



Journey to stardom
Actor Triptii Dimri reflects on her seven-year acting career, debuting as a fun lover to her eventual shift to serious acting

LEISURE | P2



Shutdown in Bangladesh
A nationwide curfew has been imposed in Bangladesh in response to student-led violent protests against job reservations

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Record EPFO subscribers
Retirement fund body EPFO records the highest net addition of 19.50 lakh members in May 2024, says the Labour Ministry

BUSINESS | P11



New football coach
Spaniard Manolo Marquez, currently in charge of Indian Super League side FC Goa, was Saturday named as the Indian men's football team head coach

SPORTS | P12



A RED-LETTER DAY: Indian Armed Forces personnel celebrate ahead of Kargil Vijay Diwas in Bathinda district, Punjab, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Centre-wise NEET results hint at scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: The National Testing Agency (NTA) Saturday released city- and centre-wise results of medical entrance exam NEET-UG which is under the scanner over alleged irregularities including paper leak.

An analysis of data indicated that while the candidates who allegedly benefitted from the paper leak and other irregularities have not done well, some centres have a high concentration of well-performing students, hinting at wrongdoings.

For instance, the average of candidates scoring above 600 in Rajasthan's Sikar is much higher than the national average.

Over 27,000 candidates appeared at exam centres in Sikar out of which over 4,200 have scored above 600.

In all, there are 30,204 students who scored 650 and above - 1.3 per cent of the 23.22 lakh candidates nationwide. These candidates would have ranks in the top 30,000 and a chance at seats in government medical colleges. Of this set, examinees from Sikar alone will have a chance to claim 2,037 seats.

CBI NABS KEY ACCUSED

New Delhi: The CBI Saturday arrested an NIT-Jamshedpur B.Tech graduate, one of the masterminds, in the NEET-UG paper leak case and two MBBS students who allegedly solved the exam papers for money, officials said. With the fresh arrests, the total number of people held so far by the agency in six cases related to the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam has now reached 21, they said.

Meanwhile, no candidate has scored above 682 in the revised results for a centre in Haryana that was under the scanner after six aspirants who took the medical entrance exam there May 5 got 720 out of 720.

The scores were revised after a retest was ordered by the Supreme Court following allegations of inflation of marks due to grace being awarded.

Only 13 candidates of the Hardayal Public School centre in Haryana's Jhajjar managed to score more than 600 marks, according to the centre and city-wise results.

P8

Biju Patnaik Sports Award now Odisha Rajya Krida Samman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 20: The newly elected BJP government has renamed Biju Patnaik Sports Award as Odisha Rajya Krida Samman.

Odisha Sports and Youth Services department Friday issued guidelines for the honour which will be awarded in eight categories annually, subject to availability of suitable candidates. The cash rewards remain unchanged.

According to the guidelines, the lifetime achievement award for promoting sports will carry a cash prize of ₹3 lakh, while ₹2 lakh will be awarded for outstanding performance in sports, and ₹1 lakh for excellence in coaching.

Similarly, a cash award of ₹1 lakh will be given in each of the following categories - best contribution to sports promotion, excellence in sports journalism, para-sports person of the year, upcoming athlete of the year (junior category), and sports technical official/support staff of the year.

P3

STORM OVER UPSC CHIEF'S RESIGNATION

Amid nationwide outrage over the malpractices in the selection of probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, the sudden decision of UPSC Chairman Manoj Soni to quit has stirred a controversy. Though Soni cited 'personal reason' for his move, Opposition Congress claimed that the top official has been 'nudged out' given the soup the elite all-India exam body now finds itself in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman Manoj Soni has resigned citing personal reasons before the expiry of his tenure in May 2029, official sources said Saturday.

His resignation is "not in any way connected to controversies and allegations surrounding the UPSC after probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar issue came to the fore," they said.

However, the Congress has come down heavily on the government over the issue.

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged the BJP-RSS is systematically indulging in an institutional takeover of India's constitutional bodies, thereby damaging their reputation, integrity and autonomy.

"It is disconcerting how the UPSC Chairperson has resigned prematurely, five years before his term ends. Is there any connection between the numerous scandals and the resignation?" Kharge asked.

Reacting to the development, party's general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Mr Modi brought in one of his favourite 'academics' from Gujarat as a UPSC member in 2017 and made him chairman in 2023 with a six year term. But this so-called distinguished gentleman has now resigned five years before the ex-

The Gujarat fixation

Manoj Soni's appointment to the top post at UPSC, was one of the several posts granted by the Narendra Modi government either to a fellow Gujarati, or to a bureaucrat from the Gujarat cadre since 2014. According to a report, Soni is considered close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had picked him as the vice chancellor of Vadodara's famous MS University in 2005 when he was 40 years old, making him the youngest V-C in the country.

piry of his term."

Ramesh added, "Whatever the reasons that may be given, it appears clear that he had to be nudged out given the current controversy in which the UPSC is involved."

Sources said Soni was not keen on becoming the UPSC chairman and had requested to be relieved. However, his request was not accepted then.

Editors Guild seeks Rahul's support over press freedom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: The Editors Guild of India Saturday sought Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's support in raising issues of press freedom and right to information in Parliament and claimed the government has taken several legislative steps to regulate and control the media.

In a letter to Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Guild expressed concerns on legislative measures taken to control the media - print, broadcast and digital - over the last few years and called for renewed debate and consultations. Sharing the letter on social media platform X, the Guild said it has written to leaders of opposition parties also over the issue.

The body flagged concerns about the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, Broadcast Services Regulation Bill, Press and Registration of Periodicals Act and the IT Rules 2021 and subsequent amendments to it in 2023.

"We believe that a free and

independent press is vital for the health of our democracy and it is imperative that these legislative measures are revisited to safeguard these fundamental principles," added the Guild.

It said a general concern about these legislative measures was that they were taken without adequate stakeholder consultation and parliamentary scrutiny in the drafting and passing of these laws.

"They carry provisions that are vague and overbroad, which could be misused to restrict legitimate journalistic activities. These provisions give sweeping powers to a wide array of government authorities and agencies to take actions that can have a potential chilling effect on journalism and press freedom due to increased government control and punitive measures," according to the letter.

The Guild was of the view that there were inadequate safeguards for press independence and freedom of expression.

KAMALA PUJARI PASSES AWAY



Bhubaneswar, July 20: Padma Shri awardee and noted organic farmer Kamala Pujari breathed her last Saturday after suffering from kidney-related ailments, CMO sources said.

She was 74, and is survived by two sons and two daughters. Pujari, who was admitted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack two days ago following health complications, passed away in the morning. She was being treated by a four-member medical team.

Earlier, she was brought to Cuttack from Koraput District Headquarters Hospital after her condition deteriorated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at Pujari's demise.

"She made a monumental contribution to agriculture, particularly boosting organic agricultural practices and protecting indigenous seeds. Her work in enriching sustainability and protecting biodiversity will be remembered for years. She was also a beacon in empowering the tribal communities," Modi said on X.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi condoned the death and announced that her funeral would be held with full state honours.

Majhi also spoke to Pujari's son Tankadhar Pujari over the phone. "Her contribution to the field of agriculture will be remembered forever," Leader of Opposition in Assembly and former chief minister Naveen Patnaik said in a statement.

Born in Patraput village of Baipariguda block in Koraput district, Pujari was a promoter of organic farming and had harvested 100 varieties of rice. She was associated with the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation.

MORE P5

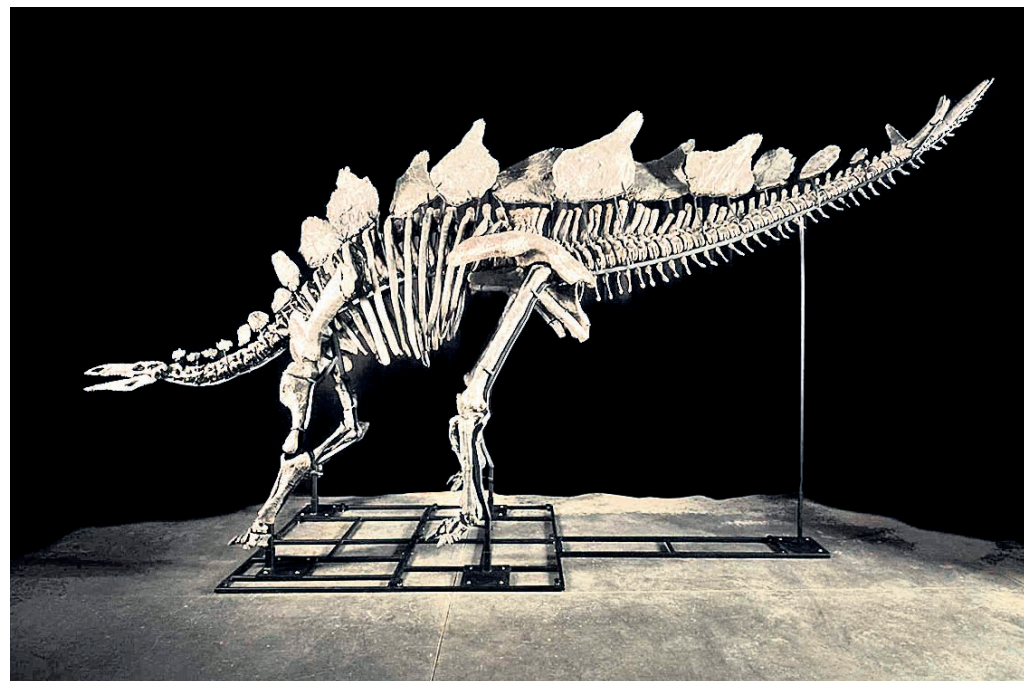
At \$44.6mn, dinosaur fossil shatters auction records

BIDDER KEN GRIFFIN NOW PLANS TO LOAN THE SKELETON TO INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES INSTEAD OF KEEPING IT FOR HIS PRIVATE COLLECTION

AGENCIES

New York, July 20: Billionaire investor Ken Griffin, founder and CEO of hedge fund Citadel, has shattered auction records by splurging \$44.6 million for a dinosaur skeleton. According to the New York Post, Griffin purchased the largest and the most intact stegosaurus skeleton at Sotheby's Wednesday, making it the most valuable fossil ever sold at auction.

Estimated to be 150 million years old, the behemoth dubbed 'Apex,' was excavated just outside present-day Dinosaur, Colorado, in May 2022 by palaeontologist Jason Cooper. According to Sotheby's, the Apex stegosaurus is the largest ever discovered, standing at an impressive 11 feet (3.3 metres) in height and 27 feet (8.2 metres) in length, with a remarkable 254 out of an estimated 319 bones preserved,



making it nearly complete.

Griffin secured the skeleton by outbidding six other participants in an auction that lasted 15 minutes. The skeleton, initially anticipated to sell for around \$6 million, was purchased for \$44.6 million, 11 times its lower estimate, marking a new record for dinosaur fossils.

'Apex' lived up to its name today, inspiring bidders globally to become the most valuable fossil ever sold at auction. "This sale has been years in the making, and at every turn, we have worked closely with Jason Cooper, from the moment of its discovery in Dinosaur, Colorado, to its sale in New York," said Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's global head of science and popular culture in a statement.

According to Forbes, the hedge fund chief is a regular donor to the Republican party and has a net worth of approximately \$37.8 billion. He now plans to loan the skeleton to institutions across the United States instead of keeping it for his private collection.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Well, vegetables are less costly here but the vendor's religion is not the same as ours

WEATHER

| | BBSR | CTC |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Max Temp | 31.7°C | 32.0°C |
| Min Temp | 26.4°C | 25.4°C |
| Humidity | 97% | 94% |
| Rainfall | 8.8mm | 20.8mm |

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers.

leisure

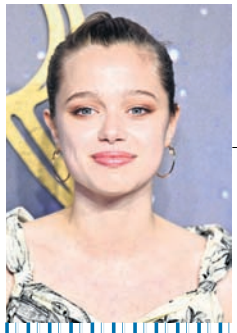


MURPHY FINDS ACTION SCENES MORE TAXING

Actor Eddie Murphy says his age is making it harder for him to perform action scenes. He reprised his role as the titular police detective in the long-awaited fourth instalment in the action comedy *Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F*, but the action-packed film was harder on him physically than the previous films.

JOLIE'S DAUGHTER MAKES MOVE TO DROP PITT FROM HER NAME

Shiloh Jolie-Pitt, the daughter of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, is moving forward with legally dropping Pitt from her name, filing a newspaper notice. Almost two months after she filed legal papers on her 18th birthday, May 27, to drop her father's surname by publishing an announcement in the newspaper.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You have chosen to pay more attention to the voice of your inner self, and Ganesh approves of it. You crave for perfection in everything you do. You will be practical and rational. Ganesh says being a bit adventurous will help.

TAURUS
Though this day appears to be like all other normal days it will be a very hectic one. Ganesh sees you buried under files and papers, trying hard to cope up with the overload, getting completely drained out and, possibly and falling sick. There is nothing wrong in staying active and occupied. But overdoing is bad strategy.

GEMINI
You will feel that your personal life is much more important than your professional needs today. Therefore you will concentrate more on your family members and their needs. It is a day filled with joy and happiness, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will be in high spirits and shall be feeling energetic today. Common sense will prevail at work, and as you get on with the day, better things will follow. Ganesh predicts that you will be showered with love and affection by your lover. Now, what can be better than this! Have fun.

LEO
It is an auspicious time to undertake journey related to business. Religious and educational pursuits will be amply rewarded. The later half of the day will see you divert your attentions in the correct direction to resolve some issues. You will have to take on a lot of mental labour today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh predicts that your leadership qualities may come to the fore today, and you may control the work agenda. You may go window-shopping in the afternoon, checking out on gifts that you want to give to your beloved. And in the evening, you will spend the time discussing your long-term goals with a close member of your family or a good friend.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that officials and colleagues will be very impressed with your working capacity and your skills and you will do your work satisfactorily with your never give up ability and your intelligence. You will be able to meet and get along with unknown people and circumstances.

SCORPIO
A systematic organiser and a perfect planner, that's what you are, when it comes to work. According to Ganesh, this attitude of yours would help you develop fondness towards your work. You may even have the knack of solving problems and hurdles in the professional field.

SAGITTARIUS
Blood will be thicker than water today. And your relatives - near and distant - will bring much pleasure today. But Ganesh portends you being at loggerheads with your colleagues. However, progress will not elude you today.

CAPRICORN
If you do something, you put your heart and soul into it. Such dedication gets you the best. You tend to exert your energies though, says Ganesh, so you will need to learn the art of delegation. It will not only take load off your shoulders but also enhance the quality of final output.

AQUARIUS
Your curiosity will work wonders for you today. You have spent a lot of time and energy for planning your future, be it a business venture or higher studies, and now you will start executing those plans, foresees Ganesh. Keep working hard, you will surely get the rewards for your efforts.

PISCES
You will be ready to lay down your life for your near and dear ones today. Even if you don't do anything so melodramatic, you will end up sacrificing your comfort to benefit someone close to you. It is best to postpone important decisions for a day, or three. Do not indulge in taking risks, for they are unlikely to pay off, says Ganesh.

When Anushka confessed of being arrogant

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Sharma was only 20 when she debuted as a lead actor in Aditya Chopra's 2008 romantic comedy *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi* opposite Shah Rukh Khan. However, in an old interview that's resurfaced now, Anushka confessed she was arrogant before she became an actor, not after that.

In an old interview with fellow actor Koel Purie, Anushka is asked what's the most arrogant thing she's ever done. She responds, "I was very arrogant before I became an actor on screen. I didn't speak to too many people in school and all that. I was really, really like snobbish."

"I'm really happy I became an actor. Because I really got a reality check, when I became an actor, from Aditya Chopra. He said, 'You are doing the film, but you're not the most good looking girl.' Till then, I used to think I'm the most good looking girl. In my head, I was the most good looking girl. I mean, come on! But then he told me. And I was like, 'Oh, achha (okay).'" Anushka said. On the work front, Anushka will be seen in *Chakda Xpress*.

AGENCIES

Meenakshi's ode to Indian femininity

Mumbai: Renowned 90s actress Meenakshi Seshadri, celebrated for her grace and elegance, has recently posted a video highlighting the Indian concept of 'Shringaar', which she describes as 'intrinsic to the culture of femininity'.

The *Damini* actress, took to her Instagram and shared a reel video and captioned, "From beginning of time, women have always been captured in the image of beauty personified. Adorned, decorated, and embellished. In India, Shringara is intrinsic to the culture of femininity."

Talking further, she penned: "I had the opportunity to work with photographer Thushal in my hometown of Dallas, US. He rejoices in the regal, joyous, elegant, seductive, and almost painting-like quality of photo art. For our shoot together, we chose a very simple yet classic Kanjeevaram saree. Pure, pristine white with veldar-red wavy lines strewn across the fabric."

She went on to say, "Right from the elaborate ringlet curls on my head transversing to the red Bindi perched between my eyebrows, and playing with the theme of bangles and bells, the look aimed to celebrate beauty, a la Indian woman. For every dancer of classical dance from India, the ankle bells are sacrosanct and a pure blessing. I am so proud that India is rich in its heritage of textiles ranging from cotton to silks with varied hues, colour patterns, and designs."

"When I look at the photographs, my eyes demurely reflecting the sheen of the silk, I remember my mother with utmost fondness, for she was the one who presented me with the Saari just before I got married. For each one of you women who have received beautiful gifts of the eternal saree from your mother, this is my gift to you," concluded the actress.

IANS



Triptii reflects on her acting journey

New Delhi: It has been seven years since Triptii Dimri stepped into the world of cinema and has tasted success with her work in *Qala* and *Animal*, among others. However, there was a time when the actress did not take herself so seriously as an actor.

Talking about her seven-year journey in Hindi cinema, Triptii told IANS, "It's been very exciting. When I started off, I did not know that I would be working with such great actors and directors because I had never taken myself so seriously as an actor earlier. I thought, 'chalo, ek film mil gaya. Let's see if I get another one or not'. But luckily, the stars were in my favour, and I landed an audition for *Laila Majnu*."

"I never took acting classes initially and had no idea about acting quality. After filming *Laila Majnu*, I enrolled in acting classes and understood the craft. It's been an exciting journey. The love from fans makes me feel great, as people connect with my characters," added the actress who is recently seen in *Bad Newz*.

The actress further added, "More than the recognition, it's the love that matters. When people remember your character names, like 'Bulbul' or 'Qala', it brings immense happiness. This love motivates me to improve my craft and continue earning people's belief, which is crucial yet challenging for an actor."

On the work front, Triptii has *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* in the pipeline.

IANS

Pankaj on the art of relatability in acting

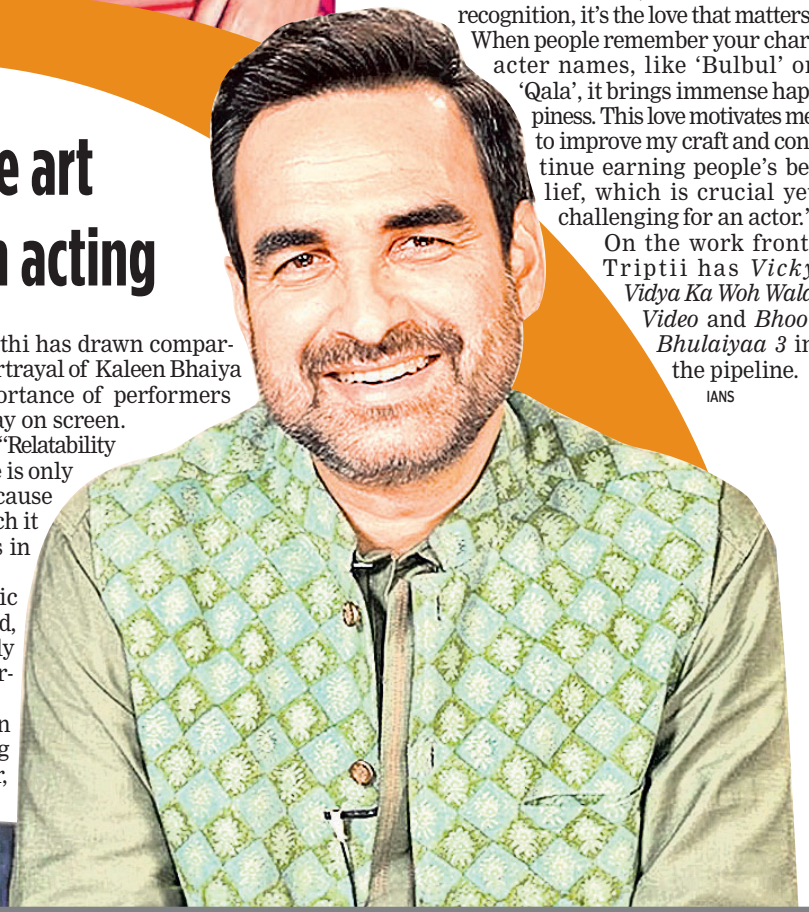
Mumbai: Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi has drawn comparisons between himself and his iconic portrayal of Kaleen Bhaiya from *Mirzapur*, emphasising the importance of performers being relatable to the characters they play on screen.

When asked if relatability is crucial, he said, "Relatability and uniqueness are both important. If there is only relatability, then there is also a problem because we have seen this in life; why should we watch it on screen? There has to be some uniqueness in the character."

When asked how he relates to his iconic character of Kaleen Bhaiya, the *Mimi* actor said, "We both are soft-spoken. I also work patiently in life. Kaleen Bhaiya is a very patient person, very futuristic, and intelligent."

On the work front, Pankaj will next be seen in the horror comedy *Stree 2*, starring Rajkumar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor, and in filmmaker Anurag Basu's *Metro...In Dino*.

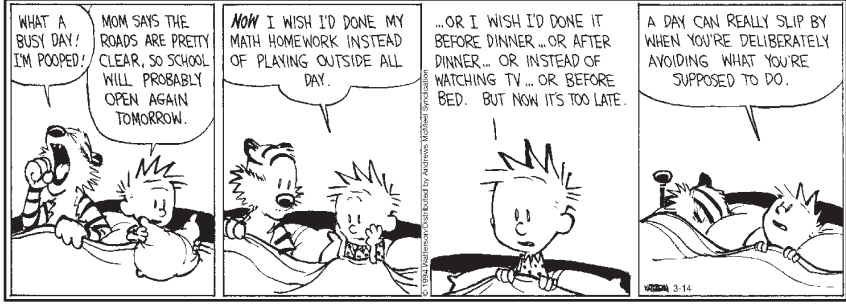
IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

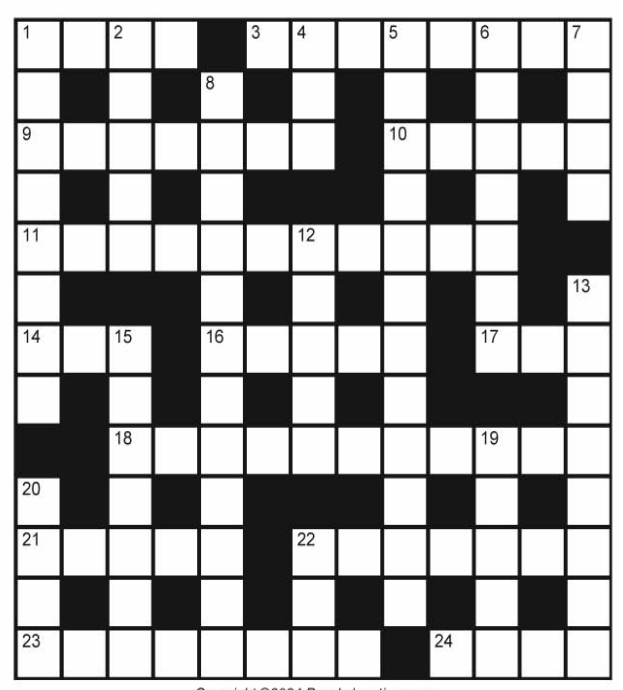


BREVITY



FUN post

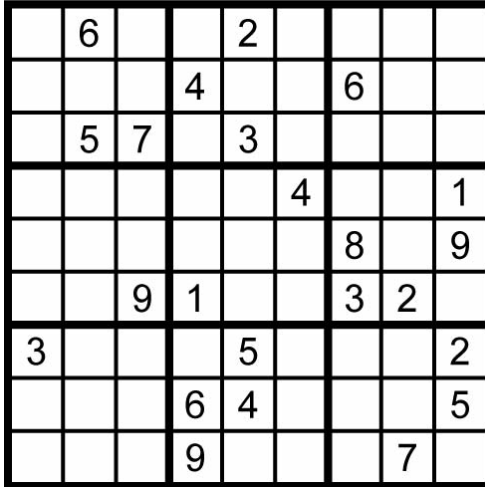
CROSSWORD



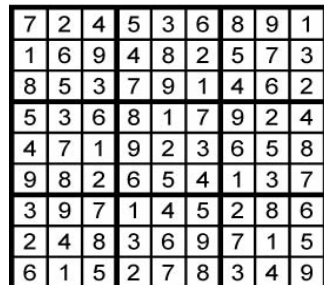
- Across**
- 1 Enemy type
 - 3 Crop pest (5,3)
 - 9 Signal
 - 10 Outbreak
 - 11 Mediator's job
 - 14 Kind of story
 - 16 Auctioneer's word
 - 17 Sp. uncle
 - 18 Collections of works
 - 21 Gown fabric
 - 22 Role model
 - 23 Argus
 - 24 Suffix with towel or novel
 - Down**
 - 1 Playwright's hope
 - 2 Chocolate substitute
 - 4 Reel's partner
 - 5 Pressing need? (7,5)
 - 6 Type of stockings
 - 7 Abominable snowman
 - 8 Social gatherings (3,9)
 - 12 Sidekick
 - 13 Bunk
 - 15 19th century Fr. educator and inventor
 - 19 Bullion unit
 - 20 Resting on
 - 22 Goat god

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

29-YR-OLD WOMAN FOUND HANGING

BHUBANESWAR: A 29-year-old woman was found hanging at her rented accommodation in Chakeisiani area under Mancheswar police limits here, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Subhranjali Parida, a native of Adenigarh village in Boudh district, Mancheswar ASI Kanhu Charan Barik said. "The body has been sent for postmortem. The reports will help us ascertain the cause of death," Barik said. Police said Subhranjali's husband found her lifeless body hanging from a ceiling fan in their bedroom Saturday afternoon. Neighbours said the couple, who tied the nuptial knot six months ago, frequently quarreled with each other over trivial issues. Meanwhile, Subhranjali's parents claimed that she was being harassed by her in-laws over petty issues. "Unable to bear the harassment, Subhranjali took the extreme step," they claimed.

23 families evacuated as heavy rain pounds state

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 20: The state experienced heavy rainfall Saturday as a depression over the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast near Chilika lake, officials said. At least 23 families were moved to safety from vulnerable areas in Malkangiri district, which received heavy rainfall.



Gopalpur Saturday morning, the IMD said in a bulletin. The depression will continue to move west-northwestwards across Odisha and Chhattisgarh and it would gradually weaken in the next 24 hours till 8.30am Sunday, it said. Under its influence, the state witnessed heavy to very heavy rain Saturday. "Isolated heavy rainfall may continue in the state over the next five days,"

the IMD bulletin said. The weatherman warned of temporary waterlogging in low-lying areas, poor visibility during intense rain and traffic congestion in urban areas. Heavy rainfall is likely at a few places in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Bargarh July 21. Heavy rain may continue to lash a few places in Mayurbhanj,

Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, and Dhenkanal July 22, the IMD bulletin said. The weatherman also forecast heavy rainfall in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts July 23. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari reviewed the situation and said, "The situation is under control and district administrations have been asked to take appropriate steps." Rainwater was flowing above several bridges in Malkangiri district, disrupting road communication between Malkangiri and Kalimela, Motu and Kalimela and to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Kanyashram and Challaguda bridges had been submerged, while Podia-Kalimela road has been affected.

Police have been deployed to prevent people from using the bridges, while tehsildars and BDOs have also been sent to the spots to take all necessary measures. "As many as 23 families have been evacuated and moved to safety in Malkangiri district. Cooked food is being provided to them," the minister said. The Collector of Nabarangpur district reported that a bridge over Turi river connecting Papadahandi and Chandahandi has been submerged and the traffic movement has been prohibited, he said. The Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) asked the district Collectors to strictly prohibit the movement of vehicles in submerged roads and bridges till water receded. "Local police must be at the site to regulate it," the SRC said.

Plus II 1st selection list: Highest cut-off scores in Ravenshaw HSS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 20: The School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Saturday declared the first merit list for first-round online admissions to Plus II (Class XII) courses for 2024-25 academic session, with Ravenshaw Higher Secondary School (HSS) in Cuttack topping the list. While the highest cut-off score in Arts at Ravenshaw HSS stood at 75.17 per cent, Science and Commerce streams recorded 91.5 per cent, and 77 per cent, respectively. Out of 4,76,093 applicants, 4,26,472 have been selected in the first phase for admission at HSSs across the state, according to the S&ME department. In the first phase, 2,71,492 students have been selected for ad-



mission into Arts, 1,17,273 into Science, 24,354 into Commerce, 8,375 into Upashastri, and 4,978 into Vocational courses. Of the total applicants, 4,48,132 were from the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, out of which 3,99,445 were selected in the first merit list for admission into various streams. Admissions will take place at the respective institutions from July 22 to July 27, 2024, it said. Classes for the new academic session are scheduled to commence August 1.

BJD govt looted ₹50K crore annually in name of 5T: BJP

AGENCIES

Puri, July 20: Alleging that Rs 50,000 crore per annum was misappropriated during the previous BJD regime in the name of 5T, the ruling BJP Saturday resolved to provide a transparent, corruption-free, and balanced government to the people of Odisha. This resolution was part of BJP's political agenda, which was



passed at its two-day state executive meeting that concluded in Puri. 5T, an initiative adopted by the previous Naveen Patnaik government, stands for teamwork, technology, transparency, timely completion of projects leading to transformation. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, senior BJP leader and Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari highlighted the alleged misappropriation of over Rs 50,000 crore annually under the 5T initiative. He claimed that corruption was rampant during the BJD regime, with sectors like women's safety, education, and health being grossly neglected. The BJP criticised the 25-year tenure of the BJD government, stating that it failed to meet the minimum requirements of people. Pujari alleged that the BJD government lacked

the willpower to resolve public issues, quoting the party's resolution. The BJP accused the BJD rule of being marked by anarchy and corruption and committed to provide clean, transparent, and good governance in the state, prioritising the uplift of 'Odia Asmita' (pride). The BJP pointed out that under BJD's rule, elected representatives were sidelined while officers held the power. Local businessmen were ignored in favour of outsiders, the party claimed. Referring to Naveen Patnaik's engagement of MLAs to monitor different departments, dubbed 'shadow cabinet', the BJP resolution called this a ploy to mislead the people of Odisha. The party vowed to keep its electoral promises, stating it had already opened four gates of Srimandir and the Lord's Ratna Bhandar. The resolution promised that farmers would soon receive Rs 3,100 as MSP per quintal of paddy and women would get a Rs 50,000 voucher, as outlined in the BJP manifesto. The BJP also appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to transforming Odisha into the top state in the country. Noting that Odisha will celebrate its 100th year of formation in 2036, Pujari likened the BJP's 12-year plan for the state to the construction of the Konark temple, which took 12 years and 1,200 artisans.

BJD SLAMS STATE GOVT OVER RENAMING AWARD

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 20: The BJD criticised the BJP government, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, for renaming the Biju Patnaik Sports Award as the Odisha Rajya Krida Samman, Saturday. The Sports and Youth Services department, in a notification, renamed the Biju Patnaik Sports Award as the Odisha Rajya Krida Samman. It announced that the state government would confer the Rajya Krida Samman in eight categories, subject to the availability of suitable candidates. Strongly reacting to the BJP government's decision to rename the Biju Patnaik Sports Award, which was launched by

the Naveen Patnaik government in 2001-2002, BJD spokesperson and former minister Arun Sahoo said the BJP government had resorted to narrow-minded politics of revenge. Sahoo said, "Biju Patnaik was not just an individual but an institution, and leaders from across party lines respect Biju Babu." He added that Biju Babu had played a major role in the freedom struggle, had been honoured by three countries, and was a national asset. The BJD leader urged the newly-elected BJP government not to take any steps that would hurt the sentiments of the people of the state and requested the government to refrain from making such decisions.

Adding a new chapter to heritage preservation & management

Inauguration of

THE 46TH SESSION OF UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

by **Narendra Modi** Prime Minister

On 21st July 2024 at 7:00 pm
Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

◆ In the august presence of ◆

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar Minister for External Affairs</p> | <p>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Minister for Culture and Tourism</p> |
| <p>Audrey Azoulay Director-General, UNESCO</p> | <p>Rao Inderjit Singh Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Ministry of Planning and MoS Culture</p> |

Event Highlights

Exhibition on Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures | Exhibitions on Ayurveda, Digital innovations in India and Incredible India

Immersive Experience of Selected World Heritage Sites in India

21st to 31st July 2024

46th World Heritage Committee Agenda

- Delegates from more than 150 countries
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- Review of State of Conservation Reports for 124 World Heritage Sites
- Review of World Heritage Fund and decisions on international assistance
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CRPF flags indecorous content on X

New Delhi: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has flagged the Indian cyber security agencies about instances of some 'inappropriate content' popping up on X Wednesday, when its abbreviated name was searched on the platform. Official sources said the search results on the popular platform pertain to sexually explicit images and links. "CRPF has noticed that social media users may come across some inappropriate content while searching for CRPF keyword on X. CRPF has raised the issue with relevant authorities and is working to resolve the same," the force tweeted on X.

SAI International holds investiture ceremony



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 20: SAI International School inducted its student council members for the academic session 2024-25 during the investiture ceremony held at the Indraprastha auditorium here Saturday.

Col Rohit Singh, Sena Medal Commanding Officer, 120 Infantry Battalion (TA) graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The ceremony, which began with a soul-stirring rendition by the School Choir, featured the badge pinning segment where the newly appointed student leaders received their badges, symbolising their roles and responsibilities.

The Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains, Cultural Secretary and council members took an oath to uphold the school's values and contribute to the betterment of the student community.

SAIoneers Ayushman Thakur and Sivakshi Dixit were declared as the Head Boy and the Head Girl. All the council members pledged to carry out their duties with diligence, responsibility, and commitment.

Congratulating the leaders, Col Singh said, "The council holds great significance for students in high school, as it nurtures leadership and discipline. Embrace this opportunity to make a positive impact, uphold integrity, and together, let's shape a bright future for all."

SAI International School chairperson Silpi Sahoo while addressing the students said, "The investiture ceremony has set a benchmark for nurturing leaders capable of translating their vision into reality. Joining the student council is not only about assuming roles but it is about embarking on a transformative journey to become visionary leaders who drive meaningful change."

She emphasised on the leadership lessons to learn from George Washington, with focus on the 3Ds: discipline, determination, and dedication, which are central to any student council.

The vote of thanks delivered by the director Academics and senior principal Nilkantha Panigrahi.

The ceremony concluded with the national anthem.

LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS ELIMINATION DRIVE
State task force to ensure mass drug administration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 20: The state government is fully committed to eliminate lymphatic filariasis by 2027. In line with this commitment, a state task force (STF) meeting was organised under the leadership of department of Health and Family Welfare commissioner-cum-secretary, Shalini Pandit.

NHM mission director Brundha D and state Public Health director Nilakantha Misra were present in the meeting. Officials from the departments of Health, Panchayati Raj, Women and Child Development, Urban Development and Education also participated.

Following the guidelines of the Central government, the second phase of the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) programme, by administering three antifilarial drugs (DEC, Albendazole, and Ivermectin) will be conducted between August 10 to 19 in 197 selected blocks and urban areas of 11 districts namely, Subarnapur, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Ganjam and Jharsuguda.

During the meeting, Pandit instructed officials to ensure the proper execution of activities in close collaboration with other departments, to ensure that every member of the commu-



Health and Family Welfare commissioner-cum-secretary Shalini Pandit appealed to all the concerned departments to provide support during the MDA round to maximise the drug consumption

nity takes antifilarial drugs in front of the trained health worker.

She also highlighted that extensive promotion should happen at different levels to create mass awareness on the importance of taking preventive medications during the MDA round.

Later, Pandit appealed to all the concerned departments to provide support during the MDA round to maximise the drug consumption.

Misra talked about the lymphatic filariasis elimination programme in detail. He said, "During the upcoming round, our target is to reach around 19.3 million individuals in 11 districts by 77,291 drug administrators, from August 10 to 19."

"To ensure quality, 7,700 supervisors will monitor the pro-

gramme on a daily basis. A rapid response team will also be deployed in each block to handle any post drug consumption issue," Misra said.

If all community members consume the antifilarial drug once in a year, for five consecutive years, we can eliminate filaria from the state, he added.

National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control joint director Shubhashisha Mohanty informed that the antifilarial drugs are totally safe and will be administered by trained health workers by visiting offices, schools, colleges, workplaces, jails and every house hold as per the plan.

The meeting was attended by officials from World Health Organisation, Project Concern International, and Global Health Strategies.

Man arrested over death threat, extortion charges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 20: The Lingaraj police arrested a man from Old Town for allegedly issuing death threat to a man and his brother over extortion, here Saturday. He is also charged with throwing acid on the duo.

IIC of Lingaraj police station Purnachandra Pradhan said the accused was identified as Krushna Behera, 36 a resident of Old Town area of the City. He was earlier booked four times for various criminal cases.



According to complaint received from Srikanta Panda, July 19, the accused demanded money from Panda while he along with his brother was waiting for a bus near a tea stall in the Old Town bus depot area, the cops said.

As Panda denied, an irate Krushna threatened to kill them while throwing acid on them, the cops added.

The Lingaraj police has booked Krushna under Sections 308 (4), 296 and 351 (3) of BNS, and produced him before a local court, Saturday.

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Deepak Kumar Agrawal, S/o Ajit Kumar Agrawal, Resident of Flat No.407, Keshav Block, Balaji Complex, Jailroad, Jharapada, P.O.- Budheswori, P.S.- Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar -751006, Dist.- Khurda, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.588, dtd.19.07.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Deepak Kumar Agarwal, S/o Ajit Kumar Agarwal for all future purposes.

I, Bhagyashree Agarwal, W/o Piyush Agarwal, resident, N2-106, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Odisha-751015, Declare by this affidavit - 12AA739117 (19.07.2024), That now onwards I shall be known as Bhagyashree Agarwal for all future purposes.

I, Manas Kumar Nayak, Service No : 14439203K, Rank : HAV, Resident of Vill : Harihans, PO : Dhusuri, Tahasil : Dhamnagar, Dist : Bhadrak, PIN : 756119, State : Odisha have changed my daughter's name from Manaswini to Manaswini Nayak in my Army Service Records vide affidavit dt. 29.06.2024 before the Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak.

LOST

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary, Rajgangpur dated 05.06.2024 that I, Alok Ranjan Singh (43), S/o- Ganesh Ram Singh, Brahmanpara Ekma, P.O.- Ekma, P.S.- Baragaon, Dist.- Sundargarh, Aadhaar No.- 416794179148 declare that I am the rightful owner of Regd. Sale Deed No.- 11761100810 of 2011 executed in Sub Registrar Office Rajgangpur that the Original Sale Deed has been lost some where at between Bargaon to Rourkela during transit by Bus and in spite of my best efforts it could not be traced out I hereby undertake that I will deposit the Original copy if it will be traced out in future. That, I Swear this affidavit to produce the same before the competent authority for reference to record. That the fact stated above are true to the best of my knowledge & belief.



BEACH BEAUTY TURNS BLEAK: Hotels release untreated sewage water into the sea along with solid waste near Chaitanya Chowk in Puri, Saturday

Aashraa Foundation feted by We4U



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 20: Aashraa Foundation was honoured with the prestigious 'We4U 7th Social Impact Award 2024' here Saturday.

The award recognises unsung heroes who have dedicated their lives to create a positive impact in the society. The award was received by co-founders Santosh Kumar Patnaik and Srinibas Sahoo at a ceremony here, Saturday.

At the event, Patnaik expressed his gratitude and said, "This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team. We are deeply hon-

oured to be recognised among such inspiring changemakers."

"Our journey has always been about uplifting marginalised communities and bringing meaningful change, and this award will motivate us to continue our mission with even greater enthusiasm," he added.

Co-founder Sahoo, at the ceremony said, "Receiving the award is a significant milestone for us. It validates the countless hours of effort and the unwavering commitment of our team members. We dedicate this award to the communities we serve and pledge to keep working towards a more inclusive and equitable society."

Regional training on livestock census

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 20: A regional training programme on livestock census was organised under the aegis of department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (AHD), Central government, in collaboration with state Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) department here, Saturday.

Around 200 participants from Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh attended the training programme. State and district nodal officers, scientists and officials from National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) also joined the event.

On the occasion, Minister of State, Fisheries and AHD SP Singh Baghel attended the event and said that livestock census is an integral part of animal resources development in the country which leads to the eco-



nomic development of farmers and growth of national economy. Baghel emphasised on census planning in animal husbandry sector, disease control measures and breeding activities. Keeping in view the 21st livestock census in the country, scheduled from September to December, 2024, such regional training programmes are being

organised at various places, Minister said.

F&ARD minister Gokulananda Mallik expressed his pleasure and said that the number of livestock in the state or district can be known only through a comprehensive census, in order to design adequate planning for livestock diseases control measures, disease sur-

veillance and livestock breeding. "Census helps in nutritional interventions to enhance production. Be more careful during the census so that statistics on various livestock products can be ascertained from the data of livestock population," Mallick said.

Software professionals and scientists from NBAGR trained the participants on use of mobile apps and dash-board, along with training on recognising different breeds and made them familiar with the software interface. The trained nodal officers will work as master trainers for their respective states and districts.

F&ARD principal secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishta, AHD statistics advisor Jagat Hazarika, Animal Husbandry Statistics director VP Singh, NBAGR director BP Mishra, and ARD director Ramashis Hazra were present in the programme.

Reliance Digital opens new store in Cuttack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 20: Reliance Digital launched its new store at Badambadi here Saturday.

During the event, Reliance Digital operation sales head Rajib Das and cluster manager Biswajit Sahu were present. Odia film Actor Sailendra Samantaray and actress Sivani Sangita also graced the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Das said, "With the motto of 'Personalising Technology', the store aims to bring customers a world of tech choices at affordable prices. By offering unbeatable deals on electronics with multiple finance options, including Easy EMI, Reliance

Digital intends to help customers find the perfect tech to suit their lifestyle."

"The store is offering up to 10 per cent cash back on leading bank cards with exciting early bird offers at the new store," he said.

Also, with the fastest delivery and installation, customers can get their hands on their favourite tech without any delay, Das added.

"The store which is spread across 12,000 sq ft, offers the widest range of latest electronics at best prices along with an expert tech team for in-store assistance and resQ service experts, dedicated to post-purchase care of electronics, Sahu said.

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RESENTMENT IN KANDHAMAL

Delay in supply of ginger, turmeric seeds to farmers



Excess turmeric seeds being exported out of state instead of cultivation owing to delayed arrival

farmers for cultivation. It is assumed that the farmers have already completed plantation of turmeric long before the delayed distribution of seeds. Consequently, leftover turmeric and that collected from the forest is being sold to the traders, who are exporting the raw spices to Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh from here.

"Awareness will be created among the farmers about proper utilisation of turmeric and ginger seeds being provided to them from the department," said Sunil Behera, overseer of Horticulture department, in response to a query. He also warned that action will be taken against those farmers who are found to have received seeds and sold those instead of cultivating.

Regarding the delay in the distribution of seeds, he said, "After the delay of only a few days, now the seeds have been distributed for Kharif cultivation."

It is pertinent to mention that a total of 453 quintal turmeric seeds were provided to 278 farmers in the month of May. Similarly, out of 326 quintal ginger seeds reserved to be distributed, 186 quintal has been distributed to 278 farmers in the first phase and, the distribution of 140 quintal ginger seeds to 200 farmers is underway in the second phase.

Amarendra Pradhan from Kariyapada village of Simanbadi panchayat have alleged inordinate delay in distribution of seeds. This has spread apprehension among the cultivators regarding a successful yield.

Furthermore, the rain has played spoilsport for the farmers who have received the delayed seeds as too much rain during plantation may affect the cultivation of ginger and turmeric. Doubting whether they will get good harvest, some of them are selling the seeds in the market at throwaway prices in order to earn some bucks.

While the market price of ginger is up to ₹160 per kg, the farmers are selling the ginger seeds at ₹120. Some others are taking to plantation half-heartedly after delayed arrival of the seeds.

As per sources, harvested raw turmeric is being transported out of the state from this region at the same time when the department is supplying seeds to



FARM WORKS: Women farmhands collecting paddy saplings for transplantation on a farmland at Malati Gunderpur area under Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Saturday

Padma Shri Kamala Pujari: Preserver of paddy seeds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 20: Born into a poor family in tribal-dominated Patraput village of Baipariguda block in Koraput district, Padma Shri Kamala Pujari, 74, who passed away at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Saturday following kidney-related ailments, was always fascinated with traditional paddy seeds.

This fascination led to her cultivating paddy in her farmland with a mission that she could preserve the grains for further germination.

Kamala successfully preserved hundreds of indigenous paddies, and had also collected several endangered and rare types of seeds including paddy, turmeric, tili, black cumin, and mahakanta.

Often called 'preserver of



ADIEU

paddy seeds', Kamala's relentless efforts were duly recognised at all-India level when she was conferred the presti-

gious Padma Shri award by the then President Ram Nath Kovind March 16, 2019.

Her hard work and perseverance won her many awards and honours earlier too. She was given the 'Best Women Farmer' award by the state government in 2004.

Kamala, who was a keen follower of traditional farming, learnt her basic farming techniques from the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in Jaypore. The foundation also helped Kamala to set up a seed bank along with a few other women from her village.

After getting training, Kamala went on to encourage others, including farmers to stop using chemical fertilisers. She formed a group with fellow villagers which conducted door-to-door awareness drives about organic

farming in nearby villages.

Her dedication paid off when farmers in Patraput and neighbouring villages in Nabarangpur district stopped using chemical fertilisers.

In 2002, Kamala went all the way to Johannesburg to participate in a workshop on organic farming organised by MS Swaminathan Foundation. There, her efforts towards traditional and organic farming were appreciated by the participants, who had come from across the world.

In 2018, the state Planning Board had taken Kamala as one of its members.

In 2002, a hostel of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) in Bhubaneswar was named after Kamala.

She had won Equator of Initiative Award in 2002.

RSP ropes in volunteers to intensify anti-dengue drive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 20: With dengue spreading in Rourkela and maximum number of cases being found in the sector residential area of Rourkela Steel Plant, the steel major has further intensified its anti-dengue drive.

In its bid to curb the spread, RSP has roped in volunteers from its own workforce and 50 such persons participated in the training programme to control the spread. The 50 dengue control volunteers from across the plant are being trained as an emergency vector control measure to curtail transmission in the township. PK Swain,

CGM (TA & CSR) presided over the training programme held at Town Engineering Conference Hall. Present on the occasion were BK Jojo, GM In-charge (Town Engineering). The 50 volunteers will be at the disposal of the town engineering department to help conduct house to house survey and spread awareness for prevention of dengue.

Dr Deepa Lavangare, Deputy CMO (TE-Public Health) provided an in-depth knowledge about dengue fever and other mosquito borne diseases, the signs, symptoms and primary preventive measures to reduce dengue infections.

5 timber smugglers held from Similipal Sanctuary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 20: The Forest department here arrested five persons for felling valuable trees for timber in Similipal Sanctuary, and forwarded them to a court in Mayurbhanj district, Saturday. The Forest department has seized five logs of Champa tree, two large saws and three axes from them.

The accused were identified as Rajma Tudu and Mangala Marandi from Kumudabadi area under Jashipur police station limits, Gopinath Patra and Nane Soren from Asanabani area, and Sukanta Nayak from Basantapur area in the district.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Forest department officials conducted a raid and arrested five persons for cutting Champa trees inside the Gudugudia range in the north division of Similipal

Tiger Reserve, Friday. They have been charged under sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for illegally felling trees.

Notably, activities of poachers and timber smugglers are on the rise in Similipal. As the sanctuary continues to be encroached upon, wild animals are increasingly straying towards bordering villages and towns. Large and valuable trees like sal, piasal, arjuna, banyan, peepal, neem, harida, and bahada are being cut down and the timbers smuggled to neighboring states of West Bengal and Jharkhand. Police here frequently seize vans transported timbers to other states. Locals demanded the Forest department to intensify patrolling and closely monitor not just the entry points but also the active areas to prevent such illegal activities.



RAIN HAVOC IN NABARANGPUR

5-year-old dies in wall collapse

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur/Chandahandi, July 20: A five-year-old boy died in wall collapse Saturday at Bhatipada village under Dalabeda panchayat of Chandahandi block in Nabarangpur district following incessant rainfall over the last three days triggered by the depression in Bay of Bengal.

The deceased was identified as Phalguni Bag, son of Duryan Bag in the village. Duryan was staying in his old thatched house with his wife and only son after failing to get a house under the PM Awas Yojana despite repeatedly applications. Tragedy struck as the



rain soaked wall of the house caved in when the kid was inside.

Family members rescued the child from the rubble and rushed him in an ambulance to Chandahandi Community Health Centre (CHC). He was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) in Nabarangpur after doc-

tors found blood oozing out from his temple and a clot on his head during treatment.

However, doctors at the Nabarangpur DHH pronounced him dead on arrival. On being informed, tehsildar Sahadev Kutruka and assistant revenue inspector (ARI) Anant Sinha reached the hospital and took stock of the situation.

BDO Ramakrushna Nayak also met the family members of the deceased and enquired about the incident that led to the death of the child. He assured to provide dry foods and a house under PM Awas Yojana soon to the bereaved family members.

Police arrest 2 in murder case

Balasure: Police Saturday arrested two persons in connection with the death of a youth who was found with stab wounds near National Highway-16 in Balasure district. The body of Rabinarayan Guli, 25, was discovered Friday night by a patrolling officer and local residents. He was taken to Soro Hospital, where he was declared dead. Balasure SP Sagarika Nath said, "After registering a case at Soro police station, a team was formed to investigate the incident. The team acted swiftly and arrested two suspects from Pipili area in Puri district Saturday." The arrested have been identified as Sibunu Patra (23) of Chudangana Sahi, and Pratyush Senapati (23) of Dolamandap Sahi, both from Puri town.

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The fly that touches honey cannot use its wings; so too the soul that clings to spiritual sweetness ruins its freedom and hinders contemplation.

SRI AUROBINDO



Perils of Ideology

Weakened leaders of ideological parties are always vulnerable to those willing to be more extreme than them. This is something to consider when understanding what is going on in Uttar Pradesh and it will serve as an example of what we can expect in the future in a minority government. The BJP's allies in Delhi have all opposed the idea that UP's shopkeepers be compelled to advertise their names (and by extension their religion). From the outside, there seems no apparent reason for asking shopkeepers to do this except to generate controversy. No demand for this was made and this has not been an issue in the past. The manner in which it has been done, at first without an official order and pretending that it is voluntary further strengthens the impression that the action was taken only to stir the pot.

Consider then that the issue has become larger than the news of just a day before it happened, which was that UP's Chief Minister was in trouble for delivering defeat in the Lok Sabha polls. All the news channels were full of speculation about what would happen next. That is no longer the story, and the Chief Minister has managed with one action to change the narrative. Observe that few Union ministers are defending this or promoting the idea. This is not of course because they disagree with it but because it doesn't serve the government in Delhi. Why give your allies the opportunity to show rifts and dissent? It doesn't help with the illusion that nothing has changed after 4 June. But everyone understands that and why this is being done.

The action in UP cannot be openly opposed either, and this is the problem of ideological parties. The Chief Minister is doing only what the BJP has been doing against minorities through its entire history because that is its ideology. The same thing done six months ago or last year would have been a different matter but this is a new time. We have seen glimpses of this same situation before.

The challenger who is more extreme than the weakened leader was first seen over 20 years ago. In April 2002, only a month after the violence after Godhra had led to the death of about 1,000 people in Gujarat, the BJP National Executive met in Goa. There was talk in the media that Prime Minister Vajpayee was going to get Chief Minister Modi to step down. A magazine reported under the headline "How Vajpayee ended up as the Hindutva choir boy," 29 April 2002 reported what happened next: "No sooner had party President Jana Krishnamurthy completed his 'taken as read' presidential address than Modi got up and said in his sombre, chaste Hindi: 'Adhyakshji, I want to speak on Gujarat ... From the party's point of view, this is a grave issue. There is a need for a free and frank discussion. To enable this I wish to place my resignation before this body. It is time we decided what direction the party and the country should take from this point onwards.'"

"He didn't need to say more. With one stroke, the Gujarat chief minister had seized the initiative. He galvanised his supporters who now stood up to be counted. Food Minister Shanta Kumar, who had spoken out against Modi and the VHP's extremes, found himself being rebuked and facing a disciplinary committee. He was forced to apologise. Even if the prime minister may have thought Modi's resignation prudent for the sake of both his personal image and the unity of the coalition, there was absolutely no way he could go against the ferocity of the pro-Modi sentiment. He tried shelving the issue for a day but even this was resisted."

Vajpayee's inability to wrestle Modi down was predictable. Having been raised on ideology, the cadre was not interested in moderation. As noted earlier, leaders in extremist parties are always vulnerable to charismatic persons further to their right, who are willing and eager to push harder and risk more and are better able to express the cadre's zealotry. Modi was able to build a nationwide and really a global notoriety and fame because of the BJP's refusal or inability to change its leadership in Gujarat. The apologetic Hindutva of the decade following the fall of the Babri Masjid was about to end. The BJP cadre and the Sangh had a real hero who spoke and felt and did as they really wanted their leaders to.

That gloss has now gone because of the events of 4 June. If the Prime Minister wishes to see smooth functioning inside government he will have to avoid issues that needlessly agitate allies, such as this one. Remember that the allies will always be looking out for issues on which they can press to extract what they really want.

As the 240-seater Prime Minister attempts to moderate his image of hardline hero, he has made room for others to elbow in and that is what is happening. And that it what will continue to happen from inside the BJP. Those in the party who feel threatened, or are about to lose their position, or feel that they need to assert themselves over others in some way, will consider using this formula. Many will actually deploy it, as we are seeing. This is the problem with ideological parties.

It is going to be a different third term for him and an interesting one for observers.



Aakar Patel

Remember that the allies will always be looking out for issues on which they can press to extract what they really want



Dasarathi Mishra

WITH FINANCIAL LITERACY, CITIZENS CAN MAKE INFORMED FINANCIAL DECISIONS THAT BENEFIT THEMSELVES AND COMMUNITIES

The effective literacy rate in India recorded at 74% in the 2011 is quite impressive. The literacy rate for 2022 increased to 76.32%. However, as far as financial literacy is concerned, the position is not encouraging. Standard & Poor's Global FinLit Survey in its finding reveals that only 24% of Indian adults are financially literate. This means they can adequately understand key financial concepts, including risk diversification, inflation, and compound interest. According to a 2024 study by SEBI, 27% of India's population is considered financially literate whereas only 16.7% of Indian students have a basic understanding of money management and finance. Thus, financial literacy needs a big push in our country, focussing more on young adults.

With financial literacy, citizens can make informed financial decisions that benefit themselves and communities. It would help to reduce poverty and inequality, as people can make informed decisions about investments, savings, and borrowing. This, in turn, can lead to a more sustainable and prosperous economy. Financial literacy stimulates the demand side—making people aware of what they can and should demand from the financial system.

Globally, financial literacy is recognised as an essential life skill. Prof Annamaria Lusardi, senior fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and Founder of the Journal of Financial Literacy and Wellbeing mentions: "Financial literacy is an essential tool for anyone who wants to be able to succeed today, make sound financial decisions, and—ultimately—be a good citizen."

In June 2012, the RBI advised lead banks in districts to set up Financial Literacy Centres (FLCs) to conduct financial literacy programmes, workshops, and awareness campaigns in villages to educate people about basic financial concepts, such as savings, borrowing, and insurance, as well as more complex topics like retirement planning. As on December 31, 2023, lead

FOCUS FINANCIAL EDUCATION

LEARNING A LIFE SKILL



Financial literacy stimulates the demand side—making people aware of what they can and should demand from the financial system

banks had established more than 1,500 FLCs in the country.

The Centres for Financial Literacy (CFL) project, initiated by RBI in 2017, is another milestone. It is an example of collaborative approach involving banks and NGOs with funding support RBI and Financial Inclusion Fund (FI) administered by NABARD. The financial literacy camps conducted by these CFLs aim to further financial literacy at the grassroots and achieve certain end-outcomes such as accounts opening, KYC process and insurance linkages. Starting with 80 CFLs, initially covering an equal number of blocks in the pilot phase, the project has made impressive strides with 2,421 CFLs catering to 7,225 blocks, as on March 31, 2024.

The amendment to Banking Regulation Act in 2013 empowered RBI to create Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF). The Fund has been created and maintained by RBI since 2014, from the unclaimed deposits of the banking system. Deposits unclaimed with banks for 10 years are transferred to RBI within three months. The Fund is utilised for creating financial awareness and dis-

seminating financial education among the masses. With financial assistance from the Fund, entities registered with RBI, are permitted to conduct workshops to disseminate financial knowledge and skills to depositors. Even after the money is transferred to the Fund, customers are eligible to claim the amount through their bank. Depositors can lodge their claim with their bank or on UDGM portal on RBI website. As per the RBI Annual Report 2024, at the end of March 2024, aggregate amounts of Rs 78,212 crore are lodged with the DEAFund. In RBI, a committee chaired by one Deputy Governor and six members including a chairman of a bank, one expert in the field of banking and one person representing the interest of customers drawn from organisations or associations formed by such customers or depositors manage the fund.

National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) (2020-2025) has been formulated as a forward-looking framework designed to meet these requirements. The document was prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE)

after extensive consultations with all the financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDA, and PFRDA), government of India, and other stakeholders like IBA, NPCI.

The '5C' approach of the strategy emphasises: (i) developing relevant Content in the curriculum in schools, colleges and training establishments; (ii) developing Capacity among intermediaries involved in providing financial services; (iii) leveraging the positive effect of Community-led model for financial literacy; (iv) appropriate Communication strategy for financial literacy, and; (v) enhancing Collaboration among various stakeholders.

It is pertinent to mention that financial literacy among bankers managing front office is also important. Dr KC Mishra, financial expert and eminent banker, in a seminar on financial literacy organised by Odisha Financial Literacy Forum mentioned that the prevailing financial illiteracy among bankers needs to be addressed so that they can give a better customer service.

Digital financial literacy has assumed added significance as cyber frauds are on rise. This poses challenge to citizens, regulators and government. Customers need to know how to handle digital transactions consciously. RBI ombudsman team and the Consumer Education and Protection Department (CEPD) of RBI have prepared booklets such as 'Be(A)ware' (March 2022) and Raju and the Forty Thieves (Dec 2022) have become immensely popular.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, at the Annual Conference of RBI Ombudsman, on 15 March 2024 had emphasised: "while we have made good progress in our objective of enhancing consumer awareness, there is considerable scope for further deepening consumer awareness and financial literacy activities, particularly among the marginalised, less savvy and rural communities. All the stakeholders need to refocus themselves in this direction."

The writer is a former CGM, RBI. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM CONFLICTS

Restore the Olympic peace

There are at least 55 ongoing wars around the world. Politicians have consistently failed to end the armed conflicts that are ravaging their societies, and the dangers have been multiplied by the fact that local wars no longer remain local.

The bloody conflict between Russia and Ukraine—the biggest war on the European continent since 1945—has entered its third year and is still reverberating worldwide. The spillover effects have included increased famine in Africa, a migration crisis in Europe, and the release of harmful substances into water, food, and milk supplies that ultimately reach people on six continents. By the end of this year, the number of people killed and injured as a result of the war in Ukraine is expected to exceed one million—a casualty toll not seen in Europe since World War II.

In Gaza, where war has raged since last October, the United Nations puts the death toll as of

January at 25,000—but the number may well be much higher. And in Yemen, the UN says that 377,000 have died in the fighting or from disease over the past decade of civil war.

As these and other conflicts rage, defence budgets around the world are expanding substantially; and hanging over it all is the threat—repeated again and again in Ukraine—of nuclear war. The resources being mobilised are comparable to those needed to address climate change, or to eliminate hunger globally for the next 80 years.

Just think about that: No one would go hungry or die of exhaustion, and no child would be undernourished, if the money now being spent on weaponry and soldiers was instead used to better the lives of the world's poor. Instead of sustaining life, resources are being wasted on spreading death.

The victims of today's wars are mostly people between the ages of 30 and 40, meaning that each

death represents approximately half a life that could have been. Every 100,000 people killed is another four million years not lived. Consider all the breakthrough discoveries that will not be made, the children who will not be born, and the orphans who will suffer alone.

We are not representatives of states. But if the efforts of states to establish peace are not sufficient, individuals—no matter their work or their station in life—must step up. The world must confront today's wars with one voice. That is why we are asking His Holiness Pope Francis, His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, His Holiness the Dalai Lama XIV, and Muslim and Jewish leaders to use their moral authority to appeal to all citizens of the world and to their governments.

The 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris is an ideal opportunity to do this. During the ancient Olympic Games, the frequent wars between the Greek

city-states were suspended. Competition would take place between athletes in search of excellence. We hope the billions of people who watch the Paris Games will follow this example and join with the world's religious and moral leaders in calling for peace.

The conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere call for an immediate ceasefire, followed by the exchange of all prisoners, the release of hostages, the return of human remains, and a start of negotiations.

Our primary duty as adults is to ensure that our children survive us. Instead of destroying each other and our societies with violence, let us devote our energies and resources to saving our planet. Let us begin by reviving the Olympic peace.

Dmitry Muratov won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021. Maria Ressa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Dmitry Muratov & Maria Ressa

INSTEAD OF DESTROYING EACH OTHER AND OUR SOCIETIES WITH VIOLENCE, LET US DEVOTE OUR ENERGIES AND RESOURCES TO SAVING OUR PLANET

WISDOM CORNER

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. HENRY DAVID THOREAU

The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them. ERNEST HEMINGWAY

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them. ALBERT EINSTEIN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1798: Egyptians defeated in the Battle of the Pyramids. Napoleon's Army of Egypt used a new military tactic, the massive divisional square, to defeat the Egyptian forces of Mur d Bey this day in 1798 at the Battle of the Pyramids during Napoleon's Egyptian campaign.

1925: The trial of high-school teacher John T. Scopes ended with his conviction in Tennessee; he had taught Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in violation of a state law.

1967: Albert John Luthuli, president of the African National Congress (1952-60) and the first African to be awarded a Nobel Prize for Peace (1960), died after being struck by a train.

1977: Libyan-Egyptian War begins. This short war between Libya and Egypt started with Libya striking Egyptian cities. The war lasted for 2 days with a ceasefire on July 24.

1980: Mary Eugenia Charles is elected as PM of Dominica. Her election to office made her the first female and the longest PM of the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is also the first elected female head of state in the Americas.

1983: The world's lowest recorded temperature, -128.6 °F (-89.2 °C), was measured at Vostok Station, Antarctica.

Sagacious decision

Sir, This refers to "SC to examine Art 361 granting immunity to Guvs" (Orissa POST, July 20). I must appreciate the apex court for showing sagacity in accepting to examine the contours of Article 361 of the Constitution of India following the allegation received against the Bengal Governor for allegedly taking the advantage of "blanket immunity" against any kind of criminal prosecution. The law enjoins that where there is a cause of action, there is a legal relief and such relief cannot be denied by enacting any law contrary to the principles of natural justice. The lady employee of Raj Bhavan who suffered ignominy should not be rendered remediless for we cannot expect any Governor to indulge in any criminal activities taking the advantage of "blanket immunity." To uphold the Rule of Law the apex court must look into the sanctity of Article 361 so that faith in the judiciary does not suffer any set back.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Sweet ceremony

Sir, The Union budget for fiscal year 2024-25 is to be presented in the Lok Sabha on 23 July, a day after the budget session begins in the Parliament. Behind this significant occasion, there is a "sweet" news, literally. Many will know that every year, a few weeks before the Central government presents its annual budget, it follows an annual tradition of a "halwa ceremony." There are no historical traces of when this ritual first began. However, as part of the ritual, halwa is prepared in a big cauldron and served to the staff of the Finance Ministry. As part of the "halwa ceremony," employees who were part of the budget-making process, which is one of India's most secretive operations, move to the basement of the North Block for around ten days, apparently to avoid any leaks before the budget is presented. The ceremony, though may appear unusual for some, lauds the efforts of every employee that helped shape the budget, as it brings everyone together—from the senior officials to the clerks in a celebratory fashion.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

OrissaPOST

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Key recommendation for Assam's 'Moidams'

The recommendation came from Paris-based International Council on Monuments and Sites, one of the key advisory bodies to the UNESCO whose experts visit nominated sites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: An advisory body to UNESCO has recommended "favourably" for the inscription of the 'Moidams' -- a mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty in Assam -- on the World Heritage List, a top official of the ASI said Friday.

The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee to be hosted in New Delhi from July 21-31 will examine 27 nominations from around the world, including 19 cultural sites, four natural sites, and two mixed sites, according to information shared by the Ministry of Culture.

Out of these, India's nomination 'Moidams' for the year 2023-24 is set to be examined under the category of cultural property. Janhvi Sharma, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in response to a query at a press conference here, said, there are a few parameters that a site has to fulfil in pursuance of getting a world heritage tag from UNESCO.

"The ICOMOS has recommended favourably for inscription of Moidams which means it fulfils all those parameters," he said.

Paris-based International Council on Monuments and Sites



UNESCO HERITAGE LIST

The unique burial mounds, represented by pyramid-like structures known as 'moidams', were used by the Tai-Ahom dynasty which ruled for around 600 years in Assam

(ICOMOS) is one of the key advisory body the UNESCO whose experts visit nominated sites.

Vishal V Sharma, chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and ambassador and permanent representative of India to UNESCO, told reporters at the press conference here Friday that if the nomination is accepted, it will be the first cultural property from the northeast to get a UNESCO tag, adding Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park fall in the natural and mixed heritage categories.

The mound-burial system of

the Ahom dynasty in Assam has been submitted as India's nomination for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the year 2023-24, the Centre had informed the Parliament last December.

The unique burial mounds, represented by pyramid-like structures known as 'moidams', were used by the Tai-Ahom dynasty which ruled for around 600 years in Assam.

In his written reply to the question, the then Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy had shared information about the nomina-

tion in response to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

"Selection of sites or properties for World Heritage nomination depends upon its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), Authenticity and Integrity. These sites must fulfil one of the criteria of OUV as mentioned in the UNESCO Operational Guidelines, 2023," the minister had added.

"Moidams" are vaulted chambers (chow-chali), often double-storied, that have an arched passage for entry. Atop the hemispherical mud mounds, layers of bricks and earth are

'Casteist slurs, communal slogans at JNU campus'

The unique burial mounds, represented by pyramid-like structures known as 'moidams', were used by the Tai-Ahom dynasty which ruled for around 600 years in Assam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: The Jawaharlal Nehru University campus walls were found to be defaced with casteist slurs and communal slogans Saturday, the Congress' students body alleged.

Slogans like "...Dalit bharat chhodo" and "Brahman Baniya zindabaad" and "RSS zindabaad" were scribbled on the walls of Kaveri hostel on the campus, NSUI unit general secretary Kunal Kumar alleged sharing his photos on social media.

The student claimed the authorities painted the walls after the photos were circulated on social media.

There was no immediate reaction to the allegations from Dean of Students Manuradha Chaudhary.

Requests for a response on the allegations were declined by Kaveri Hostel warden Manish Kumar Barnwal.

"We, the Humans of JNU are deeply disturbed by the recent incidents at Kaveri Hostel, where alongside the casteist slur against the Dalit Bahujan community, slogans like "Brahman Baniya Jindabad" and "RSS Jindabad" have been inscribed.

"These slogans starkly reveal the brahmanical and manuvadi nature of RSS and its supporters within our university community," the students body said in a statement.

It also demanded action by the administration against the accused.

The JNU last year formed a panel to look into the repeated incidents of "anti-national" slogans scribbled on the campus.

The committee was set up after pictures of slogans like "Indian-Occupied Kashmir", "Free Kashmir" and "Bhagwa Jalega" scribbled on the School of Languages building wall went viral on the social media.



AAP workers stage a protest outside BJP headquarters over cutting of trees in the national capital, Saturday PTI/PHOTO

BANGLADESH CLASHES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

186 more people return to India via Meghalaya

Guwahati, July 20: Altogether 186 more people, stranded in violence-hit Bangladesh, returned to India Saturday via Dawki integrated check post in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district, officials said.

Ninety-eight of them are from Nepal and 88 from India, including eight students from Meghalaya, they said.

"In the past three days, a total of 856 people from India, Nepal and Bhutan, mostly students, have crossed over to the country from Bangladesh due to agitation there," a senior Home department official said.

The Meghalaya government has activated a helpline number for those who have been in violence-hit Bangladesh and are seeking assistance from the au-



thorities of the northeastern state. Violence escalated in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka and elsewhere over protests by students, demanding reforms to the quota system for government jobs.

The protesters are demanding an end to a quota system that reserves up to 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971 against Pakistan.

Meanwhile, more than 40 students from Assam have returned from Bangladesh since violence erupted in the neighbouring country, officials in Guwahati said Saturday.

The Assam government is also in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to ensure safety of people from the state residing or visiting Bangladesh.

"Till 19th July, 41 students from Assam were safely repatriated from Bangladesh via Sutarkandi integrated check post amid violent protests against job quotas," a post on the Karimganj district commissioner's (DC) Facebook page said. It added that the Karimganj DC and the superintendent of police have visited the ICP at Sutarkandi and interacted with the students, enquiring about

their wellbeing and further course of action. Deputy Commissioner Mridul Yadav said that more students are expected to return through the border point.

Yadav added that no tension is anticipated in the border area as the ongoing problems of Bangladesh are its internal matters.

Some students from Dhubri have also reportedly crossed over through West Bengal and are expected to reach their home district by train later Saturday, another official said.

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

NDMC keeps 75 pumps ready to tackle waterlogging

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: The New Delhi Municipal Council has installed CCTV cameras at 20 new locations to monitor waterlogging and procured 75 portable pumps to drain excess water in case there's heavy rainfall during the World Heritage Committee meet here, a civic body member said Friday.

The WHC meet will be held here in the national capital from July 21 to 31.

"We have six control rooms that will be monitoring the situation while 175 personnel will be on ground. Apart from these, the central Command and Control



Room will also keep an eye on the situation," NDMC Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay said. "There are 120 fixed pumps and 75 portable pumps in place to manage water accumulation," he said.

Forty eight temporary staff operators are on standby for any emergent waterlogging situa-

tions, the NDMC vice chairman added. Delhi recorded a record 228 mm of rainfall leading to waterlogging in many posh areas of NDMC June 28, such as Bharti Nagar, Golf Links and Satya Marg.

Upadhyay said CCTV cameras have been installed at Satya Sadan, Lodhi Estate, Africa Avenue underpass, Panchkuian Road,

Raisina Road, Nyay Marg, Bharti Nagar and Zakir Hussain Marg. He said a special beautification drive has been carried out at Khan Market, Connaught Place, and Janpath.

The civic body will also be hosting a special dinner for delegates July 25 at the Qutub Institutional area, he added.

Upadhyay said Sardar Patel Marg has been adorned with potted plants and floral decorations. The NDMC's Horticulture Department has supplied approximately 50,000 ornamental plants and flowers. Eight floral boards featuring the World Heritage Committee logo will be displayed, he said.

Mizoram mourns tiger slayer Zadingi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aizawl, July 20: Mizoram Saturday bid farewell to Zadingi, the fearless woman who carved her name into India's gallantry history by killing a tiger with her axe.

Zadingi, who achieved this remarkable feat 46 years ago, passed away Friday at the age of 72 in her native village of Buarpu in south Mizoram's Lunglei district, near the Bangladesh border, after a prolonged battle with cancer.

She is survived by five children, and a grandchild. Her funeral programme was held at noon in her native village during which church leaders, community leaders and several dignitaries paid their last respects, family sources said.

Chief Minister Lalduhoma also mourned the death of Zadingi and extended his deepest condolences to



the bereaved family.

Zadingi was just 26 when she encountered the tiger while gathering firewood in a jungle near her village.

She recounted the event in an interview when she was alive, explaining that she first mistook the noise in a bush for a wild boar. Despite her calls for help, her friends, terrified by the sound, did not come to her aid.

When the tiger emerged, Zadingi had no time to escape. Standing just

three feet from the big cat, she struck it on the forehead with her axe, killing it with a single blow. Although the tiger scratched her finger with its paw, she remained composed and managed to inform the villagers of the incident. The encounter took place July 3, 1978.

The mummified body of the tiger is now on display at the state museum. Zadingi's bravery earned her the Shaurya Chakra in 1980. She remains the only recorded Mizo woman, and perhaps the only woman in India, to have killed a tiger with an axe.

Her heroic act was included in the Hindi curriculum of the Mizoram elementary syllabus for many years.

In August 2021, Zadingi was diagnosed with colon cancer, just a month after her husband Lalthanmawia died of cancer. Despite undergoing two major surgeries, her condition worsened earlier this year before she finally passed away Friday.

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Rule-8(1)) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Chandaka Industrial Complex Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Partners/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Partners/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Chandaka Industrial Complex Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

| CHANDAKA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrowers / Partners / Guarantors | Liabilities due as per Notice | Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession | Description of the Immovable Property |
|---|---|--|--|
| Borrower: M/s. Tulasi Enterprises, At: Holding No.: 165, Ward No.: 25, Malgodown, College Square, Cuttack, P.S.: Malgodown, PIN-753003 / Partners / Guarantors: 1) Mehboob Khan, S/o: Mehmood Khan, At: Bakharabad, Near Hanuman Mandir, Chandini Chowk, Cuttack Sadar, Cuttack, Odisha-753002, 2) Santosh Agarwal, S/o: Late Hari Prasad Agarwal, At: Kumbhar Sahi, Kathagada Sahi, PO: Buxi Bazar, Cuttack Sadar, Cuttack, Odisha-753001 | ₹ 5,06,30,899.01 + interest & expenses thereon | 08.05.2024 / 20.07.2024 | All that part and parcel of Land situated over Khata No.: 1330/1241, Plot No.: 2112/7247, Total Area: Ac.0.040 Dec , alongwith Building Measuring 2750 Sqft., Kissam: Gharabari at Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahar Unit-38 Pandara, P.S.: New Capital (No.: 28), within the registration of DSRO: Khurda at Bhubaneswar, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar No.: 256, Dist.: Khurda, Standing in the name of Mehboob Khan, S/o.: Mehmood Khan, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2116 & 2113, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 2109, West: Plot No.: 2118 |
| Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 21.07.2024 | | | Authorised Officer Bank of India |

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETELCONBST-355E, Dated: 12.07.2024

NAME OF WORK: SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 2X25KV, 110.4 KV SUBSTATION WITH 160 KVA DG SET AT SONEPUR, BOUDH & PURUNAKATAK RAILWAY STATION AGAINST KHURDA ROAD - BALANGIR NEW BG LINE IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 221.10 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,60,600/-, Completion Period of the Work: 12 Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time: At 1200 hrs. of 05.08.2024.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be 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, 110.4 KV substation 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 tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderer should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B,G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Con-II)/
PR-45/CH/24-25
Bhubaneswar

of the day quote

The Congress and JMM speak about the Constitution. Does the Constitution allow hoisting of Palestinian flags? When the BJP forms the government in Jharkhand, strict action will be taken against those who had hoisted the flags

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

After forming a government in Jharkhand, we will bring out a 'White Paper' on demography to protect tribal people, their lands, reservation and rights

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

I am very clear about my priority that I am married to my work. And if I don't have time for my better half, I should not get into that

CHIRAG PASWAN | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Somnath Bharti moves Delhi HC

New Delhi: AAP leader Somnath Bharti Saturday approached the Delhi High Court challenging BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj's election in the Lok Sabha polls 2024 on the grounds of alleged corrupt practices. Justice Manmeet PS Arora is scheduled to hear the election petition July 22. The plea said while Bharti secured 3,74,815 votes, Swaraj got 4,53,185 votes as per the returning officer. They both contested from the New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency and Swaraj was declared as winner.

Fire on cargo ship off Karwar under control

Panaji/ Mumbai: The fire on a merchant vessel off the Karwar coast has been brought under control after more than 24 hours but one of the ship's 21 crew members was missing, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) said Saturday. Three ICG ships were dispatched to conduct firefighting operations after the Coast Guard received a message about a fire onboard the Maersk Frankfurt at 2.10 pm Friday. The present position of the vessel is 17 miles from Karwar in Karnataka, a release from the ICG said.

12 wagons of freight train derail in UP

Amroha (UP): Twelve wagons of a Delhi-bound freight train derailed near the Amroha railway station in Uttar Pradesh Saturday evening, officials said. No one was injured in the accident that comes three days after eight coaches of an express passenger train derailed in the state's Gonda district, killing four passengers and injuring 31. Moradabad Division's Senior Deputy Commercial Manager (DCM) Aditya Gupta said that "12 wagons of a goods train derailed just after crossing the Amroha railway station around 5 pm".

NIA chargesheets Goldy, nine others

Chandigarh: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday charge sheeted 10 accused, including Canada-based terrorist Goldy Brar, in an extortion case in Chandigarh. Two of the charge sheeted accused, including Brar, are absconding, the NIA said in a statement. Brar has been named as the key conspirator in the case and has been charged with formation of a terror gang to execute terror activities in India, it said. His close associate, Gurpreet Singh alias Goldy Dhillon, also absconding, has been charged as co-conspirator in the case, the probe agency said. The attack on the businessman's house in Chandigarh had taken place January 19 this year.



Akhilesh (Yadav) will attend if weather permits. I have invited him, as we invite friends to the TMC's martyrs' day rally every year

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

PM TO INAUGURATE WHC SESSION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to inaugurate the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee Sunday, a key event of the UNESCO that India is hosting for the first time from July 21-31. Director General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay will also attend the inaugural event at Bharat Mandapam, the Prime Minister's Office said



Centre-wise NEET-UG results out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: The National Testing Agency (NTA) Saturday released city- and centre-wise results of medical entrance exam NEET-UG which is under the scanner over alleged irregularities including paper leak.

An analysis of data indicated that while the candidates who allegedly benefitted from the paper leak and other irregularities have not done well, some centres have a high concentration of well-performing students. NTA officials did not respond to queries about a few centres witnessing high concentration of well-performing students.

The voluminous result data of over 32 lakh candidates from 4,750 centres was not released in a cumulative format but in a drop-down menu for each centre. The data was released on the direction of the Supreme Court which is hearing several petitions over the alleged irregularities as lakhs of aspirants await a final verdict on fate of the exam.

The performance of the candidates from the centres under the scanner - such as Oasis School, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand; Hardyal Public School, Jhajjar; Haryana; Jay Jalaram International School in Godhra, Gujarat - were comparatively much below par.

According to an analysis of the data released by the NTA, some centres have a high concentration of high scorers. For instance, more than 240 candidates at a centre at School of Engineering, RK University, in Gujarat's Rajkot have scored above 600 marks with 12 of them



AN ANALYSIS OF DATA INDICATED THAT WHILE THE CANDIDATES WHO ALLEGEDLY BENEFITTED FROM THE PAPER LEAK AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES HAVE NOT DONE WELL, SOME CENTRES HAVE A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF WELL-PERFORMING STUDENTS

NTA OFFICIALS DID NOT RESPOND TO QUERIES ABOUT A FEW CENTRES WITNESSING HIGH CONCENTRATION OF WELL-PERFORMING STUDENTS

above getting 700 out of 720 marks.

Similarly, in Rajasthan's Sikar, Mangal Chand Didwania Vidya Mandir centre, four students scored more than 700 marks, 45 scored above 650 marks, and 115 students scored above 600 marks. In another centre in Sikar, Aravali Public School, 90 students scored over 600 marks. Sikar is a budding coaching hub for NEET-UG. The marks of 83 from another centre in Sikar was also above 600 but below 700.

Over 27,000 candidates appeared at exam centres in Sikar out of which over 4,200 have scored above 600 and over 2,000 have shared above 450. In all, there are 30,204 students who scored 650 and above - 1.3 percent of the 23.22 lakh candidates nationwide. Over 79,500

candidates have scored above 600.

These candidates would have ranks in the top 30,000 and a chance at seats in government medical colleges. Of this set, examinees from Sikar alone will have a chance to claim 2,037 seats. Forty-five candidates of the Model School centre in Haryana' Rohtak scored more than 600 marks, while among those who took the NEET-UG in Lucknow's SDSN Mahavidyalaya centre, more than 45 scored above 600. The scores of these students at these centres was below the 700-mark. Also, no NEET-UG candidate has scored above 682 in the revised results for the Hardyal Public School centre in Haryana's Jhajjar that was under the scanner after six aspirants who took the medical entrance exam there

Health Ministry reviews Chandipura virus, AES cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: The Union Health Ministry along with experts reviewed the Chandipura virus cases and Acute Encephalitis syndrome cases in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Friday.

Dr Atul Goel, DGHS, Union Health Ministry, and Director of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) along with experts from AIIMS, Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, and National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) as well as officials from the central and state surveillance units reviewed the Chandipura virus and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) cases in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Friday.

After a detailed discussion and review of the status of the Chandipura virus and AES cases, the experts concluded that infectious agents contribute to only a small proportion of the AES cases across the country, the ministry said in a statement. A multidisciplinary central team from the NCDC, ICMR and DAHD is being deployed to assist the state of Gujarat with these investigations. Chandipura Virus (CHPV) is a member of Rhabdoviridae family known to cause sporadic cases and outbreaks in western, central and southern parts of the country, especially during the monsoon season.

500 para commandos to hunt Pak terrorists

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 20: In view of the infiltration of highly trained Pakistani terrorists in the Jammu region, the Indian Army is readjusting its deployments in the area as per intelligence inputs and security requirements.

The Indian Army has deployed around 500 Para Special Forces commandos in the area to hunt down the 50-55 terrorists from Pakistan who have entered the region to revive terrorism there,

defence sources told news agency ANI. The intelligence agencies have also bolstered their apparatus in the area and are working to take out the terrorist support infrastructure there including underground workers who support terrorists, they said.

The Army has already brought in troops to the area including one brigade strength of around 3,500-4,000 personnel to counter Pakistan's proxy aggression here, they said.

The Army brass on the ground has been working towards strategies to search and destroy the terrorists, who are equipped with the latest weaponry and communication equipment, they added.

The Army already has an existing counter-terrorist infrastructure in the area with presence of two forces of the Rashtriya Rifles including the Romeo and Delta forces along with other regular infantry divisions in the area, they said.



Police personnel outside the Bihar Legislative Assembly building ahead of Monsoon session, in Patna, Bihar

PTI PHOTO

PARLIAMENT'S MONSOON SESSION BEGINS MONDAY

It will have 19 sittings till August 12 when the government is expected to present six Bills, including the one to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act, and also get the Parliament nod for the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir, which is under Central rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget Tuesday as the Monsoon Session of Parliament gets underway next week with the united Opposition set to corner the NDA government on issues ranging from the NEET paper leak case and railway safety.

Sitharaman will also table the Economic Survey in Parliament Monday. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has convened a meeting of the floor leaders of political parties in Parliament to understand issues they would want to raise during the session. The BJD, led

by former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has declared that it would play the role of a strong Opposition and aggressively raise issues of interest to the state in Parliament.

Earlier this week, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had said that the opposition would also resist any government move to dilute its stake in public sector banks below 51 per cent.

The government is likely to bring amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and other laws such as Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 in the



Budget Session due to which the government's shareholding in PSBs can go down below 51 per cent. Besides the Finance Bill, the

government has also listed The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill for introduction, consideration and passing.

11.9L excess deaths in 2020: Study

The estimate is about eight times higher than the official COVID-19 deaths in India, and 1.5 times the World Health Organisation's estimates, researchers, including those from the University of Oxford, UK, said



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 20: In India, 11.9 lakh excess deaths occurred in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 per cent higher compared to 2019, an international study has found.

The estimate is about eight times higher than the official COVID-19 deaths in India, and 1.5 times the World Health Organization's estimates, researchers, including those from the University of Oxford, UK, said.

Using data of over 7.65 lakh individuals, the study estimated changes in life expectancy at birth, by gender and social group between 2019 and 2020 in India, a country where one-third of global pandemic excess deaths are thought to have occurred, according to the authors. The data was taken from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5).

The life expectancy in women fell by 3.1 years, while it fell by 2.1 years in men, the authors said. Gender inequalities in healthcare and resource distribution within households could be possible reasons, they said.

The patterns contrast with those seen in high-income countries, where excess deaths were higher among men than women during the pandemic, the authors said in the study published in the journal Science Advances. Looking at social groups, the researchers found that high caste Hindu groups experienced a life

expectancy decline of 1.3 years, whereas Muslims and Scheduled Tribes experienced a 5.4-year and 4.1-year drop in their life expectancies.

The pandemic exacerbated the disparities already faced by these marginalised caste and religious groups in terms of life expectancy, the authors said.

"Marginalised groups already had lower life expectancy, and the pandemic further increased the gap between the most privileged Indian social groups, and the most marginalised social groups in India," said first author Aashish Gupta, a research fellow at the University of Oxford.

Further, the researchers found that deaths in India increased across age groups, most prominently among the youngest and the oldest, whereas drops in life expectancy in high-income countries were largely driven by increased deaths in those aged 60 years and above.

Reacting to the study, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a statement, describing the study's estimates as "gross and misleading."

The study's "untenable and unacceptable" findings are based on a methodology having "critical flaws," the most important one being taking the mortality observed in a subset of households surveyed in the NFHS and extrapolating these results to the entire country, according to the statement.

Kerala confirms Nipah infection in 14-yr-old boy

Malappuram (Kerala): Kerala Health Minister Veena George Saturday confirmed Nipah infection in a 14-year-old boy from Malappuram district. George, who met the media here, said the Pune NIV (National Institute of Virology) had confirmed the infection in the boy, who is currently under treatment at a private hospital. "He will be shifted to the government medical college at Kozhikode. The contact tracing has begun. High-risk contacts have already been isolated and their samples have been sent for testing," George said. The child is under treatment and is on a ventilator, George added. Minister said the epicentre was Pandikkad in the district and that precautionary measures have already been initiated. The minister said the monoclonal antibody which was procured last time from Australia and stored at Pune NIV will reach the state Sunday.



If the tree is saved, the environment will also be saved. By protecting the environment, we can avoid the horrors of global warming and heatwaves
YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

ATISHI DEMANDS ₹10KCR FOR MCD

Delhi Finance Minister Atishi Saturday demanded a budgetary allocation of ₹10,000 crore for the MCD from the Centre, alleging the civic body does not get its share in the budget. In a joint press conference with Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi, they mentioned that Oberoi has written a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this regard



of the day quote

When mediapersons ask about the speculation about my elevation as deputy chief minister, I tell them that all the state ministers and office-bearers of the party and youth wing are functioning as deputies to the Chief Minister

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN | TAMIL NADU MINISTER

In fact, such display only makes it easy for buyers to spot a favourite stall. It is wrong to view the episode through the prism of religion

JITAN RAM MANJHI | UNION MINISTER

The people of Jammu have always withstood terror, and I have full faith in the bravery of our jawans. The way the commanders of all the outfits were wiped out from here (Kashmir), our security forces and army will soon succeed in getting rid of them there (in Jammu region)

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

X POST OF THE DAY

THIS IS MASSIVE This is not Telangana or Karnataka, this is Haryana. Laks of people are joining @DeependersHooda's Padyatra in Haryana everyday. Mark my words, Hooda Hurricane is coming in Haryana

SHORT TAKES

Quake hits Kishtwar

Jammu: A 3.5 magnitude earthquake jolted Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district Saturday, officials said. According to the National Centre of Seismology (NCS), the tremor was felt at 5.34 pm in the hilly district. The depth of the earthquake was 10 kilometers below the surface at latitude 33.29 degrees north and longitude 76.67 degrees east, it said.

Four killed in truck mishaps

Dewas/Narsinghpur: Four persons were killed and one was injured in accidents involving trucks in Madhya Pradesh Saturday, police said. The driver and helper of a truck laden with bananas died when the vehicle fell into a gorge in Dewas, while two persons were killed and one sustained injuries after a truck overturned on their car in Narsinghpur, officials said. In Narsinghpur district, two persons were killed, and one was injured when a container truck overturned on their stationary car on National Highway 44, an official said.

Heavy rains lash Nagpur

Nagpur: Heavy rains lashed Maharashtra's Nagpur city and parts of the district on Saturday morning, disrupting normal life as water entered low-lying areas, prompting the authorities to move people to safer places and declare a holiday for schools and colleges for the day as a precautionary measure. Around 50 students were stuck in their college in Hudkeshwar Nagar area of the city due to flooding, but were rescued later, officials said.

KANWAR YATRA ORDER

Jamiat terms it communal

Days after the Muzaffarnagar Police asked all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners' names, the Uttar Pradesh government Friday extended the controversial order across the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: The Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments' directive to eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners' names drew more criticism Saturday with Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind slamming it as "discriminatory and communal" and Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal wondering if this will lead to a Viksit Bharat even as a BJP MLA in Madhya Pradesh demanded the state should enforce it too.

Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, who heads the Hindustani Awam Morcha, asserted he saw "nothing wrong" with this order, which has been disapproved of by fellow BJP allies like Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) and Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). "What is the harm if people involved in businesses are asked to display their names and addresses prominently," he said in Patna. "In fact, such display only makes it easy for buyers to spot a favourite stall. It is wrong to view the episode through



A banner with shopkeeper's name being put up on a shop on Kanwar Marg after an order issued by Uttar Pradesh Government in Muzaffarnagar PTI PHOTO

the prism of religion," he added. There is fear of serious damage to communal harmony due to this new decree which violates the fundamental rights of citizens as enshrined in the Constitution, he said. Madani said the Jamiat has called a meeting of its legal team Sunday to discuss the legal aspects of this "unconstitutional and illegal" order. "This is not

the first Kanwar yatra, it has been going on for years but never before has a citizen been forced to reveal his religious identity. Rather, during the yatra, it is seen that Muslims have been arranging water and langar for the Kanwar pilgrims," he said. Days after the Muzaffarnagar Police asked all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners' names, the Uttar Pradesh government Friday extended the controversial order across the state.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said similar instructions are already in

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani said the order was part of a "new game of politics under the guise of religion" "This is a completely discriminatory and communal decision, and anti-national elements will get an opportunity to benefit from this," Madani said in a statement

SNIPPETS

Probe blames improper track fastening

New Delhi: A five-member team of senior railway officials investigating the derailment of Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express has blamed improper fastening of the rail track for the accident, sources said. One member of the panel disagreed with the opinion, while a Railway spokesperson said the findings were premature. "The fastening of rail track was not proper due to which fastening was working ineffectively," the report, written in Hindi, said. "The investigation by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has already started and the first hearing took place Friday. It will go into the details of every aspect of the accident with technical specifications and minute details. Many crucial things don't come in the joint probe so it is very premature," the CPRO said. Four people were killed and several injured Thursday in the derailment of Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express (Train no 15904) between Motiganj and Jhili railway stations near Gonda in Uttar Pradesh.

ED arrests Haryana Congress MLA

Gurugram/Ambala: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Haryana Congress MLA Surender Panwar Saturday in an illegal mining-linked money-laundering case, official sources said. The 55-year-old legislator was taken into custody in the early hours in Gurugram. He was produced before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Ambala which sent him to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate till July 29. At the request of Panwar's counsel, the court directed the ED to allow the MLA's lawyer to meet him for half an hour daily and provide him medicines prescribed by doctors.

SC to hear plea on electoral bonds July 22

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear July 22 a plea seeking a direction to the Centre and others to confiscate the amount received by various political parties under the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme of 2018. In a landmark verdict February 15, the apex court had junked the Centre's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional". According to the cause list of July 22 uploaded on the apex court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is slated to hear the plea filed by Khem Singh Bhati.

India calls out terrorism double standards at UN

IN A VEILED REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN, R RAVINDRA SAID THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARE USING TERRORISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF STATE POLICY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, July 20: India has called for shunning double standards in the fight against terrorism and said certain countries are using terrorism as an instrument of state policy, in a veiled jibe at Pakistan. "When we talk about international peace and security, you will agree that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats," R Ravindra, Charge d'Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative in India's Permanent Mission to the UN said. "We must, therefore, shun double standards in our fight against terrorism," he said. Ravindra was speaking in the UN Security Council Friday on 'Cooperation between the UN and the Regional and Sub-

Regional Organisations in Maintenance of International Peace and Security: The Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). In a veiled reference to Pakistan, he said that certain countries are using terrorism as an instrument of state policy. "Such an approach has the potential to affect cooperation in multilateral platforms including at the SCO," he said. Pakistan is a member of the Beijing-based Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Ravindra underlined that the international community must reaffirm its resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and "we must crack-

down on all forms of support to terrorism, including its financing." He emphasised the need for full implementation of the UNSC resolution and targeted sanctions on terrorist individuals and entities to counter terrorism effectively. On this, he noted that leaders of SCO agreed in the Astana Declaration adopted earlier this month that the international community must isolate and expose those countries that harbour terrorists, provide them with safe haven and condone terrorism. The Joint Statement on the subject of radicalisation issued during India's SCO chairship in 2023 symbolises Delhi's shared commitment to the fight against radicalisation, he said. Noting that India attaches great im-



portance to SCO for peace, security, stability and economic development in the region, Ravindra said this was evident from India's successful presidency of SCO in 2022-23. India has also consistently advocated respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity for con-

nectivity and infrastructure projects. Recognising the centrality of Central Asia to SCO, India has prioritised the interests and aspirations of Central Asia. In the spirit of India's cooperation and support to the Central Asian region, India has offered a one billion dollar Line of Credit

for priority developmental projects. India is also providing grant assistance for the implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) for furthering socio-economic development in the countries of the region. Ravindra further noted that the developments in Afghanistan will have wider ramifications for the Central Asia region, particularly the possible growth of international terrorism and drug trafficking emanating from the Afghan territory. Given that the current world order, inherited following the Second World War, has seen a complete transformation, he said the threats that member states faced when the United Nations was founded 79 years ago have also changed.

STEPS TO ERADICATE SUPERSTITION

Plea in top court seeks direction to govt, states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre and states for taking appropriate steps to eradicate the menace of superstition, sorcery and other similar practices.

The plea says a strict anti-superstition and sorcery law is urgently needed to do away with the unscientific acts prevalent in the society that adversely impact the community and also to prevent fake seers from exploiting innocent people. The petition, filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, has also sought directions to the Centre and states for taking steps to develop a scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform among the citizens in the spirit of Article 51A of the Constitution, which deals with fundamental duties. "Petitioner is filing this writ petition as PIL under Article 32 seeking appropriate writ, order or direction to Centre and states to take appropriate steps to control superstition and sorcery in order to secure the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 21, 25 of the Constitution," the plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, says.

It has alternatively sought a direction to the Centre to constitute an expert committee for ascertaining the feasibility of criminalising superstition, sorcery and other similar practices by adding a chapter in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Bharatiya Nagarik



Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

"A stringent anti-superstition and sorcery law is urgently needed to deal with the problem of irrational views prevalent in society. However, all of them cannot be eradicated by the force of law only. For this, a mental change is necessary," the plea says.

It says bringing a legislation to deal with this social issue shall only mean half the battle won.

"A meaningful reform will need to increase awareness among the masses through information campaigns and by roping in community/religious leaders to debunk the myths surrounding such practices," the plea says.

It says some superstitious practices, which are brutal, dehumanising and exploitative, need to be dealt with by a law specifically addressing those.

It also alleges that several individuals and organisations are carrying out mass conversions by using superstition and sorcery.

AAP launches 'Kejriwal's guarantees' for Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 20: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal Saturday launched five "Kejriwal's guarantees" for poll-bound Haryana, promising free electricity, free medical treatment, free education to people, ₹1,000 per month to every woman in the state and employment for youngsters.

The Haryana Assembly polls are due later this year. Besides Sunita Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Sanjay Singh and Sandeep Pathak were also present during the launch of "Kejriwal ki five guarantees" in Panchkula.

While seeking people's support for the AAP during the Haryana Assembly elections, Kejriwal's wife Sunita hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of putting the Delhi chief minister behind bars as he was "jealous" of his works.

Calling her husband as "Haryana ka laal" (son of Haryana), she asked people that not even a single seat should go to the BJP and said "it is not about Kejriwal, it is about Haryana's honour".

international



I appreciate President Zelenskyy for reaching out because I, as your next President of the United States, will bring peace to the world and end the war that has cost so many lives and devastated countless innocent families

DONALD TRUMP | REPUBLICAN
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, US

OLI'S FLOOR TEST

Nepal's newly appointed Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli is expected to win a vote of confidence in Parliament Sunday, nearly a week after he was sworn in to lead another coalition government in the Himalayan nation facing frequent power struggles



of the day quote

Playing with fire on Taiwan is highly dangerous. Meddling and even trying to join forces is by no means a right choice for Europe

WANG LUTONG | CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Russia proves every day with its terror that pressure is not enough. This destruction of life must be stopped. We need new solutions to support our defences. Russia must feel the power of the world

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Education underpinned the democratic movement in Myanmar, but today Myanmar's youth are witnessing their schools — and life opportunities — reduced to rubble

LISA CHUNG BENDER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL COALITION TO PROTECT EDUCATION FROM ATTACK

Deadly protests: Curfew in B'desh

Bangladesh deploys army to face down massive job quota protests

REUTERS

Dhaka, July 20: Soldiers patrolled the deserted streets of the Bangladesh capital Dhaka Saturday, setting up roadblocks during a curfew imposed in response to student-led protests against government job quotas that have killed at least 110 people this week.

Internet and text message services have been suspended since Thursday, cutting the nation off as police cracked down on protesters who defied a ban on public gatherings.

Overseas telephone calls mostly failed to connect while websites of Bangladesh-based media organisations did not update and their social media accounts remained inactive.

"To take a country of nearly 170 million people off the Internet is a drastic step, one we haven't seen since the likes of the Egyptian revolution of 2011," said John Heidemann, chief scientist of the networking and cybersecurity division at USC Viterbi's Information Sciences Institute.

The internet shutdown meant many people could not top up their electricity meters, leaving them without power.



In addition to the deaths, the clashes have injured thousands, according to hospitals across Bangladesh.

For five days police have fired tear gas, rubber bullets and hurled sound grenades to scatter protesters throwing bricks and setting fire to vehicles.

The demonstrations - the biggest since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was re-elected for a fourth successive term this year - have also been fuelled by high unemployment among young people, who make up nearly a fifth of the population.

With the death toll climbing and police and other security forces unable to contain the protests, Hasina's government imposed a national curfew and deployed the military, who were given orders to shoot on sight if needed.

AT LEAST 110 PEOPLE DEAD, THOUSANDS HURT

US ISSUES TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR BANGLADESH

COURT WILL HEAR APPEAL AGAINST REINSTATEMENT OF QUOTAS SUNDAY

NEARLY 1,000 INDIAN STUDENTS HAD RETURNED HOME SINCE UNREST

The rising death toll is a shocking indictment of the absolute intolerance shown by the Bangladeshi authorities to protest and dissent

BABU RAM PANT | DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH ASIA, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Nationwide unrest broke out over student anger against the quotas for government jobs, which included 30% reserved for the families of those who fought for independence from Pakistan

The curfew was eased for two hours from noon Saturday to allow people to shop for supplies and complete other chores, television channels reported. It will last until 10 am Sunday, when the government will assess the situation and decide the next course of action, the reports added.

strategic locations of Dhaka, the centre of the protests.

Reuters TV footage showed armed soldiers surveying roads littered with stones and debris as shops remained shuttered. Trees and barricades were uprooted on streets where charred vehicles stood. Young men played football on a deserted road during the relaxation in the curfew.

In the central Bangladesh district of Narsingdi, protesters stormed a jail Friday, freeing over 850 inmates and setting fire to the facility. TV channels reported, citing police. Scattered in-

WHAT TRIGGERED THE PROTESTS?

The demonstrations started last month after the High Court reinstated a quota system for government jobs, overturning a 2018 decision by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government to scrap it. That move, which covered the 30% of jobs reserved for family members of freedom fighters in the 1971 war for independence from Pakistan, followed similar student protests. But the Supreme Court suspended the high court order after the government's appeal, setting a date of August 7 to hear the government's challenge. However, the students stepped up their protest when Hasina refused to meet their demands, citing the court proceedings. She called the protesters "razakar", making use of an offensive term for those accused of collaborating with Pakistan's army in 1971 to betray the country.

Incidents of arson were also reported on Saturday in some parts of the country.

Hasina dropped plans to leave Sunday for diplomatic visits to Spain and Brazil due to the protests, the office of Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud said.

NO TRUCE ON CARDS

Israel kills 30 as it steps up Gaza blitz

REUTERS

Cairo, July 20: Israeli forces pounded several areas across the Gaza Strip Saturday, killing at least 30 Palestinians, according to health officials, as tanks advanced deeper into western and northern Rafah.

Among those killed Saturday were local journalist Mohammad Abu Jasser, his wife, and two children, in an Israeli strike on their house in the northern Gaza Strip, a medic said.

Gaza's Hamas-run government media office said Abu Jasser's death raised to 161 the number of Palestinian media personnel killed by Israeli fire since October 7.

Israeli military strikes across Gaza killed 37 Palestinians in the past 24 hours and destroyed several houses.

The army said troops continued operations in Rafah, eliminating many gunmen over the past day in the area of Tel Al-Sultan on the western side of the city.

A ceasefire effort led by Qatar and Egypt and backed by the United States has so far failed due to disputes between the combatants, who blame each other for the impasse.

Israel vowed to eradicate Hamas after its fighters killed 1,200 people and took more than 250 hostages in an October 7 attack, according to Israeli tallies. At least 38,919 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory offensive since then, Gaza health authorities say.

On Tuesday, Israel said it had eliminated half the leadership of Hamas' military wing and killed or captured about 14,000 fighters since the start of the war. Israel says 326 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza.

SHORT TAKES

India's aid to Bhutan

Thimphu: India has agreed to positively consider providing Rs 1,500 crore to Bhutan as part of the Economic Stimulus Programme in the next 18 months, the two governments said Saturday at the end of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit and his wide-ranging talks with the Himalayan nation's leadership. Misri, who was on his first foreign visit within days of his taking charge last week, reviewed the implementation modalities and cooperation in diverse areas of the India-Bhutan development partnership with his Bhutanese counterpart Aum Pema Choden.

China bridge mishap

Beijing: At least 12 people were killed in a bridge collapse and more than 60 others went missing in flash floods in China's Shaanxi and Sichuan provinces, officials said Saturday. The highway bridge collapse triggered by torrential rains in northwest Shaanxi Province killed 12 people and left 31 others missing, local authorities said. The bridge, located in Zhashui County in Shangluo City, partially collapsed around 8:40 pm Friday due to a sudden downpour and flash floods, according to the provincial publicity department.

WHAT IS THE QUOTA SYSTEM?

Introduced in 1972, Bangladesh's quota system has gone through several changes since. When it was abolished in 2018, 56% of government jobs were blocked under various quotas. The bulk covered groups such as freedom fighters' families, with women and those from underdeveloped districts receiving a share of a tenth each, with 5% allotted to indigenous communities, and 1% for the disabled. The protesting students want all categories abolished, except the last two.

Iran can make N-bomb soon: US

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, July 20: Iran is capable of producing fissile material for use in a nuclear weapon within "one or two weeks," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday.

News of Iran's capabilities follows the recent election of President Masoud Pezeshkian, who has said his goal is to "get Iran out of its isolation," and who favors reviving the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers.

Blinken said that "what we've seen in the last weeks and months is an Iran that's actually moving forward" with its nuclear program.

The United States unilaterally withdrew in 2018 from the Iran nuclear deal, which was designed to regulate Iran's atomic activities in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions.



Speaking at a security forum in Colorado, Blinken blamed the collapse of the nuclear deal for the acceleration in Iran's capabilities.

"Instead of being at least a year away from having the breakthrough capacity of producing fissile material for a nuclear weapon, (Iran) is now probably one or two weeks away from doing that," Blinken said.

He added that Iran had not yet developed a nuclear weapon.

Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri told CNN earlier this week that his country remained committed to the deal, known as the JCPOA.

Malaysia's new King

KUALA LUMPUR: Traditional pomp and cannon fire Saturday marked the coronation of Malaysia's billionaire King Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, who pledged to govern fairly during the five-year term he will serve under a unique rotating monarchy system. Sultan Ibrahim, 65, was sworn in January 31. Saturday's coronation at the national palace formalized his role as Malaysia's 17th king in a ceremony steeped in Malay culture and pageantry. Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. Malaysia has 13 states but only nine have royal families, some which trace their roots to centuries-old Malay kingdoms that were independent states until they were brought together by the British. Donned in black and gold traditional ceremonial outfit and headgear, Sultan Ibrahim and Queen Raja Zarith Sofiah were greeted by military salute before they proceeded to the throne. "God willing, I will discharge my duties faithfully and honestly, and to rule fairly," Sultan Ibrahim said in his coronation speech.



50 yrs after Cyprus split, celebrations, lamentations coincide

GREEKS GRIEVE, TURKS CELEBRATE CYPRUS INVASION ANNIVERSARY

REUTERS

Nicosia, July 20: Air raid sirens wailed across Cyprus's divided capital Nicosia at dawn Saturday as Greek Cypriots mourned, and Turkish Cypriots celebrated, 50 years since Turkey invaded part of the island in response to a brief Greek-inspired coup.

The ethnically split island is a persistent source of tension between Greece and Turkey, which are both partners in NATO but are at odds over numerous issues.

Their differences were laid bare Saturday, with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan attending a celebratory military parade in north Nicosia to mark the day in 1974 when Turkish forces launched an offensive that they call a "peace operation".

Later in the day, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was due to attend an event in the south of the city to com-

ETHNIC DIVISION



memorate what Greeks commonly refer to as the "barbaric Turkish invasion".

Mitsotakis posted an image of a blood-stained map of Cyprus on his LinkedIn page with the words "Half a century since the national tragedy of Cyprus".

There was jubilation in the north.

"The Cyprus Peace Operation saved Turkish Cypriots from cruelty and brought them to freedom," Erdogan said, criticising the south for having a "spoiled mentality" and seeing itself as the sole ruler of Cyprus.

We are ready for negotiations, to meet, and to establish long-term peace and resolution in Cyprus

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

Peace talks are now stalled at two seemingly irreconcilable concepts - Greek Cypriots want reunification as a federation. Turkish Cypriots want a two-state settlement.

Cyprus gained independence from Britain in 1960, but a shared administration between Greek

and Turkish Cypriots quickly fell apart in violence that saw Turkish Cypriots withdraw into enclaves and led to the dispatch of a UN peacekeeping force.

The crisis left Greek Cypriots running the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union since 2004 with the potential to derail Turkey's own decades-long aspirations of joining the bloc.

REMEMBERING THE DEAD

Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides, whose office represents the Greek Cypriot

community in the reunification dialogue, said the anniversary was a sombre occasion for reflection and for remembering the dead.

"Our mission is liberation, reunification and solving the Cyprus problem," he said. "If we really want to send a message on this tragic anniversary ... it is to do anything possible to reunite Cyprus."

Turkey, he said, continued to be responsible for violating human rights and international law over Cyprus.

Across the south, church services were held to remember the more than 3,000 people who died in the Turkish invasion.

"It was a betrayal of Cyprus and so many kids were lost. It wasn't just my son, it was many," said Loukas Alexandrou, 90, as he tended the grave of his son at a military cemetery.

In Turkey, state television focussed on violence against Turkish Cypriots prior to the invasion, particularly on bloodshed in 1963-64 and in 1967.

Turkey's invasion took more than a third of the island and expelled more than 160,000 Greek Cypriots to the south.

Democratic calls mount for Biden to quit Prez race

REUTERS

Washington, July 20: President Joe Biden vowed Friday to continue his campaign for reelection even as more fellow Democrats in Congress urged him to end his floundering campaign, fearing that it could cost the party dearly in the November 5 election.

More than one in 10 congressional Democrats have now publicly called on the 81-year-old incumbent -- who is isolating at his Delaware home with a case of Covid -- to drop out following a disastrous June debate against Republican Donald Trump that raised questions about Biden's ability to win or to carry out his duties for another four years.

Biden remained defiant, saying he would resume campaigning soon.

"I look forward to getting back on the campaign trail next week to continue exposing the threat of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda while making the case for my own record and the vision that I have for America," he said in a state-



32 of the 264 Democrats in Congress have openly called for Biden to end his campaign

ment, referring to a policy plan developed by Trump's conservative allies.

The divide among Democrats stood in sharp contrast to the scenes that played out this week at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where former party rivals united around Trump, who accepted the Republican nomination in a rambling speech that featured his familiar mix of grievance and bombast.

business



India's growth story will continue unfettered at a scorching pace. India would continue to lead the world economy and will continue to be the most favoured destination for investment, and manufacturing
PIYUSH GOYAL
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

INDIA FLAGS TRADE DEFICIT

India has flagged its concerns over high trade deficit and non-transparent subsidies of China in a meeting at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva, stating those measures impact domestic industry. Participating at the WTO's trade policy review meeting of China this week, India hoped that China will support issues concerning the Global South. A Geneva-based trade official said India noted that its bilateral trade with China records the biggest trade deficit.



of the day quote

With a clear focus on investment-friendly reforms, the removal of policy bottlenecks is a top priority for the government

ANUPRIYA PATEL | MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

Our position as a leading logistics provider is a result of our commitment to operational efficiency and customer-centric solutions. We are optimistic about the growth opportunities that align with the country's development

BAJFOUR MANUEL | MANAGING DIRECTOR, BLUE DART EXPRESS

We are seeing a marginal improvement in headcount. After a break of a year, we have started onboarding freshers from campus. We onboarded about 3,000 people this quarter

SAURABH GOVIL | WIPRO CHRO

Without backup plans, global outages will happen again

REUTERS

London, July 20: Elements of Friday's global IT outage, which grounded planes and hit services from banking to healthcare, have occurred before and until more contingencies are built into networks, and organisations put better back-up plans in place, it will happen again.

Friday's outage was caused by an update that US cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike pushed to its clients which conflicted with Microsoft's Windows operating system, rendering devices around the world inoperable.

CrowdStrike has one of the largest shares of the highly competitive cybersecurity market that provides such tools, leading some industry analysts to question whether control over such operationally critical software should remain in the hands of just a handful of companies.

But the outage has also raised concerns among experts that many organisations are not well-prepared to implement contingency plans when a single point of failure such as an IT system, or a piece of software within it, goes down.

At the same time there are also more solvable digital disasters looming on the horizon, with perhaps the biggest global IT challenge since the Millennium Bug, the "2038 Problem", just under 14 years away - and, this time, the world is infinitely more dependent on



computers. "It's easy to jump at the idea that this is disastrous and therefore suggest there must be a more diverse market and, in an ideal world, that's what we'd have," said Ciaran Martin, former head of Britain's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), part of the country's GCHQ intelligence agency. "We're actually good at managing the safety aspects of tech when it comes to cars, trains, planes, and machines. What we're bad at is then providing services," he added.

"Look at what happened to the London health system a few weeks ago - they were hacked, and that led to loads of cancelled operations, which is physically

dangerous," he said, referring to a recent ransomware incident which affected Britain's National Health Service (NHS).

Organisations need to look around their IT systems, Martin said, and ensure there are enough failsafes and redundancies in those systems to stay operational in the event of an outage.

Friday's outage happened amid a perfect storm, with both Microsoft and CrowdStrike owning huge shares of a market which relies on both of their products.

"I'm sure the regulators globally are looking at this. There is limited competition globally for operating systems, for example, and also for the large scale cybersecurity products like the

ones CrowdStrike provides," said Nigel Phair, a cybersecurity professor at Australia's Monash University.

Friday's outage hit airlines particularly hard, as many scrambled to check in and board passengers who relied upon digital tickets to fly. Some travellers posted photos on social media of hand-written boarding cards provided by airline staff. Others were only able to fly if they had printed out their ticket.

"I think it's very important for organisations of all shapes and sizes to really look at their risk management and look at an all-hazards approach," Phair said.

EPOCHALYPSE NOW
Friday's outage will not be

the last time the world is reminded of its dependency on computers and IT products for basic services to function. In about 14 years' time, the world will be faced with a time-based computer issue similar to the Millennium Bug called the "2038 Problem".

The Millennium Bug, or "Y2K" happened because early computers saved expensive memory space by only counting the last two digits of the year, meaning many systems were unable to distinguish between the year 1900 and 2000, leading to critical errors.

The cost to mitigate the problem in the years before 2000 ran up a global bill of hundreds of billions of dollars.

The 2038 problem, or "Epochalypse", which begins at 0314 GMT on Jan. 19, 2038, is, in essence, the same problem.

Many computers count the passage of time by measuring the number of seconds since midnight on Jan. 1, 1970, also known as the "Epoch".

Those seconds are stored as a finite sequence of zeroes and ones, or "bits" but for many computers, the number of bits that can be stored reaches its maximum value in 2038.

"We currently have a situation where there's huge global disruption, because we cannot cope administratively," said Ciaran Martin, the former NCSC head.

"We can cope in terms of safety, but we can't cope in terms of service provision when key networks go down".

MICROSOFT OUTAGE AFFECTS FIVE AMCs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Mutual fund industry AMFI Saturday said the outage in Microsoft services impacted five asset management companies, which reported disruptions to some important functions but the issues were resolved during the day.

A widespread Microsoft outage disrupted flights, banks, media outlets and companies around the world Friday.

A new CrowdStrike (cybersecurity software firm) update was being cited as the cause of the outage, which impacted Windows-based desktops and laptops.

In a statement on Saturday, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), said that all the asset management companies (AMCs), their Mutual Funds and Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs) functioned without any impact.

"Out of the 44 AMCs, there were 5 AMCs who reported disruptions to some important functions, which were resolved during the day and did not have any material impact on operations," it added.

Overall, the Indian mutual funds industry did not witness any significant impact on daily activities, the AMFI noted.

Friday, Edelweiss Mutual Fund on X (formerly known as Twitter) stated that they experienced login issues on their website due to a Microsoft outage.

Besides, several traders in India faced operational disruption Friday as a global service outage of Microsoft systems affected many brokerages, including 5paisa, IIFL Securities, Motilal Oswal and Angel One. Some brokerages later stated that their systems were restored.

The glitch affected not only broking firms but also disrupted airline operations. Additionally, the outage impacted 10 banks and NBFCs, causing minor disruptions that were either resolved or in the process of being resolved.

However, stock exchanges and financial institutions largely remained unaffected by the tech glitch.

The large-scale outage in Microsoft services impacted IT systems globally leading to disruptions.

Q1 RESULTS

HDFC Bank profit dips 6.5%

Mumbai: The country's largest private lender HDFC Bank Saturday reported a 6.51 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹16,474.85 crore in the April-June quarter compared to the previous January-March quarter. The city-headquartered lender, which merged its mortgage major parent HDFC into itself in July last year, had reported a net profit of ₹17,622.38 crore in the March quarter. On a standalone basis, the net profit declined to ₹16,174.75 crore in April-June 2024-25 from ₹16,511.85 crore in January-March 2023-24.

Kotak Bank profit rises 79%

Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra Bank Saturday reported a 79 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit in the June quarter to ₹7,448 crore compared to the year-ago period, majorly helped by a stake sale in its general insurance arm and the performance of subsidiaries. On a standalone level, the private sector lender's net profit grew by 2 per cent to ₹3,520 crore, and the management conceded that the business restrictions imposed by the RBI due to shortcomings on the technology front had an impact.

JK Cement net surges 67%

New Delhi: JK Cement Ltd Saturday reported a 67 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹184.82 crore for the first quarter ended June 2024. The company had posted a profit of ₹110.73 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing from JK Cement. Its revenue from operations edged up 1.62 per cent at ₹2,807.57 crore during the quarter under review. It was ₹2,762.63 crore a year ago.

Yes Bank net up 46.7%

Mumbai: Private sector lender Yes Bank Saturday reported a 46.7 per cent growth in net profit to ₹502 crore for the June 2024 quarter, helped by a reduction in provisions. The city-headquartered bank's core net interest income rose 12.2 per cent to ₹2,000 crore. Its net interest margin stayed flat at 2.4 per cent. The deposits, on which a good part of the system is struggling, were up by over 20 per cent.

Credai wants tax sops for homebuyers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Realtors' body Credai Saturday urged the government to provide more tax benefits to homebuyers, offer incentives to builders to develop low-cost homes and streamline the approval process to undertake real estate projects in the upcoming Budget.

Credai, in a statement, said it has given various recommendations to the government for further growth of the real estate sector.

These recommendations emphasise the importance of measures like streamlined approval processes and subsidies for developers investing in affordable housing projects, the association said.

"With its significant contribution to the GDP, employment generation and infrastructure development, the Indian Real Estate sector looks forward to a supportive budget that addresses certain long-standing challenges and sets the platform for sustainable and sustained growth. Our recommendations are aimed at sustaining demand through a slew of measures, including increasing in interest exemption for home buyers, reintroduction of CLSS (credit linked subsidy scheme), and steps required to boost Affordable housing," Credai President Boman Irani said.

To stimulate homebuying, Credai said the finance ministry should consider allowing unlimited interest deductions for the first self-occupied property or increasing the deduction limit to ₹5 lakh from ₹2 lakh currently.



Domnic Romell, President of CREDAI-MCHI, said the real estate sector is hopeful for measures to boost the sentiment.

He demanded that the government should finally grant industry status to the sector and take effective steps to rejuvenate the affordable housing segment, which has been struggling since the pandemic.

"Many incentives for buyers and developers of affordable housing have lapsed in the last two years, exacerbating the issue," he pointed out.

High-impact measures like tax breaks are needed to revitalise this crucial segment, Romell said.

PropEquity founder and CEO Samir Jasuja stressed the need for a single-window clearance system to ensure timely approvals for real estate projects.

Ramesh Menon, founder and Director of Delhi Consortium, said it is crucial for the real estate sector to be granted 'industry status' in the budget 2024.

The government should take proactive measures to boost demand, rationalise costs, and minimise regulatory bottlenecks, he added.

Bank of India ED visits state

BIZ BUZZ

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India, a premier bank having business mix of ₹13.6 lakh crore and branch network of more than 5100, celebrated Kisan Diwas July 19 throughout the country. On this occasion Bank of India Executive Director (ED) PR Rajagopal visited Odisha to participate in various activities organised by FGMO Bhubaneswar and its four zoneS Baripada, Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar and Sambalpur. The main event was organised in Adventure Resort, Pipli. Agriculture loan to the tune of ₹60 crore was disbursed and the borrowers included 400 SHGs. Retail loan to the tune of ₹20 crore among 160 borrowers and SME loans of ₹70 crore among 55 borrowers were also disbursed. More than 200 borrowers were present at the venue and many of them received the sanction/disbursement letter from the ED.



EPFO adds record 19.5L net members in May

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Retirement fund body EPFO has recorded the highest net addition of 19.50 lakh members in May 2024, the Labour Ministry said Saturday.

The addition during the month is the highest since the first payroll data was issued in April 2018, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry stated that year-over-year analysis showed a 19.62 per cent growth in net member additions compared to May 2023.

This surge in membership can be attributed to numerous factors, including increased employment opportunities, a growing awareness of employee benefits, and the effectiveness of EPFO's outreach programmes, it stated.

The data indicates that around 9.85 lakh new members have enrolled during May 2024. There is an increase of 10.96 per cent in the new members from the previous month of April 2024 and an 11.5 per cent increase from the previous year May 2023.



A noticeable aspect of the data is the dominance of the 18-25 age group, constituting a significant 58.37 per cent of the total new members added in May 2024.

This is in consonance with the earlier trend which indicates that most individuals joining the organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers, it stated. In addition, the net payroll data for the age group 18-25 for May 2024 is the highest since the first payroll data was published.

The payroll data highlighted that approximately 14.09 lakh members exited and subsequently re-joined EPFO. This figure depicts year-over-year growth of 23.47 per cent compared to May 2023.

These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under the ambit of EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, safeguarding long-term financial well-being and extending their social security

protection. Gender-wise analysis of payroll data unveiled that of the new members added during the month, around 2.48 lakh were female members. This figure exhibited year-over-year growth of 12.15 per cent compared to May 2023.

Also, the net female member addition during the month stood at around 3.69 lakh reflecting year-over-year growth of 17.24 per cent compared to May 2023.

The surge in female member additions is indicative of a broader shift towards a more inclusive and diverse workforce.

State-wise analysis of payroll data denoted that net member addition is the highest in the five states/ UTs of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Haryana.

These states constitute around 58.24 per cent of net member addition, adding a total of 11.36 lakh net members during the month. Of all the states, Maharashtra is leading by adding 18.87 per cent of net members during the month.

ONGC acquires Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan oilfields for \$60mn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has acquired Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in an Azerbaijan oilfield and an associated pipeline for USD 60 million, the firm said in a statement.

OVL "has signed a definitive sale purchase agreement (SPA) for directly acquiring 0.615 per cent participating interest (PI) in offshore Azeri Chirag

Gunashli (ACG) oil field in Azerbaijan from Equinor. The agreement also includes acquiring 0.737 per cent shares of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline company through its wholly-owned subsidiary ONGC BTC Limited," it added.

The acquisitions, expected to be completed in the upcoming months, involve a total investment of up to USD 60 million.

OVL currently has a 2.31 per cent stake in the ACG field and 2.36 per cent in the BTC pipeline. The buyout of Equinor will help raise its stake.



Equinor, in December last year, announced an agreement to sell all its remaining assets in Azerbaijan to SOCAR (State Oil

Company of Azerbaijan Republic). The assets comprised a 7.27 per cent non-operated interest in

the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil fields in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea, 8.71 per cent interest in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline and 50 per cent in the Karabakh field.

SOCAR already held a 25.0 per cent stake in ACG, a 25.0 per cent stake in BTC via Azerbaijan BTC Limited, and 50 per cent in Karabakh.

It is not clear how Equinor, which had agreed to sell all of its stake to SOCAR, ended up selling a 0.615 per cent stake in the oilfield and a 0.737 per cent stake in the pipeline. The statement

made no mention of this. Originally, OVL acquired a 2.72 per cent stake in ACG in March 2013.

ACG contract extension till 2049 was signed between field partners and SOCAR in September 2017. As per the restated and amended production sharing agreement (PSA) for the extension period, the stakes of international oil companies were reduced with OVL's interest becoming 2.31 per cent from 2.72 per cent.

BP is the operator of the field with a 30.37 per cent stake.

Marquez era begins in Indian football



Kerala's Anilkumar Prabhakaran appointed AIFF's secretary general

He guided Hyderabad FC to the ISL Cup title in 2021-22.

Overall, Marquez had an extensive coaching career in Spain. He was at the helm of affairs for La Liga side Las Palmas in 2017 and had also coached Spanish lower division clubs like Las Palmas B, Espanyol B, Badalona, Prat and Europa.

"It's an honour for me to be the national football team coach of India, a country I consider my second home. India and its people are something I feel attached to and I feel a part of since I first came to this beautiful country. I want to do my best to bring success to the millions of fans we have," Marquez said.

"I am very grateful to FC Goa for allowing us the flexibility to help the national team during the coming season while I am still the club's head coach."

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said the federation, FC Goa and Marquez himself will collaborate closely

to ensure that there is minimal impact between the two jobs -- as head coach of national team and the ISL side.

"We are delighted to welcome Mr Marquez to this important role and are also thankful to FC Goa for their generosity of releasing him for national duty. We look forward to working with Mr Marquez in the years ahead," Chaubey said.

I'm grateful to the AIFF for this opportunity and we hope to do great things for football

MANOLO MARQUEZ

selected Manolo Marquez for the job, effective immediately," the AIFF said in a statement.

"During the 2024-25 season, Mr Marquez will continue his role as the head coach of first team at FC Goa, handling both responsibilities concurrently before assuming the national coaching role on a full-time basis."

The tenure of Marquez was not disclosed by the AIFF.

Marquez has been coaching in India since 2020. He has managed two ISL clubs so far. His first stint was with Hyderabad FC (2020-23), before he switched over to FC Goa (2023-present).

INDIA'S FORMER HEAD COACH STIMAC WAS SACKED JUNE 17, AFTER THE INDIAN TEAM FAILED TO MAKE IT TO THE THIRD ROUND OF THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS DESPITE GETTING A RELATIVELY EASY DRAW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Spaniard Manolo Marquez, currently in charge of Indian Super League side FC Goa, was Saturday named as the Indian men's football team head coach in place of the sacked Igor Stimac.

The All India Football Federation's (AIFF) executive committee, which met here Saturday, appointed Marquez for the top job.

The AIFF said the 55-year-old Marquez will perform the dual role of managing the national team as well as the ISL franchise in the 2024-25 season before taking up the India job on a full-time basis.

"The Committee, in the first order of the day, deliberated on the appointment of the new head coach for the Senior Men's National Team, and

Bhutia resigns from technical committee

New Delhi: Legendary footballer Bhaichung Bhutia Saturday told the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) executive committee that he is resigning from his membership of the technical committee, alleging that the panel was "bypassed" while appointing the national men's team head coach. Bhutia, who is a co-opted member of the executive committee as a former player and attended Saturday's meeting here, claimed that under normal practice, the technical committee recommends the head coach of the national team. The current technical panel is headed by legendary IM Vijayan. "I have been chairman of AIFF technical committee in the past (2013 to 2017) and involved in coach appointments like in case of Stephen Constantine. It is the job of the technical committee to shortlist the candidates who have applied and recommend the suitable person to become coach. But this time, there was not even a single technical committee meeting to appoint successor of Stimac," Bhutia told PTI. "There was not a single meeting of technical committee to discuss how many candidates have applied, who were to be shortlisted, nothing of this sort happened this time. The process was followed in the past but not this time. If you are going to bypass the technical committee in the head coach appointment, why are we for. I said in the executive committee meeting that since the technical committee was not involved, there was no value of technical committee, then why are we for. So, I said I am resigning from technical committee membership," he added.

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

METTLE MEET 2024

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

In the British Raj, a custom of afternoon tea was supplanted by the local practice of taking a light meal at that hour. It is derived from slang meaning 'to take a little drink', and had by 1867 become naturalized among Anglo-Indians in the north to mean luncheon. What word?

ANSWER TO SATURDAY'S QUESTION

Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it

THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



RASHMI REKHA



DEBADATTA TRIPATHY

Others who answered correctly are Tripathi Narayan Mishra, Ayushi Pradhan, Jaba Dasgupta, Biswa Ranjan Dhal, Prithiviraj Padhy, Nibedita Mohanty, Ashish Agarwalla, R Sekhar Rao, Abhijit Raychaudhuri

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SHORT TAKES

Jr Squash: India shine

Houston: India continued their fine run at the World Junior Squash Championships with both the boys' and girls' team winning their respective matches here. While the boys blanked Brazil 3-0 to top the three-team Group F, the girls beat Brazil and Australia by an identical 3-0 margin to assure themselves of a quarterfinal berth Friday. The boys will now meet Canada in the pre-quarterfinals, while the girls face Hong Kong in their concluding Group D league match.

Vani best at tied 20

Hilversum: Vani Kapoor carded a steady two-under 70 to emerge as the top Indian at tied 20 on the opening day of the Dutch Ladies Open at Hilversumsche Golf Club. Vani had three birdies and a lone bogey on Par-3 10th. Vani began on the tenth with a bogey. But after that, she didn't put a foot wrong as she picked birdies on the 17th and then two more on the seventh and the eighth for a 70. Tvesa Malik had two bogeys against a birdie on the fourth for a 1-over 763 and was T-64, while Ridhima Dilawari (73), with two birdies and three bogeys, was also T-64.

PCB junks NOC plea

Lahore: The Pakistan Cricket Board has turned down requests for No Objection Certificate (NOC) from senior players Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi to participate in the Global T20 League, citing the hectic international calendar. "The PCB had received NOC requests from Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Afridi for the Global T20 event, amongst other players. The Canadian league is scheduled to be held from July 25 to August 11. PCB said the decision was taken to manage the work load of the three players, who are expected to play a lot of cricket in the coming months.

Nadal reaches first final since 2022 French Open



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bastad, July 20: Rafael Nadal reached his first final since the 2022 French Open by rallying to beat Duje Ajdukovic 46, 63, 64 Saturday at the clay-court Nordea Open.

After needing four hours to beat the 36th-ranked Mariano Navone in Friday's quarterfinals, Nadal had a slow start against Ajdukovic and was a break down in the second set before turning things around. "My opponent had one of the best backhands that I played

against," Nadal said. "It was very, very difficult, honestly, but I found a way to survive and be through to that final after a long time without being in a final. So, that's great news and I'm very happy with that."

Nadal will play either Nuno Borges or Thiago Agustín Tirante in the final.

Nadal is playing at the tournament in Sweden for the first time since he won the title as a 19-year-old in 2005 as he prepares for the Olympic tournament on clay at Roland Garros in Paris.

The 38-year-old Nadal skipped Wimbledon as he didn't want to switch the surface to grass and then back to clay and risk injury. He has been dealing with hip and abdominal injuries over the past 1 & 1/2 years.

Eyes eye Asia Cup semis berth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dambulla, July 20: Dominant India will be eager to perfect their tactics further while warding off United Arab Emirates which also can push them firmly towards the semifinals of the women's Asia Cup here Sunday. Defending champions India's supremacy was evident in their facile seven-wicket victory over arch-rivals Pakistan Saturday, and the UAE will require a giant-sized miracle to stop Harmanpreet Kaur's side.

India currently have two points and a Net Run Rate of +2.29, and a win over the Emirates will take them to four points, which will also have a positive reflection on their NRR.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that India will look more inwards in their match against the UAE, than fretting over the rivals.



There were excellent spells from Deepti Sharma, Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar, slightly on the expensive side, against Pakistan, and their effort would have pleased the management to no limit.

They will hope that left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, who returned to the India fold during the home series against South Africa recently, too can join the wicket-takers' list Sunday.

"It was a good spell and there was some assistance from the

weather as well. Of course, I could execute all the plans that I have been working on at nets," said Renuka in the post-match press meet.

To top it, the Indian batters were ruthless in hunting down a non-challenging target with 35 balls to spare.

Openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana gave the team a flying start adding 85 runs in just 9.3 overs and the loss of three wickets from that position was a minor aberration.

Nayar, Doeschate may join India in SL as assistant coaches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Abhishek Nayar and Ryan ten Doeschate are set to join the support staff of newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir during India's white ball tour to Sri Lanka, starting from July 27.

Nayar, who has played three ODIs for India, and Doeschate, who was a hard-hitting all-rounder for Netherlands, have worked closely with Gambhir at the Kolkata Knight Riders and are likely to come in as assistant coaches, the PTI has learned.

Nayar comes with a high reputation as a sharp cricket mind and a lifestyle/motivational coach who have worked with the likes of Dinesh Karthik and Rinku Singh. Doeschate is currently working with LA Knight Riders in the ongoing Major League Cricket (MLC) and Gambhir has openly expressed his admiration for the team-first attitude of the Dutchman.

While there was no clear view on the appointment of the bowling coach, it seems that T Dilip, who was part of Rahul Dravid's regime, will continue in the role of the fielding coach.

Gambhir had suggested to the BCCI the names of former India seamers R Vinay Kumar and L Balaji and former South African pacer Morne Morkel for the role of bowling coach.

The PTI had reported July 10 that Morkel could get the role ahead of Vinay and Balaji. While Vinay and Balaji have associated with Gambhir at the KKR, Morkel worked alongside him at the Lucknow Super Giants.

If indeed Morkel gets the nod, he could be the first foreign bowling coach after Australian Joe Dawes, who did the duty under Duncan Fletcher until the tour of England in 2014.

24 Indian Armed Forces personnel at Paris Olympics

MAIDEN PARTICIPATION OF FEMALE SERVICE ATHLETES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 20: Twenty-four personnel from the armed forces, including ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and two women participants, are among the 117 Indian athletes who are set to test their mettle at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The presence of these two women athletes in the contingent, marks the maiden participation of female service athletes at the Olympics, the ministry of defence in a statement Saturday.

Chopra, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics gold medallist, is a



subedar in the Indian Army.

Twenty-four personnel from the armed forces are among the 117 Indian athletes who are all set to make the nation proud at the Paris Olympics, beginning July 26, it said.

Among these 24 athletes, 22 are men, including javelin

thrower Subedar Neeraj Chopra, and two are women, it said.

Chopra will again vie for the top honours as his participation in the Paris Olympics comes on the back of exceptional performances which earned him a gold medal each at the 2023 Asian Games, 2023 World Athletics

Championship, 2024 Diamond League, and 2024 Paavo Nurmi Games, the statement said.

Also, 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Havildar Jaismine Lamboria and 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships bronze medallist CPO Ritika Hooda are the two women service personnel who are taking part in the Games for the first time, and would aim to create history. They will feature in boxing and wrestling respectively, it added.

Sub Amit Panghal (boxing); CPO Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot-put); Sub Avinash Mukund Sable (3000m steeplechase); CPO Muhammed Anas Yahya, POGW Muhammed Ajmal, Sub Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan and JWO Mijo Chacko Kurian (4X400M men's relay); JWO

Abdulla Aboobacker (triple jump); Sub Tarundeep Rai and Sub Dhiraj Bommadevara (archery) and Nb Sub Sandeep Singh (shooting) are also among the service personnel who would aim to bring laurels to the country.

The India Army had recently in a post on X said, "13 #IndianArmy athletes will be participating in 7 disciplines at the #ParisOlympics2024. The Indian Army's formidable presence includes athletes renowned for their exceptional skills and past achievements on the world stage."

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi had earlier interacted, via video conference, with Indian Army athletes who are set to represent India in the upcoming Paris Olympics.