



## Seeking inspiration

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh admires Konkona Sensharma's career and hopes to be directed by her, seeking inspiration and guidance for future projects

LEISURE | P2



## Putin warns US

Russia may deploy new strike weapons in response to the planned US stationing of missiles in Germany, Russian President Vladimir Putin said

INTERNATIONAL | P9



## 5-fold inflow

Investment in equity mutual funds surges over five-fold to ₹94,151 crore in the June 2024 quarter against ₹18,358 crore a year ago

BUSINESS | P10



## India misses title

Resilient Sri Lanka carve an eight-wicket win over defending champions India to bag their maiden women's Asia Cup title

SPORTS | P12

## SHORT TAKES

### CM seeks Central officers' help for 'New Odisha'

**Bhubaneswar:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday sought cooperation of senior officers from the state working in various Central government departments to help build a 'New Odisha' by 2036, marking the state's 100th year of formation. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi after a meeting with Odisha cadre IAS and other senior officers on Central deputation, Majhi emphasised the state's mission to become a developed state by 2047, coinciding with India's 100 years of Independence. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, and other senior Odisha government officials.

### NBS Rajput new Principal Secretary to Governor

**Bhubaneswar:** The state government has appointed IAS officer NBS Rajput as the Principal Secretary to Governor Raghubar Das. The 1999-batch IAS officer has been assigned this role following his return from Central deputation, according to a notification by the state's General Administration and Public Grievances Department Sunday. Saswat Mishra, the current Principal Secretary to the governor, has been posted as Principal Secretary of the Finance department. Mishra will also retain his additional responsibilities as Principal Secretary of the Energy department and Chairman of the Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC), the notification added.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



This place trains you for life. If not a civil servant, you can definitely be a firefighter or lifeguard

### WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.0°C	33.7°C
Min Temp	26.0°C	25.0°C
Humidity	97%	92%
Rainfall	3.7	12.8

### FORECAST

GENERALLY CLOUDY SKY WITH HEAVY RAIN

### Hirakud water released; Collectors asked to remain alert

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** In the wake of heavy rain, the authorities of Hirakud Dam in Odisha Sunday released excess water from the reservoir, the first such an exercise in the current monsoon season, an official said.

The water was released through 20 of the 67 gates of the dam to downstream of the Mahanadi river, he said. Collectors of seven downstream districts have been requested to remain alert and monitor the situation, another official said.

The exercise was undertaken as the water level in the reservoir was rising due to rain in the river upstream. Water Resources Department Engineer-in-Chief Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty said. The gates have been opened in three phases – seven at 9.30am, another seven at 12.30pm and the remaining six at 2.30pm, to flush out excess water from the reservoir, he said. "All the Water Resources Department officials have been asked to remain in their headquarters and keep a close watch on the situation," he said.

# Manu guns down bronze



**PROUD MOMENT:** Manu Bhaker poses during the medal ceremony for the 10m Air Pistol Women event of the Shooting competitions in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at Chateauroux, France

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chateauroux (France), July 28:** A resilient Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman shooter to claim an Olympic medal by snaring a bronze in the 10m air pistol event here Sunday, a triumph that opened the country's account in the Paris Games and ended a 12-year wait for its much-hyped shooters.

Rifle shooters Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta further lifted the spirits of the contingent at the scenic range, located nearly 300km away from Paris, by securing final spots in the 10m air rifle women's and men's event respectively to keep India in the hunt for more medals.

The scene here was in complete contrast to the Tokyo

Olympics three years back when only 10m air pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary, among the 15 who had gone from India, made it to the final, only to fade into oblivion in the ensuing years.

Bhaker was part of that team and had gone home in tears after drawing a blank.

"After Tokyo I was very disappointed and it took me a very long time to overcome that. Frankly speaking, I really can't explain how good I am feeling today," Bhaker, whose pistol malfunctioned during the qualification of the same event three years ago, said with a wide smile on her face.

"In Bhagwat Gita, Krishna says to Arjuna that 'you focus on your karma and not on the outcome of the karma'. Only that was

running in my head," she revealed when asked about her state of mind during the final.

The last time India won shooting medals at the Olympics was in 2012 London edition where rapid-fire pistol shooter Vijay Kumar and 10m air rifle marksman Gagan Narang clinched silver and bronze respectively.

Narang is the chef de mission of the Paris contingent right now.

The 22-year-old Bhaker, who hails from Hajar in Haryana, fought hard to get the bronze with a score of 221.7 here. Korea's Kim Yeji claimed the silver with a total of 241.3, while her compatriot Jin Ye Oh bagged the gold with a Games record of 243.2.

"I was fighting with all the energy I have. Really grateful that I could win the bronze. I

read Bhagwat Gita and always tried to do what I am supposed to do, left everything else to god.

"We can't fight destiny," added the world champion in 25m pistol event.

Bhaker was in the second position till the second last shot but the Indian fell behind after Yeji shot 10.5 in response to her 10.3, ruling her out of gold medal shoot-off.

**A historic medal! Well done, @realmanubhaker, for winning India's FIRST medal at #ParisOlympics2024! Congrats for the Bronze. This success is even more special as she becomes the first woman to win a medal in shooting for India. An incredible achievement!**

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

**Heartiest congratulations to Manu Bhaker for clinching the bronze medal in the air pistol event at Paris 2024! Your relentless dedication, hard work, and passion have truly paid off. It's incredible to witness your skill and determination, bringing pride to India with each shot. This achievement is a testament to your perseverance and determination. Keep shining, Manu!**

ABHINAV BINDRA | INDIA'S ONLY SHOOTING GOLD MEDALLIST

# Two held; political blame game begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 28:** The Delhi police Sunday arrested the owner and the coordinator of 'Rau's IAS Study Circle' in central Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar area where three civil service aspirants died in flooding caused due to heavy rains, even as a probe into the incident has revealed that absence of drainage system and safety measures, and illegal use of basement for commercial activities led to the tragedy at the coaching centre.

While the arrested duo was booked for culpable homicide and other charges, a political blame game erupted as the BJP and the Congress attacked the

## DELHI COACHING CENTRE FLOODING

AAP government, calling the incident a "murder".

Shreya Yadav of Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana, and Navin Dalwin from Ernakulam in Kerala died after the basement of a building housing the coaching institute was flooded following heavy rain Saturday evening.

Some students alleged that the incident took place because of people getting trapped in the basement due to malfunctioning of entry-exit biometric system.

According to the officials, the three-storey coaching institute, surrounded by residential and commercial establishments, had



permission to use the basement as a store room, but it was being used as library in violation of the rules. Meanwhile, hundreds of civil services aspirants staged a protest in the area.

Families and friends of the victims demanded action

against those involved in the tragic incident.

The Congress called for fixing accountability over the death of three IAS aspirants in Delhi, with Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, asserting that common people are paying the price for "irresponsibility of institutions" at every level.

The BJP demanded registration of cases against concerned officers for "criminal negligence" and resignation of Water Minister Atishi and local AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak for the death of three civil services aspirants.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) demanded crackdown on illegal commercial operations in basements across Delhi. P8

# DOUBLE MURDER ROCKS REDHAKHOL; ONE HELD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Naktideul, July 28:** A couple was brutally murdered while they were asleep at their home in Pandurishila village of Ghosharamal panchayat under Redhakhol police limits in Sambalpur district, late Saturday night. The deceased were identified as Abraham Kujur, 35, and his wife Kuanri Kujur, 30.

According to police, Abraham along with his wife Kuanri and their three-year-old youngest daughter went to sleep inside their room after finishing dinner Saturday night. Hearing their screams at around midnight, Abraham's younger brother Surendra Kujur,

who was sleeping in an adjacent room, woke up and found a person, with his face covered, running away. When he went inside the room he found Abrraham lying on the bed and Kuanri on the ground in pools of blood.

On Sunday, the Redhakhol police arrested Shiraka Karma, brother-in-law of Abraham and a resident of Budhipani village near Pandurishila, in connection with the murders. During interrogation, Shiraka allegedly told the police that he killed the couple who would shelter his wife whenever she left home after a fight with him. The police have seized the murder weapon and forwarded the accused to court.

# Type of mouth bacteria 'melts' some cancers, says study

Scientists have discovered that a common type of mouth bacteria can make certain cancers "melt".

Researchers at Guy's and St Thomas' and King's College London said they had been "brutally surprised" to find that fusobacterium – a type of bacteria commonly found in the mouth – appears to have the ability to kill certain cancers.

People with head and neck cancers who were found to have this bacteria within their cancer have

been found to have much better outcomes, according to a study.

Researchers are now looking into the exact biological mechanisms behind the link after the initial findings.

Dr Miguel Reis Ferreira, the study's senior author and a consultant in head and neck cancers at Guy's and St Thomas', told the PA news agency: "In essence, we found that when you find these bacteria within head and neck cancers, they have much better outcomes. The other



thing that we found is that in cell cultures this bacterium is

capable of killing cancer. "What we're finding is that

this little bug is causing a better outcome based on something that it's doing inside the cancer. So we are looking for that mechanism at present, and it should be the theme for a new paper in the very short-term future."

He added: "This research reveals that these bacteria play a more complex role than previously known in their relationship with cancer – that they essentially melt head and neck cancer cells. However, this finding should be balanced by their

known role in making cancers such as those in the bowel get worse."

Scientists used modelling to help identify which bacteria may be of interest to further investigate. Then they studied the effect of the bacteria on cancerous cells in a laboratory and also performed an analysis of data on 155 patients with head and neck cancer whose tumour information had been submitted to the Cancer Genome Atlas database. THE GUARDIAN



# leisure



## ROBERT DOWNEY JR. MAKES A COMEBACK AS 'DOCTOR DOOM'

Actor Robert Downey Jr. is set to return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) as 'Victor von Doom/Doctor Doom' in a new *Avengers* movie titled *Avengers: Doomsday*. The upcoming film will be directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, reports *Variety.com*.

## STAR WARS GOLD BIKINI AUCTIONED AT \$175K

The iconic gold bikini worn by the late star Carrie Fisher in *Star Wars: Episode VI—Return of the Jedi*, where she played the role of Princess Leia, has been sold at auction for \$175,000 (₹1,46,51,437). The costume, which includes hip rings and bracelets, is one of the most famous outfits in film history.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You will be resolute and unswerving in your work today. By afternoon, you'll see results. Love will lighten your workload in the evening, when you meet your beloved. If single, you may come across someone very interesting, muses Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
Today you are likely to reach out for things that are beyond your reach and capabilities. Ganesh, nevertheless, assures that you will succeed in attaining your objectives through sheer force of your self confidence and self conviction. The first half of the day will provide you lots of love and affection of elders and superiors.

**GEMINI**  
You need to be cautious and yet at the same time committed in any work that you do today. You believe in doing everything at a steady pace. Hence, make sure that every work that you take up is performed in a scheduled manner. You need to pay special attention to your health today, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
A longing to spend a day with your loved ones may keep you preoccupied. Maybe, lately you have been neglecting your personal life, and today you will like to more than make-up for it, indicates Ganesh. Renovation and home decoration plans may feature high on your to-do list, but then it is possible that you will not enjoy footing the bill later.

**LEO**  
Some small conflicts could emerge in your marital life. However, a small gift for your spouse can work miracles. You ought to spend time in pleasurable company to get rid of mental stress. Ego clashes are a distinct possibility, hence avoid arguments and confrontations, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Despite all the adversity that you face, you will stay firmly down to earth. Ganesh says there is a strong likelihood of the afternoon bringing some good tidings and good results that you have been looking forward to. Love and peace will prevail in your domestic life. Later today, Ganesh says, you may develop some new friendships.

**LIBRA**  
Time is money. Today, this statement will have greater significance as you identify the upshot of time in your line of work. Every second counts for you, and you may fall back on the good old personal planner to sort things out. Also, early in the day, you may take up some burning issues and elaborate your views on them in a taking-the-bull-by-the-horns manner.

**SCORPIO**  
The planets indicate you won't look before you leap, and commit to a hasty decision at work, says Ganesh. In the afternoon, all those efforts you put in will go down the drain. Expect to catch a seat all alone on a business trip, says Ganesh. In the evening, you may walk that extra mile to please your beloved.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Calm and quite, you are in a mood of introspection today, foresees Ganesh. You will express your feelings and come out as a sentimental person in front of your family members. Afternoon is packed with appointments, either for business or fun and entertainment activities.

**CAPRICORN**  
Striving hard to meet deadlines and taking time out to pursue your passion will be the major highlights of the day, says Ganesh. You may also wonder why your boss suddenly appears so pleased with you, but don't get carried away by the outward show. When everything seems right is exactly when you need to watch out for trouble.

**AQUARIUS**  
Good news about a loved one will bring on a festive mood. You only need an itchy-bitsy excuse to party, and that's what you'll do today! You will make new friends, and they will prove helpful in times of need. Ganesh suggests a candlelit dinner to round up a perfect day.

**PISCES**  
Today will find you resolute and unwavering in everything that you pursue, and it is a good thing to be, for you will find yourself making substantial progress come afternoon. New relationships could be in the offing today as well, says Ganesh.

## Sharvari reflects on audience appreciation

**Mumbai:** Actress Sharvari Wagh, during an interview with a media portal, spoke about getting to do the kind of work she wants to do, strictly focusing on her work for now and more.

When asked about audience appreciation, the actress, who debuted with *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, said, "I feel immensely blessed. I have had two releases across platforms, *Munjya* in the theatres and *Maharaj* on OTT. As an actor, it's a great feeling to get appreciation from a diverse audience. Also, for a new actor like me, to be able to enter the ₹100 crore club with my second film (*Munjya*) makes a lot of difference. It allows me to do the kind of work that I have always wanted to do. When you know that the audience is loving and appreciating your work, it empowers you as an actor; producers and directors want to work with you."

About the audience response to her horror comedy *Munjya*, Sharvari said, "*Munjya*'s success came from its fresh concept and unique CGI actor; a first in India, which sparked audience curiosity. The film's no-star cast introduced new faces, further drawing interest. Initially, the buzz attracted

viewers, but its lasting success was driven by positive word-of-mouth. From the moment I heard the narration, I knew it would do well."

On the work front, Sharvari will be seen next in *Vedaa*, co-starring John Abraham, and has *Alpha*, alongside Alia Bhatt, in the pipeline.



## Chitrangada on being labelled arrogant



**Mumbai:** Actress Chitrangada Singh, who was last seen in the film *Gaslight*, recently talked about her movies and acknowledged that she didn't have as many credits in her filmography as she would have liked and also talked about the secret of staying relevant. The *Desi Boyz* actress revealed the reason behind not doing the types of roles she likes. She shared, "It's the lack of good offers. I am here to work, but I don't want to work for the sake of it. Obviously, everyone needs money, but you don't want to compromise on your creative choices and how you see yourself and your potential."

However, she added that with the voices around, it did get difficult at times to stick her ground. "Sometimes word goes around that 'arre, ye to difficult hai', and you get all kinds of labels like 'arrogant' and 'stubborn' very easily, just because you don't want to adhere to the norms. But I found these labels very weird because I love cinema."

She also expressed gratitude to her audience for always keeping her relevant. She mentioned that no matter how much one works, only four or five films will be remembered by people. She acknowledged that while today's industry is focused on numbers, ultimately, the audience will remember the roles they have connected with, and she is thankful for having played a few such roles.

**MUMBAI:** Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, who was last seen in *Sam Bahadur*, is glad she got an opportunity to share screen space with Konkona Sensharma in her upcoming film, Anurag Basu's *Metro...In Dino*.

The actress is hugely inspired by the latter's career trajectory, who excels in front of the camera and has also shown her flair for direction (with *A Death In The Gunj* and *The Mirror* in the anthology *Lust Stories*).

"I aspire to have a career path like Konkona's. Unhone kaise apna career dhoonda, woh mujhe pasand hai. She is also a good director," she said.

Fatima hopes that in the near future, she gets a chance to be directed by Konkona. She concluded, "I have told Konkona to cast me in her next film because, with some people, you just know that you are in safe hands. She is such a good actor, and I think she would guide me in the right direction. I always seek directors who I know will help me push my boundaries as an actor. So that is what I crave, and I know that Konkona can be that kind of director. Hence, I have been telling her...ki likh yaar script likh, direct kar and cast me in it. I am free."



## Fatima wants to emulate Konkona

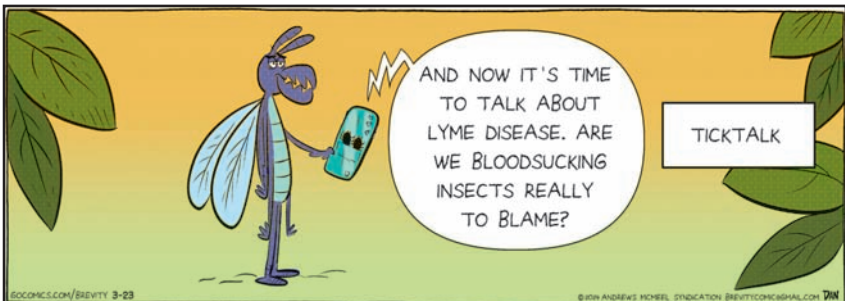
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

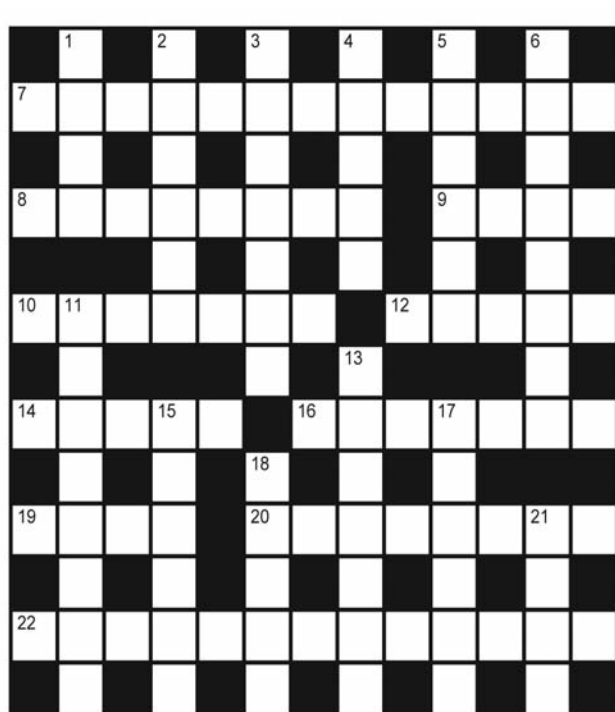


### BREVITY



### FUN post

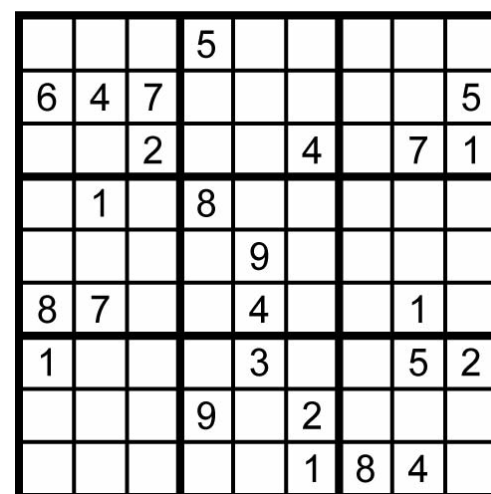
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Game room addition (8,5)
  - 8 Aura
  - 9 Blessing
  - 10 Tornado
  - 12 Sudden short attack
  - 14 Goldbrick
  - 16 Fervency
  - 19 Ablutinary vessel
  - 20 Weatherstrip
  - 22 Internal layer of a mollusk shell (6-2-5)
- Down**
- 1 Shipshape
  - 2 Fife relatives
  - 3 Meal fit for a king
  - 4 Parting word
  - 5 Cane material
  - 6 Imaginary place of great wealth
  - 11 Big name in pottery
  - 13 Misrepresent
  - 15 Like some humour
  - 17 Flatware
  - 18 Jewelled headdress
  - 21 School session

### 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.

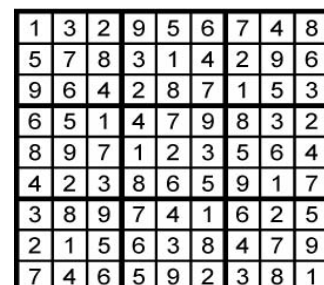


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## CHILDREN'S FEST

Children participate in a fancy dress competition on the occasion of 44th National Children's Festival and Women's Special-2024, organised by Swagatika in collaboration with Odia Language Literature and Culture department at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



# Dengue cases cross 200-mark in City



**Bhubaneswar recorded a total of 211 cases till July 27 (164 cases in July only) while the entire Khurda district has recorded 467 such cases**

partment and are submitting their reports," Mishra said adding that like the cases of dengue, the number of diarrhoea cases is also rising in the state for which people have to remain vigilant. More number of such cases has been reported from Sundargarh district, he mentioned.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** The number of dengue cases in the Capital city has crossed 200-mark with the state's tally surpassing 1,000, even as the vector-borne disease has taken many districts in the state into its grip.

According to sources, Bhubaneswar recorded a total of 211 cases till July 27 (164 cases in July only) while the entire Khurda district has recorded 467 such cases that also include some cases from other districts, out of 11,931 tests conducted so far.

With the southwest monsoon fully set in and the state experiencing continuous rainfall, the threat of waterborne diseases looms large. However,

the state government said that it has taken measures to contain the spread of seasonal ailments.

The state government has recently directed all district Collectors and municipal commissioners to take necessary measures to control diarrhoea along with malaria and dengue outbreak during monsoon.

About the direction, Director of Public Health Nilakantha Mishra said control rooms for waterborne diseases at all the district headquarter hospitals (DDHs) have been made active and special combined control rooms have been opened for dengue cases.

"Officials are working as per the direction of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) de-

partment and are submitting their reports," Mishra said adding that like the cases of dengue, the number of diarrhoea cases is also rising in the state for which people have to remain vigilant. More number of such cases has been reported from Sundargarh district, he mentioned.

The health officials along with others are carrying out awareness programmes and doing surveys at doorsteps, said the Public Health director.

He further said that as the cases of snakebites are increasing, adequate amount of anti-venom injections have been made available at the hospitals. "We are also keeping a close eye on the diphtheria cases and the health workers are conducting surveillance in the nearby areas where such cases are reported. The suspected persons are given anti-diphtheria serum doses. We also have asked the people to stay alert for such diseases," said Mishra.

Meanwhile, IMD said that the heavy rainfall is likely to lash many districts until July 31.

# Probe into Ratna Bhandar keys soon: Min

**LAW MINISTER PRITHVIRAJ HARICHANDAN CRITICISES THE PREVIOUS BJD GOVERNMENT FOR ALLEGEDLY CREATING "UNNECESSARY DRAMA" ABOUT THE RATNA BHANDAR KEYS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Sunday said that the issue of duplicate keys to the 'Ratna Bhandar' will be probed and necessary action will be taken against those who played with the sentiments of Odia people and Jagannath traditions.

He also said the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will soon begin repair of the Ratna Bhandar of the temple treasury, followed by the inner chamber (Bhitara Bhandar), he said. "A minor correction has been made to the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the repair



work and the date will be finalised soon," Harichandan said.

He emphasised that the rituals of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities will not be disrupted during the repair work.

The state government is also

considering whether to perform laser scanning of the inner chamber to detect any secret compartments, Harichandan said.

Addressing the issue of duplicate keys to the 'Ratna Bhandar', the Law Minister criticised the previous Biju Janata

Dal (BJD) government for allegedly creating "unnecessary drama" about the keys to avoid opening of the treasury.

"An investigation will be conducted, and those who played with the sentiments of Odia people and Jagannath traditions will be held accountable. Necessary action will be taken," he said.

Fulfilling the election promise of the BJP, the newly-formed government has initiated the process of making a list of the ornaments and valuables stored inside Ratna Bhandar and repairing the structure.

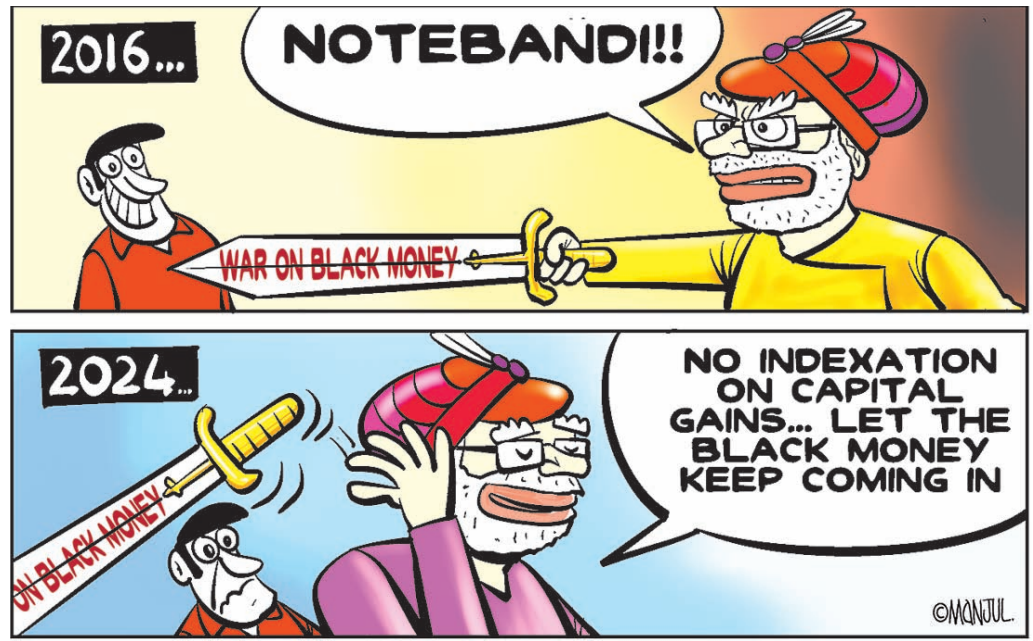
A panel formed for this purpose opened the outer and inner chambers of the Ratna Bhandar and transferred the valuables to temporary strong rooms July 14 and 18 respectively.

## 3 women arrested for loot in Mo Bus

**Bhubaneswar:** Commissionerate Police Sunday arrested three women from Chhatisgarh for allegedly robbing Mo Bus passengers here.

Nayapalli police station IIC Satyaranjan Pradhan said the accused were identified as Chaya Patra, 45, Lata Sende, 50 and Ujjala Angantal Patri, 20. As per a plan, the trio boarded a jam-packed Mo Bus near CRPF Square August 27 and snatched away the purse of a woman containing ₹25,000 cash. Since the victim was carrying an infant in her arms, she could not apprehend the trio, who alighted near NABARD Square immediately after the loot. The victim lodged a complaint with Nayapalli police who swung into action and arrested the three women. The cops also seized Rs 22,500 from their possession.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



**CHOCK-A-BLOCK:** Traffic near Rasulgarh Square in Bhubaneswar comes to a standstill Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Centre for mandatory floodplain zoning law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 28:** With only four states complying despite repeated reminders, the Centre is contemplating making it mandatory for states to enact floodplain zoning legislation if they want to access central flood management funds, officials have said.

The four states that have enacted such legislations are: Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and the erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir. A senior official said the Ministry of Jal Shakti has been in continuous communication with state governments, urging them to notify the Flood Plain Zoning Act and demarcate flood zones.

Recently, the Central Water Commission updated the Model Act, and the ministry plans to initiate another round of consultations with states, the official said. The official said the ministry has proposed making the enactment of the Flood Plain Zoning Act a prerequisite for

states to access funds under the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP).

"We are going for a Cabinet approval for the next phase of the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme. For that, now the condition for any State to access resources under the FMBAP will be that the state must have enacted the Flood Plain Zoning Act. So, you will not get money if you have not enacted the Flood Plain Zoning Act," the official said.

The official said the ministry has made several other efforts to address these issues.

"In May 2022, the Secretary of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation wrote to state Chief Secretaries, urging them to enact appropriate legislation. In a meeting in January 2023, the Secretary emphasized the importance of flood plain zoning for comprehensive flood management and minimizing flood damage," the official added.

# CISF officer killed in mishap; 1 held



DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** The Airport police here Sunday arrested a man for allegedly mowing down a CISF officer here while driving under the influence of alcohol Saturday evening.

According to police, Niranjan Pradhan, the CISF officer posted at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), succumbed to injuries he sustained during a head-on collision between his bike and a four-wheeler near Kargil Basti Saturday night.

Zone II ACP Krushna Chandra Palei said the accused has been identified as Sovan Mohapatra, 34, a native of Nayagarh district who works as a painter here. A drunken Sovan was driving rashly when he knocked Pradhan to death on Pokhariput-Palaspali stretch. The incident occurred around 8:30pm when Niranjan was coming to duty on his motorcycle.

Niranjan, who sustained serious head injuries, was rushed to Sunshine Hospitals by locals, where he succumbed to the injuries in the wee hours of Saturday.

Sovan, who admitted to his fault, was arrested and breath analyser test showed 239 - higher than permissible limit of 50, said the police adding that the four-wheeler has been seized.

Airport police have booked him under relevant Sections of Motor Vehicles Act and BNS, before producing him before a local court Sunday.

# Modi urged to bring back Netaji's remains from Japan by August 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, July 28:** Legendary freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose Sunday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring back the "mortal remains of Netaji" from Japan's Renkoji temple by August 18.

He also said a final statement should come from the Union government on the matter so that "false narratives" about Netaji are laid to rest.

Stating that the NDA-led government took initiative to de-classify files related to the freedom fighter, Bose said after the release of all the "10 inquiries-national and international", it is evident that "Netaji perished on August 18, 1945" in an air crash in Taiwan.

"It is therefore imperative that a final statement is made from the Government of India so that false narratives about the lib-

erator of India are laid to rest," Bose wrote in a letter to Modi Sunday.

"My humble appeal to you is to bring back the mortal remains of Netaji from Renkoji to India by August 18, 2024," he said.

In an interview to PTI Videos, Bose, also a former vice president of the West Bengal BJP, said the declassification process has exposed secret files and documents, "which conclusively establish that Netaji died in this air crash on August 18, 1945".

He said that Netaji wanted to return to India after Independence, but could not as he died in the air crash.

"It is highly insulting that Netaji's remains have been kept at the Renkoji temple," Bose said.

"We have been writing to the prime minister for the last three-and-a-half years, that in order to honour the liberator of India, his remains must touch Indian soil,"



he said.

Bose maintained that Netaji's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff wants to perform his last rites as per the Hindu tradition.

"I think the Government of India must respond. If they feel that these remains are not of Netaji, then maintenance should not be provided to keep those at Renkoji. A statement is expected from the prime minister re-

garding this," he said in the interview.

Bose said a few years ago, his family members had visited Renkoji temple and met the high priest there, who stated that Netaji fought for the freedom of India and as such, his remains should be taken to India.

Netaji's grandnephew said the icon's remains should be brought to Delhi and a memorial built to

pay homage to the leader.

"It is very unfortunate that no response has come from the government or the prime minister," Bose said.

In his letter to Modi, Bose said the circumstances of Netaji's death from an air crash while leaving Taiwan in a Japanese military aircraft in the aftermath of Japan's surrender in August 1945, perhaps with a plan to make his way to the Soviet Union to continue the struggle, was seen by many as just another ruse to escape his enemies.

He claimed that his brother Sarat Chandra Bose and widow Emilie, however, did not have any definite knowledge of Netaji being alive after August 18, 1945.

There is no doubt of the genuine disbelief among some that Netaji perished in the manner described in a host of contemporary accounts from multiple sources, said Bose.

"After all, here was a man who had once given the slip to the British and undertook an arduous trek from Calcutta through north India to Afghanistan, eventually reaching Berlin by air through Moscow. Only a few years later in the midst of a raging world war, he survived an even more perilous voyage by submarine from Germany to South East Asia. How could such a man die!" he said in the letter.

"The... Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry 2005 finding that Netaji did not die in the said air crash was found to be based on fundamental errors and the Government of India thus rejected it," Bose said.

Maintaining that an array of "unscrupulous persons" found plenty of scope and opportunities for exploitation over the issue, he said from around the mid-1960's began the phenomenon of the re-appearance of Netaji.





**IMPROVING FERTILITY:** Women farmers sprinkle compost in ploughed lands on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Sunday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

# Seminar on alternative energy systems held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** In a significant move towards advancing sustainable energy, the Odisha State Centre of The Institution of Engineers (IEI) hosted a seminar on 'Alternative Energy Systems' here, Sunday.

Over 200 engineers, academicians, industry professionals, research scholars, and students joined the seminar to discuss and explore innovations in alternative energy technologies.

IEI Odisha State Centre chairman FIE Sudhansu Sekhar Dash presided over the inaugural session and delivered the welcome address in which he underscored the critical importance of alternative energy systems in today's world.

IEI vice president FIE Nutan Kumar Dash highlighted the pivotal role engineers play in driving advancements in alternative energy solutions.



IFFCO Limited, Paradeep joint general manager (Tech) PK Mahapatra, the chief speaker of the occasion, delivered a presentation on the technical aspects and future prospects of alternative energy systems.

Joining as guest of honour, IIT Bhubaneswar Continuing Education Centre dean V Pandu Ranga, in his speech, elaborated on the academic and research contributions to the field, while the former director of NIT

Rourkela Sunil Sarangi joined as chief guest and delivered an address on the urgent need for sustainable energy practices.

The seminar featured technical sessions, including expert presentations and discussions on various facets of alternative energy systems. These sessions offered a platform for in-depth exploration and knowledge sharing, chaired by Pradipta Kumar Senapati and Ranjan Kumar Swain.

## RSC observes World Nature Conservation Day in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** Regional Science Centre (RSC), a unit of National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, observed the World Nature Conservation Day at its campus here, Sunday.

RSC, in association with Aaina, a non-profit organisation, held a two-day workshop with the purpose of spreading the message of nature conservation and encouraging individual participation.

A programme 'Best out of Waste' including craft activities were held for students with hearing loss from BBC School for the Deaf. The students enthusiastically participated in activities and showed their creativity using different art forms.

During the workshop, nature

lovers, including students and their parents along with a group of marine professionals from SeaFarer's Association of Odisha carried out a plantation drive and distributed saplings.

Project coordinator at RSC Kapil Jain highlighted the importance of the day in spreading awareness and educating individuals and communities about the importance of protecting nature.

Notably, World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about the urgent need for conservation, encourage individual efforts to preserve planet's natural resources. This day also reflects human relationship with nature and provides an opportunity to take steps towards a sustainable future.

## WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

# CM calls for collaborative approach to fight hepatitis

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** Calling for collaborative approach to fight hepatitis, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi asked people to join hands to raise awareness about the disease on World Hepatitis Day, here Sunday.

The CM also underlined the importance of timely diagnosis while emphasising on a collaborative approach to fight the disease. "Together, we can work towards a future free from hepatitis," he said.

On this occasion, Health and Family Welfare department held activities across the state to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver disease like cancer. The health officials stressed on testing, vaccination and early treatment as precautionary measures.

The department also underlined the importance of maintaining healthier lifestyle.

In a significant move to combat hepatitis and enhance public health preparedness, the state government has declared hepatitis as a notifiable disease, the officials said.

"The directive mandates that all health centres, including public and private facilities, promptly report cases to desig-



## Walkathon by Apollo Hospitals

**BHUBANESWAR:** Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with community members, organised a walkathon Sunday to mark World Hepatitis Day. The event, themed 'Eliminate Hepatitis: It's Time for Action,' aimed to raise awareness about hepatitis prevention, early detection, and vaccination. Hospital staff, patients and students enthusiastically took part in the walkathon, creating awareness about the disease and preventive measures. Guests, including BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, renowned Odia actress Anu Chudhury, School of Paramedics and Allied Health Sciences, Centurion University dean SK Jha, COO and DMS of Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, Alok Srivastava and Senior Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist, Sushant Sethi participated in the event. Srivastava said, "World Hepatitis Day reminds us of the urgent need for action. Let's work together to eliminate hepatitis." Sethi, said, "Early detection saves lives. Join us in the fight against Hepatitis." "Hepatitis can have serious health implications if left untreated," stated Ranjit Kumar Joshi, Senior Consultant and Head, Paediatrics and Neonatology, Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar. "The one-shot vaccine is a crucial tool in our efforts to prevent Hepatitis outbreaks and safeguard public health," he said.

nated authorities. The aim is to ensure timely intervention and control measures to curb the spread of the disease effectively," officials said.

Notably, around 296 million

people globally live with hepatitis B, and around 58 million people live with hepatitis C. Early detection and vaccination play a crucial role in preventing the spread of these infections.

## FICCI Ladies Organisation organises fashion show

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Bhubaneswar chapter, in partnership with the Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department, recently hosted a fashion show 'Labanyavati' by ITC in Bhubaneswar.

The event was attended by notable guests including Minister of State (MoS) with Handloom and Textile Pradeep Bal Samanta, Jagannath Sanskruti Resarcher Pandit Matruprasad Mishra, and FLO Bhubaneswar chapter Chairperson Rashmi Sahoo.

Taking about the event, Rashmi said, "The fashion show was aimed at promoting 'Odia Asmita'. The idea was to provide a platform for weavers as well as emerging and established designers to showcase state's intricate handloom designs on the ramp."

During the event, Geeta Meher (Sonepur Cluster), Sangeeta Meher (Gajjore Cluster), Bhagirathi

Meher (Sonepur Cluster), Bhubaneswar Meher (Gajjore Cluster), Prahllad Mahonto (Kotpad Cluster), and Chhabi (Kotpad Cluster) were felicitated for their exceptional work.

The fashion show featured the finest collections from various budding and established designers like Reemly Design Studio, Orange Strings, Bahaar, Soul by Indian, Galang Gaban, and Keemabadanti.

The fashion show featured the finest collections from various budding and established designers like Reemly Design Studio, Orange Strings, Bahaar, Soul by Indian, Galang Gaban, and Keemabadanti. Prominent personalities like Prakruti Mishra, B M Baisali, Smrutishree Singh, and Suryamayee Mohapatra donned these intricate designs as showstoppers during the ramp walk.

The show was directed by reputed fashion choreographer John Ajay.



## Miss Universe Odisha held



**BHUBANESWAR:** In order to select representatives for Miss Universe India pageant competition, Golden Cord organised Miss Universe Odisha here, recently.

Barbie Mishra won the title of Miss Universe Odisha-2024, whereas Janvi Soni became the runner up and Maitri Monali Pradhan the 2nd runner up. "The event was judged by celebrities and dignitaries, including Miss Grand India-2022 Praachi Nagpal, stylist and creative director of the event Serena Khat, designer Sabyasachi Satpathy and celebrity photographer Ashutosh," informed Sushree Sangeeta, owner of Golden Cord. A total of 16 contestants from across the state participated in the event. The contestants were judged in three different rounds, including cocktail and evening gown. It followed with two intense rounds of interactive session with the audience.

# Managing ADHD with cognitive behavioural therapy

*ADHD affects several areas of the brain, including the basal ganglia, an area that regulates communication within the brain, and the cerebellum, which is responsible for movement and balance*

**R**esearch has identified that attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) significantly affects executive function of the brain.

Executive functioning is a set of cognitive processes, including planning, prioritising, impulse control, flexibility, time management and emotional regulation, that help people achieve long-term goals.

These processes occur in the prefrontal cortex – the 'personality centre' – of the brain.

In addition to the prefrontal cortex, ADHD affects other areas of the brain, including the basal ganglia, an area that regulates communication within the brain, and the cerebellum, which is responsible for movement and balance.

Chemical messengers called neurotransmitters allow brain cells to communicate with each other. Dopamine and norepinephrine are two key neurotransmitters that play critical roles in the executive functioning of the brain.

Dopamine controls motivation, rewards and pleasure. People get a flood of dopamine from pleasurable things such as eating, drinking alcohol, having sex, and receiving affirmations or good grades. That flood also motivates people to repeat the 'rewarding' behaviour.

People with ADHD have lower levels of dopamine and norepinephrine in brain regions, including the prefrontal cortex. This leads to difficulty in sustaining cognitive functions such



as attention, impulse control and motivation.

Studies show that people with ADHD have more dopamine transporters in the brain. Think of transporters as vacuums that suck dopamine back up into the neuron, making it less available.

### Diagnosing ADHD

Nearly everyone with or without ADHD show some symptoms such as forgetfulness. For instance, when people can't tolerate sitting in a meeting for one moment longer or they can't remember for which purpose they

came into a room.

People struggling with ADHD have at least five to six symptoms in the inattentive, hyperactive or impulsive categories, such as forgetfulness, trouble sitting still, losing items and getting easily distracted.

ADHD symptoms negatively affect the person in multiple settings, such as at home, in school or at work – and they can't be explained away by other conditions, such as thyroid dysfunction, diabetes, sleep deprivation or anaemia.

Research shows that girls with ADHD more often display inat-

tentive symptoms along with characteristics not traditionally associated with ADHD, such as shyness, perfectionism and eating disorders.

### How ADHD medications alter neurotransmitters

The American Academy of Paediatrics provides evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of ADHD in children and teens.

If patients are six or older, stimulant or nonstimulant medications may be used, along with behavioural therapy.

Stimulants are divided into two drug classes: amphetamines, such as Adderall and Vyvanse, and methylphenidates, such as Concerta, Ritalin and Focalin.

Amphetamines increase the release of dopamine and norepinephrine from neurons. These increased levels allow the brain to find challenging tasks, such as doing homework, more rewarding. Because more dopamine is available, the brain's desire for stimulating rewards

decreases. Studies have found that stimulants improve ADHD symptoms, patient motivation, parental quality of life and behavioural ratings from teachers. Stimulants also decrease anxiety and emotional dysregulation in children.

### Improved outcomes

People with ADHD attempt suicide at twice the rate of people without ADHD. They also have three times the rate of suicidal ideation and six times the rate of completed suicide.

Treating patients with ADHD with stimulant medication, in addition to behavioural therapy, has been shown to decrease suicide attempts, unplanned pregnancies and substance use.

In addition to medication, cognitive behavioural therapy for adults, executive function training, particularly in adolescents, and positive parenting interventions have been shown to be effective for ADHD symptoms.

(The Conversation)

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**FOLK DANCE:** Artists perform a traditional folk dance as part of a competition titled 'Sambalpuri Nani' ahead of Sambalpuri Din at Tapaswini Auditorium in Sambapur, Sunday

## Forest dept starts search ops for tiger that 'killed' 17 cattle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, July 28:** The Forest department has launched a search operation for a tiger which has been suspected to have killed at least 17 cattle in the last four months in Ganjam district, an official said Sunday.

The carcass of a bovine was recovered from Dimiripalli under the Jagannath Prasad forest range of the Ghumusar North division Friday, which was the latest cattle-killing incident in the area, he said.

Ghumusar North Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Himansu Sekhar Mohanty said it was suspected that the tiger killed the bovine, and panic gripped villagers after the latest attack by the suspected big cat on cattle.

"Our staffers rushed to the spot and seized the carcass for post-mortem examinations," he said.



The tiger is suspected to have killed at least 17 cattle, including calves, in the division in

the last four months, another official said.

Forest personnel have started patrolling nearby areas, and the priority for us is to identify the animal and observe its behaviour, the DFO said.

Mohanty said forest personnel have set up at least 30 trap cameras in nearby areas and at least four teams have been engaged to track the animal's movement.

Villagers have been asked not to venture into the forest area. Forest officials have also advised the people not to leave their cattle alone for grazing.

They need to capture the big cat soon to protect domestic animals, said Prakash Chandra Sahu, a resident of Bhanjanagar.

Recently, a delegation of local farmers led by Sahu has submitted a memorandum to the DFO, demanding capture of the cattle-eater animal.

## WATER RELEASED AT HIRAKUD Govt allays flood fears

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** Even as the season's first floodwater was released from the Hirakud dam to downstream of the Mahanadi river, Water Resources department Engineer-in-Chief Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty claimed there is no fear of flood.

The water level of Hirakud dam in Sambalpur district stood at 617.77 feet at 2pm as against its full reservoir capacity of 630 feet. The inflow of water into the reservoir was 2.79 lakh cusec, while the outflow was 2.50 lakh cusec. The water level of the dam is on a rising trend, according to an official report.

The state government, in a release, said that due to the opening of 20 gates, the "Khairmal discharge would be around 4.50 lakh cusecs by 8am July 29 and the Mundali discharge will be around 5 lakh cusecs by 11 am July 30".

"Collectors of Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Nayagarh, Puri, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara have been asked to alert the people residing in downstream areas not to enter the Mahanadi riverside. Domestic animals should not be allowed to graze close to the river. Collectors are also requested to remain alert and monitor the situation," it said.

The District Emergency Operation Centre will also be manned by senior officers, the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) said in a letter to Collectors.

The water level of Baitarani, one of the major rivers in state, was also showing an increasing trend at noon and water was flowing at a level of 17.40 metres at Akhuapada in Bhadrak district as against the warning level of 17.83 metres and danger level of 18.33 metres.

## Dropout rate rising in Rayagada

Official sources said the number of school dropouts stands at 4,690 in the district. However, as per the local intelligentsia, the real figures would be much higher

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, July 28:** Increasing dropout rate of students in mid-school level has sparked concern in tribal dominated Rayagada district despite the Central and state government spending crores for development of education.

The government is implementing various schemes to check school dropout rates but has failed in its pursuit in Rayagada district due to alleged apathy of the education department officials.

Despite distribution of free

books, uniform and mid-day meals to attract students towards studies, many of them drop out of schools in Rayagada district either after passing Class V or VIII and take to cultivation and other jobs to support their families. Recently, the state government has sanctioned funds to the district to check school dropout rate under the Star scheme.

However, the district administration had to return majority of the funds which remained unspent due to negligence of the officials. Local intelligentsia have demanded proper implementation of the government scheme to check dropout rates in the district.

Sources said children in the district often drop out of schools ending their studies midway and take to wood cutting or work in hotels to earn and support their family due to lack of awareness among the vulnerable tribal population in this district. Most



of the children from tribal families or below poverty line (BPL) category are seen migrating to other states with their family members to earn a living.

It is alleged that the district education department has failed in its bid to bring back these dropouts to the schools and engage them in studies.

Official sources said the number of dropouts stands at 4,690 in the district. The local intelligentsia alleged that there are several other students in slums and rural areas of the district who have left studies midway but the officials have not in-

cluded them in the list.

As per the district education department, the number of dropouts stood at 5,465 in 11 blocks of the district by July 18. However, it declined to 4,690 by July 25 due to efforts put on by the officials of the department.

The highest number of dropouts stood at 1,135 in remote Kashipur block while it is the lowest at 40 in Ramnaguda block. Similarly, the figure is 318 in Bissam Cuttack block, 284 in Chandrapur block, 494 in Gudari block, 396 in Gunupur block, 445 in Kalyansinghpur block, 348 in Kolnara block, 742 in Muniguda

block, 91 in Padmapur block and 397 in Rayagada block.

Educationist Dushmant Kumar Mohanty said that the increase in dropout rates is quite concerning. "Students are the future of the country and the government should take immediate steps to encourage the children to get back to schools," he said.

Moreover, he added, there should be hostel facilities in every school in the tribal dominated district. The students should be taught in their local language. Stress on quality education will help reduce dropout rates in the district.

When contacted, District Education Officer Prasant Kumar Nayak said the department is working on reducing the dropout rate and has been able to bring 427 dropouts back to the schools. This work will continue and the Block Education Officers (BEOs) have been directed to bring back more and more dropouts to the schools.

## RMC stresses on green, renewable energy

AFTER THE RMC OFFICE BUILDING, SOLAR PANELS WILL BE INSTALLED ON THE ROOFTOPS OF THE HEALTH CENTRES AT CHHEND, MAHATAB ROAD, SECTOR-6 AND 22, PANPOSH, GOPABANDHUPALLI, TILAK NAGAR AND BASANTI COLONY IN THE STEEL CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, July 28:** With the Central government aggressively promoting and laying emphasis on green, renewable energy and clean power generation, the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has initiated a unique step in accordance. Solar panels are being installed on the RMC office building for clean power

generation and as per sources, this will be done in all the hospitals being managed by the civic body in the coming days.

In the initial phase, panels will be installed on the rooftops of the health centres at Chhend, Mahatab Road, Sector-6 and 22, Panposh, Gopabandhupalli, Tilak Nagar and Basanti Colony following the RMC office building. The power generated from these



roof top installations will be supplied to the grid and the RMC will receive a rebate up to 30-50% significantly reducing its power bill.

Speaking on this, ADM, Rourkela and RMC Commissioner Ashutosh Kulkarni said, "The Government of India is stressing on the generation of clean and green energy and its use. RMC is also mov-

ing in that direction. With the use of solar energy, the power bill will be reduced significantly. In future this will be done in other places under RMC which will help make Rourkela clean and green."

Furthermore, RMC is also planning to aggressively sensitise the residents of the civic body area to install such panels on their residences and produce electricity, thereby reducing the dependence on thermal and hydro power.

"We are going to promote the use of solar energy soon by sensitising the residents about the benefits," said the commissioner during a discussion. Solar panels are gradually becoming visible on private roof tops in the Steel City.



**COMMUTERS' NIGHTMARE:** Travelling on a bridge on National Highway-26 connecting Sunabeda with Koraput, filled with rainwater and potholes, has turned into a risky proposition

OP PHOTO

## Kanwariya drowns in Baitarani river

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, July 28:** In a tragic incident, a kanwariya drowned in Baitarani river near Ballabhi ghat in Jajpur district, Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Prashant Samal, a resident of Purusottampur village under Bhandaripokhari police limits in Bhadrak district.



According to sources, Samal had come to Ballabhi ghat to lift water as part of the 'Kanwar yatra' ritual ahead of the auspicious Monday in the holy month of 'Shravan'. However, while taking a dip in the river, he slipped into deep water and drowned.

Upon getting information, fire personnel rescued Samal and rushed him to the Jajpur district headquarters hospital (DHH), where the doctor pronounced him dead on arrival. On being informed, police reached the spot, seized the body and sent it for post-mortem.

## Int'l Tiger Day: 2 tigresses to be brought to Similipal

GLOBAL TIGER DAY IS CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR JULY 29 AS A WAY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THIS MAGNIFICENT BUT ENDANGERED BIG CAT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, July 28:** At least two Royal Bengal tigresses will be brought soon to the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district with an aim to bring about a change in the genetic diversity among the tigers of Similipal Tiger Reserve, which is witnessing a sharp rise in the population of melanistic tigers.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has given the go ahead after the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) filed an application in this regard three months back. The mission will start soon after a Central technical team issues an order in this regard, sources from the Forest department said.

Sources said the population of Royal Bengal tigers has now reached 39 in Similipal Tiger



Reserve. Among them, 50 per cent are melanistic tigers. The Forest department hopes that bringing these two tigresses will help increase the tiger population in the STR and enhance their genetic diversity.

In the past, presence of hundreds of tigers had been recorded in Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the 2004 census indicated the presence of only four Royal Bengal tigers - three females and a male black tiger - due to poaching and other reasons.

The STR witnessed the birth of melanistic tiger cubs following mating between the black male tiger and female tigers. Later, the tiger population rose to eight in the 2014 census. However, the census report published in 2023 has sparked surprise as it says 27 adult Royal Bengal tigers and eight cubs are present in Similipal.

The state government conducted a fresh census and identified presence of 12 cubs including 27 adult Royal Bengal tigers through trap cameras in the sanctuary. This took the total tiger headcount to 39 but there

are more melanistic tigers among them, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF) and project director of STR Prakash Chand Gogineni said.

The change in colour among the Royal Bengal tigers sparked curiosity and surprise among the experts. An expert team from National Centre for Biological Science at Bangalore rushed to Similipal and conducted a review on change in colour by collecting samples of feces, vomit, pug marks and scratches made by the tigers. It was concluded that unnatural birth and other reasons might have contributed to the change in colour.

Forest officials suspect that birth of tiger cubs from a single male tiger might be the reason behind the change in colour. As a result, the Forest department thinks that bringing female tigers from other forests and an increase in the tiger population will help increase the genetic diversity among tigers in Similipal. However, wildlife experts have expressed doubts on the success of the move.

Bringing tigers from other states and releasing them in Odisha forests was first started in 2017. The plan was first launched in Satkosia Tiger Reserve when the tiger Mahavir was brought from Kanha Tiger

Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, June 21, 2018. Later, a tigress Sundari was brought from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and released at Satkosia. The Forest officials fitted radio collars on their necks to track their movements and for their protection before releasing them at Satkosia.

However, four months later, the carcass of the tiger Mahavir was recovered from the jungle, November, 2018. It was then suspected that Mahavir might have died after falling into the trap of poachers.

On the other hand, the tigress Sundari strayed into nearby villages and unleashed a reign of terror in the adjoining areas. Sundari soon became a man-eater and the Forest department finally returned her back to Madhya Pradesh in 2021.

Former honorary wildlife warden Bhanumitra Acharya and other experts have expressed doubts on the move. They have expressed concerns about the impact of bringing the two tigresses on the existing tigers and wildlife in STR.

However, the Forest department hopes that the two tigresses that will be brought from outside will help enhance the genetic diversity of the tiger population in Similipal.

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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-357/P/24-25, Sambalpur



FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

# ENSURING GREEN GROWTH



**We can build a new world of climate justice and social equity on the ruins of neoliberalism. To succeed, we need new economic structures that are informed, actively shaped, and maintained by low- and middle-income countries**

climate scientist, Claudia Sheinbaum, to the presidency. Her administration aims to invest \$13.6 billion in renewable energy, with a goal of meeting 50% of electricity demand through zero-carbon sources by 2030. If done right, these efforts should promote job creation and reduce inequalities, with state-owned enterprises being leveraged to support the deployment of green technologies. The encouraging announcement of a new ministry overseeing science and innovation could also support the development of advanced manufacturing and high-tech industries.

Brazil is also well positioned to pioneer green policies for the developing world. Freed from Bolsonaro's destabilizing rule, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration is pushing sustainable development and tax reform. If it can effectively coordinate its industrial policy, infrastructure aims, and green initiatives like the Ecological Transformation Plan, it could power ahead with a robust green growth agenda at home, while expanding its regional and global influence as the host of this month's G20 meeting and next year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30).

We can build a new world of climate justice and social equity on the ruins of neoliberalism. To succeed, we need new economic structures that are informed, actively shaped, and maintained by low- and middle-income countries. A fairer global order requires more robust, proactive states that can design and implement policies to drive economic growth, job creation, inequality reduction, and decarbonisation.

*The writer, Director of Economic & Climate Prosperity at the Open Society Foundations, is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of São Paulo. @PROJECTSYNDICATE*

Recent election victories for leftist parties in France and the United Kingdom may herald a new era of climate policymaking in Europe. Britain's new Labour government has ambitious plans to expand renewable-energy capacity; and, although tricky coalition building remains, the climate-skeptic far right has been thwarted in France.

As our experience with COVID-19 showed, purely market-based approaches were not enough to tackle a pandemic, nor can they help counter environmental destruction or the world's yawning wealth gap. Even the rich world is starting to move away from the neoliberal orthodoxy of privatisation and deregulation. But as long as developing countries remain hamstrung by the old rules, they will struggle to develop their own economic models and shape their own destinies.

Where previously Western free-trade advocates decried China's use of protectionism and subsidies to favour strategic sectors, now these practices are de rigueur in advanced economies. The United States is pumping tens of billions of dollars into domestic electric-vehicle and battery manufacturing through the Inflation Reduction Act, using the state to stimulate investment and job creation in green sectors. But addressing climate change is a global struggle, and international trade rules generally do not allow developing countries to boost their own industries in this way. For example, Indonesia – the global leader in nickel, a critical metal in EV batteries – has been punished at the World Trade Organization for pursuing an industrial strategy.

Thus, while neoliberal policy prescriptions fall out of favour in developed economies, they are being repackaged in green boxes for less affluent ones. Policymakers in high-income countries can rely on costly industrial policy levers like tax

incentives and loan guarantees, whereas developing countries have no such luxury. The latter must figure out how to create jobs, reduce inequality, and decarbonise their economies all with a much more limited set of tools and technological capacity.

Moreover, richer countries are pushing developing countries to "leapfrog" to renewables at an unrealistic pace. They fail to recognise developing countries' need for limited fossil-fuel use in the short term, or that unfair trade rules are limiting poorer countries' access to affordable green technology and cheap capital. Such double standards are indicative of the same power imbalances observed in recent years when wealthier countries hoarded vaccines, slashed aid budgets, and failed to deliver on past climate-finance promises.

This hypocrisy has not gone unnoticed. Authoritarian populists such as former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Argentinian President Javier Milei, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan have each promoted the narrative that climate policies undermine economic growth. That may be

true in many cases, but only because of the trade-offs imposed by neoliberal policies.

If developing countries could shape their own policies, climate investments would drive job creation and inclusive growth. Governments that are being asked to green their economies need flexible financing at concessional rates. They also would benefit from progressive national and international tax schemes that build on recent successes such as the UN Tax Convention, an effort led by developing countries to democratise tax rules and claw control away from closed shops like the OECD.

The waning of neoliberalism gives developing and emerging economies a chance to cooperate on the design of a new paradigm. By devising state-led models that link green strategies with socioeconomic development, they can shield the climate agenda from attacks by authoritarian opportunists. Just as there are different types of capitalism, there are different paths to green development.

Consider Mexico, a manufacturing powerhouse and oil producer that has just elected a



Laura Carvalho

**IF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD SHAPE THEIR OWN POLICIES, CLIMATE INVESTMENTS WOULD DRIVE JOB CREATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

## Sorry State

One who loves God finds the object of his love everywhere.

SRI AUROBINDO



The death of three UPSC aspirants – Shreya Yadav of Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana and Navin Dalwin from Ernakulam in Kerala – due to flooding in the basement of a coaching centre in the national capital is not the first such incident in our country. And it won't be the last one either. While it is a well known fact that the Indian system is not creating 'cities' but death traps for the future generations, the reality is that the government does not care and citizens are left on their own resources to survive. It also true that the pressure to perform can push aspiring Indians to almost any extreme to the extent that sometimes they risk their lives in perilous surroundings.

That is precisely the reason why the UPSC aspirants, coming from different parts of the country, exposed themselves to rain hazards in a basement when it takes only a few minutes of precipitation to flood localities and bring the entire city to its knees.

The basement of the coaching institute, Rau's IAS Study Circle, in Old Rajendra Nagar was operating illegally as a library. The institute had misrepresented the basement's usage, claiming it was designated for parking and as a storeroom, as per the approved building plan and the fire department's No Objection Certificate.

The incident led to a political slugfest between the ruling and Opposition parties, while the owner and coordinator of the coaching centre have been detained and booked under charges of culpable homicide.

Every now and then such incidents keep on happening in the country. On 24 May, 2019, 22 students lost their lives, and another 19 were left injured after fire broke out at a commercial complex that housed a coaching centre in Surat, Gujarat. The blaze was ignited by a short circuit on the ground floor, which resulted in the collapse of a wooden staircase, trapping the students in the coaching centre.

In January this year, the Centre instructed states and Union Territories to consider adopting guidelines aimed at regulating coaching centres that prepare students for various entrance exams for higher education and government jobs. In a letter addressed to all states and UTs, the Union Government had issued a set of guidelines designed to protect students' interests, while also promoting greater transparency and accountability within coaching centres. This initiative came in the wake of increasing scrutiny of coaching centres throughout India due to allegations of unfair practices, unsafe facilities, and the immense pressure that students experience. Over the past year, a troubling rise in suicides among students, especially in the coaching hotspot of Kota, has sparked demands for a re-evaluation of the entrance examination process, the coaching industry, and the pressures imposed by parents and educators.

Quality jobs being scarce in this country, competition is tough for whatever positions are available. This makes appearing for competitive exams a ruthless exercise. Adding to the misery of job aspirants is the high and often impractical expectations of parents and society at large.

All these point to a sorry state of affairs in the country.

### WISDOM CORNER

Dogs are wise. They crawl away into a quiet corner and lick their wounds and do not rejoin the world until they are whole once more. AGATHA CHRISTIE

There is something so amiable in the prejudices of a young mind, that one is sorry to see them give way to the reception of more general opinions. JANE AUSTEN

That pleasure which is at once the most pure, the most elevating and the most intense, is derived, I maintain, from the contemplation of the beautiful. EDGAR ALLAN POE

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1588:** The Spanish Armada, the great fleet sent by King Philip II of Spain to invade England, was first sighted by the English off Lizard Point, Cornwall.

**1836:** The Arc de Triomphe, one of the largest triumphal arches in the world, was officially inaugurated in Paris. The famous monument honors those who died while fighting for France during the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. It was designed by Jean Chalgrin.

**1890:** Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, one of the greatest of the Post-Impressionists, died in Auvers-sur-Oise, France, two days after shooting himself. Van Gogh's art became astoundingly popular after his death, especially in the late 20th century, when his work sold for record-breaking sums at auctions around the world and was featured in blockbuster touring exhibitions. In part because of his extensive published letters, van Gogh has also been mythologized in the popular imagination as the quintessential tortured artist.

**1954:** The first part of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic The Lord of the Rings—which became a sociocultural phenomenon and was adapted into a series of blockbuster films in the early 2000s—was published.

**1957:** The International Atomic Energy Agency was created. The independent agency aims to ban the use of nuclear energy for military purposes. American W. Sterling Cole served as the agency's first director-general.

**1958:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration established. Criticized for allowing the Soviet Union to launch the first man-made satellite to orbit Earth (Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957), U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation this day in 1958 that created NASA.

### SPECTRUM ECONOMY

## Plight of the middle class

On 23 July 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her seventh Union Budget that focused on four important issues – employment, skilling, MSMEs and the middle class.

Considering the fourth issue, the Budget will not be of much benefit to the middle class except a slight increase in standard deductions from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000. This will provide a relief of ₹17,500 to the middle class if they opt for the new tax regime.

Since 2020-21, tax receipts from personal income tax, which is paid by around 9 crore people in India, is more than tax receipts from corporates. Out of 7.4 crore taxpayers in 2022-23, 50% are filling the income tax return with zero tax liability. This provides an interesting fact that share of personal income tax is increasing on account of high tax rates and not by tax base. The percentage of taxpayers in developed countries like France, USA, Germany, and UK are 78.3%, 50.1%, 61.3%, and 59.7% respectively. Middle income class is paying income tax on earning and indirect taxes like GST, custom duties, excises duties on

spending. However, the rich class is getting benefits in the forms of input tax credit of GST and low corporate tax rates. Moreover, middle income class is bearing more tax burden than other income classes in India.

The NDA 2.0 government had reduced corporate tax rates for both domestic and foreign companies in 2019 to boost manufacturing. Private investment has gone up and corporate profits have also skyrocketed. However, this has not been able to create a good number of new jobs due to use of capital intensive technology in the production process. Hence unemployment has gone up. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, all-India unemployment rate in June 2024 was 9.2%.

Recently released Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) has estimated Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) and its distribution separately for rural and urban areas. In 2022-23, MPCE in rural areas has increased by 40.02% reaching ₹3773 whereas MPCE in urban areas has increased by 33.5% reaching ₹6459. Though MPCE in rural

areas has increased faster than in urban areas, still a huge inequality is evident in absolute figure. This reflects the difference in the standard of living between rural and urban populations.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) estimates all-India CPI inflation for June at 5.08%. CPI inflation rates for rural and urban are 5.66% and 4.39% respectively. In June, food inflation in rural India was 8.31% and in urban India it was 8.48%. According to HCES data, 46% of rural household expenditure and 39% of urban household expenditure were on food items in 2022-23. This reflects rural households spending a major portion of their monthly per capita consumption expenditure on food items. A sustained increase in food prices for last three-four years has caused extreme suffering to the middle class. It will continue to do so if not checked by RBI as soon as possible.

High income tax burden coupled with high inflation reduce the purchasing power of the middle income and consumption demand over time. Income inequality now in India is more

than that in the British Raj. In 1951, income share of top 10% income earners was 36.7% of national income. In the wake of economic reforms in 1991, top 10% share started galloping and has reached astonishingly high levels of 57.7% in 2022. In contrast, middle 40% and bottom 50% shares were 42.8% and 20.5% respectively in 1951. The shares of these two groups plummeted to 27.3% and 15% respectively in 2022-23.

The finance minister has come up with employment linked incentive schemes to generate employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector. The Budget has also allocated a sizeable fund for skilling which will be helpful in sustaining the growth trajectory by enriching the country's human capital. Tax reforms – both direct and indirect – are the need of the hour which will increase the purchasing power of the middle class. At the end, the government should give equal importance to efficiency and equity.

*The writer is Lecturer in Economics, SVM Autonomous College, Jagatsinghpur.*



Dillip Kumar Muduli

**MIDDLE INCOME CLASS IS BEARING MORE TAX BURDEN THAN OTHER INCOME CLASSES IN INDIA**

### LOL



## The dog & the pessimist

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him. He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, the eternal pessimist who refused to be impressed with anything. This, surely, would impress him. He invited him to hunt with him and his new dog. As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped

into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet. This continued all day long; each time a duck fell, the dog walked across the surface of the water to retrieve it. The pessimist watched carefully, saw everything, but did not say a single word. On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?" "I sure did," responded the pessimist. "He can't swim."

## Trump's tall claims

Sir, In recent weeks, Republican Party's presidential candidate Donald Trump has said that if he were elected president again, he would end the Russia-Ukraine war in "one day," and even in "one interview." Trump gave no hint of how he would do this. Trump's one term in the White House should have disabused him of this notion. The fact that he still believes in his "unique talents" as a deal-maker – after his bargaining tactics with China, Russia, North Korea and Iran had all yielded nothing or even gone worse – suggests that he is incapable of seeing the world as it is, or at least of learning any lessons from it. Throughout his presidency and before, Trump exhibited a particularly dangerous quality for an aspiring leader of a global power, which shows that though he knows very little, he pretends himself that he knows a lot about foreign diplomacy.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## Ease of payments

Sir, Making payments in India is now easier for foreign visitors with the launch of UPI One World. This digital wallet allows visitors from any country to enjoy India's culture and scenery without worrying about cash or foreign exchange. Introduced during last year's G20 Summit in India, the UPI One World wallet is now available to more international travellers. Visitors can use the UPI One World app to pay at shops and restaurants by scanning QR codes. Any leftover money can be transferred back to the original payment source, according to foreign exchange rules. This is made possible by NPCI, IDFC First Bank, and Transcorp International Limited, with guidance from the Reserve Bank of India. The wallet can be obtained at airports, hotels, money exchange locations, and other places after completing a full KYC process with a passport and visa. It is also available at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi for World Heritage Committee meeting delegates during July 21-31, 2024. Once you have the wallet, you can load it with cash or other payment methods. This initiative makes travel in India easier and more secure for international visitors.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

## 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)

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## of the day quote

Deeply disappointed by the drag act depicting the 'Last Supper' at the Paris Olympics. Religious sentiments must be respected. Strongly Condemn such act

CONRAD K SANGMA | CM, MEGHALAYA

The money which is distributed by the Centre belongs to the people of India. It is collected as various taxes. What did Maharashtra get... Our chief minister came back empty handed

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA UBT LEADER

There is no discrimination against any state in the budget. These parties are going through a phase of frustration, disappointment and sadness as the voters have made them sit in the opposition for the third consecutive term. They are making baseless statements out of frustration

VIRENDRA KUMAR | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Two killed in elephant attack

**Jamshedpur:** Two persons including a woman were killed in elephant attack in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, a forest official said Sunday. A septuagenarian man was crushed to death by a pachyderm when he went out to relieve in a forest near Chauthia village in the early hours of Sunday, the official said. The elephant attacked the old man suddenly and dragged him to a distance before killing him. In another incident, an elderly woman was killed under the debris of a wall that collapsed in an attack by a wild elephant in Dighi village late Saturday night.

### Two killed in road mishap

**Seoni (MP):** Two persons were killed and two others injured in a collision between a private bus and a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district Sunday, police said. The incident occurred near Kodia village on the Seoni-Balaghat highway, an official said. The passenger bus was going towards Seoni from Balaghat and the SUV was coming from the opposite direction when the two vehicles collided, he said. Of the four occupants of the SUV, two persons lost their lives at the scene, while the two others suffered injuries, Barghat police station in-charge Mohnish Singh told PTI.

### Jawan held for raping woman

**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** A Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) jawan was arrested Sunday for allegedly raping a married woman at her house here, police said. The accused was identified as Pintu. He was posted in Meerut and had come home on leave, SHO Rajendra Prasad said. As per the rape survivor's complaint, Pintu entered her house Saturday afternoon and raped her. When her husband returned, Pintu managed to flee and left his mobile phone, Prasad said.

### Baby dies after falling into pit

**Ballia (UP):** In a tragic incident, an 18-month-old boy died after falling into a pit while playing here Sunday afternoon, police said. According to the police, the incident happened in the Ghuri Baba Tola village under the Sikandarpur police station area, where Aayansh Yadav fell into a pit made for draining dirty water.



The Khadi Gramodyog's business has crossed ₹1.5 lakh crore for the first time. Do you know how much sale of Khadi have gone up? Four hundred per cent. The rising sales of Khadi and handloom are creating new job opportunities in large numbers

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

### PUNJAB CM MANN FLAGS OFF 58 NEW AMBULANCES

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Sunday flagged off 58 new ambulances equipped with the latest medical equipment. These ambulances have been mandated to reach needy patients within 15 minutes in urban areas and 20 minutes in rural areas, Mann said



# NTA announces CUET-UG results



Highest top scorers in Business Studies followed by Political Science

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 28:** The National Testing Agency (NTA) Sunday announced the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG results, paving the way to start the admission process for undergraduate courses, which was delayed this year amid a row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including NEET-UG and UGC-NET.

The highest number of full marks scorers in the CUET-UG this year were in the Business Studies subject (8,024). Political Science has 5,141 full marks scorers, History has 2,520, English has 1,683 and Psychology has 1,602. The maximum number of students appeared for the General Test (7.09 lakh) and only one candidate has got full marks. Every subject has at least one

full marks scorer. However this year, the NTA has not provided how many hundredth percentiles were scored in different subjects. There were 22,836 hundredth percentile scores last year, marking an increase from the 2022 tally of 21,159.

The NTA had July 7 released the provisional answer keys of the CUET-UG 2024. A retest for more than 1,000 candidates whose grievances were found genuine by the agency was conducted July 19. Candidates were given an opportunity to challenge the provisional answer key between July 7 and July 9.

"In this duration, about 9,512 answer key challenges were received out of which 1782 were unique challenges. Candidates were also given representation through e-mails and letters. Those were also shown to the subject experts concerned. Based on their feedback and after incorporating the changes, the final answer keys were prepared which were used in preparing the

results of the CUET (UG)-2024," a senior NTA official said.

The merit list will be prepared by the 283 universities that participated in the CUET-UG 2024 based on the scorecard provided by the agency and they will hold their admission counselling sessions based on this.

Other subjects that had a high number of full marks scorers, included 835 in Biology/Biological Studies/Biotechnology / Biochemistry, 430 in Economics/Business Economics, 398 in Chemistry, 373 in Geography/Geology and 180 in Agriculture. Five candidates across the country scored full marks in Mathematics/Applied Mathematics, 17 in Legal Studies. One candidate each scored full marks in Telugu, French, Japanese and Russian language subjects. Initially, the CUET-UG results were scheduled to be declared June 30, but the NTA delayed it, as it was grappling with allegations of paper leak in the NEET-UG, the UGC-NET and the CSIR-UGC-NET exams.

The CUET-UG, which was conducted in the hybrid mode for the first time across the country in May, was cancelled in Delhi a night before the scheduled exam day over "logistical reasons". The exam was held in the national capital later.

The NTA had earlier announced that the third edition of the CUET-UG will be completed in seven days and there will be no normalisation of scores as all exams will be conducted in a single shift.

## Private member's bill listed in Rajya Sabha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 28:** Amid global concerns over how Artificial Intelligence may affect the workforce, Trinamool Congress MP Mausam Noor is battling for transparency in the use of AI technologies at the workplace to prevent biases, and discrimination in hiring, and promotions from taking place.

The Workforce Rights (Artificial Intelligence) Bill, 2023, a private member bill listed by Noor in the Upper House, says as AI becomes increasingly integrated into the workplace, laws must adapt to protect the workers' rights.

The bill spells out the rights of an employee in case AI is being used by the organisation. It says the government must ensure transparency in the use of AI technologies within the workplace and give employees the 'right to refuse' tasks or decisions solely based on AI-generated processes if they feel it violates their rights or ethical standards.

It also seeks to provide adequate training and upskilling opportunities for employees affected by AI implementation, and protection of employee privacy rights, including data security and confidential handling of personal information.

The bill says the government must ensure that employers obtain explicit and informed consent from employees before implementing AI that directly affects their work or rights.

It also seeks an "equality impact assessment" from time to time to ensure fairness and compliance. The bill expresses concern that AI has the potential to perpetuate biases in the data on which the system is trained, re-



TMC MP Mausam Noor has listed another bill on 'deepfake,' which seeks criminalisation of such videos which are digitally manipulated or fabricated

sulting in discrimination in hiring, promotions, and overall performance evaluations.

It seeks to lay down comprehensive guidelines to combat data bias in AI implementation, including the need for transparency in algorithms, mandatory training, and the adoption of practices needed to detect and rectify biases within datasets.

Noor has listed another bill on 'deepfake,' which seeks criminalisation of such videos which are digitally manipulated or fabricated.

The bill says that any person, who creates, distributes, disseminates or shares deepfakes with intent to harass, or humiliate, or with intent to cause violence or physical harm, shall be guilty of a criminal offence. It seeks the formation of a National Deepfake Mitigation and Digital Authenticity Task Force, which will evaluate the prevalence of deepfake affecting the citizens, businesses in India and the functioning of the central and state government.

## Wangchuk warns of another 28-day fast from August 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 28:** Climate activist Soman Wangchuk announced Sunday that he will launch a 28-day fast on Independence Day if the government does not invite Ladakh authorities for talks on demands for statehood and constitutional protection for the union territory.

In an interview with PTI, Wangchuk said the Apex Body, Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) from Ladakh submitted a memorandum of demands to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Dras on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas last week.

"We did not want to push the government too much during the elections. We wanted to give them some breathing space after the polls; we were hopeful that the new government would take some concrete steps."



"We hope they will invite our leaders for talks following the submission of the memorandum. If that doesn't happen, we will launch another round of protests," he told PTI.

He said he will start a 28-day fast August 15, when the country will celebrate its 78th Independence Day. In March, Wangchuk went on a 21-day fast, surviving only on salt and water, to demand statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to help protect the ecologically fragile region from "greedy" industries.

## HUMAYUN TOMB Sunken museum to be inaugurated today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 28:** The country's first sunken museum at the Humayun Tomb complex -- a UNESCO World Heritage Site -- in Delhi is all set to be inaugurated today. It will open for visitors from July 30, a senior official of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) said. Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is slated to inaugurate the new museum in the presence of Prince Rahim Aga Khan.

The inauguration will coincide with the ongoing 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee here.

The museum, whose layout is inspired by the medieval 'baolis', or traditional water tanks, showcases the legacy of Mughal emperor Humayun, including lesser-known facets of his life, and the heritage of the Nizamuddin area over the last seven centuries.



Students dressed as tigers march on the occasion of International Tiger Day, in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, Sunday PTI PHOTO

# Misleading narrative claims e-cigarettes as safer alternative

INDIA HAS RIGHTLY BANNED VAPES AND E-CIGARETTES, AND THIS BAN HAS POTENTIALLY SAVED AT LEAST 24 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE FROM FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF ADDICTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 28:** Health and child rights experts have raised alarms about the increasing portrayal of e-cigarettes and vapes as healthier alternatives to traditional tobacco products, warning that these products are also being used as a gateway to traditional tobacco use.

They cautioned that this "misleading narrative" is a strategic attempt by the industry to target and trap the young population, particularly those aged 10 to 19 years.

India has rightly banned these products, and this ban has po-

tentially saved at least 24 million young people from falling into the trap of addiction, they said.

"E-cigarettes and vapes are as dangerous as tobacco and drugs for our country. Once a child is addicted to these products, they can easily be drawn to other forms of tobacco," said Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), at a webinar organised by the Tobacco Free India, a citizens' initiative, Sunday.

The webinar was moderated by Arun Anand, a writer and senior journalist. The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, enacted in 2019, bans all such products, including e-cigarettes and vapes.

This law was implemented as India was already the second-largest market for tobacco, at-



The WHO has called this ban 'a strong and definitive step to protect its citizens, especially the youth and children, from the increasing risk of nicotine addiction.'

DR NAVEEN THACKER | PRESIDENT, IPA

tracting many US-based companies looking to tap into the Indian market for vapes and e-cigarettes.

Kanoongo, head of India's child rights body, emphasized that India has a huge young population. Every fifth person is an

adolescent (10-19 years), and every third is a young person (10-24 years).

At least two million new people start using tobacco products every year, causing approximately 1.3 million deaths and

contributing to more than one per cent of the GDP burden annually in our country.

"Estimates suggest that the ban on these new nicotine products will prevent at least five percent of our young population from becoming addicted to either these nicotine products or both nicotine and tobacco products. This ban has potentially saved at least 24 million young people from addiction, significantly protecting the health and development of our country," he added.

Dr Naveen Thacker, President of the International Pediatric Association (IPA), voiced concerns about the tobacco industry's tactics.

"The industry is falsely promoting e-cigarettes and vapes as 'healthy' and harmless alternatives to traditional tobacco, with a relentless focus on targeting the youth. This is a blatant lie. These products are just as harmful, and their deliberate targeting of children is unmistakable," he stated.

Dr Thacker underscored the critical need for heightened awareness among children and

parents to prevent the use of these hazardous products among young people.

"The industry uses social media and e-commerce platforms to trap young children, leveraging influencers and even experts to lure them. Their targeting of young people is evident with flavours like bubble gum and sugar candy, being illegally sold in 6,000 enticing varieties. The misconception that they are safer than traditional tobacco must be eradicated," he added.

Dr Pragya Shukla, Head of the Department of Clinical Oncology at Delhi State Cancer Institute and a renowned public health expert, emphasised the importance of countering industry tactics that portray e-cigarettes as healthy and market them to children.

"All our health experts and international health bodies, including the WHO, fully support India's move to ban e-cigarettes," she stated.

The WHO has called this ban "a strong and definitive step to protect its citizens, especially the youth and children, from the increasing risk of nicotine addiction."



# national

## of the day quote

The monsoon session of the UP Assembly is starting from tomorrow, in which the government will also present the supplementary budget

The responsibility lies directly with the Delhi government. It is a different matter that the Delhi government has announced a committee. The responsibility should be fixed and everyone should come forward to remove the shortcomings

Team Arunachal is working day in and day out to transform every sector and maintain the state's pace of development and contribute significantly to realise the goal of developed India

## X POST OF THE DAY

TRAI Has Proposed Separate Plans For Voice and SMS Only Without Mobile Internet Will Benefit Low-Income Groups, Secondary Numbers & People Who Don't Want Data Good After Price Hike By Telecom Companies

## SHORT TAKES

### Punjab Police bust int'l drug network

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police Sunday said it has busted an international drug network with the arrest of two people and also recovered over ₹1 crore cash from them in Amritsar. The accused were operatives of two foreign-based top drug smugglers Gurjant Singh alias Bholu and Kinderbir Singh alias Sunny Dyal, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said here. Those arrested have been identified as Dilbag Singh and Kamaldeep Singh, both residents of Tarn Taran district. Apart from seizing cash, police have also recovered a money counting machine and two mobile phones from the possession.

### 23 Bangladeshi nationals arrested

Agartala: At least 23 Bangladeshi nationals, including a tout, were arrested by the security personnel for entering India illegally, officials said here Sunday. Officials said that the Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel arrested the Bangladeshi nationals at the Agartala railway station Saturday night as they were trying to board a train to travel to other Indian states via Guwahati.

### 4 UNLF militants held in Manipur

Imphal: Manipur Police arrested four militants of United National Liberation Front (Pambei) from Imphal West district, an official statement said. The four were arrested from the Chingmeiron area of the district Friday and were involved in a firing incident, assault of civilians, and outraging the modesty of a woman, the statement issued by the police control room said.



The state government to honestly communicate with the Prime Minister and maintain cordial relations with the Centre for the sake of state's development

## SC TO HEAR SISODIA'S BAIL PLEAS TODAY

The Supreme Court is slated to hear Monday the bail pleas filed by senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the alleged liquor policy case. As per the causelist published on the website of the apex court, a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Vishwanathan will resume hearing in the matter July 29



# Coaching centre incident man-made disaster: Oppn

A few students were detained after they staged a protest in Old Rajinder, demanding action against those responsible for the deaths of three civil services aspirants at a coaching centre in the area, and compensation for their families

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 28: Opposition parties in Delhi Sunday termed as "murder" the death of three civil services aspirants due to flooding of a building's basement here and the incident a "man-made disaster", as they attacked the AAP-led Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and government over the tragedy.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party, however, sought to blame the BJP over the incident, saying though it was in power in the municipal body for 15 years, it neglected the city's drainage system. "Our government has been in power for the last one year and we are working on drainage. I do not want to get into any blame game. I want that there should be an impartial investigation and strict action taken against those responsible," Rajinder Nagar MLA and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said. The UPSC aspirants - two females and a male - lost their lives as they were trapped inside the library running in the basement of the Old Rajinder Nagar-based Rau's IAS Study Circle, which flooded due to a sudden evening downpour in the national capital Saturday.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva termed as "murder" the death of the students and said they had come here to build their future but became "victims of corruption". The (waterlogging) issue was brought to the notice of Pathak July 22 and then again July 24 by locals but "he did not do anything" about it, BJP's New Delhi



## Action against coaching centres flouting norms

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has initiated action against coaching centres flouting norms and it will set up a high-level committee to probe the incident, MCD officials said Sunday. Establishments running illegally from the basement have been identified and a drive to take action against them has started, an official said. The MCD last year conducted a survey of such coaching centres after a massive fire broke at an institute in Mukharji Nagar, another coaching hub in North West Delhi, forcing many to jump off the building to escape the blaze.

MP Bansuri Swaraj claimed and said the incident could have been avoided.

"Pathak and the Kejriwal government's negligence led to the death of the three students," she said. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said this is a "man-made disaster". "The students had come from far-off places to study in Delhi. But what is the system for separating illegal structures from legal structures? Is the MCD looking into it? What about the drainage

system? All these questions plague these controversies around these deaths," he said.

Last week, a student - civil services aspirant in Mukherjee Nagar - died after touching a live wire, he said. Is this how students coming to Delhi should be treated, Khera asked.

The Congress leader said action has to be taken, accountability has to be fixed, and Delhi cannot be seen as such an "insensitive" city. Senior AAP leader and Delhi Cabinet Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj shared a video on X of a meeting on waterlogging and de-silting of drains. In the meeting, the Delhi chief secretary, the MCD commissioner and the PWD principal secretary were also present.

BJP leader Sachdeva said, "Nobody is answering how the library was established in the basement. There was an incident in Mukherjee Nagar; the Delhi government had launched an investigation. What has happened to the investigation? Delhi Minister (atishi) has still not reached the spot (Rajinder Nagar). The locals were asking for cleaning of drains. Whoever is responsible should be punished. What is the fault of students?"

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav visited the area. "Students are holding an agitation and they are not listening to politicians. Their agitation is right because they have lost their colleagues and friends. Those who are responsible should be punished. I have also come here to participate in their fight and will not leave till justice is served," he said.

## CJI slams judges for playing it safe on bail petitions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 28: Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud Sunday said the trial judges prefer playing safe by not granting bail on important issues of crime when it is looked at with a degree of suspicion.

The Chief Justice underlined the need for a 'sense of robust common sense' to look at the nitty-gritty of each case.

"People who should be getting bail in the trial courts and not getting it there, as a result of which, they have to invariably move the high courts. People who should be getting bail in the high courts will not necessarily get it, as a result of which, they have to move to the Supreme Court. This delay compounds the problem of those who are facing arbitrary arrests," Justice Chandrachud said.

He was replying to a question at the end of a keynote address during the '11th Annual Conference of the Berkeley Centre on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination'.

The question was on the arbitrary arrests.

The questioner said we seem to live in a society where one acts first and seeks forgiveness later.

This has become particularly true for public authorities acting in a politically motivated manner by detaining activists, academics, journalists and even politicians, including the Chief Ministers of Opposition parties, he said.

According to him, all of these actions are taken with deep trust in the face of justice coming very slowly. In reply, Justice Chandrachud said the Supreme Court has been constantly trying to convey that part of the reason for it is that there is an inherent distrust in the institutions within the country.

# Kejriwal jailed in false case: Sunita



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rohtak/Panipat (Hr), July 28: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal Sunday urged the people of Haryana to avenge the "insult" of jailing her husband in a "false" case by ensuring the party's win in the upcoming Assembly election.

His wife Sunita Kejriwal, who is on a two-day Haryana tour, addressed a gathering at Sampla in Rohtak district and said that her husband "transformed" government schools and hospitals, and also set up mohalla clinics in Delhi and Punjab. "He achieved such things which the old parties and big leaders could never do," she said.

"Now there is round-the-clock electricity supply in Delhi and Punjab. Kejriwal did a lot of work for the welfare of people. Is there any party which transformed government schools, set up mohalla clinics, improved medical treatment and made electricity free?" she asked. "All these works could only be done by 'Haryana ka laal' (Arvind) Kejriwal," Sunita Kejriwal said.

Claiming that Prime Minister Modi is "jealous of Kejriwal because he cannot do such work", she alleged that a government school in BJP-ruled Haryana's Sampla is in poor condition and long power cuts are imposed in the area. Describing herself as the "daughter-in-law of



Sunita Kejriwal claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "jealous" of Arvind Kejriwal for the work he has done for AAP-ruled Delhi and Punjab

Arvind Kejriwal, who is also the AAP national convener, was arrested by ED March 21 in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam

The Supreme Court has granted him interim bail but he is still in jail as the CBI had arrested him in a related matter

Haryana", Sunita Kejriwal asked the gathering, "Will you tolerate this insult?" When Modi became prime minister for the first time in 2014, all of Gujarat supported him and "all seats went to the BJP," she said.

"It is not about Kejriwal, it is about Haryana's honour," she added. At the gathering she also recounted the five "Kejriwal's guarantees" for poll-bound Haryana, promising free electricity, school education and medical treatment to families besides ₹1,000 per month to every woman in the state and employment for youngsters. AAP leader Sanjay Singh, while addressing a rally in Panipat, too asked people to take revenge on the BJP "for sending Arvind Kejriwal in jail" in a "false" case by defeating the saffron party in the upcoming Assembly polls.

## SNIIPETS

### Prashant Kishor to launch political party

Patna: Former election strategist Prashant Kishor Sunday said his Jan Suraj campaign will become a political party October 2, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti, and contest the assembly polls in Bihar next year. Kishor was addressing a state-level workshop of Jan Suraj here, which was attended by several persons, including a granddaughter of former Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur, joining the campaign.

### Latur district hosp land allocation approved

Latur: Latur district guardian minister Girish Mahajan announced administrative approval to allocate land from the College of Agriculture to Latur District Hospital, with resolution expected within eight days. This was discussed at the District Planning Committee Meeting Saturday. Efforts will focus on strengthening health facilities, including the addition of MRI and CT Scan machines at Vilasrao Deshmukh Government Medical College.

### HC rejects discharge pleas of two ex-BJP mins

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court has rejected the pleas filed by former BJP ministers Parshottam Solanki and Dileep Sanghani seeking their discharge in an alleged ₹400-crore fisheries scam. The court of Justice Hemant Prachchhak Friday dismissed the petitions moved by Solanki, Sanghani and one Arjun Suthariya challenging a March 12, 2021, order of a special Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court rejecting their discharge applications in the case. Earlier, the HC had stayed criminal proceedings against the ex-ministers.



MATTER OF FAITH: Kanwariyas (Lord Shiva devotees) carry holy water during the 'Kanwar Yatra' in the month of 'Shravan' in New Delhi

## HDK hospitalised after nose starts bleeding

Bangalore: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy was hospitalised here after his nose started bleeding during a press conference Sunday. Kumaraswamy, who is the JD(S) second-in-command, was addressing reporters after a meeting with the BJP leaders when he noticed blood coming out of his nose. The Union Minister, holding steel and heavy industries portfolio, tried to wipe off the blood, but soon it began trickling down his chin and then fell on his white shirt for everyone to see. The unexpected turn of events baffled everyone present there. Quickly, his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy rushed him to a private hospital. Later speaking to media, Nikhil said there was nothing to worry as the doctors were attending to him. According to him, due to the hectic schedule, his father did not take rest, which could be the reason behind the incident.

## RISING TERROR ATTACKS IN JAMMU

# EXPERTS CALL FOR REASSESSMENT OF COUNTER-TERROR OPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 28: With an uptick in terrorist activities in the otherwise peaceful Jammu region, security experts have suggested a comprehensive reassessment of the existing counterterrorism strategies employed by security forces.

Retired Lieutenant General D S Hooda, former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Udhampur-based Northern Command, emphasised the urgent need for a proactive approach to counter the evolving terrorist tactics. Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) Lt Gen Paramjit Singh Sangha expressed confidence the security forces will learn from their recent mistakes and improve counter-insurgency efforts. On June 9, nine passengers, including seven pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khori temple in Reasi district, were killed in a terrorist attack. Police have

The Jammu region has witnessed a series of violent incidents over the past few week

arrested several suspects linked to the attack, however the main assailants remain unidentified. "Over time, we have observed a shift in tactics, with terrorists increasingly adopting ambush and 'shoot and scoot' strategies," Lt Gen (Retd) Hooda told PTI over the phone, underlining the need for security forces to reevaluate their strategies to understand and rectify potential shortcomings. Distinguishing between the operational environments of Jammu and the Valley, Lt Gen (Retired) Hooda noted that while terrorists in Kashmir are often contained within localised areas,



those in Jammu are strategically positioned in challenging terrains, complicating military responses.

"In some areas, troops may have to trek for eight to 10 hours to reach a specific location," he explained. Lt Gen (Retired) Hooda suggested a prolonged period of relative peace in the Jammu region may have contributed to lapses in vigilance, and cau-

may be less effective in this context, indicating a need for a re-evaluation of tactics and procedures.

After a decisive campaign against terrorism in 2005, which largely cleared Jammu of militant activities, the region has seen a resurgence of violence, particularly in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where over 70 individuals, including 52 security personnel, have been killed in terror-related incidents since 2021.

Gen (Retd) Hooda advocated for the revival of Village Defence Committees and the recruitment of more Special Police Officers from local communities to enhance counter-terrorism efforts.

While acknowledging that some individuals within communities may harbour extremist sentiments, Gen (Retd) Hooda warned that fostering suspicion towards local populations near the Line of Control could be counterproductive. Lt Gen (Retd) Sangha also

highlighted the historical contributions of local communities, particularly the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes, in maintaining peace in the region, cautioning against actions that could alienate these groups.

Discussing longterm solutions, Gen (Retd) Hooda recalled discussions during his tenure about implementing smart fencing along the borders. He criticised the current fencing system, which deteriorates during the rainy season, compromising security.

Concerns were also raised regarding the detection of tunnels used by terrorists to infiltrate into the Indian territory, with experts calling for prioritising solutions to this growing challenge. As Jammu faces a new wave of violence, experts believe that the call for a strategic reassessment underscores the urgency of addressing the shifting dynamics of terrorism in the region.



# international

## of the day quote

**Kamala Harris** was the original Marxist district attorney. She destroyed San Francisco and she will destroy our country  
**DONALD TRUMP** | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

We will not shy away from being honest with the public about the reality of what we have inherited. We are calling time on the false promises that British people have had to put up with and we will do what it takes to fix Britain  
**PAT MCFADDEN** | MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, UK

It is being said that the PTI founder is ready to talk. If Imran Khan is ready to talk then that's a positive thing  
**KHURSHID SHAH** | SENIOR PPP LEADER, PAKISTAN

## SHORT TAKES

### Iran's supreme leader endorses Pezeshkian

**Dubai:** Iran's supreme leader formally endorsed Masoud Pezeshkian as the country's President Sunday, after he won an election this month by pledging a pragmatic foreign policy and easing repression at home. Pezeshkian, a relative moderate who will be sworn in Tuesday, is taking office at a time of escalating Middle East tensions over the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza and Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. In a ceremony broadcast live on state television, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave his approval for Pezeshkian.

### SK, US urge North to halt balloons

**Seoul:** The defence chiefs of South Korea and the United States Sunday strongly urged Pyongyang to immediately cease its repeated launch of trash-carrying balloons into the South, Seoul's defence ministry said. Defence Minister Shin Won-sik and his US counterpart, Lloyd Austin, made the call as they met in Tokyo for bilateral talks, where they also discussed ways to strengthen their deterrence capabilities against North Korean threats, reports Yonhap news agency. Shin stressed that the North's continued balloon campaign is a threat to South Korea's sovereignty that breaches the Armistice Agreement, it added.

### Italy, China sign 3-yr action plan

**Beijing:** Italy and China signed a three-year action plan Sunday to implement past agreements and experiment with new forms of cooperation, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on an official visit to the Chinese capital. Meloni is trying to reset relations with China as fears of a trade war with the European Union are interwoven with continued interest in attracting Chinese investment in auto manufacturing and other sectors.

### Landslide buries 15

**Beijing:** A landslide caused by heavy rains from a tropical storm hit a house in central China's Hunan Sunday, killing 15 people and injuring six others. It washed away part of a residential house, burying 18 people. Fifteen people were killed and six others injured in the landslide, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The landslide was reportedly caused by flash flooding on a mountain. Over 300 rescuers have been dispatched and rescue efforts have concluded, the report said.



I thank the Chinese government and the Indian government on behalf of the Maldivian people for their cooperation with this effort to strengthen the economy, to assure our economic sovereignty, for the sake of the Maldivian people  
**MOHAMED MUIZZU** | PRESIDENT, MALDIVES

### GANDHI'S BUST UNVEILED

A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled in Tokyo's Edogawa ward Sunday by external affairs minister S Jaishankar, who described the father of the nation as a global icon



## HIT BY HEZBOLLAH

# ISRAEL VOWS RETALIATION

Hezbollah says it has 'absolutely nothing to do with the incident, and categorically denies all false allegations in this regard'

REUTERS

**Majdal Shams, July 28:** Thousands of mourners attended funeral ceremonies Sunday for the 12 children and teenagers killed by a rocket strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights as Israel vowed swift retaliation against the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

Hezbollah denied any responsibility for the attack on Majdal Shams, the deadliest in Israel or Israeli-annexed territory since Hamas' October 7 assault sparked the war in Gaza, which has since spread to several fronts and now risks spilling into a wider regional conflict. Israel jets hit targets in southern Lebanon overnight but a stronger response was expected following the return of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from his US visit and a meeting of the security cabinet expected at 4 pm.

In the meantime, families gathered for funerals in the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights, territory captured from Syria by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed in a move not recognised by most countries.

Mourners, many in traditional high white and red Druze headwear, surrounded the caskets as they were carried through the



crowds. "We are in difficult moments, a heavy tragedy, a dark day has come to Majdal Shams," said Dolan Abu Saleh, head of the Majdal Shams local council in comments broadcast on Israeli television.

Hezbollah initially had announced it fired rockets at Israeli military sites in the Golan heights, but denied involvement in the attack on Majdal Shams, saying it had "absolutely nothing to do with the incident, and categorically denies all false allegations in this regard."

However Israel, which said the rocket launch was carried out from an area located north of the village of Chebaa in southern Lebanon, has placed the blame squarely on the Iranian-backed group, saying Hezbollah was "unequivocally responsi-

ble" for the deaths of the children as they were playing football.

"The rocket that murdered our boys and girls was an Iranian rocket and Hezbollah is the only terror organization which has those in its arsenal," Israel's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Israeli forces have been exchanging fire for months with Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon but both sides have appeared to be avoiding an escalation that could lead to an all-out war, potentially dragging in other powers including the United States and Iran.

However Saturday's strike threatened to tip the standoff into a more dangerous phase and United Nations officials urged maximum restraint from both sides, warning that further escalation "could ignite a wider conflagration that would engulf

the entire region in a catastrophe beyond belief."

An Israeli military spokesperson had earlier told reporters that forensics showed the rocket was an Iranian-made Falaq-1. Hezbollah had announced firing a Falaq-1 missile Saturday, saying it had aimed at an Israeli military headquarters.

The Lebanese government has asked the US to urge restraint from Israel. Lebanon's foreign minister Abdallah Bou Habib told Reuters. Bou Habib said the US had asked Lebanon's government to pass on a message to Hezbollah to show restraint as well.

Iran warned Israel Sunday against what it called any new adventure in Lebanon, in a statement issued by foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani. However Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, visiting the site of the strike, said "We will hit the enemy hard."

The United States, which has been leading diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating the conflict across the Lebanese-Israeli border, condemned the strike as a horrific attack but did not directly accuse Hezbollah.

The statement from the White House said US support for Israel's security was iron-clad and that it would "continue to support efforts to end these terrible attacks along the Blue Line, which must be a top priority". The Blue Line refers to the frontier between Lebanon and Israel.

A senior diplomat focused on Lebanon said all efforts were now needed to avoid an all-out war.

A rocket attack on a football ground in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights killed 12 people including children Saturday

## Firefighters battle blaze larger than Los Angeles

The fire now ranks seventh on the list of the state's top 10 largest wildfires by acreage



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Forest Ranch, July 28:** Thousands of firefighters battling a wildfire in Northern California received some help from the weather hours after it exploded in size, scorching an area greater than the size of Los Angeles. The blaze was one of several tearing through the western United States and Canada, fuelled by wind and heat.

Cooler temperatures and an increase in humidity could help slow the Park Fire, the largest this

year in California. Its intensity and dramatic spread led fire officials to make unwelcome comparisons to the monstrous Camp Fire, which burned out of control in nearby Paradise in 2018, killing 85 people and torching 11,000 homes. Paradise again was near the danger zone Saturday. The entire town was under an evacuation warning, one of several communities in Butte County. Evacuation orders were also issued in Plumas, Tehama and Shasta counties.

Temperatures are expected to be

cooler than average through the middle of next week, but "that doesn't mean that fires that are existing will go away," said Marc Chenard, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Centre in College Park, Maryland.

As of Saturday night, the Park Fire had scorched 1,416 square kilometres and destroyed 134 structures since igniting Wednesday, when authorities said a man pushed a burning car into a gully in Chico and then fled. It was 10% contained and moving to the north and east near Chico.

The fire is larger than the city of Los Angeles, which covers about 1,214 square km, and now ranks seventh on the list of the state's top 10 largest wildfires by acreage, Cal Fire said in a social media post.

Nearly 2,500 firefighters were battling the blaze, aided by 16 helicopters and numerous air tankers.

## 36 killed, 162 injured in armed clashes between 2 Pak tribes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Peshawar, July 28:** At least 36 people were killed and 162 others injured in armed clashes between two tribes fighting over a piece of land in Pakistan's restive tribal district in northwest, officials said Sunday.

Officials said that heavy clashes started five days ago in Boshera village in Upper Kurram district, which has witnessed deadly conflicts among tribes and religious groups as well as sectarian clashes and militant attacks in the past. The Deputy Commissioner Kurram, Javedullah Mehsud, said that the tribal clashes left 36 people dead and 162 others injured in the last five days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan.

Officials with the help of tribal elders, military leadership, police and district administration have brokered a truce between Shia and Sunni tribes in Boshera,

## Putin warns US of Cold War-style missile crisis

**RUSSIAN PRESIDENT SAYS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS STOKING TENSIONS AND HAD TRANSFERRED TYPHON MISSILE SYSTEMS TO DENMARK AND THE PHILIPPINES**

REUTERS

**Moscow, July 28:** Russian President Vladimir Putin Sunday warned the United States that if Washington deployed long-range missiles in Germany then Russia would station similar missiles in striking distance of the West.

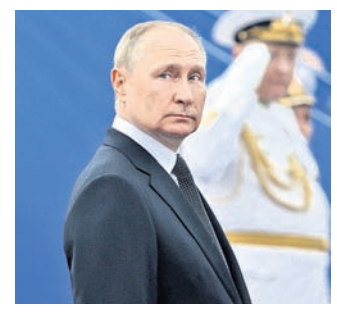
The United States said July 10 that it would start deploying long-range missiles in Germany from 2026 in preparation for a longer-term deployment that will include SM-6, Tomahawk cruise missiles and developmental hypersonic weapons.

In a speech to sailors from Russia, China, Algeria and India to mark Russian navy day in the former imperial capital of St Petersburg, Putin warned the United States that it risked triggering a Cold War-style missile crisis with the move.

"The flight time to targets on our territory of such missiles, which in the future may be equipped with nuclear warheads, will be about 10 minutes," Putin said.

"We will take mirror measures to deploy, taking into account the actions of the United States, its satellites in Europe and in other regions of the world."

Putin, who sent his army into



Ukraine in 2022, casts the war as part of a historic struggle with the West, which he says humiliated Russia after Soviet Union fell in 1991 by encroaching on what he considers Moscow's sphere of influence.

Ukraine and the West say Putin is engaged in an imperialist-style land grab. They have vowed to defeat Russia, which currently controls about 18% of Ukraine, including Crimea, and parts of four regions in eastern Ukraine.

Russia says the lands, once part of the Russian empire, are now again part of Russia and that they will never be given back.

Russian and US diplomats say their diplomatic relations are worse even than during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, and both Moscow and Washington have urged de-escalation while both have made steps towards escalation. Putin said that the United States was stoking tensions and had transferred Typhon missile systems to Denmark and the Philippines, and compared the US plans to the NATO decision to deploy Pershing II launchers in Western Europe in 1979.

"This situation is reminiscent of the events of the Cold War related to the deployment of American medium-range Pershing missiles in Europe," Putin said.

## Patel pledges to replace Sunak as UK Oppn Leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, July 28:** Priti Patel, the UK's former home secretary, Sunday became the first female and Indian-origin candidate to enter the race to replace Rishi Sunak as leader of the Opposition Conservative Party.

The 52-year-old parliamentarian pledged to unite her party and turn the Conservatives into an election "winning machine" once again under her leadership.

The Conservative Party earlier this month faced a historic defeat under the leadership of former Prime Minister Sunak in the general election.

She now goes head-to-head with former ministers James Cleverley, Tom Tugendhat, Mel Stride and Robert Jenrick, who have all entered the leadership contest for formally before Monday's deadline for nominations.

# Venezuelan election: Political shift or six more years of Maduro

**SUNDAY'S BALLOT FEATURES EIGHT OTHER CANDIDATES CHALLENGING PRESIDENT NICOLÁS MADURO, BUT ONLY EDMUNDO GONZÁLEZ, MAIN OPPONENT, THREATENS FORMER'S RULE**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Caracas, July 28:** Polls have opened in Venezuela, where people are voting Sunday in a presidential election whose outcome will either lead to a seismic shift in politics or extend by six more years the policies that caused the world's worst peacetime economic collapse.

Whether it is President Nicolás Maduro who is chosen, or his main opponent, retired diplomat Edmundo González, the election will have ripple effects

throughout the Americas. Government opponents and supporters alike have signalled their interest in joining the exodus of 7.7 million Venezuelans who have already left their homes for opportunities abroad should Maduro win another term.

Polls open at 6 am local time. The number of eligible voters is estimated to be around 17 million.

Authorities set Sunday's election to coincide with what would have been the 70th birthday of former President Hugo Chávez, the revered leftist firebrand who died of cancer in 2013, leaving his Bolivarian revolution in the hands of Maduro. But Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela are more unpopular than ever among many voters who blame his policies for crushing wages, spurring hunger, crippling the oil industry and separating families due to migration.

Maduro, 61, is facing off against an opposition that has managed to line up behind a single candidate after years of in-party divisions and election boycotts that torpedoed their ambitions to topple the ruling party.



González is representing a coalition of opposition parties after being selected in April as a last-minute stand-in for opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado, who was blocked by the Maduro-controlled Supreme Tribunal of Justice from running for any office for 15 years. Machado, a former lawmaker, swept the opposition's October primary with over 90% of the vote. After she was blocked from joining the presidential race, she chose a college professor as her substitute on the ballot, but the National

The United States is not going to prejudge the outcome. This is a choice for Venezuelans to make, but the Venezuelan people deserve an election that genuinely reflects their will, free from any manipulation  
**ANTONY BLINKEN** | US SECRETARY OF STATE

Electoral Council also barred her from registering. That's when González, a political newcomer, was chosen.

Sunday's ballot also features eight other candidates challenging Maduro, but only González threatens Maduro's rule.

Venezuela sits atop the world's largest proven oil reserves, and once boasted Latin America's most advanced economy. But it entered into a free fall after Maduro took the helm. Plummeting oil prices, widespread shortages and hyperinflation that soared past 130,000% led first to social unrest and then mass emigration.

Sanctions from US President Donald Trump's administration seeking to force Maduro from power after his 2018 reelection, which the US and dozens of other countries condemned as illegitimate, only deepened the crisis.

In recent days, Maduro has crisscrossed Venezuela, inaugurating hospital wards and visiting rural areas where he had not set foot in years. His pitch to voters is one of economic security, which he underscores with stories of en-

trepreneurship and references to a stable currency exchange and lower inflation rates.

The capital, Caracas, saw an increase in commercial activity after the pandemic, bolstering an economy the International Monetary Fund forecasts will grow 4% this year, one of the fastest in Latin America, after having shrunk 71% from 2012 to 2020. "They tried to subjugate our people," Maduro said of the United States during his closing rally Thursday in Caracas, "but today we are standing tall and ready for victory on the 28th of July."

But most Venezuelans have not seen any improvement in their quality of life. Many earn under \$200 a month, which means families struggle to afford essential items. Some work second and third jobs. A basket of basic staples, sufficient to feed of family of four for a month, costs an estimated \$385.

The opposition has tried to seize on the huge inequities arising from the crisis, during which Venezuelans abandoned their country's currency, the bolivar, for the US dollar.



# business



The outlook for the market will be guided by major domestic and global economic data such as India's infrastructure output, manufacturing PMI, China manufacturing PMI, BoE (Bank of England) interest rate decision, US nonfarm payrolls and Federal Reserve press conference

## WTO ACCEPTS INDIA, TAIPEI'S REQUEST

The WTO's dispute settlement body has accepted a request from India and Chinese Taipei not to adopt the ruling against New Delhi's import duties on certain information and technology products till October-end, as both sides are engaged in resolving the matter mutually, an official said



### of the day quote

Q1 is a peak quarter. Q2 will dip, Q3 will climb again. So it's a bit seasonal, but overall for the year, we expect around 85 per cent kind of occupancy

MANOJ BHAT | MD AND CEO, MAHINDRA HOLIDAYS & RESORTS INDIA

Although we saw challenging phases with USFDA audits, I am glad to report that our China facility cleared the USFDA audit and is expected to supply to the US by the second half of FY 2024-25

UMAG VOHRA | MD AND GLOBAL CEO, CIPLA

Our goal is to provide a risk-free entry to promote the participation of food merchants and restaurants in the digital economy by eliminating entry barriers such as high commissions and onboarding fees, and committing ₹100 crore towards this initiative

NAMAN MAWANDIA | COO - ENTERPRISE BRANDS, MAGICPIN

# Equity MFs see 5-fold inflow surge

### ROBUST GAIN IN ASSET BASE ALSO REPLICATED IN GROWTH OF INVESTORS IN EQUITY MFs, WITH THE NUMBER OF FOLIOS CLOSING AT 13.3 CORE, ADDING AN INVESTOR BASE OF OVER 3 CORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Investment in equity mutual funds surged over five-fold to ₹94,151 crore in the June 2024 quarter against ₹18,358 crore a year ago, driven by a strong economic environment, supportive government fiscal policies, investors confidence and robust stock returns. This has also pushed the industry's assets under management (AUM) by 59 per cent to ₹27.68 lakh crore in June from ₹17.43 lakh crore a year ago, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed. The robust gain in the asset base was also replicated in the growth of investors in equity mutual funds, with the number of folios closing at 13.3 crore, adding an investor base of over 3 crore. The significant gain in equity folios indicates broader participation across investor segments, driven by improved financial literacy and accessible investment platforms, Trivish D, COO of stock trading platform Tradejini, told PTI.

According to the AMFI data, equity-oriented mutual fund schemes invested ₹94,151 crore in the quarter ended June 2024. This comprises ₹18,917 crore in April, ₹34,697 crore in May and ₹40,537 crore in June. The investment in equity-oriented mutual funds jumped five-fold to ₹94,151 crore in the June quarter from ₹18,358 crore in the quarter ended June 2023 and increased 32 per cent ₹71,280 crore witnessed in the preceding March 2024 quarter. "The confluence of political stability, supportive government policies, and a favourable economic environment has significantly contributed to the impressive inflows into equity mutual funds, signalling a positive outlook for the sector," Trivish said. Strong macroeconomic fundamentals, bolstered by supportive government fiscal policies like higher-than-budgeted tax collection growth, reduced revenue expenditures, and increased capital spending have helped in increasing the allocation to equity mutual funds,



Feroze Azeez, Deputy CEO, Anand Rathi Wealth, told PTI. He further said that investors' confidence in the markets and historically strong returns given by Indian equities with relatively low risk also helped investors to move towards equity mutual funds. Additionally, the shift was further fuelled by a transition from traditional investments like deposits to mutual funds in pursuit of higher returns. "The long-term outlook remains pos-

itive, with expectations of 11-13 per cent annual returns for Indian equities, and equity mutual funds potentially delivering even higher returns," Azeez said. Within the equity segment, sectoral or thematic category attracted ₹46,731 crore during the quarter under review, followed by Multi-cap (₹10,077 crore), Flexicap (₹8,387 crore), Large & Midcaps (₹7,948 crore), Smallcap (₹7,197 crore) and Midcap (₹6,927 crore).

# Govt scraps auction of 3 critical mineral blocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The government has scrapped the auction of three critical mineral blocks, including a lithium mine in Jammu and Kashmir, under the third tranche of sale of mines due to a lower-than-required number of bidders.

The auction is a part of the government's push towards cleaner alternatives and self-reliance in critical mineral supplies. The three blocks are Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) Block in Jammu and Kashmir, Muskaniya-Gareriata-Barwari Potash block in Jharkhand and Kurunjakulam Graphite block in Tamil Nadu.

The auction was annulled as the "required number of bids as per the mineral auction rules have not been received," according to a notice by the Mines Ministry. The ministry March 14, put on sale seven critical mineral blocks in the third round of auction. The blocks that received less than three bids in the first tranche were notified under this round. These seven blocks pertain to

critical minerals such as Glauconite, Graphite, Nickel, PGE, Potash, Lithium, and Titanium and are spread across the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Last month, the government cancelled the auction of 14 blocks of critical minerals launched in the second tranche. In the first tranche of sale, the Centre had cancelled the auction for 13 of the 20 blocks put on sale due to a lukewarm response.

The Centre last month launched the fourth round of auctions of critical and strategic mineral blocks offering 21 mines in several states including Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Out of these 21 blocks, 11 are new, spanning Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These blocks contain a variety of minerals including Graphite, Glauconite, Phosphorite, Potash, Nickel, PGE, Phosphate and Rare Earth Elements (REE).

### SHORT TAKES

#### Tax demand notice for Colgate-Palmolive

New Delhi: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd has received a tax demand notice of ₹248.74 crore from the Income Tax Authority in a transfer pricing-related issue. The FMCG major said it will be challenging the order before the appellate tribunal. Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd (CPIL), which operates in oral care and personal care, received notice July 26, 2024, according to a regulatory filing by the company. The income tax demand is for the financial year ended March 31, 2021, for transfer pricing-related issues. "The Company has received a Final Assessment Order for Assessment Year (AY) 2020-21 carrying a demand amounting to ₹248,74,78,511/-," it said. The said demand includes interest amounting to ₹79.63 crore, CPIL added. "The company will be filing an appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal against the said order," said CPIL adding "There is no impact on financial operations or any other activities of the Company due to this order."

#### BookMyCargo enters B2C space

New Delhi: Logistics player BookMyCargo has entered the domestic business-to-consumer (B2C) segment to increase its market presence as it targets ₹100 crore topline by FY30, a company official said. Established in 2016, the Gurugram-based BookMyCargo (BMC) is operating in the business-to-business (B2B) space serving clients in sectors like FMCG, consumer goods, and pharma among others. "As of 2016, the demand for same-day deliveries was less than 1 per cent. It is anticipated to increase to 22 per cent by 2025. We have entered into the B2C segment to tap this growth and increase our presence," BookMyCargo Founder J D Yadav said.

#### Mcap of 6 of top-10 firms up ₹1.85L-cr

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of six of the top 10 valued firms jumped ₹1,85,186.51 crore last week, with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Infosys emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 728.07 points or 0.90 per cent. The valuation of LIC surged ₹44,907.49 crore to ₹7,46,602.73 crore. Infosys added ₹35,665.92 crore to its market valuation at ₹7,80,062.35 crore. Reliance Industries remains the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

# FPIs infuse ₹33,600cr in equities in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Foreign investors injected over ₹33,600 crore into Indian equities so far this month on the expectation of continued policy reforms, sustained economic growth and a better-than-expected earnings season. However, they pulled out over ₹7,200 crore from equities in the last three trading sessions (July 24-26) after the government hiked taxes on Futures and Options trades (F&O) and capital gains from equity investments in the Budget.

Market experts believe that Indian equity is well-positioned for the year to attract foreign investments. However, there may be some monthly volatility due to short-term news. "Indian equity market and bond market are favourably placed for the year. This should attract foreign flows into the country. There could be some volatility in the flows on a month-on-month basis due to short-term news flows," Nimesh Chandan, CIO of Bajaj Finserv

AMC, said. According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net inflow of ₹33,688 crore in equities this month (till July 26). This came following an inflow of ₹26,565 crore in equities in June, driven by political stability and the sharp rebound in markets. Before that, FPIs withdrew ₹25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over ₹8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields. "Economically, India stands on a strong footing. Moreover, the better-than-expected earnings season so far has improved corporate India's balance sheet that would help in building investor confidence. Furthermore, there is growing anticipation of an interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve in September," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

# UltraTech to acquire India Cement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Aditya Birla Group flagship company UltraTech Cement will acquire a 32.72 per cent stake in India Cements from promoters and their associates for ₹3,954 crore to expand its footprint in the highly competitive and fast-growing Southern cement market, particularly Tamil Nadu. Besides, Ultratech has also announced a ₹3,142.35 crore open offer to acquire another 26 per cent share of India Cements Ltd (ICL) from its shareholders.

This announcement comes a month after Adani Group, the second largest cement maker announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement for ₹10,422 crore, which will add 14 MTPA, taking its capacity to 93 MTPA. With an installed capacity of 154.86 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of grey cement, UltraTech Cement leads the Indian cement industry. It has an ambition to become one of the largest cement companies in the world and has set a target for 200 MTPA.



However, Adani Group, which entered the cement business in September 2022 after acquiring Ambuja Cement from Swiss firm Holcim for cash proceeds of USD 6.4 billion (about ₹51,000 crore), is also pacing up. Adani Group has set up a target to achieve a 140 MTPA capacity by FY28 and is aggressively expanding organically through capacity expansion at the existing units and also going for acquisitions. Through Ambuja, it also controls ACC Ltd and acquired

MyHome Industries and Sanghi Industries in 2023. The board of the Aditya Birla firm approved the acquisition of 32.72 per cent stake from promoters and their associates at ₹390 per share, according to a regulatory filing from UltraTech Sunday. It has entered into share purchase agreements for a 28.42 per cent stake from promoters - Srinivasan N, Chitra Srinivasan, Rupa Gurunath and S K Asokh Balaaje and a 4.30 per cent share from Sri Saradha Logistics.

# Tax clearance certificate only for people with tax dues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: After social media outrage over a Budget proposal making it mandatory to get tax clearance certificates for going abroad, the government Sunday clarified that the proposed amendment is not for all, and only those accused of financial irregularities or having substantial tax arrears need such clearance. The finance ministry, in the Finance Bill, 2024, has proposed to add the reference of the Black Money Act, 2015, to the list of Acts, under which any person should clear his liabilities to obtain the tax clearance certificate. "The proposed amendment does not require all the residents to obtain the tax clearance certificate," the ministry said in a statement.



As per section 230 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, every person is not required to obtain a tax clearance certificate. Only in the case of certain persons, in respect of whom circumstances exist, which make it necessary to obtain a tax clearance certificate will be required to obtain such a certificate.

The ministry said that the Income Tax department through a 2004 notification has specified that the tax clearance certificate may be required to be obtained by persons domiciled in India only in certain circumstances.

These include - where the person is involved in serious financial irregularities and his presence is necessary in the investigation of cases under the Income-tax Act or the Wealth-tax Act and it is likely that a tax demand will be raised against him, or where the person has direct tax arrears exceeding ₹10 lakh outstanding against him, which have not been stayed by any authority. The I-T department said that a person can be asked to obtain a tax clearance certificate only after recording the reasons for the same and after taking approval from the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax or Chief Commissioner of Income-tax.

# 'Removal of angel tax to help attract investors'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 28: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Sunday said that removal of angel tax, which was introduced in 2012 by the UPA government, for all classes of investors will help startups attract investments. He also said that the customs duty reduction for gold and silver from 15 per cent to 6 per cent will not only help small artisans but also promote the country's gems and jewellery exports. The budget has also announced

"The Budget 2024-25 has removed the angel tax and through it, we will be able to attract investors into the country," he said here at a post-budget interaction with the industry. Further Goyal informed that the budget has announced the setting up of 12 industrial townships in the country. He said that one of these will be in Maharashtra and it will help create jobs and a strong ecosystem for the industry and trade.

steps to promote diamond trade. India is a world leader in the diamond cutting and polishing industry, which employs a large number of skilled workers. The budget has announced that India would provide for safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country. Angel tax (income tax at 30 per cent rate) was imposed on funding raised by unlisted companies, or startups, if their valuation exceeded the company's fair market value.

# India needs to strive for \$30tn economy: NITI paper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: India needs to strive to be a USD 30 trillion economy with a per capita income of USD 18,000 per annum by 2047, the approach paper for vision for Vikshit Bharat in 2047 has said. NITI Aayog in a paper titled "Vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047: An Approach Paper" said India needs to avoid the Middle-Income trap and carefully work towards breaking out of it. "As for the economy, to become a developed nation, we need to strive to be a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047 with a per capita income of USD 18,000 per annum. The GDP would have to grow nine times from today's USD 3.36 trillion and the per capita income would need to rise 8 times from today's USD 2,392 per

annum," it said. The paper also noted that progressing from a middle-income to a high-income level requires sustained growth in the range of 7-10 per cent for 20-30 years and very few countries have managed to do this. Defining the concept of Vikshit Bharat, the paper said it is a Bharat which will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-income countries of the world today. It is a Bharat whose social, cultural, technological, and institutional features will mark it out as a developed nation with a rich heritage and one that is capable of functioning at the frontiers of knowledge. The World Bank defines high-income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more



than USD 14,005 (in 2023). India has the potential and aims to be a high-income country by the centenary of its independence in 2047. The paper said upgrading capabilities in manufacturing and logistics and bridging the gap

Narendra Modi. It noted that the country needs to achieve a balance between energy, security, access, affordability and sustainability. The document said improving the competitiveness of industry is equally necessary for the transformation of the country's agricultural workforce into an industrial workforce and making India a global manufacturing and service hub. Noting that a vision for India cannot be the work of a few individuals or of one government, the document said it has to be the result of the collective efforts of the entire nation. According to the document, India is at a turning point in its history and the 21st century can be India's century, as the country pole-vaunts into the future confident of its capabilities.

between rural and urban incomes are some of the structural challenges that India needs to address. This document was discussed during NITI Aayog's ninth Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister



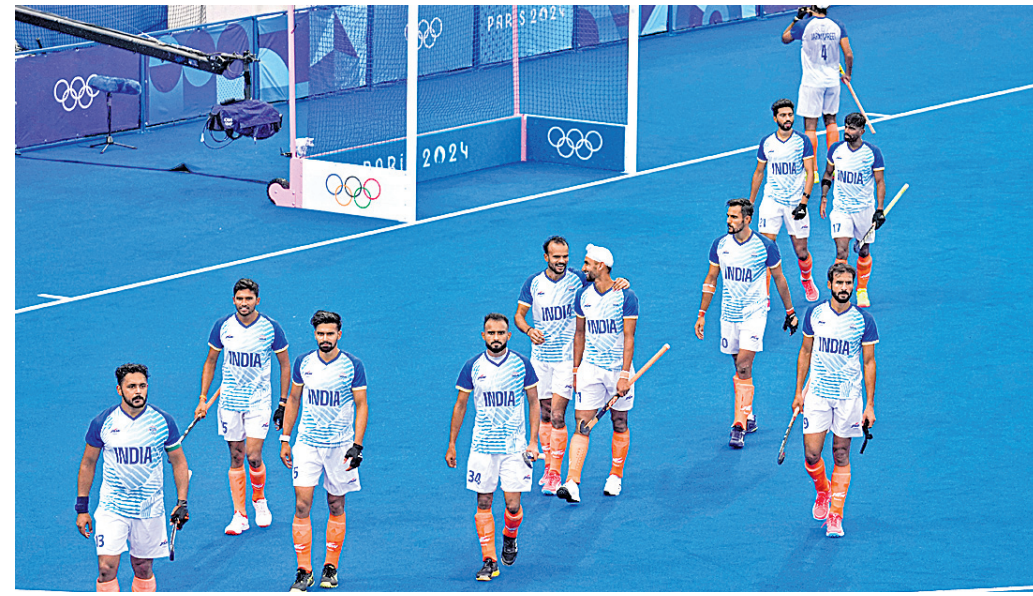
# India eye consistency against Argentina

CRUCIAL MATCH FOR MEN IN BLUE TO SEAL QUARTERFINAL BERTH AT PARIS

**Paris, July 28:** Their campaign off to a winning start, India would eye a consistent performance when they take on unpredictable Argentina in their second match of the Olympic men's hockey competition here Monday.

India beat New Zealand 3-2 in a tense opening match Saturday with captain Harmanpreet Singh scoring the winner in the dying minutes from a penalty stroke. Monday's match against Argentina is also expected to be a tough one as the South Americans are famous for man-to-man marking and hard play, which the Indian midfield will have to withstand.

The Indians are placed in a tough Pool B alongside reigning Olympic champions Belgium, Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland. The first three matches against New Zealand, Argentina and Ireland are crucial for India to garner



maximum points before squaring against Belgium and Australia. In the 12-team competition divided into two pools, four sides from each pool will qualify for the quarterfinals.

A win Monday will more or less ensure India's entry into the quarterfinals of the Paris Games.

Argentina are known for their hard-tackling and power game, and the Indian defence will have to be on their toes to deny any easy opening for the Argentines as they did against New Zealand. The likes of skipper Harmanpreet, Amit Rohidas and Sumit will

have to be at their best to make life simple for Sreejesh.

Going by rankings, there is hardly anything to separate between the two sides as Argentina are placed sixth, while India are a rung below in the seventh position.

Sreejesh was the first to admit after the game Saturday that India did not play according to expectations. "The first match in the Olympics is never easy. New Zealand are not an easy team. We made some mistakes, but there were a few good things as well. It's a good wake up call for the team," Sreejesh said. "We got three points and that's what is important," he added.

India head coach Craig Fulton said at this level, tough matches will be routine. "You can see Australia and Argentina won by 1-0 margins. It's tight, really tight. So this was a really important step for us. It wasn't the perfect performance, but we had a plan. We stuck to it," the South African said.

# Sindhu begins in positive fashion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paris, July 28:** Indian shuttler PV Sindhu began her Paris Olympics campaign with a re-sounding straight games win over Maldives' Fathimath Abdul Razzaq in the women's singles group stage match, here Sunday.

The gulf of class between the two players was evident as Sindhu, who is vying for a third Olympic medal, took just 29 minutes to dispatch her lower-ranked opponent 21-9, 21-6 in the Group M fixture.

"It was a good start, I am happy I was able to get used to the court and the atmosphere. It has been a long time, coming back after three years; it's a very special one. The 2016 (Olympics) was different and 2020 (2021) was completely different. It is a sort of mixture of both," said Sindhu about her Olympic journey. "I am enjoying and looking to the second match."

After a couple of unforced errors, Sindhu was quick to assess the condition and took control of the proceedings, racing to a 11-4 lead. The World No 111 Fathimath was no match against the former World Champion who

finished the first game in a mere 13 minutes.

The second game followed a similar manner with Sindhu claiming the first four points in the blink of an eye to take an early lead. It soon became a one-sided contest once again as the Indian increased the gap to 10-3. Sindhu then wrapped up the game and the match quite easily.

The 10th seeded Indian, will take on World No. 75 Kristin Kuuba of Estonia in her second group match Wednesday.

Earlier Indian women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto began their Paris Olympics campaign with a loss in straight games to South Koreans Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong in their Group C fixture here late Saturday night. The Indians lost 18-21, 10-21 in a 44-minute match.

## Debutant Prannoy off to good start

**H**S Prannoy opened his maiden campaign in Olympics with a straight-game win over lesser-ranked Fabian Roth of Germany in men's singles competition here Sunday. The 32-year-old from Kerala, who was down with chikungunya for almost two weeks ahead of the Paris Games, gave a good display of fitness and showed his mettle during the 21-18 21-12 win over Roth in a 45-minute match of Group K. He will next face Le Duc Phat of Vietnam Wednesday in the second and final group match.

Prannoy was tested by the world No 82 Roth, who engaged the Indian in some quality rallies.

## Women's archery team defeated

**I**ndia's most decorated archer Deepika Kumari proved to be the biggest letdown as the women's team lost in straight sets to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals to end its Olympics campaign in disappointment here Sunday. On a day the youngest member of the team, Bhajan Kaur, the 18-year-old from Haryana, shot an exceptional 56 out of 60 points, the two seasoned campaigners, Deepika and Ankita Bhakat, proved to be the weak links as India lost 0-6 (51-52, 49-54, 48-53). That twice in three sets, they even failed to go past the score of 50 summed up their miserable show. To put it in a perspective, the four-time Olympian Deepika shot a cumulative 48 points, while Ankita shot two points lesser at 46 out of a maximum 60 which included a horror shooting into the 4-ring. This was yet another quarterfinal exit in the Olympics by the Indian team. The team had finished fourth in the qualification round. "This is not at all expected. Deepika performed the best in the Indian trials but let the Indian team down badly by her poor performance today," a senior Indian archery official told PTI.



## Girls shine as Sharath suffers shocking exit

**Paris:** Indian table tennis veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal made a shock exit from the Paris Olympics men's singles competition but star woman player Manika Batra started her campaign with a 4-1 thrashing of her opponent in a round of 64 match here Sunday. The 42-year-old Kamal, who was making his fifth and possibly last Olympics appearance, lost 2-4 (12-10, 9-11, 6-11, 7-11, 11-8, 10-12) to Deni Kozul of Slovenia ranked 86 places below him in a round of 64 match that lasted 53 minutes. The Commonwealth Games champion Indian, ranked 40th in the world, won a tight first game but lost the next three to trail 1-3. He recovered and made it 2-3 but again lost a tight fourth game to bow out of the competition. His opponent is ranked 126th in the world. The 29-year-old Manika, on the other hand, dominated Anna Hurshey of Great Britain in her round of 64 women's singles match that lasted 41 minutes. Manika, seeded 18th in the tournament won 11-8, 12-10, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5 over Hurshey, who is World No 103.

CAMPAIGN ENDS

## Swimmers bow out before semis

**I**ndia's swimming campaign at the Paris Olympics came to an end with both Srihari Nataraj and Dhinihdi Desinghu failing to progress to the semifinals of their respective events here Sunday. Nataraj finished joint-second in the slower heat with a timing of 55.01s but the 23-year-old was 33rd in the overall standing for the 100m men's backstroke event. The 16 fastest swimmers from the heats qualify to the semifinals. The performance was far from Nataraj's personal best of 53.77s and was considerably slower than his season best time of 54.68s. Making her Olympic debut, 14-year-old Dhinihdi, the youngest member of the Indian contingent, did well to top her 200m women's freestyle heat.



## Early exit for Nagal

**S**umit Nagal stuck to his strong baseline game but that didn't seem to be enough against mercurial Frenchman Corentin Moutet, who knocked out the Indian from the Paris Olympics with a stylish three-set win, here Sunday. In his second appearance at the Olympic Games, Nagal bounced back after losing the first set but fell 2-6 6-4 5-7 in two hours and 28 minutes at a packed court seven at the Roland Garros. In the Tokyo Games, Nagal had lost in the second round to Russian Daniil Medvedev but could not make the most of a manageable opener today

# Two Indian pugilists in pre-quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paris, July 28:** Two-time World Champion Nikhat Zareen powered into the women's 50kg Olympics pre-quarterfinals with a tenacious victory over Germany's Maxi Carina Kloetzer here Sunday. Earlier in another bout played late Saturday night, Preeti Pawar picked up an unanimous decision win against Vietnam's Vo Thi Kim Anh to enter the women's 54kg category pre-quarterfinals.

Trailing on three cards after the first round, the 28-year-old Zareen prevailed by a 5-0 margin against the German in a rather messy round of 32 contest at the North Paris Arena here.

The unseeded Zareen, who is making her Games debut and is a strong medal contender, did not have the best of starts as she



PACKING A PUNCH: Nikhat Zareen (in blue) in action against Germany's Maxi Carina Kloetzer at the Paris Olympics, Sunday

German closed the ring on her with aggressive attacking. But Zareen expertly forced her way back to the centre of the ring, connecting some lusty blows.

The German, who was at a height disadvantage, used her jab to good effect, taking the first round via a 3-2 split verdict. The second round was off to a fran-

tic start with both boxers trading punches. But Zareen found her rhythm and connected some lethal hooks on Kloetzer. Both pugilists were trying to impress the judges but Zareen showcased her tactical prowess.

After the two energy sapping rounds, Zareen continued to land accurate blows, while

Kloetzer looked exhausted and resorted to grappling. She was warned by the referee a couple of times as Zareen took the round and the win.

Zareen, who has been handed a tough draw, will take on top-seeded Asian Games and reigning flyweight World Champion Wu Yu of China, who received a first round bye, Thursday.

Preeti, the Asian Games bronze medalist, competing in her maiden Olympics, won her first round bout by a 5-0.

The 20-year-old from Haryana, who had been hospitalised for a few days ahead of the Games due to illness, was unimpressive in the first round as her Vietnamese opponent dictated the proceedings. But the Indian made amends in the next two rounds, attacking and landing clear blows on her opponent.

# PROBLEMS AT PARIS

## Incessant rain plays spoilsport

**R**ain that fell throughout the opening ceremony continued Saturday, leading to postponements and delays at the Paris Olympics. The first event of the skateboarding competition, men's street skateboarding, was postponed from Saturday until Monday because of the showers. Skateboarding is held at the outdoor venue of La Concorde Urban Park in Paris. World Skate, the sport's governing body, cited adverse weather conditions for the move. Rain has been one of the big stories early in the Games after constant showers and occasional downpours served as the backdrop for the opening ceremony. The start of play in the scheduled tennis matches on the 10 smaller courts at Roland Garros was delayed because of rain, but action was able to get going in the two main stadiums, which have retractable roofs. The men's and women's time trials that opened the Olympic cycling program went off as scheduled from Les Invalides, but the streets of Paris were made so treacherous by the rain that several top riders hit the deck in both races.

## Seine River: Water woes cancel event

**C**oncerns over the water quality of Paris' Seine River have continued into the 2024 Olympics, with a pre-race triathlon event there canceled Sunday. Organisers said they nixed the swimming leg of the triathlon familiarization scheduled for Sunday morning after a meeting about water quality among authorities tasked with carrying out water quality tests. That included representatives of World Triathlon, as well as city and regional authorities.

Swimming in the Seine has been banned for over a century in big part due to poor water quality. Organisers have invested \$1.5 billion to prepare the Seine for these Games, and the government has said the river would be clean enough to hold events.

# PARIS OPENING CEREMONY UPSETS BISHOPS

**ORGANISERS CRITICISED FOR GIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO LGBTQ COMMUNITY**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, July 28:** In an unprecedented display of inclusivity, drag queens took centre stage at the Paris Olympics opening ceremony, showcasing the vibrant and influential role of the French LGBTQ+ community - while also attracting criticism over a tableau reminiscent of 'The Last Supper'.

Held along the Seine River, the spectacular four-hour event featured global stars such as Celine Dion and Lady Gaga, both considered queer icons. The ceremony blended historic and modern French culture with a touch of kitsch, culminating in a flotilla of barges carrying thousands of Olympians.

Nicky Doll, known for competing on the 12th season of 'RuPaul's Drag Race' and hosting 'Drag Race France', participated in a high-octane fashion runway segment along with 'Drag Race France' Season 1 winner Paloma, Season 3's Piche, and Giselle Palmer. Initially, they stood alongside the runway, gazing fiercely at the strutting mod-



els. Later, they joined in, showcasing their own style.

Le Filip, the recent winner of 'Drag Race France', expressed their positive 'surprise' and 'pride' at the ceremony's scale and representation.

"I thought it would be a five-minute drag event with queer representation. I was amazed. It started with Lady Gaga, then we had drag queens, a huge rave, and a fire in the sky," Filip said. "It felt like a crowning all over again. I am proud to see my friends and queer people on the world stage."

Among their bold performances was a scene that seemed

to evoke Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper', featuring the drag queens and other performers in a configuration reminiscent of Jesus Christ and his apostles. This segment drew significant attention - and mixed reactions.

Prominent far-right politician Marion Maréchal denounced the performance on social media. "To all the Christians of the world who are watching the Paris 2024 ceremony and felt insulted by this drag queen parody of 'The Last Supper', know that it is not France that is speaking but a left-wing minority ready for any provocation," she posted on

'X', a sentiment that was echoed by religious conservatives internationally.

"... because decapitating Habsburgs and ridiculing central Christian events are really the FIRST two things that spring to mind when you think of #OlympicGames," Eduard Habsburg, Hungary's ambassador to the Vatican, posted on X, also referencing a scene depicting the beheading of Marie Antoinette.

Le Filip responded to the criticism of the scene with a touch of humour and sorrow. "It feels like the words of somebody who didn't get on the guest list. We

could all be laughing together. It's sad to me, honestly," Filip said.

"In France, we have the right to love each other, as we want and with who we want. In France, we have the right to believe or to not believe. In France, we have a lot of rights. Voilà," said the audacious show's artistic director, Thomas Jolly.

## Organisers apologise

**P**aris Olympics organisers apologised Sunday to anyone who was offended by a tableau that evoked Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper' during the glamorous opening ceremony. The ceremony's artistic director Thomas Jolly had said it was meant to celebrate diversity and pay tribute to feasting and French gastronomy. Paris 2024 spokesperson Anne Descamps was asked about the outcry during an International Olympic Committee news conference Sunday. "Clearly there was never an intention to show disrespect to any religious group. On the contrary, I think (with) Thomas Jolly, we really did try to celebrate community tolerance," Descamps said. "Looking at the result of the polls that we shared, we believe that this ambition was achieved. If people have taken any offense we are, of course, really, really sorry."



# Bhagwat Gita helped Manu

1st woman shooter to win Olympic medal, Bhaker ends 12-year wait for medal



AGENCIES

**Chateauroux (France), July 28:** There is always the desire for a fairytale script. It doesn't usually happen. But then there are always exceptions to the rule. Manu Bhaker is a case in point.

The 22-year-old Haryana girl had ended the Tokyo Olympics in tears after her gun malfunctioned. She was expected to win a medal then and also this time around. Luck may have deserted her in 2021, but not this time. Along with her bountiful talent, Bhaker showed admirable grit and determination to finally get the one medal that was missing in her closet - the Olympic medal.

The last three years had not been easy for Bhaker. She had won numerous World and Asian Championships medal. However, she had always faced 'what about the Olympics' question. Finally that question has been put to rest. In the process, she created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting by snaring the bronze in the 10m air pistol event here.

"After Tokyo, I was very disappointed. It took me a long time to get over that," Bhaker said on Jio Cinema after her win. "So really grateful that I could win bronze, maybe (it will be) better next time. I feel great. This medal was long due for India. It feels surreal," she added.

However, it (medal) is has not come easy for the lively marksman from Jhajjar in Haryana. A pistol malfunction in the qualifications at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 had reduced Bhaker to tears. But, over the past two

days, she put up an effort that is expected of an athlete who has won many medals on the international stage.

"India deserve many more medals, as many as possible. The feeling is really surreal, it takes a lot of effort," Bhaker said. "It was a close final and she was also in with a chance to win silver at one stage. "In the last shot, I was fighting with all the energy I had. Maybe I can get better in the next (event)," she informed.

Mental toughness is one area where Bhaker has worked a lot over the years, with plenty of help also coming from her coach Jaspal Rana.

"I read a lot of Bhagwat Gita, and tried to do just what I am supposed to do and left everything else to God.

**A proud moment, @realmanubhaker wins Bharat's first medal, a BRONZE in Women's 10m Air Pistol at #ParisOlympic2024. Congratulations Manu, you have displayed your skill & dedication, you have become 1st woman shooter to win an Olympic medal!**

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | SPORTS MINISTER

## Babuta in final

**Chateauroux:** Indian shooter Arjun Babuta secured a spot in the 10m air rifle final of the Olympic Games after finishing seventh in the qualification round here on Sunday. The 25-year-old Babuta shot a series of 105.7, 104.9, 105.5, 105.4, 104.0 and 104.6 to make the cut with a score of 630.1 points. Army man Sandeep Singh shot 629.3 to finish 12th in the same event.

We can't fight destiny, you can't control the outcome," Bhaker said. "You can only keep trying and keep giving your best," Bhaker added.

About the biggest win of her magnificent career, the nine-time World Cup medallist said, "I really can't explain how good I am feeling. I was fighting with all the energy I have."

Bhaker also took time to thank her family and friends and above all Rana. "Thank you so much for sticking by me (to all the friends, relatives and well-wishers). It is for them that I am standing here strong. Every single time, I am putting so much effort and you all made my life so easy. I would like to thank my coach Jaspal sir also," she stated.

BHAKEER'S FEATS			
2024	Paris Olympics	10m air pistol	Bronze
2023	World Championships	25m air pistol team	Gold
2022	World Championships	25m air pistol team	Silver
2019	ISSF World Cup	10m air pistol	Gold
2019	ISSF World Cup	10m air pistol team	Gold
2018	ISSF World Cup	10m air pistol	Gold
2018	ISSF World Cup	10m air pistol team	Gold

**A CHANCE TO BE PART OF**

# METTLE MEET 2024

## OrissaPOST

HERE . NOW

# QUIZ

Extravaganza

It's time for **METTLE MEET** - an initiative by the state's only homegrown English daily to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the Preliminaries will take place **August 3** and the **Grand Finale August 4**. Like in previous years, most of the top educational institutions of Odisha - both schools and colleges will be competing for the **Grand Prize of ₹1,00,000** in the Junior and Senior segments.

**A**s a reader of **Orissa POST**, this is a great chance for you to be part of the exciting **Grand Finale** if you can predict the correct answer. There will be one question on each day for you to answer till July 31, 2024. Every day there will be two winners. If there are more than two correct entries, then the winners will be decided by draw of lots. All the winners will be invited for the **Grand Finale** which will be conducted by nationally acclaimed quizmaster **Ajay Poonia**. There will be prizes for the daily winners too. So buckle up your seatbelts and get set for some brainstorming.

### TODAY'S QUESTION

Geoffrey Cain's 2021 book - 'The Perfect Police State - An Undercover Odyssey into X's Terrifying Surveillance Dystopia of the Future' is a riveting investigation into how X became the site of a nightmare Orwellian social experiment and the global technology giants that made it possible. Which country is X?

### ANSWER TO SUNDAY'S QUESTION

Barcode

### RULES & REGULATIONS

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to [mettlemeet@orissapost.com](mailto:mettlemeet@orissapost.com)
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- **Orissa POST's** decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a **passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address**. Otherwise the entries will be rejected.
- There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of **Valid ID proof - Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card** (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee of **Orissa POST** or their family members can be part of the competition

### THE TWO LUCKY WINNERS



**STHITA PRAJNA BEHERA**      **PARAMESWAR DALAI**

**Others who answered correctly are**  
R Sekhar Rao, Asit Kumar Satpathy, Ahaana Paikray, Mayank Mandal, Alok Ranjan Sahoo, Omm Swarup Das, Abinash Prusty, Arghyashree Jena, Debadaita Tripathy, Shoumik Jena, Prithviraj Padhy, Arka Abhilash Satapathy, Tanishna Bisoi, Santanu Kumar Nanda, Harish Chandra Tudu

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## SHORT TAKES

### Durand Cup: Jamshedpur FC beat Assam Rifles

**Jamshedpur:** Sanan Mohammed's double strike powered Jamshedpur FC to a comfortable 3-0 victory against Assam Rifles in a Group D match of the Durand Cup here Sunday. Imran Khan scored the third goal for the Jamshedpur side. Jamshedpur dominated possession from the first whistle as they created chances in plenty. But the Assam Rifles defence, who were playing deep inside their box, thwarted the moves keeping the match goalless. The Red Miners finally broke the deadlock in the second minute of injury time through Sanan.

### USA Cricket appoints Atkieson as CEO

**New York:** USA Cricket has fulfilled one of the two critical requirements to avoid being disqualified as an ICC Associate nations by appointing Jonathan Atkieson as its chief executive officer effective August 1. The USAC was 'put on notice' by the ICC earlier this month for breaching two norms. While not having a CEO was one, the other was USAC not fulfilling the governance norms which are set by the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC). As per the norm, it is necessary for every sport governing body to earn the National Governing Body (NGB) status which is needed for all sports added in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee during its 141st Session and Executive Board meeting in Mumbai last year had given its nod for the inclusion of cricket in the Los Angeles Games.

### Theegala at tied-fourth

**Blaine:** Indian-American Sahith Theegala put himself in a good position at tied-fourth in the 3M Open here. Theegala, who has one win on the PGA Tour, has shot 66-69-66 to be 12-under and was tied fourth. Another Indian-American, Akshay Bhatia with 70-69-67, was 7-under and tied-23rd. The 39-year-old Venezuelan Jhonattan Vegas birdied six of the final eight holes for an 8-under 63 and grabbed a one-stroke lead over Matt Kuchar.

# SRI LANKA DETHRONE INDIA EVES IN ASIA CUP

**SL RECORD FIRST-EVER ASIA CUP WIN AS HARSHITA, CHAMARI STUN 'WOMEN IN BLUE'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dambulla (Sri Lanka), July 28:** Captain Chamari Athapaththu's turbo-charged fifty combined well with the steadfast half-century of Harshitha Samarawickrama as a resilient Sri Lanka carved an eight-wicket win over defending champions India to bag their maiden women's Asia Cup title here Sunday.

This is the second time in nine Asia Cup editions (WODI and WT20I) across formats that India have lost a final. The last time India lost the final was against Bangladesh in 2018 in Kuala Lumpur.

Tasked with hunting down a strong target of 166, Sri Lanka served well by Athapaththu (61b, 43b, 9x4, 2x6) and Samarawickrama (69 not out, 51b, 6x4, 2x6) and finished at 167 for two in 18.4 overs. Athapaththu and Samarawickrama added 87 runs as Lankans always stayed ahead of their opponents. The stand for the second wicket



was also of contrasts as Samarawickrama was the yin to the yang of her aggressive leader. Athapaththu fetched her fifty

**We are looking to improve in some areas. We will definitely work hard and remember this day. They have played such good cricket for so long and they played good cricket throughout this tournament**

HARMANPREET KAUR | INDIA CAPTAIN

most every reachable place on the field, and her assault on left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar, who she biffed for two fours and six in her first over, was stunning.

But at the other end, Samarawickrama clearly lacked the power of her senior but she offset that with clever placings, such as reverse sweeps off left-arm spinners Deepti Sharma and Radha Yadav. But she picked up the tempo when Sri Lanka reached a rather safer zone, muscling a slog-swept six off Yadav over mid-wicket. In between, Deepti managed

to bowl Athapaththu around her legs with a fuller delivery that sparked celebrations among the Indians, who till then looked lethargic on the field.

But those merriments were premature as Samarawickrama found an able sidekick in Kavisha Dilhari (30 not out, 16b, 1x4, 2x6) as the duo added 73 runs off just 40 balls for the unbeaten third wicket to guide their side home.

Smriti Mandhana's conditions-defying half-century (60, 47b, 10x4) had powered India to a fighting 165 for six and she received reasonable backing from Jemimah Rodrigues (29, 16 balls, 3x4, 1x6) and Richa Ghosh (30, 14 balls, 4x4, 1x6).

### BRIEF SCORES

**India:** 165/6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhan 60, Richa Ghosh 30; Kavisha Dilhari 2-36, Sachini Nisansala 1-20) lost to **Sri Lanka** 167/2 in 18.4 overs (Harshitha Samarawickrama 69 not out, Chamari Athapaththu 61; Deepti Sharma 1-30) by eight wickets

## Olympics: India schedule - Day 3

- Archery:** Men's team quarterfinals: Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Pravin Jadhav - 6:30pm  
**Badminton:** Men's doubles (Group stage): Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty vs Mark Lamfuss and Marvin Seidel (Germany) - 12pm  
**Women's Doubles (Group stage):** Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto vs Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida (Japan) - 12:50pm  
**Men's singles (Group stage):** Lakshya Sen vs Julien Carraggi (Belgium) - 5:30pm  
**Shooting:** 10m Air Pistol Mixed **Team Qualification:** Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh; Rhythm Sangwan and Arjun Singh Cheema - 12:45pm  
**Men's Trap Qualification:** Prithviraj Tondaiman - 1pm  
**10m Air Rifle Women's Final:** Ramita Jindal - 1pm  
**10m Air Rifle Men's Final:** Arjun Babuta - 3:30pm  
**Hockey:** Men's Pool B Match: India vs Argentina - 4:15pm  
**Table tennis:** Women's Singles (Round of 32): Sreeja Akula vs Jian Zeng (Singapore) - 11:30pm.

## Sports Icon Awards soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 28:** The iconic sports icon awards 'Asanta' will be held August 19 at the Swosti Premium hotel here. Sports enthusiasts, legends, rising stars and superstars will come together in this celebration of talent and dedication.

The awards are divided into three main categories. They are 'Sports Icon Awards', 'Iconic Sports Awards' and 'Sports Excellence Awards for Dibyanga'. The awards will be given in 22 sports categories including cricket, badminton, football, hockey, kabaddi, wrestling, ath-

letics, tennis, shooting, table tennis, chess, basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, swimming, archery, gymnastics, cycling and karate.

The 'Sports Icon Award' is a lifetime achievement award. The award recognises individuals who have made significant contributions to their respective sports disciplines during their lifetime.

The 'Iconic Sports Award' is to recognise promising current and upcoming talent. Players and rising stars and athletes represent the future of sports, and their dedication, skill and passion.

## India clinch T20I series against Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pallekele (Sri Lanka), July 28:** Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Suryakumar Yadav displayed their wide array of strokes as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead, winning the rain-curtailed second T20I by seven wickets with nine balls to spare here Sunday.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir and new captain Suryakumar couldn't have asked for a better start to their new roles as the Indian team played like true T20 World Champions outplaying Sri Lanka in all departments.



Despite Shubman Gill's absence due to neck spasm and another failure in the format for the ever-hyped Sanju Samson (0), Jaiswal (30 off 15 balls) and Suryakumar (26 off 12 balls) didn't even break

a sweat in their short but tricky chase of 78 in 8 overs after another fine effort by bowlers had restricted Sri Lanka to 161 for 9.

Just when Maheesh Theekshana looked dangerous getting Samson with a carrom ball and squaring up Surya with a doosra, the Mumbai duo decided to bring the sweep shot - both conventional and reverse - out of the closet.

The strategy was to not allow Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga's deliveries to deviate off the surface and create confusion.

Instead, the India batters used their reach to good effect and

smother the turn. They added 39 in 3.1 overs and by the time Surya and Jaiswal were dismissed, they had hit seven fours and three sixes between them.

It was left to Hardik Pandya (22 not out off 9 balls) and Rishabh Pant (2 not out) to complete the formalities in 6.3 overs and render the final match of the series Tuesday inconsequential.

Earlier, Surya called right and his bowlers did a repeat act on successive days with the home team losing as many as seven wickets for 31 runs in their last 30 balls after being comfortably placed at 130 for 2 in 15 overs.