

### Snana Purnima today

**Puri:** The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the district administration have made elaborate arrangements for the Snana Purnima rituals of Lord Jagannath and His siblings - Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, which will be conducted Saturday. The SJTA has refurbished the Snana Mandap (bathing altar) on the premises of the 12th century shrine. As per the decision of the Chhattisha Niyog, Mangalarpam, Doralagi and Puspanjali will begin at 4.30am. The Pahandi procession of the deities will begin at 5am and conclude by 7am. The bathing ritual will begin at 12.20pm and conclude at 1.45pm. **P3**

### 98 Indians die in Hajj

**New Delhi:** Ninety-eight Indians have died during the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca largely due to natural causes, chronic illnesses and old age, the Ministry of External Affairs said Friday. As many as 1,75,000 Indian pilgrims visited Mecca, Islam's holiest city, for Hajj this year, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "The Hajj period is from May 9 to July 22. This year, till now, 98 deaths have been reported," he said. According to reports, more than 900 pilgrims have died this year during Hajj that has been marked by heatwaves. **P8**

### STRETCH IT OUT

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, among others, participate in a Yoga camp on the occasion of International Day of Yoga at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Friday



PIC: CMO 'X'  
REPORT P3

## State govt to sponsor Hockey India till 2036

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** The newly-elected BJP-led Odisha government has pledged to continue its association with hockey, extending its sponsorship deal with Hockey India until 2036. The year 2036 holds special significance for Odisha as it marks the centenary of its establishment as an independent state in 1936, a momentous occasion for the people of the state. This partnership was solidified in a high-level meeting attended by Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, secretary-general Bhola Nath Singh, Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi, Minister of State for Sports & Youth

Services Suryabanshi Suraj, Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena, and Commissioner-cum-Secretary R Vineel Krishna. "We had a productive meeting with the Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi and Minister of State for Sports & Youth Services Suryabanshi Suraj. We discussed the advancement of sports and strategies to elevate our beloved sport to new heights," Tirkey said in a statement. "We are thankful to the government of Odisha for their support and commitment to Indian hockey. This partnership has played a pivotal role in uplifting the sport across our nation," he added.

### Kejriwal to stay in jail

**New Delhi, June 21:** Embattled Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will have to remain in jail for now with the Delhi High Court Friday putting an interim stay on a trial court's order granting him bail in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam. The AAP national convenor, who was arrested March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), could have walked out of Tihar jail Friday had the HC not granted the interim relief to the central anti-money laundering agency. "Till the pronouncement of this order, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," a vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said and asked the parties to file written submissions by June 24.

## Woman fakes kidnap for ₹1cr

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** In an incident similar to a thriller movie plot, a woman connived with her partner to stage her fake abduction and later demanded a ransom of ₹1 crore from her family for release. However, their luck eventually ran out after the Chandaka police traced their location and arrested the two from Nayagarh, Friday. Besides, one more person was also arrested in connection with the incident. Three mobile phones, a four-wheeler, a data card, nine debit cards, two passbooks, two cheque books and a laptop were

seized from the accused, said a senior police official. Addressing media, twin city Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda identified the accused as Pradeep Kumar Ola, 27, Devi Lal, 27, and Smruti Rekha Pani, 35. Ola, the prime accused, and Lal are natives of Rajasthan. The matter came under investigation after Smruti's father Narayan Pani lodged a complaint with Chandaka police, Thursday night, alleging that his daughter has been abducted by some miscreants. He said the kidnapers made a WhatsApp call from Smruti's phone, demanding a ransom of ₹1 crore.

"Narayan, who lives in Trident Galaxy of Chandaka area, said his daughter left home in an auto-rickshaw around 6:45pm Thursday for a religious programme in Satsang Vihar here. Several minutes later, Narayan received the call from the miscreants, saying his daughter has been kidnapped. Following this, the victim's brother, who resides in Bangalore, made online payment of ₹12 lakh to the bank accounts of the accused. Meanwhile, the police approached the bank branch and requested the authorities to freeze the accounts," Panda added.

As per preliminary investigations, Ola hired Lal, his associate, from Rajasthan to assist him in the plan. Six teams, including a special squad, Chandaka police and Nayagarh police, were formed to arrest the accused. Sources in Chandaka police said Ola and Smruti became friends on Instagram in December last year. The woman's husband is known to be working in Singapore, the sources added. The Commissionerate Police booked the trio under Section 364A and 34 of the Indian Penal Code and produced them in a local court Friday.

## Ink hurled at OPCC chief

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** Two unidentified persons allegedly hurled ink at Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattnayak at the party headquarters here. The incident took place around 11.30 am when the two masked persons entered Pattnayak's chamber in the Congress Bhavan here and splashed blue ink on his clothes, a senior party leader said. "I am not frightened by the incident. Those who are jealous of the gradual growth of the Congress in the state are behind the incident," Pattnayak told reporters. The Congress leader later participated in a programme at the



Master Canteen Square here to protest against the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024 exams and corruption.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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# leisure



## KHLOE TO HOST NEW VIDEO PODCAST SERIES

Socialite and model Khloe Kardashian has joined forces with X to launch a video podcast series. The 39-year-old told *The Hollywood Reporter*, "I have a genuine curiosity about so many topics. I can't wait to explore, listen, and learn through this exciting journey."

## COSTNER SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN LOVE AGAIN

Kevin Costner (69), following his divorce last year, is still open to the possibility of finding love in the future. Talking about the issue, the actor told *people.com*: "Yeah, I think everybody would like to be in love. There's such a good feeling that's associated with that."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today, you feel free and liberated! And in that spirit, you want to travel or do things you loved doing as a child. A good time for a family outing, says Ganesh. Keeping in mind your mood, you may even make plans for the future for your near and dear.

**TAURUS**  
You are likely to stick to basics instead of letting your imagination run wild today, says Ganesh. At work, you may feel some pressure from your peers to do things differently. Think things out and be certain before you take any decision, advises Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You have a certain degree of equanimity when it comes to reacting to praise and criticism. Today, however, you will be emotional, and it won't be too bad. You will get appreciated at work and your liberal show of emotions will only make others like you more.

**CANCER**  
Today, Cupid will send its arrow right through your heart. You will be trembling with pain - the sweet pain of lust and love. But the overzealous Cupid may not stop at just that. Just to be completely sure, it will virtually do shooting practice at you. You can do nothing but tell your love interest how badly you have been hit.

**LEO**  
It is good to be impulsive sometimes; but if one were to ask you today, you would be all for a meticulously planned approach to life. So much so that from now on, planning will become almost a part and parcel of your life, predicts Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will start the day by scribbling down things to do. But don't just jot them down; instead, set realistic goals and prioritise them. Items you mark highest will demand quick actions, cautions Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
It's a spiritual and harmonious mood that grips you today, feels Ganesh. You may want to focus on meditation, as you essentially seek peace. This may have something to do with the fact that at work, your subordinates may attempt to throw around their weight to force you to make drastic changes.

**SCORPIO**  
It is more than likely that you will find yourself in a tricky situation today, says Ganesh. You may start the day feeling lonely and empty but yet, at the same time, you will have some responsibility that will prevent you from showing it. Try to keep your mind off negative thoughts.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Stay stern, says Ganesh, as it might be necessary to exercise your grit to get the desired results today. Your presence may be dominating at the workplace, but your subordinates will find your manner pleasing as you hold them in awe of you. Do not get carried away by your success or the tables may turn, suggests Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will prioritise your needs, and the most critical would be the need to manage finances to save for the future. Also, the company you choose to keep will reflect the kind of person you are. So, beware of who you befriend, warns Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today, you will have a lot of fun with your siblings! Though generally well-organised and methodical, you will enjoy going with the flow of what your siblings and friends plan for you. Sometimes, spontaneity is a good thing, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
There are indications you will be in hot pursuit of leisure today, says Ganesh. This will probably be in the form of a short trip to recharge your batteries, and is probably fuelled by your satisfaction in the realisation that the role you play within your organisation is consequential, satisfying as well as rewarding.

## Shruti fumes over 'micro racism'

**Hyderabad:** Shruti Haasan often conducts candid 'ask me anything' sessions on her social media accounts. Now, her recent 'Q&A' with fans on Instagram is grabbing attention due to the blunt reply she gave regarding the South Indian accent.

During the session, a follower asked Shruti, "Say something in a South Indian accent." Shruti, who was born and raised in Tamil Nadu before moving to Mumbai, couldn't tolerate what she termed as 'micro racism' on her account. She responded, "Ok... This kind of micro racism is not okay. It's also not okay when you stereotype us with 'idly dosa sambhar'. And no, your imitation isn't accurate, so please don't try to be funny. In a South Indian way, I would say 'Shut up and get lost'."

While she didn't mention anyone by name, it's evident that recently, top star Shah Rukh Khan faced backlash for referring to Ram Charan as 'idly vada' at the pre-wedding celebrations of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant in Jamnagar. Ram chose not to respond to the online controversy, but reportedly, his makeup artist Zeba Hassan walked out from the event after Shah Rukh's remark.

On the professional front, Shruti was last seen in Prashanth Neel's *Salaar Part 1: Ceasefire*. Currently, she is busy shooting for Shaneil Deo's *Dacoit* alongside Adivi Sesh.

AGENCIES

## Kriti reflects on her career highs, lows

**Mumbai:** Within just six months of the year, Kriti Sanon has given two back-to-back hits with *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* and *Crew*. The National Award winner has set a new benchmark for other actresses to follow, cementing her status as one of the most versatile and bankable stars in the industry.

Reflecting on her career and its highs and lows, Kriti said in a recent interview with *Femina*, "Thankfully, I remained dedicated to my craft, and gradually, opportunities began to grow as success followed. Over the course of a decade, through all the highs and lows, I've arrived at a point where my sole focus is to do work that really excites me."

*Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya*, a romantic drama, entertained audiences with its heartfelt narrative and Kriti's compelling performance. In contrast,

*Crew*, a heist thriller, highlighted her ability to take on physically demanding roles and deliver a powerful performance.

Beyond her acting credentials, Kriti is also making waves as a creative force in the Hindi film industry. This year, she is set to turn producer with *Do Patti*, a project that promises to push the boundaries of storytelling and creativity. With veteran actress Kajol onboard and under her production house Blue Butterfly Films, Kriti is poised to make a significant impact on the industry as a producer.

AGENCIES

## SOUL-STIRRING SHOW



A performance during the celebration of World Music Day at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Friday. The musical event was organised by the Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department, Government of Odisha. PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

## Isha's casting couch experience

**Mumbai:** Isha Koppikar detailed some unpleasant experiences which she had to experience during her early years in the film industry. In a new interview with Siddharth Kannan, the actor got emotional talking about the incidents, when she was approached by an A-list actor to meet him alone.

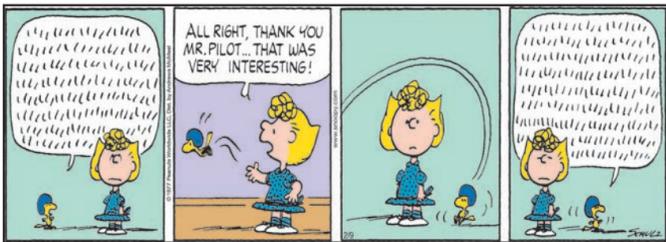
In the new interview, Isha said in Hindi, "One actor asked me to meet him alone, without my driver or anyone else, because there were rumours about him being involved with other actresses. He said, 'There are already controversies about me, and the staff spreads rumours.' But I re-

fused and told him that I couldn't come alone. He was an A-list actor from the Hindi film industry. I must have been around 22-23 years old at that time."

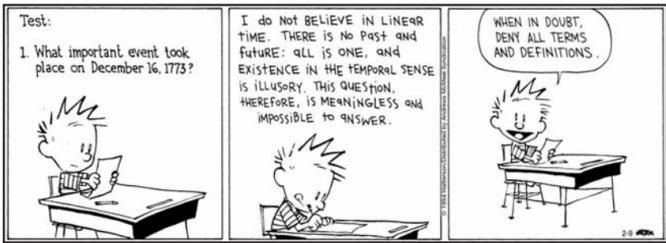
She went on to add, "I was 18 when a secretary and an actor approached me for casting couch. They told me that to get work, you have to be 'friendly' with actors. I am very friendly, but what does 'friendly' mean? I am so friendly that Ekta Kapoor once told me to have some 'attitude.'" She also added how many would touch her inappropriately and tell her to be friendly with the heroes in a sleazy manner.

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

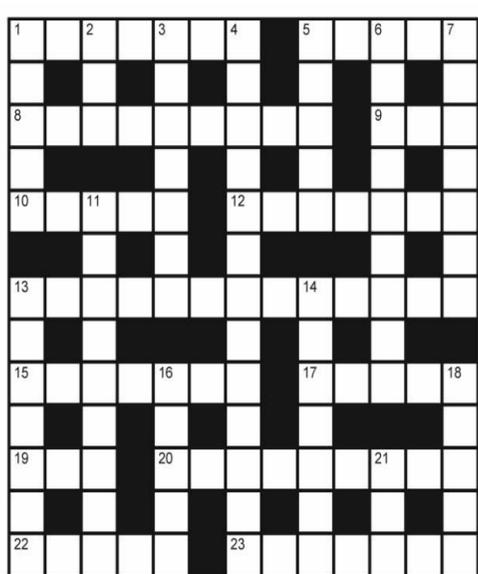


### BREVITY



### FUN post

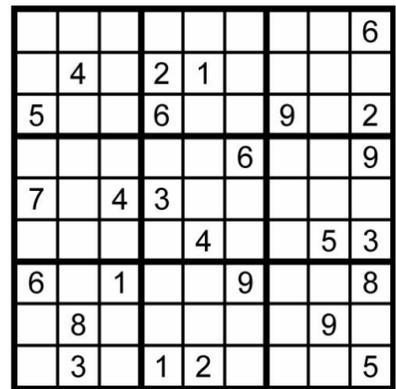
### CROSSWORD



- Across**  
1 Helter-skelter  
5 Eminent  
8 Blasphemy  
9 Hole maker  
10 Göteborg resident  
12 Esteem  
13 Goon's weapon (5,8)  
15 Employ
- Down**  
17 Boldness  
19 Gaudy scarf  
20 Convey  
22 Shoals  
23 On the money
- 5** Requires  
**6** Tourist  
**7** Thins out, as liquor  
**11** Wipe out  
**13** Avoirdupois  
**14** Card game  
**16** Scintillas  
**18** Vestibule  
**21** Frequently, in verse

### 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

#### CROSSWORD

IBEX INTERCOM  
N L P E T O E  
CABBAGE HORDE  
U O V Y R T  
BOWLINGALLEY  
A N L A C G  
E T O T G R O W L T I A  
E R S O C N  
C O N T E M P O R A R Y  
B O H S M  
R O B I N P O O L C U E  
U L E A L O D  
T R E A S U R E S T Y L E

#### SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Cuttack Mayor Subhas Singh inspects box drain cleaning operations in Kesharpur area of the Silver City, Friday



# downtown

## Puri gears up for Lord's Snana Purnima today



A sand drawing by noted artist Sudarsan Pattnaik on the eve of Snana Purnima

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 21:** The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has made elaborate preparations for the Snana Purnima rituals of Lord Jagannath, and His siblings – Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, Saturday, official sources said here, Friday.

The important ritual is considered to be a prelude to Rath Yatra scheduled to be held July 7 this year.

The temple administration has refurbished the Snana Mandap (bathing altar) on the premises of the 12th century shrine for the purpose.

As per the decision of the Chhattisha Niyog, Mangalarpan, Doralagi and Puspanjali will begin at 4.30am. Servitors would carry the deities from the sanctum sanctorum to the bathing altar in Pahandi procession that would begin at 5am and conclude by 7am.

### Devotees will be allowed to enter Srimandir through Lion's Gate and exit through the other three gates

As per the tradition, Lord Sudarshan would be carried to the bathing altar first, followed by Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra. Lord Jagannath would be the last to reach the Snana Mandap.

After completion of Mangalarati, Mailam and Tadaplagi rituals, the bathing ritual will begin at 12.20pm and conclude at 1.45pm.

Servitors would fetch 108 pitchers of water from a well on the shrine premises and sanctify it with aromatic substances like sandalwood and camphor. Altogether 33 pitchers of water will be poured on Lord Jagannath, 30 pitchers on Lord Balabhadra, 27 pitchers on Devi

Subhadra and 18 pitchers on Lord Sudarshan.

Chherapananra will be done at 3pm after completion of the bathing rituals. The deities will adorn Hati Besha (elephant attire) at 3.40pm. Devotees will have the opportunity to witness the attire for three hours, 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

After unmaking the Hati Besha at 11pm, servitors will perform the Bahuda Pahandi between 11.30pm and 2am, and the deities would be carried to the Anasara Gruha (asylum for sick).

It is believed that deities catch fever after the bathing ritual and go through medication for a fortnight before flaunting their rejuvenated youthhood on the occasion of Nabajouban Darshan.

Sources said about 68 platoons of police personnel have been deployed to regulate traffic on the Grand Road.

Meanwhile, the district administration has issued a detailed crowd mobility plan and traffic advisory for the occasion.

Accordingly, devotees will be allowed to enter Srimandir through Lion's Gate and exit through the other three gates. For crowd regulation, barricades have been put up on the Grand Road.

Devotees have been asked to enter the barricades near Market Square on the Grand Road. Those having tickets will be allowed to enter the temple through south gate.

However, entry through the south gate will stop after completion of the Pahandi rituals, reports stated.

## Majhi leads 10th Int'l Yoga Day celebrations

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi led the celebration of the 10th International Yoga Day in the state, Friday.

For the first time after the BJP formed government in Odisha, the day was celebrated across the state in a big way Friday morning to highlight the importance of the ancient practice of yoga.

The Chief Minister led the main event at Kalinga Stadium here. He performed yoga and addressed the huge gathering of students, officials and other individuals. Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj and Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena also participated in the event.

Majhi said the yoga day is



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj and Chief Secretary PK Jena join hundreds of yoga enthusiasts at an event at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar



Ashok Baral and team perform 'Jal Yoga' at Bindusagar tank in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar

being celebrated across the state and the government has sent deputy chief ministers and ministers to participate in the celebration as chief guests in different places of the state. Besides, MPs, MLAs and senior government officials are also participating in such events in their respective areas, he said.

Majhi said yoga will help the new government to remain healthy and mentally fit.

On this year's theme 'Yoga for Self and Society', he appealed to the people not to confine yoga practice only on this day and make it a daily habit to remain physically and mentally healthy. Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo participated in the yoga event at Kasturba School field at Nayapalli in Bhubaneswar, while Pravatī Parida, another Deputy CM, joined the pro-

gramme at Konark.

### City, state celebrate the day

Meanwhile, special programmes were organised at various offices and institutions in the Capital City and other parts of the state Friday to mark the International Yoga Day.

The Department of AYUSH, AIIMS Bhubaneswar hosted a programme at the Director's Lawn in association with the NSS unit of the national institute where Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas emphasized the profound impact of yoga on young minds and bodies.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) organised a string of programmes across locations to celebrate the day. These events were held at Mukteswar temple premises, Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium in Niladri Vihar and Madhusudan Das Park at Pokhariput. Bhubaneswar MP Arjuna Sarangi, BMC Commissioner and Corporators were among others who joined the event at

Mukteswar temple to encourage the participants.

BJEM school celebrated the occasion to raise awareness among students and public about the ancient practice of spiritual prowess that yoga has brought to the world. Joining the event at chief guest Janardan Padhee, Dy Superintendent of Police, said that regular yoga practice leads to better mental, physical and intellectual health. Principal Sandhya Jena said yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice and it plays a vital role in relaxing the mind and body and boosts the immune system.

The event at the Central University of Odisha campus was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi in the presence of Registrar NC Panda and yoga expert Jaya Krishna Padhan. Attendees included university faculty, staff, and students, as well as teachers and children from government high school, Sunabeda, and Jagannath Bidya Pitha, Sunabeda.

A programme was held at the SS Bhatnagar Hall of CSIR Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) Friday to mark the yoga day. The event was conducted under the chairmanship of Ramanuj Narayan, Director, CSIR IMMT, Bhubaneswar.

The East Coast Railway (ECOR) also observed the International Day of Yoga at various railway establishments over East Coast Railway jurisdiction including the Bhubaneswar headquarters and all the three Railway Divisions at Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur.

General Manager, East Coast Railway Parmeshwar Funkwal with staff and officers participated in a yoga session held at Koraput.



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Chitrakar servitors give finishing touches to subsidiary deities for installation on chariots in Puri, Friday

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

## Stock in 150 reservoirs dips to 21%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 21:** With scorching heat battering a large swathes of India over the past few weeks, water available in the 150 main reservoirs across the country further dipped to just 21 per cent of their total live storage capacity.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has released the live storage status of 150 key reservoirs across India in its latest bulletin.

These reservoirs, crucial for hydroelectric projects and water supply, have a combined live storage capacity of 178.784 billion cubic meters (BCM), which is approximately 69.35 per cent of the total live storage capacity created in the country.

As of Thursday, the live storage available in these reservoirs is 37.662 BCM, which is 21 per cent of their total capacity. Overall, the live storage available across the 150 reservoirs stands at 54.310 BCM against the estimated total capacity of 257.812 BCM.

This marks a significant de-

crease from the same period last year, when the live storage was 46.883 BCM.

The current storage is also lower than the 10-year average (normal) storage of 41.446 BCM. Thus, the present storage is 80 per cent of last year's levels and 91 per cent of the normal storage for this period.

For the past two weeks, the reservoirs were at 22 per cent while it was 23 per cent the week before that.

Swathes of northern and eastern India remained in the grip of a punishingly long heat wave, causing water stress in parts of the country including in the national capital.

In terms of reservoir capacity, the southern region continues to be most hit.

The eastern region covering Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, and Bihar has 23 reservoirs with a total capacity of 20.430 BCM.

The available storage is 3.873 BCM (19 per cent of capacity), slightly better than last year's 18 per cent but below the normal storage of 23 per cent.

## RI, ARI land in Vigilance net

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** Vigilance sleuths arrested a revenue inspector (RI) and an assistant revenue inspector (ARI) of Subarnapur district on charges of bribery, Friday.

RI Rajendra Kumar Mishra and ARI Panchanan Dang of Khandahata RI circle under Biramaharajpur tehsil of Subarnapur were taken into custody after they were caught receiving a bribe of Rs 5,000 from the complainant to forward the enquiry report in a revision petition case filed by him for issuance of record of rights, Vigilance sources said.

About the trap, they said the complainant approached the Vigilance alleging the RI and the ARI of demanding bribe for the enquiry report.

"Accordingly, a trap was laid and the duo was caught accepting Rs 5,000 from the complainant on the premises of Khandahata RI office. The entire bribe money was recovered from the accused," they added.

## Ship found off Israel coast may give clues on ancient mariners

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tel Aviv, June 21:** A company drilling for natural gas off the coast of northern Israel discovered a 3,300-year-old ship and its cargo, one of the oldest known examples of a ship sailing far from land, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) has said.

The discovery of the late Bronze Age ship so far out at sea indicates that the navigation abilities of ancient seafarers were more advanced than previously thought because they could travel without a line of sight to land, the IAA said.

The great depth at which the ship was found means it has been left undisturbed by waves, currents or fishermen over the millennia, offering greater potential for research, it said.

"The discovery of this boat now changes our entire understanding of ancient mariner



abilities. It is the very first to be found at such a great distance with no line of sight to any landmass," said Jacob Sharvit, head of the IAA marine unit, adding that two similar ships from the same era had been discovered

previously, but only close to shore.

Sharvit said the assumption by researchers until now has been that trade during that era was conducted by boats sailing close to the shore, keeping an

### The assumption by researchers until now has been that trade during that era was conducted by boats sailing close to the shore, keeping an eye on land while moving from port to port

eye on land while moving from port to port.

He said the newly discovered boat's sailors probably used the sun and the stars to find their way

The wooden ship sank about 90 kilometers (55 miles) off Israel's Mediterranean coast and was discovered at a depth of 1,800 meters (1.1 miles) by Energean, a natural gas company which operates a number

of deep-sea natural gas fields in Israel's territorial waters.

In its work, Energean said it uses a submersible robot to scour the sea floor. About a year ago, it came across the 12 to 14 meter (39 to 45 foot)-long ship buried under the muddy bottom, nestled under hundreds of jugs that were thousands of years old.

The boat and its cargo were fully intact, the IAA said, adding that the vessel appeared to have sunk either in a storm or after coming under attack by pirates.

The ship for now is not being retrieved.

Energean worked with the IAA to retrieve two of the jugs, which were likely used for carrying oil, wine or fruit, and bring them to the surface for research.

The IAA identified the jugs as Canaanite, a people who resided in the lands abutting the eastern Mediterranean.

## State govt relieves advisors picked by BJD dispensation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** The new BJP government in the state, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Friday decided to relieve 'advisors' appointed by the previous BJD dispensation in various departments 'as their presence has not brought about any improvement in the government's works'.

A release issued by the Chief Minister's Officer (CMO) stated that during the previous government, many persons were appointed as advisors in various departments of the state. "Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has taken a decision to release these advisors from their responsibilities as there is no improvement in the government's programs and work efficiency,"

the release stated.

Earlier, hours after Naveen Patnaik resigned from Chief Minister's post after his party BJD suffered defeat in the Assembly elections, two retired IAS officers, Suresh Chandra Mohapatra and R Balakrishnan, had put in their papers as chief advisors to CMO.

Mahapatra was the chief advisor in the CMO, while Balakrishnan was the chief advisor, special initiatives. The resignations of the two key retired bureaucrats came to light after the General Administration and Public Grievance department issued notifications in this regard. The resignations were accepted, June 5.

The posts of chief advisors were political appointments. The CMO is expected to be overhauled soon.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	77209.90 ↓ 269.03
NIFTY	23501.10 ↓ 65.90
DOLLAR	83.581 ↓ ₹0.46
EURO	89.3110 ↓ ₹0.1860
GOLD	₹71,941 ↓ ₹645
SILVER	₹89,650 ↓ ₹2,015

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.5°C	34.8°C
Min Temp	26.0°C	24.0°C
Humidity	85%	87%
Rainfall	6.3	Nil

**FORECAST**  
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY WITH ONE / TWO SPELLS OF RAIN

# Monsoon covers most parts of state



AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** Southwest monsoon has advanced into most parts of state, the regional centre of India Meteorological Department (IMD) here said, Friday. "Conditions are now favourable for further advancement of the southwest monsoon to some more parts of Odisha in the next three to four days," it further said.

The IMD said the monsoon has touched 24 districts fully. These districts are: Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Bolangir, Boudh, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Deogarh.

Some parts of Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Balasore, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj have also received the monsoon rain.

IMD, Bhubaneswar head Manorama Mohanty said rainfall will continue in many places of the state for next three days.

The MeT office also predicted thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching upto 30-40 kmph at one or two places in Kalahandi, Subarnapur, Boudh, Nuapada, Bolangir, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur,

Conditions are favourable for further advancement of southwest monsoon to some more parts of Odisha in the next three to four days, says the IMD

Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam Gajapati districts, Saturday. Similarly, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in Rayagada, Kandhamal while heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in Sundargarh, Gajapati, Khurda, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Nayagarh and Ganjam districts.

The IMD also said that thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely to occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Jharsuguda, Sunday.

Similarly, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts, Sunday.

The MeT office said conditions are favourable for further advancement of the monsoon into some more parts of North Arabian Sea, Gujarat, remaining parts of Maharashtra, some more parts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and some parts of East Uttar Pradesh during next three-four days.



**BUDDING TALENTS:** Artistes of Nirjhara Cultural Academy perform Odissi during 'Chandan Mahotsav' at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## 'AHPGIC new building will be ready by 2027'

**Cuttack:** If things go as per plan, the construction of a three-tower building at Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC) will be completed within three years, giving significant boost to patient care, sources said Friday. The previous government had sanctioned ₹200 crore for the critical infrastructure at AHPGIC with a 15-floor plan which would house 1,000 normal and 60 dedicated ICU beds. It will also facilitate 12 state-of-the-art operation theatres (OTs), two outdoor units, Trauma and Emergency department and a pathology unit. A few of the existing structures within the campus will be demolished for the construction, said the hospital authorities. "Former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the project in January but due to imposition of Model Code of Conduct for the general and Assembly elections, the work got delayed," said director of AHPGIC Deepak Routray. Tender for the project would be floated within a couple of weeks and the construction will be completed within three years, Routray added.

## Cong politicising pro-tem Speaker issue, says Rijiju

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 21:** Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Friday slammed the Congress for politicising the appointment of Lok Sabha pro-tem Speaker and asserted that conventions were followed in selecting BJP leader Bhartruhari Mahtab who has the longest un-interrupted tenure as a member of the Lower House. President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Mahtab, a seven-term MP, as the pro-tem Speaker, who administers oath/affirmation to the newly-elected members of Lok Sabha. Congress accused the BJP-led government of "destroying parliamentary norms" by ignoring the claim of Suresh, an eight-term Lok Sabha MP, to the post. Rijiju claimed that Suresh, though an eight-time MP, was not a member of Lok Sabha in 1998 and 2004 and hence did not have an uninterrupted tenure in the Lok Sabha. "Do you think such an argument is even valid," the minister shot back when asked about Congress' claims that Suresh was ignored for the post as he was a Dalit. The minister accused Congress leaders of 'spreading lies' and making 'misleading statements' on the issue. "We expected the Parliament proceedings to start on a good note. But, even before the start of the first session of the Parliament, Congress resorted to spreading lies and misleading everyone through social media posts," Rijiju said.

The minister cited past precedents to claim that the UPA government had ignored the seniority principle in 2004 when it had appointed eight-term member Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil as the



**Congress accused the BJP-led government of "destroying parliamentary norms" by ignoring the claim of Suresh, an eight-term Lok Sabha MP, to the post**

pro-tem Speaker, when nine-term MP George Fernandes was a member of the Lok Sabha.

Even claims of PM Sayeed and Giridhar Gamang to the post of pro-tem Speaker were ignored by the Congress on earlier occasions, Rijiju said. The minister also cited a Supreme Court order of 2018 that maintained that the convention of senior-most lawmaker being appointed as pro-tem Speaker had no 'legal force'.

"I have to say it with great regret that I feel ashamed that the Congress party has talked like this. First of all, they created an issue about the pro-tem Speaker. This post is very temporary. They play their role till the election of the new Speaker. They do not have to do any business transaction," Rijiju said.

## INS Chilka celebrates Int'l Day of Yoga

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** INS Chilka, Friday, celebrated the International Day of Yoga (IDY) embracing the theme 'Yoga for Self and Society'. The event witnessed active involvement of trainees, ship's company, and their families, reinforcing the holistic benefits of yoga as a therapeutic practice for individual well-being and societal harmony, a release issued by INS Chilka said.

INS Chilka conducted a 14-day extensive yoga programme prior to the conduct of International IDY. These sessions were designed to accommodate different skill levels, ensuring that everyone could partake and benefit from the practice of yoga.

Qualified instructors guided participants through various asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing exercises), and meditation techniques, emphasising the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of yoga.

On the occasion of IDY, Comrade NP Pradeep VSM, the Station Commander, addressed the ship's company, highlighting the profound impact of yoga on personal health and societal well-being. He urged everyone to adopt yoga as a daily practice. The yoga day celebrations reaffirmed the commitment of naval personnel and their families to holistic well-being and unity.



## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Bibhuti Bhusana Pradhan, S/o - Digambar Pradhan, Village-Baghupalli, P.O.-Baladianuagaon, P.S.-Fategarh, Dist. -Nayagarh, PIN- 752077, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.-671, date-19.06.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Bibhuti Bhusan Pradhan for all future purposes.

Smt. Sukanti Prusty of 55 Years, W/o - Sadasib Prusty & D/o - Lt. Naran Guru, At - Chandradeipur, PS - Balanga, Dist - Puri. That I do hereby declare that Sukanti Prusty, W/o - Sadasib Prusty, Smt. Sukanti Guru, D/o - Lt. Naran Guru is same and one person of the locality.

### LOST

The Original sale deed no.-11081103595 dtd-19.02.2011 in the name of Kulamani Padhi, S/o- Bishnu Charan Padhi of Property bearing Khata No - 624, Plot No. - 6542/11384, Ac. 0.055 deca situated at Mouza - Gadakana, Bhubaneswar, Odisha has been lost by Smt. Anita Gurlaha, W/o - Debashis Kalo, at Berhampur on the way to New Bus stand in this regard FIR has been filed with police at B.N. Pur Police Station, Berhampur, Vide Station Diary/General diary No - 011, Dt - 19/06/2024. I Smt. Anita Gurlaha, W/o Debashis Kalo (9439935857) Wish to Create Charge Viz Mortgage on the said Property for a loan facility from State Bank of India, RACPC, Bhubaneswar, branch code - 04485 for Construction Overthere.

I, Rabindra Sathua, age 29, S/o Santosh Kumar Sathua, Address - Ranisahi, Bandhapatthar, District- Boudh, I was traveling on dated 13.06.24 from Bank to my residence located at Ranisahi around 10 A.M. but unfortunately I misplaced my land registration documents, documents No. -870/1998, this original document is highly essential for the purpose of my loan proceedings. If any person have the lost documents then kindly contact to the above mentioned address.

## Book on automobile biz mgmt launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** A book on innovative strategies for auto business titled 'Start, Shift Gear, Drive, Succeed,' authored by Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra and published by Prahas Publication House, was released in Hyderabad recently.

On the occasion, NILM University governing body member Anil Kumar, Professor of Healthcare Management Mohammad Masood Ahmed, social activist Satyavathi Katragadda, vice-chancellor of Palamuru University LB Laxmikanth Rathod and Professor from Osmania University Rajesh Kumar joined as guests.

"I have tried my very best to replicate my 33 years of experience in automobile industries



on innovative strategies, and approaches on sales, finance and insurance, service coordination, trade, and customers and employees engagement. The book includes many exemplary case studies of Maruti, Hyundai, Mahindra, Tata, and First Choice which will definitely help the manufacturers and auto dealers for managing their business and excel," Mohapatra said at the book launch. "I am inspired to pen down

this book to help and serve the auto business owners, entrepreneurs, auto professionals, auto career enthusiast, students and teachers of business schools for additional information, knowledge and learning to implement in life and work place," he added.

At the ceremony, Mohapatra also announced four of his upcoming books on which he is currently working and will be released soon.

## Researchers discover new oxygen producing algae in Eastern Ghats

Based on the morphological features, researchers have suggested that 'Indiconema,' a new genus of the Gomphonemoid diatom, belongs to Afrocymbella family, a genus which is endemic to East Africa

**R**esearchers have discovered a new genus of the Gomphonemoid diatom found in the clean water river of the Eastern Ghats.

The genus which has an interesting suite of features, distinguishing it from the other members of the group Gomphonemoid in terms of valve symmetry and other certain valve features, has been named 'Indiconema' to value its restricted distribution in the country, the Ministry of Science and Technology announced Thursday.

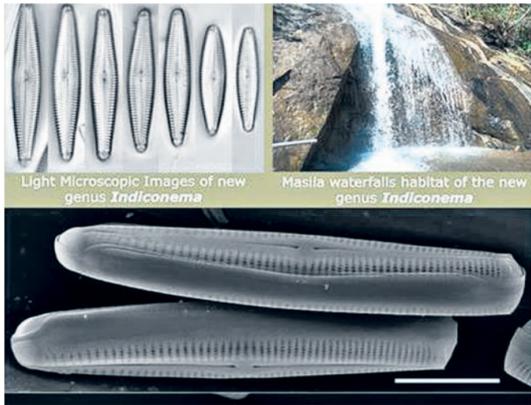
Diatoms are microscopic algae that play a crucial role in our everyday lives by producing 25 per cent of global oxygen, ap-

proximately every fourth breath of oxygen we inhale.

They serve as a basis of the aquatic food chain. Due to their sensitivity towards any water chemistry changes, they are excellent indicators of aquatic health.

The research underlines the importance of diatoms in shaping the biodiversity of India's diverse landscapes.

Indiconema discovered by scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the department of Science and Technology, differs in having a pore field at both the head and foot pole rather than having only



Light Microscopic Images of new genus Indiconema

Masila waterfalls habitat of the new genus Indiconema

at the foot pole. The evolution of monsoons structured the rainforest biome across the Indian Peninsula and the associated varying wetness, which has a direct role in shaping

the diatom flora. The research published in the journal 'Phycologia', reports one species of Indiconema from the Eastern Ghats and another from the Western Ghats.

A similar pattern of sharing endemic elements between two mountain systems has been observed for other endemic-rich groups, such as reptiles.

Additionally, based on the morphological features of this group, researchers have suggested that Indiconema is sister to Afrocymbella, a genus endemic to East Africa. Early studies noted that similarities between Gomphonema species from India and those from East Africa and Madagascar are supported by the current study association.

The discovery supported by the erstwhile SERB, now ANRF, underscores the importance of ongoing research in unravelling the mysteries of diatom biogeography and their role in shaping the biodiversity of India's diverse landscapes.

Diatoms are the first recorded microorganisms in India, with Ehrenberg's first report dating

back to 1845 in his voluminous publication Mikrogeologie.

Since then, several studies in India have recorded diatoms from freshwater and marine environments.

A rough estimate states that there are nearly 6,500 diatom taxa, of which 30 per cent are endemic, restricted to a particular region in the country, suggesting India's unique biodiversity.

Further, diverse bio-geographic zones support various species with habitat diversity ranging from freshwater to marine, sea level to high mountains, and alkaline lakes to acidic swamps.

Peninsular India includes the Eastern and Western Ghats and has distinct physiographic, edaphic, and climatic gradients that cherish a wide array of habitats with unique geographic positions and supporting unique sets of diatoms.

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

# Balasore unrest: Curfew further relaxed for 9 hrs

All schools, colleges and Anganwadi centres in the Balasore Municipality area to remain closed Saturday

PNN & AGENCIES

**Balasore, June 21:** The curfew clamped in the Balasore Municipality area since midnight of Monday following a violent group clash between two communities was partially lifted in some areas of the town.



District administration sources said the curfew was lifted in Industrial police station limits while it will remain in force in the Town and Sahadevkhunta police station areas. Meanwhile, the curfew has been further relaxed from 5am to 2pm from Saturday. This was stated here by District Collector Ashish Thakare and SP Sagarika Nath at a press conference held Friday.

District administration sources said the curfew was lifted in Industrial police station limits while it will remain in force in the Town and Sahadevkhunta police station areas. Meanwhile, the curfew has been further relaxed from 5am to 2pm from Saturday. This was stated here by District Collector Ashish Thakare and SP Sagarika Nath at a press conference held Friday.

The curfew was relaxed to enable the residents of the town to buy vegetables and do necessary marketing of essential commodities. All essential items and medicine shops will open, the officials said. Official sources claimed that no untoward incident was reported during the last 48 hours and the situation in the troubled town is fast returning to normalcy. More than 50 people have been detained for violating the curfew guidelines.

In addition to 34 platoons of Odisha State Armed Police (OSAP), six companies of BSF have been deployed to maintain law and order in the town. The town witnessed a group clash between the two communities Monday after some people noticed blood stained water in the drain and informed the police.

The district administration initially clamped prohibitory orders under Section-144 of CrPC in the troubled areas but later was forced to impose a curfew late Monday night in the entire Balasore Municipality area when the mob set fire to a shop, damaged houses and a religious structure.

Sources said people are having a harrowing time due to suspension of internet services in the town for the last three days. Internet service is available in the area beyond Kuruda bridge which is on the outskirts of the town. As a result, students and people are flocking to Kuruda bridge to avail internet service. People can be seen crowding in the area for hours together to avail internet services from morning till late night.

# 7 poachers held from Karlapat sanctuary



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, June 21:** Acting on a tip-off, a special team of Forest personnel arrested seven poachers late Thursday night from Karlapat

wildlife sanctuary under South forest division in Kalahandi district on charge of poaching. The accused poachers were arrested after being caught red-handed while they were moving in the jungle with firearms and sharp-edged weapons.

The accused poachers were identified as Raidhar Majhi, Arakhita Majhi of Nakajhari village, Ganesh Dandase, Abhi Majhi, Raiman Majhi, Muni Majhi and Lakshman Majhi of Kadopadar village. Seven guns, seven axes and a deer horn were seized from their possession. A case was registered in this connection and the accused were produced in the court. Forest officials said that these poachers were earlier arrested on charge of poaching but continued to hunt wild animals after their release on bail from jail.

# Odia tourists stranded in Sikkim return home

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, June 21:** After facing a harrowing time full of uncertainty, the tourists stuck in calamity-hit Sikkim have finally been rescued and brought back home. Over 1,500 people including tourists from Odisha were stranded in the Himalayan state at different places after road communication was disconnected following landslides due to severe downpour.

state government reached out to them over phone and gave a number to contact someone in Sikkim. However, due to regular network failures they were disconnected from the outer world. Later, they got all the support from the Sikkim Tourism department and were rescued from Lachung to Gangtok. Central forces along with the Sikkim Tourism department staff rescued them on the road to Gangtok Tuesday morning. The journey was risky and adventurous, they said adding that helicopter could not reach due to bad weather.

Describing their thrilling experience during rescue and return, they narrated how they had to walk for kilometres owing to the bad road conditions and landslides. They hopped vehicles, crossed a river using a damaged wooden bridge along with the personnel and officials. They took a halt in an army base to get some rest, where the state government had arranged food for them. After reaching Siliguri, they started return journey in their own vehicle.

# Fresh record by silicon steel mill

**Rourkela:** Silicon steel is one of the prized products of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). The silicon steel mill of RSP has registered a new record by despatching 1,232 tonne of Cold Rolled Non-Oriented (CRNO) steel June 18. The previous best single-day despatch of 1188 tonnes was achieved May 8 in 2008. This achievement involved the loading of 17 wagons and three trailers in record time. The dedicated shipping team worked tirelessly for over 16 hours to achieve this feat. The accomplishment is particularly notable as Silicon Steel Mill operates with a single shift and limited manpower. The coordinated efforts of the Production Planning and Control (PPC) department, railways and Container Logistics (RCL) Traffic and all supporting agencies were crucial in reaching this milestone.

# 3 diphtheria afflicted kids discharged after recovery

**BERHAMPUR:** Three diphtheria patients undergoing treatment at MKCG Medical College and Hospital here were discharged for home following their recovery from the disease Friday. The children were sent back to their homes in a special ambulance provided by the hospital authorities, Dr Narendra Behera, Head of the department of Paediatrics told mediapersons here, Friday. On the other hand, doctors, nursing officers and healthcare personnel engaged in the treatment of the affected children were vaccinated for their protection, Dr Behera informed. The rest of the employees will be jabbed soon, he added. Notably, five kids in the age group of 10-12 were afflicted with diphtheria and admitted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in between June 12 and June 17 after they were referred from Rayagada and Koraput district headquarters hospitals. Special isolation rooms have been prepared for treatment of the diphtheria affected kids in the Paediatric department of the hospital. Among the affected, two kids died during treatment while three of them were discharged following their recovery.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR, DIST.: NUAPADA, ODISHA**  
E-mail: eeroads.khr@rediffmail.com  
No. 3008  
**BID CANCELLATION** Date: 10.06.24  
No. B-13(A): The bid for the work "Improvement such as Widening and Strengthening of SH-16 (Chande) - Sardhapur-Khasbahal Road such as Utility Shifting of HT Line, Substation and LT Lines in the district of Nuapada" (Tender ID: 2024\_EICCL\_101572) invited vide Bid Identification No. SER&R-2023/224 bearing Letter No. 801 Dated: 17.02.2024 is hereby cancelled.  
OIPR-34062/11/0001/2425 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PURI R&B DIVISION, PURI**  
E-mail: eerburi@yahoo.co.in / Phone: (06752) 296839  
**CANCELLATION NOTICE**  
Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) Puri: 04/2024-25  
No. B-37: The tender invited vide this office Tender Call Notice No - 04 of 2024-25 is hereby cancelled as following reason:-  
Sl. No. Name of the Work Bid ID Reason  
1. Construction of temporary Rest Shed with toilets for Police Personnel at Talabana (for days) during Car-Festival 2024-25 (North side) 2024\_EICCL\_103168\_1 Due to change in scope of work.  
2. Construction of temporary Rest Shed with toilets for Police Personnel at Talabana (for days) during Car-Festival 2024-25 (South side) 2024\_EICCL\_103171\_1  
OIPR-34064/11/0005/2425 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Puri (R&B) Division, Puri

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA NO. B-34 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR**  
Mail ID: sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com  
**e-Procurement Bid Identification No CCEN (R And B) /01/2024-25 No. 2463 Dtd. 19.06.2024**  
1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Building Works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.  
2. No. of works = 01 NO (ONE) (BUILDING Works)  
3. Tender Cost: Rs. 10,000/-  
4. Class of contractor: "A" Class and "Special".  
5. Date & Time of available in website & receipt of Bids From 26.06.2024 at 17.00 Hours of 10.07.2024.  
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid 11.07.2024 at 11.00 Hours.  
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.  
8. any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.  
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur  
OIPR-34035/11/0001/2425

**Government of India Ministry of Communications Department of Telecommunications Sanchar Bhawan, 20 Ashoka Road, New Delhi**  
**NOTICE**  
To Sh. M. Srinivasa Rao (Staff No. 20702)  
This is to inform to aforesaid officer of Indian Telecommunication Services, Group 'A' officer that he has been remained absent from duty without intimation/permission for more than 05 years. The above officer has absconded from duties and no information of any kind of leave has been received from them. He has failed to perform his duties and failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and acted in a manner of unbecoming of a government servant. The aforesaid officer is hereby given an opportunity to make representation within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice for unauthorized absence from duty.  
Signed by Bijender Singh Date: 31-05-2024 15:29:42  
(Bijender Singh)  
Under Secretary to the Government of India Department of Telecommunications Room No. 419, Sanchar Bhawan, 20 Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 Tele 011-2303 6282  
CBC 05201/11/0002/2425

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, HINDOL No.C-65**  
**Pin-759022, Dist.- Dhenkanal, Phone No.06732-251052**  
Email id: eohindolnac13@gmail.com  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
Tender Reference No.HDL NAC-01/2024-25  
Tender Call Notice No.862/HDLNAC, Dated 19.06.2024  
1. Name of the Work : Road sweeping, Cleaning of drains, bush uprooting in ward No.01 to 16 and transportation of road sweeping waste to designated point/health centres located around 05 KM distance under Hindol NAC & land filling works as in the DTCN published in the website.  
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.1336257.00 (Per Month)  
3. Period of Completion : For 1 Year (One Year)  
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.20.06.2024 to 5.30 P.M. of Dt.28.06.2024  
5. Last date/Time for receipt : 5.30 P.M. of Dt.28.06.2024 of Bid in the Portal  
6. Date and time of Opening : 11.00 AM of Dt.29.06.2024 of Bid  
7. Name and address of the : Executive Officer, Hindol NAC Officer Inviting Bid  
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal http://tenderorissa.gov.in.  
Sd./- Executive Officer, Hindol NAC  
OIPR-13160/11/0001/2425

**Bank of India Zonal Office: Baripada**  
Bank Of India Building, Lal Bazaar, In front of MKC School, PIN-757001  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Rule-8(1)) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India 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 Notices calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor 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/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is 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, Baripada 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.  

BARIPADA BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: Mr. Subham Mohapatra / Guarantor / Mortgagor: Mrs. Sabita Mohapatra, Both are At: Tulashihoura, Ward No.: 14, Baripada, Mayurbhanj	₹10,98,770.25 + interest & expenses thereon	04.04.2024 / 20.06.2024	Equitable mortgage of Landed property situated at Mouza: Baripada Town Unit No.: 14 (Sungadiasahi), Khata No.: 332/1165 under Plot No.: 41/956, KISSAM: Gharabari, of measuring Area: Ac.0.06 dec. standing in the name of Mrs. Sabita Mohapatra.

  
Place: Baripada, Date: 21.06.2024  
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

**Bank of Baroda REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SAMBALPUR**  
Ground Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001  
**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision 13(12) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 23.07.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "PHYSICAL POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower/Guarantor/Secured Assets/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-  
The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 23.07.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.  
Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD : 22.07.2024 latest by 2.00 P.M.  
The linking of interested property started after 5.00 P.M. on 22.07.2024 till 2.00 P.M. on 23.07.2024  
**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS UNDER RULE 6(2) & 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002**  

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Property & the Owner	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues (Type of Possession)
1.	<b>SUNDERGARH BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) M/s. Mangala Motors, Represented by its Prop.: Mr. Jagannath Pruseth, S/o: Late Nilakantha Pruseth, 2) Mr. Jagannath Pruseth, S/o: Late Nilakantha Pruseth, At: Tolamohantypara, Behind of District Co-Operative Bank, PO: Sundergarh, P.S.: Town Sundergarh, Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN- 770001 / Guarantor: Mr. Shashanka Sekhar Nayak, S/o: Mr. Lalit Nayak, House No-25, At: Mundalasa, PC: Sagara, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN- 768224</b>	1) Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Sundergarh Town, Tahasil/P.S./Dist.: Sundergarh, Plot No.: 76, bearing Khata No.: 249, Area: Ac.0.055 Dec or 2396 Sqft. in the name of Mr. Jagannath Pruseth, S/o: Mr. Nilkantha Pruseth, Bounded by East: House of Shiba Babu, West: Road, North: House of Mohanty Babu, South: House of Mano Ranjan Sahoo 2) Equitable Mortgage of Property Consisting of MS. Khata No: 183, Plot No: 2443/3534, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec, Mouza: Chitabhang, PS/Tahasil/Dist: Sundergarh, Standing in the name of Mr. Jagannath Pruseth, S/o: Late Nilakantha Pruseth, Bounded by North: Owner Land, South: Private Land and Rakhita, East: Plot No.: 2441, West: Plot No.: 3523	(1) ₹39,61,500/- (2) ₹17,64,000/- ₹1,76,000/- ₹20,000/-	₹ 2,33,23,060.88 as on 16.06.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment (Physical)
2.	<b>RENGALI BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Bharat Chandra Mishra Since deceased through his Legal Heirs (i) Mrs. Sanjukta Panda (wife), (ii) Mr. Nimisha Mishra (son), 2) Mrs. Sanjukta Panda, W/o: Late Bharat Chandra Mishra &amp; 3) Dasrath Mishra since deceased through his legal heirs, (i) Mrs. Pramodini Mishra (Wife), (ii) Bharat Chandra Mishra (Son) since deceased through his legal heirs (i) Mrs. Sanjukta Panda (Wife), (ii) Mr. Nimisha Mishra (Son), All are residents of Puruna Basti, AT/P.O: Rengali, P.S.: Katarbaga, Dist.: Sambalpur / Guarantor: Mr. Narendra Prasad Mishra, S/o: Late Brusabhanu Mishra, At: Laripali, P.O: Rengali, P.S.: Katarbaga, Dist.: Sambalpur</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Rengali, Tahasil: Rengali, P.S.: Katarbaga, Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 174, Plot No.: 2457, Area: Ac. 0.03 Dec., in the name of Mr. Shiba Prasad Mishra, S/o: Late Dasrath Mishra, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2458, South: Plot No.: 2367, East: Plot No.: 2341, West: Plot No.: 1896	₹14,71,000/- ₹1,47,100/- ₹20,000/-	₹ 23,48,151.86 as on 05.05.2024 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon till full payment (Physical)

  
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders with prior appointment of the authorised officer  
Status of Possession of Properties: Physical, Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL  
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in  
Also prospective bidders may contact the Authorized Officer on Mob: 7278141330  
This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2) & 9(1) of security interest (Enforcements) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date  
Place: Sambalpur, Date: 21.06.2024  
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. MCSW-FurACCoach-24-25-13  
**Name of Work: FURNISHING OF AC BG COACHES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF 24 (TWENTY FOUR) MONTHS.**  
Advertised Value: ₹ 1,80,89,694.72, EMD: ₹ 2,40,500.00, Period of Completion: 24 Months.  
Bidding Start Date: 22.06.2024, Date & time of tender closing: At 1100 hrs. on 06.07.2024.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website: www.ireps.gov.in  
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH-II) Carriage Repair Workshop/ PR-238/P/24-25 Manchewar

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION OF CATERING STALL**  
Sl. No. 1: Station & Location-KHURDA TOWN (Platform-01), Sl. No. 2: Station & Location-BHUSANDPUR (Platform-01), Sl. No. 3: Station & Location-GORAKHNATH (Platform-01), Sl. No. 4: Station & Location-CHILKA (Platform-01), Sl. No. 5: Station & Location-BRAHMAPUR (Platform-02/03), Sl. No. 6: Station & Location-KHALLIKOTE (Platform-01)  
Category of Reservation: GMU (for Sl. No. 1 to 3), SMU (OBC) (for Sl. No. 4), SMU (Dhyan) (for Sl. No. 5) & SMU (SC) (for Sl. No. 6)  
Auction Start Date & Time: 01.07.2024 from 1400 hrs. to 1520 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 to 6).  
Note: Prospective Bidders are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and check all the details regarding eligibility criteria, detail of site and any other information.  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ Khurda Road PR-231/P/24-25

**BANK OF MAHARASHTRA BHUBANESWAR BRANCH**  
Plot No.: 426/2260, N.B. Tower, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012, Ph.: 0674-2564018, E-mail: bom1182@mahabank.co.in  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Rule-8(1))  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and 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 Borrower/Co-Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Maharashtra for an amount stated 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.  

Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
Borrower: Mr. Bishwaranjan Maharana, S/o- Mr. Krutibas Maharana / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Rasmita Maharana, W/o- Mr. Bishwaranjan Maharana, Both are at Address: Dekuri, Benipur, Balichandrapur, Jajpur, Odisha, PIN-754292	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land & Building situated over Flat No.: 201/A, Ground Floor, "SAI BIJAYA PALACE", Unit No.-33, Khata No.: 928/1015, Plot No.: 117/2978/3605, Area: Ac.0.054dec. and Khata No.: 928/976, Plot No.: 118/3571, Area: Ac.0.035dec., Total Area: Ac.0.089dec., Mouza: Jharpada, Bhubaneswar (A Residential Flat/Apartment consisting of 2 rooms, admeasuring 975 sqft. (Carpet) i.e. 1050 sqft. (Built up), standing in the name of Mr. Bishwaranjan Maharana & Mrs. Rasmita Maharana. Bounded by East: Private Plot, West: Road, North: Flat No. 201/B, South: Open Space. (Symbolic Possession)	₹ 19,50,941.45 as on 19.03.2024 + interest & other charges thereon	19.03.2024 / 20.06.2024

  
Date: 20.06.2024, Place: Bhubaneswar  
Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

FOCUS GOVERNANCE

# RURAL FOCUS IMPERATIVE



Be only a burning fire for progress, take whatever comes to you as an aid to your progress immediately and make whatever progress is required.  
**THE MOTHER**

## SEBI Crackdown

In a bold move to enforce corporate governance, SEBI has come down hard on two top executives of PTC India and its subsidiary, PTC India Financial Services (PFS). Rajib Kumar Mishra, CMD of PTC India and Director of PFS got slapped with a ₹10 lakh fine, while former MD and CEO of PFS, Pawan Singh, faced an even steeper penalty of ₹25 lakh.

But SEBI didn't stop there. Both Mishra and Singh have also been barred from holding any board or key managerial positions in any listed company. They are also prohibited from associating with any listed entity looking to raise money from the public.

This crackdown follows the Reserve Bank of India's directive in June 2023, which forced Singh to go on leave until his retirement. Mishra, who still holds roles as the non-executive chairman of PFS and CMD of PTC India, will now have to step down from these positions too.

SEBI's actions aim to send a strong message that corporate leaders must play by the rules. By holding these two senior officials accountable, SEBI is stating that lapses in governance won't be tolerated. The regulator is working to protect investors and maintain trust in the financial markets. It's a necessary step to ensure transparency and integrity in corporate India, fostering a healthier business environment for everyone.

### Govt may increase intake of IAS officers

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is reportedly considering raising the annual recruitment of IAS officers from 180 to 210. This likely policy change is based on a report by a departmental committee and the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

If the plan goes through, it will mark a reversal from the first term of the Modi government, which saw a nearly 40 per cent reduction in civil services and All India Services (AIS) recruitment. Those in the know highlight the need for more babus due to widespread vacancies across various government levels, exacerbated by the addition of nearly 100 new districts since 2014. Currently, there are more than 1,300 IAS vacancies nationwide, which is a growing concern. The situation may now make the government reassess the limit it had imposed on the annual intake of IAS officers. Earlier, the prevailing view was that increasing the intake from 180 could compromise the quality and career progression of the babus. That has probably changed now.

Clearly, the situation requires urgent attention. Sources have informed DKB that the government is planning to fill 51 deputy secretary, director and joint secretary positions through lateral entry to address gaps swiftly. The move to increase the intake of IAS officers would be like the increase in the number of IPS officers and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers in recent years. Watch this space for updates.

### Babu milestones become social media moments

Is it just your columnist, or is anyone else noticing how some babus are now taking to social media to announce their promotions and empanelments? While it's great to celebrate achievements, this feels a bit out of the blue. Traditionally, promotions and transfers in the IAS and other civil services were pretty low-key, almost routine. You'd hear about them in the newspapers or through official channels, but now it seems like an officer is posting a celebratory update on Twitter or LinkedIn every other day.

What's really interesting (or odd) is how these announcements are met with an outpouring of congratulations from followers and well-wishers. It's like everyone suddenly has their little fan club cheering them on for what used to be considered a normal career progression.

Maybe it's just a sign of the times. Social media has become a platform for sharing every little life update, so why not professional milestones too? It's definitely a shift from the past and maybe it's even good for transparency and connecting with the public. Still, it feels a bit strange to see something so procedural get the social media treatment. Are we going to start seeing hashtags for transfers next? #JustPromoted #NextPosting

In the end, if it makes people happy and doesn't harm anyone, why not?

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

### WISDOM CORNER

- We read the world wrong and say that it deceives us. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**
- Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing. **MOTHER TERESA**
- You should always take a religion at its best and not at its worst. **ANNIE BESANT**

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1633:** Accused of heresy by the Inquisition, Galileo was forced to recant his support of the Copernican system, which held that the Sun was the centre of the solar system.
- 1815:** Napoleon abdicated as French emperor for the second time.
- 1906:** American motion-picture director and producer Billy Wilder, who was known for films that humorously treat subjects of controversy and offer biting indictments of hypocrisy in American life, was born in Sucha, Austria (now in Poland).
- 1955:** The animated musical Lady and the Tramp, one of Walt Disney's most endearing movies, was released in U.S. theatres.
- 1986:** Argentine football (soccer) player Diego Maradona scored his memorable "Hand of God" goal (the ball struck his hand, but the referee mistakenly thought it had hit his head) to help Argentina defeat England in a World Cup quarterfinal game; Argentina went on to win the tournament.

### LOL

#### Problems from the start

John got off the elevator on the 50th floor and nervously knocked on his blind date's door. She opened it and was as beautiful and charming as everyone had said. "I'll be ready in a few minutes," she said. "Why don't you play with Spot, my dog, while you're waiting?" He does wonderful tricks. He rolls over, shakes hands, sits up and if you make a hoop with your arms, he'll jump through." The dog followed John onto the



balcony and started rolling over. John made a hoop with his arms and Spot jumped through—over the balcony railing. Just then John's date walked out. "Isn't Spot the cutest, happiest dog you've ever seen?" "To tell the truth," he replied, "Spot seemed a little depressed to me!"



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THE FRUITS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY HAVE GONE TO THE UPPER ECHELONS OF SOCIETY, WHICH INCLUDES THE MIDDLE CLASS**

Post elections the BJP must have realised the definite need to change strategy and focus on the needs and aspirations of the rural populace, including the farming community, as religion-based politics has been rejected by the masses. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first decision on assumption of office bears testimony to this fact as the 17th instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi and construction of 3 crore additional rural and urban houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, has been released.

With Assembly polls due in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand between October and December this year, winning these states appears an uphill task for the BJP and its allies. Though it is necessary to take corrective steps to turn the tide, political analysts believe that time is too short and whether the BJP will be comfortably successful remains a big question. In Maharashtra, the BJP and its allies suffered a stunning reverse in the Lok Sabha elections, winning just 17 of the 48 seats. It is understood there was anger from the farming community for failing to address the issue of the ban on onion exports or to offer good prices to soybean and cotton farmers, among other reasons.

Meanwhile, it is only the agriculture sector that can boost the rural demand and recently reports reveal that it has grown at 4.2 per cent (average) in the past five years. There are reasons to believe that the upcoming union budget next month is expected to focus on the rural sector and the youth community, which will provide additional boost to consumption demand. It is anticipated to include measures aimed at increasing rural spending. This could take the form of increased spending on rural infrastructure projects, schemes for minimum support prices for crops, loan waivers or subsidies for agricultural inputs and increased allocation to social welfare programmes.

At same time, what has indeed been quite distressing is the recent report of the rise in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) at an annual rate of 2.6 percent



**The Modi government has been accused of adopting upper middle class appeasement policy over the years. This must be done away with and new strategies for rural poor and farming community should be developed**

in May, higher than 1.3 percent in April and above the contraction of 3.6 percent in May last year. This has been driven primarily by a surge in food prices, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Food article prices jumped to a 10-month high of 9.82 percent in May compared with 7.74 percent in April. The rise was fuelled by a significant surge in vegetable prices, particularly onions (over 58 percent), and potatoes (around 64 percent). Pulses inflation also remained elevated at 21.95 percent. This means that a significant section of the rural population would be greatly affected.

However, the possibility of a good monsoon season leading to better agricultural yields and higher income for farmers augurs well for the economy. Thus, increased income is expected to boost spending in rural areas. In this connection, one may mention that a positive sign in recent months has been increased rural demand for FMCG products outpacing urban demand for the first time in over two years.

But much depends on what the Budget has in store for the rural sector. More money for health and education may play a crucial role in empowering

rural populations. There is also a need to enhance financial inclusion, providing rural communities with better access to financial services. Initiatives supporting research and development in higher education are expected to drive economic growth, enabling rural populations to make informed education decisions, thereby improving their economic prospects.

It needs to be mentioned here that to change its strategy the captain of the team that is, Modi has to change his mode of functioning from an autocratic approach to a decentralised mode. Political analysts are questioning whether a majority less Modi emulate Narasimha Rao, Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh by giving more power and authority to his Cabinet ministers? Besides, in drawing up plans and programmes, there is need to take into confidence the regional leaders of his party and draw up a plan of action that would best serve their interests.

On the other hand, the focus of development policy must remain as upgrading conditions of the rural populace, which includes the economically weaker sections as also the lower income groups.

One may refer here to a recent World Bank working paper titled

'Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Democracies: A Review of Village Governments in India' where the need for making available funds to panchayats has rightly been stressed. It is thus imperative to enact necessary legislative changes to strengthen local governments. In this connection, the establishment of the State Finance Commission in every state needs to be ensured to facilitate greater devolution from the state government to the local bodies.

It cannot be denied that the fruits of development in the country have gone to the upper echelons of society, which includes the middle class.

In societies like ours, there has been a switch in the loyalty of this urban intermediate class towards neo-liberalism which, with the opening of the world economy, promised much greener pastures. It cannot be doubted that the neo-liberal regime has immensely expanded the opportunities available to the middle class. Thus, there has been a wide economic gap between this class and the suffering community of Dalits and Muslim minority.

The Modi government has been accused of adopting a pro-upper middle class appeasement policy over the years. It must be done away with and new strategies for rural poor and farming community should be developed. It's worth referring to Prof. Michael Lipton, a well-known economist from the University of Sussex, who in his famous book titled 'Why Poor People Stay Poor' observed that in Third World countries such as India, the rural poor has been subsidising the urban middle class by making available vegetables, fruits at relatively moderate prices. In the process, the urban middle class has benefitted while condition of rural poor has steadily declined.

At such a juncture, there is no other way but to correct the economic differentiation so that there is more inclusiveness in policy planning and formulation. However, much will depend on the actions taken in the coming days and the Budget that is expected to be presented in the third week of July. INFA

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Organ donation can save donors' lives, too



Peter Singer

**EVERY YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES, ABOUT 60 CHILDREN WITH END-STAGE LIVER DISEASE DIE WHILE WAITING TO RECEIVE A LIVER TRANSPLANT**

Jeff Ewers is a sex offender. After graduating from Vanderbilt University with a degree in neuroscience, he was arrested for possession of materials showing the sexual abuse of children. He was sentenced to two years in prison. While serving his sentence, he read an article by Frank Bures about living organ donors. He began to think that this could be a way to give positive meaning to a life that had gone so badly wrong.

After his release from prison and adjustment to normal life, Ewers began the process of evaluation for becoming an organ donor. He was rejected because a spinal injury that had prevented him from exercising left him insufficiently fit. Undaunted, he lost weight and improved his fitness, while also weaning himself off all medications. He was evaluated again, and this time was accepted.

Nevertheless, Ewers was conflicted about making the dona-

tion, troubled by the possibility that his offense would mean that everything he attempted would turn to ashes. He had heard of my work in applied ethics, and contacted me, wanting to talk over his plan. I told him that saving the life of a child was itself enough reason to go ahead. If he could show others on the US sex offender registry—there are nearly one million of them—a path to redemption, that would multiply the good he could achieve, mainly for those whose lives could be saved, but also for the offenders themselves.

Ewers had already had similar thoughts. His own experience had shown him how profoundly demoralizing and self-alienating it is to live as a sex offender in America, and there were other felons who were probably having similar experiences. At least some of them are, Ewers believes, decent people whose lives had gone badly wrong, but who would nonetheless cherish

the opportunity to save a life. Could he help to inspire a sense of hope, agency, and altruistic spirit among these people? Might his story encourage a wave of giving and thus save additional lives? In that way, Ewers hoped that his worst mistakes might enable positive change at a scale beyond anything he could otherwise achieve.

Every year in the United States, about 60 children with end-stage liver disease die while waiting to receive a liver transplant. Ewers chose to donate a lobe of his liver to an anonymous child on this waiting list, made the donation in August 2022, and recovered well.

The recipient was a two-year-old boy with liver cancer whose mother was raising three other children alone. She had sought to donate a liver lobe to her son, but the surgeons had refused to allow her to do so. I contacted her earlier this year, and she told me that her son was "living care-

free as most four-year-old boys do because Jeff donated a portion of his liver to him." She added that she knew about Ewers' past, but that, "When it comes to the life of my two-year-old, there's nothing to consider nor a reason to hesitate when you have someone who is willing to do what he has done for us." In her judgment, "although being a donor does not absolve you from any past wrongdoings, it does make a difference in the lives of those in need and possibly how you will be perceived moving forward with your life."

That is surely the appropriate ethical response to what Ewers has done. He is now undergoing evaluation to become a kidney donor.

The writer, a Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the organization *The Life You Can Save* and a founding co-editor of the *Journal of Controversial Ideas*. © PROJECT SYNDICATE

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### Liquor-free Odisha

Sir, Alcohol appears to have become a necessary component of society, since it is served at every social gathering. However, the harmful effects of alcohol are often overlooked. There is spike in cases of rape, murder, mischief, car crashes, violence, and family disputes. The majority of these events are linked to alcohol consumption. Problems like a drunken son brutally killing his father or a father, in an inebriated condition, misbehaving with his daughter have become common, hogging spotlights. Therefore, there should be a complete ban on alcohol consumption. However, it should be kept in mind that in states where liquor was banned earlier, adulterated liquor made its way to the market illegally, taking scores of lives.

Chittaranjan Barik, JAGATSINGHPUR

### Politicising tragedy

Sir, While the entire state is in great sorrow and mourning over the sad demise of 39 people after consuming illicit liquor, it is unfortunate that politicians like AIADMK leader E Palaniswamy and BJP state President K Annamalai are politicising this tragedy with the intent to gain a few brownie points. While Annamalai has remained a mute spectator to the frequent hooch tragedies that have happened in different BJP ruled states, he has now rushed to write to Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding a CBI probe, and is said to be organising a statewide protest. Palaniswamy, on the other hand, has gone a step further by demanding the resignation of Chief Minister M K Stalin owning responsibility for the tragedy. However, it is fresh in one's mind that when questioned about the gunning down of 13 innocent people while they were protesting against the Sterlite Copper Unit in Thoothukudi, the same Palaniswamy, the then Chief Minister callously, irresponsibly, and without any remorse said that he came to know about the shooting incident only after seeing it on television. Did he take responsibility for the cold blooded murders and resign? In the circumstances, what moral right does he have to demand the resignation of the incumbent CM? It is time all political parties buried their differences, cooperated with the government, and found a permanent solution to this killer menace.

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

# Modi picking Srinagar as 'Yoga Day' venue symbolic

Undeterred by the terror attacks, PM Modi made the big announcement that preparations for the Assembly elections are already underway

**Srinagar, June 21:** The decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold the 10th International Day of Yoga in J&K's Srinagar city is both symbolic and assertive.

PM Modi chose to join the Yoga participants in Srinagar in the aftermath of a series of terror attacks in the Jammu division, including the one on innocent pilgrims in the Reasi district.

Nine pilgrims were killed and 44 injured in the Reasi terror attack June 9 when terrorists first killed the driver of the bus and then kept firing at the overturned bus for 20 minutes to ensure that no pilgrim survived the cowardly attack.

The terror attack in Reasi and Kathua district followed the large participation of the people especially from the Valley in the Lok Sabha polls.

**ELECTION COMMISSION HAS ALREADY ISSUED THE PRIMARY NOTIFICATION ASKING THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO APPLY FOR THEIR ELECTION SYMBOLS**

**IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN J&K BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER 30 SET BY THE SUPREME COURT**

As the PM said the terror attacks were 'the last ditch efforts of the enemies of Kashmir's progress, India would teach them a befitting lesson'.

PM Modi chose Srinagar as the venue for the Yoga Day celebrations because he knew that the focus of the world would be on this event. Yoga has caught the imagination of the world in such a large manner that has perhaps not been matched by any other event before.

A total of 177 countries at the



UN supported the Indian resolution on Yoga which was passed in a record time of 90 days. Never before in the history of the UN has any other resolution been passed in such a record time.

It was under this backdrop that PM Modi decided to have the world's attention focused on Kashmir by his presence in Srinagar.

Undeterred by the terror attacks, PM Modi made the big announcement that preparations for the Assembly elections are already underway and that the people of J&K would soon have an Assembly of elected representatives.

He also assured restoration of statehood to the UT saying that J&K would soon touch new heights of progress and prosperity with its statehood back. This was a clear and loud message to the enemies of democracy in J&K. The country is determined to restore complete democracy in J&K and return political power to the elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already issued the primary notification asking the political parties to apply for election symbols.

In all likelihood, Assembly elections would be held in J&K

before the deadline of September 30 set by the Supreme Court.

PM Modi also spoke about the security situation when he said that the Centre is determined to eradicate terrorism at all costs from the soil of J&K.

He referred to two security review meetings taken by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in this regard. The detractors of PM Modi have been blaming him for denying the people of Kashmir a truly representative local government.

PM's speech, which was watched by the World as he spoke from the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) by the banks of the Dal Lake, has put a full stop to his detractors.

The abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A August 5, 2019, by Parliament removed the last barrier between J&K and the rest of the country.

PM Modi's assurance of early Assembly elections and restoration of statehood would serve two national objectives -- the promise of complete integration of J&K with the country and an equal share of democracy, progress and prosperity for the people here who have seen over 30 years of worst violence and uncertainty.

## BJP'S UP DEBACLE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 21:** The absence of coordination between Lok Sabha candidates and party MLAs has emerged as one of the main reasons of the BJP's underwhelming performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The feedback collected so far by the designated teams which have been sent to almost all the constituencies, confirms this.

The spat between Saharanpur Lok Sabha candidate Raghav Lakhnani and Deoband MLA and UP's junior Minister Brijesh Singh during a meeting in the presence of the fact-finding team proved that all is not well between the MLAs and the MPs.

BJP General Secretary GN

Shukla along with an MLA from Hardoi had been sent as observers to take the feedback about the reasons for Lakhnani's loss in Saharanpur.

Even as Shukla and others were waiting for everyone to settle down, supporters of Lakhnani and Brijesh Singh started shouting slogans against each other. Lakhnani's supporters alleged that Singh was behind his loss in the poll.

However, the senior party leaders present in the meeting pacified both groups following which the meeting began.

Despite his loss, Lakhnani had taken the lead from the Deoband Assembly constituency represented by Brijesh Singh.

Another feedback, according to sources, says there was no



enthusiasm among the party workers across the state because of various reasons.

Common among them was the State BJP leadership's inability to communicate with the party workers as it had been the case in the previous elections.

Secondly, the workers for the past several years are feeling left out as despite doing their best in elections after elections, they are not able to get even their genuine work done at the tehsil and the thana level. They have also complained about an

overdose of campaign and party programmes.

Another common trend reported was a 'misplaced confidence' among candidates, state leaderships and office-bearers that despite not doing much work, they would sail through as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls were not about electing MPs but giving a third term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This complacency led to party candidates not listening to workers' feedback and even not fulfilling the basic requirements of party workers and functionaries. In all, more than 70 office-bearers and former office-bearers have been entrusted with the responsibility of ascertaining the reasons for the BJP's lukewarm performance in the state.



Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai with party workers during a protest over the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024 results in Lucknow, Friday

## L-G inaugurates J&K Trade Show

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha Friday inaugurated the J&K Trade Show 2024 here at Kashmir Heritage Government Arts Emporium. The L-G welcomed the artisans, weavers, growers, and business entrepreneurs participating in the trade show. He also lauded the endeavour of the Industries & Commerce Department and J&K Trade & Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) to promote the diverse sectors of handicrafts, handloom, agriculture and horticulture. "J&K Trade Show reflects that the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu Kashmir has ushered in an era of opportunities. It also reiterates our commitment to create a vibrant business and trade ecosystem in the UT and provide a new identity to J&K's unique cultural and artistic heritage in the global market," L-G Sinha said in his address.

## Trial run on world's highest rail bridge



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Jammu, June 21:** Indian Railways Thursday successfully conducted a trial run of a eight-coach MEMU train on the world's highest railway bridge -- Chenab Bridge -- in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the start of rail service on the route from Reasi to Baramulla in Kashmir.

"After an extensive inspection of the newly constructed Chenab Bridge by senior officers from Railway Board, Northern Railway and Konkan Railway, a trial run was conducted on a 46-km-long electrified line section between Sangaldan in Ramban district and Reasi at a speed of 40 kmph," the Ministry of Railways said in a statement.

The trial, starting at 12.35 pm from Sangaldan and reaching Reasi at 2.05 pm, traversed nine tunnels spanning 40.787 km, including the longest tunnel T-44 stretching 11.13 km.

This marks the inaugural full train crossing on the iconic bridge between Dugga and Bakhal stations over the Chenab river, the highest arch railway bridge globally, the ministry said.

Key stations along the route -- Reasi, Bakhal, Dugga, and Sawlakote -- are located in Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir.

"The electrification work on this section has been executed with state-

of-the-art technology, ROCS (Rigid Overhead Conductor System) at 25 kV, for the first time on railways," the ministry said.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which includes the 48.1-km Banihal-Sangaldan section, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi February 20, 2024.

Phase-I of the project, covering the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section, commenced in October 2009 under the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. Subsequent phases included the 18 km Banihal-Qazigund section in June 2013 and the 25 km Udhampur-Katra section in July 2014. Earlier in February 2024, the first electric train trial run on the Banihal-Katra section from Banihal to Khari to Sangaldan in Ramban covered approximately 40 km of track and tunnels.

"Following a series of tests, this bridge will facilitate all train services, a monumental leap towards integrating the Kashmir valley seamlessly with Jammu and the broader Indian network," the ministry highlighted.

"This would foster social integration by facilitating easier movement of people and goods, thereby promoting cultural exchanges and regional development and boosting economic activities such as tourism and trade," it added.

**ZILLA PARISHAD, MALKANGIRI**  
Dist: Malkangiri: 764048, Phone No: 06861-230409, Fax No: 06861230279, E-mail: ori-dmalkangiri@nic.in  
Letter No. 2161/XX-02/24 Date: 21.06.2024

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR ENGAGEMENT OF ASPIRATIONAL BLOCK FELLOW IN MATHILI, KHAIRPUT AND CHITRAKONDA BLOCK**

No. CAD-304: In pursuance to letter No. 1045 dated 18.01.2024 of the Govt in Planning & Convergence Department, Odisha & this office Letter No. 1130(1) dated 06.03.2024, application for deployment of Aspirational Block fellow in prescribed form (enclosed herewith) are hereby invited from the interested candidates having required qualification and experience. The eligible criteria for deployment of Aspirational Block fellow is enclosed in Annexure-A. The candidates should send their resume and cover letter explaining their motivation and suitability for the role through registered/Speed Post to the Chief Development Officer-Cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Malkangiri by 01.07.2024 (5.00 PM). They should also mention ABF Application-Mathili/ Khairput/ Chitarkonda in the subject line of their letter & e-mail. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further rounds of selection. The details of terms and conditions has been web-hosted in District website i.e www.malkangiri.odisha.gov.in. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all application without assigning any reason thereof.

**Sd./Collector-Cum-CEO**  
Zilla Parishad, Malkangiri  
OIPR-19401/11/0001/2425

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL DHENKANAL (ODISHA), PIN-759001**  
E-mail: dhenkanal.m.hud@gmail.com  
No. 2243 Date: 20.06.2024

**QUOTATION CALL NOTICE**

No. C-73: On behalf of Dhenkanal Municipal Council, the Sealed quotations are invited from the registered Firms/Authorised suppliers for different item are mentioned below in the quotation paper having valid Income Tax and GST Registration Certificates:

1. Sculptural Work (All type of Stone/Metal/FRP sculptural work) a. God & Goddess work b. Decorative Item
2. Supply fitting Fixing of Garden light/Park light/Footpath Light/Bollard light etc both electrical & solar
3. Decorative items for Roadside Beautification/Creation of road side Vertical garden"
4. Small, Medium and Large size manual water fountain
5. Different types of Decorative seat benches

The Rate should be quoted inclusive of all taxes, cost conveyance and fixing. 1- The Cost of each Quotation Paper - Rs. 10,000.00 (Non Refundable) 2- Start Date of Sale of Quotation paper - 24.06.2024 3- Last Date of Sale of Quotation paper - 05.07.2024 4- Last Date of Receipt of Quotation paper - 05.07.2024 at 1.00 PM 5- Date of Opening of Sealed Quotation - 05.07.2024 at 4.30 PM

The Quotation will be opened in the presence of the Quotatoneer or their authorized agents. The QCN must be accompanied with Bank Draft amount of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten thousands) only drawn for paper cost only in favour of the Executive Officer, Dhenkanal Municipality payable at any nationalized Bank. The quotation with enclosures will be received only through Speed Post/ Regd. Post by the undersigned in the schedule date and time and not be accepted in any means beyond the date and time. Any postal delay will not be considered. The quotation paper will be available in the office of the Dhenkanal Municipality during the office hours (except holidays) till dt 05.07.2024 (up to 1.00PM). The authorized reserves the right to reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof. Further details can be seen from the Dhenkanal Municipality website www.dhenkanal.municipality.com.

**Sd./ Executive Officer, Dhenkanal Municipality**  
OIPR-13146/11/0004/2425

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**  
**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**  
**Pt. Deendayal Antoyadaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi**

**INVITING APPLICATIONS THROUGH 'ONLINE' FOR NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FOR THE YEAR 2024**

Applications/nominations are invited for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2024, through online mode only on the password protected centralized portal designed by Ministry of Home Affairs (www.awards.gov.in) which is open w.e.f 15th June, 2024. The last date for submission of applications/nominations is 31st July, 2024). The nomination should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above portal including in narrative form clearly bringing out the notable and inspiring achievements.

Eligibility criteria and other details are available in the simplified and rationalized Guidelines for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities available on the website of the Department (www.depwd.gov.in) as also on the Award Portal (www.awards.gov.in)

**Nomination/application for these awards in physical form will not be accepted.**

The National Awards and eligibility for each category of award is as under:

I. National Awards for Individual Excellence. (व्यक्तिगत उत्कृष्टता के लिए राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार)		
S. No.	Category of Award and eligibility	No. of Awards
1.	(i) Sarvshresth Divyangjan (सर्वश्रेष्ठ दिव्यांगजन) (Belonging to any field or activity i.e. Education/ Health/Employment/Art & Culture/Sports/Creative work/ Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities/ Social service etc.- A Role Model) - Open to all persons with disabilities having any of the 21 specified disabilities under the RPwD Act.	06 (03 for Male and 03 for Female) Cash component of Award: Rs. 2.00 lakh each
2.	(ii) Shresth Divyangjan (श्रेष्ठ दिव्यांगजन) a. Locomotor Disability - (Locomotor, Muscular Dystrophy, Dwarfism, Acid Attack Victims, Leprosy Cured, Cerebral Palsy). b. Visual Impairment - (Blindness, Low Vision). c. Hearing Impairment - (Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Speech & Language disability). d. Intellectual Disability - (Mental Retardation, Mental Behavior, Specific Learning Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder). e. Any specified disability except the disabilities mentioned in S. No. (a) to (d) above. (Developmental Disorder, Disability caused due to Blood Disorder, Hemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Diseases, Chronic Neurological Conditions, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Disability) However, if suitable person(s) in any one or more of these sub-categories are not found, the awards may be given to additional person(s) in other subcategories. (In the fields of employment / self-employment, health/sports, art, culture, drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work, empowerment of persons with disabilities etc.) (iii) Shresth Divyang Bal/Balika (श्रेष्ठ दिव्यांग बाल/बालिका) In any category of specified disabilities under the RPwD Act) - (In the field of art & culture, drawing, painting, music, or any other type of creative work etc. (Children with disabilities up to the age of 18 years).	10 (1 for male and 1 for Female in each of the five categories (a) to (e)). Cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh
3.	Divyangjano Ke Liye Karyarat Sarvshrestha Vyakti (दिव्यांगजनों के लिए कार्यरत सर्वश्रेष्ठ व्यक्ति)	1 Award Cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh each.
4.	Divyangata ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshrestha Punarvas Peshevar. (दिव्यांगता के क्षेत्र में सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुनर्वास पेशेवर)	1 Award Cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh each.
5.	Divyangata ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshrestha Anusandhan / Navpravartan / Utpad Vikas (दिव्यांगता के क्षेत्र में सर्वश्रेष्ठ अनुसंधान / नवप्रवर्तन / उत्पाद विकास)	1 Award Cash component of Award: Rs. 1.00 lakh each.

II. National Awards for Institutions engaged in empowering persons with disabilities. (दिव्यांगजनों के सशक्तिकरण के लिए कार्यरत संस्थानों हेतु राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार)		
S. No.	Category of Award	Number of Awards (A certificate and a shield to each awardee)
1.	Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Hetu Sarvshrestha Sansthan (दिव्यांगजनों सशक्तिकरण हेतु सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थान) (Private organization, NGO)	1 Award for providing comprehensive Rehabilitation services and 1 Award for Inclusive Education (institutions providing or promoting inclusive education)
2.	Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshrestha Niyokta (दिव्यांगजनों के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ नियोक्ता) (Govt. organisation/ Public Sector Enterprises/ Autonomous bodies/ Pvt. Sector)	1 Award
3.	Divyangjano Ke Liye Sarvshrestha Placement Agency (दिव्यांगजनों के लिए सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्लेसमेंट एजेंसी) - excluding Govt./State Govt./Local Bodies	1 Award
4.	Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan Kay Karyanvayan / BadhamuktaVatavaran Kay Srijan (सुगम्य भारत अभियान के कार्यान्वयन / बाधामुक्त वातावरण के सृजन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य / संघ राज्य क्षेत्र / जिला)	1 Award
5.	Yojanaon Kay Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshrestha Sugamya Yatayat Kay Sadahan / Soochana Avam Sanchar Prodyogiki (सर्वश्रेष्ठ सुगम्य यातायात के साधन / सूचना एवं संचार प्रौद्योगिकी) Govt./Private organisation	1 Award
6.	Divyangjano Kay Adhikar Adhinyam/UDID Avam Divyang Sashaktikaran ki Anay (दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकार अधिनियम / विशिष्ट दिव्यांगता पहचान पत्र एवं दिव्यांग सशक्तिकरण की अन्य योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य / संघ राज्य क्षेत्र / जिला)	1 Award for State/UT and 1 Award for District
7.	ApneRajya/UT Mein Divyangjano Kay Adhikar Adhinyam Kay Karyanvayan Mein Sarvshrestha Pradarshan Karane wale Rajya Divyangjan Aayukta (अपने राज्य / संघ राज्य क्षेत्र में दिव्यांगजनों की अधिकार अधिनियम के दिव्यांगजनोंके अधिकार अधिनियम के कार्यान्वयन में सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त)	1 Award
8.	Punarvas Sevawon ke liye Peshevar Taiyar Karne wali Sarvshresth Sansthan (पुनर्वास सेवाओं हेतु पेशेवर तैयार करने वाली सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थान)	1 Award

CBC 38117/11/0002/2425

# national

## of the day quote

A government company will be formed. The project will be rolled out soon. Analysis of criminals and the nature of crimes can be done. Data on cybercrime can be analysed and traffic management issues can also be resolved. Modules will be prepared for different units



VENENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DY CM

Yoga is being promoted and spread globally. There has been remarkable awareness about it in India as well. The enthusiasm seen here today on the occasion of International Yoga Day is mirrored in all the districts, blocks and villages of the state



VISHNU DEO SAINI | C'GARH CM

We shouldn't allow emotions and politics to drive our actions, and in the process divert from the core issues. We know we are tired... but we have to endure it for a few more days. We cannot be happy without going through a tough phase



N BIREN SINGH | MANIPUR CM

## SHORT TAKES

### ₹10L ex-gratia to kin of 'rape, murder' victim

Chirala (Andhra Pradesh): The Andhra Pradesh government Friday extended an ex-gratia sum of ₹10 lakh to the kin of a murdered 21-year-old woman who may have been raped before being killed in Bapatla district. Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha said that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu extended the ex-gratia. Anitha personally visited the spot where the woman's body was found unclothed Friday morning near a railway track at Sitampuram area in the village.

### Man gets 10 years in jail for raping minor

Thane: A man was sentenced to 10 years in jail Friday by a special POCSO court for raping a minor girl in Thane's Kopri area. Murali Kanhaiyalal Chouhan (24), a mason, had lured the 5-year-old girl to a toilet in the locality she resided and raped her November 24, 2018, as per the prosecution. He was held by the victim's father and others while trying to run away after the incident. Ten witnesses were examined during the trial, including the woman who owns the toilet complex and her son, special public prosecutors Sandhya Mhatre and Vivek Kadu said.

### 2 acquitted in Udipi canteen murder case

Udupi (Karnataka): The Second Additional District and Sessions Court in Udupi Friday acquitted two men who were charged with the murder of a 52-year-old canteen worker near Udupi railway station. The incident occurred July 21, 2022. The presiding judge, Dinesh Hegde, ruled in favour of the accused, Vignesh Kuttu (24) from Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, and Naveen Kumar (27) from Mallatha Halli, Bangalore, citing insufficient evidence linking them to the crime.

### Man found dead

Hoshiarpur (Punjab): A 60-year-old man was found dead in his house here Friday, with his hands tied and his mouth stuffed with a piece of cloth, police said. The police identified the victim as Raccchal Singh, a resident of Gondpur village. The incident occurred last night when the unidentified accused killed Raccchal while committing a robbery at his house. They tied his hands with a rope and stuffed his mouth with a piece of cloth, Station House Officer of Mahilpur Police Station, Gurmek Singh said.



There is no evidence against (Opposition) leaders in Maharashtra, Delhi and Jharkhand who were arrested by the central agencies

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

## REDDY LAUNCHES COAL BLOCK AUCTIONS

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy Friday launched the 10th round of commercial coal mine auctions here. The 10th round of auction includes 67 coal mines. The move will enhance domestic coal production and ensure energy security for the nation, according to an official statement from the Ministry of Coal



# 98 Indians died during annual Hajj pilgrimage



AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 21: Ninety-eight Indians have died during the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca largely due to natural causes, chronic illnesses and old age, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the total number of deaths of Indians in the entire Haj period last year was 187. As many as 1,75,000 Indian pilgrims visited Mecca, Islam's holiest city, for Hajj this year. "Every year a large number of pilgrims from India attend Haj, and some of them unfortunately pass away during the Hajj period. This year, 175,000 Indian pilgrims visited Makkah for Hajj," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. "The Hajj period is from May 9 to July 22. This year, till now, 98 deaths have been reported.

The deaths have been due to natural causes, chronic illnesses, and old age," he said. "Six people died on the day of Arafat and four were accident-related deaths. Last year, total deaths in the entire Hajj period were 187," Jaiswal said. According to reports, more than 900 pilgrims have died this year during Hajj that has been marked by heatwaves. Some of the deaths have reportedly been due to heat-related illnesses as temperatures crossed over 50 degree Celsius in Mecca. Around 1,20,000 pilgrims undertook the Hajj pilgrimage this year from India and 356 doctors and paramedics were deployed for the medical care. Union Health Secretary

As many as 1,75,000 Indian pilgrims visited Mecca, Islam's holiest city, for Hajj this year

Apurva Chandra released a document titled 'Medical Care Arrangements for Hajj Pilgrimage' here Friday in collaboration with the ministry of minority affairs. Mohammed Shahid Alam, Consulate General of India in Jeddah (who joined virtually), representatives of WHO and other stakeholders were also present. Haj represents the largest and most enduring annual mass gathering event globally, the health ministry said in a statement. The responsibility for medical care arrangements lies with the Emergency Medical Relief Division and the International Health Division of the Directorate General of Health Services under ministry of health, it said. On the occasion, Chandra stated that "this document lays the roadmap of the health services and how those services can be availed of by the pilgrims". Noting that this is only the second year since the healthcare responsibilities have been assigned to the Union health ministry he said, "The experience has provided significant learning for improving the healthcare services."



Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina being welcomed by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh upon her arrival on a two-day state visit to India, in New Delhi

## Atishi sits on indefinite fast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: Delhi Water Minister Atishi Friday sat on an indefinite hunger strike here demanding the release of more Yamuna water for the city from Haryana while Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in a message from Tihar jail, hoped her penance would be successful. Sunita Kejriwal, who along with a number of AAP leaders were present as Atishi began her fast, read out the chief minister's message in which he expressed immense pain upon watching on television the plight of the people suffering from water scarcity. Earlier in the day, Atishi along with Sunita Kejriwal and AAP leaders, including Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, visited Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi before the launch of her 'Jal Satyagrah' at Bhogal. In his message, the Chief Minister said, "It's our culture to provide water to the thirsty. Delhi gets water from neighbouring states. We hoped for the support of the neighbouring states in such intense heat. But, Haryana reduced Delhi's share

water." "Although there are governments of different parties in the two states, is this time for politics over water?" he posed. The BJP is in power in Haryana. AAP leaders said Atishi will sit at the stage set up for her indefinite hunger strike at a com-



munity hall in Bhogal for two hours each in the morning and evening. She will rest in a room at the community centre for the rest of the day. Atishi said she will not eat anything until Haryana releases Delhi's rightful share of Yamuna water. She said that Delhi is suffering from intense heat and the water requirement of the people has risen. There is a water shortage in Delhi and all of its water comes from neighbouring states, Atishi said, adding that her appeal to the Haryana government and a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for help did not yield any result.

## Monsoon picks up momentum

The IMD said that monsoon has also moved into more areas of Chhattisgarh and Odisha, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal, remaining parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal and some parts of Jharkhand

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 21: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday said that the southwest monsoon has picked up momentum as it has advanced into some more parts of Maharashtra, remaining parts of Vidarbha, and some parts of Madhya Pradesh. The IMD said that monsoon has also moved into more areas of Chhattisgarh and Odisha, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal, remaining parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal and some parts of Jharkhand. "Conditions are favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon into some more parts of Gujarat, remaining parts of Maharashtra, some more parts of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and some parts of Uttar Pradesh during the next 3-4 days," the IMD said. This represents good news for the economy as the Kharif sowing which had slowed with the stalling of the monsoon will now pick up speed. The onset of the monsoon over Kerala this year was two days ahead of the usual date



and over northeast, six days in advance. Thereafter, the northward progress of monsoon was gradual, and it covered Kerala, Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Goa & Telangana; most parts of southern Maharashtra and some parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha; most parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal, and Sikkim, and the entire north-eastern states by June 12. However, the monsoon has not progressed after that and the 'Northern Limit' of monsoon on June 18 passed through Navsari, Jalgaon, Amravati, Chandrapur, Bijapur, Sukma, Malkangiri, and Vizianagaram.

The monsoon plays a key role in the Indian economy as over 50 per cent of the country's farmland depend on rain. The monsoon rain is also crucial for recharging the country's reservoirs and aquifers from which the water can be used later in the year to irrigate crops. India has emerged as a key exporter of foodgrains but had to resort to curbing overseas shipments of sugar, rice, wheat and onions in order to increase domestic supplies and keep prices in check due to the erratic monsoon last year which hit farm production. A robust growth in the farm sector helps to keep inflation in check.

## India raises concerns over nationals serving in Russian military

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 21: India Friday said the issue of its nationals serving with the Russian Army remains a matter of "utmost concern" and demanded action from Moscow over it. Last week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said two more Indian nationals serving with the Russian Army were killed in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, taking the number of such deaths to four. Following the deaths of two Indians, New Delhi demanded a "verified stop" to further recruitment of Indian nationals by the Russian Army. "We have taken up the matter with the Russian side for early release and repatriation of Indians recruited by the Russian army. We have also sought a verified stop to the recruitment," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. According to reports, around 200 Indian nationals were recruited as security helpers in the Russian military.

## India criticises Canadian Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: India Friday strongly objected to Canadian Parliament observing "one minute silence" in memory of Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in British Columbia in June last year. India also insisted that the Canadian authorities must take action against those advocating violence and carrying out an anti-India campaign in Canada. "We naturally oppose any moves giving political space to extremism and advocacy of violence," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. In an unusual move, the Canadian parliament observed "one minute silence" to mark one year of the killing of Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in British Columbia June 18 last year. India Thursday lodged a strong protest with Canada over Khalistani extremists holding a so-called "citizens court" and burning an effigy of the Indian prime minister outside the Indian consulate in Vancouver.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

# Women could take more time collecting water: Study

In South America and Southeast Asia, higher temperatures and less rainfall, driven by climate change, could double the time spent on collecting water in households without running water, according to the research published in the journal Nature Climate Change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: Climate change could spike the time women around the world take to collect water for their households by up to 30 per cent by 2050, a new study has found. In South America and Southeast Asia, higher temperatures and less rainfall, driven by climate change, could double the time spent on collecting water in households without running water, according to the research published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Globally, for the period between 1990 to 2019, researchers from Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Germany, found that women in households without running



water would on average spend about 23 minutes everyday collecting water, considered primarily a women's responsibility. The researchers found that collecting water each day took any-

where between four minutes in parts of Indonesia to 110 minutes in regions of Ethiopia. "Compared to these numbers, we found that women will have to spend up to 30 per cent more time each day collecting water by 2050 under a high-emission scenario. This can be reduced to 19 per cent, if global warming is kept below 2 degree Celsius," said study author Robert Carr, a guest researcher at PIK. "For regions in eastern and central Africa that currently have the longest water collection times, temperature rises in a high-emission scenario would cause increases of between 20 and 40 per cent," said author Maximilian Kotz from PIK. The results presented a "gendered dimension of climate

change impacts," highlighting how women are particularly vulnerable, according to author and PIK researcher Leonie Wenz. "They show how strongly climate change will affect women's well-being, causing them to lose time for education, work and leisure," Wenz said. Estimating welfare losses, Wenz said, "By 2050, the cost of lost working time, calculated at the country-specific minimum wage, would be substantial, reaching tens to hundreds of millions of US dollars per country and year under a high-emission scenario." As of 2016, women over the world spend up to 200 million hours a day on this vital task of collecting water, according to the authors.



# national

## of the day quote

Today the Congress is protesting against NEET and NET paper scams across the country... In Haryana, the Congress has been continuously raising this issue

Dictatorship in the country is crossing such limits that the ED violates someone's personal liberty and even immediately goes to the high court to get a stay against the bail of an elected chief minister. The decision of the high court is yet to come. We hope that the high court will do justice

Concretisation of roads in the entire city is being done. In the next two years, Mumbai will be pothole-free. The civic administration is working with the government and police to ease the traffic congestion

Hey @JamRashmika Remember your Propaganda video on ₹18,000 crores worth Atal Setu in Mumbai? This is the current state of the same bridge, with cracks all over it within months. Will you dare to grow spine & make another video on these 'cracks' of Vikshit Bharat?

## POST OF THE DAY

Hey @JamRashmika Remember your Propaganda video on ₹18,000 crores worth Atal Setu in Mumbai? This is the current state of the same bridge, with cracks all over it within months. Will you dare to grow spine & make another video on these 'cracks' of Vikshit Bharat?

## SHORT TAKES

### Punjab inks MoU with Microsoft

Chandigarh: Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM) Friday inked a memorandum of understanding with Microsoft to engrain essential skills to at least 10,000 youth of the state in a year. The MoU was signed here by PSDM Director Amrit Singh and Country Head Education Microsoft Corporation (India) Sanjay Dhingra, said an official statement.

### CBI arrests Delhi Police sub-inspector

New Delhi: The CBI Friday arrested a Delhi Police sub-inspector for allegedly taking a bribe of ₹1 lakh, officials said. Vijay Gaur, posted at the Chhawla police station, had allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹3 lakh from an accused, under investigation, for not arresting him in the case, they said. During negotiations, Gaur agreed to reduce the bribe to ₹2 lakh, the officials said. "The CBI laid a trap and caught the said accused sub-inspector of Delhi Police red-handed while accepting bribe of ₹1 lakh from the complainant," the CBI spokesperson said.

### Indore airport receives hoax bomb threats

Indore: The Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport in Indore city of Madhya Pradesh received two hoax bomb threats within a week, and separate FIRs have been registered in this connection, an official said Friday. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Alok Kumar Sharma told reporters that an unidentified person sent an email on the official account of the airport director Wednesday night, which threatened a bomb blast on its premises.



India is the youngest country in the world. We have the largest youth population. Instead of making these youth skilled and capable, the BJP government is making them weak

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

## RAIN BRINGS RELIEF

A splash of rain in parts of Delhi Friday brought some relief from the battering heatwave conditions with the maximum temperature settling at 40.4 degrees Celsius, two notches above the season's normal



# SC refuses to defer counseling

ACCORDING TO NTA OFFICIALS, THE RE-EXAM FOR 1,563 CANDIDATES SCHEDULED SUNDAY WOULD BE CONDUCTED AT SEVEN CENTRES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 21: The Supreme Court Friday refused to defer the NEET-UG counselling process, scheduled to kick off July 6, saying it is not an "open and shut" exercise, even as the political pot kept boiling over the controversy-ridden exam with the opposition attacking the Centre over alleged paper leak and other irregularities.

The Congress party, meanwhile, staged protests across the country over the alleged irregularities and demanded the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who skipped the Delhi University's Yoga Day event where some students held a protest against the alleged irregularities.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched a scathing attack on the government, saying the issue has become a national problem under the BJP rule which has "ruined the future" of crores of youth.

The protests came a day after Pradhan ruled out any immediate action towards cancelling the NEET, saying the government cannot jeopardise careers of lakhs of students who cleared the exam rightfully because of isolated incidents of malpractices.



According to NTA officials, the re-exam for 1,563 candidates scheduled Sunday would be conducted at seven centres.

"While all other examination centres have changed, one centre in Chandigarh, where only two candidates will appear, will remain the same. Besides, officials from the agency and Union education ministry will also be present at these centres. The step has been taken to ensure smooth conduct of the re-exam," a senior NTA official added.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati demanded strict action against the main accused in the NEET-UG question paper leak. In a post on X in Hindi, Mayawati

said, "The government needs to take strict action against the main accused in the NEET (question) paper leak case due to which innocent students are suffering. And it is not right to do any politics under its guise."

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said a request will be made to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to recommend a CBI probe into the suspected links of the arrested prime suspect in the NEET "paper leak" with officials associated with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Sinha had Thursday claimed that officials associated with Tejashwi Yadav were in con-

## NEET ROW

The NEET-UG examination was held May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates appeared in it

The results were expected to be declared June 14 but were announced June 4, with the NTA saying the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier

as 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank. The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

The matter was heard by the Supreme Court on Friday and it refused to defer the counselling for the controversy-ridden NEET-UG 2024 examination scheduled to kick off July 6, saying it is not an "open and shut" process.

The apex court issued notices to the National Testing Agency (NTA), the Centre and others on a petition seeking cancellation of the exam over alleged irregularities in holding it May 5. Meanwhile, amid the raging row over irregularities in exams, the National Testing Agency Friday announced the postponement of the June edition of the Joint Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test, citing unavoidable circumstances and logistic issues.

## Patole claims cracks seen on Atal Setu bridge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 21: Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole Friday alleged corruption in the construction of the Atal Setu sea bridge connecting south Mumbai to Navi Mumbai, saying that cracks have appeared on it within months of inauguration, posing a threat to people's lives.

Patole, who inspected the bridge during the day, claimed that the construction quality of the bridge was poor and that a portion of the road has caved in by one foot.

However, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis slammed the Opposition party and said it was spreading lies on the issue. His party and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), which is the nodal agency for the project, said the cracks were not on the bridge itself but on the approach road from Ulwe in Navi Mumbai.

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu, also known as the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL), that connects south Mumbai with the satellite city of Navi Mumbai, was inaugurated in January this year. Built at a cost of ₹17,840 crore, this six-lane bridge is 21.8 km long with a 16.5 km sea-link. The MMRDA issued a statement saying, "There have been rumours circulating about cracks on the MTHL bridge. We want to clarify that these cracks are not on the bridge itself but on the approach road connecting the MTHL from Ulwe towards Mumbai."

## Pavithra hit Renukaswamy with slippers, says police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangaluru, June 21: Actor Pavithra Gowda, the prime accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, had beaten up the victim with her slippers, according to a recent remand note presented by the police in court, which suggests that she was at the site of the murder for a certain period of time.

The actress has been named as accused number one in the case, allegedly for being the instigator, while leading Kannada film actor Darshan Thooodeppa is accused number two, who allegedly executed the murder.

The information on the police remand note indicates that Pavithra herself was present at the site of the murder of Renukaswamy.

Police have seized the slipper, clothes, materials and other documents connected to Darshan, from Pavithra's house.

Darshan and Gowda as well as 15 others have been arrested in the Renukaswamy murder case.

As part of the investigation, police sources said, they are contemplating on approaching social media giant Meta to retrieve data related to messages shared by Renukaswamy on his Instagram post, which has been deleted.

The police said Darshan had contacted several individuals soon after the alleged killing. Another accused has confessed



that the victim was administered electric shock.

Darshan's gang member Dhanaraj D alias Raja, who is accused number nine in the case, is the one who had allegedly given Renukaswamy electric shocks, they said. Police have seized an 'Electric Shock Torch' from his house.

Darshan had taken ₹40 lakh from a friend with the aim of escaping from "adverse legal actions" against him and to meet the expenses to "cover up" the conspiracy and destruction of evidence, according to the police. The money has been recovered, they added.

Officials have shared an update on the investigation in the remand application filed by the police before the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court Thursday, when they sought police custody of Darshan and three others, and judicial custody of his friend Pavithra and the remaining accused.

According to police sources, Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor, had sent obscene messages to Pavithra, which enraged Darshan and allegedly led to him plotting and executing the murder. Renukaswamy's body was found near a storm-water drain next to an apartment in Sumanahalli here June 9. He was allegedly tortured to death June 8.

Police have said that the 47-year-old male actor and other accused Dhanaraj D, Vinay V and Pradosh are not cooperating with the investigation and have tried to hide facts.

The court Thursday extended the police custody of the four by two days till June 22. The rest were remanded into judicial custody.

Police have identified accused number one Pavithra as the "major cause" for Renukaswamy's murder, stating that it has been proved from the probe that she instigated the other accused, conspired with them, and took part in the crime.

## SNIPPETS

### Porsche car crash: Minor accused's father gets bail

Pune: A court in Pune Friday granted bail to the father of the juvenile accused in one of the cases pertaining to the Porsche car crash in which two software professionals were killed in the city last month. The court also granted bail to five other accused, including the owner and managers of two bars who were arrested for allegedly serving liquor to the underage patrons. Two IT professionals were killed May 19 in Kalyani Nagar here after their motorcycle was hit by a speeding Porsche car allegedly driven by the juvenile in an inebriated condition. The case caused a national uproar after the Juvenile Justice Board member L N Danwade gave bail to the accused on very lenient terms, including writing a 300-word essay on road safety.

### Assam flood situation unchanged

Guwahati: The overall flood situation in Assam remained unchanged though the number of affected population decreased marginally, an official bulletin said Friday. One person died in Khairabari revenue circle in Udalguri district, taking the toll in this year's flood, landslides and storm to 37. Another person was reported missing from Sarthebari revenue circle of Barpeta district. Altogether 3,90,491 people remained affected in Kamrup, Tamulpur, Hailakandi, Udalguri, Hojai, Dhubri, Barpeta, Biswanath, Nalbari, Bongaigaon, Baksa, Karimganj, South Salmara, Goalpara, Darrang, Bajali, Nagaon, Cachar and Kamrup Metropolitan districts.

### Blatant untruths: India on ABC docu

New Delhi: India Friday described as "blatant untruths" the content of a documentary made by ABC News that claimed to uncover alleged attempts of Indian intelligence agents to interfere in Australia's "national security". External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaishwal said the documentary appeared to serve a particular agenda to "malign" India. "The documentary contains blatant untruths, is biased and reflects unprofessional reporting. It appears to serve a particular agenda to malign India," he said at his weekly media briefing.

# Ambassadors, diplomats join Yoga Day celebrations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: Several diplomats, ambassadors and embassies in India joined the Yoga Day celebrations here Friday with German envoy Philipp Ackermann describing yoga as highly introspective that also connects people as "mindful human beings".

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, joined by his two deputies Kirti Vardhan Singh and Pabitra Margherita, performed a few asanas along with several members of the diplomatic community at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in the morning.

After the session, Jaishankar posted a few photos of the event on 'X'. "Participated this morning at the #IDY2024 event in New Delhi with members of the diplomatic community. Developing

Yoga enthusiasm and awareness around the world has been an inspiration. Happy to see that #YogaforSelfAndSociety has become an essential way of life for so many," he wrote.

The 10th International Day of Yoga was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who took part in a yoga event in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar while several Union ministers participated in yoga sessions held in different parts of the national capital.

"Inhale' exhale'. Armed with our yoga mats, team #UKinIndia joined millions of people in India and around the world to celebrate International #YogaDay," the British High Commission posted on the social media platform earlier in the day. Embassies of the United States, Israel and Ukraine shared videos on social media on the



occasion. "Team members of the Embassy of Ukraine in India join celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the International Day of Yoga and more than 5,000 years of ancient Yoga tradition," the Ukrainian embassy here posted on 'X'.

In the video shared by it, a group of people can be seen performing various asanas at various archaeological sites in Delhi. The narration in the video begins with - "Namaste! Balance. Balance to stand strong in the midst of all the chaos around you. Adaptability. Adaptability to accept change and go with

In New Delhi, diplomats, ambassadors and embassies marked the occasion with various activities

The UK High Commission here shared on 'X' photographs of some of its members performing yoga in the morning

on the occasion featured envoy Naor Gilon and some of the staff sharing their thoughts on yoga and its benefits.

"Namaste! ... This International Yoga Day, our diplomats share why they love yoga. They might not be yogis yet, but they sure have fun trying!" it posted on X along with the video.

The US Embassy's short video featured children trying their hands at different yoga poses. "It's Yoga Day and our adorable little yogis are stealing hearts with their smiles and stretches! Watch as our tiny warriors strike adorable poses, from Virabhadrasana to the Bhujangasana! This Yoga Day, join us as we celebrate the flexibility, balance, and cuteness overload," the embassy posted on 'X'.

# international

## of the day quote

We are open to dialogue, but to a broad comprehensive dialogue that covers all dimensions, including the current dimension related to the conflict around Ukraine, related to the direct involvement of the USA in this conflict

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

I was incredibly angry... to learn of these allegations. If anyone is found to have broken the rules, not only should they face the full consequences of the law, I will make sure that they are booted out of the Conservative Party

RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

We are firmly committed to deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership with Vietnam, which remains among the priorities of Russia's foreign policy

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Armenia accepts Palestinian state

Armenia: Armenia has officially recognised a Palestinian state, the Armenian foreign ministry said Friday, the latest country to do so despite opposition from Israel. Armenia supports a United Nations resolution on an immediate ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza and is in favour of a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a ministry statement said. Israel's foreign ministry summoned the Armenian ambassador "for a serious reprimand" following Armenia's recognition of a Palestinian state, a ministry spokesperson said in a statement.

### 200 hurt, 100 held over violent stir

Nairobi: At least 200 people were injured and more than 100 arrested across Kenya in Thursday's nationwide protests against government plans to raise \$2.7 billion in additional taxes, an alliance of rights groups said. Police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse protesters in the capital Nairobi, the five rights groups, which include Amnesty International and the Kenya Medical Association, said in a joint statement late Thursday.

### No-fly list: Sikh ultras lose plea

Ottawa: A Canadian court has thrown out a bid by two Sikh extremists to get off the country's no-fly list, saying there are "reasonable grounds" to suspect they will threaten transportation security or travel by air to commit a terrorism offence. The Federal Court of Appeal in its ruling this week dismissed an appeal by Bhagat Singh Brar and Parvkar Singh Dulai after they lost a constitutional challenge of their no-fly designations under Canada's Secure Air Travel Act, The Canadian Press news agency reported from Vancouver Thursday.

### Historic flooding in China kills 38

Beijing: The death toll from days of torrential rain in one of the worst-hit areas in southern China jumped to 38 from nine Friday, Chinese state television CCTV reported. Downpours this week in Meizhou city in Guangdong province led to flash floods and mudslides that destroyed thousands of low-rise houses, damaged roads and crops, and disrupted communications and power supplies. Two people remain missing in Meizhou's Pingyuan county, CCTV said.



What I want to do and what I will do is, you graduate from a college, I think you should get a Green Card automatically as part of your diploma, a Green Card to be able to stay in this country. And that includes junior colleges too

DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

## MELINDA ENDORSES BIDEN

American philanthropist Melinda French Gates, the ex-wife of Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, endorsed President Joe Biden for November's US election, arguing that he is the best candidate for women



# US, China resume N-talks after 5 yrs



The informal discussions took place at odds over major economic and geopolitical issues, with leaders in Washington and Beijing accusing each other of dealing in bad faith

place formal negotiations "that require participants to speak authoritatively on issues that are often highly compartmentalized within (Chinese) government circles," the spokesperson said.

Members of the Chinese delegation and Beijing's defence ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

The informal discussions between the nuclear-armed powers took place with the US and China at odds over major economic and geopolitical issues, with leaders in Washington and Beijing accusing each other of dealing in bad faith.

The two countries briefly resumed Track One talks over nuclear arms in November but those negotiations have since stalled, with a top US official publicly expressing frustration at China's responsiveness.

The Pentagon, which estimates that Beijing's nuclear arsenal increased by more than 20% between 2021 and 2023, said in October that China "would also consider nuclear use to restore deterrence if a conventional military defeat in Taiwan" threatened CCP rule.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control and has over the past four years stepped up military activity around the island.

The Track Two talks are part of a two-decade nuclear weapons and posture dialogue that stalled after the Trump administration pulled funding in 2019.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, semi-official discussions resumed on broader security and energy issues, but only the Shanghai meeting dealt in detail with nuclear weapons and posture.

Santoro, who runs the Hawaii-based Pacific Forum think-tank, described "frustrations" on both sides during the latest discussions but said the two delegations saw reason to continue talking. More discussions were being planned in 2025, he said.

Nuclear policy analyst William Alberque of the Henry Stimson Centre think-tank, who was not involved in the March discussions, said the Track Two negotiations were useful at a time of glacial US-China relations.

"It's important to continue talking with China with absolutely no expectations," he said, when nuclear arms are at issue.

# JAIL TERM FOR 4 OF HINDUJA FAMILY

Britain's richest family members sentenced for exploiting domestic workers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, June 21: A Swiss criminal court Friday sentenced four members of the wealthy Hinduja family with between four and 4 1/2 years in prison for exploiting their vulnerable domestic workers. The court at the same time threw out the more severe charges of human trafficking.

The four, Indian-born tycoon Prakash Hinduja and his wife, son and daughter-in-law, were accused of trafficking of their servants, mostly illiterate Indians, who were employed at their luxurious lakeside villa in Geneva.

The four were not in court in Geneva though a fifth defendant, Najib Ziazi, the family's business manager, was in attendance. He received an 18 months suspended sentence.

The lawyers representing the defendants said they would appeal.

The court said the four were guilty of exploiting workers and providing unauthorised employment. It dismissed the trafficking charges on the grounds



that the staff understood what they were getting into.

The four Hinduja family members were accused of seizing workers' passports, paying them in rupees, not Swiss francs, barring them from leaving the villa and forcing them to work excruciatingly long hours for a pittance in Switzerland, among other things.

Last week, it emerged in criminal court that the family, which has roots in India, had reached an undisclosed settlement with the plaintiffs. Geneva prosecutors opened the case for alleged illegal activity including exploitation, human trafficking and violation of Swiss labour laws.

The family set up residence in Switzerland decades ago, and Prakash was already convicted in 2007 on similar, if lesser charges, though prosecutors say he persisted in employing people without proper paperwork anyway.

Swiss authorities have already seized diamonds, rubies, a platinum necklace and other jewellery and assets from the family in anticipation that they could be used to pay for legal fees and possible penalties.

Prosecutors said that at times the staffers, in jobs like cooks or house help, were forced to work up to 18 hours a day with little or no vacation time off and for pay that was equal to

Prakash Hinduja, his wife, their son, and his wife received sentences of four to four-and-a-half years from a Swiss court

less than one-tenth of the comparable amount required under Swiss law.

Employees worked even later hours for receptions and slept in the basement of the villa in the upscale Cologny neighbourhood, sometimes on a mattress on the floor, prosecutors said. They described a "climate of fear" instituted by Kamal Hinduja.

A separate tax case brought by Swiss authorities is pending against Prakash Hinduja, who obtained Swiss citizenship in 2000. Along with three brothers, he is a leader of an industrial conglomerate in sectors including information technology, media, power, real estate and health care. Forbes magazine currently puts the net worth of the Hinduja family at some \$20 billion.

## Tata Steel workers in UK call 1st strike in over 4 decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 21: Around 1,500 steelworkers based in Port Talbot and Llanwern in Wales will begin "all-out indefinite strike action" from July 8 in protest against what they see as Tata Steel's plans to cut 2,800 jobs and close its blast furnaces.

Unite the Union said it is the first time in over 40 years that steelworkers in the UK have taken strike action aimed at severely impacting Tata Steel UK's operations. The so-called "escalation" in industrial action comes after members of Unite had already begun working to rule and an overtime ban earlier this week.



"Tata's workers are not just fighting for their jobs, they are fighting for the future of their communities and the future of steel in Wales," said Unite general secretary Sharon Graham.

"The strikes will go on until Tata halts its disastrous plans. Unite is backing Tata's workers to the hilt in their historic battle to save the Welsh steel industry and give it the bright future it deserves," she said.

The union claims the Opposition Labour Party has called for the Mumbai-headquartered steel major to halt its plans and wait until after the July 4 general election to engage in talks with a newly elected government.

## Tourist lynched over blasphemy in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar, June 21: An enraged mob in the picturesque Pakistani town of Swat has gunned down a tourist, dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of the Quran.

The incident happened Thursday night when Muhammad Ismail, a resident of Sialkot in Punjab province, was visiting the northwestern Pakistan hill resort town of Swat and was accused of having burnt the pages of Islam's holy book in Madyan tehsil of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

District Police Officer (DPO), Swat, Zahidullah said that initially the police had taken Ismail in custody and locked him up in the police station when the alleged desecration incident was reported.

However, the incident was announced from mosques through loudspeakers in the market, prompting thousands of people to gather outside the police station.

Soon after, the angry mob demanded that the police hand



over the suspect to them. On refusal, a fierce exchange of fire took place between the local people and the police in which eight persons were injured, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

After that the mob torched the police station, forcing the cops on duty to flee for their lives.

After that, the people entered the police station and shot and killed the suspect and dragged his body to the Madyan Ada, where they hanged him. The people also set the police station and police vehicles on fire, while the policemen on duty fled. Meanwhile, more police

force was called to control the mob, the officer was quoted as saying.

According to the police officials, the incident has caused a law and order situation in the hill town. More police force was called to restore order in the popular tourist destination.

Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Ali Amin Gandapur has sought a report from the provincial police chief.

He has directed the Inspector General of Police to take emergency steps to control the situation and urged people to remain calm.

## China warns death penalty for 'diehard' Taiwan separatists

REUTERS

Beijing, June 21: China Friday threatened to impose the death penalty in extreme cases for "diehard" Taiwan independence separatists, a ratcheting up of pressure even though Chinese courts have no jurisdiction on the democratically governed island.

China, which views Taiwan as its own territory, has made no secret of its dislike of President Lai Ching-te who took office last month, saying he is a "separatist", and staged war games shortly after his inauguration.

Taiwan has complained of a pattern of ramped up Chinese pressure since Lai won the election in January, including ongoing military actions, trade sanctions and coast guard patrols around Taiwan-controlled islands next to China.

The new guidelines say China's courts, prosecutors, public and state security bodies should "severely punish Taiwan independence diehards for splitting the country and inciting secession crimes in accordance with the law," according to China's state-run Xinhua news agency.

## SK fires warning shots after NK's third incursion



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 21: South Korea's military said Friday that it had fired warning shots the previous day to repel North Korean soldiers who temporarily crossed the rivals' land border for the third time this month.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said several North Korean soldiers while engaging in unspecified construction work on the northern side of the border briefly intruded the military demarcation line that bisects the countries at around 11 am Thursday.

The South Korean military in response broadcasted a warning and fired warning shots, to which the North Korean soldiers retreated. The joint chiefs didn't immediately release more details.

South Korea's military has said it believes the previous two border intrusions this month weren't intentional as the North Korean soldiers have retreated after the warning shots and the North has not returned fire.

The South's military says it has been observing increased North Korean construction activity in frontline border areas since April.

# Landmark win for LGBTQ community in Namibia

## NAMIBIAN COURT OVERTURNS LAW BANNING GAY SEX

REUTERS

Windhoek, June 21: A high court in Namibia declared two colonial-era laws that criminalised same-sex acts between men unconstitutional Friday, in a landmark win for the LGBTQ community in the southern African country.

The case was brought by Namibian activist Friedel Dausab with the support of British-based non-governmental organisation Human Dignity Trust.

Dausab told Reuters he was "just happy" after the court's decision. "It's a great day for Namibia," he said. "It won't be a crime to love anymore."

Consensual same-sex activity is prohibited in more than half of 54 African countries, according

to ILGA, an international organisation supporting LGBTQ rights.

"This victory also brings much-needed and renewed energy to other decriminalisation efforts across Africa," said Tea Braun, chief executive of the Human Dignity Trust.

Rights campaigners say that, while convictions under the laws on "sodomy" and "unnatural sexual offences" were relatively rare in Namibia, they have perpetuated discrimination against the LGBTQ community and made gay men live in fear of arrest.

John Nakuta, a law professor at the University of Namibia, said the court's order can be appealed by the Namibian government within 21 days. Namibia inherited the laws

when it gained independence from South Africa in 1990, though same-sex acts between men were initially criminalised under colonial rule.

South Africa has since decriminalised same-sex sexual activity and is the only country on the African continent to allow LGBTQ couples to adopt children, marry and enter civil unions.

Last year, Uganda enacted one of the world's harshest anti-LGBTQ laws, which included the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality", despite widespread condemnations from the West.

LGBTQ supporters gathered outside the court carrying banners that read, "Get the law out of my love life", and "Peace, Love, Unity", told Reuters they



were overjoyed.

Omar van Reenen, co-founder of the Namibia Equal Rights Movement, welcomed the court's judgment and said the LGBTQ community in Namibia could

finally feel like equal citizens.

"The message that the court sent today is that we have every right to belong and exist in this country and that the constitution protects us," said van Reenen.

## of the day quote

The Indian rural market is full of potential. Yes, inflation has dampened the mood of the rural shopper for a time, but the trends are now pointing up. Rural has outpaced Urban this quarter, and is likely to hold at that level for some time in the near future

**K RAMAKRISHNAN** | MD (SOUTH ASIA), KANTAR WORLDPANAL

Sun Pharma is a leader in gastroenterology and we are excited to introduce Vonoprazan in India under non-exclusive patent license from Takeda

**KIRTI GANORKAR** | CEO, SUN PHARMA

By providing high-quality zinc for cutting-edge energy storage, we are opening sophisticated new avenues for environmentally friendly solutions for a greener tomorrow

**ARUN MISRA** | CEO, HZL

## SHORT TAKES

### Zepto valued at \$3.6bn; eyes IPO

**New Delhi:** Grocery delivery startup Zepto Friday said it has raised \$665 million in an investment round that valued the firm at \$3.6 billion, almost triple of what it was worth a year back, and is preparing to list soon. The fund raiser will help Zepto compete with e-commerce giant Amazon, Zomato-owned Blinkit, and homegrown firms such as Swiggy's Instamart and Tata Group's BigBasket in the hyper-competitive grocery delivery space that is marred by high investments and low margins. The three-year-old startup raised \$665 million from new investors, including New York-based private equity firm Avenir Growth Capital, venture firm Lightspeed, and Avra Capital, a new fund started by former Y Combinator Continuity head Anu Hariharan and Andreessen Horowitz. Existing investors including Glade Brook, Nexus, and StepStone Group also participated, the Mumbai-based firm said.

### Agarwal may sell stake in Vedanta

**Mumbai:** Billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Resources is likely to sell a 2.5% stake in Vedanta Ltd in the next couple of weeks through block deals, said two persons aware of the development. Promoter group is likely to sell about 9 crore shares to raise around ₹4,000 crore through block deals, said one of the persons quoted above. UK-based Vedanta Resources held a 61.95% stake in Vedanta as of March 31, 2024, through six subsidiaries. Shares of Vedanta have rallied 83% so far this year to ₹471 Friday, compared to a 7% gain in the Sensex year-to-date. The deal is likely to be done by one of the international banks, sources said.

### GST rationalisation panel reconstituted

**New Delhi:** Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary has been appointed as the convenor of the GoM on GST rate rationalisation. According to an official memorandum posted on the GST Council secretariat website, the other members of the reconstituted panel are Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, Goa Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho, Rajasthan Medical, and Health Services Minister Gajendra Singh. The GoM also includes West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, and Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal.



**Infrastructure investment trusts are enjoying immunity from insolvency proceedings and should be brought under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**  
**ASHWINI KUMAR TEWARI** | MD, SBI

### PEAK XV PARTNERS TOP INVESTOR

Venture Capital firm Peak XV is the most active investor in Indian startups with investment in 47 entities, according to ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2024. According to the index report, Peak XV is followed by Accel which has invested in 25 companies that are poised to become the next generation of unicorns



# Biz activity grows faster

**GAINS IN MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES SECTORS PUSH FLASH PMI TO 60.9 IN JUNE**

REUTERS

**Bangalore, June 21:** Business activity in India expanded at a faster clip this month from May thanks to gains in manufacturing and services, according to a business survey that also showed the pace of job creation was at its strongest in over 18 years.

Robust gains in both sectors at the end of the first fiscal quarter meant a strong start to India's economy this financial year after it expanded by 8.2% last year - the fastest expansion among major countries - partly led by buoyant manufacturing.

HSBC's flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, rose to 60.9 in June from last month's final reading of 60.5.

That marked nearly three years above the 50-level separating growth from contraction on a monthly basis.

"The composite flash PMI ticked up in June, supported by rises in both the manufacturing and service sectors, with the



**ROBUST DEMAND: JOB CREATION AT 18-MONTH HIGH IN JUNE**  
**NEW EXPORT ORDERS EXPANDED FOR 22ND CONSECUTIVE MONTH**  
**RISES IN SERVICES INPUT COSTS EASED TO A FOUR-MONTH LOW**

former recording a faster pace of growth," noted Maitreyi Das, global economist at HSBC.

The manufacturing index showed bigger gains to 58.5 from 57.5 in May while the dominant services industry's reading rose slightly to 60.4 this month from 60.2, adding to the continued expansion in India even as the global economy slows.

That was backed by a strong expansion in both manufacturing output and orders as well as business gains among services firms.

New export orders expanded

manufacturers was higher than in the services sector.

Boosting jobs will remain the biggest challenge for the Narendra Modi government which got elected for a rare third term earlier this month, a Reuters poll showed.

Meanwhile, price increases at firms have eased since May, boding well for the outlook on retail inflation. Rises in services input costs eased to a four-month low, while the pace of increases in prices charged to clients was broadly unchanged.

"Input cost inflation eased slightly in June, but remained elevated with panellists citing increases in labour and material costs. The output price index suggests manufacturing firms were able to pass on higher costs to customers," added Das.

"Optimism about future output weakened in June, but remained above the historical average."

Even though business optimism weakened to a three-month low, the outlook for the coming year remained positive as companies expect output gains based on proposals in the pipeline, efficiency gains and forecasts for favourable exchange rates.

**The composite flash PMI ticked up in June, supported by rises in both the manufacturing and service sectors, with the former recording a faster pace of growth**  
**MAITREYI DAS** | GLOBAL ECONOMIST, HSBC

for a 22nd consecutive month in June and remained robust, though the pace eased slightly after record growth last month.

Robust demand prompted companies to hire more people, with overall employment generation rising at the fastest pace since April 2006. Job creation among

## FEARS OF GROWTH SACRIFICE MPC views diverge further on rate cut

REUTERS

**Mumbai, June 21:** The Reserve Bank of India's rate panel has diverged further in its views on the need for high interest rates to tame inflation, with some fearing economic growth is being sacrificed, minutes of the latest monetary policy meeting released Friday showed.

The RBI's six monetary policy committee (MPC) members, split equally between internal and external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for an eighth straight meeting earlier this month.

But two external members voted for a 25 basis points rate cut and a change in the policy stance to 'neutral' from 'with-drawal of accommodation'.

Ashima Goyal, voting for a cut for the first time, said inflation itself is the best measure of potential growth in Indian conditions of growth transition.

"If headline inflation is approaching the target and core inflation is below target, and incoming data supports this, it implies growth is below potential

and NIR (neutral real policy rate) above neutral; so real policy rates can safely fall".

Based on average inflation in this fiscal year, the current rate is around 2%, much higher than the neutral real rate of 1%, which is ideal for the economy, Goyal said.

Annual retail inflation dropped to 4.75% in May from 4.83% in April, while core inflation hit a record low of 3.12%. Headline inflation is expected to average 4.5% this fiscal year and the RBI's target is 4%.

Professional forecasters surveyed by the RBI have projected 2025/26 and 2024/25 growth to be 0.75% below 2023/24, said Jayanth Varma, voting for a rate cut for the second straight meeting.

"This is an unacceptably high growth sacrifice considering that headline inflation is projected to be only about 0.5% above target, and core inflation is extremely benign."

Most members who voted to hold rates believe food inflation remains volatile and needs careful monitoring.



# Why food prices will remain high in India?

REUTERS

**New Delhi, June 21:** Food inflation in India, driven by supply-side factors like adverse weather affecting crops, has remained at around 8% year-on-year since November 2023 and is unlikely to ease any time soon, despite early arrival of monsoon rains and forecasts of above-normal rainfall.

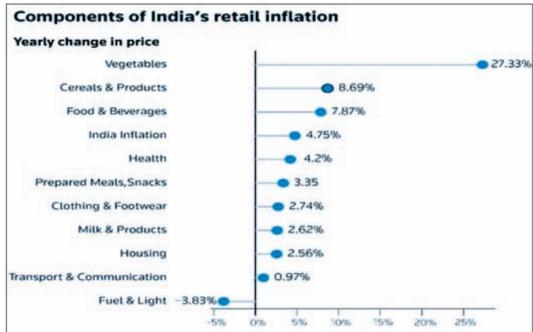
Elevated prices of food, which accounts for nearly half of the overall consumer price basket, has kept headline inflation above the central bank's target of 4%, preventing it from cutting interest rates.

### WHAT IS DRIVING FOOD INFLATION HIGHER?

A drought last year and an ongoing heat wave have significantly reduced the supplies of foods like pulses, vegetables, and cereals.

Curbs on food exports and reducing tariffs on imports have had little effect.

Although vegetable supplies generally decrease during the summer months, this year's decline is much more pronounced. Temperatures in nearly half of



the country are soaring 4-9 degrees Celsius above normal, spoiling harvested and stored vegetables and hindering the planting of crops such as onions, tomatoes, eggplant and spinach.

Farmers usually prepare vegetable seedlings before the June-September monsoon rains and transplant them to the main fields afterward. However, this year, the excessive heat and water scarcity have disrupted both seedling planting and replanting, further exacerbating the shortage of vegetables.

### WHY HAS THE MONSOON NOT HELPED?

The annual monsoon, on which India's agricultural output is dependent, arrived early in the southern tip of the country and advanced swiftly to cover the western state of Maharashtra ahead of schedule. However, its initial momentum soon waned, resulting in a 18% rainfall deficit so far this season.

Besides triggering the heat wave, the weakened monsoon has delayed the planting of summer-sown crops, which can only proceed at full pace with sufficient rainfall.

Prices of milk, cereals and pulses are unlikely to decrease soon due to tight supplies. Wheat supplies are dwindling, and the government has announced no plans to import grain, which will allow wheat prices to rise further.

Rice prices may increase as the government on Wednesday raised the minimum support price, or buying price, of paddy rice by 5.4%. Supplies of pulses, such as pigeon peas, black matpe and chickpeas, were severely affected by last year's drought, and will not improve until the new season crops are harvested.

Despite June's patchy rains, India's weather office has forecast above average rainfall for the rest of the monsoon season.

### WHEN WILL PRICES COME DOWN?

Vegetable prices are expected to fall from August onwards if the monsoon revives and covers the entire country as per the usual schedule. However, floods or a prolonged dry spell in July and August could disrupt the production cycle.

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Sugar prices are likely to remain high as next season's pro-

## PROFIT BOOKING

# Benchmarks snap record-breaking run

Shares snap six-day rally but still log third week of gains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 21:** Halting their record-breaking rally, equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure Friday as investors pared exposure to oil & gas, capital goods and FMCG stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets.

However, recent foreign capital inflows and buying in index majors Bharti Airtel, Infosys and TCS helped indices restrict the losses, traders said.

Snapping its six-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 269.03 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 77,209.90. During the day, it tanked 676.93 points or 0.87 per cent to 76,802.

The Nifty rose 100.1 points to hit a record intraday peak of 23,667.10 earlier in the day. However, it failed to maintain the momentum and slipped 65.90 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 23,501.10.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 217.13 points or 0.28 per cent, while the Nifty went up by 35.5 points or 0.15



per cent.

"The domestic market witnessed minor profit-booking amid concerns over the slow progress of monsoon, resulting in underperformance in the FMCG sector. The global markets were subdued as weak guidance from Accenture led to profit booking in US tech stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Rallying for the sixth straight session Thursday, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 141.34 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 77,478.93. The Nifty rose 51 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at its fresh closing high of 23,567.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

### JSP organises yoga camps

**ANGUL:** Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) and its social arm, JSP Foundation, observed the 10th International Day of Yoga at its plant premises and surrounding villages. A large number of yoga enthusiasts participated in the yoga camps held at various locations, engaging in yogic exercises. At the Angul location, the Executive Director in-charge, Pankaj Malhan, and Executive Director of Projects, Damodar Mittal, along with senior officials, department heads, employees, their families, and community members, joined the yoga camp.

The session was led by Yoga Guru Swami Satyabindu Saraswati, who guided the participants in alignment with this year's theme, "Yoga for Self and Society." On this occasion, Naveen Jindal, JSP Chairman and Member of Parliament from Kurukshetra Haryana, also highlighted the importance of yoga in his life and wrote on social media "Yoga has been a cornerstone of my life, and Pranayama in Yoga has been particularly helpful, empowering me with calm & clarity. It's not just exercise; it's focused mindfulness in any activity. Grateful to my gurus for guiding me in this invaluable practice."

### SBI celebrates across state

**BHUBANESWAR:** State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle has celebrated International Yoga Day in its branches and offices across Odisha. At Local Head Office (LHO) Bhubaneswar, a sand art was inaugurated by CGM Dinesh Pruthi in the presence of other senior officials and staff members of LHO. Trainers from Satyananda Yoga Vidyalaya Bhubaneswar conducted Yoga session at LHO lobby. More than 100 staffs attended the programme and learned various yoga postures and benefits of regular yoga activities.

### Colourful event at SOA

**BHUBANESWAR:** Students, faculty members and senior professors of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University here Friday joined the rest of the country in observing the International Yoga Day by organising a colourful programme. The celebration commenced early in the morning with a yoga session conducted by the professional Yoga Instructor Akhil Chandra Rana. A large number of overseas students, presently studying in SOA, also evinced keen interest in yoga and actively took part in the program. The program was attended by Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, eminent neuro-surgeon and Principal Advisor (Health Sciences) to SOA, Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare), Kamal Lochan Mahanta, Additional Program Coordinator and Ajit Kushwaha, Youth Officer, NSS, Bhubaneswar.

### BoB holds yoga session

**BHUBANESWAR:** On occasion of International Day of Yoga, Bank of Baroda Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar organised yoga session at Satyanand Yoga Vidyalaya, Jayadev Vihar Square, Bhubaneswar. In this occasion General Manager and Zonal Head of Bhubaneswar Zone, Swapna Bandhopadhyaya, AP Das Deputy General Manager (C&A), SP Nayak Deputy General Manager (BD), VMNS Saibabu, Staff member of Zonal Office, Region Office and Branch participated. Zonal Head Swapna Bandhopadhyaya addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of yoga practice in life.



## Retail inflation for farm, rural workers remain almost flat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 21:** Retail inflation for agricultural labourers and rural workers remained almost flat at 7 per cent and 7.02 per cent, respectively, in May as against the two comparative figures of 7.03 per cent and 6.96 per cent a month ago.

The corresponding figures in May 2023 were 5.99 per cent for CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and 5.84 per cent for CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers), a labour ministry statement said.

According to the statement, the point-on-point inflation rate based on CPI-AL was recorded at 7.00 per cent in May 2024, showing a deceleration from 7.03 per cent in April this year.

Conversely, it stated that for CPI-RL, the inflation rate was recorded at 7.02 per cent in May 2024, a marginal increase from 6.96 per cent in the preceding month.

The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) registered an increase of 6 points each in May 2024, reaching levels of 1,269 and 1,281, respectively.

## Forex kitty drops from record high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 21:** India's forex reserves dropped by \$2.922 billion to \$652.895 billion for the week ended June 14, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the kitty had jumped by \$4.307 billion to \$655.817 billion, a new all-time high after consecutive weeks of increase in the reserves. For the week ended June 14, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$2.097 billion to \$574.24 billion, the data released Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves decreased by \$1.015 billion to \$55.967 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$54 million to \$18.107 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was up by \$245 million to \$4.581 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

# India to 'bid hard' for 2036 Games

Mission Olympic Cell to lobby for inclusion of indigenous disciplines like kho kho and kabaddi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 21:** India's sports administrators would be 'lobbying' hard during the upcoming Paris Olympics to brighten the country's prospects of hosting the 2036 Games where they will push for the inclusion of indigenous disciplines like yoga, kho kho and kabaddi if their ambitious bid is successful. The Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) presented its detailed report on the measures needed for a successful bid to new Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya here Thursday. In this document, MOC has identified six disciplines, in-

cluding yoga, kho kho, kabaddi, chess, T20 cricket and squash for inclusion in the 2036 Olympics if the country manages to host the quadrennial extravaganza. "We met the new Sports Minister yesterday (Thursday) and handed him the report. The minister said he will need a few days to go through it. But he asked us to prepare another report on how sports can be a career option in the country, how to build interest among youths, how to bring private players into sports," a senior member of the MOC told this agency Friday on conditions of anonymity. "We are way ahead in preparing for the Olympic bid which will take place after Paris. But we

**We are way ahead in preparing for the Olympic bid, but we will have to do a lot of lobbying with IOC during the Paris Games**  
MOC MEMBER

will have to do a lot of lobbying with the IOC during the Paris Games and we are completely prepared," the member added. Inclusion of host country preferences will be for discussion much later as the hosting rights of the Games have not been finalised. The decision is likely only after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has a

new president after elections next year.

If at all, India's bid is successful, the proposed disciplines will first have to be introduced as demonstration events in the 2032 Brisbane Games before getting a final go ahead.

The MOC member however, pointed out that it won't be easy to win the Games hosting rights as India will have to compete against countries like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, China, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Canada, Spain, United Kingdom, Poland, Mexico, South Korea, Egypt, Chile, Turkey and Indonesia. Some of these countries like Germany, the UK and China have the experience of hosting the Olympics.

The MOC member also pointed out that while the inclusion of these sports would help in enhancing India's medals tally in 2036 Olympics, the road ahead is not easy as the country will have to extend all possible support in building the base for these disciplines in a minimum number of participating nations.

"The Sports Ministry asked the MOC to prepare a detailed report about our readiness for 2036 Olympics, including identifying new sporting disciplines. We researched in detail and identified six sports in which are strong. We have already submitted our report to the ministry which will take it up with the PMO in due course of time," the MOC member said.

As per IOC rules, the host organising committee of an Olympics can propose for the inclusion of one or more sports, which are popular in the region but that particular event has to be played in all five continents of the world.

# Pressure on top-order as India face Bangladesh

CRUCIAL ENCOUNTER FOR MEN IN BLUE AS A WIN WILL SEAL SPOT IN THE SEMIS

AGENCIES

**North Sound (Antigua), June 21:** The batting form of skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shivam Dube will be in focus when India take on Bangladesh in their next second Super 8 encounter of the T20 World Cup here Saturday. Coming into game after a 47-run win over Afghanistan, the Indians certainly start as favourites. However, they have to be wary of the Bangladeshis as they have the capacity to beat teams stronger than them.

India and Australia are the two unbeaten teams of the tournament so far. India with a flexible batting line-up, have depth till the No.9 spot. The only two, who can be called minnows, from the last game, are Kuldeep Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah. It is this depth in batting and the form of the bowlers led by Bumrah that have made India a strong contender this time.

However, amid this, is the constant worry as to when will Rohit and Kohli strike form. Both have got starts, but have failed to convert. Kohli had a awful time in the US where got five runs from three games and at Bridgetown he struggled to a run-a-ball 24 before perishing. Runs have also dried up for the skipper after his half century in the opening game against Ireland. In a T20 game, it should not be expected that Suryakumar Yadav will bail them out always as he did against the USA and Afghanistan.

However, Rohit is not fully



India will certainly hope that Virat Kohli returns to form in the Super 8 game against Bangladesh

worried. "We will bat as the situation demands. In T20 cricket, one will always have to take risks. Sometimes it comes off, sometimes it doesn't. We have depth in batting and somebody or the other is delivering so far," he said.

Bowling-wise, India have been clinical throughout the tournament, with Bumrah having an economy rate of less than four per over. Rohit was asked after the Afghanistan game whether India would continue with three spinners against Bangladesh. "We will assess the condition and decide. It all depends on the pitch," he added.

For Bangladesh the lack of form of their batters has been a source of worry for skipper Najmul Shanto. The lack of power-hitters is hurting them. Shanto said after the Australia game that he is hoping that the

## SURYA EQUALS KOHLI'S RECORD

**Bridgetown:** Suryakumar Yadav's half century Thursday against Afghanistan got him the man of the match award and in the process he also equalled a world record held by Virat Kohli. It was the 15th time Surya got the MoM award in the history of T20 cricket, the same as that of Kohli. However, Surya reached the target in 61 innings while Kohli needed 113 innings to achieve the same feat. "I think there's a lot of hard work, there are a lot of process and routine involved in it. I am clear in my mind what I want to do," Surya stated.

batters strike form. "It's very important for the top-order to get runs. We are looking for a good show against India in our next match," he stated.

## SHORT TAKES

### Alcaraz beaten

**London:** Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz's build-up took a hit when he lost in the second round of Queen's Club tennis tournament here Thursday. Alcaraz, the defending Queen's champion and top seed, lost to Jack Draper 6-7 (3-7), 3-6. For Draper, the British No. 1, it was the biggest win of his career. He was impressively composed in front of his home crowd. Draper ended Alcaraz's eight-match win streak while extending his own to seven after winning his first ATP title last week in Stuttgart.

### India to tour SA

**Johannesburg:** India will tour South Africa for a short four-match T20I series in November this year, CSA and the BCCI announced in a joint statement Friday. As per the itinerary released by CSA, the series will begin November 8 at the Kingsmead Stadium in Durban, followed by matches in Gqeberha (November 10), Centurion (December 13) and Johannesburg (November 15). "I would like to thank the BCCI for their continued support to South Africa's cricket," CSA chairperson Lawson Naidoo said in a statement.

### Gangjee in command

**Selangor (Malaysia):** India's Rahul Gangjee shot a three-under-67 to take a massive five-shot lead after the third and penultimate round of the Selangor Masters golf tournament here Friday. Gangjee has two wins on the Asian Tour - at the Volkswagen Masters in 2004 in China and then 14 years later in Japan at the Panasonic Open. The 45-year-old is making a comeback from an injury and is showing better form with each round. Gangjee overcame two early bogeys and went on a run of five birdies in eight holes to take a firm grip on the tournament at the Kelab Golf Seri Selangor.

### Baggio villa burgled

**Rome:** Retired Italy football star Roberto Baggio was robbed at gunpoint Thursday at his home while watching the national team's game against Spain. At least five armed robbers burst into Baggio's villa near the northern city of Vicenza around 10 pm. One struck Baggio on the head with the butt of a gun when the former player confronted them. The robbers locked the 57-year-old Baggio and his family in a room while they stole jewellery, watches and cash. After the thieves left, Baggio broke down the door and called the police. He was taken to the hospital and received stitches for the wound.

## REST OF ODISHA-C WIN KALAHANDI CUP



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** Rest of Odisha-C defeated BBSR-A by seven runs in a thrilling final of the Kalahandi Cup cricket tournament for senior men at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack Friday. It was a low scoring affair with bowlers of both the sides dominating the show. However, it was the all-round performance of Debabrata Pradhan of Rest of Odisha-C which helped his team to emerge champions.

BBSR-A won the toss and put the opposition in on a pitch which had enough for the bowlers. Biswabhusan Bihari (51) and Pradhan (31) were the only ones to offer some resistance to the opposition bowlers as Rest of Odisha-C were bowled out for 134 in 45.3 overs. The other batters of Rest of Odisha-C failed to make any substantial contribu-

tion. Sambit Baral (6/34) was the star performer with the ball for BBSR-A.

Little that Baral knew then his brilliant spell of bowling would be overshadowed by Pradhan. When BBSR-A batted they found the going extremely tough against Pradhan (6/46) and Soubhagya Rout (4/39) and they were dismissed for 127. Only Sandeep Patnaik (68) managed to offer resistance to Pradhan and Rout with a fighting half century.

For his efforts with both the bat and ball, Pradhan was adjudged the man of the match.

In the prize distribution ceremony among others former India player Debasis Mohanty and the present coach of the senior Odisha team, Surendra Bhawe were present. Officials of OCA, OOA and OFA also graced the prize distribution ceremony.

## Aussies overpower Bangladesh

CUMMINS BECOMES 2ND AUSTRALIAN BOWLER TO BAG A T20 WC HAT-TRICK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

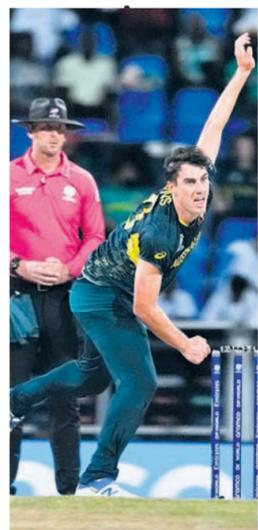
**North Sound (Antigua), June 21:** Premier pacer Pat Cummins (3/29) grabbed the tournament's first hat-trick and leg-spinner Adam Zampa (2/24) showcased his artistry to fashion Australia's 28-run win over Bangladesh via the Duckworth Lewis (DLS) method in their Super 8 fixture of the T20 World Cup here Thursday.

If Zampa operated with precision in the middle overs, Cummins claimed three wickets off successive balls at the back end, as Australia restricted Bangladesh to 140 for eight after Mitchell Marsh opted to bowl first in the rain-interrupted game.

Veteran opener David Warner (53 n o, 35b, 5x4, 3x6) then hit a scintillating half century to put Australia in command when rain

## CUMMINS IN ELITE GROUP

**North Sound (Antigua):** Australia pacer Pat Cummins grabbed the first hat-trick of the ongoing T20 World Cup during the team's Super 8 match against Bangladesh here. Cummins thus joined compatriot Brett Lee, the only other Australian to take a T20 World Cup hat-trick, which also came against Bangladesh in 2007. The others who have achieved hat-tricks in the T20I World Cup are Curtis Campher (Ireland, 2021), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka, 2021) and Kagiso Rabada (South Africa 2021).



Pat Cummins

interrupted play. Despite the twin blows however, Australia never looked in trouble as Warner went about his business. Playing his last T20 World Cup, he brought up his fifty with a majestic six.

When rain stopped play for the second time, Australia were 100 for two in 11.2 overs, 28 runs ahead of the DLS par score of 72.

Earlier, skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (41) and Towhid Hridoy (40, 28b, 2x4, 2x6) took Bangladesh

## SA pip England in exciting tie

**Gross Islet:** South Africa defeated England by seven runs in a close Super 8 match of the T20 World Cup here Friday. After being put it, South Africa scored 163 for six riding on a brilliant blitzkrieg by Quinton de Kock (65, 38b, 4x4, 4x6). He was well-supported by David Miller (43, 28b, 4x4, 2x6). In fact, it was Miller's innings which took the Proteas past the 160-run mark and ensured victory for them. Jofra Archer (3/40) was the pick of the England bowlers. England were four down for 61 at one stage before brilliant half century by Harry Brook (53, 37b, 7x4) and his fifth wicket partnership of 78 runs with Liam Livingstone (33, 17b, 3x4, 2x6) revived. However, once Livingstone was dismissed by Kagiso Rabada (2/32) in the 18th over, England's chase fell off. Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (2/25) also stifled England in the middle overs while picking up the important wickets of Jos Buttler (17) and Jonny Bairstow (16).

past the 125-run mark. But any chance of a strong finish was dashed by Cummins who took the wickets Mahmudullah, Mahedi and Hridoy.

**Brief scores:** Bangladesh 140 for 8 (Najmul Shanto 41, Towhid Hridoy 40, Pat Cummins 3/29) lost to Australia 100 for 2 in 11.2 overs (David Warner 53 n o) by 28 runs.

## Dominant Spain seal last 16 spot

AGENCIES

**Gelsenkirchen (Germany), June 21:** Spain qualified for the last 16 of Euro 2024 with a match to spare after beating Italy 1-0 Thursday in a dominant display which ensured that La Roja would go through as Group B winners.

Riccardo Calafiori's own goal nine minutes after half time was the difference between the two sides here. But the slender margin of victory didn't reflect a statement performance from Spain who completely nullified Italy and should have had the game won by half time, as they did in their opening round thumping of Croatia.

Nico Williams was the star for Spain as he ran Napoli right-back Giovanni Di Lorenzo ragged



Spanish players celebrate after Italy's Riccardo Calafiori's (lying on ground) own goal Thursday

and supplied the cross from which the unfortunate Calafiori poked the winning goal into his own net.

Luis de la Fuente's team have a perfect six points at the top of the group and take on Albania, Monday knowing that they are already in the knock-

out rounds and playing like potential champions.

For Italy Thursday's deserved defeat was a reality check as vibrant Spain peppered the brilliant Gianluigi Donnarumma's goal throughout the match while the Azzurri failed to have a single attempt on target.

## Ukraine script comeback win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dusseldorf, June 21:** Ukraine kept themselves in contention at the European Championships as Roman Yaremchuk's goal sealed a 2-1 victory over Slovakia here Friday. The win revived the team's campaign in Euro 2024.

Slovakia took the lead in the 17th minute with a header from Ivan Schranz. However, in the second half Oleksandr Zinchenko crossed low for Mykola Shaparenko to score Ukraine's opening goal of the tournament in the 54th. Shaparenko played his part in the second goal, too, sending a long pass over the top for Yaremchuk, who scored to script an amazing comeback for his side.

## 2 from Odisha in Varsity chess team

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 21:** Saina Salonika and Juni Birua of Odisha have been selected to the Indian Universities chess squad that will participate in the FISU World University Chess Championships-2024. The tournament will be held at Entebbe in Uganda, June 25 to 30.

The selection trials for the Indian team were held at KIIT campus. Incidentally both Saina and Junu are students of KIIT - Deemed to be University from June 18. The two others in the four-member squad are Akanksha Hagawane and Mokshada Mahajan (both from Bharati Vidyapeeth in Pune). Junu incidentally is the first tribal girl to represent India in the FISU championships.



This is the second time that India are participating in the competition, the first being in 2018.

Two other persons from KIIT are a part of the Indian squad. The first is Sekhar Chandra Sahu, International Master, senior FIDE trainer and chess consultant of KIIT, who has been selected as the head coach of the team. Lucky Rani Patra will accompany the team as an official. The entire squad will be leaving for Entebbe from Mumbai, Saturday.