

SHORT TAKES

Odisha cop held with 2kg cannabis

Durg: An officer of Odisha police and a truck driver have been arrested for alleged possession of cannabis worth ₹2 lakh in this district of Chhattisgarh, police said Monday. The cop has been identified Ravindra Bhukta (50) while his associate is Gagan Anand Mehar. Both are residents of Cuttack district, police said. Based on a tip-off, a police team intercepted the truck on the Kumhari-Ahiwara road Sunday and seized the contraband.

Ravi Kant now Home dept OSD

Bhubaneswar: Senior IPS officer Ravi Kant, who was Odisha's Resident Commissioner in New Delhi, has been transferred and posted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Home department, official sources said Monday here. "Shri Ravi Kant, IPS (RR-1998), at present Resident Commissioner, New Delhi is transferred and posted as OSD, Home department with immediate effect" a notification issued by the Home department said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



In my defence, I'd like to introduce a very appealing membership scheme for my party, especially for judges...



BACK HOME: Chariots of Lord Jagannath and His siblings, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, arrive at the Lion's Gate of Srimandir in Puri, Monday (News P3) PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

Jilted man murders girl, her companion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 15: A man working as a driver at a residence allegedly murdered a girl of the family he was working for and her batchmate late Sunday night, police said Monday. The gruesome murders took place at Kashipada village under Kutra police station limits in Sundargarh district. Police said that the youth murdered the girl as he was in love with her, but did not get any response from her. The deceased have been identified as Lipsa Kerketa (24) and Pratap Lakra (26). Both were students of a private MBA college. Police said that the driver identified as Raju was trying to es-



Lipsa Kerketa and Pratap Lakra

establish a relationship with the girl. However, she was not responding to his advances. On the other hand, Pratap used to come to the girl's house and spend substantial amount of time there. Raju arrived at Lipsa's house Sunday night and said he wanted to take her to his residence. However, the parents of the girl flatly refused. Raju then stated

that he wanted to talk alone to Lipsa. Even though the parents of Lipsa did not agree initially, they later relented. Raju then went Lipsa's room and soon the conversation turned into a heated altercation. Raju tried to strangle the girl initially and then stabbed her with a knife. When Lipsa's parents tried to rescue her, he locked them in a room. Pratap tried to save Lipsa, but Raju also stabbed him repeatedly. He fled the scene leaving the two in a pool of blood. Hearing their screams, neighbours arrived and rushed the two to the hospital. However, Lipsa was pronounced dead on arrival while Pratap died en route to RKG.

Scientists sight rarest of whales

NOTHING MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT THE SPADE-TOOTHED WHALE INCLUDING ITS HABITAT AND EATING HABITS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, July 15: The spade-toothed whales are the world's rarest, with no live sightings ever recorded. No one knows how many there are, what they eat, or even where they live in the vast expanse of the southern Pacific Ocean. However, scientists in New Zealand may have finally got a break. New Zealand's Department of Conservation said Monday a creature which washed up on a



South Island beach this month is believed to be a spade-toothed whale. The five-metre long creature, a type of beaked whale, was identified after it washed ashore on Otago beach from its

colour patterns and the shape of its skull, beak and teeth "We know very little, practically nothing," about these whales, Hannah Hendriks, the marine technical advisor for the department stated here Monday. "This is going to lead to some amazing science and world-first information." If the cetacean is confirmed to be the elusive spade-toothed whale, it would be the first specimen found in a state that would permit scientists to dissect it, al-

lowing them to map the relationship of the whale to the few others of the species found, and learn what it eats and perhaps lead to clues about where they live. "It's very hard to do research on marine mammals if you don't see them at sea," Hendriks said. "It's a bit of a needle in a haystack. You don't know where to look. Now cold storage staff and researchers will work with local Maori iwi (tribes) to plan how it will be examined. New information will come out," she added.

'Victim' Raj Bhavan ASO transferred

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Baikuntha Pradhan, the assistant section officer (ASO) at Raj Bhavan here was transferred Monday and posted at the Home department. Pradhan had recently alleged that he was assaulted by Governor Raghubar Das's son Lalit Kumar at the Raj Bhavan in Puri. "Sri Baikuntha Pradhan, Assistant Section Officer, Parliamentary Affairs department, at present deployed to Governor's Secretariat, is hereby transferred and posted

as such to the Home Department against the existing vacancy with immediate effect," said a notification issued by the Home department. Pradhan had alleged that he was assaulted by Kumar and his associates for not providing a luxury car July 7 while he was supervising arrangements for Prez Droupadi Murmu's visit. The incident drew sharp criticism from both the BJD and Congress who demanded action against Kumar. Amid outrage over the incident, Pradhan's wife Sayoj said she met the Governor, who promised her justice.

HERE . NOW

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3rd & 4th August

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JIN CARRIES THE TORCH OF 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

Jin, the oldest member of K-pop supergroup BTS, was the torchbearer of the Olympic flame, Sunday in Paris. Jin carried the Olympic torch near Paris' Louvre Museum after recently completing his mandatory military service in South Korea.

SWIFT'S PIANO MALFUNCTIONS DURING MILAN ERAS TOUR

Pop icon Taylor Swift, who recently performed her second Eras Tour show in Milan, experienced a minor glitch with her musical instrument. The mishap occurred when she began performing a mashup of *Getaway Car* and *Out of the Woods*, her piano, painted with colourful flowers, malfunctioned.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

A romantic link is about to be presented to you as a surprise, shining and smiling. Ganesh advises you to be prepared in your best dress and to practice some romantic talking. You never know what the evening has in store for you. Only Ganesh does, and he is sporting a knowing smile.

TAURUS

Spontaneity yet sincerity will be the ruling emotions of the day. Keep your eyes and ears open, advises Ganesh, as trouble might be headed your way. Make it a point to read the print well before you sign any legal contract today. Prevention is better than cure, reminds Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today, your enthusiasm for sports and outdoor activities is palpable. According to you, variety is the spice of life. You will keep on jumping from one venture to another. You will establish a good rapport with your bosses and colleagues. It's time to taste success in your immediate and interim objectives.

CANCER

You will have enthusiasm for swift action. Variety adds spice to life. So you may change job or trade. Ties with superiors will be good. Ganesh says this is the time for challenges.

LEO

You will spend the day with your family and friends today and feel closer to them. You will try to help others, as always. You will like to guide someone if your own situation is comfortable today. You will be able to fulfill the expectations placed upon you by someone and will garner a lot of well-wishes, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

You are born with a talent for business. Your organisational skills too are flawless. Ganesh advises you to use all your creativity, innovative ideas and ability to motivate others to make progress in your business. Ganesh says you may freely express yourself and make full use of your sharp judgement.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that today will be a day where you will want to look good and feel good too. You will be able to attract people with your speech and your impressive personality today at social gatherings. Your social stature will also rise today. Romantic liaisons may take a serious turn today. Ganesh's blessings are forever with you.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesh, your family and friends top your priority list today. Life looks hunky dory on personal as well as professional front. Apart from business developments, romantic relations are on the bloom. And this is evident from your blushing cheeks.

SAGITTARIUS

You feel like going back to carefree, childhood days. You even practice that by taking an impromptu pleasure trip, in the outskirts of the city. And bumping into an old pal, reliving your past is like an icing on the cake. As Ganesh says, golden moments are best undescribed and you too, by the end of the day, are speechless for this wonderful day!

CAPRICORN

You will walk down the memory lane, cherish those lost moments and later on feel an urge to meet or contact old friends, says Ganesh. Expectations of your near and dear ones, however, may seem burdensome.

AQUARIUS

You will finally end today and you will enjoy the fruits of your hard-work. You are very good considering all the pros and cons of every situation/project, drawing a plan on paper and distribution of responsibilities, however, execution of those plans is a problem area for you.

PISCES

You will come up trumps against your competition today. This will make you enthusiastic about your future prospects. You shy away from the spotlight usually, but today you will find yourself thrust into the role of a leader, as you take on new assignments. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesh.

'Absolute freedom can lead to anarchy'

Mumbai: Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who essays the role of Kazbe Bhau in the streaming series *Bad Cop*, shared that absolute freedom can be easily corrupted and could lead to anarchy if not checked.

Anurag has often been subjected to the curbing of his freedom as a storyteller, as he has often grappled with censorship in his stories. Yet, the director feels that absolute freedom is something that needs to be handled with care. The auteur spoke with *IANS* and discussed how checks and balances in society are required to keep things on track.

"Anything can be corrupted. When socialism started, we felt so good, but then it got corrupted and turned into some other kind of democracy. When globalisation started, it felt like the world had suddenly opened, but then look where we are now," the director shared.

"The same is the case with cell phones. Initially, when the boom of smartphones happened, we felt that the world was now at our fingertips. But today, we are slaves to our phones. If there's absolute freedom, there has to be absolute responsibility to keep a check on it," the director said.

Bad Cop also stars Gulshan Devaiah, Harleen Sethi, and Saurabh Sachdeva and is currently streaming on Disney+Hotstar. *IANS*



'It's important to challenge yourself'

New Delhi: After her debut in 2017 with *Poster Boyz*, national crush Triptii Dimri has mainly done films in the genre of drama. The actress, who will be seen in *Bad Newz*, minced no words in saying that she has since the beginning found comedy as a genre difficult and believes that, as an actor, it is important to keep diversifying roles.

"I have always done a lot of films in the drama genre, but I feel that as an actor, it is really important to keep doing different things and keep challenging yourself. I have found comedy a little difficult since the beginning," said Triptii during the press conference in the national capital.

"So, in a way, it was really good for me. I want to thank Anand sir from the bottom of my heart for trusting me with the film because you haven't seen me do comedy at that level. It was difficult for me, especially with Vicky Kaushal and Ammy Virk, as they are very talented and their comic timing is very good," added the *Laila Majnu* actress.

"It was difficult, but it was a good learning experience. I think in life, I would want to do different roles such as action, drama, comedy, and everything that is offered," the *Animal* actress concluded. *IANS*

Sayani finds influencer based casting odd

Mumbai: Actress Sayani Gupta, in a recent candid conversation, spoke about the changing rules of cinema viewing at the crux of social media dominance.

Talking at length about the changing dynamics, Sayani said, "Making films is one of the toughest jobs. It really is. It's just an uphill task. If something is wrong with you, it is when you choose to become the director of a film, because it's always a hard battle. You are not saving lives or anything; however, in a way, we saw in the pandemic that, thanks to entertainment and film, we had some sanity. We didn't completely lose our minds."

The actress further talks about the ongoing attention span. She elaborated, "Currently, there's a trend where executives dictate content creation based on short attention spans. This can compromise artistic integrity and storytelling authenticity. Influencers with large followings sometimes get roles, which can distort casting decisions. Ideally, casting should prioritise suitability for the role over social media metrics. Despite these challenges, today offers unprecedented opportunities for collaborative creativity as boundaries between industries blur." On the work front, Sayani was last seen in *Article 15*. *AGENCIES*



OTT helps in pushing boundaries: Rasika

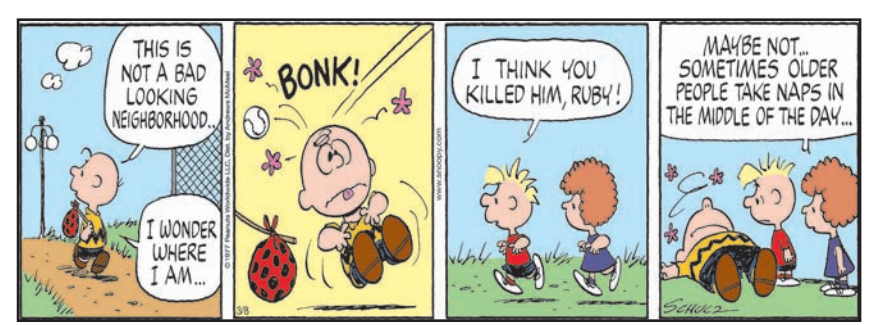
Mumbai: Actress Rasika Dugal, who played the role of Beena Tripathi in the hit streaming show *Mirzapur*, believed that the OTT medium currently shows healthy signs of progress.

Having worked in the OTT space for the past decade, she has been a part of shows like *Permanent Roommates*, *Humorously Yours*, *P.O.W. Bandi Yuddh Ke*, and *Delhi Crime* and has witnessed the growth of the OTT platform.

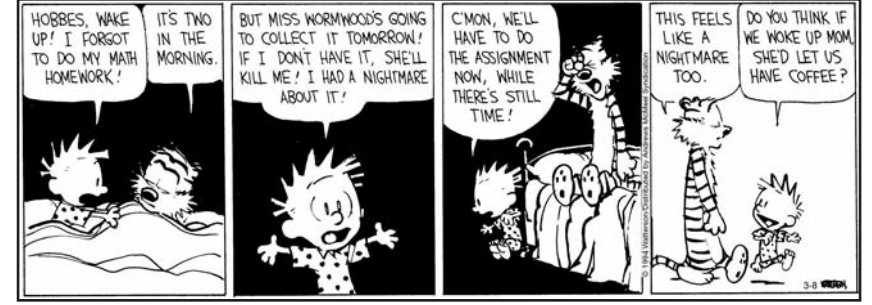
Talking about the medium of OTT going in the right direction, Rasika told *IANS*: "I think there will be both good and bad. Everybody's taste is different, and if there's content that's out of the box, there will also be content that fits the box. If a space continuously allows novelty and room for new players to come in, I consider it a healthy space."

The actress feels very encouraged by the idea that every few months there are talents that rule the roost for a couple of months. "It allows them to shine and push the boundaries. New talents mean that the audience is looking forward to novelty," she added. Rashika also spoke about how a platform being ruled by a few players leads to a monopoly on what is being served to the audience. "If a medium has just 5-6 players who keep recycling the same kind of content, it monopolises the medium, which curbs its development. In that aspect, OTT has managed to stay ahead of the curve so far," she said. *Mirzapur 3* currently streams on Prime Video. *IANS*

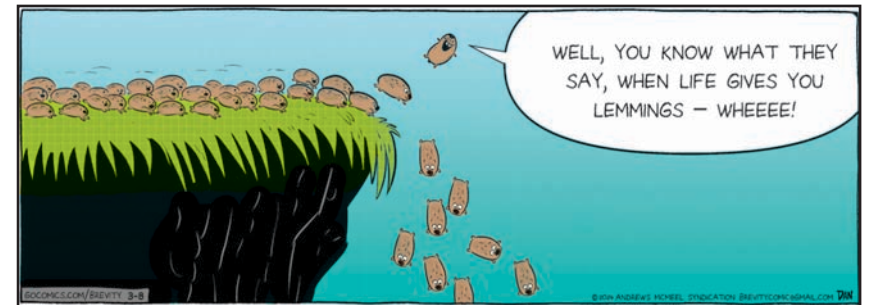
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

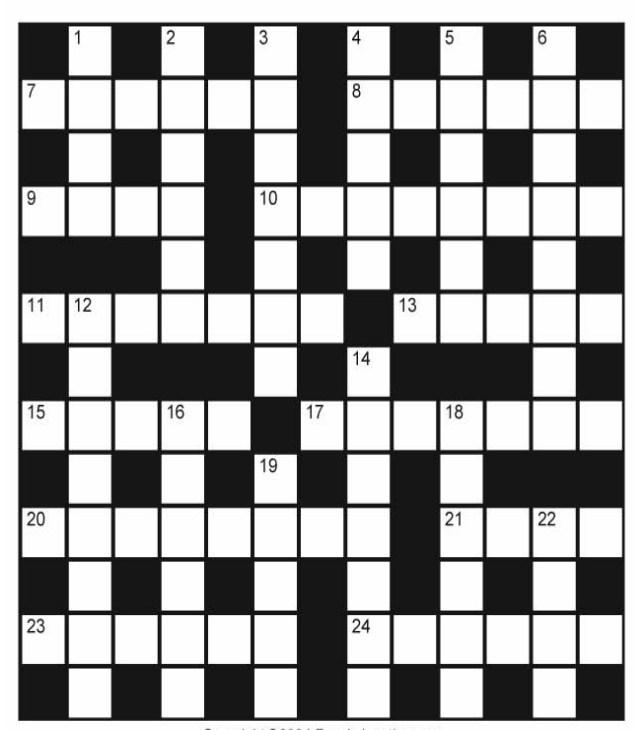


BREVITY



FUN post

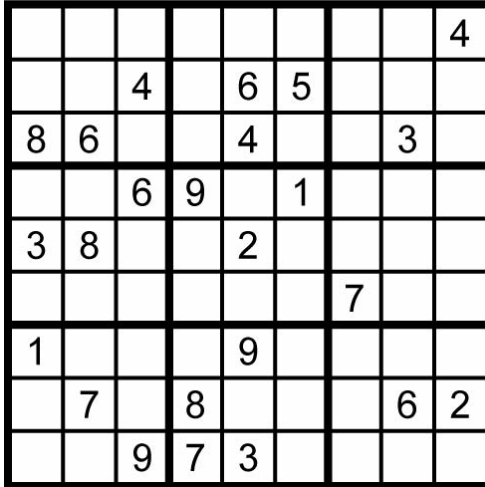
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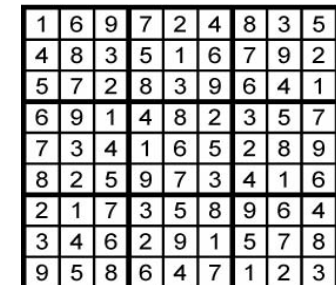
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- Across**
- 7 Sporting dog
 - 8 Shoe part
 - 9 Impudent
 - 10 Sweet pepper
 - 11 Insult
 - 13 Befuddle
 - 15 Kind of screen
 - 17 Powerful vessel
 - 20 Star
 - 21 Nothing
 - 23 Hits
 - 24 Time of year
 - Down**
 - 1 Type of phone
 - 2 Daze
 - 3 Colourless gas
 - 4 18th Greek letter
 - 5 Move up
 - 6 Fleet of small craft
 - 12 Horrific
 - 14 Beaver-like aquatic rodent
 - 16 Government authority
 - 18 Kind of shark
 - 19 Gargle
 - 22 Source of illumination

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

SJTA CHIEF REMOVES NON-SERVITOR FROM CHARIOT

Puri: SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee threw out Monday a non-servitor who was inside the chariot yard near the Gundicha Temple here. The SJTA chief had earlier stated that non-servitors will not be allowed to climb the chariots of the three deities during Bahuda Yatra. The decision was taken in view of falling of Lord Balabhadra's idol on charamala (ramp) of Taladhwa chariot during Adapa pahandi July 9, 2024. To check whether the order was being implemented, Padhee personally visited the chariot yard and when the non-servitor was identified, he dragged the latter out holding him by his hand.

ALL 3 CHARIOTS REACH SRIMANDIR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, July 15: Winding up the annual nine-day Rath Yatra festival in Puri, chariots of sibling deities Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra reached the Srimandir here Monday.

Pulled by thousands of devotees amid chants like 'Jay Jagannath', the chariots reached in front of the "Singha Dwar" or Lion's Gate of the temple.

The Bahuda Yatra, also called the return car festival was witnessed by lakhs of devotees from across the country and abroad.

Lord Balabhadra's chariot Taladhwa and Devi Subhadra's Devadalana reached the Lion's Gate before sunset while Nandighosh, the chariot of Lord Jagannath, was the last one to reach the destination after a ritual called "Laxmi Narayan Bhet". In this ritual, Lord Jagannath meets his consort Maa Laxmi who expresses her anger for not taking her to the festival.



Lord Jagannath's chariot was pulled beyond sunset though the tradition dictates otherwise.

The delay in chariot pulling

was witnessed even as the process began beyond the schedule. It began ahead of the schedule - 4pm.

Devotees started pulling

Taladhwa at 3:25pm and Devadalana at 4pm. Pulling of Nandighosh began later at 4:15pm.

The chariot pulling started



after Puri's titular king 'Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb performed 'chhera pahanra', a ritual during which he swept the three chariots with help of

golden broom by sprinkling scared water.

Earlier, The Trinity was ceremonially taken to their respective chariots from the

Gundicha Temple in presence of lakhs of devotees.

A total of 180 platoons (1 platoon comprises 30 personnel) of police force and 1,000 officers were deployed to maintain law and order and crowd management during the 'Bahuda Yatra'.

Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) Sanjay Kumar said adequate security arrangements have been made and the entire temple town is under CCTV surveillance.

The deities will remain seated on the chariots in front of the Lion's Gate of the 12th-century shrine Monday night.

'Suna Besha' (golden attire) ritual, in which the deities are decked in gold jewellery, will be performed on chariots July 17.

A ritual called 'Adharapana' where the deities were offered a delicious drink will be held July 18 while the "Nidari Bije", entering the 12th-century shrine, will be held Jul 19.

Govt to probe why duplicate keys failed to open vault

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 15: The state government Monday said it would conduct an inquiry into why the duplicate keys of the inner chamber of Srimandir's Ratna Bhandar could not open the locks July 14.

The Ratna Bhandar was reopened Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure.

Members of a special committee tried to open three locks on the doors of the inner chamber of the treasury, but not one of them could be opened with the two 'duplicate' keys available with the Puri district administration, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief Arabinda Padhee had said.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said, "A lie was spread over the availability of duplicate keys of the Ratna Bhandar during the previous BJD government. This matter will definitely be investigated."

"Who had said about the duplicate keys, and under whose instruction... will also be examined," Harichandan said.



The government had April 4, 2018 attempted to reopen Ratna Bhandar for a physical examination, but the effort was unsuccessful due to the unavailability of the keys. After some days, the government said duplicate keys were found.

If someone would have ever touched the ornaments of Lord Jagannath, he would definitely face the consequences, said the minister.

"I hope that such an incident might not have happened. We can get a clear picture of this after completion of the inventory," Harichandan said.

The reopening of Ratna Bhandar was a major political issue during the recently held Assembly elections. The BJP came to power in the polls dethroning the BJD which was ruling the state since 2000.

Senior BJD leader Amar Prasad Satpathy demanded making public the report of the Justice Raghuraj Das Commission formed to probe into the issue of missing keys of the 12th-century shrine's treasury.

Without conducting further inquiry into the matter, the government should present the Commission report along with action taken on it, the BJD leader said. The commission was formed in June 2018 to probe the circumstances under which the keys of the Ratna Bhandar went missing. The panel submitted its report to the state government in November of that year, but it was not made public.

Opposition Congress and BJD have urged the BJP government to present a clear picture before the public about the Ratna Bhandar keys.

"Why were the locks broken? Where are the original keys of Ratna Bhandar? The people are eagerly waiting to know about the original keys. So, the government should present a clear picture before the public," Odisha Congress spokesperson Biswaranjan Mohanty.

DS Kutey posted Home dept OSD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Senior IPS officer DS Kutey has been posted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Home department, official sources said Monday.

According to sources, the Election Commission of India (ECI) had suspended Kutey, who was serving as the Special Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), for 'unduly interfering in the conduct of elections'.

The ECI action had come in response to a report by state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), who made certain averments indicating 'undue influence being exercised by the senior IPS officers'. The poll panel said the comments were corroborated by various other inputs received from the field from time to time.

In a notification, the Home department Monday said, "The state government, after careful consideration, has been pleased to revoke the suspension of DS Kutey with immediate effect, pending initiation of disciplinary proceedings."

"Now, therefore on revocation of suspension, Shri DS Kutey, IPS, is posted as OSD, Home department," it said.

CM for grievance hearing at dist level

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: More than 1,700 people from different parts of the state registered their names to place their grievances before Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell here Monday. Majhi heard the grievances of the people from 10am to 4:30pm and assured that soon public grievances will be heard at district level and even revenue divisions.

During interaction with reporters, the Chief Minister said plans are afoot to decentralise Chief Minister's Grievance Cell and hold public hearing outside Bhubaneswar to ensure speedy redressal of people's issues.

Expressing happiness over the hearing held so far, Majhi said, "Over 1,700 people from different parts of the state got registered for the session held Monday and action has so far been initiated in more than 1,000 cases. The process is still underway."

The CM said six ministers, including Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, five secretaries and several senior officials were present during the hearing.

Lamenting that the CM's grievance cell remained shut for over



16 years, Majhi said the problems of many people remained unresolved for a very long time because of this.

Stressing that the aim of the government is to ensure speedy justice to the people, Majhi said the public grievance hearing process will further be strengthened and decentralised. "People can also get their grievances redressed at district level instead of visiting Bhubaneswar with minor issues," he said.

There is a plan to make the process more flexible and take the grievance cell to the level of revenue divisions, Majhi asserted. The proposal is being studied

and examined, the CM added. People who came with their grievances include differently-abled, children, destitute and poor women.

Rohit Pradhan a homeless differently-abled man from Bhubaneswar requested for a shelter in the City to which the CM immediately directed the H&UD department secretary to take action in this regard.

Similarly, Nirupama Nayak of Paradip area came to meet the CM with her two disabled children and asked for help. Majhi assured her of all help and also asked her whether she is getting any pension.

Brace up for heavy rain till July 19

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Odisha is bracing for prolonged rainfall in the next four days due to a low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, the IMD said Monday. While one low pressure area was formed, another is likely to follow July 19, the IMD said.

According to the weather agency, heavy to very heavy rainfall (7cm to 20cm) may take place at one or two places in Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Rayagada July 15 due to a low-pressure zone northwest of the

west-central Bay of Bengal, off the south Odisha coast.

Areas like Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Gajapati, and Bolangir may experience heavy rainfall (7cm to 11cm), accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning in some places across north interior Odisha, Sonepur, Boudh, and coastal regions.

The SRC has instructed district Collectors to keep emergency response measures ready and report any incidents of heavy to very heavy rainfall promptly to the state government.

Manoj Ahuja OSPCB chief

Bhubaneswar: Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja was given additional charge of the Chairman of Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), Monday. "Shri Manoj Ahuja, IAS (RR-1990), Chief Secretary, Odisha and Secretary to Government, General Administration & Public Grievance Department is hereby allowed to remain in additional charge of Chairman, Odisha State Pollution Control Board in addition to his own duties," read a notification issued by the Forest, Environment & Climate Change department.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the first-ever 'Kaushal Bhawan' at the World Skill Centre here on the occasion of World Youth Skill Day Monday, an initiative which is expected to revolutionise the hospitality sector by training the youths under the motto 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.

Inaugurating the skill facility, the Chief Minister said, "Our government is committed to making Odisha a hub of skilled human resources. A roadmap for capacity development has been prepared. Our youths will enter skill courses based on their

interests in next two-three years. Our youth is the future of Odisha." Stating that Odisha will become a prosperous state through their skills and talents, the CM said nine more such centres will be opened soon.

"In the interim Budget, we had allocated ₹32 crore for skill development which will increase in coming days," he said.

Majhi announced the ambitious CM ASPIRE Scheme designed to enhance quality of skill practices through skill development. With an outlay of ₹190.00 crore over three years, this scheme is set to transform the skill landscape of Odisha, said the Chief Minister.

Special trains for Suna Besha & Adharapana

East Coast Railway has given emphasis on effective announcements at station and smooth disbursement of tickets through additional ticket booking counters



Special Trains for Rath Yatra at Puri. During the period from July 5 to 15, the Railways has already provided 239 special trains to and from Puri starting from Gundicha Yatra to Bahuda Yatra.

To clear additional rush of passengers, ECoR is running special trains towards Bhadrak, Paradip, Angul, Palasa, Keonjhar, Daspalla, Brahmapur from Puri on the occasion of Adharapana and Niladri Bije.

The Ministry of Railways also provided various facilities for the convenience of devotees and pilgrims at Puri. Round-the-clock Control Room has been opened to look into passengers' issues as well as smooth train operations. Additional ticket booking counters were also set up. There were pilgrim waiting area/shed and mela sheds along with provision of uninterrupted power supply, water supply, cleanliness, security, drinking water, and sufficient toilets for the convenience of passengers.

Also, ECoR has given emphasis on effective announcements at station and smooth disbursement of tickets through additional ticket booking counters.

Bhadrak, Junagarh Road, Khurda Road, Daspalla, Sompeta, Palasa, Keonjhar, Gunupur, Jagadapur, Sonepur, Sambalpur for Suna Besha. Similarly, trains from Paradip, Angul, Bhadrak, Daspalla, Palasa, Keonjhar and Khurda Road will run to Puri on Adharapana festival, an ECoR release said.

To clear additional rush of passengers, special trains will also run towards Bhadrak, Paradip, Angul, Palasa, Kendujhar, Daspalla, Brahmapur from Puri on Adharapana and Niladri Bije, it added.

ECoR had announced 315

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 15: With an aim to provide comfortable journey to devotees and to avoid rush in regular trains to and from Puri, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to run 43 special trains to Puri for Suna Besha and another 33 during the Adharapana ritual of sibling deities of Srimandir in the pilgrim town.

ECoR has arranged special trains from almost all parts of the state to facilitate passengers to visit Puri.

Special trains will run towards Puri from Paradip, Angul,



ENCOURAGEMENT: Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy felicitates a visually-impaired student during a programme organised by Odisha Louis Braille Foundation at Buddha Mandir in Bhubaneswar, Monday

E-AUCTION NLC INDIA BAGS COAL MINE IN ANGUL DISTRICT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: State-owned NLC India Ltd Monday said that it has bagged a coal mine in Odisha.

The coal produced from the mine will address the energy security of the country. The coal mine has total reserves of around 1.38 billion tonne with an operable peak-rated capacity of 30

million tonne per annum (MTPA).

"NLC India Ltd has emerged as the successful bidder for the Machhakata (revised) coal mine in Angul district of Odisha in the eighth round of commercial coal block e-auction," the company said in a statement.

This is the second coal mine won by the public sector enterprise after North Dhadu coal

block (Western Part).

The company said that it is committed to its capacity addition in line with its vision of achieving more than 100 MTPA by 2030 from the present 50 MTPA. NLC India's core business is mining and power generation. Meanwhile, the Coal Ministry Monday executed the Coal Mining Development and Production Agreements for three

coal mines that were auctioned.

The mines for which agreements were executed are Machhakata (revised) coal mine, Kudanali Lubri coal mine, and Sakhigopal-B Kakurhi coal mine, the Coal Ministry said in a statement. The successful bidders are NLC India Ltd, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd, and Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited, respectively.

SCIENCE AT DOORSTEP

RSC launches 2 Mobile Science Exhibition buses

THE FIRST PHASE OF MSE PROGRAMME WILL RUN FROM JULY 15 TO AUGUST 15 IN KHURDA, NAYAGARH, BOUDH AND SUBARNAPUR DISTRICTS

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 15: As an outreach educational programme, Regional Science Centre (RSC), Bhubaneswar, launched two Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) buses in rural districts of the state, Monday.

The event was flagged off by National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) director Hirendra Nath Ghosh and RSC project coordinator Kapil Jain.

Speaking on the occasion, Ghosh underlined the importance of Mobile Science



Exhibition and said it plays a key role in disseminating scientific knowledge among the grassroot level students and in bridging the gap between the rural and urban students.

Jain said, "The programme is a unique initiative aimed at taking science to the doorstep of rural India, which will travel to various rural districts of the state. These MSE buses are equipped with interactive exhibits based on fundamental sciences and also have facility to con-

duct science demonstration activities to encourage the rural students. The theme of the programme is Measurement and Electricity and Magnetism."

The first phase of MSE programme will run from July 15 to August 15 in Khurda, Nayagarh, Boudh and Subarnapur districts.

The programme will help more than 30,000 students in western Odisha across the network of schools covered under the jurisdiction of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan(OAVS) and

Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir to learn the difficult concepts of science with simple hands-on experiments.

"MSE is a science exhibition on wheels, typically housed in a bus that travels to different locations to showcase interactive science exhibits and activities. The purpose of a mobile science exhibition is to encourage curiosity and interest in science among students, teachers and general public," RSC sources said.

City celebrates Bahuda Yatra

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Bahuda Yatra, the return journey of the sibling deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and goddess Subhadra after their nine-day stay at their aunt's house, was celebrated with religious fervour here Monday. Braving intermittent rain, devotees thronged various temples in the City to pull the deities' chariots.

"As the weather was pleasant, people in large number participated in the festivities. The occasion was observed peacefully without any untoward incident," said a senior police officer.

The Bahuda Yatra, organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) at Nayapalli, was a major crowd-puller. Three chariots started their journey from Mausima temple at Unit VIII and reached the ISKCON temple, crossing National Highway-16.

The return journey of the trinity was also celebrated at Sriyani Khetra, on the premises of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Utkal University campus, Regional College of Management, Orissa



University of Agriculture and Technology, Mancheswar, VSS Nagar, Jagamura, Dumduma, Patiagarh, Baramunda, Sahid Nagar, Laxmi Sagar, Baragada, Old Town, Niladri Vihar and Sailashree Vihar.

At KIIT Jannath Temple, women devotees pulled the chariot of goddess Subhadra, while the rituals were conducted as per Srimandir rituals. The Vani Vihar campus chariot also attracted a sizeable

crowd. Utkal University VC Sabita Acharya performed the chhera Pahara ritual.

At Patia, the occasion was celebrated with ceremonial grandeur with participation of hundreds of devotees.

Similarly, the festival at Jagamura witnessed a colourful procession of cultural troupes, folk music and dance. Chariots of the trinity at the Old Town area were pulled with religious fervour.

125-year-old element shows promise in treating cancer

US researchers have decoded an element that could destroy cancerous cells, and advance treatment options for the deadly disease that claims millions of lives globally.

The element, actinium, was first discovered by French scientist Andre-Louis Debierne in 1899 and is number 89 on the Periodic Table.

Now after 125 years of its existence, there is a bright chance it could improve cancer treatments, as found by the department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Even after 125 years, actinium remains an enigmatic element of science because to date it is found in extremely small quantities, and special facilities are needed to work with it, not just any ordinary radioactive lab.

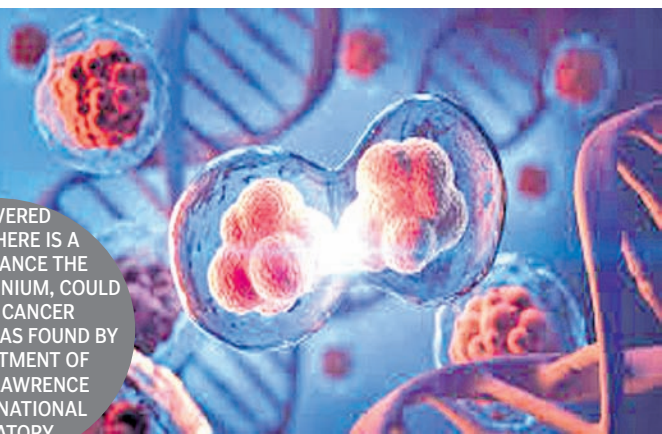
The team of scientists tried growing it and while elements can behave very similarly to

their lightweight counterparts, actinium behaved differently than its counterpart lanthanum.

From nuclear energy to medicine, these elements can serve the purpose admirably, for both are radioactive and earthy minerals, it is not actinium itself that saves the day, it is an isotope - a distinct nuclear species of any element - named actinium 225 that has shown promise in a method called targeted alpha therapy (TAT).

The TAT technique transports radioactive elements to the cancer site via biological delivery mechanisms such as peptides or antibodies.

When actinium decays, it emits energetic particles that travel a short distance, killing local cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue further away.



DISCOVERED IN 1899, THERE IS A BRIGHT CHANCE THE ELEMENT, ACTINIUM, COULD IMPROVE CANCER TREATMENTS, AS FOUND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

"If we can engineer proteins to bind the actinium with a high affinity, and either be fused with an antibody or serve as the targeting protein that would really enable new ways to develop radiopharmaceuticals," said Rebecca Abergel, Associate Professor of nuclear

engineering at the University of California-Berkeley.

Researchers employed a revolutionary way to create the crystals with only five micrograms of pure actinium, which is about one-tenth the weight of a grain of salt and unnoticeable to the naked eye.

"If we can engineer proteins to bind the actinium with a high affinity, and either be fused with an antibody or serve as the targeting protein that would really enable new ways to develop radiopharmaceuticals"

REBECCA ABERGEL | ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY

They initially refined the actinium using a complicated filtration method that removed other elements and chemical contaminants.

They next attached the actinium to a metal-trapping molecule known as a ligand and encased the bundle inside a protein identified and purified by Roland Strong's team at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre, resulting in a 'macromolecular

scaffold'.

The crystals, which grew for a week inside the Heavy Element Research Laboratory, were then cryocooled in liquid nitrogen and irradiated with X-rays at Berkeley Lab's Advanced Light Source.

X-rays revealed the compound's three-dimensional structure and demonstrated how this elusive element works with other surrounding atoms.

This study used the longest-living isotope of actinium, Actinium 227 although Actinium 225 is the preferred one for the Targeted Alpha method (as it has been used for prostate cancer as well with positive results).

The final word has not yet been said but the initial prose is the melodious beginning of a future scientific opera which would herald a new era of cancer treatment, the researchers said.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	80,664.86 ↑ 145.52
NIFTY	24,586.70 ↑ 84.55
DOLLAR	83.62 ↑ ₹0.72
EURO	91.20 ↑ ₹0.22
GOLD	₹73,440 ↑ ₹281
SILVER	₹93,084 ↑ ₹53

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.5°C	32.2°C
Min Temp	26.5°C	25.8°C
Humidity	91%	86%
Rainfall	1.8mm	6.0mm

FORECAST
GENERALLY CLOUDY SKY WITH POSSIBILITY OF RAIN OR THUNDERSHOWERS

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Rayagada sees alarming spurt in malaria cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, July 15: Despite tall claims being made about the implementation of a host of measures for malaria prevention, occurrences of the vector-borne disease continue to remain high and showing an upward trend in several regions of the state.



Rayagada district has earned the infamy of recording the maximum number of malaria cases among the districts in the state since 2023

Rayagada district has earned the infamy of recording the maximum number of malaria cases among the districts in the state since 2023. Earlier in 2016 and 2017 too, the southern district ranked top in the number of malaria cases. The district ranked fifth in malaria incidences in the state in 2018, second in 2019, third in 2020, fourth in 2021, and once again, second in 2022. However, the mosquito-borne disease has once again raised its ugly head in the district as this year it has seen a continuation of last year's trend.

malaria in the district are increasing years on. A cursory glance at the current scenario reveals that Rayagada ranks top in the state in malaria spread this year as well. As per the data collated from 11 community health centres (CHCs) in the district, 56,991 people were tested for malaria in June, out of which 1,204 came positive. The maximum of 546 were diagnosed with malaria in Chandrapur CHC, 449 in Gudari CHC and 434 in Kashiipur CHC. At least 44 malaria patients have been identified at Gunapur Urban Health Centre. There is also a surge in fatalities due to malaria in Rayagada. By July this year, the disease has claimed the life of one girl student. 70 per cent of malaria deaths are among children below eight years of age. According to the Health department, 449 children have been diagnosed with malaria till June in the district.

On the other hand, the government had last distributed medicated mosquito nets in 2020 as a preventive measure. The effect of the drug in the mosquito nets remains for three years. The term has expired and another year has passed. In absence of supply, medicated mosquito nets were not distributed in 2023 when the process was due, sources said. This has caused the number of malaria cases to go up in the district. However, poor sanitation in rural areas remains another big reason for the spread of the disease. Meanwhile, CDMO Dr Lal Mohan Routray said, MDD (Malaria, Diarrhoea and Dengue) campaign, which began July 1 will continue till August 31. "The government has been requested to supply mosquito nets. If people stay aware and keep their households and surroundings clean, the number of malaria cases and mosquito population will go down," Routray added.

NHRC seeks ATR on student's death

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, July 15: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Monday sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the District Collector, Superintendent of Police (SP), and District Education Officer (DEO) of Balasore district on the death of a student in the collapse of a water tank inside the school premises.

WATER TANK COLLAPSE



mission towards a shocking incident June 28 when a 10-year-old student died, after the wall of a water tank collapsed on him inside the school premises at Padmapur in Balasore district. The deceased has been identified as Narayan Tudu, a Class V student of Banchhanidhi English Medium School. The incident took place when he along with other hostel inmates went to wash his hands near the water tank. He was rescued from the debris of the wall and rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Several other students also sustained injuries in the mishap, the petition contended. Tripathy earlier requested the commission to ensure justice in the matter, an independent and impartial investigation of the incident with legal action against the culprits and payment of compensation to the next of kin of the deceased student. The NHRC asked the authorities to ensure needful action and submit ATR to the commission within four weeks.

RSP employees develop cost-effective pinch rolls

AGENCIES

Rourkela, July 15: The employees of the mechanical shop of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) have successfully developed cost-effective critical pinch rolls for Hot Strip Mill 2 (HSM-2) in-house using available resources. This has brought about substantial savings for the company and improved equipment availability ensuring smooth production.

pinch rolls posed a significant challenge for the company. The mechanical shop took up the challenge. The designing department was delegated the responsibility of developing drawings from the existing samples. The top roll barrel was cast at the foundry using 9 tonne of cast steel and then sent to the mechanical shop for machining. Utilising the Homma Vertical Borer, the barrel was machined according to specifications. The ends of the top pinch roll, fabricated from scrapped universal spindles of the Plate Mill, were machined and shrink-fitted into the barrel. Final machining of the top pinch roll is currently in progress and will be sent to Structural and fabrication S&F shop for cladding to achieve the required hardness. Similarly, the bottom pinch roll has been developed using a scrap universal spindle from the Plate Mill, RSP sources said.

Mayurbhanj royal scion appointed chief editor of T+L India & South Asia



Due to her efforts, Mayurbhanj was listed among the world's top 50 destinations for tourists by the renowned Time magazine

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 15: Akshita Manjari Bhanj Deo, a scion of the Mayurbhanj royal family, has been appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of Travel + Leisure India and South Asia, one of the world's leading travel magazines. Akshita began her tenure Monday at the magazine's office in Bangkok. She is recognised as the youngest Editor-in-Chief of this prestigious magazine and the first Odia to hold this position. This information has been provided by Asia's leading media company BurdaLuxury's headquarters in Orlando, Florida (US). Bhanj Deo is the youngest daughter of Maharaja Praveen Chandra Bhanj Deo and Maharani Rashmi Rajyalakshmi Bhanj Deo of Mayurbhanj. After completing her primary education at La Martiniere School in Kolkata, Akshita pursued her high school education at United World College in Singapore. She then obtained her postgraduate degree in Political Science and Human Rights from Bard College

in the USA. After completing her studies, she worked as a brand ambassador for a global fashion company in New York for six years. During her time in New York, she also collaborated with British MP David Miliband through the International Rescue Committee, working for almost three years to aid those affected by the Syrian war. Later, she returned to India and along with her sister Mrinalika Manjari Bhanj Deo, opened a boutique hotel in their ancestral palace in Baripada, known as Belgadia Palace. In the meantime, she has drawn global attention to Mayurbhanj by featuring it in various international platforms and publications. Due to her efforts, Mayurbhanj was listed among the world's top 50 destinations for tourists by the renowned Time magazine. Akshita has been striving to popularise Mayurbhanj's art, culture, tourism, handicraft and handloom both domestically and internationally, achieving significant success in this regard. Additionally, she and her family have established the Mayurbhanj Foundation undertaking various social initiatives. She has also been working with the Future Star Sports Academy to promote rugby in Mayurbhanj and has been actively supporting and protecting the district's historical sites and Similipal's security and preservation. Her efforts have garnered widespread appreciation across the district and the state.

Body found in children's park

Baripada, July 15: Forest department officials arrested three brothers for their alleged involvement in connection with the death of a female elephant from electrocution at Nakichua village under this police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Monday.

The accused have been identified as Biru Hansda, Sangaray Hansda and Tapan Hansda of Nakichua village. Fearing wild elephants' attack, the three brothers allegedly decided to protect their house by laying wires around it and connecting wires to the power supply, a Forest official said. Unfortunately, the female elephant came into contact with the live electric wire and died from electrocution. Forest department carried out a raid and arrested them under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

3 held for electrocution death of female jumbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

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EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) e-Tender No. 13-SBP-TRD-OT-2024-25, Date : 09.07.2024

NAME OF WORK : TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF REBUILDING OF 10 NOS. HUME PIPE BRIDGES (BRIDGE No. 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 89, 101, 121, 156 & 157) INTO RCC BOX IN JHARSUGUDA-BARGARH ROAD SECTION.

Approx. Cost : ₹ 14,62,681.57, EMD : ₹ 29,300/-

(2) e-Tender No. 14-SBP-TRD-OT-2024-25, Date : 09.07.2024

NAME OF WORK : TRD RELATED WORK FOR SMOOTHENING OF X-OVER Y3 ONLY IN CONNECTION TO REALIGNMENT OF SPUR-2 KANTABANJI YARD (2ND LINE FROM EXAMINATION PLATFORM) IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx. Cost : ₹ 13,89,153.87, EMD : ₹ 27,800/-

Completion Period : 12 Months (for SI No. 1) and 08 Months (for SI No. 2).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1530 Hrs. on 31.07.2024 (for both the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-309/IP/24-25, Sambalpur

आइआरएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Ref: ADVT. No. 24-25/06 Date: 11.07.2024

TENDER NOTICE

IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items/job descriptions.

Bid No.	Job/Item Description
GEM/2024/B/5098099	Supply of 03 nos. of STPH Induced Roll Magnetic Separator (IRMS).
2024_IREL_200245_1	Rate Contract Bid for Development and Operations of Mineral Sands Mine at Brahmagiri, Odisha
2024_IREL_200913_1	Construction of two batteries of underground RCC Thorium oxalate trench with structural cover shed.

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in> e-procure/app. Any corrigendum / Extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only. CBC 48146/12/0007/2425 Sd./- GM & HEAD, MMD, OSCOM

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, Ambaguda

Email Address : eamda2013@gmail.com No. A-157

e-Procurement Notice - Bid Identification No. - SE/MDA-01/2024-25

1 Name of the Work	Mechanical Gate Works
2 No. of Works	03 (Three)
3 Category of executors	SSI Units registered under DIC/NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates
4 Bid Identification No.	SE/MDA-01/2024-25
5 Estimated Cost	Rs. 9,05,640.30, Rs. 8,34,550.80, Rs. 9,05,531.80
6 Period of Completion	02 (Two) Calendar months
7 Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	From dt. 23.07.2024 (10:00 AM) to dt. 30.07.2024 (5:30 PM)
8 Last date/time for receipt of bid in the Portal	Dt. 30.07.2024 (up to 5.00 PM)
9 Date and Place of opening of online bids	Dt. 31.07.2024 (12:00 Noon onwards in the O/o the undersigned)
10 Name of the Officer inviting bid	Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, Ambaguda

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Mechanical Division, Ambaguda

OIPR-32241/11/0001/2425

संस्कृती मंत्रालय

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING

(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme - 2024-25

The CCTRT is implementing Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme to provide facilities to outstanding talented children selected in the age group of 10 to 14 years (as per the cut off eligibility dates), studying either in recognized schools or belonging to families practicing traditional performing arts for getting specialized training in various cultural fields such as traditional forms of music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture, crafts and literary arts, laying special emphasis on rare art forms, which are in the process of becoming extinct. The scholarship awarded under the scheme is for two years at a time which is renewable after every two years till the completion of the first university degree stage of education or up to the age of 20 years, whichever is earlier, subject to awardees maintaining satisfactory progress. 650 scholarships are awarded every year, as per details given below.

375 scholarships for General categories & Others	125 scholarships for Traditional Artist Families
100 scholarships for Tribal Category /ST	20 scholarships for Differently Abled (Divyang)
30 scholarships for Creative Writing/Literary Arts	

The value of scholarship is Rs. 36000/- (Rupees Three Thousand Six Hundred) per year and actual tuition fee paid for the specialized training is also reimbursed up to Rs. 9000/- (Rupees Nine Thousand) per year. Children whose date of birth is in between 01.07.2010 and 30.06.2014 (both days inclusive) are eligible to apply for the award of scholarships for the year 2024-25. The application and other details may be downloaded from the CCTRT website - www.cctrtindia.gov.in or collected free of cost personally/by post from any one of the following addresses:

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, 15A, Sector - 7, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, Phone No : 011-25088638, Email: ddsch.cctrt@nic.in , website : www.cctrtindia.gov.in	CCTRT Regional Centre, 1-118/1, Survey No. 64, Near Google Office, Madhapur, Hyderabad - 500084, Phone No : (040) 23117050 and 23119190, Email : rchyd.cctrt@nic.in
CCTRT Regional Centre, Hawala Khurd, Badgaon, Udaipur, Rajasthan- 313001, Phone No : (0294) 2430764, 2430771, Email: rcud.cctrt@nic.in	CCTRT Regional Centre, 58, Juripar, Panjabari Road, Guwahati, Assam-781037, Phone No. 0361-2330152, Email: rcgw.cctrt@nic.in
CCTRT Regional Centre, Old Collectorate Building, Near District Court, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh - 470661, Phone No. 0781-2299117, Email: rcdamoh.cctrt@nic.in	

Duly filled application form along-with relevant documents should reach CCTRT, New Delhi-110075 on or before Saturday, 31st August, 2024. CCTRT will not be responsible for any postal delay and Applications received after the last date will not be considered. CBC-09127/12/0004/2425

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mr. Bikash Kumar Jena (Director), M/S NMM Producer Company Ltd., Rajiv Basti, Soti Chowk, Rourkela, Raghunathapalli, Sundargarh, Odisha - 769004 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Section 138 of NIA in CC No. 360/2020 Gopi Chand Gupta Vs M/s NMM Producer Company Ltd And ors, PS Mandawali, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Bikash Kumar Jena cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Bikash Kumar Jena has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Bikash Kumar Jena in CC No. 360/2020 Gopi Chand Gupta Vs M/s NMM Producer Company Ltd And ors, PS Mandawali, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 1.8.2024.

By Order
Ms. Himanshi Tyagi
Metropolitan Magistrate-03/East Room No. 16, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mr. Ramakanta Jena (Director), M/S NMM Producer Company Ltd., Apandhara Balikuda, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha - 754119 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Section 138 of NIA in CC No. 360/2020 Gopi Chand Gupta Vs M/s NMM Producer Company Ltd And ors, PS Mandawali, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Ramakanta Jena cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ramakanta Jena has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Ramakanta Jena in CC No. 360/2020 Gopi Chand Gupta Vs M/s NMM Producer Company Ltd And ors, PS Mandawali, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 1.8.2024.

By Order
Ms. Himanshi Tyagi
Metropolitan Magistrate-03/East Room No. 16, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Government of India

Ministry of Communications

Department of Telecommunications

Inviting applications for two posts of Whole-time Member, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi

Government of India, Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, invites applications from Indian Nationals for two posts of Whole-time Member in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

TRAI is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It is mandated to regulate the telecommunication services, adjudicate disputes, dispose of appeals and to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector, to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector.

The detailed eligibility conditions and other terms and conditions of appointment may be seen on the websites www.dot.gov.in or <http://www.trai.gov.in> or <http://www.dopt.gov.in>.

CBC-06201/11/0003/2425

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, KOIRA, SUNDARGARH

Letter No. 1436 Dated: 11.07.2024

TENDER CALL NOTICE No. 01/2024-25

No. i-19: Sealed tenders are invited from the interested bidder for the civil work under BDO, Koira of Sundargarh district. The detail of works, eligibility, estimated cost, EMD, cost of tender paper has been uploaded in the district website www.sundargarh.nic.in. The bidder should be a "C" & "B" Class contractor. They have to submit the bid document to the undersigned in the address of "Office of the BDO, Koira, AT/ P.O.: Koira, PIN - 770048, Dist.: Sundargarh (Odisha)" through Registered Post/Speed Post only on or before 31.07.2024 (upto 05.00 P.M.). The sale of tender paper will be available from dated 12.07.2024 to 26.07.2024 in the district website www.sundargarh.nic.in. The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. The tender will be opened on dated 02.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or his/her representatives.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Koira
OIPR-19341/11/0002/2425

FOCUS HEALTHCARE

WHAT AILS OUR DOCS?



We need to make sure that all those becoming doctors have both knowledge and skills, and the empathy that a doctor requires

are saved? A week ago a woman with eclampsia was referred from one of our clinic areas to Udaipur, a distance of 120 km. When she reached the hospital, she had been having seizures for over 3 hours and was barely conscious. That she was saved owes a lot to the prompt treatment she received from the gynaecologists and nurses. In different news media, such stories do need to be featured. These will have a significant impact, both on how doctors view themselves and their profession, as well as how society views them.

Two stories doing the rounds at present are around the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and the kidney transplant racket. Let us go back - when was the last time we talked about the appalling conditions in which our young doctors/doctors-in-the-making study - the hostels they live in, food they eat, their abnormally long duty rosters? When did we celebrate stories of lives they save day after day? We remember well the stellar roles our doctors played during the COVID pandemic.

We need to keep telling such stories. The absence of such stories and constant presence of not so positive ones creates a disquiet which can be dangerous. A few years ago in a hospital in central Rajasthan, in a complicated delivery the woman died. The immediate backlash from the media and the (expected) pressure from the family was not unexpected. But the tragedy that followed was not expected, and heartbreaking: the doctor under the spotlight could not take the strain and ended her life.

The situation in our country today is a wake up call. As we start rebuilding our healthcare, it would be worthwhile to not pick up fragments but to see it as a whole.

The writer is a doctor and co-founder of Basic Healthcare Services, a Rajasthan-based non-profit that runs primary healthcare centres.

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Sanjana Brahmawar Mohan

EVEN WITH THE POOR QUALITY OF TEACHING IN INDIAN MEDICAL COLLEGES, THERE IS A WIDE DISCONNECT BETWEEN FOREIGN-EDUCATED DOCTORS AND LOCAL ONES

There is a growing voice on the "commercialisation" of healthcare, with stories surfacing time and again - the recent reports around kidney transplantation being a case in point. Partly in response to the situation it seems, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita came into force this Doctors Day, with a provision of jail terms for doctors if found guilty of negligence. The many errors in the NEEET examination and postponement of the PG entrance exams have brought the country's attention to medical education. As we start rebuilding the examination processes it will be pertinent to see what more needs to be done so that our doctors are on top of their work.

In our decade long work of providing primary healthcare in rural tribal Rajasthan we have worked with a large number of young doctors and interacted with many more working across government Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs). We have also conducted several workshops for doctors to sensitise them to the realities of rural India. Based on these we share a few priorities that need to be addressed.

There is a popular lament that MBBS doctors of yesteryear knew a lot more about medicine than the present-day ones, and could "see" patients independently. Many of us will remember doctors visiting our homes with a briefcase, seeing the sick, and providing treatment there and then. They have all but disappeared. There was a lot of rigour in medical college teaching with teachers fully invested in their students, and knowing each one personally. Classes were held as per schedule.

This rigour is weakening. In the rural sensitisation workshops, many doctors spoke of their presence at the college not mattering, of "studying at home" and staying away for weeks together. They lamented that their teachers have little time for them - "people are all mouths,

not ears," is something we hear frequently. "Your business is to treat patients, not to be empathetic" - a senior gynaecologist had once chided one of them.

We also hear the other side of the story, from private medical colleges. The doctors-in-the-making come from very rich families, go around in fancy cars, with little interest in their classes. Many of them have established nursing homes/hospitals to go back to on completion. At times the management also pressures teachers, to clear (and not detain) them.

A third group that is growing fast, are students who complete their medical education in China/Russia/other east European countries. Even with the poor quality of teaching in the Indian medical colleges, there is a wide disconnect between foreign-educated doctors and local ones. There is no clear flow of information when talking to patients, also a lack of knowledge of many of the basics of medicine.

This cannot go on. We need to make sure that all those becoming doctors have both the knowledge and skills, and the empathy that a doctor requires.

Some months ago, one of our doctors received a call from a friend - a doctor working at a PHC. He had just diagnosed a patient with malaria and was calling to inquire what treatment to give. For doctors working on a standalone basis, this need for

guidance is to be expected: in a day they could be seeing many infections (TB, malaria, others), non-communicable diseases, pregnant women with complications, while also suturing people with road traffic accidents, and conducting deliveries.

This need got a number of us doctors working in different parts of India, to come together as a group. We post our questions in the group, or call up an expert for guidance: how do you manage fluctuating blood sugar in a young woman with diabetes? How do you treat malaria in a pregnant woman? We meet online once a week - to share new knowledge, case studies, and also ask questions. Interacting with doctors working across PHCs in rural areas and also in hospitals in cities, we see they have few peers/ seniors to turn to, when in doubt. We need systems for doctors to get answers to their questions, and to make sure they stay up to date with new knowledge - not necessarily coming from the drug companies. There is talk of introducing examinations for renewing registration. This will help, but we need to do more.

What are the kinds of news that keep feeding our news channels and social media? At present it is a lot about India winning the World Cup, and a celebrity marriage. Stories of likely misconduct, such as the kidney transplant stories get attention, but what about ones where lives

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

What to make of Russia-North Korea bloc



Yoon Young-kwan

THE WEST SHOULD FOCUS ON LEVERAGING THE STRATEGIC INCONGRUENCE BETWEEN CHINA, RUSSIA, AND NORTH KOREA

Not content with disturbing the peace in Europe, Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong-un. As troubling to China's leaders as it is to Western officials, the deal is shaking up the geopolitics of Northeast Asia and sending reverberations around the world.

Despite the strategic unease that Putin has provoked, the West must be careful neither to overestimate nor underestimate the treaty's importance. The reasons for Putin's recent trip to Pyongyang - his first visit in 24 years - were deeply pragmatic. Russia urgently needs North Korean ammunition, weapons, and labourers to continue waging its war against Ukraine; and North Korea, as isolated as ever, longs for diplomatic support, as well as energy, food, cash, and sensitive military technologies of the kind that only the Kremlin can provide. For Kim, Russian military technologies are particularly important, because they could enable North Korean nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missiles to survive re-entry

into Earth's atmosphere and hit any target in the world without being intercepted by missile-defense systems. Moreover, if North Korea can produce quiet nuclear submarines with Russia's help, they would pose a major security risk not just to South Korea and Japan, but also to the United States.

If Russia does provide such sensitive technologies to North Korea, it will upend the military balance on the Korean Peninsula and across Northeast Asia. But a major limitation might prevent Russia from doing so: the incongruity between China's global strategy and those of Russia and North Korea.

China's highest strategic priority is winning the global competition against the US. Its leaders want to replace the US-led unipolar international system with a Chinese-dominated multipolar arrangement, and have tried to drive wedges between the US and its allies, hoping to pull some into its own orbit. China has refrained from providing direct military assistance to Russia, despite their "no-limits" partnership, precisely because it wants to avoid driving European countries fully into America's arms.

Similarly, China has been pursuing more amiable diplomatic relations with South Korea, including by participating in a trilateral South Korea-Japan-China summit in Seoul in May, where it voiced its commitment to the "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." By contrast, Russia's most urgent concern is winning the war it started.

In the meantime, Kim will be desperate to get his hands on the highly sensitive Russian military technologies he craves. His primary goal is to establish North Korea as a de facto nuclear state that the international community will just have to accept. Of course, if Russia does succumb to North Korean pressure and gives Kim the technologies he wants, the US-Japanese-South Korean partnership will grow stronger. There would be more frequent joint military exercises, and more US strategic assets allocated to the peninsula. South Korean public opinion might also shift further toward supporting a domestic nuclear weapons programme or redeploying US tactical nuclear weapons on South Korean territory. These developments would be counter

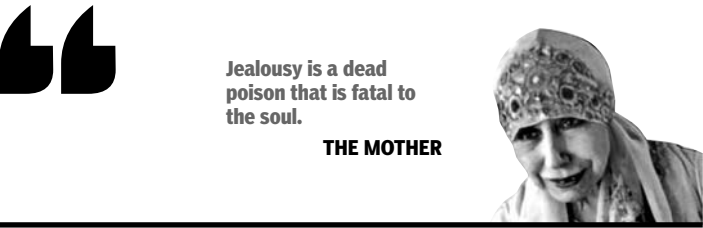
to China's strategic interests.

Despite appearing to be sidelined from the Russia-North Korea strategic marriage, China holds significant leverage over both smaller powers. China's economy is about nine times larger than Russia's and more than a thousand times the size of North Korea's. Russia probably could not continue fighting in Ukraine if China stopped purchasing Russian energy exports or stopped providing dual-use materials. Likewise, the North Korean economy simply cannot survive without Chinese food, energy, and trade. Given these dynamics, the West should focus on leveraging the strategic incongruence between China, Russia, and North Korea.

Chinese and US strategic interests overlap far more on the Korean Peninsula than they do in Ukraine or the Middle East. Both want stability in the region, which suggests that diplomacy toward that end has a real chance of success if both countries make the effort.

The writer is a former minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Korea.

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Jealousy is a dead poison that is fatal to the soul.

THE MOTHER

Nepal Roulette

When a country is forced to get 14 governments in the span of 16 years, it shows it has a poor, dysfunctional democracy in which political parties seem to be interested more in feathering their own nests than working for the well-being of the people who elect them to rule. This is the fate of democracy in Nepal that abolished a 239-year-old monarchy in 2008 and embraced parliamentary democracy. Now, it is set for a new coalition government led by KP Sharma Oli after the ultra-Left Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal lost a parliamentary vote of confidence. It marked the end of a tumultuous 20-month tenure during which he had faced no-confidence five times, including the last one. He had survived the previous tests by frequently changing his allies to cling to power with his party, Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) having even the lowest tally among the three main contenders.

Dahal was forced to either resign or prove his majority in parliament after his largest ally, the liberal Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), led by Oli, withdrew support last week. Oli is an old player who also knows the tricks or the art of forming coalitions to hang on to power. He has been Prime Minister thrice before. Now, as he is sworn in, he gets the stint for the fourth time. He struck a deal with the centrist Nepali Congress (NC) only a few weeks back. This gives him enough seats for a majority. According to this deal, Oli is to remain PM for half of the remaining term, while the former five-time PM Sher Bahadur Deuba of the NC will replace him for the rest of the period. Nepal's next general elections are due in 2027.

Dahal needed at least 138 votes in the 275-member house to retain power. His fate was sealed after he parted company with Oli. In the end, a total of 63 of the 258 lawmakers present in the chambers voted for him, 194 voted against, and one abstained. In his third term as prime minister, which began in December 2022, Dahal changed his main coalition partner three times.

Just as his final fall was predictable with the NC and the CPN (UML) joining hands, so also was his criticism ahead of the vote on no-confidence that Oli's coalition was against "democratic practice." NC is the largest party in parliament and CPN (UML) is the second largest. He expressed fear that the new government may turn regressive and authoritarian. Such high sounding words do not mean much in Nepal politics as the country remains an inchoate democracy.

Nepal's politics is closely monitored by both India and China. India is likely to gain as long as NC influences the government policies, whereas China prefers a Communist government in place to serve its interests. Oli is an astute leader who previously maintained a fine balance between the two giant Himalayan neighbours, though he is tilted towards China to decrease Nepal's dependence on New Delhi.

Nepal has for the past one and a half decade been plagued by a revolving door of ageing prime ministers and a culture of horse-trading has fuelled public perceptions that the government is out of touch with Nepal's pressing problems. Though Oli is an old face in parliament, he is confronted with new challenges. Observers are now keeping a watch on whether the new government will be more democratic and work well for the Nepali people or could it turn autocratic since the two alliance partners have between them the strength of numbers.

WISDOM CORNER

The man who acquires the ability to take full possession of his own mind may take possession of anything else to which he is justly entitled.

ANDREW CARNEGIE

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.

CARL JUNG

Time changes everything except something within us which is always surprised by change.

THOMAS HARDY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1935: The world's first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; the device, which sought to ease congestion, was designed by Carl C. Magee.

1945: First atomic bomb exploded near Alamogordo, New Mexico. The United States tested the first atomic bomb this day in 1945 near Alamogordo, New Mexico, and the following month dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, hastening the end of World War II.

1951: The Catcher in the Rye is published. The book, written by J.D. Salinger is considered to be one of the top 100 works of fiction of the 20th century.

1965: The Mont Blanc Tunnel officially opened, linking France and Italy; at the time, it was the world's longest vehicular tunnel, spanning 7.3 miles (11.7 km).

1969: Apollo 11 lifted off from NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida, and four days later two of its astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, became the first humans to set foot on the Moon.

1979: Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq, and his brutal rule, which lasted 24 years, was marked by costly and unsuccessful wars with neighbouring countries as well as atrocities against the Iraqi people. Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, the fourth president of Iraq, resigned from his post citing health reasons and promoted his Vice President, Saddam Hussein to the post of President.

1981 Mahathir bin Mohamad takes office for the first time. Mohamad, took office as the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia and remained in the position until 2003, becoming Malaysia's longest serving prime minister and Asia's longest serving politician.

LOL

ROOKIE ON THE JOB

A rookie police officer was out for his first ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came in telling them to disperse some people who were loitering. The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner. The rookie rolled down his window and said, "Let's get off the corner people." A few glances, but no one moved, so



he barked again, "Let's get off that corner... NOW!" Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled stares in his direction. Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?" "Pretty good," chuckled the vet, "especially since this is a bus stop."

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Zero-sum politics

Sir, This refers to "Trump faces gun," Orissa POST, July 15. The attempted assassination of Donald Trump by a gunman confirms that the US is the land of guns in which the atmosphere is vitiated by the incendiary nature of political rhetoric in highly polarised times. It's a no-brainer that having firearms so easily available is a recipe for a weapon reaching the wrong hands. But in its wisdom, America finds the theory of self-defence trumping the practice of threat of a bullet. About 4 out of 10 US adults live in a household owning a gun. This includes 32% who acknowledge owning a firearm. It's believed owning a gun increases safety by allowing law abiding citizens to protect themselves. At best, this exposes a society distrustful of its own law and order capabilities. At worst, it tells us of a society where discontent is weaponised. True, assassinations also happen in countries with tightly gun control. But without doubt, it's a far more dangerous society that chooses to freely wield guns than those where it's difficult to carry them. This moment serves a warning not just to America, but also to democracies across the world, against a zero-sum politics in which campaigning is a bloodsport, where both sides see it as a fight to finish and where the winner must take all.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

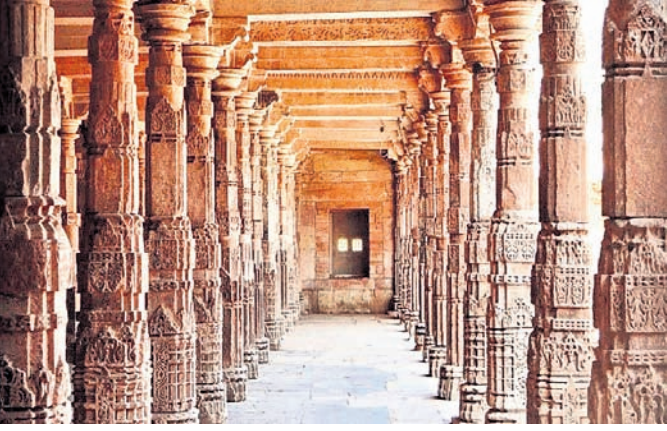
Bilateral ties

Sir, India's "Vishwa Bandhu" image was reiterated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while interacting with the Indian diaspora during his two-day Austria tour. Modi and Chancellor Karl Nehammer emphasised on a quick end to the Ukraine war and establishment of peace in West Asia. Both the nations rightly agreed upon areas of robust infrastructural partnership, innovation, renewable energy, water and waste management, artificial intelligence and smart cities' development. As averred by the PM it's on democracy, freedom, liberty, multilingualism and rule of law that the bilateral relationship is firmly glued. Modi's Vienna visit came at an appropriate time because it was in 1949—exactly 75 years ago—that a diplomatic relation was entrenched between the two countries.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

ASI submits Bhojshala survey report to MP HC

THE HIGH COURT WILL HEAR THE CASE JULY 22



Indore, July 15: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Monday submitted its scientific survey report of the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maulla mosque complex to the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court.

ASI's counsel Himanshu Joshi handed over the report, which runs into more than 2,000 pages, to the HC's registry. "I have submitted the report. The HC will hear the case July 22," Joshi told PTI over phone. The HC had, March 11, ordered the ASI to conduct a scientific survey of the complex, in the state's Dhar district, on an application by 'Hindu Front for

The Hindu community considers Bhojshala as a temple of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati), while the Muslim side calls it Kamal Maulla mosque

Justice' and had given the premier agency six weeks for the task.

The ASI, which started the survey March 22, approached the HC two times to seek extension to complete it.

Earlier, April 29, the HC had given ASI eight more weeks to complete the survey and had asked it to submit the report by

July 2. However, the agency had moved a plea seeking a four week-extension.

The HC, July 4, ordered the ASI to present by July 15 the complete report of the nearly three-month-long survey on the premises of the disputed 11th-century monument, the subject of a wrangle between Hindus and Muslims.

The Hindu community considers Bhojshala as a temple of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati), while the Muslim side calls it Kamal Maulla mosque.

The ASI had issued an order April 7, 2003, concerning access to the monument after a controversy erupted.

As per the order, which has been in place for the last 21 years, Hindus are allowed to worship in the Bhojshala Tuesdays, while Muslims can offer namaz at the place Fridays.

The Hindu Front for Justice has challenged this arrangement in its petition.

The Supreme Court refused to stay the scientific survey of Bhojshala but said no action should be taken without its permission on the outcome of the exercise April 1.

The apex court's direction came on a plea filed by the Maulana Kamaluddin Welfare Society challenging the March 11 order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on the scientific survey.



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other members during the Assembly session, in Bangalore, Monday

AI cameras to monitor legislators' attendance

The initiative is part of the effort to improve the attendance of legislators and their participation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 15: Artificial Intelligence-enabled cameras with facial recognition technology have now been installed in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly that will record arrival and exit time of members, as well as the duration of their presence in the House.

KGF Congress MLA Roopakala Shashidhar was the first legislator to be recorded by the cameras on arrival at the Assembly for the monsoon session, which began today as the new system became operational.

The first MLA to be captured exiting was Tiptur's Shadakshari

of Congress.

Speaker UT Khader noted that there is a practice of recognising MLAs who come early to the Assembly before the quorum bells are rung and their names are read out in appreciation by the Chair. "Some senior legislators like Araga Jnanendra, Basangouda Patil Yatnal (of BJP) and some senior Ministers had made a request that some legislators, despite coming a bit late, sit through the proceedings till six or eight (PM), but no one takes note of it and it is an injustice," the Speaker said.

He added "So, for the first time we have installed Artificial Intelligence cameras, which will

take note of - what time a member arrives and leaves, and for how long he or she was present in the Assembly. Information regarding this comes to the Assembly Secretary's system by the end of the day. There will be data." According to officials, the initiative is part of the effort to improve attendance of legislators and their participation during the session.

Meanwhile, aimed at giving a facelift to the Vidhana Soudha, the seat of state legislature and secretariat here, gates at the west entrance of the Assembly hall has been renovated in the first phase, replacing iron grided gates with a large and carved

grand rosewood door.

It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today along with a plaque having the preamble of the constitution.

The Speaker said "there is national and international respect for our Vidhana Soudha building. National and international level delegations and tourists come to Vidhana Soudha. It is our duty to make it look good and respectable from both inside and outside. This is the first phase, more work has to be done, I seek your (members) suggestions."

Siddaramaiah, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and other legislators complimented the Speaker for the initiative.

Defence MoS flags off driverless metro train



This trainset is the 55th to be supplied to the Mumbai Metro Rail Metropolitan Authority for operation on Line 2 and Line 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 15: Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth Monday flagged off a new driverless MRS-1 Metro trainset at BEML's Bangalore plant, marking another milestone in the achievements of BEML's rail business division, officials said. This trainset is the 55th to be supplied to the Mumbai Metro Rail Metropolitan Authority for operation on Line 2 and Line 7, they said.

In a statement, BEML said that it secured the order amidst stiff global competition for the design, manufacture, supply, testing, commissioning, and

training of 96 trainsets (6-car trainsets) of standard gauge Metro cars, valued at approximately ₹4,319 crore.

Seth emphasised the significance of indigenously developed metro rail systems in enhancing urban mobility and further stated, "BEML's contribution to the 'Make in India' initiative is commendable. The driverless metro trainset symbolises our nation's growing capabilities in manufacturing advanced transportation solutions."

Shantanu Roy, CMD of BEML Limited expressed his appreciation for the ministry's continued support and reiterated the company's commitment to delivering quality products. "Our team at BEML is proud to contribute to the nation's infrastructure development. We are committed to excellence and innovation in all our endeavours," he said.

In the statement, the company said that during the design stage, BEML ensured that the Metro train is optimised for maximum passenger comfort, safety, and energy efficiency, meeting stringent global standards. The 6-car trainset has a capacity to carry 2,306 passengers, with seating for 298 passengers.

K'taka to remain driving force behind GCC space

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 15: Karnataka government and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), in collaboration with a business consulting firm, ANSR, unveiled the much awaited Karnataka GCC Landscape Report Monday here.

This comprehensive report unveiled by Information Technology Minister Priyank Kharge delves into the state's thriving GCC (Global Capability Centres) ecosystem, highlighting its growth trajectory, impact, and future potential.

"Karnataka has been the leading force in India's digital revolution, with GCCs serving as a key driver for the state's growth trajectory. We are implementing strategic interventions and facilitators to establish a resilient business and operational ecosystem for GCCs. We are coming up with the first GCC Policy in India to better support the GCCs looking to start operations in Karnataka," Kharge said.

"I am confident that insights from this report will provide a clear and enlightening statement of our accomplishments so far and outline our future plans to benefit the GCC industry," he said.

According to the official state-



ment, the Karnataka government has introduced incentives, regulations, and new policies supporting GCC setups in both Bangalore and emerging tech clusters such as Mysuru, Hubballi, and Mangaluru. These measures are poised to attract the next wave of enterprises aiming to enhance their digital capabilities.

"GCCs are currently in a phase characterised by an accelerated, qualitative leap forward, with a focus on innovation, efficiency, and strategic alignment with enterprise objectives. They strive to cultivate exceptional talent pools and foster impactful partnerships within the ecosystem to drive unprecedented organisational success -- Karnataka offers the perfect environment for both. We are excited to part-

ner with KDEM on this insightful report," said Lalit Ahuja, Founder and CEO, ANSR.

Karnataka's commitment to innovation and talent development makes it an ideal location for enterprises seeking to establish

or expand their GCCs. The report provides valuable insights for organisations looking to leverage Karnataka's strengths and drive exceptional business outcomes, he said.

According to Ekroop Caur, Secretary to Government, Electronics, IT, BT and ST, the upcoming GCC policy, currently being drafted with the support of industry leaders, academicians, entrepreneurs, and various other stakeholders, will help retain Karnataka's leading position in the global GCC ecosystem.

"This report validates our standpoint and showcases Karnataka's prowess in attracting GCCs to the state," she said.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Bangalore remains the hotspot for GCC buildouts, a hub for startups and the preferred choice for platform engineering, owing to the access to "25 per cent of India's digital talent"

As much as 60 per cent of the Forbes Global 2000 companies who have GCCs in India have their centres set up in Bangalore

Karnataka is home to over 570 GCCs in India and leads the GCC talent market by a large margin. It's also the hotspot for enterprise-building digital capabilities, software product innovation and platform engineering

Bangalore is the world's 2nd largest hub for AI talent pool. It is now being recognised as a Global AI hub and by the year 2030, Karnataka could host around 330 Forbes 2000 enterprises. This trend is driven by India's increasing prominence as the global GCC hub

MP to observe 2025 as 'industry year': CM Yadav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, July 15: Madhya Pradesh will observe 2025 as "industry year" and various programmes will be held to promote investment, including a global investors summit in Bhopal, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said Monday.

The state government is fully committed to extend complete cooperation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047, when it celebrates 100 years of Independence, the CM said at a press conference here.

"To promote investment in the state, the government has decided to observe 2025 as industry year. Regional industry conclaves, round table meets with industrialists and roadshows will be held as pre-events ahead of the Global Investors Summit in Bhopal next year," he said.



The Global Investors Summit-2025 on the theme 'Madhya Pradesh: The Future Ready State' will be held in Bhopal February 7-8, he added.

In the regional industry conclave in Ujjain held March 1-2, industrialists have committed an investment of ₹1 lakh crore, with Pranav Adani of the Adani Group committing ₹75,000 crore, Yadav said.

"In the Mumbai roadshow held July 13, nearly 450 investors took part, including Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group chairman and managing director Anil Ambani who committed ₹50,000 crore in investments in Singrauli and other districts. Investors also committed ₹1,150 crore in the tourism sector. All these will generate more than one lakh jobs," the CM said.

The next regional industry conclave will be held July 20 in Jabalpur, in which more than 1500 investors are likely to take part, he said, adding that a 'buyer seller meet' during this event will have 1000 industrial representatives attending.

Shah congratulates Indore for setting tree plantation record

EARLIER IN THE DAY, UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH PARTICIPATED IN THE 'EK PED MAE KE NAAM' CAMPAIGN AND PLANTED A SAPLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, July 15: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has congratulated Indore for setting a Guinness World Record of "the most trees planted by a team in 24 hours" and said Mother Earth is smiling at the city.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Sunday said that Indore, already the cleanest city in India and MP's economic capital, has now achieved the world record of planting more than 11 lakh saplings in a single day.

Yadav in a post on X shared the Guinness World Records certificate and pictures of receiving it. Earlier on Sunday, Union minister Shah participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and planted a sapling in Indore.

"Congratulations, Indore! The city of Indore has set a surreal world record by planting 12 lakhs saplings in a day under PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's campaign



'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. They have set an example that will be followed by millions in the years to come. Mother Earth is smiling at Indore," Shah said in a post on X late Sunday night.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign June 5 to mark World Environment Day.

Under the drive, approximately 140 crore trees will be planted

across the country, including 5.5 crore in Madhya Pradesh, which Shah has described as the "lungs of Bharat".

Indore, which has been recognised as the country's cleanest

city for several years as per the Swachh Survekshan, will see 51 lakh saplings planted during this campaign, as per officials.

The plantation drive was carried out at the BSF Academy's

The plantation drive was carried out at the BSF Academy's Revati Range, which was divided into nine zones and 100 sub-zones

Besides 2,000 BSF jawans, more than 100 NRIs, NCC cadets from 50 schools, a large number of citizens, and members of various social organisations participated in the plantation drive

Revati Range, which was divided into nine zones and 100 sub-zones. Besides 2,000 BSF jawans, more than 100 NRIs, NCC cadets from 50 schools, a large number of citizens, and members of various social organisations participated in the plantation drive, officials earlier said.

According to the Guinness World Record website, the previous record for the most saplings planted in 24 hours was 9,21,730. It was achieved by the Assam (India) government's Forest Department at Udalguri September 13 and 14, 2023.

national

of the day quote

The BJP must introspect now as the Congress which had won 40 seats in 2022 Assembly polls has again attained the 40-seat mark after by-elections in nine Assembly constituencies

MUKESH AGNIHOTRI | HP DEPUTY CM

BJP has won all five Lok Sabha seats in Uttarakhand for the third time in a row because of your hard work. It is a victory of your dedication to the party and the public welfare schemes launched by the Narendra Modi government over the past 10 years

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI | U'KHAND CM

National Education Policy 2020 brought by the Prime Minister will contribute to this goal

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Jaishankar meets German diplomat

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday held talks with Germany's state secretary of foreign office Thomas Bagger with a focus on German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to India in October. Bagger also met NSA Ajit Doval and Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, and co-chaired foreign office consultations with foreign secretary Vikram Misri. The German state secretary is currently on a visit to India, primarily to prepare grounds for Scholz's planned trip in October to attend the seventh India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC). "Good to meet Dr. Thomas Bagger, State Secretary in German Federal Foreign Office. Noted the progress made in the India-Germany strategic partnership," Jaishankar said on 'X'.

Flood situation improves in Assam

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam continued to improve as the count of affected people reduced to 5.11 lakh in 17 districts Monday, an official bulletin said. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said two deaths were reported from Dhubri and one from Nagaon in the last 24 hours. With this, the toll in this year's flood, landslide and storm mounted to 112.

Trial run of mohalla bus service kicks off

New Delhi: The trial run of the Delhi government's mohalla bus service commenced Monday on two routes and will continue for a week, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said. At a press conference, he said there will be 2,080 buses under the scheme and the government plans to introduce all by 2025. Of these, 1,040 will be operated by the DTC and the rest by DIMTS, the minister said. The fare will be the same as AC buses of the Delhi government and women can avail free rides using Pink passes.

600 PUC centres shut

New Delhi: Several people visiting PUC centres at petrol pumps for pollution certificates for their vehicles had to return empty-handed as around 600 such centres across 400 petrol pumps here were closed Monday as part of a strike called by petrol dealers and pump owners to voice dissatisfaction with the Delhi government's proposed hike in the pollution-certificate charges. However, transport department officials said the strike did not have much of an impact.



BJP and JD(S) leaders, I have an answer for every word of yours. It's not like lying before the media so far, standing somewhere far away and shooting a bullet in the air

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

HEAVY RAINS LASH KERALA

Incessant downpour accompanied by gusty winds continued to batter several parts of Kerala, prompting authorities to declare a holiday for educational institutions in seven districts Monday



Money Bills: SC may set up Constitutional Bench

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The Supreme Court Monday agreed to consider a suggestion for setting up a constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act by the Modi government as money bills allegedly to bypass the Rajya Sabha where it was in a minority.

The BJP currently has 86 MPs and the ruling NDA 101 in the 245-member Rajya Sabha where the majority mark is 123.

The passage of bills like the Aadhaar Act and even amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as money bills, apparently to circumvent the Rajya Sabha when the NDA did not have a majority there, has been at the centre of a major political and legal row.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh is one of the petitioners who have challenged the passage of the Aadhaar Act of 2016 as money Bill under Article 110 of the Constitution. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra Monday that the pleadings are complete and the petitions needed to be listed for hearing.

Sibal said since the matter is already there in the list of scheduled constitution bench hearings, such a bench should be created on a priority basis. "I will take the call when I form the constitution benches," the CJI told him. Later in the day, the Congress welcomed the top court's decision agreeing to consider setting up a constitution bench to hear the pleas. The party hoped a final verdict would

A money bill is a piece of legislation which can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it

The Upper House can only make recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the Lower House



The Congress welcomed the top court's decision agreeing to consider setting up a constitution bench to hear the pleas

come before Chandrachud retires in November this year. Earlier, the top court had said it would constitute a seven-judge bench to consider the issue of validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act as a money Bill.

A money Bill is a piece of legislation which can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it. The Upper House can only make recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the Lower House.

A bench headed by the CJI had earlier said all pending seven-judge bench matters will be listed October 12 last year for procedural directions. In November 2019, a five-judge bench of the apex court had referred to a larger bench the issue of examining the validity

of the passage of the Finance Act, 2017 as a money Bill. "The issue and question of Money Bill, as defined under Article 110(1) of the Constitution, and certification accorded by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in respect of Part-XIV of the Finance Act, 2017 is referred to a larger Bench," it had said. The five-judge bench had then struck down in entirety the rules governing the appointment and service conditions of the members of various tribunals that formed part of the Finance Act.

Earlier, another bench of the top court, while upholding the constitutional validity of PMLA, had kept the issue of passage of the amendments to it as a money Bill open for adjudication by a larger bench. In the Aadhaar judgement, the top court had upheld the validity of passage of the law as a money Bill. However, Justice Chandrachud, the present CJI, had penned a dissenting judgement and called designating the Aadhaar legislation as a money Bill a "fraud on the Constitution".

Police complaint against Yuvraj, 3 other ex-cricketers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: A police complaint has been filed against former cricketers Harbhajan Singh, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh and Gurkeerat Mann for allegedly mocking people with disabilities in a video that was uploaded on Instagram.

Following an uproar over the video, Harbhajan Singh posted a clarification on 'X', saying there was no intention to insult anyone. The complaint was lodged by Arman Ali, the executive director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), with the SHO of the Amar Colony police station here.

Besides the cricketers, the complaint has also been filed against Sandhya Devanathan, the vice president and managing director of Meta India. In the complaint, social media platform Instagram, which is owned by Meta, has been accused of violating the Information Technology Act, 2000, by allowing such content to be posted.

A police officer said the complaint was received at the Amar Colony police station and it will be shared with the cyber cell of the district for further probe into the matter. The former cricketers shared the video on Instagram after India Champions beat Pakistan Champions by five wickets in the World Championship of Legends final.

In the video, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Raina are seen limping and holding their backs to show the physical toll taken by the matches on their bodies. "Body ki Tauba Tauba ho Gayi in 15 days legends cricket... Every part of the body is sore. Straight competition to our brothers @vickykaushal09 @karanaujla our version of Tauba Tauba dance. What a SONG," the caption of the video read.

Top court setback for Shivakumar in CBI case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: In a setback to Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, the Supreme Court Monday dismissed a petition filed by him challenging the CBI's FIR against the Congress leader in the disproportionate assets (DA) case.

A bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma said it was not inclined to interfere with the Karnataka High Court order. "Sorry. Dismissed," the bench said.

As the hearing commenced, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Shivakumar, submitted that the investigation in the matter started without obtaining the sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Rohatgi said there cannot be a CBI FIR for the same transaction when the Income Tax (IT) department is already investigating the matter.

The bench, however, declined to entertain the matter. The top court was hearing a plea filed by Shivakumar against the October 19, 2023 order of the high court which rejected his plea. The high court had directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conclude the investigation and file the report within three months. The CBI alleged that Shivakumar

The CBI has alleged that Shivakumar amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income between 2013 and 2018

amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income between 2013 and 2018. He was a minister in the previous Congress government during this period.

The FIR was filed by the CBI September 3, 2020. Shivakumar challenged the FIR in the high court in 2021. The IT department had conducted a search and seizure operation in the offices and residence of Shivakumar in 2017, based on which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) started its own probe against him.

Based on the ED investigation, the CBI sought sanction from the state government to file an FIR against him. The sanction was granted by the state government September 25, 2019 and the FIR was filed a year later. Shivakumar had challenged the sanction granted by the state in a separate petition which was dismissed by the high court earlier.

Akal Takht Jathedar summons SAD chief

After SAD's Parliament poll defeat, several rebel leaders of the party appeared before the Akal Takht July 1 and made serious allegations against Sukhbir Singh Badal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, July 15: Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh Monday asked SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal to appear in person before the Akal Takht to submit a written explanation on rebel leaders' accusations that "he did not represent the sentiments of the panth".

Besides, a clarification has also been sought from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) regarding the allegations levelled by some Akali leaders on spending ₹90 lakh on advertisements. The jathedar issued a statement after a marathon meeting of five Sikh high priests which was held here. "As per a complaint received by the Akal

Takht Sahib from some senior leaders of the Akali Dal, the president of the Shiromani Akali Dal did not represent the sentiments of the 'panth'. Therefore, the SAD president has been asked to personally appear before the Akal Takht Sahib to give a written explanation of the accusations within 15 days."

"Clarification has been sought from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee with regard to accusations levelled by some Akali leaders about spending ₹90 lakh on advertisements," said the statement issued by the Akal Takht, which is the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Meanwhile, replying to a question on the jathedar asking Badal to give his explanation, rebel Akali leader Gurpartap Singh Wadala hailed it and said in Chandigarh, "The Sikh community expects from them (five Sikh high priests) that they will take a right decision which is acceptable to everyone and it is as per Sikh tenets."



INNOVATIVE SCHEME: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin offers food to a student during the launch of expansion of the breakfast scheme for primary school children to state-aided private schools in rural regions, in Thiruvallur. The scheme's expansion also marks the birth anniversary of late Chief Minister K Kamaraj, which is observed as 'Kalvi Valarchi Naal,' (Education Development Day) by the state government

PTI PHOTO

1st toll-free anti-narcotics helpline all set to be launched

THE HELPLINE NAMED 'MANAS' WILL BE ROLLED OUT DURING THE SEVENTH APEX-LEVEL MEETING OF THE NARCO-COORDINATION CENTRE (NCORD) TO BE HELD JULY 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The first-ever national toll-free telephonic helpline - 1933 - along with an email is expected to be launched this week by Union Home Minister Amit Shah that will allow any person to tip off the NCB about narcotics crimes and related issues, official sources said Monday.



Shah will chair the meeting that will have participants and officers from central and state anti-narcotics agencies and departments, special bureaus and police. "The toll-free number for MANAS (National Narcotics helpline) will be 1933 along with an email - info.ncbmanas@gov.in. The tips can be submitted by logging on the website - ncbmanas.gov.in. Shah will launch

these links June 18," a senior officer told PTI. This exclusive portal is dedicated to addressing a range of issues regarding drug-related matters including drug trafficking, illegal sale, purchase, storage, manufacturing and illicit cultivation of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, according to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

MANAS stands for 'Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra' or narcotics prohibition intelligence centre

The helpline aims to establish a user-friendly platform for every citizen to conveniently report drug-related matters 24x7

related crime and seek help regarding rehabilitation and counselling using the MANAS helpline.

The establishment of India's first-ever helpline to check drugs trafficking and related crimes was in the works since 2021 when Shah chaired the third NCORD meeting in the national capital and directed the authorities to bring out a unified portal and helpline number.

Earlier, according to officials, members of the public could call a landline number 011-26761000 and email ddge-ncb@nic.in and adenf-ncb@nic.in. However, this NCB helpline was not manned at all times and hence a need arose to have a national number, email and portal, the officer said. The home minister, during the Thursday meeting, will also inaugurate the NCB zonal office in Srinagar via a video conferencing link.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE TURNS VIOLENT AT VISHALGAD FORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolhapur/Mumbai, July 15: The anti-encroachment drive at Vishalgad Fort in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district turned violent as a mob hurled stones at police personnel and damaged properties, leading to the registration of cases against 500 people and the arrest of 21 others, police said Monday.

Violence erupted Sunday after some right-wing activists led by Maratha royal and former MP Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, who had come from Pune, were stopped at the base of the fort in view of prohibitory orders.

"Police personnel deputed at the fort to maintain law and order were injured as miscreants hurled stones and damaged public property following protests by the right-wing organisation. We have received reports of arson," an official said.

Police have registered four cases against more than 500 people, including political leaders, and arrested 21 people, the official said, adding that a search is on for others.

The anti-encroachment drive resumed Monday amid tight security in the presence of district administration officials.

"A total of 35 shops and houses were demolished Monday," an official said, adding that the drive will continue Tuesday.

Chhatrapati Sambhajiraje, who led the march Sunday, had demanded that all encroachments be removed irrespective of the caste and religion of illegal occupants.

Prohibitory orders have been issued under relevant sections of the Maharashtra Police Act 1951 from July 15 to July 29 at the fort.

The fort holds profound significance in Maratha history as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj escaped to it after being besieged at Panhala Fort in 1660.

In 1844, Vishalgad was ruled by the Kolhapur State when a rebellion was led against a Brahmin regent who had been installed by the British when the natural heir to the throne was underage.

of the day quote

It is gratifying that currently, electricity is supplied without discrimination. Especially during the intense heat, additional efforts were made to ensure convenience for the public, with round-the-clock electricity provided statewide from March 15 to June 30

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

The NITI Aayog published the report and mentioned that Assam is one of the fastest-growing states in the country

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The Opposition is ready to support the government if they tell us exactly how they are going to resolve the OBC-Maratha quota issue

AMBADAS DANVE | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

X POST OF THE DAY

228 kg of gold has gone missing from Kedarnath, press did not raise the issue, no investigation has taken place: alleges

Shankaracharya Avimuktshwaranand Saraswati

SHORT TAKES

WB govt reinstates Rajeev Kumar as DGP

Kolkata: The West Bengal government Monday reinstated Rajeev Kumar as the Director General of Police (DGP), replacing Sanjoy Mukherjee, an official statement said. Additionally, Kumar will continue in his current role as the Additional Chief Secretary in the department of Information Technology and Electronics. Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission (EC) initially appointed Vivek Sahay as the DGP March 18, replacing Kumar.

EAM to pay 2-day visit to Mauritius

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay a two-day visit to Mauritius beginning Tuesday with an aim to explore ways to expand bilateral ties. Jaishankar will call on Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth and will hold bilateral meetings with other senior ministers, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said, announcing the visit.

Sisodia's judicial custody extended

New Delhi: A Delhi court Monday extended the judicial custody of AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in a corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam. Special judge for CBI and ED Kaveri Baweja extended the custody of Sisodia till July 22 after he was produced before the court through video conference on the expiry of his judicial custody.

Massive fire at cafe

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out at a cafe in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar and also gutted several shops on the building's upper floors, officials said Monday. The blaze, which erupted at the cafe located on the building's ground floor Sunday night, spread rapidly and engulfed stores on first and second floors, they said.



We consider it our responsibility to support the Pacific Islands in their quest for sustainable development. Climate change, natural disasters, poverty alleviation and healthcare are common challenges that we need to address together

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

SC NOTICE TO OMAR ABDULLAH'S WIFE

The Supreme Court Monday sought a response from Payal Abdullah, the estranged wife of Omar Abdullah, on a plea filed by the National Conference leader seeking divorce on grounds of cruelty. A bench of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah issued a notice to Payal Abdullah and sought her response within six weeks



VIOLENCE ROCKS DHALAI Minister, SDM office face public ire



During the minister's visit, the affected villagers ransacked the office of the Gandatwisa sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), alleging that the police and the local administration remained "inactive" when the mob attacked their houses July 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, July 15: A four-member team headed by Tripura Minister Tinku Roy Monday visited violence-hit Gandatwisa in Dhalai district and faced ire of villagers whose houses were set on fire three days ago, following the death of a 19-year-old man in a clash between two groups.

During the minister's visit, the affected villagers ransacked the office of the Gandatwisa sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), alleging that the police and the local administration remained "inactive" when the mob attacked their houses July 12.

A video clip shared on social media showed an angry youth telling the minister that as many as 11 scheduled wedding ceremonies in the area were cancelled due to the arson.

Roy, the social welfare minister, assured the angry villagers that the government would provide compensation to all the affected families and adequate se-

curity to avoid such incidents in future.

"When the team reached the area, the local people vented anger and alleged that the police and the administration remained inactive when their houses were set on fire July 12," an official said. State BJP vice presidents Subal Bhowmik and Rebati Tripura and MLA Rampada Jamatia were other members of the team.

Asked about the protest by villagers, the minister claimed that it was not so.

"The people, who have lost their houses and all belongings expressed their grievances. The chief minister has sent us. We listened to their problems. The government will release 25 per cent of the compensation in the next two days. We will take steps to bring normalcy in the area," he said in a statement.

Around 300 villagers whose houses were torched three days ago are yet to return to their homes, the officials said.

They have been staying at a shelter after the July 12 arson in Gandatwisa, around 110 km from the state capital Agartala.

A team led by Dhalai District Magistrate Saju Vaheed held a meeting with the affected families Sunday and assured them of the necessary steps for providing security and compensation, the officials said.

"At least 40 houses were severely damaged and around 30 shops were looted by the attackers. The affected family members are now staying at the Gandatwisa Higher Secondary School. Four motorcycles were also burnt July 12 night. The situation has improved in Gandatwisa with the deployment of additional security personnel in the vulnerable pockets," Gandatwisa Sub Divisional Magistrate Chandrajoy Reang told PTI earlier in the day.



PROTEST TURNS VIOLENT: Police use water cannons to disperse National Students' Union of India (NSUI) activists during their demonstration against the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG exam 2024 and nursing college scam in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Muharram observed in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Muharram processions were taken out by the Shia community across north Monday to mark the eighth day of mourning of the death of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, with Srinagar observing the day for a second consecutive year and Bihar's Nawada seeing the waving of Palestinian flags, leading to the arrest of three.

The Shia community of Kashmir took out the procession on the traditional Guru Bazar-Dalgate route peacefully, officials said.

The Muharram procession was banned after the eruption of militancy in Kashmir as authorities were apprehensive that separatists might misuse the large gathering for ulterior motives.

The procession began from Guru Bazar locality in the city



early Monday and passed through the designated route via Jehangir Chowk and Maulana Azad Road before culminating at Dalgate.

Thousands of mourners assembled at Guru Bazar at 5.30 am as the authorities had granted a limited time for the procession so that normal life does not get affected.

In Nawada, police arrested

three people for allegedly waving a Palestinian flag during a procession Sunday ahead of Muharram. Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Pakriabarawan, Mahesh Choudhary told PTI that a probe had been launched into the incident which took place in the district's Dhamaul area.

"An investigation was immediately launched. On the basis of

The Muharram procession was banned after the eruption of militancy in Kashmir

the investigation carried out by the local police, three persons were arrested on the charge of waving a Palestinian flag during the procession," the SDPO said.

The procession was taken out without permission and the Palestinian flag was immediately seized, Choudhary added. The Bihar Police had July 13 also booked two people on the charge of waving the Palestinian flag at a procession in Darbhanga district.

In Uttar Pradesh, apprehending trouble, police put under house arrest Uday Pratap Singh, the father of Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) president and Kunda MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh.

CBI registers FIR in CGPSC recruitment scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The CBI has registered an FIR against a former Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission chairman and others in connection with an alleged "nepotism" racket in which "ineligible" family members of politicians, PSC officials and public servants were recruited in lucrative government jobs

during the Congress rule.

Officials said CGPSC's former chairperson Taran Singh Sonwani, its ex-Secretary Jeevan Kishore Dhruv and a controller of examination have been booked for helping their sons, daughters, relatives and acquaintances score high in the merit list to ensure their recruitment as deputy collectors, deputy SPs, and other such posts.

It is alleged that manipulations took place in the 2022 CGPSC examination, the results of which were declared May 11, 2023. The agency conducted searches Monday at the residential premises of Sonawani, Dhruv, and others in Raipur and Bhalai. The CBI took over the investigation on a reference from the Chhattisgarh government dated February 16.

Vikram Misri takes over as Foreign Secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Seasoned diplomat Vikram Misri, widely regarded as an expert on China and national security, assumed charge as India's new Foreign Secretary Monday.

Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer who was serving as the deputy national security advisor, succeeded Vinay Kwatra. The 59-year-old assumed charge of the key position at a time India is looking to navigate various geo-political challenges, including its frosty ties with China following the lingering eastern Ladakh border row and the consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

External affairs Minister S Jaishankar congratulated Misri on assuming his new responsibility.

Misri served in various capacities at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in the Prime Minister's Office and in



various Indian missions in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. He has the rare distinction of serving as private secretary to three Prime Ministers - Inder Kumar Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi. As per norms, Misri is set to have a minimum tenure of two years as the foreign secretary. "Shri Vikram Misri assumed charge as Foreign Secretary today. #TeamMEA extends a warm welcome to Foreign Secretary Misri and wishes him a successful tenure ahead," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X.

'AI improves creativity in stories, reduces diversity'

RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT DIVERSITY IN STORIES BY WRITERS USING GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (GENAI) SUFFERED, THEREFORE INCREASING THE RISK OF LOSING "COLLECTIVE NOVELTY"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Stories created with the help of ChatGPT are more creative, engaging their audience with more plot twists, compared to those by writers not using the tool, according to a research.

GenAI can create content -- text, image, audio or video -- and is based on large language models, which are trained on massive amounts of text data and can, therefore, process, interpret and respond to requests in the natural language that humans use to communicate.

The authors of the study, published in the journal Science Advances, found that writers inherently more creative benefited the least from ideas generated



by ChatGPT, while those less creative became more creative due to ideas suggested by the GenAI model.

Therefore, AI "effectively equalised creativity" among all the writers, the team of researchers said.

"While these results point to an increase in individual creativity, there is risk of losing collective novelty. If the publishing industry were to embrace more generative AI-inspired stories, our findings suggest that the stories would become less unique in aggregate and more similar to each other," said study author Anil Doshi, assistant professor at the University College London's School of Management, UK.

For the study, 300 participants were tasked with writing a short, eight-sentence story (a "micro-story") for a target audience of young adults, of whom 600 were recruited to judge the writers' work. The writers were divided into three groups. The first was

allowed no help from AI, while the second was allowed to take one idea, along with the first three sentences of the story, created by ChatGPT for inspiration. The third group was allowed to choose from up to five AI-created story ideas.

The authors found that the work of writers taking the AI's help were over 8.9 per cent more novel, compared to that of writers not relying on the AI. Along with novelty, the microstories were judged for "usefulness" -- were they engaging enough for the audience, and could they be developed and potentially published? The team also found that the less creative writers 'became' more creative, with AI making their stories more novel by 10.7 per cent and more useful by 11.5 per cent, compared to the stories of writers not taking AI's help.

AI made the work by less creative writers up to 26.6 per cent better, 22.6 per cent more enjoyable and 15.2 per cent less boring, the authors found.

The inherent creativity of the writers was measured using a psychological test -- Divergent Association Task (DAT). Divergent thinking, which allows one to think of multiple solutions to a problem spontaneously, is known to be important to creativity.

Tihar jail vs AAP on Kejriwal's health



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has lost only 2 kg in prison and his health is being regularly monitored by a medical board of AIIMS, Tihar jail authorities said Monday, refuting as "false" and "misleading" claims by the Aam Aadmi Party that his health was deteriorating.

However, AAP leaders including Delhi minister Atishi claimed that the "leaked" report has corroborated their fear about Kejriwal's low sugar level and claimed he could slip into a coma.

The BJP claimed that AAP leaders resort to such "rhetoric" about medical issues whenever a court hearing in Kejriwal's case is approaching so that he can get bail but the Tihar administration's report has now revealed the "truth".

In the report sent to the Delhi government's Home Department, the Tihar administration shared Kejriwal's vital signs and said that the narrative created by AAP ministers and leaders "confuses and misleads the public".

It stated that Kejriwal weighed 65 kg when he first came to prison April 1 and 66 kg between April 8 and 29. When he returned to prison June 2 after a 21-day bail, his weight was 63.5 kg.

The Tihar report stated that Kejriwal weighed 65 kg when he first came to prison April 1 and 66 kg between April 8 and 29

When he returned to prison June 2 after a 21-day bail, his weight was 63.5 kg

"Kejriwal's weight was 61.5 kg July 14. So, effectively, he lost 2 kg," the report stated.

"His weight was 61.5 kg July 14. So, effectively, he lost 2 kg," the report stated.

According to the report, Kejriwal has been eating home-cooked food in jail but regularly sends back portions of his meals.

The prison administration said in its report that the AAP's narrative with "false information and ulterior motive" was intended to "browbeat" it.

"The blood pressure and sugar levels and weight of the accused are regularly being monitored and he is provided adequate treatment for all his ailments and is regularly having home-cooked food thrice a day," it said.

A medical board of AIIMS has been constantly monitoring the chief minister and his wife Sunita Kejriwal remains in regular touch with the board, the Tihar report stated.

"These facts are brought on record in the light of the media vilification being carried out by vested interest groups," it said.

Atishi had Sunday claimed that Kejriwal, who was a diabetic, faced an acute health risk due to "unexplained weight loss of 8.5 kg" and dangerously low sugar levels. She again claimed that his blood sugar dropped to 50 mg/dL five times. Since Kejriwal's arrest in the excise policy-linked money laundering case March 21, AAP and Tihar jail administration have been at loggerheads over Kejriwal's health condition, with AAP alleging that he was not being given the required medical attention.

international

of the day quote

The fight against the three evils -- terrorism, separatism and extremism -- is a priority in SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)

Any pact is unlikely to come this week. Nothing will happen before July 18

Israel does not intend to end the war and commits new massacres each time there is a positive atmosphere towards a truce

SHORT TAKES

Rwandans vote

Kigali: Rwandans are voting Monday in a presidential election that is expected to extend the long rule of President Paul Kagame, who has held power since 1994. Some voters in the capital Kigali arrived as early as 5 am and waited for polls to open. There were long lines at some polling stations. Election authorities say 9.5 million Rwandans are registered to vote in the population of 14 million. Provisional results are expected later Monday. The outcome will almost certainly be in favor of Kagame, an authoritarian leader who is running virtually unopposed.

Estonia PM resigns

Helsinki: Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas has stepped down as the leader of the Baltic country to become the foreign policy chief of the European Union later this year. Kallas, Estonia's first female prime minister, handed in her formal resignation to President Alar Karis during a brief meeting at the Presidential Palace in the capital, Tallinn, Monday. Estonia under Kallas has been one of Europe's most vocal backers of Ukraine following the full-scale Russian invasion in February 2022.

India's aid to UN

Ramallah: The Indian government has released the first tranche of \$2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as part of its annual contribution of \$5 million for the year 2024-25, the Representative Office of India here said Monday.

TRUMP SHOOTING

Biden asks Americans to 'cool it down'

IN A RARE OCCURRENCE, US PREZ SPOKE FOR THE THIRD TIME IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER TRUMP WAS SHOT AT DURING AN ELECTION RALLY IN PENNSYLVANIA



Washington, July 15: US President Joe Biden used the formal setting of the White House Oval Office Sunday to ask Americans to lower the political temperature and remember they are neighbors after a would-be assassin wounded Republican rival Donald Trump.

Trump's shooting at a rally in Pennsylvania Saturday "calls on all of us to take a step back," Biden said. Thankfully Trump was not seriously injured, he said. "We can't allow this violence to be normalized. The political rhetoric in this country has gotten very heated. It's time to cool it down. We all have a responsibility to do this," Biden said in a speech that was about seven minutes long, and carried live by major news networks and the conservative channel Fox News. It was Biden's third use of the formal setting of the Oval Office to comment on issues of major importance to Americans since he took power in 2021. This time,

In America we resolve our differences at the ballot box. Now that's how we do it. At the ballot box. Not with bullets

It is less than four months to go before the November 5 election, and Biden's political future is in doubt. Biden's appearance allowed him to demonstrate the power of incumbency, an important symbolic image as he battles some in his own Democratic Party who want the 81-year-old leader to step aside from seeking re-election out of concerns he lacks the mental acuity for another four-year term. Biden ran through some of the US's multiple instances of political violence in recent years, including the January 6, 2021, assault on the US Capitol by Trump loyalists and the hammer-beat-

I'm supposed to be dead: Trump

Milwaukee: Donald Trump has said he is "supposed to be dead" after the assassination attempt on him at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, calling the incident a "surreal experience." In one of his first interviews since the incident, the 78-year-old former president told conservative US media that he felt that he had been saved "by luck or by God." "I'm not supposed to be here, I'm supposed to be dead," the former US president said, speaking to the New York Post while en route to Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention starting Monday which will nominate him as the party's candidate for the November 5 presidential election. "The most incredible thing was that I happened to not only turn [my head] but to turn at the exact right time and in just the right amount," he said, adding that the bullet that grazed his ear could have easily killed him. "I'm supposed to be dead, I'm not supposed to be here," he said. Trump wore a white bandage that covered his right ear but his aides did not allow any photographs to be taken, said the Post. "The doctor at the hospital said he never saw anything like this, he called it a miracle," Trump added. "By luck or by God, many people are saying it's by God I'm still here." Trump also addressed the photos of him raising his fist and saying "Fight!" as he had blood on his face. "A lot of people say it's the most iconic photo they've ever seen," Trump said. "They're right and I didn't die. Usually, you have to die to have an iconic picture."



Gunman acted alone: FBI

The gunman who shot at former president Donald Trump during an election rally in Pennsylvania Saturday appears to have acted alone, according to the FBI, which is investigating it as a potential "domestic terrorism" act. The gunman has been identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks (20). "At this point in the investigation, it appears that he was a lone actor, but we still have more investigation to go," said Robert Wells, the executive assistant director of the FBI's National Security Branch. The FBI, he said, is investigating this as an assassination attempt, "and also as a "potential domestic terrorism act."

ident, but one in the spotlight after his faltering June 27 debate performance. After he finished the address, Fox News Channel and other conservative news outlets highlighted his stumbles. Biden's Oval address was a rare one. Last October he made a prime-time speech to comment on the Gaza and Ukraine conflicts and in June of 2023 he spoke when a deal was reached with Republicans to avoid a breach of the US debt ceiling. His campaign has called off verbal attacks on Trump to focus instead on the future. Within hours of Saturday's shooting, Biden's campaign was pulling down television ads and suspending other political communications. "Tonight I'm asking every American to recommit," Biden said. "Hate must have no safe harbor."

Religious conservatives who led the campaign to reverse the ban argued the practice was "one of the virtues of Islam." "It's such a huge sense of relief," one activist and survivor, Absa Samba said.

PEACE PLAN

Zelenskyy eyes 2nd summit, wants Russia to attend

Kyiv, July 15: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday he aimed to have a plan ready in November to enable Kyiv to hold a second international summit on his vision of peace in Ukraine, and that representatives of Russia should attend. Ukraine hosted delegations from 92 countries at a first summit in Switzerland last month to advance its blueprint for peace. Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022, was not invited to the event and dismissed it as a non-starter. "I set a goal that in November we would have a fully ready plan," Zelenskyy told a press conference in Kyiv. "I think that representatives of Russia should be at the second summit."

He made the remarks after returning from a visit to Washington for a NATO summit last week. Ukrainian officials have said previously that Russian representatives could be invited to a follow-up summit. A Russian deputy foreign minister said last week that Moscow would not attend a follow-up summit.

Fifth Nepal PM in five years: Oli takes oath



President Ram Chandra Paudel (fourth from left) administers the oath of office to the newly elected Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli (second from right) during the swearing-in ceremony at Shital Niwas, in Kathmandu

Kathmandu: Veteran communist politician KP Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's prime minister Monday, the fifth in five years, hoping to ensure political stability in the impoverished Himalayan nation that badly needs to woo investors and create jobs. Nepal has been politically unstable since it abolished a 239-year-old monarchy in 2008. Oli's new government will be the 14th since, with 72-year-old Oli himself returning for his fourth term. Oli, who heads the moderate Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), was administered the oath of office by President Ramchandra Paudel, three days after his predecessor Pushpa Kamal Dahal lost a parliamentary vote of confidence. Oli announced a 22-member cabinet, with Bishnu Paudel picked as finance minister, and Arzu Rana Deuba of alliance partner Nepali Congress (NC) named foreign minister. Deuba is the wife of NC president and former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. Dahal was forced to prove his majority for the fifth time during a tumultuous 20-month tenure after UML withdrew support to his Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) and formed a new alliance with NC, the largest party in parliament. Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries and political instability has discouraged investment and hobbled its economic development, forcing millions of young people to seek work mainly in Malaysia, South Korea and the Middle East.

CONTROVERSIAL MOVE

Pak to ban Khan's party

Govt to file treason case against ex-PM

REUTERS

Islamabad, July 15: Pakistan is planning to ban former Prime Minister Imran Khan's political party and move the country's top court to press treason charges against him, the information minister said Monday. The move to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was based on the "proven" charge of the party receiving foreign funds from sources that are illegal in Pakistan, and rioting by its supporters last year that targeted military installations, Minister Attaullah Tarar said. "The federal government will move a case to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf," he said, adding that the plan will be taken up before the cabinet, which was empowered to take a decision. The government will also file a legal reference against Khan and former President Arif Alvi for treason charges under the country's constitution before the Supreme Court, Tarar said. Khan's aide Zulfikar Bukhari said the decision was a move towards "soft martial law". "This is a sign of panic as they have realised the courts can't be threatened and put under pressure," he said. The latest turmoil comes at a time when the country has to make politically unpopular reforms such as raising taxes on farm income to get \$7 billion from the IMF.

"A weak government, hobbled by questions about its legitimacy and consumed with desperate attempts to keep Imran Khan from being released will struggle to take the kinds of decisions that are needed to keep the IMF program on track," Khurram Husain, an economic analyst and journalist. The Supreme Court had last week ruled that PTI was eligible for more than 20 extra reserved seats in parliament, ramping up pressure on the country's weak coalition government. PTI candidates contested the February 8 election as independents after it was barred from the polls. It was not immediately clear what impact the planned ban would have on the court's decision to grant reserved seats. Minister Tarar said the government would seek a legal review of the reserved seats issue. The reasons behind the move to ban Khan's party included PTI lobbying in Washington to get the US House of Representatives to support a resolution against Pakistan's elections and writing to the IMF for an election audit before helping the country. Independent rights group, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, said on social media platform X it was "shocked" and called on the government to withdraw its decision. Khan came to power in 2018 and was ousted in 2022 after falling out with Pakistan's powerful military.

Jailed former PM Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf reacted sharply to the government's decision to ban the party, saying the move came "out of desperation" and is a "sign of panic" within the federal administration



Record immigration pushes UK population

WHAT STATISTICIANS TERM 'NATURAL' POPULATION GROWTH - THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BIRTHS AND DEATHS - FELL TO JUST 400, THE LOWEST SINCE 1978, WHILE NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ROSE TO 6,22,000, UP FROM 548,500 IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

REUTERS

London, July 15: Record immigration caused the population of England and Wales to rise by 6,10,000 to 60.9 million in mid-2023, the largest annual increase in 75 years, official data showed Monday. What statisticians term 'natural' population growth - the difference between births and deaths - fell to just 400, the lowest since 1978, while net international migration rose to 6,22,000, up from 5,48,500 in the previous 12 months. A net 13,800 people also moved from England and Wales to Scotland or Northern Ireland. Britain's Office for National Statistics said the population increase in England and Wales



was the largest since 1948 when a post-World War Two baby boom and the return of British military personnel serving overseas

The population for the whole United Kingdom was 67.6 million in mid 2022

caused a rise of 1.5 million. The population for the whole United Kingdom was 67.6 million in mid 2022. Data for 2023 is not yet available. Economic output has not kept up with the rising population. Based on provisional population figures, gross domestic product per head in 2023 was 0.7% lower than a year earlier. Net migration to the United Kingdom hit a record 764,000 in 2022 and fell 10% to 685,000 in 2023, but is more than double its level in 2015, just before the Brexit

referendum. Reducing immigration was a key goal of many Britons who voted to leave the European Union. Britain's previous Conservative government said it wanted to reduce net immigration, and Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party pledged in the election campaign to do so too by making the economy less reliant on foreign workers. Post-Brexit changes to visas sharply reduced the number of EU migrants to Britain, but new work visa rules led to a surge in immigration from India, Nigeria and Pakistan, often to fill health and social care vacancies. At the end of last year the government tightened rules to stop low-paid social care workers from bringing dependents.



More money for space related acquisitions, tax holidays, import holidays, and PLI scheme for space
AWAIS AHMED | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, PIXSEL SPACE

ZOMATO HIKES PLATFORM FEE

Food-delivery firm Zomato has hiked the platform fee to ₹6 from ₹5 per order in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. Its rival Swiggy, which had also increased the platform fee in select cities Sunday, reverted to charging ₹5 per order Monday in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, as shown on its app



of the day quote

For the past two decades, the Union Budget has focused on Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). This year, we expect the budget to emphasise achieving self-reliance in the telecom equipment segment due to its significant, strategic and security implications

Our latest fundraise of \$24 million is an important step in our journey to scale the e-mobility fleet and EV charging infrastructure

Our automotive skill labs empower youngsters from the underserved communities with employable skills, relevant for the evolving automotive sector in India

RESULTS CORNER

BoM profit up 47%

New Delhi: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) Monday reported 47 per cent jump in net profit at ₹1,293 crore for June quarter FY25, helped by decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income. The Pune-based lender had posted a net profit of ₹882 crore in the year-ago period. Total income in the quarter under review rose to ₹6,769 crore from ₹5,417 crore in the same period a year ago, the state-owned lender said in a regulatory filing. Interest earned by the bank grew to ₹5,875 crore as compared to ₹4,789 crore in June quarter FY24. The bank's asset quality showed improvement as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 1.85 per cent of gross advances at the end of June quarter FY25 from 2.28 per cent a year ago.

HDFC AMC grows

New Delhi: HDFC Asset Management Company Monday reported 26 per cent rise in profit after tax (PAT) at ₹603.9 crore for June quarter FY25. The company had posted a PAT of ₹477.5 crore for the year-ago period, the fund house said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations surged 35 per cent to ₹775.2 crore from ₹574.5 crore in June quarter FY24. The company's average asset under management (AAUM) stood at ₹6.71 lakh crore as of June 2024 against ₹4.86 lakh crore a year ago. HDFC AMC is an investment manager for HDFC Mutual Fund, one of the leading mutual funds in the country.

Apple sales rise 33%

Mumbai: Apple's India sales jumped 33% to a record of almost \$8 billion in the year through March, reports said Monday. Apple's iPhones accounted for more than half of the sales, the report said. In April, Apple has assembled \$14 billion worth of iPhones in India last fiscal year, and makes as much as 14% of its marquee devices from India.

HDFC Life rises 15%

New Delhi: HDFC Life Monday reported 15 per cent increase in net profit at ₹478 crore for the first quarter of current fiscal year. The company had logged ₹415 crore profit in April-June FY24. Total premium rose 10 per cent to ₹12,811 crore during the quarter as compared with ₹11,673 crore in the year-ago period, HDFC Life said in a regulatory filing. During the latest quarter, new business premium collection rose 9 per cent to ₹6,400 crore from ₹5,869 crore in the same period a year ago.

16-MONTH HIGH

WPI inflation surges to 3.36%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Wholesale inflation in the country surged to a 16-month high of 3.36 per cent in June on account of rise in prices of food articles, especially vegetables and manufactured items.

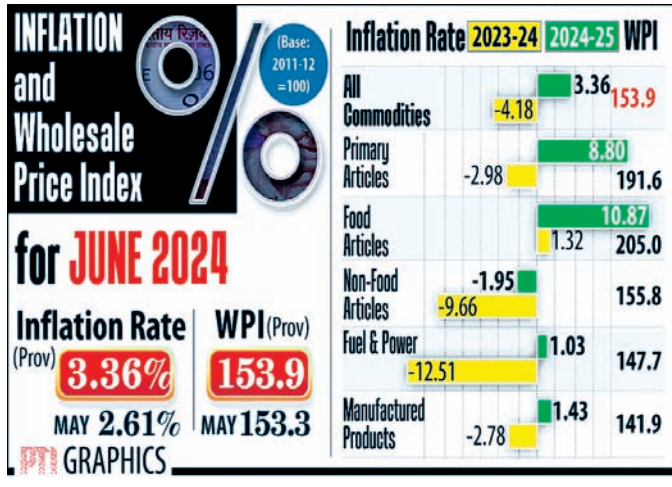
This was the fourth consecutive month when inflation witnessed an upward journey. The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation was 2.61 per cent in May. It was (-) 4.18 per cent in June 2023.

Wholesale inflation had touched a high of 3.85 per cent in February 2023.

"Positive rate of inflation in June, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc.," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement Monday.

As per the data, inflation in food articles rose 10.87 per cent in June, as against 9.82 per cent in May.

Inflation in vegetables was



38.76 per cent during June, up from 32.42 per cent in May. Onion inflation was at 93.35 per cent, while potato was 66.37 per cent in the month under review. Pulses inflation rose 21.64 per cent in June.

During the month, inflation in other food items like fruits stood at 10.14 per cent, cereals at 9.27 per cent, and milk at 3.37 per cent.

The upmove in the WPI in-

flation in June 2024 was broad-based, driven by all the major segments except fuel and power, ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said.

Looking ahead, she said, the headline WPI inflation is expected to dip to about 2 per cent in July 2024, driven by a favourable base, as well as some cooling in global commodity prices.

With regard to oil prices, she

said, the average price of the Indian basket of crude oil has been quite volatile in July 2024 so far, on the back of supply-demand mismatches, witnessing a month-on-month rise (USD 86.6/bbl up to July 11).

Higher crude oil prices might exert an upward pressure to the headline WPI inflation in the ongoing month, she added.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation stood at 1.03 per cent, marginally lower than 1.35 per cent in May.

However, price rise in crude petroleum & Natural gas was in double digit at 12.55 per cent during the month.

In manufactured products, inflation was at 1.43 per cent in June, higher than 0.78 per cent in May.

The rise in June WPI was in line with the retail inflation data for the month. Retail inflation rose to a four-month high of 5.1 per cent in June, data released last week showed.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing the monetary policy.

Auto retail sales up 9% in April-June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Automobile retail sales increased 9 per cent year-on-year in June quarter FY25 with all segments, barring tractors, reporting growth, dealers' body FADA said Monday.

Overall retail sales rose to 61,91,225 units in the April-June period from 56,59,060 units in the same quarter of FY24.

Passenger vehicle retails increased 2.53 per cent to 9,20,047 units as against 8,97,361 units a year ago.

"Despite strong bookings and customer flow, high competition, excess supply and discounting presented challenges for sustained growth in the PV segment," FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement.

Two-wheeler retails stood at 45,54,255 units in April-June, up 12.56 per cent as compared with 40,46,169 units in the year-ago period.

Three-wheeler sales rose 11.36 per cent to 2,72,691 units in the first quarter from 2,44,878 units in the same period last fiscal.

Commercial vehicle retail sales witnessed marginal increase at 2,46,513 units as against 2,44,834 units earlier.

Tractor retail sales declined 12.44 per cent to 1,97,719 units from 2,25,818 units a year ago.

Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) represents over 15,000 automobile dealerships with over 30,000 sales outlets across the country.

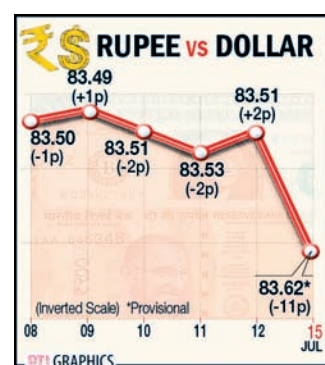


Rupee falls 10 paise to close at all-time low of 83.61 against \$

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 15: Rupee depreciated 10 paise and settled for the day at an all-time low of 83.61 (provisional) against the US dollar Monday, weighed down by the overall strength of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said a positive trend in domestic equities, wherein benchmark indices touched all-time high levels and significant foreign fund inflows supported the rupee at lower levels. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.53, but lost ground



and finally settled at an all-time low of 83.62 (provisional) against the dollar; 11 paise lower than its previous close.

Sensex, Nifty race to record closing highs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 15: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed at new record high levels Monday following buying in PSU bank shares and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 145.52 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new record high of 80,664.86. During the day, it advanced 343.2 points or 0.42 per cent to hit a high of 80,862.54.

The NSE Nifty rallied 84.55 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,586.70. During the day, it surged 132.9 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a new record peak of 24,635.05.

Among Sensex shares, State Bank of India was the biggest gainer, rising by 2.55 per cent after the bank announced a hike in MCLR-based lending rates for various tenors. NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, Maruti and ITC were the other major winners.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

"The Indian market contin-



Mcap of BSE-listed firms hits new all-time high

New Delhi: The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit a new all-time high of ₹45,06,566.48 crore (USD 5.45 trillion). In two days of market rally, investors' wealth jumped ₹3.85 lakh crore.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.95 per cent and smallcap index

Trade deficit widens to \$20.98bn in June

EXPORTS RISE 2.56% TO \$35.2BN IN JUNE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: India's merchandise exports in June increased 2.56 per cent to USD 35.2 billion despite global challenges, even as the trade deficit widened to USD 20.98 billion during the month.

According to the government data released Monday, imports rose about 5 per cent to USD 56.18 billion in June due to the increase in inbound shipments of crude oil, pulses, and electronic goods.

The trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, during June 2023 was USD 19.19 billion.

India's merchandise exports grew 9.1 per cent to USD 38.13 billion in May, even as the trade deficit widened to a seven-month high of USD 23.78 billion.

Cumulatively, the merchandise exports in April-June this fiscal climbed 5.84 per cent to USD 109.96 billion, and imports grew 7.6 per cent to USD 172.23 billion.

The trade deficit during April-June 2024 widened to USD 62.26 billion compared to USD 56.16 billion in the same period last year.

Briefing media on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said going by the current trend, the country's total exports of goods and services may cross USD 800 billion this fiscal.

During the first quarter of 2024-25, the exports of goods and services stood at about USD 200 billion, he added.

"If the current trend continues, we will certainly cross USD 800 billion this fiscal," Barthwal said, adding the major drivers of export growth are engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals, coffee and chemicals.

He added that the ministry is focusing on six major sectors



(engineering, textiles and apparel, electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and plastics, and agriculture) and 20 countries to boost exports.

Oil imports rose by 19.62 per cent to USD 15 billion in June. It was up by 23 per cent at USD 51.5 billion during April-June 2024-25.

However, gold imports dipped by 38.66 per cent to USD 3 billion in June this year and 1.91 per cent during the first quarter of this fiscal at USD 9.51 billion.

According to the data, the estimated value of services exported in June is USD 30.27 billion compared to USD 27.79 billion in June 2023.

Imports of services are estimated to have increased to USD 17.29 billion during the month from USD 15.61 billion in June 2023. Further, the data showed that India's shipment to the major export destinations - the US, UAE, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Tanzania, the Netherlands, and Singapore recorded healthy growth in June.

Commenting on the trade data, FIEO President Ashwani Kumar said the third consecutive increase in merchandise exports shows the resilience of the sector.

Kumar said if there were no logistics disruptions like lack of container availability shipping space, irregular shipping schedule and ships skipping Indian ports, exports would have recorded close to double-digit growth in June 2024.

Hindustan Zinc adds ₹13K-cr to state coffers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) Monday said it has contributed ₹13,195 crore to the exchequer in the last financial year, representing about 46 per cent of its total revenues.

In FY 2023-24, Hindustan Zinc's total contribution to the exchequer stood at ₹13,195 crores, the Vedanta group firm said in a regulatory filing. With this, HZL's cumulative contribution to the exchequer over the past five years stood at ₹77,803 crore.

"As our businesses grow, so will these numbers. At Hindustan Zinc, we are committed to continuing to do business with a purpose in a manner that is sustainable, transparent and creates value for all our stakeholders," Hindustan Zinc Chairperson Priya Agarwal Hebbur said.

Over the past five years, that company has consistently contributed an average of approximately ₹3,250 crore per year to Rajasthan in the form of royalties, contributions to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), and other levies.

India seeks to boost exports to Russia after Modi trip

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 15: India is exploring ways to boost its exports to Russia, including by encouraging rupee-rouble trade and pushing Moscow to lift non-tariff barriers, New Delhi said Monday, in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow.

Old partners India and Russia have stepped up trade since Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022, but the increase has been overwhelmingly one-way, dominated by India buying Russian oil shunned by traditional customers in Europe.



Surging Russian exports to India accounted for \$61.43 billion of the \$65.7 billion in trade between the two countries in

the last fiscal year that ended in March.

While trade between the two countries was up a third on the year before, India's exports of pharmaceuticals, machinery and other goods to Russia have barely budged.

In a news conference, Indian trade secretary Sunil Barthwal said the government had asked Russia to consider changes to some non-tariff barriers on Indian exports of marine food products.

New Delhi is also encouraging rupee-rouble trade that has failed to take off, and would send a trade delegation, he said, with-

out giving further details.

"When we are looking at Russia, we are looking at how both the countries can gain by better trade relationships," he told the press conference. "We are looking at various sets of commodities for example electronics, engineering goods and other items where there can be exports."

New Delhi and Moscow have been trying to settle more trade in roubles and rupees since the war led to sanctions on Russian entities. But such settlements have not taken off because the Indian currency is not among the most transacted in the world

and Russia does not want to

amass it. During Modi's visit to Russia last week, which coincided with a missile strike on a children's hospital in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv that killed dozens, the Indian leader told Russian President Vladimir Putin that the death of innocent children was painful and terrifying. Russia has denied responsibility.

Russia and India also outlined nine key areas for closer cooperation, ranging from nuclear energy to medicine, and said they aimed to boost bilateral trade to hit \$100 billion by 2030.

Spain sizzle to glory

Spaniards win record fourth European Championship title by inflicting another painful loss on England



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, July 15: Spain is the king of European soccer for a record fourth time. For England, it's another agonizing near-miss in the team's decades-long tale of underachievement.

Completing a tournament the team dominated from start to finish, Spain beat England 2-1 in the European Championship final on Sunday with Mikel Oyarzabal the unlikely match-winner in the 86th minute.

Oyarzabal, a backup striker who came on as a substitute for captain Alvaro Morata, slid in to poke home a left-wing cross by Marc Cucurella, just when the game at Berlin's Olympiastadion seemed destined for extra time.

England, the birthplace of soccer, is still without a major title in the men's game since winning the 1966 World Cup and its players watched on forlornly as Morata raised aloft the silver trophy to backdrop of confetti and fireworks inside the stadium built for the 1936 Olympics. Add 2024 to the titles won by Spain in 1964, 2008 and 2012.

"Here we are, champions of Europe," said Nico Williams, whose opening goal for Spain in the 47th minute was canceled out by England substitute Cole Palmer in the 73rd. "We are thrilled and hope this can keep going and we

Spain won all seven games at this European Championship — an unprecedented feat — and broke the record for goals scored in a single tournament, with 15

can go for the (2026) World Cup."

Lamine Yamal, the prodigy who turned 17 Saturday and is the youngest player to have appeared at a European Championship, set up Williams' goal with an inside run before passing across the face of the area. The two wingers have become the poster boys of an exciting, multicultural team that reflects Spain's changing demographics.

Spain is back as a major player in senior soccer after winning both the Women's World Cup — also against England — and the men's UEFA Nations League in 2023. Since 2001, Spanish men's teams have won 23 consecutive major finals in club and international soccer.

Meanwhile, fans who had watched the game on a big screen in Madrid celebrated wildly, chanting "champions, champions" in Spanish.

As for England, the men's team has now lost back-to-back Euro finals — it was defeated in a penalty shootout by Italy on home soil in the final in 2021 — and this was another painful loss for a team that will have gone six decades without a major title by the next World Cup.

Golden Boot: England striker Harry Kane finished Euro 2024 in a six-way tie for the Golden Boot top scorer as his team lost the final 2-1 to Spain. Kane ended the tournament tied on three goals with Spain midfielder Dani Olmo, Germany midfielder Jamal Musiala, Netherlands forward Cody Gakpo, Slovakia winger Ivan Schranz and Georgia striker Georges Mikautadze.

Birthday boy Yamal wins best Young Player award

Spain's teenage phenom Lamine Yamal won the European Championship and the tournament's best young player award just a day after he turned 17. Yamal earned it mostly while he was still 16, but he crowned his contribution to Spain's success by setting up Nico Williams' opening goal in a 2-1 win over England in the final Sunday. "This is the best (birthday) gift I could have asked for. It's a dream come true," Yamal said.



A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

METTLE MEET 2024

HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

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.

- RULES & REGULATIONS**
- Everyone will have to mail their answers to 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

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. 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

Jean Baptiste, a 19th-century French economist, opined that X is one who "shifts economic resources out of an area of lower and into an area of higher productivity and greater yield". Who is X, that originally comes from the combination of two Latin words meaning "to swim out" and "to understand"?

ANSWER TO MONDAY'S QUESTION

Epidemic and Endemic

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



DIBYAJYOTI PRAHARAJ



JABA DASGUPTA

Others who answered correctly are Akankshya Pradhan, Ashish Agarwalla, Prithviraj Pathy, Anup Mahapatra, Chanchal Mishra

SHORT TAKES

Müller hangs boots

Munich: Germany forward Thomas Müller announced his retirement from international soccer Monday after a 14-year career that included the 2014 World Cup title. The 34-year-old Bayern Munich striker played 131 times for his country, scoring 45 goals. "It always made me very proud to play for my country. We celebrated together and sometimes shed a tear together," he said in a video posted on YouTube. "I would like to say thank you to all the fans and my Germany teammates for their support over the years. Take the enthusiasm and joy of this year's Euros with you."

Lahiri loses title

Sotogrande: The title slipped through Anirban Lahiri's hands as the Indian was unable to hold on to his four-shot lead before being outwitted by seasoned local favourite Sergio Garcia in the play-offs to finish second at Liv Golf Andalucia here. As Lahiri shot two-over 73 on the final day, Garcia, who started the day seven shots behind the Indian, carded five-under 66 and reached a five-under total for a play-off, which the Spaniard won. Garcia started the day at even par, seven shots behind overnight leader Lahiri. But the Spanish star played flawless golf for 17 holes, posting six birdies and applying pressure on Lahiri, who was trying to break his own winless drought of nine years.

Aditi's best finish

Evian-Les-Bains: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok produced her best performance in a Major as she finished tied-17th at the Amundi Evian Championship with the help of three birdies in last four holes here. Aditi carded 2-under 69 and 7-under for the week. It was the first time she finished inside Top-20 at a Major. Her previous best at a Major was T-22 at the 2018 Women's Open. Aditi, who has played more than 30 Majors, shot 71-70-67-69 at Evian Resort Golf Club.

Last Copa title for Messi, Di Maria



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Miami Gardens, July 15: Argentina won its second straight Copa America championship, overcoming Lionel Messi's second-half leg injury to beat Colombia 1-0 on Lautaro Martínez's 112th-minute goal.

Messi appeared to sustain a non-contact injury while running and falling in the 64th minute and covered his face with his hands as he sat on the bench and sobbed.

Martínez later ran to that bench to hug his captain after the goal that propelled Argentina to its record 16th Copa title Sunday night.

In a match that started 1 hour, 22 minutes late because of crowd trouble at Hard Rock Stadium, Argentina won its third straight

"I'll be always grateful to this generation who gave me everything, helped me win what I always wanted and today, I am leaving like this. It could not be better"

ANGEL DI MARÍA

major title following the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup and matched Spain, which won the 2008 and 2012 European Championships around the 2010 World Cup. Argentina also stopped Colombia's 28-game unbeaten streak dating to a February 2022 loss to the Albiceleste.

Martínez entered in the 97th minute and scored from Giovanni Lo Celso's perfect through pass after Leandro Paredes stripped the ball from a Colombian just short of the center stripe.



Argentina's Lautaro Martínez celebrates with Golden Boot trophy



Colombia's James Rodríguez holds Player of the Tournament trophy

Just inside the penalty area, Martínez sent a right-foot shot through the upraised arms of sliding goalkeeper Camilo Vargas for his 29th international goal, his tournament-high fifth.

Appearing to be limping after the final whistle sounded well past midnight, Messi beckoned for his senior teammates to lift the trophy with him: 36-year-old Nicolás Ottomendi and Ángel Di María, who is retiring from the national team. As white confetti cascaded, the trio hugged.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY PCB intensifies battle with BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, July 15: The Pakistan Cricket Board wants the BCCI to provide written proof of the Indian government's denial of permission in case the team refuses to come here for next year's Champions Trophy citing a travel ban on security grounds, a PCB source has said.

The host Board also wants the matter to be sorted as soon as possible, given that the tournament is scheduled in February-March.

While the ICC annual conference will be held in Colombo July 19 doesn't have any discussion on 'Hybrid Model' about India playing their games in the UAE on its agenda, the global body as usual has earmarked additional fund in case it becomes a two-country tournament.

"If the India government declines permission, it has to be in writing and it is mandatory on the BCCI to provide that letter to the ICC now," the PCB source working closely with organizing committee told PTI.

"It is a fact that the we are insistent that the BCCI must inform the ICC about its travel plans to Pakistan at least 5-6 months before the tournament and in writ-



ing," the top PCB source also stated.

The BCCI has always steadfastly maintained that playing cricket in Pakistan is completely a government call and even the 2023 ODI Asia Cup, which was hosted by PCB witnessed India playing all its games in Sri Lanka based on 'Hybrid Model'.

The PCB has already submitted its draft schedule to ICC where all of India's games including a possible semi-final and final has been scheduled in Lahore. The India vs Pakistan marquee match has been scheduled March 1.

The tournament will start in Karachi February 19 and conclude with the final in Lahore March 9. The final will have a reserve day - March 10 - in case of inclement weather. A few matches will be held in Rawalpindi too.

Odisha eves win in jr East Zone hockey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 15: Odisha women's and Jharkhand men's teams recorded wins in their respective matches of the Hockey India Junior East Zone Championship here Monday.

Odisha women crushed Manipur Hockey 5-0, riding on goals from Priyanka Kujur (20), captain Amisha Eka (30, 36), Anushka Bhawre (39) and Drupati Naik (55).

Assam Hockey women defeated Hockey Bihar 4-0 with goal from Ashmita Tigga (17), Sumitra Swargari (23), Ritu Bawri (29) and Reshma Jagat (60), while Hockey Jharkhand got the better of Hockey Bengal 4-1. For the winners, Barwa Purnima (4), Roshni Aind (45), Pinki Kumari (49) and Mundu Sukarmani (51) were on target, while Shanti Horo (17) netted one for Bengal.

In the men's section Jharkhand produced a ruthless show to hammer Assam Hockey 13-1 as Jolen Topno netted five times in the 13th, 17th, 26th, 48th and 59th minute.

Faguwa Horo (7, 30, 46), Bhengra Gledshan (14), Ddungdung Ashish (24), Doday Sandeep (39), Roshan Ekka (43) and Joseph Dhodray (55) also piled on the misery on Assam.

PARIS OLYMPICS PREPARATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: One Olympic medal is all it takes to raise the profile of a sport and if the colour happens to be gold, it is just icing on the cake.

Ask the practitioners of track-and-field disciplines in India, who were the biggest beneficiaries of government funding in this Olympic cycle after javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's top finish in the Tokyo edition three years ago.

According to official data from the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), which is available with PTI, the government has spent a whopping Rs 96.08 crore for athletics.

It's the biggest chunk in the close to Rs 470 crore which has been spent on India's preparation for the Games this time across 16 disciplines. In the previous

Olympic cycle, athletics received Rs 5.38 crore from TOPS funds.

A strong 28-member contingent, led by Chopra, will represent Indian athletics at the Paris Games starting July 26 where the country's overall representation will stand at 118.

The full details of the funding for Tokyo preparations are sketchy but sources say the expenditure this time is substantially higher keeping in mind higher expectations after the seven medals achieved last time.

The country's shuttlers were the second biggest gainers, receiving Rs 72.02 crore followed by boxing (Rs 60.93 crore) and shooting (Rs 60.42 crore).

India secured a total of five badminton quotas for Paris, which includes two-time medalist PV Sindhu (women's singles), HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen (men's singles), Satwiksairaj

Athletics biggest gainer in govt funding



Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (men's doubles) and Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto (women's doubles).

Hockey, in which the bronze-medallist Indian men's team will compete to match or better the Tokyo performance, received

funding of Rs 41.29 crore in the last three years, while archery got Rs 39.18 crore from the government.

The wrestlers received Rs 37.80 crore funding, while weightlifting got Rs 26.98 crore. Equestrian received the least

financial support - little more than Rs 95 lakh, while tennis got Rs 1.67 crore, followed by golf (Rs 1.74 crore), rowing (Rs 3.89 crore), swimming (Rs 3.9 crore), sailing (Rs 3.78 crore) and judo (Rs 6.3 crore).

The Indian table tennis team, which will be spearheaded by star paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal, who will be India's joint flag-bearer along with Sindhu during the opening ceremony, got a funding of Rs 12.92 crore from the government.

According to the official data, in terms of foreign exposure trips, the country's shuttlers received the maximum support, 81 trips to be precise.

The shooters got 45 foreign exposure trips, followed by tennis (40), athletics (31), table tennis (28), wrestling (27), archery (24), boxing (23), sailing (22), hockey (18), judo (15), golf (12) and swimming (11).

Bhavtegh wins silver medal at Junior WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: India's Bhavtegh Singh Gill bagged silver in the men's skeet event Monday, the final day of the ISSF Junior World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.

Bhavtegh, a silver winner at the Junior Asian Championships last year, shot 52 in the six-man final to finish behind American Benjamin Keller, who shot 56 out of the 60 allotted clay targets, to grab the gold medal.

Bhavtegh's effort came after Sabeera Haris won the bronze in the junior women's trap earlier. With these two medals, India finished third behind USA and Italy in the standings.

Shooting his final two rounds of qualification, Bhavtegh made the top six in fifth position with a score of 121. USA's Jordan Sapp, who won bronze eventually topped the field with a perfect 125, equalling the junior world record.