and personal networks, it does not fulfil the same role as cooperative banks. P2P lending and borrowing systems are not sustainable alternatives like cooperative banking system.

The writer teaches at London Metropolitan University.

**AS A RESULT OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND THE GROWTH OF PLATFORM ECONOMY, THE P2P LENDING MARKET HAS EXPERIENCED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH OVER THE PAST DECADE**



Bhabani Shankar Nayak



Joel Wit

**Whether Trump knew it or not, engaging directly with Kim was the only way to stop North Korea from amassing more weapons of mass destruction**

## Kim's Sabre-Rattling

Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to Pyongyang, and North Korea's announcement of tests of new missiles have raised alarms in Washington, rattled America's allies, and threaten to destabilise the Indo-Pacific region. While this certainly is not the first time that tensions have escalated, the current turmoil can be traced back to the actions of one man: former US President Donald Trump.

During his presidency, Trump's attempts at diplomacy were often viewed as ill-informed and dangerous, especially when he and North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un exchanged nuclear threats in 2017. Yet, Trump and Kim, who met for two summits in 2018 and 2019, actually made significant progress toward resolving the decades-long conflict between their two countries—until Trump's impulsiveness derailed these efforts and set the stage for escalation.

Seeing a chance to shine on the international stage and win a Nobel Peace Prize like his predecessor, Barack Obama, Trump pushed for a summit with Kim. This also reflected a stark reality. In their first and only meeting after Trump's election, Obama warned that North Korea was on the verge of acquiring missiles and bombs capable of killing millions of Americans. Obama also told Trump that the US might have to launch a preemptive strike to prevent this scenario.

Trump's offer to meet Kim was a dream come true for North Korea, signifying its acceptance on the world stage. Kim, like his father and grandfather, sought to modernise the country's underdeveloped economy. Ending the cold war with the US, which would have enabled North Korea to transfer resources from defense to the civilian economy, was crucial to this process. To achieve this, Kim was even willing to put his nuclear-weapons programme on the chopping block.

Even as they were issuing public threats, Trump and Kim were secretly angling for a summit. Immediately after Trump took office, the North Koreans reached out to the State Department, signaling Kim's desire to meet the new US president. During secret talks in Singapore, North Korean spies reportedly asked their CIA counterparts whether Trump was serious about meeting Kim.

Although the Trump administration's official policy was to force the North Koreans to come to the negotiating table, the president liked the idea of a "leader-to-leader" summit. In December 2017, he even provided a United Nations envoy with a message for Kim, proposing a meeting.

Whether Trump knew it or not, engaging directly with Kim was the only way to stop North Korea from amassing more weapons of mass destruction. While observers were dismissive of these efforts, Kim's unilateral decision to halt missile and nuclear-weapons tests and start dismantling test sites showed he was serious. Notably, Kim also announced a major economic-modernisation programme, indicating his expectation that the US-North Korea conflict would soon end.

But ending decades of hostility cannot be achieved in a few hours, and the first Trump-Kim summit in June 2018 in Singapore fell far short of such unrealistic expectations. Trump himself seemed to realise this, telling his aides that it was a "process" that might require several summits.

He was right. While Trump was criticised for being unprepared for his second meeting with Kim in Hanoi in February 2019, the summit was preceded by intense negotiations between Trump's special envoy, Stephen Biegun, and his North Korean counterparts. According to former US officials, the talks produced a lengthy document that addressed nearly every issue the two countries had struggled with, leaving two major questions for Trump and Kim to resolve: how much of North Korea's nuclear programme would be dismantled immediately and how many sanctions the US would lift in return.

Trump and Kim came close to resolving these issues, but Kim's demands exceeded what Trump was willing to offer. The two haggled until Trump, who is known for his impatience, abruptly decided to cut the summit short.

Regrettably, Trump's impulsive decision came just as the negotiations were gaining momentum. After the formal talks had ended, a top Kim adviser approached Biegun with a new, promising proposal. The two seemed to be making progress as Trump walked by, shook Kim's hand, and left, despite Kim's request that he stay a few more hours. The American delegation had no choice but to follow Trump, and the stunned Kim returned to Pyongyang empty-handed.

At the time, many experts believed that the summit failed because Kim was not willing to give up his stockpile of nuclear weapons. Some thought that John Bolton, Trump's hawkish national security adviser, had sabotaged the talks, while others noted that Trump was likely distracted by the congressional testimony of his former lawyer, Michael Cohen. But the blame lies squarely with Trump himself. As Anthony Fauci, the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, put it, Trump's attention span is "a minus number."

Trump himself may have had second thoughts about walking out of the Hanoi summit. As he left Vietnam, he reportedly called then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in and sought his advice. But Trump and Kim never reconnected.

This raises the question: What if Trump had reached a historic deal with Kim in Hanoi? It is probably safe to say that the US and North Korea would have made significant—albeit slow—progress toward better relations. If they had, it is also likely that Kim would not have jeopardised his new relationship with the US by embracing Putin, nor would he be building an enormous weapons arsenal that threatens to annihilate American cities. Alas, because of Trump's rash decisions, we will never know what could have been.

The writer is a distinguished fellow in Northeast Asia Security Studies at the Henry L. Stimson Center.  
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### WISDOM CORNER

It's very important that we re-learn the art of resting and relaxing. Not only does it help prevent the onset of many illnesses that develop through chronic tension and worrying; it allows us to clear our minds, focus, and find creative solutions to problems.  
THICH NHAT HANH

To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.  
ALAN WATTS

Acceptance looks like a passive state, but in reality it brings something entirely new into this world. That peace, a subtle energy vibration, is consciousness.  
ECKHART TOLLE

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Unchecked exploitation

The fanaticism manifested in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras which touched around 121 people killed in a stampede is indeed distressing. According to available figures, at least 2000 people are reported to have died in stampedes over the past two decades at religious sites and celebrations across India. The superstition inherent in Indian society is the result of such tragic incidents, but successive governments, and especially the current one, are reluctant to take a strong action in the matter.

Though many probes have been ordered in the past, it is a fact that the law enforcing agencies are not quite serious in bringing the 'godmen' to book. In Hathras, over 2.5 lakh people assembled while arrangements were for just around 80,000. Such massive overcrowding and insufficient exits were worsened by rain that turned the paddy fields into sludges. These incidents repeat as the 'godmen' are above law and the government is reluctant to go against people's superstitious

and unscientific attitude.

In this case also, Bhole Baba, the godman, has surprisingly not been named in the FIR. It is understood that he faced several criminal cases, including charges of fraud, land grab and sexual assault in the past. It is also known that he professed to be a reincarnation of various Hindu gods and boasted his capability to heal diseases. It is pertinent here to mention that though the Baba is a Dalit, and his appeal is largely among the socially and economically marginalised, his share of wealthy followers is no less who are lavish with donations. According to media reports, his assets, including luxurious ashrams, amount to Rs 100 crore!

Such 'godmen', though from humble backgrounds, are patronised by politicians, businessmen, film stars and other celebrities. They are thriving in the country due to the reluctance of the establishment to act against their false claims. It is ludicrous to believe that they are living gods and have magical powers. Obviously, they do not

speak to our rational and educated minds. Festivals and ceremonies are organised to propagate their powers and take money from the uneducated sections. In recent times, even astrologers are following this path with assurances of ameliorating the problems faced by individuals. Sociologists are of the opinion that unless adult education is spread in a sustained manner in villages, such exploitation by 'godmen', professing to be descendants of the almighty, would continue unabated.

The officers who gave permission for the congregation without verifying the number of devotees expected to attend and other necessary details, need to be acted upon. What happened there may also be attributed to be a form of violence of Hindu fundamentalists that Rahul Gandhi recently referred to in Parliament. Hindu nationalism has touched a low point and communal harmony is no longer relevant today. But it is surprising that this outspoken Congress leader has yet

to question why Bhole Baba has not been named in the FIR, not to speak of conservative BJP leaders.

The fanaticism that has been manifest, if allowed to continue around godmen, who pose as emissaries of God, is dangerous for Indian society, which is aspiring to be a technologically advanced and developed nation.

The attitude of the present government in trying to propagate Hindu nationalism has given a lot more leeway to godmen, who take advantage and exploit superstitious and innocent rural folks. It is not known when this will stop or whether at all such fanatic incidents would cease but any rational government should try to control such incidents with an iron hand. Only ordering an enquiry may just be an eyewash, as it is equally important to know the political patronage behind this godman. From rags to riches is normally not possible without direct or indirect support of the political class.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**THE FANATICISM THAT HAS BEEN MANIFEST, IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AROUND GODMEN, IS DANGEROUS FOR INDIAN SOCIETY**

### Divided polity

Sir, France appears to be headed for a prolonged period of political uncertainty after voters defied the opinion polls to deny the country's far-right a victory in the second round of parliamentary elections on Sunday, but delivered a fractured mandate that will make government formation difficult. The results will force President Macron to appoint a new prime minister and government, which, in turn, will require compromise among parties that have bitterly opposed one another in recent months and campaigned on dramatically different platforms on issues ranging from climate, taxes and pensions to Israel's war on Gaza. With this, France faces the prospect of long-drawn coalition talks to form a government—and the risk that whoever takes office will lead an unsteady alliance at best. Mac-ron will still hold the decision-making reins on national security and foreign policy, which will offer some comfort to France's allies and friends, including India, which counts the European nation as among its most trusted strategic partners. Yet, how he navigates the deeply divided polity could determine whether voters, clearly disillusioned with his centrist policies, lurch more towards the left or the right in the coming years.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Head-turner

Sir, Young Indian Priyanshu Rajawat lost to France's Alex Lanier in the semifinals of the Canada open badminton tournament. However, by then Rajawat had won the hearts of many by overcoming top seed and world number four Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the last eight. This was Rajawat's second entry into the semifinals of a World Tour Super 500 tournament. A part of India's 2022 Thomas Cup winning team, Rajawat has displayed enough prowess to turn heads. That being said, world men's badminton has always been extremely competitive with top class youngsters consistently taking centre stage. Indian badminton is no exception, and it will have to be seen whether Rajawat can emulate the likes of Lakshya Sen, K Srikanth and HS Prannoy. Lakshya and Prannoy have shone in patches, but India is yet to see a dominant world beater after Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

# Tripura HIV cases tip of iceberg: Experts

HIV IS A SERIOUS INFECTION THAT ERODES THE QUALITY OF LIFE BY IMPAIRING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM THUS MAKING ITS VICTIMS SUSCEPTIBLE TO OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS BESIDES OTHER HEALTH COMPLICATIONS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 10: Even as the government of Tripura issued a clarification on misleading reports of HIV cases in the state, health experts Wednesday said that it "is just the tip of the iceberg."

Earlier this month, a senior official from the Tripura AIDS Control Society (TSACS) claimed that 828 students tested HIV positive in Tripura and 47 of them died. The official stated that 572 of the students are still alive, while many also left the state for higher education.

In a post on the social media platform X.com, the Health & Family Welfare Department of the Tripura Government called it "misleading."

"The total figures are cumulative from April 2007 to May 2024," it said.

According to TSACS officials, the spike in HIV cases could have stemmed from injectable drug abuse among students.

Speaking to IANS, Dr Ishwar Gilada, a noted HIV expert said that it "is just the tip of the iceberg -- whether you consider only HIV infection or other in-



fections that can be easily transmitted through injection drug use (IDU)."

IDU is known to have a quicker and stronger effect than drugs that are swallowed, smoked, or inhaled.

Dr Gilada stated that in addition to HIV, Hepatitis-C, Hepatitis-B, and syphilis among others, also get easily transmitted through IDU, rather more efficiently than HIV.

"In addition to sharing needles, IDUs have another risk in sizable proportion, that is, indiscriminate sex and that too unpro-

ected. That further fuels the spread of other STIs as well as HIV infection," the expert said.

Dr Basavaraj S Kumbhar, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru, called the incident of losing 47 young people and having hundreds more infected "a terrible tragedy."

"The issue also raises concerns on the usage of injectable

drugs and should serve as a commercial for not doing this," he told IANS.

HIV is a devastating disease. It is a serious infection that erodes the quality of life by impairing the immune system thus making its victims susceptible to opportunistic infections besides other health complications.

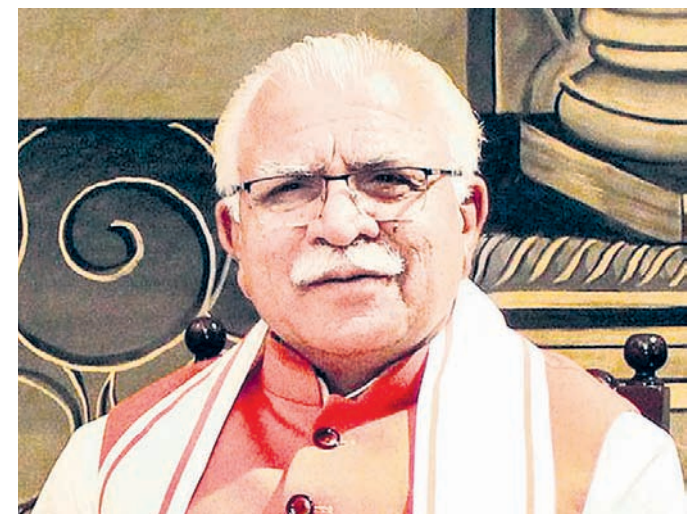
"Although modern medicine makes it possible for individuals with HIV to live long and productive lives, it requires consistent medications and monitoring by medical experts. The virus weakens the body's immunities thereby exposing people to attacks from other disease-causing agents. This is a lifetime struggle," Dr Kumbhar said.

Meanwhile, Dr Gilada, a Consultant in HIV/STDs, Unison Medicare and Research Centre, Mumbai, called on the state health authorities for a "comprehensive look and check-up of all children and to deal efficiently with each infection."

"The major HIV awareness

So far, 828 students have been diagnosed with HIV in Tripura

# Khattar urges Ch'garh to harness Central funds to expedite development



CHIEF MINISTER VISHNU DEO SAI, UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS TOKHAN SAHU, DEPUTY CM ARUN SAO AND CHIEF SECRETARY AMITABH JAIN WERE PRESENT IN THE MEETING HELD AT MANTRALAYA IN NAVA RAIPUR

Housing and Urban Affairs portfolio, said several schemes are being run by the Centre to provide cheap and adequate electricity to people and promote solar energy.

"The Union minister told the state government to make full use of the funds and grants being given by the Centre. He assured that there will be no difficulty from Centre's end regarding development schemes in the state and both the Centre and state government will work in better coordination," it said.

He also suggested that 100 buses given to Raipur under the 'Clean City' scheme can also be used for public transport between Nava Raipur and Raipur, it said.

Khattar reviewed the works being done to reduce line loss under the Electricity department, installation of smart meters, electrification in special

backward tribal areas and availability of coal for power generation.

"He also took stock of activities under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Amrit Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, PM e-Bus Service, Smart City Mission and other schemes," it added.

In the meeting, CM Sai said work was being carried out at a rapid pace to enhance power generation in Chhattisgarh and the state would soon reclaim the status of 'Power Surplus State'.

In the last six months, Sai told Khattar, the availability of electricity for farmers and small workers in the state has improved.

Farmers are being given a subsidy of 6,000 units annually for using irrigation pumps of up to 3 horsepower (HP) capacity and a subsidy of 7,500 units per year for irrigation pumps with capacities between 3 HP and 5 HP, Sai said.

The CM requested Khattar to clear on priority 19,906 houses awaiting approval under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and about 50,000 houses with revised Central share to the state in accordance with the applications collected during Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the release said.

The CM reported rapid progress in power generation and improvement in electric availability

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, July 10: Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Wednesday advised the Chhattisgarh government to make full and timely use of the funds given by the Centre to "accelerate" the pace of development in the state.

Officials said Khattar, the former Haryana chief minister, reviewed the works underway in Chhattisgarh's power and urban development sectors.

In the meeting held at Mantralaya in Nava Raipur, he batted for better coordination between the Centre and Chhattisgarh, stressing that it would expedite development works in the state.

The Centre will extend full support concerning electricity and housing in Chhattisgarh, he said. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several reforms and works are being undertaken in the country as per people's aspirations, a release quoted Khattar as saying in the meeting.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu, Deputy CM Arun Sao and Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain were present in the meeting, said the statement issued by the state's Public Relations department.

Khattar, who also holds the

# Ch'garh to give houses to families identified as homeless under Cong rule

The socio-economic survey conducted by the state government from April 1 to 30 last year identified 47,090 families as homeless

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, July 10: The State government has decided to sanction houses to more than 47,000 families that were identified as homeless in a survey conducted last year during the previous Congress regime, officials said.

The decision was taken Tuesday during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at the Mantralaya in Nava Raipur, Deputy CM Arun Sao told reporters.

The socio-economic survey conducted by the state government from April 1 to April 30 last year covering 59.79 lakh families identified 47,090 families as homeless.

These homeless families did not feature in the permanent wait list (PWL) of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census - 2011 (SECC-2011) (required for being eligible as beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Rural), Sao said.

These families will be provided housing under the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana (Rural), he added.

Under the scheme, affordable housing facilities are being developed in Nava Raipur, and the registration date to avail this scheme has been extended from March 31, 2024, to March 31,

2027, he said.

In another significant decision, the cabinet gave its nod to an amendment of the Chhattisgarh Government Store Purchase Rules, 2002 (as revised in 2022), the deputy CM said.

With this move, all state government departments will procure materials, goods, and services available through the Centre's Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal instead of Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC), he said.

The existing rate contracts of the CSIDC will be cancelled at the end of this month, Sao said.

The decision was taken to tackle corruption in government procurement following numerous complaints of irregularities in purchases through the CSIDC, he said.

The previous (Congress) government prohibited purchases from the GeM portal, resulting in increased procurement challenges, compromised quality, and a rise in corruption allegations, Sao said.

The Sai government has addressed this issue with urgency, aiming not only to curb corruption but also to restore transparency in government procurement by reinstating the GeM portal system, he said.

The cabinet also decided to establish a separate 'Good Governance and Convergence' department for the effective implementation of state's welfare policies and good governance initiatives and at the same time addressing public issues, Sao added.

# Assam flood situation improves marginally



Drinking water being distributed to flood-affected people at a relief camp, in Kollabor of Nagaon district, Assam. PTT PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 10: The flood situation in Assam improved marginally Wednesday with water levels of major rivers showing a receding trend, reducing the affected population to 1.7 million across 26 districts, according to an official bulletin.

Vast tracts of land, however, remain inundated with sporadic rainfall reported from several districts.

Seven deaths were reported Tuesday with two in Cachar and one each in Dhubri, Dhemaji, South Salmara, Nagaon and Sivasagar, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

The death toll in this year's floods, landslides and storms increased to 92 with 79 people losing their lives to the deluge alone.

## 17 lakh affected in 26 districts

An area of 38,870.3 hectares of cropland was still inundated as against 49,014.06 hectares Monday

Among the worst-hit districts are Dhubri where 3,54,045 people are affected, Cachar (1,81,545), Sivasagar (1,36,547), Barpeta (1,16,074) and Golaghat (1,09,475).

A total of 48,021 affected people have taken shelter in 507 relief camps while relief materials have been distributed to 104,665 others outside these camps.

Dhubri, Cachar, Kamrup, Goalpara, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Charaideo, South Salmara, Nalbari, Karimganj, Dhemaji, Morigaon, Nagaon, Sivasagar, Golaghat, Sonitpur, Haikakandi, Biswanath, Barpeta,

Darrang, Kamrup (M), Majuli, Jorhat, Kokrajhar, Tinsukia and Chirang are among the affected districts.

Urban flooding was reported from two districts of Kamrup (Metropolitan), Dibrugarh and Karbi Anglong.

Kaziranga National Park has seen its worst floods in recent years, resulting in the death of 159 wild animals due to drowning or during rescue operations, while 133 others have been saved.

Infrastructure damage includes 94 roads, three bridges, 26 houses, and six embankments. The Brahmaputra River remains above the danger level at Nimatighat, Tezpur; Guwahati, and Dhubri, while other rivers like Burhi Dihing, Dikhou, Disang, Kopili, and Kushiara are also flowing above their danger marks in various places.

## CITIZENS AND AUTHORITIES UNITE

Trinetra, first-of-its-kind smart city ITMS (intelligent traffic management system) and surveillance project funded by the public

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajnandgaon, July 10: Residents have joined hands with the authorities to install hi-tech CCTV cameras and set up a control room in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon city for effective enforcement of traffic regulations and public safety, officials said.

The Rajnandgaon district administration and police have come out with 'Trinetra', a project financed by the public, they said.

Talking to PTI, Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police Mohit Garg said, "This first-of-its-kind smart city ITMS (intelligent traffic management system) and surveillance project funded by the public."

# Rajnandgaon becomes safer with Trinetra



The official said as many as 385 cameras, including 25 ANPRs (automatic number plate recognition), 300 varifocal cameras, 10 PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) cameras and fifty '80/50' meter focus cameras, will be installed at entry points and junctions of the city.

The city has a population of around 1.50 lakh, he said.

Under the initiative, the existing 152 cameras, installed with public cooperation and government funds in the past, will also be maintained, he said.

Seven new traffic signal lights have been installed in addition to the repair and maintenance of the three existing signal lights, he said, adding that these signals will be equipped with ANPRs and varifocal cameras to facilitate e-challans.

A modern integrated control room is also being set up in the SP office with a server equipped with AI (artificial intelligence) tools like movement detection and face detection, the official said.

A modern integrated control room is also being set up in the SP office with a server equipped with AI (artificial intelligence) tools like movement detection and face detection

The initiative aims to enhance public safety, improve responses to potential law and order issues, and the traffic system with public participation

The control room will be integrated with the district control room and '112' (emergency service number) control room for quick emergency response, he said.

The server in the new CCTV control room can cover 1,000 cameras, he said.

As per the initiative, the general public can view the footage only after a first information re-

port (FIR) is registered or with permission from the concerned police station, he said.

Garg, the brainchild behind the project, said local entrepreneurs, social workers, journalists and lawyers agreed to contribute to the initiative, which costs around ₹1.25 crore.

The SP said the initiative aims to enhance public safety, improve responses to potential law and order issues, and the traffic system with public participation.

The SP said he, along with Rajnandgaon Collector Sanjay Agrawal, chalked out the plan for the project, which was slated to be completed in September.

The project intends to make Rajnandgaon a safe city and enhance policing activities by coordinating with residents, collector Sanjay Agrawal said.

The initiative will be extended to other parts of the district in the next phase, he said, adding that people are also being encouraged to install cameras outside their homes and commercial establishments.



# national

## of the day quote

To ensure development in the villages of Delhi, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had formed the Delhi Village Development Board. In today's meeting, 480 new projects worth ₹411 crores have been approved for the development of the villages of Delhi, to provide better amenities in all the villages

The government along with industry remains deeply committed to achieving \$ 2 trillion export target by 2030. It is doable, achievable, with the right building blocks in place along with a strong macro economy to support it

The regime which believes in bulldozer justice must run bulldozer on his house. I would like to see bulldozer justice coming on to Mihir Rajesh Shah's house

## SHORT TAKES

### CBI books former director of NEERI

New Delhi: The CBI has booked Nagpur Rakesh Kumar, the former director of CSIR-NEERI, and four scientists of the institute in three FIRs of alleged corruption and favours extended to private companies in awarding various projects, including the giant air-purifiers WAYU, officials said Wednesday. The CBI conducted searches Wednesday at 17 locations in Maharashtra, Haryana, Bihar, and Delhi, resulting in the seizure of "incriminating" documents, property-related documents and jewellery, they said.

### Reasi: Policeman found murdered

Jammu: A policeman was found murdered near an industrial area in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, police said. The accused was arrested within an hour of the crime while he was trying to flee the district, a police spokesman said, adding that the motive behind the murder was not known immediately and further investigation is on. Zahoor Ahmed (35), a resident of the Mari village who was posted in the Kishtwar district, was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon resulting in his on-the-spot death.

### EC team on 2-day visit to Jharkhand

Ranchi: A six-member team of Election Commission of India (ECI) led by senior deputy election commissioners Nitesh Vyas and Dharmendra Sharma arrived in Ranchi Wednesday evening to review the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls, an official said. Assembly election in Jharkhand is due later this year. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) K Ravi Kumar said "There is a meeting at CEO office today. The ECI team will review the second summary revision of the electoral roll with the district election officers Thursday."

### 3 held for killing Nigerian national

New Delhi: Delhi Police Wednesday claimed to have arrested three people in connection with the murder of a Nigerian national in Nilothi Extension area a week ago, officials said. Sunday Ernest Morah, 40, who lived in Chandra Vihar area, was chased and shot dead inside a garment shop by two men June 6.

# Sporadic incidents of violence in U'khand, Bengal and Bihar

The electoral exercise, the first since the Lok Sabha polls, will decide the fate of many veterans and some debutantes, including Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: Moderate to high turnout was recorded in 13 Assembly constituencies across seven states where bypolls were held Wednesday amid sporadic incidents of violence in Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

Voting time was from 7 am to 6 pm. According to the Voter Turnout app of the Election Commission (EC), Tamil Nadu's Vikravandi Assembly seat registered the highest polling percentage among the 13 constituencies and Uttarakhand's Badrinath seat saw the lowest turnout.

Barring some incidents of violence in Bihar, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, polling went on peacefully. In Uttarakhand's Manglaur constituency, four people were injured in a clash between supporters of rival parties at a polling booth. Roorkee Civil Line Kotwali in-charge R K Saklani told PTI that a report was received about the clash at booth number 53-54 in Libbarheri in Manglaur. Some reports claimed there was firing at the booth but police denied the reports. Purported videos of the clash showed Congress candidate and former MLA Qazi Nizamuddin taking a man in bloodstained clothes to the hospital. He accused the BJP of throttling democracy by sowing seeds of hatred. Another video showed him embracing an injured party worker at the hospital. Violence erupted at the booth when some people with half their faces covered started stopping people from voting, sources said. While 68.24 per cent of voters exercised their franchise in

## ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS



Manglaur, Badrinath reported a turnout of 49.80 per cent.

The Manglaur bypoll was necessitated by the death of sitting BSP MLA Sarwat Karim Ansari last October, while the Badrinath seat fell vacant after sitting Congress MLA Rajendra Bhandari resigned and switched to the BJP in March. In West Bengal, violence was reported in Bagdah and Ranaghat Dakshin assembly segments as the BJP accused TMC activists of assaulting its booth agents and stopping its candidates from visiting some polling stations.

BJP candidates Manoj Kumar Biswas and Binay Kumar Biswas from Ranaghat Dakshin and Badgah respectively claimed they were not allowed to visit some booths. Manoj Kumar Biswas alleged that BJP camp offices in some areas were ransacked by the TMC. BJP's Maniktala candidate Kalyan Chaubey faced protests and was greeted with "go back" slogans allegedly by TMC activists as he tried to enter a booth in the constituency. The TMC denied the allegations and dubbed them as "baseless".

The BJP has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against these incidents. Among the constituencies, Raiganj witnessed the highest turnout at 67.12 per cent, followed by Ranaghat Dakshin at 65.37 per cent, Bagda at 65.15 per cent and Maniktala at 61.39 per cent. In Bihar, where bypolls were held for the Rupauli assembly seat, two officials were injured when a mob attacked a police party in Purnea.

## COURT CORNER

### HC orders opening of Shambhu border

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court Wednesday ordered the Haryana government to remove within a week the barricading set up at the Shambhu border near Ambala where farmers have been camping since February 13 when their 'Delhi Chalo' march was stopped. The Haryana government had set up barricades at the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in February when Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) had announced to move towards Delhi in support of various demands.

### Top court issues notice to Bhavani Revanna

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to set aside the anticipatory bail granted to Bhavani Revanna, the mother of suspended JD(S) leader and rape accused Prajwal Revanna, in a kidnapping case involving one of the victims of her son's alleged sexual assaults. A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice to Bhavani Revanna on the appeal filed by the Karnataka government challenging the Karnataka High Court order.

### Victim of witch-hunt: Kejriwal to Delhi HC

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has contended before the Delhi High Court that he is a victim of "witch-hunt" by the ED and that cancellation of his bail granted by a trial court in the excise policy-linked money laundering case would tantamount to "grave miscarriage of justice". Opposing the Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging his bail in the case, the embattled Chief Minister said discretionary orders of bail cannot be set aside merely on "perceptions and fanciful imagination" of the prosecution.

## CHILD MARRIAGE

UNIMPRESSED BY THE CENTRE'S SUBMISSIONS THAT STATE-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES LIKE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND TRAINING ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN, THE TOP COURT SAID "THESE PROGRAMMES, LECTURES DO NOT REALLY CHANGE THINGS ON THE GROUND"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: Prosecuting persons involved in child marriages will not resolve the problem which has social dimensions, the Supreme Court said Wednesday while reserving the verdict on a PIL over the alleged rise in underage weddings in the country. NGO 'Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action', in 2017, had filed the PIL in the top court alleging that the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act was not being enforced in "letter and spirit".



While Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal wants violence, the Maratha community should hold peaceful rallies in the state. The Maratha community should not worry about reservation as we will take it

MANOJ JARANGE | MARATHA QUOTA ACTIVIST

## KATHUA MANHUNT

# Truck driver, 50 others detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 10: The manhunt for the terrorists responsible for the ambush in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, which resulted in the tragic death of five army personnel, has led to the detention of a truck driver and 50 others for questioning, officials said Wednesday.

According to officials, the truck, which was initially close behind the ill-fated army vehicles on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar mountainous road, slowed down near Badnota village in Lohai Malhar when the terrorists opened fire from two different directions. Five army personnel including a Junior Commissioner Officer, were killed in the ambush Monday.

Suspicion has been cast on the civilian tipper driver, with authorities investigating whether he intentionally delayed the convoy by requesting a pass on the culvert. "The role of a civilian tipper, which slowed down the speed of this convoy, has come under investigation as it is perceived that the driver deliberately asked for a pass on the culvert."

"Usually, army vehicles are given preference in these areas but the tipper still asked for a pass which slowed down both vehicles," an official said on condition of anonymity. A massive search operation, conducted by the army and police, is on amidst heavy rain in dense forests across four districts.

The operation, launched from Kathua, Udhampur, and Baderwah, has resulted in the detention of 50 individuals for questioning in connection with the ambush, the officials said. Efforts are being made to track down and neutralise the terrorists believed to be hiding in the forest, they said.

In a related development, a search operation is underway in the higher reaches of the Doda district following a gun-fight between terrorists and security forces. Army and police personnel are deployed in dense forests in various parts of Udhampur; Samba, Rajouri, and Poonch districts, with fresh

HP: 22 DEAD SINCE MONSOON ONSET  
Twenty-two lives have been lost in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh and the state has suffered a loss of ₹172 crore in the two weeks since the monsoon onset June 27, officials said Wednesday



## 108 kg of smuggled gold seized near China border; three held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, July 10: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has seized 108 gold bars, each weighing one kilogram, near India-China border and arrested three people, an official of the border guarding force said.

Besides the huge quantity of smuggled gold, the seizure also included two mobile phones, a binocular, two knives and several Chinese food items like cakes and milk, the official said. "This is the biggest haul of gold recovered by the ITBP during border operations. The seized material will be handed over to the customs department," Commandant of the 21st ITBP battalion Ajay Nirmalkar, said.

A senior officer said the estimated value of the seized gold could be ₹80-90 crore. An another official said the troops of the 21st battalion of the ITBP launched a long range patrolling Tuesday afternoon in the Changthang sub-sector in eastern Ladakh, including Chizbule, Narbula, Zangle and Zakla, to check infiltration of smugglers as the smuggling activities are heightened around the summer season.

The ITBP has also got inputs of smuggling in Sriraple, one kilometre from the Line of Actual Control, he said, adding that the patrolling party headed by deputy commandant Deepak Bhat noticed two people on mules and asked them to stop. However, they tried to escape but were arrested after a chase, the official said, adding initially they claimed that they were working as medicinal plant dealers but the search of their belongings led to the recovery of the huge quantity of gold and other items.

"The government should provide weapons and training to us, we are ready to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with our forces against the terrorists," Jagdish Raj, a local, said. Punkaj, a 20-year-old student, said the terrorist ambush has caused fear among the local populace but "the situation changes altogether when you have weapons in your hands". Shahid Ahmad, who claimed to have moved from the higher reaches to Machedi due to terror threat, said Muslims and Hindus of the area want peace and are ready to assist security forces in wiping out terrorism.

The Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority had on April 15 issued an order suspending the manufacturing licences of 14 products of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and Divya Pharmacy.

In a fresh development, the state licensing authority has filed an affidavit in the apex court stating that the suspension order has been cancelled following a report by a high-level committee which examined the grievances of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd in the wake of the row.

It said May 17, the operation of the April 15 order was paused and later the suspension order was cancelled.

However, during the hearing, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta took note of the May 16 affidavit of Patanjali in which the firm stated that the sale of these 14 products was stopped in light of the April 15 suspension order.



Women take cover under umbrellas during rain, near Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) in Mumbai, Maharashtra PTI PHOTO

# Prosecuting persons will not resolve issue: Top court

UNIMPRESSED BY THE CENTRE'S SUBMISSIONS THAT STATE-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES LIKE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND TRAINING ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN, THE TOP COURT SAID "THESE PROGRAMMES, LECTURES DO NOT REALLY CHANGE THINGS ON THE GROUND"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra heard submissions from the counsel of the petitioner NGO and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, before reserving the verdict. "It is not about prosecution only. Prosecuting persons involved in child marriages will not resolve the problem as it has social dimensions," the bench said and asked the counsel for both sides to give suggestions on a way forward to deal with the issue.



"We are not here to criticise anybody. This is a social issue," the CJI said and asked the law

licitor general informed the bench about the present status and said states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Assam have witnessed more child marriage cases. She said northeastern states, sans Assam, have hardly any such incidents.

Five states and UTs including Dadra Nagar Haveli, Mizoram and Nagaland have not reported any case of child marriage, she added. The law officer referred to the data and said there was marked improvement in the last three years. She said out of 34 states and UTs, 29 have provided

the data on child marriages. The court asked why officers like district magistrates and SDMs are being given the additional charge to act as child marriage prohibition officers.

The law officer said that these officers, being in a position of power in districts, are more equipped and empowered to deal with the issue of child marriages. Earlier, the top court had directed the Ministry of Women and Child Development to file a status report detailing steps taken by it to execute the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.



# national



**“**  
The BJP government not increasing the circle rate for the last seven years is an economic conspiracy against the local people. Due to this, land scams worth billions of rupees have taken place  
**”**  
AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

## JACQUELINE FAILS TO APPEAR BEFORE ED

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez did not appear before the Enforcement Directorate Wednesday for a fresh round of questioning in a money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, official sources said



## of the day quote

There are two issues, one is -- in October itself MUDA was told not to give sites under the 50:50 ratio scheme, but despite that sites were given regarding which investigation is on by two IAS officers. Second is -- they (BJP) want to make the sites given to my wife an issue, it is not at all an issue

Underlining the challenge posed by the onset of monsoon and the threat of increasing number of dengue cases during the rainy season

Duty hours of loco pilots are carefully monitored. Rest is provided meticulously after trips. The average duty hours are maintained within prescribed hours

## X POST OF THE DAY

Serious trouble for Hyderabad. The deficit is just rising up crazy in Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri, Medak, Kamareddy, Siddipet, Nizamabad now. Other districts rains are Okayish as of now as they are getting one active rain for every 3-4days. Upcoming 2LPA should rescue Hyderabad during next 2 weeks, hopefully we will cover

## SHORT TAKES

### Senthil Balaji's remand extended

**Chennai:** A sessions court Wednesday extended the remand of former Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last year in a money laundering case, till July 12. Principal Sessions Judge S Alli, before whom Senthil Balaji was produced by the prosecution through video-conferencing from the Central Puzhal Prison here, also extended his judicial custody till July 12. The judge posted to July 12 further hearing on a petition filed by Balaji, which sought to defer the present proceedings and adjourn the case to a later date.

### ED raids ex-K'taka minister, Cong MLA

**Bangalore:** The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday carried out searches in four states, including on the premises of former Karnataka minister and Congress leader B Nagendra and MLA B Daddal, as part of a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Maharashtra Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited, official sources said. The agency covered around 20 locations in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra as part of its investigation in the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

### Rajasthan Budget proposes 4L jobs

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan's Finance Minister Diya Kumari Wednesday presented the state's full budget having an outlay of ₹4.95 lakh crore for FY25 with announcements of 4 lakh recruitments in five years, development of 9 greenfield expressways, and reduction in value added tax on cooking gas and CNG from 14.5 per cent to 10 per cent.



Family members and others pay last respect to the mortal remains of Naik Vinod Singh in Dehradun, who was martyred in the recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district

## 18 killed, 19 hurt as bus hits milk tanker in UP

**Unnao (UP), July 10:** Eighteen people were killed and 19 others injured when a double-decker sleeper bus heading for Delhi hit a milk tanker on Agra-Lucknow Expressway here Wednesday, officials said. The accident took place around 5am near Jojikot village in Behta Mujhawar police station area. District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi said it appears that the bus, which was coming from Motihari in Bihar, was at a high speed and hit the milk tanker from behind. Eighteen people died and 19 were injured in the accident. A probe has been launched into the matter, he said. Rathi said 20 passengers who sustained minor injuries were sent to Delhi in another bus. Additional Director General of Police, Lucknow, SB Shiradkar told PTI that 14 men, three women and a child were killed. Bangarmanu circle officer (CO) Arvind Kumar said due to the collision, both the bus and milk tanker overturned. Drivers of the two vehicles also died. He said the injured were rushed to a hospital and their condition was stated to be stable. Police have identified 14 of the deceased so far. Glass shards and people's belongings lay scattered on the highway next to the overturned bus and milk tanker. Cranes were used to put the two vehicles back on their wheels and they were later towed away. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said officials have been instructed to ensure the best treatment for the injured. "The loss of lives in a road accident in Unnao district is extremely sad and heartbreaking. My condolences are with the bereaved families," he said in a post on X. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi consoled the loss of lives in the accident. "The Prime Minister has announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF for the next of kin of each deceased in the mishap in Unnao. The injured would be given ₹50,000," the PMO said.

## SNIPPETS

### EAM to host BIMSTEC foreign ministers

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will host his counterparts from the BIMSTEC member countries at a two-day retreat beginning Thursday in the national capital. The retreat will present an opportunity for the foreign ministers to discuss avenues to deepen cooperation across various sectors including in the fields of security, connectivity and trade, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister U Than Swe has already arrived in Delhi to attend the retreat. "Deputy PM & FM U Than Swe of Myanmar arrives to a warm welcome in New Delhi for the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat. Productive discussions on strengthening regional cooperation for a prosperous, connected and secure Bay of Bengal region lie ahead," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X.

### HC reserves order on Bibhav's bail plea

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Wednesday said it will July 12 pronounce order on whether to grant bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the case pertaining to alleged assault on AAP MP Swati Maliwal. Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiiratta reserved verdict on the bail plea moved by Kumar in relation to the case after hearing his counsel as well as the lawyers appearing for the Delhi Police and Maliwal. "Order reserved. Keep for order Friday," the judge said. Senior counsel for the police opposed the bail plea, saying investigation is going on and a charge sheet would be filed on or before July 16.

### Sikkim's lone Oppn MLA joins ruling SKM

**Gangtok:** Tenzing Norbu Lamtha, the lone Sikkim Democratic Front MLA Wednesday joined the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha claiming that the public mood is overwhelmingly in favour of the SKM led by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang. With Lamtha joining SKM, there will be no Opposition in the Sikkim Assembly as SKM has all the 32 seats in the state. "I consulted my constituents who suggested to me to join the SKM as the mood and momentum is in favour of the ruling party," he told reporters.

## Justice Khanna recuses from case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Senior-most Supreme Court judge Sanjiv Khanna Wednesday recused himself from considering pleas seeking review of the apex court's judgement last year declining legal recognition to same-sex marriage, sources said. According to the sources, Justice Khanna has cited personal reasons for his recusal. The recusal of Justice Khanna would necessitate reconstitution of a fresh five-judge constitution bench by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud for considering the review pleas. The top court Tuesday had refused to allow open court hearing of pleas seeking review of its last year's judgement. In a setback to gay rights activists, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chandrachud had October 17 last year refused to accord legal backing to same-sex marriage, saying there was

### SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



"no unqualified right" to marriage with the exception of those that are recognised by law. The apex court, however, had made a strong pitch for the rights of queer people so they don't face discrimination in accessing goods and services that are available to others, safe houses known as 'Garima Greh' in all districts to provide shelter to members of the community facing harassment and violence and dedicated hot-line numbers which they could use in case of trouble. A five-judge bench comprising the CJI and justices Sanjiv Khanna, Hima Kohli, B V Nagarathna and P S Narasimha was scheduled to consider in chambers the pleas seeking review of the judgement. According to practice, the review pleas are considered in chambers by judges. In its judgement, the bench had held that transgender people in heterosexual relationships have the freedom and entitlement to marry under the existing statutory provisions. It had said an entitlement to legal recognition of the right to union, akin to marriage or civil union, or conferring legal status to the relationship can be only done through "enacted law". The five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Chandrachud had delivered four separate verdicts on a batch of 21 petitions seeking legal sanction for same-sex marriages.

## CENTRE VS WB CBI operates under control of Union govt: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** The CBI operates under the control of the Union government as per law, the Supreme Court held Wednesday while rejecting the Centre's objection to the maintainability of a lawsuit by West Bengal. The top court said as per a provision of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, the Central Vigilance Commission has the control over cases for the offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The West Bengal government is contesting the CBI's action of pressing ahead with probe of cases in the state despite withdrawal of general consent. West Bengal had withdrawn the general consent allowing the CBI to probe cases or conduct raids in the state November 16, 2018. Referring to various provisions of the DSPE Act, the apex court said, "We further find that the very establishment, exercise of powers, extension of jurisdiction, the superintendence of the DSPE, all vest with the Government of India". "In our view, the CBI is an organ or a body which is established by and which is under the superintendence of the Government of India in view of the statutory scheme as enacted by the DSPE Act," a bench of Justices B R Gava and Sandeep Mehta said while ruling that the suit is maintainable. It said a perusal of the entire scheme would reveal that right from the constitution of the special police force, which is called DSPE, issuance of notifications specifying the offences or classes of offences which are to be investigated by it, superintendence and administration of DSPE and extension of powers and jurisdiction of DSPE to areas beyond the Union Territories, "it



The West Bengal government is contesting the CBI's action of pressing ahead with probe of cases in the state despite withdrawal of general consent

is the central government which is vitally concerned with". "Not only that, only such offences which the central government notifies in the official gazette, can be investigated by the DSPE," the bench said in its 74-page verdict. It said under section 4 of DSPE Act, except for the offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act in which superintendence will be with the CVC, the superintendence of DSPE in all other matters would vest with central government. The bench considered the contention of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta with regard to the Union of India having no superintendence or control over the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "If the powers and jurisdiction of the members of the DSPE are to be extended to any area including railway areas, in a State not being a Union Territory, the same cannot be done unless the central government passes an order in that regard," the bench noted. It said statutory scheme makes it clear that extending such powers under section 5 of the DSPE Act cannot be done without the consent of the government of that state under section 6 of the Act. "In that view of the matter, we find that the contention of the Solicitor General that even if the CBI, being an independent agency, is considered to be an instrumentality of the State under Article 12 of the Constitution, it cannot be equated to the term Government of India as contemplated under Article 131 of the Constitution, in our view, holds no water," the bench said. It said insofar as reliance placed by the Solicitor General on two previous verdicts of the apex court was concerned, "no doubt that the powers of superintendence of the central government would not relate to the superintendence of investigation of a particular case and the investigating agency (CBI) would always be entitled to investigate the offences independently". However, that would not water down the administrative control and superintendence of the DSPE that vests with the central government, the court said.

### BMW HIT-AND-RUN

## Mihir gets police custody, father removed from Shiv Sena post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 10:** A Mumbai court Wednesday remanded Mihir Shah, the prime accused in the BMW hit-and-run case, to police custody till July 16, while the ruling Shiv Sena sacked his father Rajesh Shah as party deputy leader. The Mumbai civic body demolished unauthorised construction and alterations at a local bar that Mihir visited. Mihir Shah, 24, was arrested Tuesday, two days after he allegedly rammed his BMW car into a two-wheeler, killing a woman and leaving her husband injured. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde assured strict action against the guilty in the BMW case and announced ₹10 lakh aid for the victim's family.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) demolished unauthorised work at Vice-Global Tapas Bar in Juhu suburb, pulling down 3,500 square feet of illegal construction, a civic official said. The BMC's K-West ward office team reached the bar Wednesday morning and demolished the unauthorised construction and alterations made inside the establishment, the official said. Around 1,500 square feet of additional space on the ground floor had been created without permission for putting an iron shed, while some area on the first floor was enclosed illegally, he said. The state excise department had earlier sealed the bar, where Mihir Shah and his friends some time Saturday night, hours before the accident.

## Major deviations in medical prescriptions: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Nearly one in every two medical prescriptions issued in India deviated from standard guidelines, with approximately a tenth showing "unacceptable deviations", a study, conducted by a team of researchers including those at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here, has found. The team analysed 4,838 prescriptions issued by physicians between August 2019 and August 2020 for their compliance with standard treatment guidelines. These prescriptions were issued at 13 Rational Use of Medicines Centres (RUMC), set up by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and located in tertiary care teaching hospitals and medical col-



leges across the country. The researchers found that among the 475 prescriptions they deemed to show unacceptable deviations from the standard guidelines, pantoprazole was prescribed the most often -- in 54 of them. Pantoprazole is known to help bring down the acid created in stomach and is commonly available in pharmacies under many drug names, such as Pan 40. In the 54 prescriptions, the condition being diagnosed was Herpes Zoster, or shingles -- a

viral infection causing painful rashes anywhere on the body. Tablet pantoprazole 40 milligrams was prescribed along with others, including paracetamol, and ointments, according to the study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research. Among these 475 prescriptions, the conditions most commonly diagnosed were found to be upper respiratory tract infections (URTI) and hypertension. In 35 of the URTI prescriptions, the drug being prescribed was tablet rabeprazole+dom-

peridone (used to treat gastric conditions like acid reflux), which the researchers said was responsible for the prescription to be qualified as one with "unacceptable deviation". The tablet combination was prescribed along with others, including paracetamol and levocetirizine (treats cold and runny nose). Tablet rabeprazole+domperidone accounted for the second highest among the prescriptions with unacceptable deviations, after pantoprazole, the authors found. They said the most common potential consequences of irrational drug prescription for

patients were high treatment costs and adverse drug reactions. "Gastroprotective drugs are to be prescribed if the patient has a risk for developing peptic ulcer. Unnecessary prescribing of pantoprazole may lead to potential side-effects such as abdominal bloating, oedema and rash," the authors wrote. The researchers said that most of the physicians followed the disease-specific ICMR guidelines, with about 55 per cent adherence. Where there were no Indian guidelines or recent updates in the guidelines, physicians used the international guidelines, such as those of the American Association of Family Physician or the American Heart Association, they said.

# international

## of the day quote

We have eliminated or wounded 60 percent of the Hamas terrorists. We have returned half of the hostages and we are determined to return the rest

If we want to save the country, the establishment (powerful army) must step back to move towards transparent elections

Iran is becoming increasingly aggressive in their foreign influence efforts, seeking to stoke discord and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions

## SHORT TAKES

### Hasina meets Xi

Beijing: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met President Xi Jinping and her Chinese counterpart Li Qiang here Wednesday as the two countries signed 21 agreements, MoUs and announced seven more projects to further elevate their strategic cooperative ties. During the meetings, both countries agreed to elevate their "strategic partnership" to a "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership," Bangladesh's state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported.

### No relief for Khan

Lahore: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has dismissed pre-arrest bail petitions of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan in three cases of riots May 9 last year, prompting his party to reject the ruling as a ploy to prolong his detention. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was booked on the charges of abetment in attacks on Lahore Corps Commander House known as Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and Shadman police station May 9, 2023. Supporters of Khan attacked several important government buildings and army installations following his arrest in an alleged corruption case in May last year.

### Morocco to acquire Israeli spy satellite

Rabat: Morocco plans to acquire a spy satellite from Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) in a \$1 billion deal, Moroccan media reported Wednesday. The state-owned IAI said Tuesday it entered a \$1 billion contract to supply one of its systems to an unnamed third party, IAI, which makes some of Israel's most advanced drones and missile defense systems, said in a regulatory filing in Tel Aviv that the deal will be carried out over five years.

### 130 people trapped in Tibet region

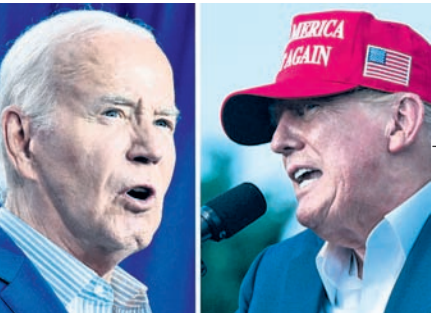
Beijing: Rescue efforts were underway Wednesday for more than 130 people including some tourists who were trapped in a mountainous town in China's Tibet region after heavy rains and flooding washed away sections of a provincial highway, China's state media said. Those trapped also included migrant workers and business people, according to state broadcaster CCTV. Another 342 stranded people had been relocated earlier to nearby towns. Steady rain since Saturday blocked roads, CCTV said, and the surging waters of the Nadang river caused severe landslides and mudslides.



First of all, and the most important thing, the US will strongly support Taiwan's self-defense capabilities. We both have common and long-term interests in peace and stability over the Taiwan Strait

## TRUMP DARES BIDEN

Donald Trump has offered his rival and incumbent President Joe Biden the opportunity to "redeem himself in front of the entire world" via a debate this week while also challenging him to a round of golf



# India has no right to develop disputed region: China

Beijing, July 10: India has no right to carry out development in the area China calls South Tibet, China's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday in response to a Reuters report on New Delhi's plans to speed up hydropower projects in the border state. "South Tibet is China's territory," a foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement. It said India had no right to carry out development there and the establishment of what India calls Arunachal Pradesh on Chinese territory is "illegal and invalid". Reuters reported Tuesday that India plans to spend \$1 billion to expedite the construction of 12 hydropower stations in the north-eastern Himalayan state. India's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on China's statement. India says its remote state of Arunachal Pradesh is an integral



part of the country, but China says it is a part of southern Tibet, and has objected to Indian infrastructure projects there. Last week, India Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in

Kazakhstan where the two agreed to intensify efforts to resolve issues along their border. Relations between the two countries hit a new low except for trade ever since the eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Tso (lake) area near Galwan. Since the May 2020 clashes, the two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff. The 22nd meeting is due to be held. According to the Chinese military the two sides so far agreed to disengage from four points, namely the Galwan Valley, the Pangong Lake, Hot Springs, and Jianan Daban (Gogra) in eastern Ladakh. India is pressing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas, maintaining that there cannot be restoration of normalcy in its relations with China as long as the state of the borders remains abnormal.

# Russian Parl approve increase in income taxes for the rich

Moscow, July 10: Russia's Parliament Wednesday approved a bill that would raise income taxes for the rich, in a move to help fill government coffers during the fighting in Ukraine. The bill was endorsed in the final third reading by the lower house, the State Duma, and hours later by the upper house, the Federation Council. It must be signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law. The legislation, which envisages a progressive tax on personal income, is a major change from the flat-rate tax that was widely credited with improving revenue collections after it was introduced in 2001. The bill would impose a 13 per cent tax for incomes of up to 2.4 million rubles (\$27,500) a year. For incomes over that amount, a steadily higher tax rate would apply, with the maximum rate of 22 per cent for incomes exceeding 50 million rubles (\$573,000). Chris Weafer, CEO of Macro-Advisory consultancy, described the raise in taxes as part of government efforts to reduce a heavy reliance on oil revenues as Western nations tighten sanctions against Russian oil exports.

# Never wanted Indians in our army: Russia



New Delhi, July 10: Russia Wednesday said it is hoping for quick resolution of the issue relating to India's call for return of Indians recruited into the Russian Army as support staff and asserted their recruitment was purely a commercial matter. In first comments on the issue from the Russian government, Russia's Charge d'affaires Roman Babushkin said Moscow never wanted the Indians to be part of its Army and their number is insignificant in the context of the conflict. "We are on the same side with the Indian government on the issue. We hope that the issue will be resolved soon," he said at a media briefing while responding to a question. Babushkin's remarks came a day after Russia promised to ensure early release and return to home of the Indian nationals working in the Russian military as support staff after Prime Minister Narendra Modi "very strongly" raised the issue with President Vladimir Putin. Babushkin noted that the issue should not be politicised. "Let us be very clear, we have

# 'This is not time for war'

In Austria, PM Modi holds "fruitful discussions" with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer during which they denounced the ongoing disputes in the world



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vienna, July 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday said he held "fruitful discussions" with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer during which they discussed in detail the ongoing disputes in the world, including the Ukraine conflict and situation in West Asia, reaffirming that "this is not the time for war". Modi, who arrived here from Moscow after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday night on a two-day visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over 40 years, also said India and Austria identified new possibilities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and prepared a blueprint for cooperation for the coming decade. "Chancellor Nehammer and I have discussed in detail the ongoing conflicts around the world, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the situation in West Asia. I have said before that this is not a time for war. Problems cannot be solved on the battlefield. The loss of innocent lives, anywhere, is unacceptable," Modi said in a joint press statement along with Chancellor Nehammer after their talks. He said India and Austria emphasise on dialogue and diplomacy for the earliest possible restoration of peace and stability. "We are both ready to provide

every possible cooperation to achieve this," he said, recalling that the historic Vienna Congress was hosted in the hall where they are standing and that the conference provided direction for peace and stability in Europe. On his part, Nehammer said India is an influential and credit-worthy country whose role is more than important when it comes to the Russia-Ukraine peace process. "We had very intensive talks about the Russian aggression against Ukraine. For me as the Federal Chancellor of Austria, it is particularly important to get to know India's assessment and to understand it and to familiarise India with European concerns and worries," said Nehammer, whose country is an ally of Ukraine. "Moreover, the conflict in the

Middle East was a major topic," he added. Nehammer said as a reliable partner, Austria will be available as a site for dialogue, making use of its unique position as a neutral country, a member of the European Union but not a member of NATO. "As such Austria is willing to act as a bridge builder and to contribute towards the achievement of a peaceful solution," he said. Modi said he was happy that he got the opportunity to visit Austria at the very beginning of his third term. "This visit of mine is both historic and special. After 41 years, an Indian Prime Minister has visited Austria. It is also a pleasant coincidence that this visit is taking place as our bilateral relations complete 75 years," Modi said.

# Israeli military orders evacuation of Gaza City

length of the territory also could be aimed at hiking up pressure on Hamas in the cease-fire efforts.

Deir al-Balah, July 10: The Israeli military urged all Palestinians to leave Gaza City and head south Wednesday, pressing ahead with a fresh offensive across the north, south and centre of the embattled territory that has killed dozens of people over the past 48 hours. The stepped up military activity came as US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators were meeting with Israeli officials in the Qatari capital, Doha, for talks trying to push through a long-elusive cease-fire deal with Gaza's Hamas militant group. Israel says it is pursuing Hamas fighters regrouping in various parts of Gaza nine months into the military's devastating offensive. But heavy strikes in recent days along the



Israel informed people in Gaza of the evacuation order by dropping leaflets urging "all those in Gaza City" to take two "safe routes" south to the area around the central town of Deir al-Balah. Gaza City, it said, will "remain a dangerous combat zone." In the second straight night of deadly strikes in central Gaza, Israeli bombardment early

Wednesday hit four houses in the town of Deir al-Balah and the nearby Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 20 Palestinians. Among the dead were six children and three women, said authorities at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the casualties were taken. An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies. The house hit in Deir al-Balah was located inside the "humanitarian safe zone" where Israel has told Palestinians to flee for refuge. The overnight bombardment came hours after Israeli warplanes struck the entrance of a school sheltering displaced families outside the southern city of Khan Younis. The toll from the strike rose to 31 people killed, including eight children, and more than 50 wounded, officials at the nearby Nasser Hospital said Wednesday.

# Norway to donate six fighter jets to Ukraine

Oslo, July 10: Norway will donate six F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine to help it in defense efforts against Russian air attacks, the Norwegian government said in a statement Wednesday as NATO leaders attended a summit in Washington. Leaders of NATO member states are poised to unveil new aid to Ukraine to help it defend itself following Russia's invasion in February 2022. Hoping to change the course of the war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wants the 32-member alliance to send more weapons and money, and to offer security guarantees. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said deliveries of the F-16s were planned to start in 2024. "Combined with air defence systems, the fighter jets will be vital to enabling the Ukrainians to defend themselves against Russian air attacks," Stoere said in a statement. The Prime Minister first announced that Norway would donate the F-16s to Kyiv in August last year, but didn't say how many would be given.

# NK balloons, GPS interference raise safety risks for airlines

The balloon flights have several times shut down operations at Incheon, world's fifth-busiest international airport

Seoul, July 10: North Korea's trash balloon campaign, missile launches and the emergence of GPS "spoofing" have increased risks in South Korean airspace, aviation experts say, complicating airline operations as tensions rise between the rival nations. In late May, North Korea began floating thousands of balloons with bags of trash, including human excrement, suspended under them into South Korea, in what analysts say is a form of psychological warfare. Hundreds of balloons landed in the South during seven waves between May 29 and June 27, including one on a runway at Incheon airport, forcing a three-hour suspension of takeoffs and landings at its biggest international gateway. When the balloons first appeared, aviation navigation interference from North Korea also spiked, including what appears to be the first bout of so-called "spoofing" affecting commercial aircraft in the South. "Airspace safety is gradually deteriorating," OPSGROUP, a



membership-based organisation that shares flight risk information, said in a June bulletin. "There are no official airspace warnings for South Korea, but the risk situation seems to be getting worse." South Korea's transport ministry said its military, air traffic control authorities and airlines maintain a 24-hour surveillance and communication system. "The South Korean military detects these balloons using surveillance assets day and night," a

military spokesperson said, without giving further details. North Korea, which also launched trash balloons in 2016, says they are retaliation for propaganda campaigns by North Korean defectors and activists in the South who send items via balloon. "QUITE COMPLICATED" The balloon flights have several times shut down operations at Incheon, the world's fifth-busiest international airport and an important cargo hub, about 40 km from North Korea. The balloons have made flying in the area "quite complicated", said Yun Chan Hwang, general manager of network operations for Korean Air Lines, which has adapted procedures to deal with the new hazard. If northerly winds are expected, the airline adds fuel to flight plans so aircraft can stay aloft longer or divert to alternative airports, Yun said. Disruption caused by the balloon campaign is being exacerbated by increased signs of interference to the Global Positioning System (GPS), a network of satellites and receivers used for navigation.



**“We are going ahead with the demerger of our businesses, which will lead to the creation of 6 strong companies, each a Vedanta in its own right. This will unlock massive value”**  
ANIL AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, VEDANTA

## MICROSOFT QUILTS OPENAI BOARD

Microsoft has relinquished its seat on the board of OpenAI, saying its participation is no longer needed because the ChatGPT maker has improved its governance since being roiled by boardroom chaos last year. In a Tuesday letter, Microsoft confirmed it was resigning, “effective immediately,” from its role as an observer on the artificial intelligence company’s board



## of the day quote

In March (2024) it was 7 million plus transactions. Now in June we had 10 million transactions and I think by the end of the fiscal year it should be 30 to 40 million (monthly) transactions

T KOSHY | CEO, ONDC

This is a pivotal moment for Indian startups to seize their advantage on the global stage. Indian startups stand on the brink of an Industry 5.0 revolution, driven by global demand for resilient and diversified supply chains

BARATH SHANKAR SUBRAMANIAN | PARTNER, ACCEL

India has a huge market potential for investment due to expanding toy demand with a growing young population

NIVRUTI RAI | CEO, INVEST INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Tata, M&M slash SUV prices

**New Delhi:** Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) have cut the prices of their SUV models to boost demand. Tata Motors has revised the starting prices of its flagship SUVs, the Harrier (₹14.99 lakh) and the Safari (₹15.49 lakh) and extended benefits of up to ₹1.4 lakh on other popular SUV variants. “With regards to electric vehicles, never before seen benefits on the Nexon.ev (up to ₹1.3 lakh), have made it the most accessible it has ever been,” Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Chief Commercial Officer Vivek Srivatsa said in a statement. Complementing the same, the Punch.ev too is being offered with a benefit of up to ₹30,000, he added. Mahindra & Mahindra said its XUV700’s fully-loaded AX7 range now starts at ₹19.49 lakh, a price cut of over ₹2 lakh.

### SBI raises ₹10K-cr more via infra bond

**Mumbai:** SBI Wednesday announced raising ₹10,000 crore through issuance of infrastructure bonds. The proceeds of bonds will be utilized in enhancing long-term resources for funding infrastructure and affordable housing segment, SBI said in a statement. The fresh funding follows a similar development around a fortnight back, when the country’s largest lender had raised ₹10,000 crore through infrastructure bond issuance. The coupon rate for the latest issue was 7.36 per cent payable annually during the 15 year tenor, the same as the last issuance. The state-owned lender had launched the issue to raise ₹5,000 crore, and ended up raising ₹10,000 crore courtesy the high investor interest and the green shoe option, it said.

### Mkt debut: Emcure Pharma zooms 35%

**New Delhi:** Shares of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd Wednesday ended with a premium of over 35 per cent against the issue price of ₹1,008. The stock started the trade at ₹1,325.05, up 31.45 per cent on both BSE and NSE. During the day, the company’s stock zoomed 37.30 per cent to ₹1,384 on BSE and 37.40 per cent to ₹1,385 on NSE. Finally, shares of the company ended at ₹1,358.85 apiece, rising 34.80 per cent on BSE. It settled at ₹1,364.20 per piece, up 35.33 per cent on NSE. In volume terms, 12.62 lakh shares of the company were traded on BSE and 140.08 lakh shares on NSE during the day. The company’s market valuation stood at ₹25,695.63 crore.

# Soaring veggies push inflation



## THE REUTERS POLL OF 54 ECONOMISTS FORECAST CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION ROSE TO 4.80% LAST MONTH ON A YEAR EARLIER, UP FROM 4.75% IN MAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** India consumer price inflation probably edged up in June, snapping five months of declines, largely because of a jump in vegetable prices caused by the damage to crops wrought by extreme weather, according to a Reuters poll of economists.

Prices of tomatoes, onions, and potatoes - staples in every Indian kitchen - surged by double digits last month as extreme heat and heavy floods in India’s northern states disrupted agricultural production.

The July 5-9 Reuters poll of 54 economists forecast consumer price inflation rose to 4.80% last month on a year earlier, up from 4.75% in May. Food accounts for around half the overall CPI basket.

Forecasts for the data, due July 12 at 12:00 GMT, ranged from 4.10% to 5.19%.

“A sharp spike in vegetable prices along with cereals and pulses kept food inflation at higher levels and nullified the softness in eggs, fruits, and spices prices,” said Kanika Pasricha, chief economic advisor at Union Bank of India.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile items, such as food and energy and is seen as a better gauge of domestic demand, was forecast to be 3.10% in June, according to the median estimate from a smaller sample of 19 economists.

The Indian statistics agency

does not publish core inflation data, but economists estimate the figure based on CPI data and some may publish their updated estimates after Friday’s release.

Many economists say despite the economy growing by more than 8% last fiscal year, the recent decline in core inflation indicates overall weak domestic demand in an economy where private consumption accounts for nearly 60% of GDP.

Some also said a telecommunications tariff hike effective from this month is likely to exert upward pressure on inflation over the coming months, arresting a further fall in core CPI.

“Given the weight in the CPI basket (for telecoms) and past translation trends, this should push up headline CPI by another 20 bps or so, starting July,” said Sajjid Chinoy, chief India economist at JP Morgan.

“To the extent that this is a one-off price hike, the RBI should look through this. But again, it adds to the uncertainty of the inflation outlook.”

With inflation expected to stay above the Reserve Bank of India’s 4% medium-term target this fiscal year and next, the central bank is forecast to cut rates just once this year, next quarter.

Wholesale price index-based inflation likely surged to an annual 3.50% last month from 2.61% in May, the survey showed.

**“Core inflation likely stayed flat at all-time lows of 3.10% as gold prices eased somewhat during the month and commodity prices also remained under pressure”**  
KANIKA PASRICHIA | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR, UNION BANK

# Vegan leather from sugarcane: PETA sees potential in India’s agri-waste

PA Footwear has developed Vegan Virya, a leather alternative made primarily from sugarcane. The material has received “PETA-Approved Vegan” certification from PETA India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Animal rights group PETA India Wednesday said India’s position as a major global sugarcane producer offers significant opportunities for expanding the use of sugarcane-based vegan leather.

The organisation highlighted that India’s vast sugarcane production could be leveraged to effectively utilise sugarcane waste through technology developed by PA Footwear P Ltd, a company specialising in vegan leather alternatives.

India, the world’s second-largest sugar producer after Brazil, grows sugarcane in 55-60 million hectares area.

“India is one of the largest producers of sugarcane globally, so PA Footwear P Ltd’s tech-



**“Vegan Virya comprises over 95 per cent plant-based elements, prominently sugarcane bagasse, complemented by a 60 per cent agro waste content”**  
CHINNASAMI ANBUMALAR | VICE CHAIR, PA FOOTWEAR

nology presents a significant opportunity to utilise sugarcane waste effectively,” PETA India said in a statement.

PA Footwear P Ltd, in partnership with the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, has developed Vegan Virya, a leather alternative made primarily from sugarcane. The material has re-

## PROFIT BOOKING

### RISING UNCERTAINTY OVER INTEREST RATE CUT BY THE US FEDERAL RESERVE ALSO ADDED TO THE WEAK TREND IN DOMESTIC EQUITIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 10:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under heavy selling pressure to sink below record high levels Wednesday, tracking deep losses in metal, auto and IT stocks amid widespread profit booking after recent gains.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened 129.72 points higher to hit a fresh all-time high of 80,481.36. However, the index soon tumbled 915.88 points or 1.13 per cent to trade at 79,435.76. It finally closed lower by 426.87 points or 0.53 per cent at 79,924.77.

The NSE Nifty also hit its record 24,461.05 in opening deals but pared all gains to decline 291.4 points or 1.19 per cent to 24,141.80 intra-day. It dropped 108.75 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at 24,324.45.

“The Indian market experienced profit booking ahead of

# Equities sink below record levels



Markets had been hitting new highs over the past few weeks, and hence, investors resorted to profit-taking because of the stretched valuations of Indian equities.

PRAASHANTH TAPSE | SENIOR VP (RESEARCH), MEHTA EQUITIES

the upcoming earnings season. The expectations are muted, given the moderation in sales growth due to a slowdown in the world economy and consolidation in margins driven by high inflation. Additionally, the market is under temporary risk towards high budget expectations, which appears well factored in the last one month’s rally,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra tanked over 6 per cent after the company cut the prices of its SUV models to boost demand.

Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, Tata Motors and Kotak Mahindra Bank were other losers.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, NTPC, Power Grid, Adani Ports and Bharti Airtel were the winners.

# We will build world’s largest steel plant in Angul: Jindal

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** The third-time MP of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Jindal Steel & Power, Naveen Jindal, led a delegation of the Indian Steel Association today to meet the newly appointed Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi.

The delegation, which included all major steelmakers in Odisha, congratulated the Chief Minister and expressed optimism about the future of Odisha’s steel industry under the new government.

During the meeting, Jindal discussed Odisha’s significant role in the Indian steel industry due to its rich mineral resources and strategic geographical location.

He emphasised the importance of green energy and sustainable practices in the steel industry.

The delegation also discussed potential opportunities for further expansion of the steel industry and manufacturing of special grade steel and green steel, which will also contribute to the state’s economic development.

The steel industry leaders



stressed the need for infrastructure growth and sustainable projects like slurry pipelines to boost the sector in the state.

In an address to the media, Jindal informed that Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) is working on the expansion of its Angul Steel making facility in Odisha, and next year it will achieve 12 MTPA steelmaking capacity. Presently, JSP is operating a 6 MTPA steel-making facility at Angul, Odisha.

“JSP is committed to Odisha’s industrial and economic development and will work in part-

nership with the government to achieve that goal. In the next six years, we will build the world’s largest steel plant in Angul, Odisha, said Jindal.

Jindal also visited CV Raman Global University, Gram Tarang project of Centurion University, and the World Skill Centre at Bhubaneswar to understand the new horizons of advanced skilling programmes and the scope of collaboration between industries and such Skilling Centre. He was highly appreciative of Odisha’s breakthrough in skilling facilities.

# Govt may sell wheat from state stocks to flour millers, biscuit manufacturers

Wheat prices have jumped nearly 6% YoY

REUTERS

**Mumbai, July 10:** India plans to sell wheat from its state reserves to bulk consumers such as flour millers and biscuit makers from next month, according to a government order seen by Reuters, as it seeks to keep a lid on local prices by boosting supplies.

The government has allowed the state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) to start offering wheat from its inventories from next month at Rs 23,250 (\$279) a tonne, the order said, nearly 12% lower than prevailing open market prices.

FCI is yet to decide the quantity of wheat that it plans to sell on the open market.

Last year, FCI began selling wheat to private players in June. It sold a little more than 10 million metric tonne in the fiscal year to March 2024, a record sale from state reserves.

Because of the attractive price at which FCI will offer the wheat from its stocks, many private players would be interested in buying the grain in large quantities, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trading house.



After five consecutive record harvests, a sharp rise in temperatures shrivelled the wheat crop in 2022 and 2023, pushing up prices of the staple and prompting the world’s No 2 producer to ban exports.

Even this year’s crop is 6.25% lower than a government estimate of 112 million metric tonne. Wheat stocks in state warehouses dropped to 29.9 million metric tonne June 1 against 31.4 million last year.

India is poised to begin wheat imports after a six-year gap to replenish depleted reserves and hold down prices, Reuters reported last month.

The government in June imposed limits on wheat stocks that traders can hold, and a top government official said New Delhi might abolish or trim the import tax on the grain to allow imports to tame rising prices.

# Aadhaar-based eKYC of LPG users soon to weed out bogus users

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** State-owned oil companies are conducting an Aadhaar-based eKYC authentication of LPG customers to weed out bogus ones, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said.

This is done to remove bogus customers under whose names cooking gas is booked but these are used by commercial establishments.

While households buy what is called domestic LPG for Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder (about Rs 56.5 per kg), commercial establishments like hotels and restaurants are mandated to buy a 19-kg commercial cylinder that comes for Rs 1,646 (Rs 86.3 per kg).



“Oil marketing companies are undertaking eKYC aadhaar authentication for LPG customers to remove bogus customers against whose name commercial cylinders are often booked by certain gas distributors,” Puri said in a post on X. “This process is in place for more than 8 months now.”

His post came in response to VD Sathesan, Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, raising the “unprecedented hardship” caused to common man due to the decision.

“It has been learned that the central government has mandated mustering for gas connections in order to ensure that LPG cylinders are held by legitimate customers. Though mustering is imperative to identify legitimate customers, the decision to complete the mustering process at respective gas agencies has caused inconvenience to common LPG holders,” he said in a letter to Puri, a copy of which was he posted on X.

In response, Puri said the LPG delivery personnel while delivering refills to customer verifies credentials.

“Delivery personnel using their mobile phone captures the Aadhaar credentials of the customer through an app. Customer receives an OTP which is used to complete the process. Customers can also approach the distributor showroom at their convenience.”

# Canada 'Messimerised'

World and defending Copa American champions enter final with easy win over Canada



**STILL GOING STRONG:** Lionel Messi celebrates with teammates after scoring against Canada in the Copa America semifinal, Tuesday

AGENCIES

**New Jersey, July 10:** Lionel Messi was on target as World Champions Argentina turned on the style to beat Canada 2-0 here Tuesday and reach the Copa America final where they will look for a third straight major title. The defending Copa champions will face the winners of Wednesday's semifinal between Uruguay and Colombia. The final will be played July 14. The 15-time Copa champions pro-

duced their best display of the tournament in front of a capacity crowd at the 82,500 MetLife Stadium here and as in their 2022 World Cup triumph they look to be peaking at the perfect moment. "The truth is that it's crazy what this group has done, what the Argentina national team have been doing," Messi told *TyC Sports* after his first goal of the tournament. "It's not easy for us to be in a final again, for us to compete again to be

champions. I'm living it like I lived it in the last Copa America, in the last World Cup...These are the last battles and I'm enjoying them to the maximum," said the 37-year-old.

Canada, who surprised many by reaching the last four in their first Copa America appearance, can take great credit for their run in the tournament but Messi and company were simply a step too far.

Canada had progressed by hitting teams with high-energy football straight out of the gate but after an early opening for left-winger Jacob Shaffelburg, who fired wide after cutting in from the flank, the South Americans took control and never gave it up.

Angel Di Maria, the veteran wide-man playing in his final tournament for his country, was seeing plenty of the ball down the right and he offered an early warning of his threat when he picked out Messi with a ball inside which the forward flashed just wide of the post.

But it was Rodrigo De Paul who was to create the breakthrough in the 22nd minute, picking the ball up on the half-way line, taking a quick glance up and then lofting the ball over the top to Julian Alvarez. The latter with a deft touch beat a defender and created enough space to drive the

ball home. The classy triangle of Di Maria, Messi and De Paul, was a constant source of danger for Canada's back line and the former threatened a second with a chip from the right which floated over the bar. Messi missed another opening just before the interval, but made up for it early on resumption.

The excellent De Paul pulled the ball back from the byline to Enzo Fernandez and his side-foot shot was directed home by Messi in front of goal. For a moment Canada had hope that Messi may have been offside but the VAR review showed that defender Derek Cornelius had played him onside.

**A CHANCE TO BE PART OF**

## METTLE MEET 2024

# OrissaPOST

HERE . NOW

### QUIZ Extravaganza

**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.**

**As 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. Starting today, 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.**

**TODAY'S QUESTION**

The US Bureau of Labour Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries studied professions with minimum employment of 50,000 workers to find the most dangerous jobs among 263 total professions. At 0.11%, the most dangerous job was 33 times more dangerous than an average job. But on removing that minimum number, at 8.7% fatality rate, what in-the-news American job is the most dangerous?

**RULES & REGULATIONS**

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to [mettlemeet@orissapost.com](mailto:mettlemeet@orissapost.com)
- 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

## SHORT TAKES

### 2 para shooters get Paris quota

**New Delhi:** Indian para shooters Rubina Francis and Swaroop Unhalkar secured Wednesday quota for Paris Paralympics under bipartite rule, taking the total number of shooters at the Games to 10. The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) had applied for two bipartite (wildcard) spots for Rubina (women's 10m air pistol SH1), who has a world ranking of No. 2, and Unhalkar (men's 10m air rifle SH1). Subhash Rana, the national para shooting coach, had said they applied for the wildcard after the pair missed out on quota places by a whisker.

### Gavaskar turns 75

**New Delhi:** As Sunil Gavaskar touched another significant milestone in his life, turning 75 Wednesday, there was an outpouring of good wishes for him on social media where his legendary exploits with the bat were recalled with reverence. Considered one of the greatest batters to have played the game, the Mumbaier was the first to reach the 10,000-run mark in Test cricket. The BCCI was the first to wish the legendary cricketer. "Happy Birthday, Sunil Gavaskar! Your batting technique was so perfect that you could play aggressively and defensively with equal ease. Best wishes for everything and have a wonderful year ahead!" wrote BCCI secretary Jay Shah on 'X'.

### SKY remains 2nd

**Dubai:** Star batter Suryakumar Yadav stayed put on second position in the latest ICC Men's T20I batting rankings, which also features Ruturaj Gaikwad. SKY as Suryakumar is popularly known is placed second with 821 rating points behind Australia's Travis Head, who has 844. Gaikwad is in seventh position having climbed 13 places. Among the bowlers Axar Patel at 10th was the best among the Indians. Despite a good show at the T20 World Cup, Kuldeep Yadav dropped three places to the 11th spot, while Jasprit Bumrah slid two rungs to 14th position.

# YAMAL MAGIC SINKS FRANCE

SPANISH PLAYER BECOMES YOUNGEST-EVER SCORER IN EURO 2024

AGENCIES

**Munich, July 10:** Lamine Yamal, 16, became the tournament's youngest ever goalscorer as Spain came back to beat France 2-1 here Tuesday night and reach the Euro 2024 final. Trailing after Randal Kolo Muani headed in a Kylian Mbappe cross in the ninth minute, Spain turned the match around in a four-minute period, scoring twice against a side who had only conceded once in five previous games in this tournament.

Yamal, who turns 17 a day before Sunday's final against either the Netherlands or England in Berlin, equalised with a superb strike from outside the box, curling a long-range effort into the top corner and past the fingertips of an airborne Mike Maignan. Spain took the lead on 25 minutes, Dani Olmo expertly gathering a loose ball and firing a low shot into the net with the aid of a deflection off Jules Kounde. Masters of midfield game man-



**DEADLY STRIKE:** Lamine Yamal's goal-bound shot is about to hit the net as hapless French players watch

agement, Spain shut up shop after taking the lead, frequently holding possession rather than attack on the counter, controlling the match and claiming the win.

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente termed Yamal's performance was like watching 'a genius'. "We have seen a genius, the product of a genius," De la Fuente told

reporters. "He's a player we have to take care of – I have have to give him the advice to keep working with the same humility and keep his feet on the floor. He would keep growing but this maturity and attitude at such a young age is like that of a more experienced player. We are lucky he is Spanish and we can enjoy him for many more years," La Fuente added.

In the eighth minute Mbappe skated down the left flank and sent in a cross and Kolo Muani's header was on target to give France the lead.

France's strike just seemed to inspire Yamal who produced a piece of sublime brilliance to level the scores. Collecting the ball well outside the box, Yamal cut inside, took one look at the goal and unleashed a perfect curling strike into the top left corner.

France's best chance to force extra time fell to their captain with five minutes remaining, but Mbappe blasted well over with only goalkeeper Unai Simon to beat.

# Cricket fraternity hails Gambhir's appointment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Former India opener Gautam Gambhir's appointment as the next head coach was hailed by the Indian cricket fraternity, which has no doubts whatsoever that he would make the country 'proud'.

Less than two weeks after Rahul Dravid's tenure ended, Gambhir was appointed as the head coach on expected lines.

Gambhir's IPL franchise made an AI-generated image of Gambhir in a BCCI suit, starting at the KKR jersey lying on the table with the IPL silverware.

The wall had the photos of their wins in 2012 and 2014, while TV flashed the news of his appointment as Gambhir stood near a packed suitcase. Team India jerseys were also seen hanging in the wardrobe. KKR captioned the photo with an old quote of Gambhir: "There is no bigger honour than coaching your national team."

Former India off spinner Harbhajan Singh congratulated Gambhir his new innings. "I am



sure that your experience, energy, passion, aggression and talent will steer the team on the path of excellence. My best wishes to you. Good luck buddy," wrote Harbhajan on 'X'. Anil Kumble commented: "Congratulations Gautam Gambhir. Wishing you the best!" while WV Raman said, "Congrats Gambhir and all the very best to you," wrote Raman.

# Dravid happy to forgo bonus amount after T20 WC triumph

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Former India head coach Rahul Dravid has refused to take the additional bonus amount of ₹2.5 crore offered to him by the BCCI following the recent T20 World Cup triumph in the Americas.

Dravid was offered the bonus amount following the national team's success but he was happy to settle for the due amount – ₹2.5 crore – similar to other coaching staff.

The BCCI wanted to repay Dravid for guiding India to the trophy in Barbados by hiking his reward to ₹5 crore, which is at par with the players. This agency has learnt that the 51-year-old was happy with an equal pay check as other coaching staff.

It was more of a goodwill gesture than any official call as Dravid's tenure as India coach



had originally ended after last year's 50-over World Cup at home.

However, skipper Rohit Sharma and the governing body were successful in convincing Dravid to stay till the T20 World Cup as they then had felt that time was too short for a new coach to take up the high-pressure job.

Dravid went on to end his India coaching stint as a World Cup winner, and talks have been swirling around him joining an IPL franchise as mentor.

# Gill leads India's charge

Men in Blue take 2-1 lead in 5-game T20 series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Harare, July 10:** Shubman Gill (66, 49b, 7x4, 3x6) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (49, 28b, 4x4, 3x6) produced high-quality knocks before the bowlers did their part as India outplayed Zimbabwe by 23 runs in the third T20 here Wednesday.

Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal (36) and Gaikwad propelled India to 182 for four against Zimbabwe after the visitors opted to bat on a fresh pitch. Zimbabwe were never really in the run chase despite an entertaining effort from No. 4 Dion Myers (65 n o 49b, 7x4, 1x6) ending at 159 for six in their stipulated 20 overs.

Washington Sundar (3/15) and Avesh Khan were the major wicket-takers for India. The fourth T20 of the five-match series will be staged here Saturday, July 13. After a loss in the series opener,



India has restored normal service with back-to-back victories. Once Avesh bounced out opener Wessly Madhevere in the second over; the wickets kept falling for the home team. However, Zimbabwe did well to steady the ship after losing their first five wickets for 39 runs. The 77-run stand off 57 balls between Myers and Clive Madande (37) put much needed life into the game.

Earlier, Gill-led India made some interesting selection calls. They duly inducted World Cup winners Jaiswal, Sanju Samson (12 n o)

# Rybakina in semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, July 10:** Elena Rybakina knows people see her as the favorite to win her second Wimbledon title. The 2022 champion's 6-3, 6-2 victory over No 21 Elina Svitolina to reach the semifinals Wednesday will only bolster that view.

"Definitely, I have an aggressive style of game. I have a huge serve, so it's a big advantage," she said in an on-court interview. "Of course I want to go until the end, but match by match. For now, I'm happy with the way I am going."

Rybakina will next face No 31 Barbora Krejickova, who reached her first Wimbledon semifinal by eliminating No. 13 Jelena Ostapenko 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) in a match between two former French open champions.

Meanwhile Novak Djokovic got a free pass into the Wimbledon semifinals when his quarterfinal opponent, Alex de Minaur, withdrew with a hip injury.