

6 WORLD ● Iran votes in snap poll for new president after hard-liner's death ● Biden and Trump call each other liar, worst president 8 NATION ● New criminal laws to come into force on July 1 ● Oppn together in raising students' issue: Rahul on NEET

Protect and Prevent - Continue the fight against Japanese Encephalities June, July and August months are considered high transmission time for Japanese Encephalities. Stay alert! Symptoms of JE: High fever, Irrelevant talk & confusion, Convulsion, Severe headache, Unconsciousness, Unable to speak properly. Preventive Methods: Keep the drains around the house clean, Use mosquito net, Wear long sleeve clothing, Pig rearing should be done at least 100 meters away, Vaccinate pigs.

HT BRIEFS Krishi Vigyan Kendra DIPHU: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Karbi Anglong has organised a launching programme on Double Cropping along with training cum method demonstration on Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), Mat Nursery Preparation and Nutrient Management in paddy cultivations at Kothalguri, Dhansiri on Friday. Diphu MLA, Bidyasing Englang attended as the chief guest launching the programme. In the inaugural speech Dr Subal Maibangsa, principal scientist and head of KVK, Karbi Anglong highlighted the objectives and importance of double cropping for increasing cropping intensity of the state and the economic upliftment of the farming community. Endoscopic Retrograde DIPHU: The Diphu branch of the Assam chapter of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) in collaboration with Department of Surgery of Diphu Medical College & Hospital (DMC&H) has organised a workshop on Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) here at DMC&H on Friday. Informing media persons the superintendent of DMC&H, Dr Sumitra Hagjer said a Workshop has been organised here by Diphu branch of Assam chapter of ASI.

Faculty vacancies major hurdle in NEP execution: UGC chief Varsities told to open more off-campus centres to make education accessible

GUWAHATI, June 28: Vacancies in teaching positions in state universities have emerged as a major hurdle in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar said here on Friday. The UGC chairman was here to attend a day-long conference of vice-chancellors of Northeastern and Eastern regions on 'Implementation of NEP 2020', hosted by Guwahati-based Pragjyotishpur University. Addressing a press conference, Kumar said, "Across the country, a major problem in state universities is vacancies in teaching positions. In some state universities, 50 to 80 per cent of teaching positions are vacant," urging universities to expedite the filling of these positions. He said implementation of NEP is a "journey", which cannot happen overnight, and state governments have been enthusiastically



participating in implementing it. Kumar stressed that it is also essential for the universities to formulate an institutional development plan and their own roadmap for the future. With approximately 130 vice-chancellors and other academics participating, discussions at the conference focused on transforming higher education institutions to empower students in contributing to national development. Key topics include providing holistic education, integrating skill development with degree programs, and utilising digital technology to reach students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds. "We will be discussing how the NEP is being implemented and challenges colleges and universities are facing, so that we can collectively find solutions," he said. Kumar requested the universities to open more off-campus centres to make education accessible and equitable, while stating that UGC was also laying thrust on training teachers in the higher education sector. Highlighting the need to expose students to different parts of the country, he said the Northeastern region is home to many indigenous knowledge systems, whether it be a festival celebrated based on astronomical calculation, bamboo engineering or shifting cultivation. "These are parts of Indian knowledge system and there is a need to expose students to this from different parts of the country," he said. Kumar added that UGC is also working on promoting education in own language, especially with the country having numerous native languages. On implementation of NEP in this region, Kumar said the UGC is in (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Nagaland govt optimistic on Naga political issue during Modi's 3rd term

KOHIMA, June 28: The Nagaland government is hopeful and confident of a Naga political solution during the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government at the Centre, a state minister said. "In this new government of the NDA led by PM Modi, the state government would love to see the mitigation of the Naga political issue positively," Nagaland govt spokesperson and Tourism and Higher Education minister Temjen Imna Along said on Thursday. He said the Nagas need to be assertive to help build the confidence of the state government and also the Central government to come together with the Naga political groups that are in talks with the Centre to find a solution to the decades-old Naga problem. "To be able to solve that we all have to come together and that should be done first because it cannot be resolved without sitting down and talking," he said. The Nagaland government has constituted a 'Political Affairs Committee' (PAC) comprising ministers and legislature party leaders of all political parties in the state Assembly to find an inclusive solution to the Naga Political issue. "The state government is committed to see that our people have lasting peace for development and progress," he said. The Centre and NSCN-IM entered into a ceasefire agreement in 1997 and started dialogue to find a solution to the Naga issue while both sides inked the Framework Agreement in 2015. The Central government also started a separate dialogue with the Working Committee of (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



KAAC to establish its own police force

HT Bureau DIPHU, June 28: The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) on Friday passed a resolution to establish its own police force within its jurisdiction. This decision was formalised during the 248th Session of the KAAC held at its Session Hall in Diphu. Notably, the decision to create a Village and Town Police Force encompassing Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong was first deliberated in the Executive Committee (EC) meeting and subsequently brought to the floor for discussion. Chaired by KAAC chairman Raju Tisso, the session saw the EC resolution read aloud, with chief executive member Tuliram Ronghang advocating the need for an independent police force to maintain law and order. "To establish our own police force, we must first submit the bill to the Governor of Assam for approval. The bill will then be reviewed by the State government's Council of Ministers before returning to the Governor for final assent," Ronghang said while speaking during the session. He also highlighted plans for recruitment and training, noting the potential integration of former members of disbanded armed organisations in Karbi Anglong. "There are young and fit persons in now disbanded armed organisations in Karbi Anglong like National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Karbi Longri & NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), United People's Liberation Army (UPLA), Karbi People's Liberation



Tigers (KPLT) and People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK) that can be absorbed in the police force," he added. After the session, Ronghang spoke to the media, stating, "We have first discussed this in the EC meeting. The resolution of the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Work on Kamakhya Access Corridor to begin only after IITG clearance: Himanta

GUWAHATI, June 28: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said the work on the proposed Kamakhya Access Corridor will begin only after the IIT, Guwahati gives the clearance. "Larsen and Toubro has been assigned to carry out the corridor project and the company has submitted the blueprint and the plans to the IITG for clearance", Sarma told reporters after offering prayers at the Kamakhya Temple atop the Nilachal Hills here. The IITG will also examine the hydrological and geological concerns raised and work will begin only after clearance is received. Sarma said that no deadline has been given to IITG in this regard and it may take three to four months or even more. The chief minister said that construction will not pose any problem as the Public Works department will only improve and widen the road while providing



amenities to devotees. A writ petition, filed by a few priests of the temple, is pending in the Gauhati High Court highlighting concerns that proposed development works will affect the eternal springs, including the one in the 'garbhagriha' (sanctum sanctorum) which is a perennial source of water and is considered as holy by the devotees. The court has fixed the next date of hearing on July 27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the Rs 498 crore Kamakhya Access Corridor, under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative in the North East (PM-DevINE), in February this year. The chief minister along with his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma offered prayers at the famed temple two days (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Heroin valued at ₹ 19 crore seized in state, six held

GUWAHATI, June 28: Heroin worth over ₹ 19 crore was seized and six people were arrested in three separate operations in Assam, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday. Acting on specific information, the police conducted a special operation at Digharkhal Toll Gate in Cachar district and seized 1.881 kgs of heroin, the CM said in a post on 'X'. The police also apprehended three persons in this connection. The value of the seized heroin was estimated at ₹ 9.5 crore in the international market. In another incident in the same district, the police conducted a special operation and recovered 561 gms of heroin, valued at ₹ 3 crore, and apprehended two persons in this connection. The police also intercepted a vehicle at Borpathar in Karbi Anglong district, recovered 1.005 kg heroin worth ₹ 7 crore, and apprehended one person. Sarma congratulated the police personnel for the successful operations. (PTI)

'A larger BRICS can now set priorities for tackling environmental challenges' BRICS nations should ensure developing countries utilise remaining carbon space: India



NEW DELHI, June 28: India said on Friday BRICS nations should ensure that developing countries utilise the available carbon space and stand together to uphold the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC). Participating in the 10th Meeting of BRICS environment ministers held in hybrid format under the chairship of the Russian Federation, Union environment minister

Bhopender Yadav cautioned against viewing climate finance merely as "investment". It was the first meeting of the BRICS environment ministers after the joining of five new members -- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. "A larger and bigger BRICS can now set the agenda, priorities and way forward for tackling environmental challenges. The initiatives under BRICS are firmly guided by the principles and goals of the UN system and its agencies, and BRICS nations should ensure that available carbon space (a reference to the carbon budget for limiting warming) is utilised by the developing countries," the environment ministry cited Yadav as saying in a statement. Climate science defines carbon budget as the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted for a given level of global warming (1.5 degrees Celsius in this case). Rich nations have already consumed more than 80 per cent of the global carbon budget, leaving countries like India with very little carbon space for the future. With developed countries falling short on climate action and finance, developing countries, including India, have asserted their claim to a fair share of the remaining carbon budget. Yadav also said that developing countries need a level playing field, and developed countries should fulfil their obligations, including providing finance, to address the climate crisis and biodiversity challenges. With rich nations providing climate finance as loans, Yadav said that "climate finance should not be seen as a means of investment". The Union minister also underlined the need for strengthening and widening the collaboration and cooperation among the BRICS nations and continued close collaboration in multilateral forums. He said the BRICS countries should stand together to uphold the principles of equity and CBDR-RC. These principles acknowledge that countries' efforts to combat climate change should be considered in light of their contributions to total emissions. They also stress that wealthier nations should bear primary responsibilities due to their substantial historical emissions. Yadav emphasised the importance of embracing sustainable lifestyles in tackling global environmental challenges and urged the BRICS nations to promote implementation of the Resolution on Sustainable (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Vulnerable mammal species 'Mainland Serow' spotted in RNP

GUWAHATI, June 28: The first photographic evidence of the 'Mainland Serow,' a vulnerable mammal species recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), has been documented in Assam's Raimona National Park by forest officials and conservationists, an official said. The photographic evidence of the 'Mainland Serow' was captured twice by forest department personnel and members of the biodiversity group 'Aaranyak' using digital camera traps near the Ganda Bajrum Anti-poaching camp, in the western range of Raimona National Park. "The discovery of the Mainland Serow in Raimona National Park is good news for biodiversity conservation, and we are thrilled by the finding," said Bhanu Sinha, divisional forest officer of the Kachugaon Forest Division. The forest department's goal is to conserve this species and other wildlife extensively found in the national park, Sinha added. The Mainland Serow population is widely distributed in the neighboring Phibsoo Wildlife (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

BTR partners with Shishu Sarothi to empower differently abled



KOKRAJHAR, June 28: Reiterating the Government of BTR's commitment to empowering differently abled persons, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Women & Child Development Department of BTR government and Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disabilities. The signing took place in the presence of BTC chief executive member (CEM) Pramod Boro at the BTC Secretariat in Kokrajhar, as part of the Vibrant BTR Budget for the financial year 2024-2025. Speaking on the occasion, Boro stated that this initiative will facilitate the empowerment of BTR's specially-abled youth, enabling them to build productive and dignified futures for themselves. The MoU aims to establish a residential training program at IIT Dhualiguri, Kokrajhar, offering courses such as Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA), multimedia, secretarial practice, and other vocational training for disabled youth in BTR. The initiative plans to expand to all ITIs in BTR, promoting inclusive education and empowerment. Additionally, this collaboration will provide technical guidance to improve District Early Intervention Centres and other educational institutions, ensuring a dignified and productive future for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Children with Special Needs (CWNs).

# Markets snap record-breaking rally as profit-booking hammers banking, finance stocks

**MUMBAI, June 28:** Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty halted their three-day record-hitting rally to close with losses on Friday as investors booked profit in banking, finance and tech stocks despite a positive trend in global equities.

Snapping a four-session winning run, equity indices succumbed to selling pressure after mid-session when profit-taking emerged on select counters.

After hitting fresh all-time high level in early trade, the 30-share index declined 210.45 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 79,032.73. During the day, it jumped 428.4 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a fresh record peak of 79,671.58.

The Nifty went lower by 33.90 points or 0.14 per cent to 24,010.60. During the day, it climbed 129.5 points or 0.53 per cent to hit a new lifetime high of 24,174.

"Profit taking in banking stocks led the downfall in key benchmark indices, which had hit fresh intra-day highs in early optimism. While markets displayed volatility and ended weak in late selling, both Sensex and Nifty managed to close above their psychological levels of 79k and 24k, respectively," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark on Thursday, and the Nifty hit the 24,000 level for the first time in intra-day trade.



In the past four trading days, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,033.28 points or 2.63 per cent.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,822.83 points or 2.36 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 509.5 points or 2.16 per cent.

Sensex recorded the best monthly gain in June by climbing 7.14 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit an all-time high of Rs 439.24 lakh crore (USD 5.26 trillion).

IndusInd Bank was the biggest loser on the Sensex chart, slipping 2.61 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, JSW Steel and Bajaj Finserv.

In contrast, Reliance Industries, Tata Motors, Asian Paints, Nestle and Titan were the biggest gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.56 per

cent, and midcap went up by 0.41 per cent.

"India's optimism about the upcoming budget and upgrade in GDP forecasts continues to provide momentum in the market. Large caps are in favour due to the comeback of FIIs. However, profit booking ensued at the end of the week, at higher levels, in financials, especially private banks, which dragged the market down after the recent rally," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Among indices, bankex declined 1.04 per cent, telecommunication (0.65 per cent), financial services (0.52 per cent), tech (0.42 per cent) and industrials (0.26 per cent). Healthcare, energy, metal, oil & gas, utilities and commodities were among the gainers.

"Asian stocks rose Friday as traders looked ahead to a key report on inflation that could infla-

ence the Federal Reserve's next move on interest rates. European stocks mostly moved higher...with investors tensed ahead of the weekend's French election," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green.

European markets were trading mostly higher. US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,658.77 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.89 per cent to USD 87.16 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark jumped 568.93 points or 0.72 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 79,243.18 on Thursday.

The Nifty ended at a fresh record high of 24,044.50, rising 175.70 points or 0.74 per cent.

"We expect this positive momentum to continue at a steady pace with stock-specific action. However, the release of economic data points next week would keep a little volatility in the market."

"Sector like Auto is expected to be in the limelight as OEMs would release their monthly auto sales number," Siddhartha Khemka, Senior Group VP, Head - Research, Broking & Distribution, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. (PTI)

## Rupee rises 7 paise to close at 83.38 against US dollar



**MUMBAI, June 28:** The rupee appreciated 7 paise to settle at 83.38 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday backed by renewed foreign fund inflows.

Forex traders said the strength of the American currency in the overseas market, elevated crude oil prices and US dollar demand from oil marketing companies capped sharp gains for the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.42 and hit the intra-day high of 83.36 and a low of 83.49 against the greenback during the session.

It finally settled at 83.38 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 7 paise from its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee appreciated 12 paise to settle at 83.45 against the US dollar.

According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, rupee gained to 83.3750 earlier in the day on boost from inclusion of Indian bonds in the JP Morgan's emerging markets bond index.

However, a positive US dollar and a rise in crude oil prices capped sharp gains.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on the strong US dollar and a surge in crude oil prices. Dollar demand from oil marketing companies (OMCs) and importers may also weigh on the rupee," Choudhary said.

Choudhary further noted that

fresh foreign inflows and positive tone in the domestic equities may support the rupee.

"Traders may take cues from India's fiscal deficit data. Traders may also take cues from core PCE price index, personal income and Chicago PMI data from the US. USD-₹ spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹ 83.20 to ₹ 83.80," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 105.91, higher by 0.01 per cent.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.86 per cent to USD 87.13 per barrel.

In the domestic equity market, benchmark sensitive indices witnessed heavy volatility. It scaled new intraday peaks but pared the gains and settled for the day in the negative territory.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 210.45 points, or 0.27 per cent, to close at 79,032.73 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 33.90 points, or 0.14 per cent, lower at 24,010.60 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they purchased shares worth ₹ 7,658.77 crore, according to exchange data. (PTI)

and peace of mind for our customers, and this campaign highlights our dedication to providing exceptional service and support. With a team of trained technicians, specialized workshop technologies, and genuine BMW Parts, we ensure you can enjoy safe and comfortable journeys," said Pawah.

The Monsoon Service Campaign offers valuable insights and tips on effective vehicle management, timely maintenance, and a deeper understanding of BMW and MINI vehicles. The program includes a comprehensive vehicle check and, if needed, a basic Condition-Based Service, ensuring that cars are in top condition. Certified BMW and MINI technical experts will conduct the service. Customers can book appointments in advance and update their personal details to receive exclusive promotions and offers from their dealers.

## BMW India launches Monsoon Service Campaign

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 28:** BMW Group India has unveiled its Monsoon Service Campaign, a comprehensive initiative aimed at preparing vehicles for the forthcoming rainy season. This campaign, which spans the company's extensive dealer network, is designed to ensure that all BMW and MINI vehicles are in optimal condition to handle monsoon-related challenges.

Vikram Pawah, President of BMW Group India, emphasized the company's commitment to vehicle reliability and customer satisfaction. "BMW Group is dedicated to ensuring our customers' vehicles are equipped to manage the unique demands of the monsoon season. The Monsoon Service Campaign includes thorough inspections, maintenance, and essential upgrades to boost the safety and performance of BMW and MINI cars. We recognize the importance of reliability

and peace of mind for our customers, and this campaign highlights our dedication to providing exceptional service and support. With a team of trained technicians, specialized workshop technologies, and genuine BMW Parts, we ensure you can enjoy safe and comfortable journeys," said Pawah.

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## Airtel announces revised mobile tariffs

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 28:** Bharti Airtel ("Airtel") has announced revisions to its mobile tariffs, effective from July 3, 2024. This decision is part of the company's strategy to achieve a sustainable business model for telecommuni-

cations in India by ensuring the mobile Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) exceeds ₹ 300.

Airtel's leadership highlighted the importance of this ARPU threshold to support significant investments in network technology and spectrum, as well as to secure a modest return on capital. "We believe that an ARPU upwards of ₹ 300 is essential for the financial health of the telecom industry in India," a company spokesperson stated. "This will enable the necessary investments in infrastructure and technology to enhance service quality."

The revised tariffs reflect a modest price increase, particularly for entry-level plans, ensuring affordability for budget-conscious consumers. The adjustment translates to less than 70 paise per day, minimising the financial impact on these users.

While the rate of daily data add-on (1GB) will see an increase by ₹ 3, rising from ₹ 19 to ₹ 22, in the case of 365-day validity plan offering 2GB/day, the increase

works out to as high as ₹ 600, as rates are set to rise from ₹ 2,999, all the way to ₹ 3,599.

In the unlimited voice plan category, tariff has been raised from ₹ 179 to ₹ 199, marking a ₹ 20 increase in this 28-day validity plan that offers 2GB of data to users.

"We have ensured that there is a very modest price increase (less than 70 paise per day) on entry-level plans, in order to eliminate any burden on budget challenged consumers," Airtel said announcing revision in its mobile tariffs.

Bharti Airtel said it has maintained that the mobile Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) needs to be upwards of ₹ 300, to enable a financially healthy business model for telcos in India.

Among the unlimited voice plans, Airtel has raised tariffs in the ballpark range of about 11 per cent, and accordingly rates are revised from ₹ 179 to ₹ 199; from ₹ 455 to ₹ 509; and from ₹ 1,799 to ₹ 1,999.

In the daily data plan category, the ₹ 479 plan that comes with a

56-day validity and 1.5GB/day, has been increased to ₹ 579 (20.8 per cent hike).

The 1GB/day plan with 28-day validity has been tweaked from ₹ 265 to ₹ 299, whereas the 1.5GB/day offering has increased from ₹ 299 to ₹ 349.

In the longer 84-day validity plans subscribers will have to shell out ₹ 140 more (in absolute terms) depending on the offering. Here, the 1.5GB/day offering has been raised from ₹ 719 to ₹ 859, while the 2GB/day offering has been raised from ₹ 839 to ₹ 979.

The data add-ons too have become dearer -- for 1GB and one day validity, the rates have been increased from ₹ 19 to ₹ 22; and in case of 2GB, the prices will move from ₹ 29 to ₹ 33. The 4GB add-on, with 65-day validity, has been hiked from ₹ 65 to ₹ 77.

These new rates will apply across all service regions, including Bharti Hexacom Ltd. circles. Customers can review the updated tariffs on the Airtel website (www.airtel.in) starting July 3, 2024. (With inputs from PTI)

## 'Good FATF rating to help India Inc raise overseas funds without elaborate background checks'

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** The good FATF rating obtained by India will enable domestic companies to access overseas investments without going through elaborate background checks and enhanced due diligence process, highly placed sources said.

The global crime watchdog, FATF on Friday adopted mutual evaluation report on India and placed the country in "regular follow-up" category.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) hailed India for achieving high level of technical compliance. It said the country's efforts towards anti-money laundering (AML) and countering of terror financing (CFT) are achieving good results.

Sources said good rating by FATF means that the financial system and AML/CFT framework is robust.

"Indian companies accessing investments abroad will not be required to go through elaborate background checks and enhanced due diligence measures applicable to jurisdictions not placed in regular follow-up," a highly placed source said.

FATF places member countries in any of the four categories - regular follow-up, enhanced follow-up, grey list and black list - regular follow-up being the top most category.

Sources said only 5 countries including India, among G20 nations have been placed in regular follow-up category after the mutual evaluation report.

Amongst 177 countries covered by FATF and its Regional Bodies (FSRBs), only 24 nations, including India are in "regular follow-up".

Even developed countries like the US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, European nations such as Germany, Finland, Denmark are in enhanced follow-up category, sources added.

"Enhanced follow-up" is given to countries with significant deficiencies.

As per the mutual evaluation process, the assessment is based on 40 recommendations and 11 immediate outcomes. One needs to get higher rating in at



least 33 recommendations and 5 immediate outcomes to be placed in regular follow-up.

The evaluation and rating are very stringent and hence getting placed in regular follow-up is a tall order ask, sources added. There are no specifics of the report available in public domain as the report is still confidential and will be released later.

"But overall India's performance is exemplary and satisfying. Given the diverse country there is always a room for improvement. Regular follow-up for India means there are no fundamental or significant deficiencies found," the source added.

The FATF had also observed that India needs to strengthen the supervision and implementation of preventive measures in some of the non-financial sectors.

It also noted that India needs to address delays relating to concluding money laundering and terror financing prosecutions.

In a statement after the FATF report adoption, the finance ministry said India's performance on the FATF mutual evaluation holds significant advantages for the country's growing economy, as it demonstrates the overall stability and integrity of the financial system.

"Good ratings will lead to better access to global financial markets and institutions and increase investor confidence. It will also help in the global expansion of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's fast payment system," the ministry said. (PTI)

## Vodafone Idea to raise mobile tariff by 11-24 pc from July 4

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** Loss-making telecom operator Vodafone Idea will raise mobile tariffs across the board by 11-24 per cent from July 4, according to a company statement.

Vodafone Idea (Vi) follows the tariff hike stage set by Reliance Jio on Thursday.

Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel will roll out increased mobile service rates from July 3 onward.

"In line with its commitment to provide its consumers with simple and comprehensive plans, Vi has

curated an optimum range of feature-rich plans to meet the diverse needs of its consumers. Staying true to its philosophy of supporting entry-level users and progressively linking higher prices to increased usage, changes in entry-level plans are nominal," Vi said.

The company has raised the entry-level plan, minimum recharge value for 28 days of mobile service, by about 11 per cent to ₹ 199 from ₹ 179.

Vi has raised the price of a popular 84-day validity plan with 1.5

GB data per day to ₹ 859 from ₹ 719 earlier.

The company has increased the price of its annual unlimited plan by about 21 per cent to ₹ 3,499 from 2,899 at present.

It has made no change in its 365 validity plan with a 24 GB data limit, which costs users ₹ 1,799.

"Vi is planning significant investments over the next few quarters to further enhance the 4G experience as well as launch 5G services," the statement said. (PTI)

*Contd. from Page 1...*

## Faculty vacancies major hurdle

regular touch with state higher education councils and VCs. "We are very happy to inform that state governments are very enthusiastically participating in implementing NEP. Implementation is a journey," he added. He reiterated that achieving the target of a Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of 50 per cent by 2035 requires sustained effort and cannot be achieved overnight.

Among initiatives under NEP is the provision of biannual admissions to help students who fail to enroll during July-August to take admission in January-February. Universities with required infrastructure have been requested to implement it to maximise resource utilisation, Kumar said, adding that 90 varsities have also started biannual admissions for online programmes.

The UGC chairman also said stress is being laid on strengthening research ecosystem in the universities and bring more young people into it.

Though directly UGC funded-research has stopped now, funds for research projects are available through other agencies, like National Research Foundation and other schemes, he added. With focus on online education, internet connectivity and electrification has also received a boost across the country, with common service centres also set up for students in remote areas to access Net, Kumar added. (PTI)

## Nagaland govt optimistic

Naga National Political Groups (WC NNPGs) in 2017 and also inked the Agreed Position the same year. However, there has been no solution till date with the Centre refusing the NSCN-IM's consistent demand for a separate flag and constitution of the Naga people and integration of all Naga inhabited areas under one umbrella.

Asked about differences cropping within the Peoples' Democratic Alliance (PDA) - a pre-poll partnership between the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and BJP following the debacle in the Lok Sabha election, he said "The PDA is intact". "It is just the presumption and assumption of the many critics but in politics many things happen but the core value of the PDA is always strong and will continue to give stability and good governance as far as possible to the people of Nagaland," he said.

NDPP candidate Chumben Murry lost in the recent Lok Sabha polls to S Supongmeren Jamir of Congress. "In every election one or the other issue crops up, but the PDA alliance under the leadership of Chief Minister Rio and the Deputy Chief Ministers Y Patton of BJP and T R Zeliang of NDPP have an agenda and the agenda is Nagaland," he said. (PTI)

## KAAC to establish its own

EC meeting was placed in the House in August for discussion. After getting nod from all members, the bill was passed." Ronghang further emphasised the council's current reliance on state authorities for police support during eviction drives in areas such as Professional Grazing Reserves (PGR) and Village Grazing Reserves (VGR), stating, "Having our own police force will streamline operations, facilitating easier eviction drives in these and other encroached areas." Earlier, before the discussion commenced, the session began with a moment of silence in honour of former CEM Sum Ronghang and board chairman Se-im Hanse.

## Work on Kamakhya Access

after its doors opened following its annual three-day closure during the Ambubachi Mela. "Every year, we offer prayers on the day the temple doors open but this year due to the unprecedented crowd, I had to defer it by two days. I prayed to the Goddess for the welfare and blessings of all people of the state", Sarma said. The temple doors were closed for devotees on June 22 and reopened on June 26 on the occasion of Ambubachi Mela which marks the belief that the annual menstrual cycle of Goddess Kamakhya falls during the period. (PTI)

## BRICS nations should ensure

Lifestyles, adopted at the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly. He also urged BRICS countries to join and support the campaign of "EK Ped Maa Ke Naam", launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this World Environment Day, and India-led global initiatives such as Mission LIFE, International Big Cat Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Lead IT, Green Credit Initiative among others. (PTI)

## Vulnerable mammal species

Sanctuary and the Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan, which may contribute to the population recovery in Raimona National Park. The finding has been published as a scientific paper in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.

"There is a wealth of wildlife in Raimona National Park, and the discovery of this species is good news for the conservation world," said M. Firoz Ahmed, a senior scientist at Aaranyak. The Mainland Serow (Capricornis sumatraensis) is found across various habitats extending from the Himalayas on the Indian subcontinent to southern China, mainland Southeast Asia, and Sumatra, Ahmed said.

The species' populations are fragmented, isolated, and rapidly declining due to poaching, habitat destruction, and habitat loss, according to senior conservationist Dipankar Lahkar. The lack of reliable data on this species' abundance and distribution makes it difficult to implement effective conservation actions to ensure long-term survival, Lahkar added.

Occasional poaching for bushmeat and habitat alteration due to logging during ethnopolitical violence are the primary conservation concerns of Raimona National Park. "With the government now protecting the park, future conservation efforts should focus on securing and recovering the species' population and restoring the degraded habitats," Lahkar added. The Assam government declared Raimona a national park on June 8, 2021. (PTI)

### NAME CORRECTION

KOPIIL UDDIN And MOHAMMED KOPIIL UDDIN both two name is one man name but correct name is KOPIIL UDDIN

Father Name:-  
EUSUB ALI  
Vill- Karaiguri  
PS- Hojai  
PO- Karaiguri  
Pin- 782440  
Dist- Hojai

# NEP can revive India's academic prowess: Governor Kataria

Governor attends conference on implementation of NEP 2020

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 28:** Governor Gulab Chand Kataria attended the North Eastern and Eastern Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference on Implementation of NEP 2020, which was organised by Pragjyotishpur University in collaboration with the UGC at a city hotel here on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Kataria said, "The first education policy of the 21st century, NEP 2020, aims to comprehensively reform our nation's education system from primary to higher education levels. Aiming at value-based education, skill development, and the integration of digital technology, NEP 2020 promises to usher in a new era of educational excellence."

The Governor also said that the nation's future depends on the ability to provide quality higher education to the youth. Therefore, the government of India has introduced and subsequently implemented the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) to provide more inclusive, holistic, and quality education. This is a policy made for the future, which will promote human resource development and the progress of the na-



tion. Therefore, everyone needs to work with full dedication for the implementation and adaptation of this policy, Governor Kataria exhorted.

The Governor also added that the aim of education in ancient India was not only the acquisition of knowledge but also the complete realisation and liberation of the self. The world-class institutions of ancient India, such as Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Vallabhi, set the highest standards of teaching and research across diverse disciplines and

cutting-edge technical areas. He also said that researchers should pay special attention to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary dimensions with the scope of addressing relevant issues grappling with society.

The Governor further said that the government is committed to the successful implementation of NEP 2020. Accordingly, over the past four years, Raj Bhavan and the Education Department of Assam have organised several conferences to reorient the stakeholders of the NEP for its impactful rollout. Today's conference will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences among the vice-chancellors of universities of the north-east and eastern region and a platform for learning and sharing, the Governor added.

Education minister of Meghalaya Rakkam A Sangma and chairman of UGC Prof M Jagadesh Kumar also spoke on the occasion.

Vice chancellor of Pragjyotishpur University, Prof Smiti Kumar Sinha, vice-chancellors, and representatives of the north-east and eastern region, along with a host of other dignitaries, were present at the conference.

## RTU and Lakhimpur Commerce College conclude FDP on SPSS data analysis

**HT Correspondent**

**HOJAI, June 28:** The one-week Faculty Development Program (FDP) on data analysis using SPSS, jointly organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU) and Lakhimpur Commerce College, Lakhimpur, concluded successfully at RTU on Friday.

The programme, held from June 24 to June 28, 2024, was inaugurated by Dr Utpal Phukan, director of IQAC, Rabindranath Tagore University. The event featured eminent resource persons, including Dr Dibyojyoti Bhattacharjee, professor of Statistics at Assam University, Silchar, and Dr Hemanta Saikia, assistant professor at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam.

Throughout the five-day programme, participants engaged in comprehensive sessions covering a wide range of topics essential for data analysis using SPSS. The curriculum included an introduction to SPSS, data management, data visualisation, cross-tabulation, correlation, hypothesis testing, and both parametric and non-parametric tests in SPSS, including ANOVA.

The sessions provided in-depth knowledge and practical insights, greatly benefiting the participants. The resource persons, Dr Bhattacharjee and Dr Saikia, were praised for their expertise and ability to clarify complex concepts, ensuring a thorough understanding of the topics covered.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the coordinators, Dr Mrinal Ghosh, assistant professor in Commerce at Rabindranath Tagore University, and Dr Bhairab Khakhlary, assistant professor in Management at Lakhimpur Commerce College. They expressed gratitude to all participants, resource persons, and the organising institutions for their contributions to the success of the event.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the knowledge gained and the practical skills acquired, emphasising the value of such programs in enhancing their research capabilities and professional development.

The successful completion of this FDP marks a significant step towards fostering academic excellence and research proficiency among faculty members.

## ABSU seeks justice in Dudhnoi gang rape and murder case



ABSU activists are demanding justice for the victims of the Dudhnoi gang rape case, which occurred on May 3. Three culprits allegedly raped two minor tribal girls and murdered Hiranya Khakhlary, the elder brother of one of the victims. Since then, ABSU has undertaken various agitation programs demanding death penalty for Dhan Ali Talukdar, Bahar Ali, and Rahaman Ali, expeditious trial in a fast-track court, Rs 20 lakh compensation for Hiranya Khakhlary's family, who died protecting the victim, and a one-time financial aid of Rs 5 lakh for the rape survivor.

Protesters chanted slogans such as 'Shame on Assam Government' and 'Hang the Murderers', expressing their outrage over the incident and demanding justice.

ABSU president Dipen Boro criticised the state government for not taking stern action against the culprits and stated that the student union will continue its protest dharna until justice is achieved for the victims. He condemned the gang rape and murder case involving Khakhlary and highlighted the delay in initiating decisive action against the identified culprits. He urged chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the state government to take bold steps to ensure justice in such incidents.

Meanwhile, ABSU president Dipen Boro also condemned the recent rape incident in Mazbat, Sonitpur, which occurred a few days ago in Assam.

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, June 28:** The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) has intensified its protest against the recent gang rape and brutal murder of two minor girls in Dudhnoi. The student union, along with several social organisations, began a two-day protest on Friday to condemn the heinous incident in Dudhnoi, Goalpara district.

The protest dharna took place at Bodofa Children Park along JD Road in Kokrajhar district, drawing participation from thousands of ABSU members, leaders of various social organisations, and concerned citizens. They held banners, placards, and chanted slogans demanding strict punishment for the perpetrators.

Twenty-six students who passed the HSLC and HSSLC examinations this year from the Diring and Kohora areas under the Kaziranga Kohora Landscape participated in the event, which was graced by distinguished resource persons Uttam Teron from Parijat Academy in Guwahati, Krishna Rongpi from JDSG College, Bokakhat, and Jirsong Rongpi from Harlongbi Velongbi College, Deithor, Karbi Anglong.

The guests were felicitated at the beginning of the programme by Swapan Nath. Dr Firoz Ahmed, head of the Tiger Re-

search and Conservation Division of Aaranyak, set the ball rolling for the day by delivering the welcome address.

Participating students who did well in the HSLC and HSSLC examinations were felicitated with a Karbi poho and a certificate of appreciation each. The felicitation was coordinated by Joshua Terangpi, Rangina Phangcho, Purno Singnar, and Kristi Bora.

The event featured three interactive sessions for the students.



The first session, 'Preparing for the Future: Path, Approach, and Self-Initiative', was conducted by Uttam Teron, where he exhorted the students to try hard, be honest, strive to learn, and remain disciplined and punctual to realise their dreams.

The second session, 'Career Planning - What? How? & Why?' was conducted by Krishna Rongpi, where he told the students that career planning and education during their student days

were the cornerstones of a successful career. The last session, 'Career Paths and Scope in Arts, Science, and Commerce', was conducted by Jirsong Rongpi, who shared various scopes in educational and professional spheres based on educational qualifications and choices.

One of the participating students, Anikaso Englengpi, said, "We are very lucky to get the opportunity to attend a career counselling event which is an eye-opener for us and has broadened the scope for our career options and flagged the importance of education."

Another participant, Sivoram Terang, lauded the career counselling event and said, "Proper career counselling and guidance are very important for the students and Aaranyak is doing a wonderful job in this regard."

The event was attended by some distinguished guests, including Santosh Rongpi, president of the Karbi Students Association (KSA), Kaziranga

## Efforts underway as officials & locals unite to tackle recurrent drainage issues Waterlogging woes persist for second day in Dibrugarh

**HT Correspondent**

**DIBRUGARH, June 28:** For the second consecutive day, Dibrugarh has been grappling with severe waterlogging. Important roads in Dibrugarh are waterlogged, causing significant inconvenience for the residents.

"Due to unscientific and faulty construction of drains, artificial flooding and waterlogging have become serious issues for the people of Dibrugarh. The Dibrugarh Town Protection (DTP) drain is the main drain designed to flush out the water from the town, but most of the drains in Dibrugarh remain clogged due to plastic and garbage. The drains should be clean, but the concerned department has failed to do so," alleged a senior citizen of Dibrugarh.

He added, "This is not the first time. In 2015 and 2020, Dibrugarh faced similar waterlogging problems. The Mancotta road is one of the worst affected by waterlogging. We have already faced such prob-

lems, but this time it has happened again. In many areas, people are blocking the drain water by doing construction."

Meanwhile, Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation mayor Dr Saikat Patra, along with workers from the DMC, has started cleaning the clogged drains.

He has instructed the workers to ensure the drains are thoroughly cleaned.

Dibrugarh district commissioner Bikram Kairi convened an urgent meeting in the District Commissioner's Office on Thursday to address the artificial flooding and waterlogging problem in Dibrugarh town.

Kairi thoroughly reviewed the artificial flooding situation in various parts of Dibrugarh and discussed the causes in detail.

He emphasised the importance of regular cleaning of the city's drains and gutters and highlighted the need for excavation of drains where necessary.

Additionally, he called on the relevant departments to take all necessary steps to clear blocked culverts and to prevent the disposal of garbage in drains and gutters.

The meeting was attended by mayor of Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation Dr Saikat Patra, deputy mayor Ujjal Phukan, additional district commissioner Sanghamitra Barua, additional district commissioner Jintu Bora, additional district commissioner Ashim Borgohain, chairman of Dibrugarh Development Authority Ashim Hazarika, assistant commissioner Supriya Bawlari, Municipal Corporation executive officer Novas Das, executive officer (attached) Sukanya Mukherjee, and officials from the Public Works (Road) Department, Water Resources Department, Urban and Rural Planning Department, and Disaster Management Department, including the ward commissioners from all wards of Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation.

## Geneva-based GI-TOC partners with Aaranyak to hold dialogue on nature crimes

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 28:** Geneva-based Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC), in coordination with local partner Aaranyak, held a day-long international-level event called 'Resilience Dialogues' to address nature crimes here on Thursday.

The dialogue aimed to bring together different stakeholders and community representatives to build an understanding of various nature crimes such as illegal wildlife trade, poaching, illegal logging, etc., occurring in the South Asia region, derived from their divergent experiences and opinions.

The participants in the dialogue were from different states of North East India and Nepal. The dialogue was set in motion by Alaistar McBeath, coordinator of GI-TOC, through a presentation on nature

crimes from a global perspective. The dialogue was anchored by Radha Barooah of GI-TOC and facilitated by Ivy Farheen Hussain of Aaranyak.

During the discussion, participants from various professional backgrounds, such as wildlife and nature conservation in both government and non-government sectors, environmental educators, community representatives (especially those focused on women welfare), biodiversity conservation communicators, and documentation experts, shed light on the range of nature crimes prevalent in the region under focus and explored ways for synergised action by multi-stakeholders in mitigating these crimes that have impacted the grassroots community, including women, in different ways.

The dialogue concluded with the documentation of a set of recommendations to deal with nature crimes effectively, involving various stakeholders.



## Career guidance to students from forest-fringe areas in Karbi Anglong

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 28:** The region's premier biodiversity conservation organisation, Aaranyak, in collaboration with Chandrasingh Rongpi Memorial High School (CRMHS), organised a day-long student felicitation and career counselling event at the Community Resource Center in Chandrasingh Rongpi Village, Kohora, Karbi Anglong district on June 23.

Twenty-six students who passed the HSLC and HSSLC examinations this year from the Diring and Kohora areas under the Kaziranga Kohora Landscape participated in the event, which was graced by distinguished resource persons Uttam Teron from Parijat Academy in Guwahati, Krishna Rongpi from JDSG College, Bokakhat, and Jirsong Rongpi from Harlongbi Velongbi College, Deithor, Karbi Anglong.

The guests were felicitated at the beginning of the programme by Swapan Nath. Dr Firoz Ahmed, head of the Tiger Re-

search and Conservation Division of Aaranyak, set the ball rolling for the day by delivering the welcome address.

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were the cornerstones of a successful career. The last session, 'Career Paths and Scope in Arts, Science, and Commerce', was conducted by Jirsong Rongpi, who shared various scopes in educational and professional spheres based on educational qualifications and choices.

One of the participating students, Anikaso Englengpi, said, "We are very lucky to get the opportunity to attend a career counselling event which is an eye-opener for us and has broadened the scope for our career options and flagged the importance of education."

Another participant, Sivoram Terang, lauded the career counselling event and said, "Proper career counselling and guidance are very important for the students and Aaranyak is doing a wonderful job in this regard."

The event was attended by some distinguished guests, including Santosh Rongpi, president of the Karbi Students Association (KSA), Kaziranga

District Committee; Horiram Engti, social worker of Kohora; Bishnu Upadhyay, headmaster of CRMMES; and Moina Kramsapi, an entrepreneur. Three Rong Asar (village headmen), Romesh Tokbi of Englepathar village, Sivoram Terang of Sivoram Terang village, and Gulapsing Engti of Bakring Engti village, were also present. Several village elders and representatives were also in attendance.

The primary objective of the event was to address career-related issues and guide students in understanding various career options and the educational qualifications required. The whole initiative is supported by IUCN and KfW.

Aaranyak team members Jayanta Kumar Roy, Sarlongjeon Teron, Joshua Terangpi, Beauty Terangpi, Avinash Phangcho, Sarlongki Teron, Rangina Phangcho, Purno Timung, Prokash Engti, and Kristi Bora worked tirelessly to organise the event splendidly.

## Mother - infant found dead in pond

**HT Correspondent**

**NAGAON, June 28:** The bodies of a mother identified as Rashmita Hazarika and her eleven-month-old daughter were discovered floating in a pond behind their residence in Kampur Ghilani village on Thursday night. Following this tragic incident, the maternal family of the deceased woman, based in Biswanath Chariali, filed an FIR alleging that Rashmita and her baby were victims of dowry-related murder perpetrated by her husband's family. They claimed that the incident was staged to appear as a suicide. The family further alleged that Rashmita had been subjected to dowry demands and torture for some time. Upon informing her parents about the situation over the phone, they had intended to bring her back home. However, her husband's family allegedly prevented them from doing so.

The executive director & state head of IOAOD SO, G Ramesh, in his speech, informed the gathering about IOCL and the mega projects IOCL is taking under its CSR initiative. He praised the club for taking up this mega project, which will be life-changing for the blind students and teachers, and assured the club of IOCL's support in such noble projects in the future for the brothers and sisters of the society who want our support and love.

The executive director (RS), Rajesh Nambiar, also praised the initiative taken for implementing this mega project and making it successful despite so many hurdles of distance and contacting the beneficiaries.

## IOCL and Rotary Club empower visually impaired with smart vision glasses

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, June 28:** Indian Oil Corporation, in association with the Rotary Club of Guwahati Metro, held a function for the distribution of Smart Vision Glasses (SVG) at Lohia Lions Gauhati Auditorium, Guwahati, on Friday. During the event, 90 pieces of Smart Vision Glasses (SVG) were distributed free of charge to the visually impaired students and teachers of government schools of Guwahati, Nagaon, Bihpuria (North Lakhimpur), along with students of Cotton University. After the distribution, the beneficiaries were trained to use the device by technicians from the manufacturer.

SVG is a life-changing device for the visually challenged. It works with Artificial Intelligence. This device scans and converts text to audio. The device also enables them to read (hear) books in

73 Indian regional languages, including Assamese and Hindi. The user can also read handwritten materials.

The chief guest of the function was G Ramesh, executive director & state head of IndianOil AOD State Office. The project has been fully financed by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) under a CSR initiative. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta was the guest of honour. Rajesh Nambiar, executive director (Retail Sales) IOAOD SO, was the special guest of the function. Saurav Chaliha, GM (HR), Diganta Thakuria, DGM (HR-CSR), Kuntal Mukherji, GM (RS), and Surendra H Yadav, senior GM (Finance), officers from IOCL, and Rtn Prabhat Kedia, chairman of Rotary District 3240 Trust, Rtn Satish Kaseria, assistant governor, Rtn RP Sureka, president, and Rtn SL Agarwal, secretary of Rotary Club of Guwahati Metro shared



the dais. During the speech and interview, Rtn Rajendra Prasad Sureka, president of the club,

thanked IndianOil for reposing faith in the club and granting the CSR fund. He informed that another camp for the distribution of

SVG will be held at Jorhat Blind School on June 30, 2024 (Sunday) with 27 beneficiaries. He thanked members of his club for sponsor-

ing 20 smartphones for those blind students who do not have smartphones, as without them the SVG device does not work. The president has committed to giving 10 such devices to the students and teachers of private blind schools whose names are not on the list. The president thanked G Ramesh, Rajesh Nambiar, Kuntal Mukherji, Surendra H Yadav, and officers of the finance department, Diganta Thakuria, and Saurav Chaliha, who helped a lot in implementing this project in a very short span of time. He informed that Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, director of Social Justice & Empowerment, had helped RC Guwahati Metro in getting the list of beneficiaries and in making this project successful. He also informed that he met Virendra Mittal, commissioner and secretary of Social Justice & Empowerment, who could not grace the occasion

but assured that he will always help and work with the club in doing mega projects to help people with physical disabilities who want our love and care.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

When you change your thoughts, remember to also change your world - Norman Vincent Peale

## Align MSP hikes with real costs, WPI

The Union Cabinet, in its first meeting of NDA 3.0, announced new Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 crops. However, the hikes, ranging from five to seven percent (except for Niger and Ragi), fail to address the increased cost of cultivation. The BJP's recent electoral losses in the northern rural heartland highlight growing discontent among farmers due to the government's policies. For instance, the MSP for paddy, a key kharif crop, has been raised by ₹ 117 from ₹ 2,183 in 2023 to ₹ 2,300 per quintal in 2024, a mere 5.3 percent increase. The only significant increases are for oilseed crop Niger and millet Ragi, at 12.7 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively. Despite the government's claims of boosting MSPs for pulses and oilseeds to promote self-reliance, the support prices remain insufficient. In 2023, India imported nearly 14 percent of its pulse consumption, amounting to 46.5 lakh tons, compared to 2.53 million tons in 2022-23, at a cost of 3.74 billion dollars (up from 1.94 billion dollars in 2022). For oilseeds, the country faces a 28 percent consumption shortfall, leading to the import of 120 lakh tons of palm oil, sunflower oil, and other oils, costing 18 billion dollars.

The ongoing Ukraine-Russia war could push this bill to 20 billion dollars. Instead of incurring huge import expenditures, the government could allocate just half the amount to farmers by providing the right crop support prices, as recommended by the M.S. Swaminathan Committee. Such a move would significantly alleviate rural distress, especially among small farmers who predominantly cultivate pulses and oilseeds in rain-fed areas. The recent Lok Sabha election results indicate a shift in the rural vote. The BJP lost considerable ground in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, largely due to farmer dissatisfaction with its policies. Protests, from the Farmers' March to Parliament to the Nashik-Mumbai Padayatra, and the united agitation against the three farm laws, underscore the depth of rural distress. Despite this, the BJP sidestepped crucial farmer demands, such as legal guarantees for crop MSPs, during the recent elections. A post-poll survey by CSDS Lokniti revealed that 61 percent of farmers voted for the Congress-led INDIA alliance, while only 35 percent supported the BJP. The government's claim of paying an extra 50 percent above the cost of production is misleading. Input costs, including DAP, diesel, cotton seeds, and transport charges, have tripled between 2014 and 2024.

Tenants and small farmers with less than 2.4 acres make up 84 percent of the farming population, with family labor accounting for up to 30 percent of cultivation expenses. However, the government only considers INR 125 per quintal as the paid-out cost, while the actual family labor component is closer to INR 700 per quintal of paddy. MSPs should be scientifically computed (C2 + 50) using the previous season's cultivation costs. Furthermore, MSP hikes should be linked to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). Additionally, GST should be removed from inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds, and a law guaranteeing the payment of announced MSPs in markets should be enacted. The NDA 3.0 government must heed these pressing issues and address the needs of distressed farming communities to avoid further alienation of its rural support base.

## Leftwing President of Bolivia Arce foils coup attempt by army generals

By: Satyaki Chakraborty

The left wing President of Bolivia foiled an attempt by the army generals of his government on Wednesday but the dissenting voices in the pro-government army ranks and the vertical split in the ruling party have made the political situation difficult for the incumbent President.

On Wednesday afternoon, troops led by army general commander Juan Jose Zuniga had stormed the presidential palace and taken up positions in the square outside. News reports indicated a tank slammed the palace doors. But within hours, Zuniga urged the soldiers to withdraw after the leaders from the neighbouring Latin American countries strongly decried the move as anti-democratic and the regional leaders and the trade unions came out in support of the President Arce.

The beleaguered President hailed the withdrawal as a victory for Bolivia's democracy and addressed the country's citizens in the aftermath, some of whom had taken to the streets in protest of the alleged coup attempt. Bolivian people were glued to the television throughout the day and the evening as the footage showed the marching of the troops, confrontation between the President and the army commander Zuniga and finally the withdrawal of the troops.

Latest reports indicate that Zuniga was arrested by the Government but indications are there that this would not mean the end of the present crisis as many other army officers loyal to the ruling party are questioning the performance of the Arce presidency. The worsening economic crisis has strengthened the hands of those who are pitted against the President in the ruling party MAS.

Since taking office in 2020, President Arce has led an embattled government, fending off pressure from both the other wing of the left and the right.

Under his leadership, right-wing forces in provinces like Santa Cruz have led deadly strikes against measures they believe are designed to keep them from power. Just last year, a prominent opposition leader, Luis Fernando Camacho, was arrested for his alleged role in 2019's political arrest. As regards the left, President Arce faces

pushback from his former political mentor ex president Evo Morales who has made known his desire to be presidential candidate in 2025 elections leading to split in the ruling party MAS.

Adding to the political turmoil has been nationwide fuel shortages and a financial crisis that has seen its currency reserves crater. Further President Arce's popularity is sliding, his approval ratings was at the level of 38 percent in a recent opinion poll. This was much lower than the approval rating of former president Evo Morales. The big fight between the present president and his former mentor has contributed to some extent to the latest political crisis.

Zuniga was Arce's hand-picked leader for Bolivia's military. But as he entered the presidential palace on Wednesday, Zuniga cited the malaise in the country as a motivation. "The three chiefs of the armed forces have come to express our dismay. There will be a new cabinet of ministers. Surely things will change, but our country cannot continue like this any longer," Zuniga told a local TV station. "Stop destroying; stop impoverishing our country, stop humiliating our army."

The general added that he would continue to recognise Arce as the commander-in-chief "for now". But he explained that his aim was to "restore democracy" and "free political prisoners". Former President Morales also denounced the military's actions, calling for criminal prosecution against Zuniga and anyone who helped him. "We will not allow the armed forces to violate democracy and intimidate people," he said.

Even the right-wing leader who replaced Morales, former President Jeanine Anez, rejected the military's advances. "Total repudiation of the military mobilisation in the Plaza Murillo, attempting to destroy the constitutional order," she wrote on the social media platform X, adding that Arce "must leave through the vote in 2025". Bolivia has had a long history of political turmoil since it gained independence in 1825. Of all the South American nations, Bolivia is considered the one that has experienced the most coups. But it enjoyed a very long period of democracy until the 2019 coup when the then president Evo Morales was overthrown. (IPA Service)

## India's new criminal laws: Implementation challenges and controversies

The three new criminal laws, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), are set to come into force on July 1. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has praised these new laws for their focus on digitalising criminal procedures, viewing them as a crucial step towards the modernisation of the Indian justice system. However, there are serious concerns about the constitutionality of certain provisions within these laws, voiced by various members of the legal community, including senior advocate Indira Jaising.

Opposition leaders, such as Mamata Banerjee, are calling for the new legislation to be put on hold until it receives approval from the newly elected members of the Lok Sabha. They argue that the laws were rushed through without adequate debate in Parliament, especially since many Opposition members were suspended at the time.

Expressing concern about the validity of the new criminal laws at this late stage is essentially a reflection of missed opportunities. These laws were established after a three-year consultation process and extensive discussions with various stakeholders. They also underwent a thorough review by the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Home Affairs. Additionally, the public was invited to provide suggestions through notices issued twice. Despite these concerns, the government remains resolute in its decision to implement the laws and is not yielding to any demands for reconsideration.

Concerns regarding the unconstitutionality of the new provisions are unfounded, given that the changes in the BNS largely align with Supreme Court directives from landmark cases such as Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India (2018), Joseph Shine vs Union of India (2018), and P Rathanam vs. Union of India (1994). These changes also follow the Centre's commitment to the apex court concerning a petition challenging the sedition law, while addressing longstanding national security issues.

Similarly, objections to the modifications in the BNSS and BSA seem misplaced, as these amendments primarily aim to digitalize criminal proceedings and incorporate victim- and people-centric provisions. Additionally, they seek to reorient criminal procedures to ensure quality investigations and expedited justice. Despite the varying opinions of informed stakeholders, implementing the new statutes will be challenging. This process re-

quires establishing new infrastructure, providing training, formulating rules and operating procedures, updating standard forms, and coordinating between agencies to resolve operational issues. However, confidence in the timely rollout of these laws is bolstered by the presence of an experienced and resilient criminal justice system. This system has a proven track record of adapting to changes and finding practical solutions to problems, even with limited resources.

Another indication that the new laws will be implemented on schedule is the extensive capacity-building training programs undertaken by the police, prosecutors, and the magistracy. These programs are being sponsored and overseen by the Centre, ensuring that all necessary preparations are in place.

Nevertheless, former law enforcers and adjudicators remain skeptical. They contend that several critical aspects essential for the successful implementation of the new laws have yet to be addressed. The BNSS mandates several procedures, such as videographing all searches, seizures, and crime scenes, and photographing case properties. These requirements necessitate the immediate use of electronics and digital technology.

However, investigators and ad-

judicators still need to be equipped with the proper gadgets and trained to use them to consistently generate, secure, and store the necessary digital outputs in an admissible format.

Moreover, numerous other procedures, including e-court proceedings and the electronic serving of summonses and notices, will necessitate extensive digitalization of courts, police stations, and prisons. This will require standardizing protocols, recruiting and training technical and support staff, securing financial resources, and ensuring inter-agency coordination. However, the reality on the ground is that little progress appears to have been made in these areas in most states so far.

Community service has been introduced as a punishment under the BNS. There is a possibility that this penalty could be imposed on minor offenders from the outset of the law's implementation. However, there is currently no established mechanism in place to carry out community service sentences. Agencies are still unclear about the jurisdiction responsible for enforcing this type of punishment.

Without essential operational protocols in place, enforcing key provisions of the BNSS poses challenges. These include aspects such as witness protection, trials in absentia, electronic serving of

summonses/ notices, seizure of crime proceeds for victim distribution, timely disposal of case properties, and videography throughout investigations. Although the law mandates states to promptly establish rules, the lack of these protocols complicates implementation. Every branch of the justice delivery system must promptly identify areas requiring urgent formulation of operational protocols and rules. The recruitment and training of numerous technicians, law officers, and support staff cannot be delayed any longer.

The enhancement and modernization of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, along with other software interfacing with various branches of the justice system and governance, remain incomplete. This task cannot be undertaken solely by the states due to the extensive expertise and coordination needed with central agencies.

States are reliant on the Central Government to navigate the complex path of implementing the new laws. They require continuous support, guidance, and oversight at every step. Central agencies are tasked with leading and coordinating efforts with states, as the successful implementation of these laws is crucial for the credibility of the Centre. (The writer can be reached at dipakkurmipltd@gmail.com)

## India and the US forge bold fronts against China's Tibetan claims

In a significant geopolitical maneuver, the Indian government has announced plans to rename approximately thirty locations within China's Tibet Autonomous Region. This assertive response is a direct counter to China's recurrent practice of renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh, India, with Chinese characters, a move seen as part of Beijing's strategy to bolster its territorial claims. This initiative, spearheaded by the Indian Army's Information Warfare Division, underscores India's resolve to challenge China's expansionist tactics and assert its own historical and territorial narratives.

The renaming exercise by India is poised to be unveiled shortly, marking a significant statement by the newly re-elected government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This meticulously planned initiative reflects ancient Indian nomenclature and has garnered support from the local Tibetan population, who have long dismissed the Chinese-imposed names. This move comes in the wake of Beijing's recent renaming of thirty locations in Arunachal Pradesh, a tactic that began in 2017 and has provoked a diplomatic outcry from New Delhi with each successive list.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's response was unequivocal: "This is not a new issue. China has laid claim, it has expanded its claim. The claims are ludicrous to begin with and remain ludicrous today." His remarks underscore India's steadfast rejection of Beijing's naming policies, framing them as part of a broader strategy to challenge China's territorial assertions.

The backdrop to this renaming saga includes Prime Minister Modi's visit to

Arunachal Pradesh in March 2024, where he inaugurated the Sela Tunnel, a strategic infrastructure project at an altitude of 13,000 feet. Beijing's diplomatic protest against this visit further strained Sino-Indian relations. As the Modi administration embarks on this renaming campaign, it seeks to reinforce its strongman image, a cornerstone of Modi's electoral appeal. Benu Ghosh, a former Intelligence Bureau officer, noted, "PM Modi sought to win these polls on the strength of his strongman image. It is natural he will authorize the renaming of Tibetan places to live up to that image."

The Indian Army's Information Warfare Division has been pivotal in this endeavor, working with top Indian institutes to validate the historical and cultural basis of the new names. This effort aims to craft a robust counter-narrative to China's claims, bolstered by both scholarly research and the testimonies of local residents affirming their allegiance to India. Media tours organized in the disputed regions have spotlighted local support for India's stance, with residents expressing their rejection of Chinese names.

Meanwhile, the geopolitical landscape surrounding the Tibetan issue has been further complicated by recent developments in the United States. The US Congress has passed the 'Resolve Tibet Act,' awaiting President Joe Biden's signature to become law. This Act explicitly states that the "claims made by officials of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Com-

munist Party that Tibet has been a part of China since ancient times are historically inaccurate." This legislative move has serious implications for India's northern border, which for millennia had been with Tibet. Since Tibet's invasion in the early 1950s, it ended up being the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

The Act also criticizes Beijing's policies, which systematically suppress the ability of the Tibetan people to preserve their religion, culture, language, history, way of life, and environment. For decades, successive governments in Delhi have supported the Dalai Lama and his followers, ensuring that India was their second home. Projects such as the Nalanda University in Bihar further strengthen the relations between Tibet and India.

The Act urges Beijing to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives to reach a negotiated resolution that includes the aspirations of the Tibetan people. However, concrete progress seems unlikely, given Beijing's current stance against external advice or interference. The US public diplomacy efforts, as mandated by the Act, aim to counter Beijing's disinformation about Tibet, including the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions.

Notably, the recent visit of a US Congressional delegation, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to Dharamsala for an audience with the Dalai Lama highlights Washington's involvement in the Tibetan issue. This visit, coupled with

the reception of the delegation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, underscores India's tacit support for the US stance on Tibet.

Simultaneously, President Xi Jinping's visit to the Hongjue monastery in Xining City, emphasizing the "patriotic" tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and the Chineseization of Tibetan Buddhism, reflects Beijing's continued efforts to integrate Tibetan Buddhism within its nationalistic framework. This visit occurred just as the US delegation was in Dharamsala, indicating Beijing's sensitivity to international scrutiny of its policies in Tibet.

The 39th EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in Chongqing further reiterated concerns about the human rights situation in China, particularly in Tibetan areas. The EU emphasized that the selection of religious leaders, including the Dalai Lama's successor, should occur without government interference, a sentiment echoed by the US and implicitly supported by India.

In conclusion, India's renaming of locations in Tibet, alongside the US's legislative and diplomatic maneuvers, signals a robust counter-narrative to China's claims over Tibet. These actions underscore a broader geopolitical strategy to assert historical truths and uphold the rights and aspirations of the Tibetan people against Beijing's expansionist policies. As both nations navigate their complex relationships with China, these initiatives represent a significant assertion of sovereignty and support for Tibet's cultural and historical identity. (The author can be reached at shashankadas0007@gmail.com)

## Shubman Gill leads India's rising stars: Young cricket talent set for T20I Zimbabwe tour 2024

By: Ummana Chakraverty

The time every cricket fan in India waited for has finally arrived, with the outbreak of the list of players who will be a part of the T20I India squad for the Zimbabwe tour. The team will be captained by the young cricket superstar Shubman Gill, who recently had the experience of captaining a team in the IPL 2024. Gill captained the latest franchise in the IPL, the Gujarat Titans, which finished in the eighth position this year. Shubman Gill went on to become a part of the India squad in the T20 World Cup; however, he was in the reserves along with Rinku Singh, Avesh Khan, and Khaleel Ahmed. He was not in his best form in this year's IPL in most of the matches, except the one played against the 2023 IPL champion Chennai Super Kings, where he scored 104 runs off 55 balls.

While it will be absolutely gripping to watch Shubman Gill captain the India squad for the T20I series Zimbabwe tour, India will have a great time watching the upcoming talents from the IPL 2024. The India squad consists of Shubman Gill (Captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, and Tushar Deshpande.

IPL 2024 was an impressive season for numerous players. As per cricket experts, analysts, and former players, the format of playing the T20 game almost changed this year, with the highest total score of 287 runs made by the runner-up team of IPL 2024, Sunrisers Hyderabad. Out of all the players, the seventeenth season was extraordinary, and two players who emerged and shined throughout the season were Riyan Parag and Abhishek Sharma, who played for the Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad, respectively.

Riyan Parag, who fell prey to merciless trolls and judgements by cricket fans and experts consecutively due to his performance last year, absolutely turned the tables by making 181 runs at a strike rate of 149.22 in this year's IPL. Riyan Parag's comeback serves as an inspiring example for young players, demonstrating that no matter how severe the setback, the subsequent comeback should be even more impressive.

On the other hand, Abhishek Sharma set the season



on fire with his stellar batting performance as an opener alongside Travis Head for Sunrisers Hyderabad. The left-hand batsman scored 484 runs at a strike rate of 204. Sanju Samson, the captain of the Rajasthan Royals, was quite consistent with his performance, making a total

score of 471 runs at a strike rate of 163.54, and is a part of the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup this year.

As per reports, the Rajasthan Royals captain replaced Ishan Kishan as a batter-wicket keeper in the squad for the T20 World Cup this year. However, he could not be a part of the playing XI until now. Fans can eagerly expect Samson to play on the T20I Zimbabwe tour. Recently, Shivam Dube replaced Nitish Kumar Reddy for the Zimbabwe tour. Nitish Kumar Reddy emerged as an outstanding all-rounder in this year's IPL for the Sunrisers Hyderabad team.

The initial list included the SRH all-rounder; however, due to an injury, he was replaced by Shivam Dube, who is currently a part of the T20 World Cup India squad. Shivam Dube has been having a roller coaster journey in this T20 World Cup, where he scored a total of 72 runs till now and made a score of 396 runs in IPL 2024, where he played for Chennai Super Kings. It will be quite thrilling to watch the CSK all-rounder play in the Zimbabwe tour of T20I.

When it comes to the bowling line-up, the BCCI selected Avesh Khan (right arm medium fast), Khaleel Ahmed (left-arm fast medium), Mukesh Kumar (right arm medium fast), Ravi Bishnoi (right-arm leg break), and Tushar Deshpande (right-arm medium). While Avesh Khan, who played for the Rajasthan Royals, had an impressive season in IPL 2024 with 19 wickets under his belt, Khaleel Ahmed played for the Delhi Capitals and emerged as one of the top contenders for the purple cap this season, taking seven wickets in four matches. Ravi Bishnoi played for Lucknow Super Giants took a total of two wickets this season, and on the other hand, Tushar Deshpande played for Chennai Super Kings and delivered a stellar performance with seventeen wickets in the corresponding season.

While the Indian team has been giving its best in all the matches till now in the T20 World Cup this year, making the nation hopeful of winning the tournament, cricket fans would be eagerly looking forward to seeing the young cricket warriors presenting their excellence in the T20I Zimbabwe tour. The tournament will be kicking off July 6 onwards. (The author is a Postgraduate student in the department of Media and Communication Studies, CHRIST (Deemed-to-be University). She can be reached at unmanachakraverty10@gmail.com)

# A career in Corporate Law

By: **Kaustov Kashvav**

Corporate Law is a specialised field in the field of Law, and has a great scope for the graduates. This degree applies to sole proprietorship, partnership, association and corporations. The day-to-day activities of a Corporate Lawyer include safeguarding the commercial transactions, preparing corporate agreements, filing taxes and managing government reporting. A degree in the Corporate Law domain can be pursued at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Corporate Law is a specialisation that one can pursue while taking up a degree course in Law.

Degrees like LL.B (Bachelor of Legislative Law) and B.A., LL.B, BBA.LL.B BBA.LL.B(Hons) in B.Com.LL.B. B.Sc.LL.B can be pursued in Corporate Law. The recent decades have been a trendsetter for "Corporate" since we are living in a corporate era. Most people are ambitious to get a corporate job in a top-notch organisation, but their thoughts are limited to software and IT only. The growth in this sector brought lots and lots of career avenues worldwide. Corporate Law is a highly reputed and rewarding career in the corporate world.

**Eligibility Criteria for UG Courses in Corporate Law:** Before applying to the UG courses in the field of Corporate Law, candidates must ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria of the course. They must have completed their

10+2 examination with a percentage of 45%, there will be a relaxation of 10 percent for the candidates belonging to the reserved categories. Candidates applying for the admissions to the UG programmes in the field of Corporate Law must clear the eligibility criteria of the course. They must achieve a minimum aggregate score of 45%, there will be a relaxation of 10 percent for the students belonging to the reserved categories.

The top entrance exams for UG courses in India are SET SLAT - The Symbiosis Entrance Test and CLAT- Common-Law Admission Test. The SET SLATs organised by the Symbiosis Law School (SLS), Pune to help students in seeking admission to the university's law courses. Whereas, the CLAT is an entrance test in the area of law that is conducted by the National Law University at a national level in India. It is an offline examination and is widely accepted in most law institutions and colleges.

**Eligibility Criteria for PG Courses:** Candidates applying for the PG courses must meet the eligibility requirements of the desired institute. They can study the eligibility criteria by visiting the official website of the same. Candidates require a Bachelor's degree in the field of law or related discipline with an aggregate score of 45 percent. Mentioned below is the eligibility criteria for PG courses in the field of Corporate Law. A Bachelor's degree in the field of Law or relevant discipline is also necessary for the admissions to the PG courses in the Corporate Law



field. Students should also clear the LSAT- The Law Student Admission Test and CLAT- Common-Law Admission Test PG any one of these two exams to enter in the field of Corporate Law.

LSAT is the most popular entrance exam at the global level for law aspirants. It is conducted by the Law School Admission Council. It is a half-day standardised test held about seven times each year. CLAT PG is a national level law entrance examination conducted by Consortium of National Law Universities (NLU's) for admission to the postgraduate programmes in the field of Law.

**Scope of Corporate Law:** The scope of a Corporate Law course is very diverse in both India and abroad. The Corporate Industry is growing in India and there is increasing demand for corporate lawyers due to high dependability on them. The salary of a Corporate Lawyer is handsome, which varies on their experience and

knowledge. Graduates can work in law firms, corporates, banks or any other government or private sectors. Law abroad has always been a top-ranking and high-paying career, many countries like the USA hire qualified legal lawyers provided they are eligible for the same.

**Careers in Corporate Law:** Corporate Law is an emerging career in the law field as well as the corporate field. This is a versatile choice of career. The demand for corporate Law will never come down as the corporate sectors are growing at a very rapid speed. The corporate sector contributes 53 per cent of GDP to the Indian Economy. Corporate Law plays a major role in corporate governance as it includes involvement in major decisions to commercial transactions and solving disputes to negotiating settlements. Corporate Law generally revolves around overseeing all legal and external affairs. As the knowledge, experience, and potentiality of the corporate lawyer increases, it increases his/her prestige and demand in the corporate world. One can become a Corporate Lawyer, Legal Advisors, Corporate Events Associate, Associate Advocate, Legal Counsellor and Law Administrator by studying corporate law.

**Top Corporate Law Colleges in India:** The admission to corporate law colleges is based on the entrance examination or direct admission based on past academic performance. The fee for private colleges is generally higher as compared to government colleges. A few private Corporate law colleges are-Babu Banarasi Das

University, Lucknow, GITAM School of Law Visakhapatnam, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, SLCU Bangalore, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, NLU Jodhpur - National Law University, Jodhpur to name a few.

**Upcoming trends**

The demand for Corporate Law courses is rapidly increasing in the corporate sector. But corporate Law has nailed its place to serve a large number of companies. The upcoming trends in this area include:

**Virtual Law Firm:** Virtual Law firms, as the name suggests are legal companies who don't have a physical presence and are mostly operated from the home of a Lawyer. A virtual law firm is a very beneficial innovation that reduces the cost of setting up an office, the location and time both are flexible, lawyers can operate it from anywhere in the world. The client reach also increases.

**Legal Search Engines:** Legal Search Engines is an online platform that allows the legal professionals, lawyers and law students to access the legal information easily. Finding legal information online can be a bit overwhelming, but due to Legal Search Engines now the individual can access the information very easily and quickly. There are some other innovations in the field of law such as Web- Based Legal Services and Corporate Secretarial Services Market. These trends and innovations make the corporate field a rapidly-developing field.

## SSC MTS Recruitment 2024 – 8326 MTS & Havaldar Vacancy, Online Apply

Last Date: 31/07/2024

Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has released the official notification for the recruitment of 8326 MTS & Havaldar Vacancy through Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff, and Havaldar (CBIC & CBN) Examination, 2024. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

**Name of exam:** Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff, and Havaldar (CBIC & CBN) Examination, 2024

**No of posts:** 8326 posts

**# MTS:** 4887 posts

**# Havaldar:** 3439 posts

**Pay Scale:** ₹ 18000- 56900 (Level 1 as per 7th CPC pay Matrix)

**Eligibility Criteria of SSC MTS Recruitment**

**Nationality:** The nationality of the candidate should be

# A citizen of India  
# Subject of Nepal  
# Subject of Bhutan  
# Tibetan Refugee  
# Person of Indian Origin migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Afghanistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Zaire, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

**Age Limit:** The age limits for the posts as per the Recruitment Rules of various User Departments are:

# 18-25 years (i.e. candidates born not before 02.08.1999 and not later than 01.08.2006) for MTS.

# 18-27 years (i.e. candidates born not before 02.08.1997 and not later than 01.08.2006) for Havaldar in CBIC and CBN, Department of Revenue and a few posts of MTS in various departments.

**Age Relaxation:** The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

# SC/ST: 5 years  
# OBC: 3 years  
# PwBD (Unreserved): 10 years  
# PwBD (OBC): 13 years  
# PwBD (SC/ST): 15 years  
# Ex-Servicemen (ESM): 03 years

**Educational Qualification:** The candidates must have passed Matriculation Examination or equivalent from a recognized Board.

**Application Fee of SSC MTS Exam**

# SC/ST PWD/ ESM/ Women: Nil  
# UR/ OBC: ₹ 100  
# **Payment mode:** BHIM UPI, Net Banking or by using Visa, MasterCard, Maestro, RuPay Credit or Debit cards or in cash at SBI Branches by generating SBI Challan

**SSC Exam Centres in North East India**

A candidate must indicate the Centre(s) in the online Application Form in which he desires to take the examination. Here is the list of centres under North Eastern Region (NER):

Itanagar (5001), Dibrugarh (5102), Guwahati (Dispur) (5105), Jorhat (5107), Silchar (5111), Imphal (5501), Shillong (5401), Aizwal (5701), Dimapur (5301), Kohima (5302), Agartala (5601), Tezpur (7994)

**Important Dates of SSC MTS Vacancy 2024**

# **Starting date of submission of online application:** 27th June 2024  
# **Last date of submission of online application:** 31st July 2024

## DPS Jorhat Recruitment – 15 PGT, PRT & Other Posts

Last Date: 31/07/2024

Delhi Public School, Jorhat has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 15 PGT, PRT & Other Posts under Delhi Public School, Jorhat. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

**1. School Counselor**

**No of posts:** 1

**Educational Qualification:** Candidate should be master's degree in school counselling, Psychology or a related field. Minimum 3 years' experience in a counselling role.

**2. Nursery, Lower kindergarten, Upper Kindergarten**

**No of posts:** 3 posts (1 post each)

**Educational Qualification:** Candidates should be Graduate and Trained in pre-primary education.

**Experience:** Minimum 3 years of teaching experience.

**3. PRT**

**No of posts:** 3 (English, Mathematics, Science)

**Educational Qualification:** Candidates should be Graduate /Postgraduate in the relevant teaching subject for PRT, TGT & PGT. B. Ed/D.El.Ed is compulsory for all above mentioned teaching posts.

**Experience:** Minimum 3 years of teaching experience.

**4. PGT**

**No of posts:** 7 (English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Economics)

**Educational Qualification:** Candidates should be Graduate /Postgraduate in the relevant teaching subject for PRT, TGT & PGT. B. Ed/D.El.Ed is compulsory for all above mentioned teaching posts.

**Experience:** Minimum 3 years of teaching experience.

**5. Co-Scholastic**

**No of posts:** 1, Music (Vocal & Instrumental)

**Educational Qualification:** Master's degree in music with a specialization in Vocal Music from a recognized university.

**Experience:** Minimum of 3-5 years of teaching experience at the secondary or senior secondary level.

**How to Apply for DPS Jorhat Recruitment?**

Interested candidates may send detailed CV with a recent photograph within one week of the advertisement to the following email id: career@dpsjorhat.in.

**Last date of submission of application:** 31/07/2024.

**Note:** The Management reserves the right not to fill up the post if suitable candidates are not found.

**About DPS Jorhat**

One of the finest schools emerging in the service of community, with an ambience unparalleled till now, better than the other day schools in Jorhat and neighbourhood with an extensive fifteen acres of premises, stands a very elegantly designed DPS Jorhat.

Endowed with Smart Classroom learning technology, modern maths, science, language, computers, robotics, STEM labs, a well stocked library, international standards of outdoor playing courts, a multipurpose performing area, the state-of-art Junior Play School where fun way of learning will take precedence over all school activities, flowing green integrated spaces brought into interaction; a composite knowledge park; all compositely will enhance capabilities of sound health and education.

## Ajmal Foundation Recruitment – 28 Faculty & Other Posts

Last Date: 06/07/2024

Ajmal Foundation, Hojai has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 28 Faculty and other posts at various residential Schools under Ajmal Foundation, Hojai. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

**1. Hostel Administrator**

**No of posts:** 5

**Location:** Hojai and Dhubri

**Educational Qualification:** Graduate (Any Stream)

**Experience:** Minimum 3-5 Years in the relevant field .

**Pay:** Up to ₹ 40,000 PM

**Age Limit:** Minimum 30 Years

**2. Hostel Mentor**

**No of posts:** 8 (4 Male, 4 Female)

**Location:** Hojai and Dhubri

**Educational Qualification:** Graduate (Any Stream)

**Experience:** Minimum 2 Years

**Pay:** Up to ₹ 20,000 PM

**Age Limit:** Minimum 30 Years

**3. Nurse (Female)**

**No of posts:** 3

**Location:** Hojai and Dhubri

**Educational Qualification:** ANM or GNM Preferable

**Experience:** 2-4 Years in relevant field

**Pay:** Up to ₹ 20,000 PM

**Age Limit:** Minimum 22 Years

**4. Maktab (Islamic Studies) Teacher**

**No of posts:** 2 (Female only)

**Location:** Hojai

**Educational Qualification:** Minimum 10th Passed, Hafiza

**Experience:** 0-2 Years in relevant field

**Pay:** Up to ₹ 15,000 PM

**Age Limit:** Minimum 25 Years

**5. Guard / Watchman**

**No of posts:** 10

**Location:** Hojai

**Educational Qualification:** HSLC Passed

**Experience:** Minimum 2 Years in relevant field

**Pay:** Negotiable

**Age Limit:** Minimum 25-35 Years

**How to Apply for Ajmal Foundation Recruitment?**

# Interested candidates can send your resume and cover letter highlighting their qualifications and experience to careers@ajmalfoundation.org by 6th July 2024.

# Shortlisted candidates will be called for Personal Interview.

# For further inquiries, please contact +916900010059 (From 11 AM to 5 PM, Except Public Holidays) (Please avoid unnecessary questions) .

**About Ajmal Foundation**

Ajmal Foundation is an ISO certified Public Charitable Trust, registered under Indian Trust Act, 1882, vide Registration no. 3480/176 and was established in the year 2005 with its head office located in the district of Hojai, Assam in INDIA. With the spirit of 'Serving Humanity in Need' Ajmal Foundation has been working in the field of Modern Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Promotion, Women Empowerment, Poverty Alleviation, Relief and Rehabilitation, Water Management and Sanitation, Legal & Digital Literacy, Women and Child Development, Healthcare and Family Welfare etc.

The Foundation responds to socioeconomic development in India through implementation of various community based integrated projects targeting the youth, women, elderly people, adults, children and the differently abled. In doing so, time bound implementation, efficient delivery of the assigned projects and full transparency have always remained a top priority of the organization. Ajmal Foundation is a Pan India organization primarily focusing North Eastern States to contribute to nation building process to make India a strong, resilient and leading Country in the world.

## Indian Coast Guard Recruitment – 320 Navik (GD) & Yantrik Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 03/07/2024

Indian Coast Guard has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 320 Navik (General Duty) and Yantrik posts in the Indian Coast Guard, an Armed Force of the Union posts. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online.

**1. Navik (General Duty)**

**No of posts:** 260 posts

**Educational Qualification:** Class 12th passed with Maths and Physics from an education board recognized by Council of Boards for School Education (COBSE).

**2. Yantrik**

**No of posts:** 60 posts

**Educational Qualification:**

Class 10th passed from an education board recognized by Council of Boards for School Education (COBSE) and Diploma in Electrical/ Mechanical / Electronics/ Telecommunication (Radio/Power) Engineering of duration 03 or 04 years approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). OR

Class 10th & Class 12th passed from an education board recognized by Council of Boards for School Education (COBSE) "AND" Diploma in Electrical/ Mechanical / Electronics/ Telecommunication (Radio/Power) Engineering of duration 02 or 03 years approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).

**Other Criteria of Indian Coast Guard Recruitment**

**Age Limit:** Age of the candidates should be minimum 18 Years and maximum 22 years. Candidates should be born between 01 Mar 2003 to 28 Feb 2007 (both dates inclusive) applying for post of Navik (GD) and Yantrik.

**Age Relaxation:** Upper age relaxation of 5 years for SC/ST and 3 years for OBC (non creamy) candidates is applicable only if, posts are reserved for them.

**Examination Fee:**

# UR/OBC: ₹ 300

# SC/ST: Nil

# **Mode of Payment:** Net banking or by using Visa/ Master/ Maestro/ Rupay Credit/ Debit Card/ UPI .

**Important Dates of Indian Coast Guard Vacancy 2024**

# **Starting date of online application submission:** 13th June 2024

# **Last date of online application submission:** 3rd July 2024

## Biden and Trump call each other liar, worst president, during testy presidential debate

ATLANTA, June 28: President Joe Biden and his Republican rival Donald Trump sparred over the state of the economy, border, foreign policy, abortion and national security during the first of presidential debates as they called each other a liar and the worst president in the history of the U.S.

During their roughly 90-minute debate defined by personal attacks on Thursday night, Biden called Trump a sucker and loser. "I was recently in France for D-Day, and I spoke to all about those heroes that died. I went to the World War II cemetery — the World War I cemetery he refused to go to," Biden, the presumptive candidate of the Democratic Party, said, referring to Trump, who declined to visit the cemetery in 2018.

"He was standing with his four-star general, and he told me, he said, 'I don't want to go in there, because they're a bunch of losers and suckers. My son was not a loser. He's not a sucker. You're the sucker. You're the loser,'" Biden said.

Trump said that the quotes were made up in a third-rate magazine and he later fired the general. On the age factor, 81-year-old Biden reminded that 78-year-old Trump is just three years younger than him.

Trump called Biden a criminal after the latter called him a "convicted felon," referring to his conviction in a New York hush-money case.

"Joe could be a convicted felon with all of the things that he's done, he's done horrible things. This man is a criminal. This man, you're lucky, you're lucky, I did nothing wrong. We have a system that was rigged and disgusting," Trump said. "When he talks about a convicted felon, his son (Hunter Biden) is a convicted felon, at a

very high level," he alleged.

As the two leaders sparred over various issues, Biden accused Trump that he does not know what he is talking about.

"He has no idea what the hell he's talking about. I've never heard so much foolishness. This is the guy who wants to get out of NATO. You're going to stay in NATO? He's going to pull out of NATO," Biden said.

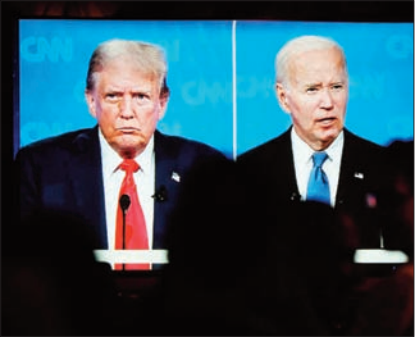
Biden alleged that Trump has the morals of an alley cat. "How many billions of dollars do you owe in civil penalties for, for molesting a woman in public, for doing a whole range of things, for having sex with a porn star on the night — while your wife was pregnant? What are you talking about? You have the morals of an alley cat," he said.

"Could you ever think you heard any president say that 'I'm going to seek retribution'? This guy has no sense of American democracy," Biden said.

Trump slammed his successor Biden on his immigration policies, alleging that it made the country insecure.

"We're literally, an uncivilized country now. He doesn't want it to be. He just doesn't know. He opened the borders nobody's ever seen anything like, and we have to get a lot of these people out and we have to get them out fast because they're going to destroy our country," Trump said.

"They (illegal immigrants) are living in luxury hotels in New York City and other places. Our veterans are on the street. They're dying because he doesn't care about our veterans. He doesn't like the military at all, and he doesn't care about our veterans," he asserted. (PTI)



## Iran votes in snap poll for new president after hard-liner's death, but turnout remains a question

More than 61 million Iranians over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, with about 18 million of them between 18 to 30



in Gaza, while militia groups that Tehran arms in the region — such as the Lebanese Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels — are engaged in the fighting and have escalated their attacks.

Meanwhile, Iran continues to enrich uranium at near weapons-grade levels and maintains a stockpile large enough to build — should it choose to do so — several nuclear weapons.

While Iran's 85-year-old Khamenei has the final say on all matters of state, presidents can bend the country's policies toward confrontation or negotiation with the West. However, given the record-low turnout in recent elections, it remains unclear just how many Iranians will take part in Friday's poll. Pezeshkian, who voted at a hospital near the capital, Tehran, appeared to have that in mind as he responded to a journalist's question about how Iran would interact with the West if he was president.

"God willing, we will try to have friendly relations with all countries except Israel," the 69-year-old candidate said. Israel, long Iran's regional arch-enemy, faces intense criticism across the Mideast over its grinding war in the Gaza Strip.

He also responded to a question about a renewed crackdown on women over the mandatory headscarf, or hijab, less than two years after the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini, which sparked nationwide demonstrations and violent security force response. "No inhuman or invasive behavior should be made against our girls, daughters and mothers," he said.

A higher turnout could boost Pezeshkian's chances, and the candidate may have been counting on social media to spread his remarks, as all television broadcasters in the country are state-controlled and run by hard-liners. But it remains unclear if he can gain the momen-

tum needed to draw voters to the ballot. There have been calls for a boycott, including from imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi.

There's also been criticism that Pezeshkian represents just another government-approved candidate. One woman in a documentary on Pezeshkian aired by state TV said her generation was "moving toward the same level" of animosity with the government that Pezeshkian's generation had in the 1979 revolution.

Analysts broadly describe the race as a three-way contest. There are two hard-liners, former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and the parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf. A Shiite cleric, Mostafa Pourmohammadi, also has remained in the race despite polling poorly.

Pezeshkian has aligned himself with figures such as former President Hassan Rouhani under whose administration Tehran struck the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

The voting began just after President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump concluded their first televised debate for the U.S. presidential election, during which Iran came up. Trump described Iran as "broke" under his administration and highlighted his decision to launch a 2020 drone

strike that killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. That attack was part of a spiral of escalating tensions between America and Iran since Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. in 2018 from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Iranian state media made a point to publish images of voters lined up in the city of Kerman near Soleimani's grave.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi, who is in charge of overseeing the election, announced all the polls had opened just at 8 a.m. local time. Khamenei cast one of the election's first votes, urging the public to turn out.

"People's turnout with enthusiasm, and higher number of voters — this is a definite need for the Islamic Republic," Khamenei said.

State television later broadcast images of polling places across the country with modest lines. Onlookers did not see significant lines at many polling centers in Tehran, reminiscent of the low turnout seen in Iran's recent parliamentary election in March. More than 61 million Iranians over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, with about 18 million of them between 18 to 30. Iranian law requires that a winner gets more than 50% of all votes cast. If that doesn't happen, the race's top two candidates will advance to a runoff a week later. (AP)

## Russia warns it can take unspecified measures in response to US drone flights over Black Sea

MOSCOW, June 28: Russia's Defense Minister ordered officials to prepare a "response" to U.S. drone flights over the Black Sea, the ministry said on Friday, in an apparent warning that Moscow may take forceful action to ward off the American reconnaissance aircraft.

The Russian Defense Ministry noted a recent "increased intensity" of U.S. drones over the Black Sea, saying they "conduct intelligence and targeting for precision weapons supplied to the Ukrainian military by Western countries for strikes on Russian facilities."

"It shows an increased involvement of the U.S. and other NATO countries in the conflict in Ukraine on the side of the Kyiv regime," the ministry said in a statement.

It noted that "such flights significantly increase the probability of incidents involving Russian military aircraft, which increases the risk of direct confrontation between the alliance and the Russian Federation." "NATO members will bear responsibility for that," it added.

The ministry said that Defense Minister Andrei Belousov has directed the General Staff to "make proposals on measures of



operative response to provocations."

Washington and Moscow have clashed before over U.S. drones in the Black Sea. In a 2023 incident, a Russian fighter jet damaged an American drone there, causing it to crash. A repeat of such a confrontation could further fuel tensions over the war in Ukraine.

On March 14, 2023, a Su-27 fighter jet of the Russian air force intercepted and damaged a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone, causing it to crash into the Black Sea. The incident marked the first direct clash between the Russian and U.S. forces since the Cold War.

The Pentagon and U.S. European Com-

mand said after the incident that two Russian Su-27 aircraft dumped fuel on the MQ-9, which was conducting a routine surveillance mission over the Black Sea in international airspace.

The Russian Defense Ministry said then that the U.S. drone was flying near the Russian border and intruded into an area that was declared off-limits by Russian authorities.

Russia has declared broad areas near Crimea off-limits to flights. Ever since Russia's 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea and long before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow has accused U.S. surveillance planes of flying too close to its borders while ignoring the notices issued by Russia.

Friday's Russian statement follows a Ukrainian attack on Sevastopol with the weekend with U.S.-made ATACMS missiles, which killed four and injured about 150, according to Russian authorities.

Russian officials have claimed that the U.S. was directly involved in the attack by providing intelligence and targeting and warned to take retaliatory measures. (AP)

## 5 missiles land near ship in the Red Sea in likely the latest attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels

DUBAI, June 28: A ship traveling through the Red Sea came under repeated missile fire on Friday in a likely attack launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels, authorities said, the latest targeting the crucial maritime route.

Five missiles landed near the vessel as it traveled off the coast of the rebel-held port city of Hodeida in Yemen, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said.

The missiles landed near the vessel, but caused no damage, the UKTMO added. The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack. However, it can take them hours or even days before they acknowledge an assault.

The rebels have targeted more than 60 vessels by firing missiles and drones in their campaign that has killed a total of four sailors. They seized one vessel and sank two since November. A U.S.-led airstrike campaign has targeted the Houthis since January, with a series of strikes on May 30 killing at least 16 people and wounding 42 others, the rebels say.

The Houthis maintain that their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the United States or Britain. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the Israel-Hamas war — including some bound for Iran.

Late on Tuesday, Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said the group was responsible for an attack Monday on the Liberian-flagged, Greek-managed container ship MSC Sarah V.

On Wednesday, the Houthis claimed they used a new hypersonic ballistic missile in the assault, which targeted a ship farther away than nearly all of the previous assaults they've launched in the Gulf of Aden.

The U.S. military's Central Command also said it destroyed a Houthi radar site. (AP)

## Ultra-Orthodox Jews block highway to protest Israel's new mandatory military service ruling

BNEI BRAK (ISRAEL), June 28: Hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Jewish men blocked a major highway in central Israel for two hours on Thursday to protest a recent Supreme Court decision ordering young religious men to enlist for military service.

Military service is compulsory for most Jewish men and women in Israel. But politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties have won draft exemptions for their followers that allow them instead to study in religious seminaries.

This long-standing arrangement has bred widespread resentment among the broader public — a sentiment that has grown stronger during the eight-month war against Hamas in Gaza.

Over 600 soldiers have been killed, and tens of thousands of reservists have been activated, straining careers, businesses and family lives. Protesters sat on the highway and lay on the ground as police lifted them up and dragged them away.

Officers mounted on horseback charged into the crowd. Many demonstrators held signs and chanted "To prison! Not to the army!"

"We all came here for one goal, we reflect the position of all the Orthodox public," said a young man, identifying himself only by his first name Ozer. "All the Orthodox public prefers to go to prison and not



to the army." The ultra-Orthodox see their full-time religious study as their part in protecting the state. Many fear that greater contact with secular society through the military will distance adherents from strict observance of the faith.

The Supreme Court this week ordered the government to begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men, saying the system of exemptions is unequal.

The decision could lead to the collapse of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Ultra-Orthodox parties and their followers oppose any change in the system. The ultra-Orthodox make up roughly 13 per cent of Israel's population.

But under the country's fragmented political system, they wield significant political power and often serve as political kingmakers. The parties are key members of Netanyahu's governing coalition and could potentially force new elections if they decide to leave the government. (AP)

## 4 Serbs in Kosovo jailed in the killing of a moderate Serb politician in 2018

PRISTINA, June 28: A Kosovo court on Friday sentenced four ethnic Serbs to four to 10 years in jail for the killing of a moderate Serb leader. The Pristina court ruled that the defendants were part of an organized crime ring and had targeted the victim because of his moderate politics.

The defendants were not present when the verdict was read. Five other defendants remain at large. Since 2011 they had been operating in northern Kosovo and had influence on police, local authorities and public enterprises there, according to the charges.

Oliver Ivanovic, 64, was gunned down in front of his party office headquarters in the Serb-dominated northern part of the Kosovo town of Mitrovica in January 2018. He was one of the key politicians in Serb-dominated northern Kosovo, a former Serbian province where tensions remain high, and was critical of the Serb influence in Kosovo's Serb minority. A Kosovo court had convicted Ivanovic of war crimes during the 1998-99 war. That verdict was overturned and a retrial had been underway. Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, but Serbia's government refuses to recognize it. (AP)

## Taiwan urges citizens to avoid travel to China, Hong Kong Macao following Beijing threats

TAIPEI, June 28: Taiwan has urged its citizens to avoid travel to China and the semi-autonomous Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macao following threats from Beijing to execute supporters of the self-governing island democracy's independence.

Spokesperson and deputy head of the Mainland Affairs Council Liang Wen-chieh issued the advisory at a news conference Thursday.

That came amid growing threats from China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if

necessary.

China's threat to hunt down and execute "hardcore" Taiwan independence supporters follows the election of Lai Ching-te of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party as president. China has refused all contact with Taiwan's government since the election in 2016 of former president Tsai Ing-wen of the DPP, who refused to endorse Beijing's demand that Taiwan recognizes itself as a part of China, seen as a prelude to political unification between the sides.

"In response to the new

guidelines related to the so-called secession crime', the government has the responsibility to remind citizens that there are genuine risks involved" in such visits, Liang said.

The government is not banning visits, but those that do travel should not express political opinions or carry books or post online about topics that the authoritarian Communist Party would use to detain and potentially prosecute them.

Hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese live in China or travel their for business,

tourism or family visits each year. China has also hosted visits by local Taiwanese officials and leaders of the opposition Nationalist Party, which backs eventual unification between the sides.

The sides operate direct flights and mainland Chinese are permitted to visit, although Beijing has severely restricted tourism to the island as a means of bringing economic pressure on the government in addition to its threatening military exercises and the daily deployment of warships and military planes around the island. (AP)

## Pakistan can target TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan under new counter-terrorism operation: Defence Minister Asif

ISLAMABAD, June 28: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has warned that Pakistan can target sanctuaries of the outlawed terrorist group TTP in Afghanistan under the newly launched military operation, as he ruled out any dialogue with the dreaded outfit as there was no "common ground".

The government announced the launch of 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam' last week to tackle the rising threat of terrorism in the wake of lukewarm support by the Afghan Taliban to stop the use of their soil by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) rebels against Pakistan.

In an interview with the Voice of America, Asif said that the decision to launch the counter-terrorism operation was not made in haste, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

"The decision about Azm-e-Istehkam was taken because of the economic difficulties, and it may also target TTP's sanctuaries across the border," he told

the state-owned American news network and international radio broadcaster. The minister said that it would not be against international law since Afghanistan had been "exporting" terrorism to Pakistan, and the "exporters" were being harboured there, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Asif said that although the TTP was operating from the neighbouring country, its cadre, about a few thousand in number, "are operating from within the country".

He also ruled out any chances of dialogue with the banned outfit, saying there was no common ground.

Asif blamed jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's government for the resettlement of the Taliban militants in Pakistan, according to the report. Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) "government brought back the 4,000 to 5,000 Taliban after negotiations. If that experiment was successful, let us know we can replicate it," he

said. Talking about the Opposition's criticism of Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, Asif said that the concerns of political parties would be addressed.

"The government will bring this matter to the National Assembly so that the questions and concerns of the members can be answered and they are taken into confidence," he said. "This is also our duty," he was quoted as saying.

Major opposition parties, including the PTI of Imran Khan, who was also dubbed as 'Taliban Khan' for his support for the Taliban, right-wing Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) of Maulana Fazlur Rehman and secular Awami National Party (ANP) of the family of Ghaffar Khan opposed any new military offensive. All these parties have their support in the restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, which has been badly hit by the militancy. Parties like ANP paid a heavy price in the war against militancy.

These parties have demanded that Parliament be taken into confidence before any offensive against militancy was launched. (PTI)

## China's Chang'e-6 collects nearly two kgs of samples from Moon's far side for research

BEIJING, June 28: China's Chang'e-6 mission, which returned this week from the far side of the Moon, has brought back nearly two kilograms of samples for research which will further enhance the understanding of lunar evolution, the country's space agency announced on Friday.

Based on the preliminary measurement, the Chang'e-6 mission collected 1,935.3 grams of lunar samples, according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

"We have found that the samples brought back by Chang'e-6 were more viscous compared to previous samples, with the presence of clumps. These are observable characteristics," Ge Ping, Deputy Director of the CNSA's Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Centre, who is also the spokesperson for the Chang'e-6 mission, told the media here.



Researchers will then carry out the storage and processing of the lunar samples as planned and initiate scientific research work.

The lunar samples, which were collected from the far side of the moon for the first time in human history, hold unique scientific significance as they will further enhance the understanding of lunar evolution, accelerate the pace of peaceful exploration and utilization of lunar resources, and serve as an important asset for all humanity, the CNSA said.

It said it would organise scien-

tific research on the samples, sharing China's lunar exploration achievements with the international community.

Based on the lunar sample management rules released by the CNSA and the experience in dealing with the applications for lunar samples collected by the Chang'e-5 mission, applications for the Chang'e-6 samples are expected to open to domestic research institutions and scientists in about six months, Ge said, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Regarding international appli-

cations, Ge noted that China welcomes scientists from all countries to submit applications under relevant procedures.

Previously, significant scientific achievements have been made through in-depth research on the lunar samples brought back by the Chang'e-5 mission, in areas such as lunar formation and evolution, space weathering, and resource utilisation, the CNSA said.

The Chang'e-6 probe was launched into orbit on May 3. Its returner, carrying the lunar samples, landed precisely in its designated area in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on June 25, marking a complete success for the mission.

The returner was brought back to Beijing later. Researchers opened it and successfully collected the lunar sample container on Wednesday, the CNSA said. (PTI)

# Cabinet identifies 24 citizen-centric initiatives as part of 'Reforms 3.0'

## Khandu outlines reform initiatives for 'Viksit Arunachal'

ITANAGAR, June 28: Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu on Friday asserted that the reforms initiative undertaken by his government will propel the developmental agenda for a 'Viksit Arunachal'.

The state government in its first meeting on June 14, immediately after the swearing-in of the new council of ministers, pledged itself to a transformative reform agenda for the next five years.

Laying the foundation for building a developed Arunachal for the next five years, the cabinet rolled out 'Reforms 3.0', identifying 24 citizen-centric initiatives as part of the transformative journey, touching citizens lives and aspirations, and directed all departments



to implement these initiatives in letter and spirit. The state cabinet set a 100-day road map to undertake develop-

mental programmes in various departments. "Our Reforms 3.0 initiative will propel the development of a Viksit

will facilitate better planning and service delivery. The establishment of the Institute for Transforming Arunachal will drive Reforms 3.0, overseeing the overhauling of administrative apparatus and make governance more efficient and responsive, he added.

Stating that MSMEs play an important role in ensuring inclusive, sustainable economic development in the state, Khandu added that Team Arunachal is working hard to extend every possible support to small industrial units.

"We're committed to accelerating the pace of economic growth of the state without compromising our ecological resilience," he added. (PTI)

# CME on good laboratory practices held at USTM



**HT Bureau**  
GUWAHATI, June 28: The microbiology department of the PA Sangma International Hospital at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has organised a continuing medical education (CME) workshop titled 'Good Laboratory Practices and Infection Control in a Tertiary Care Hospital' at the university campus in Ri Bhoi district in Meghalaya on Friday.

Apart from the distinguished speakers and the participants, the workshop was graced by RC Deka, former director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Mahbul Hoque, chancellor of USTM and RK Sharma, advisor of USTM. The chief guest of the inaugural session was Manasi Bhattacharjee, dean academics, head of the department of physiology of AIIMS, Guwahati.

Bhattacharjee highlighted the significance of good laboratory practice in healthcare. The inaugural session of the workshop was also addressed by Padma Shri Sarbeswar Saharia, vice-chancellor of USTM, Biraj Kumar Das, principal of PIMC and Swaroop Baruah, MEU coordinator of PIMC.

Welcoming the participants, Debarati Saha, of the department of microbiology of PIMC said, "The objective of the CME is to equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills to ensure safety and quality standards in laboratory practices and prevent infections. The workshop aims to equip participants with knowledge of standard laboratory practices for quality and safety, skills to implement effective infection control protocols, and strategies to minimise risks and ensure patient well-

being." The resource persons in the scientific sessions include Lahari Saikia of the department of microbiology, of the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital spoke on 'Principles of Good Laboratory Practice'. The session chaired by Jogesh Sharma, director of health-care education of USTM. Moushumi Saikia, consultant biochemist and quality head of the department of laboratory medicine of the Apollo Hospitals, Guwahati spoke on 'Fundamentals of Quality Control' and her session was chaired by Rajeeb Kalita. Muktanjalee Deka, head of the department of oncopathology of State Cancer Institute spoke on 'Quality and safety aspects in Histopathology Laboratory' and her session was chaired by Swaroop Kr. Baruah.

While Debarati Saha spoke on 'Overview of Quality Control and Infection Control in Microbiology Laboratory', Deepijoti Kalita, associate professor of the department of microbiology, AIIMS, Guwahati spoke on 'Establishment of BMW Management and Hospital Infection Control Program from Scratch: Challenges and Way Forward' and his session was chaired by Chitralekha Baruah. Rashminata Barman, associate professor of the department of microbiology of the Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute made a presentation on 'Sterilization in Prevention of Hospital Acquired Infection' and her session was chaired by Rashna Dass Hazarika, medical superintendent of PA Sangma International Medical College and Hospital. Krishna Gogoi, senior consultant of Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya spoke on 'Overview of Hospital Infection Control' and her session was chaired by Rajendra Kr.Baruah and Ashok Kr Das.

# Assam Governor attends 6th convocation of IIT, Guwahati

**HT Bureau**

GUWAHATI, June 28: Governor Gulab Chand Kataria attended the 6th convocation of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G) held at the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Auditorium in its campus in North Guwahati on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Kataria congratulated the graduates and said, "This convocation is an important occasion in academic journey, which is a testament to the years of hard work, dedication and determination of a student. The degrees and awards given to the students on the occasion are the results of their perspiration and perseverance. Convocation is as much a proud moment for the students as it is for the teachers, mentors, and other stakeholders of an educational institution."

Addressing the students, Kataria also said that after completing one phase of learning, unlimited opportunities wait for the students. He asked the students to face these challenges and make meaningful contribution to the betterment of the society. He also asked them to astutely fulfill their big responsibilities towards the country.

The Governor compared an educational institute with a temple where, teachers are the saints. The devotion, hard work, and guidance of the teachers shape the students, helping them reaching greater heights and becoming responsible citizens.

He also observed that, compared to conventional studies, technical educational institutions such as IIT- Guwahati have a lower girls enrolment rate. Therefore, he asked the authorities of technical institutions to find ways to encourage more girls to join the technical courses. He stated that girls have demonstrated their capability in every field, and providing them with proper opportunities would be a right way to empower them. The Governor also appealed to the graduates to utilize their expertise properly and bring about holistic and positive changes in society.

Kataria said that the main function of an educational institution was to disseminate knowledge and stimulate skill development to enhance research and innovation. In the present digital age, information technology is being used in almost every field to increase the convenience of a modern life. Information technology is also contributing to the growth of economy.

Kataria further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has been progressing rapidly in the field of information technology. The country has now emerged as a global leader in the field. He also spoke on the semiconductor unit which is going to be set up at Jagiroad in Morigaon district by Tata Group at a cost of Rs 27 thousand crore in the name of Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Private Limited (TSAT). He said that with the assembling of semiconductors, the state will be successful in creating a new identity on the global stage. Former director of IIT Kharagpur, Partha Pratim Chakraborty, chairman of the Board of Governors of the IIT-Guwahati, Satyavrat Dev and director of IIT-G, Sharat Kumar Patra also spoke on the occasion. A total of 227 students have obtained their graduate and post-graduate degrees from the institute, which includes 177 B.Tech, 41 M.Tech and 9 PhDs.

# Tripura West district enforces new norms for Rath Yatra chariots

AGARTALA, June 28: Following last year's tragic incident at Kumarghat in Tripura's Unakoti district where 10 devotees lost their lives during Ula Rath Yatra, the West Tripura district administration on Friday instructed organisers to keep the height of Lord Jagannath's chariots below five feet.

"We held a meeting with all stakeholders of the upcoming rath yatra festival scheduled to commence on July 7. We have instructed organisers that the height of chariots should not exceed 5 feet to prevent incidents like Kumarghat. Additionally, we have emphasised minimising the use of metal in construction of chariots," West Tripura district magistrate Vishal Kumar told reporters.

The public works department (PWD) and Tripura Electricity Corporation Ltd (TECL) will inspect the proposed chariots, with TECL specifically checking transmission lines along the designated routes of the Rath Yatra, he said. Kumar further assured the deployment of ambulances and increased police presence to prevent any untoward incidents. "We have taken necessary measures to avoid a recurrence of the Kumarghat tragedy. All stakeholders, including TSECL, PWD, Traffic Police, regular police, and fire and emergency services, are working together to ensure a safe and accident-free celebration of the Rath Yatra," Kumar said.

Ten devotees died of electrocution and 16 others were injured as a rath, made of iron and heavily decorated, came in contact with a high-tension wire in Unakoti district on June 29, 2023. (PTI)

# Nagaland Gov pays tributes to Capt Kengurise on his 25th memorial day

**HT Correspondent**

DIMAPUR, June 28: Nagaland Governor La Ganesan paid tributes at the memorial of Capt Neikezhakuo Kengurise on his 25th Memorial Day at his native village Nerhe Phezha, Nerhema in Kohima district on Friday. The brave soldier had made the supreme sacrifice during the Kargil War on June 28, 1999. Kengurise was an officer of 2 Rajputana Rifles, who was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second highest gallantry award, for his exemplary valor in combat during operations in the Kargil War in 1999.

Addressing the programme, Ganesan expressed his gratitude and regards to Kengurise's parents, who parented the immortal son of India. He said their son made his home state and the entire nation proud. Ganesan said Capt Kengurise,

who exemplified the highest ideals of duty and honour, stood steadfast in adversity.

"His commitment to protecting our values and way of life inspires us all," he said. "We should reaffirm our promise to cherish and uphold the 'nation first' values for which Capt Kengurise so bravely fought to his last breath. His legacy lives on in our hearts and in the fabric of our nation. We should not forget his sacrifice. May his spirit guide us as we strive for a better, more just world," Ganesan added.

The Governor said heroes like Capt Kengurise will continue to inspire the youth to always keep 'service before self' and bring laurels to the family, the community, and the country. He also complimented and thanked the Assam Rifles and the Indian Army, who have always been at the forefront in honouring the late brave heart of Nagaland.

# Various issues regarding state's devp taken up with Centre: M'laya CM

SHILLONG, June 28: Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma has taken up various issues regarding the state's development with the Centre during his recent meetings with different union ministers in New Delhi.

Addressing media persons on Friday in Shillong, Conrad Sangma informed that he had apprised the DONER minister about the different projects that are pending with the ministry and requested the need to review the guidelines.

"I am very happy to inform that the minister has given assurance that all the pending lying with the ministry will be cleared at the earliest," he said adding, "At the same time I had requested to him that the guidelines that are there in the ministry are very complicated and hence, they need to be streamlined. A normal project sometimes takes a year and a half even to reach an approval stage and hence, easing of the guidelines would help in the overall process of the projects being approved and implemented. The minister has assured me that he is already examining the guidelines and they will be reviewed very soon."

The chief minister also informed that he had met the Union civil aviation minister and requested the ministry to allow two shifts in the Umroi Airport.

"This will allow flights to take off early and a few evening and late night flights will also be able to land. Since the facilities are there in Umroi airport for night landing, which will allow more planes and more flights to be connected. The timing of flight should be more flexible and the minister has assured he will look into this matter. This will lead to much more flexibility in the operations of different airlines that are currently operating," he said.

Sangma then said that the Union minister had also assured to expedite the state government's proposal for starting heliports for Shillong and Tura.

# Thousands participate in rally for territorial, administrative integrity of Manipur

IMPHAL, June 28: Thousands of people in Manipur participated in a rally organised here by an umbrella body of several Imphal-based civil society organisations on Friday, demanding territorial and administrative integrity of the state.

The rally under the aegis of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) began at Thau ground in Imphal West district and was scheduled to cover a distance of four km before culminating at Khuman Lampak stadium. School and college students, women, youths and village volunteers took part in the procession and shouted slogans against illegal immigrants from neighbouring Myanmar.

Slogans such as 'save indigenous and rightful citizens of India', 'no separate administration' and 'save territorial integrity of Manipur' reverberated through the air.

The ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people in the northeastern state and rendered thousands of people homeless. (PTI)

# Tripura CM meets PM Modi

AGARTALA, June 28: Tripura chief minister Manik Saha met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and discussed various developmental issues of the northeastern state. Saha met Modi at New Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday. "Delighted to meet with Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji at the New Parliament House, New Delhi. I also conveyed the enthusiasm of sisters & brothers of #Tripura for Modi 3.0. We also discussed various developmental issues in order to fulfil our commitment of #ViksitBharat," Saha posted on X. During the meeting, the chief minister requested the PM for a new railway link from Belonia in Tripura to Feni in Bangladesh, Indo-Bangladesh connectivity through the Maitri bridge in South Tripura district, construction of 15 new Eklayva model residential schools, declaring MBB airport at Agartala as International airport, an official release said. The CM also urged Modi for establishment of Agar International Trade and Research Centre at Agartala, inclusion of Sabroom-Ramgarh-Chittagong and Sabroom-Ramgarh-Mongla route as the protocol route for transit and trans-shipment, the release said. (PTI)

# Security tightened in govt buildings in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, June 28: Deputy Inspector General of Police (Eastern Range), Davis NR Marak has said that the Meghalaya police was taking steps to improve the security of the Meghalaya High Court and other vital government buildings in the state.

His statement came days after the Meghalaya High Court had received a second bomb threat via email. The first threat was issued on January 6, this year. "We had sent our bomb squad to verify. However, it appears that the bomb threat was a hoax. Therefore, no formal FIR has been filed (in this regard)," Marak told reporters on Thursday.

"However, we are serious about the security of the high court and all other vital government buildings in the state. In fact, we had several rounds of serious discussions as far as the security of these buildings is concerned and we will be actively taking up the matter," he said. He informed that the issue of security would be one of the important issues to be taken up at the SsP-Cos Conference, which began at the police headquarters here on Friday. "We already have discussed a roadmap to improve the security of the high court, which will be discussed in detail in the conference," Marak stated. (NNN)

**KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL,**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR OF SERICULTURE,**  
**KARBI ANGLONG DIPHU**

No.Addl.DSDG.192/ Pt /2021-2022/32      Dated Diphu 27th June 2024.

**NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that the Tender No.Addl.DSDG.192/Pt/2021-2022/31 dtd 13th June 2024. Group C Under Superintendent of Sericulture, Hamren Serial No 1, in the name of Construction of Building at Supdt of Sericulture, Hamren at Office campus including electrification & water facility, Tender Value amount Rs 30 Lakhs have been cancelled as per direction of Higher authority.

Sd/-  
Additional Director of Sericulture,  
Karbi Anglong::Diphu

No.Addl.DSDG.192/Pt/2021-2022/32,      Dated Diphu 27th June /2024.

**ENGAGEMENT UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA AXOM**

No. SSA/Esst/Engagement/SMO/Gr-IV/180/2024/976

The Samagra Shiksha Axom invites online applications of Male Candidates from Indian Citizens (as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India) for the under mentioned position under Samagra Shiksha, Axom on contractual basis. The online applications will be received from **29.06.2024 to 12.07.2024**. The posts are temporary in nature and the selected candidates will be initially engaged for a period of 11 (eleven) months only. The contractual engagement will neither be regularized under Samagra Shiksha, Axom nor will be absorbed under any job/programme of Government of Assam in future and no person (s) so engaged shall have any right (s) to claim for permanent abortion in any post (s) in the government or in the Samagra Shiksha, Assam.

**Age for categories of post :** The candidate should not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 62 years of age as on 01-01-2024.

The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the Matriculation/HSLC Admit Card or Pass Certificate issued by a recognized Board/ Council and no other document shall be accepted in lieu of the mentioned documents.

Sl No	Name of the Post	Essential Qualification and Experience	Pay in Pay Band in Rs.	Grade Pay in Rs.	No. of Post	Place
1	Grade-IV (Night Chowkidar)	HSLC (Class Ten) or equivalent examination passed	12000- 37500	3900	01	State Mission Office

- N.B.-**
- The link of the recruitment portal will be available in the Samagra Shiksha website <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>
  - Read the User Guidelines carefully which is available on the recruitment portal on how to submit the online application form.
  - Claims for any correction will not be entertained after submitting the online registration and online application.
  - Before filling the on-line application, applicant has to go through the User Guidelines for online registration and online application.
  - Candidate must upload the supporting document of educational qualification, experience and others through portal.
  - Only eligible candidates will have to appear in test/interview, the exact date of which will be communicated separately.
  - A candidate must be in good mental and bodily health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient discharge of his/ her duties.
  - The exact date & time of the Test/ Interview will be communicated to the shortlisted candidates separately.
  - The applicant has to obtain minimum 50% of the total marks against the test/interview and only then the candidates will be short-listed.
  - The office will not be responsible for any non submission of online application due to any error or other problem.
  - The decision of the Selection Committee in all aspects and all respects pertaining to the application and its acceptance or rejection as the case may be, conduct of test and at all consequent stages concluding in the selection or otherwise of any candidate shall be final in all respects and binding on all concerned. The Mission also reserves its right to alter and modify time and conditions laid down in the notification for conducting the various stages up to selection or withdraw the Notification at any time, duly intimating details thereof to all concerned, as warranted by any unforeseen circumstances arising during the course of this process, or as deemed necessary by the Mission at any stage.

# New criminal laws to come into force on July 1, all police stations to hold special event

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** All 17,500 police stations in the country will hold a special event on July 1 involving women, youth, students, senior citizens and eminent personalities to apprise them the key features of the new criminal laws, which will come into force on that day, official sources said.

The new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 -- will come into effect from July 1. These laws are set to replace the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act respectively.

Sources said coinciding with commencement of these three criminal laws, an event will be held on July 1 by the officer-in-charge of each police station in all states and Union Territories highlighting the key features of the new criminal laws.

The programme at the police station or a suitable place will involve women, youth, students, senior citizens, retired police officers, eminent personalities and members of self-help groups, anganwadi centres and local peace committee and also educational institutions like schools, colleges etc, they said.

According to a data of the Police Organizations compiled by Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), there are over 17,500 police stations in the country.

All higher education institutions under the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for



Technical Education (AICTE) as well as in the states and UTs will organise a day long activities on July 1 that will focus on group discussions, workshops, seminars on various provisions of new criminal laws, highlighting the major transformation intended to achieve the ends of justice with wide participation of students, faculties and other staff.

Zero FIR, registration of police complaints online, summons through electronic modes and mandatory videography of crime scenes of all heinous crimes are the key highlights of the three new criminal laws.

The Union home ministry is gearing up to roll out the three new criminal laws from next week with 40 lakh grassroots functionaries trained to ensure people are aware about the legis-

lations and the impact these will have on everyone, particularly women and children, official sources said Wednesday.

Over 5.65 lakh police, prison, forensics, judicial and prosecution officials have also been trained about the new laws.

The BPR&D also conducted 250 training courses, organised webinars and seminars in which 40,317 officers and personnel have been trained.

Under the new laws, victims will receive a free copy of the FIR, ensuring their participation in the legal process.

An interesting addition of the law is that in the event of an arrest, the individual has the right to inform a person of his choice about his or her situation.

This will ensure immediate support and assistance to the arrested individ-

ual.

Besides, arrest details will now be prominently displayed within police stations and district headquarters, allowing families and friends of the arrested person easy access to important information.

To strengthen the case and investigations, it has become mandatory for forensic experts to visit crime scenes for serious offences and collect evidence. Additionally, the process of evidence collection at the crime scene will be mandatorily videographed to prevent tampering of evidence.

This dual approach significantly enhances the quality and reliability investigations and contributes to a fair administration of justice, sources said.

The new laws prioritised the investigations for offences against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information. Under the new law, victims are entitled to regular updates on the progress of their case within 90 days.

This provision keeps victims informed and involved in the legal process, enhancing transparency and trust.

The new laws guarantee free first-aid or medical treatment to victims of crimes against women and children at all hospitals. This provision ensures immediate access to essential medical care, prioritising the well-being and recovery of victims during challenging times.

Summons can now be served electronically, expediting legal processes,

reducing paperwork, and ensuring efficient communication between all parties involved.

For certain offences against woman, statements of the victim are to be recorded, as far as practicable, by a woman magistrate and in her absence, by a male magistrate in the presence of a woman to ensure sensitivity and fairness, creating a supportive environment for victims.

Both the accused and the victim are entitled to receive copies of the FIR, police report, chargesheet, statements, confessions, and other documents within 14 days.

Courts grant a maximum of two adjournments to avoid unnecessary delays in case hearings, ensuring timely justice delivery.

The new laws mandates all state government to implement witness protection scheme to ensure the safety and cooperation of witnesses, enhancing the credibility and effectiveness of legal proceedings.

The definition of "gender" now includes transgender individuals, promoting inclusivity and equality.

By conducting all legal proceedings electronically, the new laws offer convenience to victims, witnesses, and accused, thereby streamlining and expediting the entire legal process.

In order to provide more protection to the victim and enforce transparency in investigation related to an offence of rape, the statement of the victim shall be recorded through audio video means by police. (PTI)

## Opposition slams govt for continuing Rajya Sabha proceedings after Cong MP fainted



**NEW DELHI, June 28:** Objecting to the Rajya Sabha continuing its proceedings after a member fainted in the House and was taken to the hospital, the Opposition MPs on Friday accused the government of showing a total lack of concern towards the member.

The Opposition parties staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha after the Chair refused to adjourn the House even as MP Phulo Devi Netam fainted and was taken to the hospital.

This came as the entire opposition staged a protest in the Upper House demanding a debate on the NEET issue.

Netam, a Rajya Sabha member of the Congress from Chhattisgarh, fainted while the opposition leaders were protesting demanding an immediate discussion on the NEET issue.

According to the Rajya Sabha MPs, Netam's blood pressure had shot up to 214/140, which the doctor said was "stroke level". She was taken to the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital and admitted in the ICU.

Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury said that continuing the House in such a situation was against humanity.

"A member of the Parliament fainted, the Parliament doctor saw her blood pressure was at stroke level. Some MPs are going to the hospital to take care of her, but the House will go on proceeding... There is no value in the life of a person, a member of the Parliament, a woman," Chowdhury said.

"Are they disposable commodities? They can run the House as and when they like. Is this democracy? Humanity and social decency says if a member has fainted, the MPs should accompany them. The House can run after that," she added.

DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said they were forced to walkout.

"We gave notices under Rule 267 to discuss the NEET issue... But they didn't allow it. Opposition parties were raising slogans which is nothing abnormal. Ruling party did not yield to that. Phulo Devi suddenly fainted, even after that they are continuing the debate," Siva said.

"In over two decades in the Parliament, I have never come across anything like this. Chair used to listen to the opposition parties. Both sides should be treated equally, there should be a balance. Now everything is tilted to one side. Even after such an incident, the House continues. What are they going to achieve?" he asked.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Sagarika Ghose said there was total lack of concern from the government when the MP fainted.

"Her blood pressure was at the level of getting a stroke. If someone is in such bad condition, some mercy should be shown. They are not showing any mercy, they are continuing to run the House, so we walked out in protest because she became unconscious, fell on the floor and there has been such lack of concern from the government, it is inhuman," she said.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) MP Mahua Majhi said that she accompanied Netam in the ambulance, adding she has been admitted to the ICU and is recovering.

"She was given medicine. She is now in the ICU and recovering. She will be under observation for some time," Majhi said.

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) also joined the INDIA bloc parties in the protest demanding discussion on the NEET exam, as well as the walkout.

"We wanted a debate on NEET. When it was not done, we went to the House, protested, that was not allowed. Thereafter an honourable member fainted while she was in the Well. She has been shifted to the RML. We urged the House to be adjourned but that was not done, so we all opposition parties walked out in protest," said BJD leader Sasmit Patra. (PTI)

## Jharkhand HC grants bail to ex-CM Hemant Soren in money laundering case

**RANCHI, June 28:** The High Court of Jharkhand on Friday granted bail to former Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money laundering case linked to a land scam.

The court had on June 13 reserved its order on Soren's bail plea.

"...The petitioner is directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties of the like amount each," said the order passed by the single bench of Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay.

Soren, the executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on January 31 in connection with its investigation into the money laundering case.

The 48-year-old politician was released from Birsa

Munda Jail here around 4 pm after completion of legal formalities, an official said.

"The court has held that prima facie he is not guilty of the offence and there is no likelihood of the petitioner committing an offence when on bail," Soren's senior counsel Arunabh Chowdhury told PTI.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee welcomed the court's order granting bail to Soren.

Champai termed the high court's order as a victory of truth.

As Soren stepped out of the jail, a large number of JMM supporters cheered and raised slogans in favour of him.

Soren's wife Kalpana Soren, a JMM legislator, thanked the judiciary and people for their support.

Soren, on his release from

jail, was seen waving at people and seeking blessings from his father and JMM supremo Shibu Soren.

JMM and Congress workers in the state were seen distributing sweets among themselves.

Earlier during the hearing, ED's counsel SV Raju argued that if Soren is released on bail, he might commit a similar offence, referring to cases against ED officers in the SC/ST police station.

"Though the conduct of the petitioner has been sought to be highlighted by the Enforcement Directorate on account of the First Information Report instituted by the petitioner against the officials of the ED but on an overall conspectus of the case, there is no likelihood of the petitioner committing a similar nature of offence," the court said.

The single bench order also

mentioned that the consequence of the findings recorded by the court "satisfies the condition as at section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 to the effect that there is reason to believe that the petitioner is not guilty of the offence as alleged".

It also mentioned, "The overall conspectus of the case based on broad possibilities does not specifically or indirectly assign the petitioner to be involved in the acquisition and possession as well as concealment of 8.86 acres of land at Shantinagar, Bargain, Ranchi connected to the "proceeds of crime."

Arguments from both Soren's defence team and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had concluded, following which the court had reserved its order. (PTI)

## Parl should give message that govt, oppn together in raising students' issue: Rahul on NEET

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold a "respectful" and good discussion in Parliament on the issue of alleged irregularities in the conduct of the NEET exam as it concerns the country's youth and their future. Addressing reporters in Parliament complex, Gandhi said the NEET issue should be discussed before the Motion of Thanks on the President's address is taken up.

The NEET issue is the most important issue of the day, and the opposition parties have agreed that it should be taken up for discussion before anything else, the Congress leader told reporters.

"The youth are worried and they do not know what is going to happen. A message and assurance should go to the youth from Parliament that India's government and

the opposition are together in raising the concerns of students," he said. Gandhi said the INDIA bloc thinks this is the most important matter.

"I request the prime minister that since this is an issue concerning the youth, there should be a good and respectful discussion on the issue concerning the youth," he said, urging them to join the discussion. He said the opposition members will hold the discussion respectfully. The former Congress chief said during their meeting on Thursday, all opposition floor leaders unanimously felt that there should be a discussion on the NEET issue in Parliament.

"I want to tell the students of the country that this is their issue and we all in the INDIA bloc feel that your issue is the most important as you are India's future" Gandhi said. (PTI)

## Opposition seeks Goa DGP's removal

**PANAJI, June 28:** The opposition parties on Friday demanded that Goa's Director General of Police (DGP) Jaspal Singh be sacked for his involvement in the unauthorised partial demolition of a house at Assagao in North Goa.

Accusing the DGP of misusing his position, the Congress demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter and sought his removal. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also targeted the state police chief as well as the state government over the issue.

The resident of a one-storey house in Assagao, Prinsha Agarwadekar, has earlier lodged a complaint with

the police alleging that her house was partially demolished last Saturday and her husband Pradeep and son Prince were kidnapped by unidentified individuals. Police later arrested Arshad Khwaja (51) from near Panaji who claims to be the owner of the property and the driver of the bulldozer.

The opposition parties on Friday cited a media report which quoted that the inquiry findings had alleged involvement of state DGP Jaspal Singh into the matter. The report claimed that inspector Prashil Desai, attached to Anjuna police station, had informed the state chief secretary that

the DGP shouted at him when he stopped the house demolition last week.

The demolition of the house created a political controversy with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant instituting a high-level inquiry led by Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goyal into the case.

Talking to reporters, Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao said the DGP's involvement is just a "tip of the iceberg".

"Linkage from BJP to DGP needs to be probed. It is an open secret that BJP patronises land and real estate mafia," he claimed. (PTI)

## Criminal negligence responsible for shoddy infrastructure: Cong on Delhi airport roof collapse

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** The Congress on Friday hit out at the Modi government over the Delhi airport roof collapse, saying "corruption" and "criminal negligence" is responsible for the shoddy infrastructure created in the last 10 years.

One person died and six were injured after a portion of the roof of the Delhi airport's Terminal-1 collapsed on cars, including taxis, amid heavy rain early Friday, leading to suspension of flight departures. Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said he was monitoring the situation and the injured had been hospitalised. "Corruption and criminal negligence is responsible for the collapse of shoddy infrastructure falling like a deck of cards, in the past 10 years of Modi Government," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

"Delhi Airport (T1) roof collapse, Jabalpur air-

port roof collapse, Aysmal condition of Ayodhya's new roads, Ram Mandir leakage, cracks in Mumbai Trans Harbour Link road, 13 new bridges falling down in Bihar in 2023 & 2024, Pragati Maidan Tunnel submerging, Morbi bridge collapse tragedy in Gujarat, ... are some stark instances which exposes the tall claims by Modi ji and BJP of creating "World Class Infrastructure," he said. He said on March 10th, when Modi ji inaugurated the Delhi Ariport T1, he called himself "Doosri mitti ka insaan...".

"All this false bravado and rhetoric was only reserved for quickly indulging in ribbon-cutting ceremonies before Elections. Our heartfelt condolences to the victims of the Delhi airport tragedy. They bore the brunt of a Corrupt, Inept and Selfish Government," Kharge charged. (PTI)

## First time in history, says anguished Dhankhar on Kharge entering RS Well



**NEW DELHI, June 28:** Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday expressed anguish over Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge trooping into the Well of the House during an opposition protest, saying it is for the first time that a person occupying the post has engaged in such conduct. On Friday, the House witnessed three adjournments due to protests and sloganeering by the opposition.

Soon after laying of the listed papers on the table of the House during the morning session, Dhankhar informed that he has not accepted 22 notices by the opposition leaders to suspend the scheduled business of the day and take up discussion on the alleged irregularities in the NEET.

This led to protest by the MPs of the opposition parties. They started raising slogans and several of them entered into the Well, leading to adjournment of the proceedings. Just before the adjournment,

BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi had started speaking on the discussion on a motion to thank the President for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament. When the House re-assembled, there were almost similar scenes and the speech of Trivedi was disrupted.

At one point, Kharge too entered the Well of the House to join the opposition protest.

Dhankhar remarked that the act of coming into the Well by a leader of the opposition has happened for the first time in the history and become a "stain" for Parliament.

"I am pained and surprised that Indian parliamentary tradition will stoop to such low that the leader of the opposition will troop into the Well," he said, before adjourning the proceedings till 2 pm.

Later again, he referred to the incident. "The kind of conduct, ignoble conduct, a conduct that will hurt every Indian, will put this institution to shame. We are here elected, get the prestige of being members of the upper house, the house of elders. If in this House we conduct ourselves in this unruly manner, it is most unfortunate," the chairman said. The House later took up the discussions on the motion of the thanks before adjourning for the day around 6 pm.

Rajya Sabha will meet again at 11 am on Monday. (PTI)

## Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report on three workers drowning in a sewage treatment plant of a multinational IT company in Greater Noida

### NHRC notice to UP govt, DGP over death of workers in sewage tank in Greater Noida

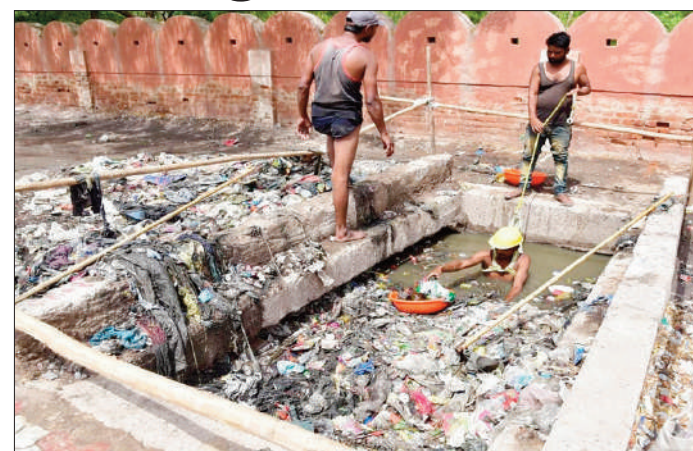
**NEW DELHI, June 28:** The NHRC has issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh government and the state's police chief over reports of three workers drowning in a tank of a sewage treatment plant of a multinational IT company in Gautam Buddh Nagar.

The authorities "failed to be alert" and conduct proper supervision keeping an eye on such hazardous activities in which the workers were deployed to undertake such dangerous work, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) observed in a statement on Friday.

The commission has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report on three workers drowning in a sewage treatment plant of a multinational IT company in Greater Noida. The victims reportedly fell and drowned in the tank of the sewage treatment plant while repairing a submersible pump to fix overflowing sewer, it said.

The NHRC observed that the content of the news report, if true, raises serious issues about the violation of the rights of the victims.

Accordingly, it has issued no-



tices to the chief secretary and the director general of police of Uttar Pradesh, seeking a detailed report within a week, the statement said.

The report should include the status of the FIR registered, action taken against the persons responsible, as well as relief and rehabilitation provided to the next of kin of the deceased workers by the employer and the authorities concerned, it added.

The commission has been consistently advocating a total ban on

activities of hazardous cleaning without adequate and proper protective or safety gears or equipment, the release said.

It also advocated suitable use of work-friendly and technology-based robotic machines, besides fixing responsibility and accountability of authorities, in case, death is caused to any sanitary worker while undertaking hazardous cleaning work, it added.

To that extent, the NHRC issued an advisory in September 2021 on

the 'Protection of human rights of the persons engaged in hazardous cleaning' to the Central and state governments, and local authorities to ensure the complete eradication of such practice, officials said.

In the advisory, it is specifically observed that in case of any sanitary work or hazardous cleaning work, the local authority and the contractor or employers are to be held responsible and accountable, jointly and severally irrespective of the type of hiring or engagement of the sanitary workers, the statement said.

Besides this, the decision given by the apex court in the Dr Balram Singh vs Union of India case dated October 20,2023 provides the mandate that it is the duty of the local authorities and other agencies to use modern technology for cleaning of sewers, it said.

According to the media report, published on June 25, the three workers were in their twenties. They were deployed at the sewage treatment plant of the company as part of its maintenance team for the last two years, the NHRC said. (PTI)

## Two detained after stone pelting at Jarange's village in Beed district

**CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, June 28:** Police have detained two persons and booked 15-20 others after some people resorted to sloganeering and stone pelting in pro-Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange's village in Maharashtra's Beed district, an official said on Friday. The incident took place on Thursday night at Matori village, prompting the authorities to deploy a platoon of the State Reserve Police Force there to maintain peace, he said.

It all started when some people from nearby villages were passing through Matori around 8 pm to take part in a rally of OBC quota agitators Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare. During that time, some people raised slogans which then led to stone pelting near the bus stand, the official said. It was immediately not clear who started sloganeering and who hurled stones.

Amid rising tension at the spot, police intervened and detained two persons, he said. A case has been registered against 15-20 people at Chaklamba police station in Beed district. The situation is fully under control at Matori village, he added.

Jarange, who has brought the Maratha quota issue to the centre stage in the state, has been demanding the implementation of the draft notification that recognises Kunbis as 'sage soyare' (blood relatives) of Maratha community members. (PTI)



NOTICE

It is hereby informed that the following mentioned seized vehicles have been lying as unclaimed at various police Stations of Karimganj District as reported by the concerned Os/C of the district. Hence, the bonafide owner of these vehicles are requested to claim ownership to receive their vehicles, showing valid and original documents in support of their claim of any of the mentioned vehicles to get it on zamma to their custody within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issuance of this notice, after which, all the following mentioned un-claimed vehicles will be auctioned off as per the orders of the Hon'ble CJM, Court, Karimganj vide order, Dated, 10/01/2024, 17/01/2024, 16/02/2024, 29/02/2024, after observing all formalities.

LIST OF UNCLAIMED VEHICLES

Table with 4 columns: SL No, Vehicle No, Type of vehicle, Remarks. Contains a list of 131 unclaimed vehicles with their respective details and remarks.

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Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Karimganj

## At least, I don't need to hide any tapes from my son: Juhi Babbar on movie career



**NEW DELHI, June 28:** She was advised to play "stupid characters" in a few movies to establish herself as an actor, an idea that didn't look appealing to Juhi Babbar, who instead decided to step away from film acting.

Babbar, who made her Bollywood debut in "Kash Aap Hamare Hote" opposite Sonu Nigam in 2003 and followed it up with a Punjabi film "Yaara Naal Baharan", said she always had the wisdom to not associate with work that she might regret in future.

"Unfortunately, I never got good work in Punjabi or Hindi cinema.

'Kash Aap Hamare Hote' didn't work at the box office. Still, girls used to get movies then. Like, the typical three hero and three heroine movies, where you are doing stupid, dumb characters. People told me, '2-4 aise role kar lo, tum achi actor ho notice ho jaogi' (Do 2-4 such roles, you are a good actor, you'll get noticed.) I said, 'No'.

"I don't know whether it made for a good professional decision or not. Nonetheless, it made me a happier person and at least today there are no tapes that I have to hide from my 12-year-old son," Babbar told PTI.

Now a well-known name in the theatre circuit, Babbar is currently busy with her play "With Love, Aap ki Saiyaara", which is celebrating its 100th show in Mumbai on Friday.

Babbar, who is married to actor Anup Soni, said "cinema is finally being kind" to her as she got to play interesting roles in Hansal Mehta's "Faraaz", and her student Alizeh Agnihotri starrer "Farrey".

Though busy with stage productions and her theatre group "Ekjute", founded by her parents, film actor Raj Babbar and theatre veteran Nadira Babbar, the 44-year-old actor is warming up to doing more meaningful roles in movies, especially for her son Imaan.

"My son asked me this question when he was 7-8, we were at the airport and he said, 'You are also an actor, why don't people take your autograph?' I said, 'Son, I am not in a famous medium, your father is in a famous medium. He said, 'Ya, nana is in the famous medium, Mamu is in the famous medium. Imaan feels very proud and happy about me doing movies and keeps asking about my future projects," she added.

Her play was initially conceived as an online performance during the Covid induced lockdown but as she celebrates its 100th performance, Babbar said it just shows that theatre can also create this kind of impact. The play, which she stars in and has also written and directed, is a sweet and spicy take on "men, marketing and more" and represents the different identities of the modern Indian women.

"It talks about the atrocities women go through, it doesn't matter whether you are educated or you belong to the affluent society or you are good looking. There are some societal and religious norms that you have to surrender to and succumb to. People would resonate with the story of Saiyaara," she explained.

"With Love, Aap ki Saiyaara" has been performed in over 35 cities in India and in five cities internationally. (PTI)

## People mocked me when I said I want to work in films: 'Chandu Champion' writer Sumit Arora



**MUMBAI, June 28:** The story of Sumit Arora is much like the protagonist of his latest film "Chandu Champion", whose underlying theme of a small-town boy who dreamed big struck a chord with the screenwriter.

Starring Kartik Aaryan in the titular role, "Chandu Champion" is inspired by the life of India's first Paralympic gold medalist Murlikant Petkar.

Meerut-born Arora, who co-wrote the script with film's director Kabir Khan and Sudipto Sarkar, said the story felt like a fable.

"As a writer, I always look for a theme that can resonate with me. I grew up in a small town in Uttar Pradesh, nobody around me had visited Mumbai, forget about working in the film industry.

"When I told people that I want to work in films and be a writer and a filmmaker, they mocked me. When I heard the story of Murlikant Petkar sir, I could connect with its spirit, the idea of a small-town boy with a big dream, and its relentless pursuit felt very personal," the Meerut-born Arora told PTI in an interview.

Petkar, originally a boxer in the Indian Army, who switched to swimming after losing his legs in the 1965 war, felt like a remarkable life story waiting to be told. His incredible journey led to India's first-ever medal in freestyle swimming at the Paralympics in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1972.

"Chandu Champion" marks the second collaboration between Khan and Arora after the 2021 sports-drama "83".

Arora said he was captivated when Khan first narrated the two-line idea about Petkar during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2021.

"If one would focus on the hardships that he faced, it would look like a depressing story, but if you look at how the guy kept moving forward, it became a fable of sorts," the writer said, adding they began developing the script post the release of "83".

As the team delved into Petkar's life, they encountered limited material available in the public domain and had to rely mostly on the information provided directly by Petkar. Despite the challenges, they were able to sculpt a compelling narrative, Arora said.

"We wrote around 12 drafts, and because there was very little material available on Murlikant sir, we met the man himself... We spoke to him quite regularly to understand but because it was a lockdown, we would do zoom calls with him. His son would help us set up zoom calls," the writer recalled.

"Chandu Champion" also starring Vijay Raaz, Rajpal Yadav, and Yashpal Sharma in pivotal roles, is peppered with humour.

"The tone of the story was very important for us. The man never gave up and also defined that he never took hardships as hard as a normal person would. He looked at things in a lighter way. We've tried to capture that lightness in the film by having that humour element from childhood to army to his moments with his mentor, played by Vijay Raaz," Arora said.

The decision to cast Aaryan in the role of Petkar, the protagonist, was made by Khan. According to Arora, Aaryan's boyish charm and innocence perfectly embodied the essence of the character, aligning with the vision of the film. (PTI)

## Nag Ashwin's 'Kalki 2898 AD' mints ₹ 191.5 crore globally on day one

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** Nag Ashwin's 3D spectacle "Kalki 2898 AD" registered a record opening at the global box office, earning ₹ 191.5 crore gross on day one of its release, the makers said on Friday.

Touted as a marriage of Hindu epic Mahabharata and science fiction, the big-budget film is produced by Vyjayanthi Movies and was released on Thursday in six languages: Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi and English.

It features a star cast led by Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan, along with Disha Patani, Saswata Chatterjee and Shobhana.

Vyjayanthi Movies shared the opening day figure of the movie on its official X page through a poster which stated that "Kalki 2898 AD" earned ₹ 191.5 crore in gross box office collection (GBOC).

The film's day one earnings is the third highest opening day collection for any Indian film. It is behind SS Rajmouli's "RRR" (₹ 223 crores) and "Baahubali 2" (₹ 217 crores), which also featured Prabhas in the lead role.

On Thursday, trade pundits had predicted that the film might earn around ₹ 200 crore globally on its opening day. (PTI)



## Jitendra Kumar on popularity of 'Kota Factory' character Jeetu bhaiya: We have few mentor-figures

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** The popularity of his much-loved character from "Kota Factory" points towards the dearth of mentor figures in people's lives, says actor Jitendra Kumar decoding why his role of Jeetu Bhaiya resonates with viewers so much.

In the Kota-set series, Jeetu bhaiya is a mentor and teacher at a coaching institute, where students prepare for the highly competitive Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) entrance exams.

According to Jitendra, the character acts as a support system to the students going through challenges.

"The only thing that I'm able to decode from the love this show and this character has received is that we have very few mentor-figures. Either there isn't the right kind of mentorship or it is completely unavailable so much so that people feel alone.

"As humans, we are social and we

have a need to express ourselves and we need support, a lot. At times, we make friends who are in the same competition and that's why we are not able to share certain things with them... that's why people have related with this fictional character of Jeetu bhaiya," Jitendra told PTI in an interview.

The new season of the black-and-white series, which hails from The Viral Fever (TVF), sees the students preparing for final exams while dealing with other challenges in their life.

Jitendra, also known for his work on series "TVF Pitchers" and "Panchayat" as well as feature film "Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan", is an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur who also studied in Kota.

Recalling his coaching days, the actor said students were taught in huge numbers in big halls and auditoriums.

"A teacher used to take the lecture in a big hall or an auditorium for 1.5 hours

and there are at least 20-25 classes every week. They don't have the time to personally understand the problems of each and every student.

"Students get inspired and impressed by their teachers, whether by their teaching methods or style... My teachers were my stars and when I used to meet them, it was a huge deal. I was starstruck by them."

After "Kota Factory" came out, the actor said his former professors sent messages and congratulated him.

"I went back to Kota and met them there. And they told me how this series has changed their perspective towards their work. They never had this thought that they can personally connect with students. "We tend to focus too much on studies and solving the numerical equations that we forget about the students. This series has changed them a lot and they now try to help their students in

solving their personal problems as well. And this was a winning feedback for me and this series," he said. "Kota Factory" also features Mayur More, who plays the role of Vaibhav, an IIT aspirant in Kota. After playing the character for three seasons, More believes that stress and anxiety about performing well in competitive exams is a very common human feeling but one should just focus on the process and enjoy it.

"You can do a lot of preparation but still feel stress. At times, there is stress because you feel you have over prepared... At times, we have already decided the result of something in our heads and then we get disappointed. Some people achieve those results and some don't.

"I believe that that disappointment is very important... So one should just enjoy the process and try to better what you have in your hand," he said. (PTI)



# Don't want to jinx it but there's a big one coming up: Rohit, Dravid back Kohli

**GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), June 28:** India head coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma have thrown their weight behind the struggling Virat Kohli, saying the stylish batter has shown the intent and is due for a "big one" in the T20 World Cup finals against South Africa.

Kohli, who was the highest run-getter at this year's IPL with 741 runs, is yet to make a significant contribution in the tournament, having scored only 75 runs in seven innings.

"You know with Virat, the thing is, when you play a slightly high risk brand of cricket there can be times when it doesn't come off," Dravid said after India marched into the final with a 68-run win over England in the semifinals here.

"Even today, I thought he hit a really good six to set the tempo but he was just unlucky that the ball seamed a little bit more. But I love the intent, I love the way he went about doing it. "And for some reason, I don't want to jinx it but I think there's a big one coming up. I'm just loving his attitude and that he's committing himself on the field - I think he deserves it."

Skipper Rohit also backed Kohli to come good in the final on Saturday.

"He's a quality player. Any player can go through that. But again, we do understand his class and we do understand his importance in all these big games. "Form is never a problem because when you have played cricket for 15 years, form is never a problem. I thought he's looking good. The intent is



there. It's probably saving for the finals".

Rohit, who has scored 248 runs so far with three fifties, has become the first to lead India in a third ICC global event final in a space of 12 months following the 2023 World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup that same year.

Heaping praise on Rohit, Dravid said: "Whatever I say will fall short. The way he has worked with the team, his strategy, his maturity, the team's re-

sponse to him, and the time he spends in strategy, planning, discussion with all of us.

"I cannot speak more highly about him as a cricketer and also as a person."

Although his individual effort was a key factor, Rohit said it was very satisfying to win a game with a collective performance. "I thought we adapted to the conditions really well. The conditions were a little challenging. We had to adapt and that's been the success story for us so

far. You know, till this game, we have adapted to the conditions really well," he said.

Rohit said at one stage, he felt a 140-150 run target would be good enough but revised it in his mind. "Then we said, OK, another 20-25 runs more. But again, you know I can set the target in my mind, but I don't want to let anyone know about it to the batters because they are all instinctive players. "We got to 170, which I thought was a very good score on that pitch.

And then the bowlers were fantastic."

The Mumbaier also lauded his spinners, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel, who shared six wickets between them.

"...I thought they were very calm. They exactly knew what to bowl. And we had a little chat first after the first innings. We said, try and hit the stumps as much as possible, keep the stumps in play and that's exactly what they did," he said. (PTI)

## Wimbledon 2024: Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff are taking over tennis

**WIMBLEDON (ENGLAND), June 28:** There is a real shift happening at the top of tennis, a youth movement that long seemed inevitable but never actually arrived until now.

As the sport's attention shifts to the grass of Wimbledon, where play begins Monday, Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner, Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff are the players whose names are on everyone's lips. Alcaraz is the defending men's champion and owner of three Grand Slam titles at the age of 21 after his triumph at the French Open. Sinner, 22, is the top-seeded man at Wimbledon and won the Australian Open in January. Swiatek, 23, is the top-seeded woman and just earned her fourth championship at Roland Garros and fifth major overall. Gauff, the youngest of the bunch at 20, is ranked a career-best No. 2, has reached at least the semifinals at the past three Slam tournaments and won her first such trophy at last year's U.S. Open.

While Swiatek has entrenched herself at No. 1 in the women's game, and is now 11-1 against Gauff, neither has been past the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, and there is a much more closely contested and intriguing rivalry developing between Alcaraz and Sinner (Alcaraz leads 5-4 after winning their semifinal at the French Open in five sets). Then there's this: For so long, people wondered when the men's game would evolve

from the extended dominance of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, owners of a combined 66 majors, and that trio would cede space to others.

That time, it seems, is now — and Alcaraz and Sinner are beginning to separate themselves from the rest.

"These two guys will win many, many Grand Slams. How many? That's the question. Of course, they will be the best for 10 years, I imagine — Alcaraz and Sinner. I have no doubt about it," said Richard Gasquet, a three-time major semifinalist, including twice at Wimbledon. "They will be the future of the game. ... The new generation is coming."

Gasquet, a 38-year-old Frenchman who got to No. 7 in the rankings, knows all too well the difficulties of being a professional tennis player during the era of the so-called Big Three of men's tennis. The opponents in his three losses in Grand Slam semifinals? Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, once each.

But Federer, now 42, played the last match of his 20-Slam-trophy career in 2021. Nadal, 38, lost in the first round at the French Open — where he claimed 14 of his 22 major championships — and then opted to miss Wimbledon so he could focus on preparing for the Paris Olympics that start in late July; he has dealt with a string of injuries that included a hip operation last year. (AP)

## Uruguay rout Bolivia 5-0 at Copa America as Núñez scores in 7th straight game

**EAST RUTHERFORD, June 28:** Darwin Núñez scored in his seventh straight international match, and Uruguay routed Bolivia 5-0 on Thursday night to move to verge of a quarterfinal berth in the Copa America.

Facundo Pellistri put the Uruguayans ahead in the eighth minute and Núñez doubled the lead in the 21st with his 10th goal in his last seven games for Uruguay and 13th in 25 matches overall.

Maximiliano Araújo scored his second goal of the tournament in the 77th, and Federico Valverde (81st) and Rodrigo Bentancur (89th) added goals as Uruguay romped through a ragged Bolivian defense.

Uruguay, seeking its record 16th Copa America title, is 2-0 for six points with a plus-seven goal difference and would advance with at least a draw on Monday against the U.S. at Kansas City, Missouri, or perhaps even a loss. The U.S. has three points and plus-one goal difference and Panama three points and minus-one difference.

Bolivia has lost 14 consecutive Copa America matches dating to 2015 and has one win in its last

32. With no points and a minus-seven goal difference, it has almost no chance of advancing going into Monday's match against Panama at Orlando, Florida. Bolivia is likely to be eliminated in the group stage for fourth straight time.

MetLife Stadium's upper deck was nearly empty and the site of the 2026 World Cup final drew 48,033. Two days earlier, Lionel Messi and Argentina drew a sell-out crowd of 81,106 for a 1-0 win over Chile.

Bolivia made six changes from its opening 2-0 loss to the U.S. and Uruguay quickly went ahead. Nicolás de la Cruz played a long free kick down a flank and Ronald Araújo outjumped Luis Haquin to center a header. Mathías Olivera couldn't reach it and the ball bounced before Pellistri nodded it in for his second international goal. Núñez, who took seven shots in the first half, scored off a perfect weighted pass from Maximiliano Araújo on a quick counterattack.

Maximiliano Araújo made it 3-0 with third international goal, fed by de la Cruz after Bolivia turned over the ball in midfield. (AP)

## Superbet Classic Chess: Gukesh draws with Nepomniachtchi, Pragg shares point

**BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), June 28:** World Championship challenger D Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw with Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, while fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa shared points with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the second round of the Superbet Chess Classic, a part of the Grand Chess tour.

On a day when a rare blunder deprived top seed Fabiano Caruana of his second straight win against compatriot Wesley So, Frenchman Alireza Firouzja launched his campaign with a win over Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

The other game in the USD 350,000 prize money tournament ended in a draw as Anish Giri of Holland could not do as much as he might have liked against lowest ranked Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania.

With seven rounds still to come in the 10-player double round-robin tournament, Gukesh and Caruana continued to share the lead on 1.5 points and they are followed by Alireza, Praggnanandhaa, Giri, Wesley Vachier-Lagrave and Nepomni-



achtchi who all have one point each.

Deac Bogdan-Daniel and Abdusattorov have a half point each. Gukesh has been trying his hands at various positions and it was another variety of Ruy Lopez on board where the Indian survived some anxious moments. Nepomniachtchi was better with his improved pieces in the middle game and his control in the center also gave him an undisputed advantage.

However, with a symmetrical

pawn structure it was not so easy to make some concrete progress and Gukesh's judgement proved correct as the game petered in to a rook and minor piece endgame with just a couple of pawns remaining on the board. The Russian, tried in vain till move 90 before deciding it was impossible to win.

Praggnanandhaa pressed for an advantage for the second day running but found Vachier-Lagrave a hard nut to crack.

It was a Rossolimo opening

where the Indian played white and got some optical advantage thanks to better control. The Frenchman was quite up to the task in defense as he gave up a pawn to obtain a balanced endgame where his two Bishops conveniently blocked white's extra pawn. The game was drawn in 49 moves.

Caruana outplayed Wesley So right from the beginning but missed out on his chances in the later stages of the middle game. Wesley was under serious material deficit at some point in the middle game and later even faced what looked like a hopeless endgame.

Caruana did not find the moves to close the game and Wesley bounced back in the endgame to steer the game to a draw.

Alireza Firouzja seemed determined to make amends for his first round loss against Caruana and he was rewarded quite early as Abdusattorov was not in his elements. The Exchange slav led to a lasting advantage for white following the fall of a black pawn and Alireza made things look easy thereafter to clinch the issue in 38 moves. (PTI)

## 'Shattered' India had to forget Adelaide debacle, took 2020-21 series as 3-match series: Rahane

**MUMBAI, June 28:** Ajinkya Rahane, who masterminded India's miraculous turnaround in the 2020-21 Test series against Australia, said a regrouping and healing session after the 'Adelaide Nightmare' helped the "shattered" team bounce back and win the series 2-1. In the day-night Test, the Aussies bowled out India for their lowest-ever total of 36.

But the tourists emerged winners in the Tests at Melbourne and Brisbane, besides managing a draw at Sydney despite the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli, who flew back to India because of personal reasons.

"I had to literally forget about the 36 all-out and come back into the moment as quickly as possible. We all were shattered that time, everyone was in shock and I thought it was a bad dream," Rahane recalled during the launch of Fortis Hospital Mumund's Sports Injury Clinic here on Friday.

"But eventually, the next

day when I got up, I realised (that) it (had) actually happened (36 for nine)," said Rahane, who later scored a gritty century in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne to help India level the series with an eight-wicket win.

Rahane said recovering mentally from suffering such a setback was important and the Indian players were given time off to gather thoughts.

"Before talking to my teammates, I spent a good half-an-hour talking to myself and then tried to convince myself that 'let's be in the moment and let's not focus on the result or the outcome,'" he said.

"When you lose a Test or an incident like that happens, your mind goes into the past and also in the future and thinks about the result and the outcome. That's a normal human tendency."

Rahane said he decided to refrain himself from thinking about cricket for a couple of days

"But I had to get my mind in



the moment, I said 'I am not going to think about cricket for the next two days. We are in Adelaide, we are going to think about my own and the team's game plan once we are in Melbourne,'" he said.

Rahane also passed a similar message to the team. "That is how I addressed the team, that 'let's not discuss cricket for the next two days, enjoy yourself, wherever you want to go, (go and) just clear your mind, we will meet in Melbourne' and we will start our journey and campaign there again," he revealed. Rahane also had to manage injuries to some key players in that series, but said he revelled in the challenge of digging deep and fielding 11 fit players every Test.

"For us it was all about taking (it as a) three-Test series from Melbourne onwards rather than thinking about (it as) the four-Test series," he said. Rahane said it was all about enjoying each other's success and lending support in a critical phase.

"Whatever has happened in Adelaide was in the past, it was dead, we couldn't control it, so it was all about being in the moment as an athlete, it was all about enjoying each other's success."

"Once you are enjoying your teammates' success, your mind is in the moment and that's how we actually started doing well from Melbourne onwards and eventually won the series," he said. Talking about his own injury setbacks, Rahane said remaining mentally strong helped him overcome them. "I was playing for KKR (and the) match was in Pune. I had this hamstring injury, which was a Grade 3 tear. In that injury (stage) I actually ran three runs and my physio later on asked me, 'how did you actually run those three runs?'," he recalled. "It was just the mental ability. Because after certain types of injuries, it's your mental health and mental state that take you (forward) and help you get better," he said. (PTI)

## I thought 170 was a very good score on this surface: Rohit

**GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), June 28:** India skipper Rohit Sharma knew that 171 was going to be a very good score on a slow, holding surface thanks to the presence of "gun spinners" like Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel in his lineup.

Kuldeep and Axar shared six wickets between them equally as India crushed England by 68 runs to enter their third T20 World Cup final here on Thursday.

Rohit, who has now led India to the third global final in last 12 months, expressed hope that Virat Kohli is saving his best for the last — the title clash against South Africa in Barbados on Saturday. "At one stage, 145-150, as the game went on, after that partnership, we said another 25 runs. I can set the target in my mind, but I don't want to let anyone know about it, to the batters. They are all instinctive players. I thought 170 was a very good score on this surface," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony. With Kuldeep and Axar taking 6 for 42 between them in eight overs, Rohit knew that victory was always on the cards. "They (Axar and Kuldeep) are gun spinners. It's difficult to play some shots, the pressure is on them as well but they were calm and knew what to bowl. If the players play according to the conditions, things fall in place. Very pleasing with how we came through." (PTI)

## Demow's Bastav Borah to represent India in Indo-Bangla Handball Championship 2024

**HT Correspondent DEMOW, June 28:** The "Indo-Bangla Handball Championship 2024" will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, starting from June 29. Bastav Borah, son of Plabon Borah and Dipa Borah, a player of the Demow Handball Club and a resident of Demow Madhupur in the Sivasagar District, has been selected to play for the India Handball Team in the "Indo-Bangla Handball Championship 2024". Well-wishers of Bastav Borah have congratulated him and wished him the best of luck.

# #DoItForDravid says the world ahead of T20 WC final, but Dravid wants to do it for team



**NEW DELHI, June 28:** A stickler when it comes to keeping time, Rahul Dravid was once unusually late to a reading session at a bookstore in Bengaluru. But Dravid settled in the back row with other invitees for the entire duration of the event without any fuss.

He politely declined the organisers' request to move up the row. Dravid never really wished for the front seat or the glare of the world. It's just not his zone.

But on Saturday, irrespective of the outcome, the India head coach will have to stand in full view of the cricketing world when his side takes on South Africa in the T20 World Cup final at Bridgetown, Barbados.

The 51-year-old has already got a prelude to it as the host broadcasters are running a #DoItForDravid trend on social media.

But it is as un-Rahul Dravid as anything one can ever think of. For Dravid, winning the World Cup is not a personal glory moment but he would certainly broaden it out to the team effort and to Rohit Sharma's inspired leadership.

The man himself made it clear, and the words reflected his sagacity.

"I just want to play good cricket and yeah, doing it for someone is totally against who I am as a person and what I believe in. So, I don't want to talk about it and discuss it," Dravid told Star Sports.

He was emphatic while slipping in a reminder about the ethos which he followed so diligently over the years.

"I don't really believe in this 'Do it for somebody'. I love that quote about somebody asking somebody else, 'Why do you want to climb Mount Everest?' and he says 'I want to climb Mount Everest because it's there'."

"I want to win this World Cup because it's there. It's not for anyone, it's not for anybody, it's just there to win," Dravid asserted.

Bookmark these sentences as a study material for endearing simplicity and selflessness.

If one needs further validation,

there was this one instance well over a decade ago.

Dravid was in blazing form during India's tour to England in 2011, emerging as their leading run-scorer even as the visitors sank without a trace in the Tests.

The retirement question was hanging directly over his head but the Bengaluru man scoffed at it, saying his focus was on the year-end trip to Australia, a country where he made a truckload of runs.

But Dravid was quick to ward off any personal motivation behind his desire to travel to Australia.

"We need a series win in Australia. Personally, I thought I owe it to the team," he would say then.

That is his zone.

Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman could immerse in their incandescent shot-making in the comfort that Dravid was there to absorb the blows and pressure.

Twelve years down the line, Dravid is in a similar situation and he is not complaining.

If India lift the World Cup at the Kensington Oval, a lot of credit will go to Rohit and his wards, and if they don't bricks will be flying in the direction of Dravid as well.

Mobbed by jubilant team members and fans or a lonely walk back, Dravid, rest assured, will treat both with equanimity. (PTI)

India certain to stick to the same playing eleven but would be hoping two of its key players to deliver in the winner-takes-all contest

## Marauding India up against resolute South Africa in epic T20 World Cup finale

**BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), June 28:** A firm grip on emotions will be crucial when the formidable Indian team, desperate to end its lengthy title drought, makes another attempt at getting the monkey off its back against a South African side, which is unfamiliar with the winning feeling, in the T20 World Cup final here on Saturday.

India's campaign in the tournament has been remarkably similar to the one in the ODI World Cup at home last year where they breezed into the final only to be bettered by Australia on the big stage.

They are unbeaten here too and have been the best of the tournament by far. More importantly, they don't have the battle-hardened Australia in their way of an elusive trophy this time around.

South Africa, whose only triumph in ICC events came way back in the Champions Trophy (then named ICC Knock-Out Trophy) in 1998, head into the final with hopes and dreams of their own.

Labelled chokers for the better of their international cricket journey, the Proteas will be determined to shed that dubious tag for good at the Kensington Oval.

For some of their players, who list IPL titles as their biggest achievement, a World Cup trophy in their hands will be the ultimate prize.

If one went by the mood seen among fans and experts after India's rout of England in the semifinal in Guyana, Rohit Sharma and his men are the overwhelming favourites.

It is a fair observation considering the make up of India's squad and the conditions in the Caribbean. They would be expected to wipe off the heartbreak of November 19, 2023 when over a lakh fans in Ahmedabad were silenced by Pat Cummins' Australia in the all-important final.

"I know India have had their issues in the ICC finals for a long time but I just don't see South Africa posing a challenge. India have been the best team of the tournament so far and man to man South Africa are a weaker side," a World Cup winning former captain told PTI on the flight from Guyana to Barbados.

It would also be a perfect send-off for outgoing coach Rahul



Dravid, who was crestfallen man in the Caribbean back in the 2007 ODI World Cup as India captain after the team's early exit but is on the cusp of a remarkable farewell as coach.

The way India, who are in their first T20 World Cup final in 10 years, have adapted to conditions in the competition has gone a long way in securing the final berth. The team management has been crystal clear about its plans for the event.

They utilised three specialist pacers on the untested pitches in New York before bringing trump card Kuldeep Yadav into play on the spin friendly surfaces in the Caribbean.

India are certain to stick to the same playing eleven but would be hoping two of its key players to deliver in the winner-takes-all contest.

Superstar Virat Kohli has had a quiet tournament, something that was not expected after his prolific season in the preceding IPL.

However, on pitches where hitting through the line has been a challenge, the former Indian captain has not been able to dominate the bowlers despite clear attempts to do so.

"He is it saving it for the final," said his opening partner and skipper Rohit Sharma, backing an undisputed great of the game who

could be playing his last innings in the T20 showpiece.

Rohit, on the contrary, has shown the way to other batters in the side and his innings will hold massive importance in the final.

The captain would also like to see Shivam Dube excel in the high pressure game, having given mid-far returns in the tournament so far. His battles against spinners Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi could make a big impact.

On the bowling front, India have nothing to worry about with both pacers and spinners performing their roles to perfection.

Arriving here right after the semi-final against England leaves them with only a day to recover, which has been the case since the start of Super 8s campaign at this very ground.

South Africa, on the other hand, got an extra day between the final and will be training on Friday.

Unlike India, they have nothing to lose as they have never been part of a World Cup final before but after a resounding win over Afghanistan in Trinidad, the Proteas are smelling the taste of victory.

They would be expecting runs from the opening pair of Quinton de Kock and Reeza Hendricks, especially the wicket-keeper who can put serious pressure on the opposition when on song. Skipper Aiden

Markram could not fire against the bigger teams in the Super 8s and is due for a big one.

Heinrich Klaasen, one of the most destructive hitters in the game, too needs runs and for that, he will have to negotiate the spin threat in the middle overs.

South Africa's pace department has been on fire but it remains to be seen what kind of impact it can have in a day game here. Shamsi and Maharaj are effective but Indian batters will not be wary of them.

There is a high chance of rain on Saturday but the ICC has kept a reserve day for the all-important fixture.

**Squads:**  
**India:** Rohit Sharma (c), Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Sanju Samson, Mohammed Siraj, Yashasvi Jaiswal.

**South Africa:** Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Aiden Markram (c), Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Tabraiz Shamsi, Otneel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Bjorn Fortuin, Ryan Rickelton.

Match starts: 8pm IST. (PTI)

**NEW DELHI, June 28:** This Saturday afternoon in Barbados, no Indian fan would want Rohit Sharma to drag his jaded body towards the dug-out trying to hide a tear welling up at the corner of his eye.

No Indian fan would want to revisit Virat Kohli's blank stare towards the podium where the coveted ODI World Cup trophy rested exactly seven months and 10 days back.

What they would surely want to see the two greats do a memorable tango in probably their 'Last Dance' in the game's shortest format, at least in India colours.

If one understands the drift of Indian cricket's ecosystem, whether it is the BCCI mandarins or the national selectors, they want the troika of Kohli, Rohit and also Ravindra Jadeja to go out on a high from the format.

This is because next month's Zimbabwe series would certainly usher in a new dawn keeping in mind the 2026 T20 World Cup in India.

To prepare for any global trophy, the core needs to be finalised two years in advance and in 2026, a 39-year-old Rohit or a nearly 38-year-old Kohli or even Jadeja are unlikely to fit in.

At this point, with the focus firmly on the final, no one wants to use the sensitive 'R' word as far as T20Is are concerned but it is believed that if India can beat South Africa in Barbados on Saturday, both skipper Rohit and Kohli would know that in this format, they have nothing more left to achieve.

There may or may not be a formal announcement as they would continue to be a part of IPL, where they are still two of the biggest brands apart from Mahendra Singh Dhoni and the non-cricketer -- Shah Rukh Khan.

For Kohli, it will be the completion of a cycle with all three ICC white-ball trophies (2011 ODI World Cup, 2013 Champions Trophy) in his cabinet.

Just like Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara decided immediately after beating India in that 2014 T20 World Cup final that they would both quit the shortest format, one doesn't know if the two greats would do something similar.

Kohli and Rohit, the two generational talents with 8334 T20I runs, six centuries, 69 fifties and 119 catches between them are the last bridge between the old and new and they both deserve to be



in the same frame with that trophy in hand.

Both are World Cup winners but those two victories belonged to the Dhonis, Sachin Tendulkars, and Yuvraj Singhs way more. This trophy would rightfully belong to them.

Champions have egos -- some have pretty pronounced ones, while few others keep them concealed. One could gauge the pain in Kohli's eyes after he got out against England and if anyone wants to count the 'King' out of the final, do it at your own peril.

For Rohit, if one wants to sum up November 19, 2023 for him, the apt coinage would be Sudhir Mishra's 1996 cult classic 'Is Raat Ki Subaah Nah!'.

Even if he asserts that he has moved on, the wounds have healed, he would still be itching for a closure.

One can say with a degree of certainty that had India won the 2023 ODI World Cup, Rohit would not have been desperate to play this edition of the T20 World Cup.

He wants some kind of closure

as far as white ball global triumph is concerned. A T20 World Cup triumph would give him that.

His popularity is organic. Dhoni was 'Mahi bhai' to his juniors, a man they revered. Kohli earned respect with his humongous on-field achievements. But Rohit gets love, unadulterated -- from peers as well as juniors.

No wonder Ravichandran Ashwin chokes while narrating how the skipper asked one of the team physios to accompany the spinner to Chennai after his mother had a health scare and that too in the middle of a Test match.

They have seen the crests and troughs of Indian cricket together for more than a decade.

They had arrived when Nokia 3310 was in vogue and in their twilight zone, they are witness to change in nature of fandom -- every third android phone owner is either a 'Viratian' or a 'Rohitian'.

Thankfully for Rohit and Kohli, there is nothing more to prove. If Saturday indeed is their 'Last Dance' in T20Is, the void will be difficult to fill not just in terms of quality but also, and perhaps more so, emotionally. (PTI)

## Plan was to make it difficult for England without doing anything extraordinary: Axar

**GEORGETOWN (GUYANA), June 28:** His exploits in the powerplay set up India's massive win over England and left-arm spinner Axar Patel said keeping things simple was the key as it helped him make life difficult for rival batters "without doing anything extraordinary".

Coming in to bowl in the fourth over, Axar (3/23) removed England skipper Jos Buttler off his very first delivery before dismissing Jonny Bairstow and Moeen Ali in consecutive overs to derail England's chase as they eventually folded for 103 in pursuit of 172 in the T20 World Cup semifinals here on Thursday.

"Obviously in powerplay, it is difficult (to bowl) but when you know that you are getting help from the wicket, then without thinking much, without doing anything extraordinary, I thought that the more I keep it simple, the easier it would be for me," Axar said during the post-match press conference.

"We spoke in the dressing room that it's not an easy wicket (for batting), and I knew that the batsmen will charge at me. It wasn't going to be easy to hit me down the ground and also (they) couldn't hit off the back foot because the ball wasn't coming on the bat.

"So my plan was to make it difficult for



them, force them to think of playing some other shots, and, that's what happened on the first ball. So that was the plan."

Axar sent his first ball from round the wicket and Buttler, looking for the reverse-sweep, ended up lobbing it up for wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant to do the rest.

"I hadn't really planned to get a wicket

on the first ball. My mindset was to put the ball in the right areas. Obviously, when you play knockouts, you want to start and finish well with the first and last ball," said Axar, who was adjudged the Player-of-the-Match.

"I think it was difficult to hit big shots, to sweep and reverse sweep because some balls was keeping low on this wicket, so

you can't connect it so easily."

India scored 171 for 7 after being asked to take first strike and Axar said they were confident of defending the total.

"I think 170 was a par score, we could defend it. Rohit bhai said after he finished batting that it was very difficult to hit big shots because the odd ball was spinning, it was staying low and skidding as well.

"When we made 170, we knew that we had scored 10-15 runs extra, which we could have defended."

Batting at number eight, Axar also hit a six during his 10-run cameo and he said it gave him an idea about the nature of the surface as the pacers were bowling slower balls in the death overs.

"Obviously, I got a clue from that (batting) as to what I could do and what I couldn't. When I went to bat, everyone was bowling slower, the ball was not coming at the speed I wanted so I couldn't connect properly. So giving pace would have made it easy for them. It was important to hit the ball at a good area.

"It's also about pressure. When you are chasing, and you know that the wicket is helping the bowlers, as an opener, or anyone in the top four, they think of cashing in on the powerplay as much as possible but it didn't work out." (PTI)

## Shafali Verma becomes fastest woman double-centurion in Test cricket

**CHENNAI, June 28:** Dashing India opener Shafali Verma smashed the fastest double-century in the history of women's Test cricket, eclipsing Annabel Sutherland of Australia during the one-off Test against South Africa here on Friday.

Shafali, 20, scored her double ton off just 194 balls, bettering Sutherland's feat, which came off 248 balls against South Africa earlier this year.

Shafali also became the second Indian after former skipper Mithali Raj to hit a double century in Test cricket after almost 22 long years here.

Mithali's 214 had come off 407 balls and the former India skipper achieved during the drawn second Test against England at Taunton in August, 2002.

Shafali struck 23 fours and eight maximums during her attacking knock.

She brought up her twin ton with consecutive sixes of off-spinner Delhi Tucker, followed by a single.

Shafali was finally run out at 205 off 197 balls.

Besides, her opening partner Smriti Mandhana also made an attacking 149 off 161 balls with the help of 27 boundaries and one six to stitch a formidable opening partnership of 292 runs, which came off in just 52 overs.

India are going great guns against South Africa on the opening day scoring at close to a run-a-ball. (PTI)

