



## PROBE: SIGNAL WAS GIVEN AND TAKEN OFF

Preliminary investigations have revealed that a signal was given to Coromandel Express to enter the main line but it was taken off and the train entered the loop line, where it crashed into a goods train parked there.

The report, a copy of which is with PTI, said the signal "was given and taken off for the up main line for train number 12841 but the train entered the up loop line and dashed with the goods train which was on the loop line and derailed."

"In the meantime, (train number) 12864 passed through the down main line and two coaches of it derailed and capsized."

The loop lines of the Indian Railways are constructed in a station area - in this case, the Bahanaga Bazar station - to accommodate more trains to ease out the operations. The loop lines are generally 750 metres in length to accommodate full-length goods train with multiple engines.

While Coromandel Express was at a speed of 128 kmph, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express was running at a speed of 116 kmph. The report has been submitted to the Railway Board, sources said. These trains generally run up to a maximum speed of 130 kmph.

An eyewitness to the incident, Anubhav Das, also told PTI that local authorities and railway officials had initially indicated that the train he was travelling on - Coromandel Express - had rammed into the goods train.

# CARNAGE

The devastating train mishap near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district that claimed 288 lives and left over 1,100 injured raises questions about railway safety in this age of advanced technology

### ALL IN A FEW MINUTES

- 6:50pm: Coromandel Express rams into a goods train parked in the loop line
- 6:55pm: Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express crashes into stray coaches of Coromandel Exp
- 7:10pm: Local people arrive at the scene and help in rescuing passengers
- 7:30pm: Local authorities, police and emergency services turn up at the accident site
- 8:00-9:00pm: A large number of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff from BR Singh Hospital & Orthopedics Hospital-Howrah of Eastern Railway rushed to site

PNN & AGENCIES

**Balasore/Bhubaneswar, June 3:** The death toll due to the horrific triple train crash near Bahanaga Bazar station involving 12841 Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a goods train rose to 288 while the number of injured went up to 1,100, Saturday.

Investigators were Saturday

looking into any human error, signal failure and other possible causes behind the incident as officials submitted a preliminary inquiry report into one of the worst accidents in the history of Indian Railways.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the accident site and was briefed by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw as well as officers of the disaster management teams. He also met some of the injured at the hospital.

"I do not have words to express the pain... Stringent action will be taken against those found guilty... No one will be spared," Modi said.

There were around 1,257 passengers with reserved tickets on-board Coromandel express, while 1039 people with reservation were travelling in the Bengaluru-Howrah superfast express, officials said, adding the incident happened around 7pm Friday near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore, about 250 km south of Kolkata and 170km north of Bhubaneswar.

The impact was such that 21 coaches of Coromandel Express, which was travelling at full speed since it was not supposed to stop

at the station, were derailed, with three coaches falling on a neighbouring track, through which the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah express was simultaneously passing in the opposite direction, the railways said. Both passenger trains were at a high speed and it has been cited by experts as one of the main reasons for the high number of casualty.

Railway tracks were almost destroyed at the spot as mangled coaches lay strewn all over, with some having mounted on another, while a few coaches turned turtle due to the impact.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited Balasore hospital and interacted with the injured passengers and treating doctor team. "I am deeply distressed by the extremely tragic train accident. I have to thank the local people and local team who have worked overnight to save people from the wreckage. Railway safety should always be prioritised," Patnaik told the media.

Pijush Poddar, a resident of Berhampur in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, was travelling to Tamil Nadu in the Coromandel Express to join work there when the accident happened.

- 21 coaches were derailed and severely damaged in the accident
- PM Modi assures stringent action against the guilty
- 1,175 people were admitted to hospitals
- 160 bodies being brought to Bhubaneswar for identification
- Locals played key role in rescue and relief operations

"We were jolted and suddenly saw the train bogie turn on one side. Many of us were thrown out of the compartment by the momentum of the derailment. When we managed to crawl out, we found bodies lying all around," he said.

Locals said they heard consecutive loud sounds, following which they rushed to the spot and found the derailed coaches, which were nothing but "a

mangled heap of steel".

"The local people really went out on a limb to help us... They not only helped in pulling out people but retrieved our luggage and got us water," Rupam Banerjee, one of the passengers, told reporters.

One of the coaches "was pushed into the ground" as another from a neighbouring train collapsed on top of it, passengers said.

Balasore district hospital looked like a war zone with the injured lying on stretchers in the corridor and rooms bursting at its seams with extra beds propped up. Harried medical staff were seen trying to bring succour to patients many of whom are from states other than Odisha and had difficulties in communicating.

Policemen and locals have been volunteering to donate blood at this and many hospitals through the night, said officials.

More than 2,000 people gathered at FM Medical College and Hospital in the night to help the injured, and many also donated blood, officials said.

The morgue at the hospital was a pile of white shrouded bodies, many of them yet to be identified as relatives are yet to make their way to the town with many train

services cancelled or delayed due to the accident on a major railway trunk route. From a vantage point high above the ground, the disaster site looked as if a powerful whirlwind had thrown the coaches like toys on top of each other. Closer to the ground, bloodied, disfigured bodies and dismembered body parts lay enmeshed, creating a grotesque sight. Large cranes were deployed to move the wreckage and gas cutters were used to extricate the bodies from the mangled, toppled coaches.

The Odisha government has decided to bring about 160 bodies to Bhubaneswar for better preservation and to facilitate smooth identification by the family members of the deceased.

Meanwhile, around 90 trains were cancelled, mostly in the Southern and South Eastern Railway Zones, while 46 were diverted and 11 short-terminated following the three-train accident.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will visit the AIIMS Bhubaneswar and the Cuttack medical college Sunday to take stock of medical assistance being provided to the victims of the Odisha train accident, sources said.

MORE P2, 6 & 7



Unable to find words to express the pain...The government has taken the incident very seriously. No one would be spared and strong action would be taken against those found guilty in this mishap

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER



I am deeply distressed by the extremely tragic train accident. I have to thank the local people and local team who have worked overnight to save people from the wreckage. Railway safety should always be prioritised

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Of course, we've developed an excellent safety system. In case of a train accident, it keeps the govt safe

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP		39.5°C	37.4°C
	MAX		
	MIN	28.8°C	29.0°C
Humidity		79%	79%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
	Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

## Mamata-Vaishnaw spar over train crash toll

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 3:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Saturday engaged in a verbal duel at the train accident site in Balasore district.

While interacting with the media, Mamata said she got information that the death toll in the train crash might exceed 500.

At this, Vaishnaw, who was standing beside her intervened immediately and said, "As per Odisha government's data, the death toll is 238."

In response to the Railway Minister's reply the West Bengal CM reiterated the figure claiming that 238 was Friday night's toll. "Rescue work in three coaches is still not complete, hence the toll would go up further," she ascertained.

Mamata also said that anti-collision system was not fitted in the express trains which led to the mishap.

## 'Loud thud... Everything went in all directions'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, June 3:** Returning home to their families after several months of working in south India, passengers aboard the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express suddenly heard a loud thud, following which they fell off their berths and lights went off.

They were just five hours away from their destination in Howrah when the train they were travelling got involved in a triple train accident at Bahanaga Bazar station in Odisha's Balasore district. The train, which was running a little over three hours late from its schedule, was moving towards its next stop Balasore, some 20 km away, when the accident took place around 7pm Friday.

Mizan Ul Haq, a resident of Bardhaman, was in one of the coaches at the rear of the train.



"The train was running at a high speed. Around 7 pm, a loud sound was heard and everything started moving in all directions and I fell down on the floor from the upper berth as the lights went off inside the compartment," Haq, who was returning home from work in Karnataka on a holiday, said.

He said that somehow, he managed to come out of the damaged coach and then to safety. "It was ghastly, many people

with grave injuries were lying around beside mangled coaches," Haq, who was lucky to have escaped with minor injuries, told PTI at Howrah station, where medical aid, food and other assistance were provided by the railway authorities to the surviving passengers.

The unaffected 17 coaches of the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express reached Howrah at 1pm Saturday with 635 passengers, of whom 40 to

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MIZAN UL HAQ | A RESIDENT OF BARDHAMAN

50 people were administered medical treatment on arrival, North Howrah Deputy Commissioner of Police Anupam Singh said.

He said that five of them were sent to hospital for further treatment, while others left for their destinations.

Rekha, a Bengaluru resident coming to Kolkata for a visit, said that she was in a coach ahead of the wagons that got derailed.

"It was total chaos initially. We got off our compartment out of fear and sat in the nearby fields in the darkness till our train finally started for Howrah in the wee hours," she said.

Another Bardhaman resident, a carpenter who works in Bengaluru, said he was injured in the chest, feet and head when the coach in which he was travelling turned turtle. "We had to break open the windows and jump out of the compartment to save ourselves," he said, adding he saw many dead bodies after the accident.

Imtajul Khan, a resident of Murshidabad, said he saw many people dying in front of his eyes.

"It was shocking, I don't think I will ever be able to overcome the effect of this dreadful incident," he said, as he headed for his destination after receiving treatment at Howrah station at a medical camp set up by the railways.



# leisure



## SOMETIMES MAKEUP LIFTS MY SPIRITS: LADY GAGA

Singer Lady Gaga uses make-up to benefit her own mental health after taking the advice of her mother. "Sometimes it really lifts my spirits and it has helped me with my mental health a lot throughout my life," the 36-year-old pop star said to *Grazia*.

## STONE SAYS POST STROKE SHE'S SHUNNED BY HOLLYWOOD

*Basic Instinct* actress Sharon Stone said that she was shunned out of Hollywood after suffering a stroke. Stone, 65, suffered a brain haemorrhage in 2001 and couldn't work for two years, which she said led to her being out of the movies for 20 years.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

You are deeply interested in the occult and the paranormal and today, you may indulge in something to do with it. So, you may buy a full colour 15x10 glossy on shamanic rites or the tantra! Ganesh suggests using such knowledge for peaceful ends.

#### TAURUS

Love is on the cards, says Ganesh. Your senses are likely to remain highly active today. Stay alert and avoid drifting into your own world at the cost of work. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding with your near and dear ones, suggests Ganesh.

#### GEMINI

You have been aching to arrange a family reunion or get-together at your house. Well, today is the perfect day to do it. And why just family? You are also likely to invite some of your close friends and important business associates over to your place. Your spouse will enjoy the company of your loved ones.

#### CANCER

Today, it is quite possible that you have a presentiment of things that are about to happen. Scarily enough, the premonition may not be too far off the mark. All your senses, especially your sixth sense, are likely to remain highly active today. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding at work or home, says Ganesh.

#### LEO

To many, you will seem to have got your senses back after a long time. Reason? You will finally have a definite career plan in mind. Although, it's not really a big deal for you when your mind races and yearns to achieve in two warring directions, it may seem quite jarring and unreal to the mere mortals.

#### VIRGO

Leadership is your forte and you shall receive kudos for the manner in which you handle your team. Much awaited promotions will materialise and so will some extra cash in your wallet. Wisely enough, you didn't get all this by not effectively balancing home and work, says Ganesh. Don't slip on this tight-rope walk.

#### LIBRA

Ever heard of the phrase, 'To stick one's foot in one's mouth'? Well, today you might be doing exactly the same, albeit unwittingly. You are likely to invite trouble, especially if some of those heated discussions get out of hand. A legal dispute does not seem unlikely.

#### SCORPIO

Your rung in the social ladder just went higher today. But be wary of green-eyed monsters and ill words. Fight tooth and nail - if necessary - to protect your reputation, says Ganesh. But also learn to find your enemies' Achilles' heel and target it ferociously.

#### SAGITTARIUS

The day may pan out to be more challenging than you had anticipated. An independent free bird as you Archers are, you may find really irritating to find your hands tied up in unpleasant money matters.

#### CAPRICORN

Your exuberance and self-confidence will become the talk of the day for those around you. But it's not for nothing that you will attract so much attention. You will derive pleasure in accomplishing herculean tasks today, and Ganesh says you will do justice to work too.

#### AQUARIUS

Team work and cooperation bring out the best in you, so you must make the most of a chance to work in a group. It could be brainstorming, or campaigning for an environmental cause or even playing beach ball! A game of cards in the evening, and consider your day well spent, says Ganesh.

#### PISCES

The workaholic in your bursts to the fore with a vengeance, and today will see you tackle pending projects with the zeal of a Holy Templar crusader. Your energy levels will be unflagging, and your enthusiasm to wipe your slate clean admirable.

## BALASORE TRAIN ACCIDENT

# Tributes pour in from B-town

Several cine celebrities took to their social media handles to offer their condolences to the families of the deceased passengers and to also pray for the injured after the train accident that shook the entire nation.

Everyone from Salman Khan to Akshay Kumar; Jr NTR to Kareena Kapoor Khan, Varun Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Sonu Sood, among others, took to their handles to offer their prayers and condolences. Here's how they expressed their



grief. Salman Khan wrote in his tweet, "Really saddened to hear about the accident, May God rest the souls of the deceased in peace, Protect n give strength to the families n the injured from this unfortunate accident."

Akshay Kumar said,

"Heartbreaking to see the visuals from the tragic train accident in Odisha. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. My thoughts and condolences to the families of the affected during this difficult time. Om Shanti"

Kareena, Sonu and Varun took

to their Instagram stories to share photos of the tragic accident and added an update. Other who joined in to pay tributes were Suniel Shetty, Anushka Sharma, Ananya Panday, Sonu Sood, Kriti Sanon, Parineeti Chopra, Riteish Deshmukh and Hema Malini.

## Urmila urges people to spread love, not hatred

**Mumbai:** Actor Urmila Matondkar shared an inspirational post on her Instagram

The *Rangeela* actor took to Instagram and dropped a picture of herself. She wrote, "Dance like no one is watching but more importantly Love As Everyone Matters..at the end of it love will sail you through the challenges of life not hatred and grudges"

Urmila looked gorgeous as she wore an off-shoulder black dress. She paired it with matching heels. The *Judaai* actor opted for soft makeup look and left her curly hair untied.

The actor's fans chimed in the comment section as soon as the picture was uploaded. A fan wrote, "My favourite." Another commented, "Urmila UR Looking Beautiful."

The actress married Mohsin Akhtar Mir, a Kashmir-based businessman in 2016 in a low-key ceremony.

Urmila entered the film industry as a child artist. She first appeared in BR Chopra's *Karm*, Marathi film *Zaakol* and *Shekhar Kapur's Masoom*. And years later, as an adult, she established her name as a *Rangeela* actress in the Hindi film industry. *Judaai*, *Satya* and *Jungle* are some of her memorable films.

Urmila is set to debut on the OTT platform. Helmed by Saurabh Varma, the series *Tiwari* is said to be a thriller, based on an emotional mother-daughter story.



## CarryMinati's initiative for train mishap victims



**Mumbai:** YouTube sensation and leading gaming influencer, Ajay Nagar who goes by the moniker CarryMinati, announced to host a four-hour charity stream on his channel CarryisLive for the victims of the Odisha train accident.

All proceeds generated from the forthcoming charity stream will be donated to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund-Government of Odisha, it was learnt. He stated, "It's just heart-breaking to see these upsetting visuals. My thoughts and prayers are with each and every person affected by this shocking incident. I pray for speedy recovery of the injured and extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

"In times like these, we all need to come together and work towards the common goal of being there for one another on a humanitarian level. I am looking forward to raising significant contributions and hereby appeal to everyone to unite in these trying times and extend a helping hand in whatever way you can," the YouTuber said ahead of the show. Minati had previously hosted a charity stream of similar nature for the flood-ravaged states of Assam and Bihar in 2020 amassing a substantial collection of Rs 12 lakhs, including a 1 lakh personal contribution by Minati. He has helped causes like Kerala Floods in 2018; Shaheeds of Pulwama Attack, Odisha Cyclone Fani in 2019; Australia Bush Fire, and COVID-19 in 2020 and Assam floods in 2022. At least 207 people were killed and 900 injured when two passenger trains collided in Odisha on Friday in one of India's worst rail accidents in years.

## Sara gets awkward by fan's question

**Mumbai:** Actress Sara Ali Khan was recently on a promotional spree for her latest movie *Zara Hatke, Zara Bachke*. During one of the promotional events, she was asked by a fan that, when in every profession people don't hesitate to take a learning class, why do actors shy away from acting classes.

The question spread an air of awkwardness around. Sara asked the person, if he was talking about her in particular, and his answer was 'no' help in clearing the awkwardness. The person replied taking a cue from Vicky Kaushal's earlier response that acting is a practicing art and it gets better with time, so even Sara should do it.

Sara kept her lips sealed on the matter and then Vicky Kaushal came to her rescue. He said there is no particular formula for good acting, and everyone has his or her journey. Though it is an observational and imaginative skill, sometimes it is natural talent as well.

*Zara Hatke Zara Bachke* is a family entertainer directed by Laxman Utekar, who is famous for his work in *Mimi* and *Hindi Medium*. It made it to the theatres Friday.



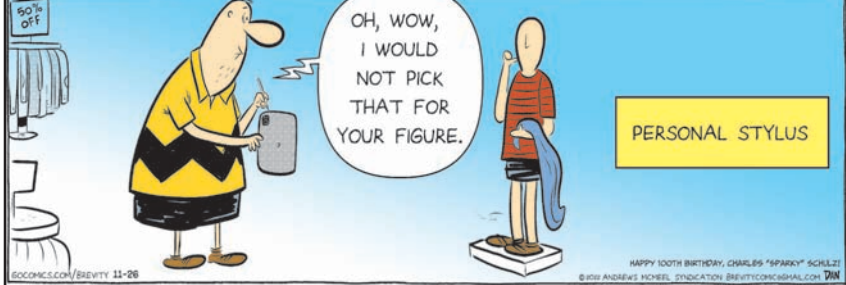
### PEANUTS



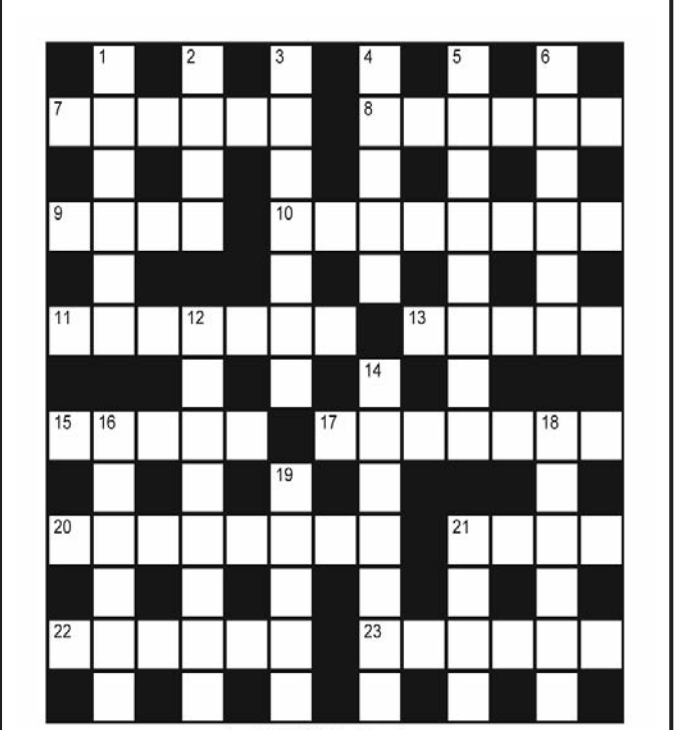
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



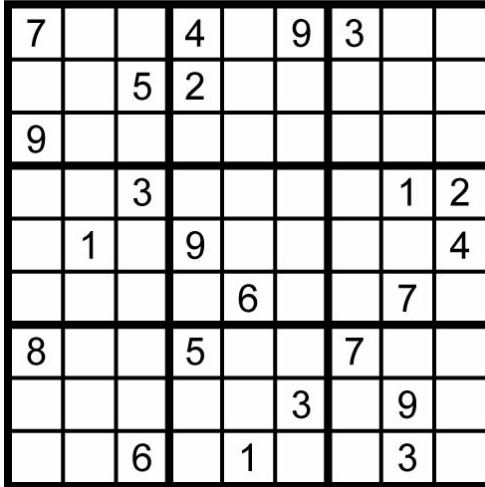
### FUN post CROSSWORD



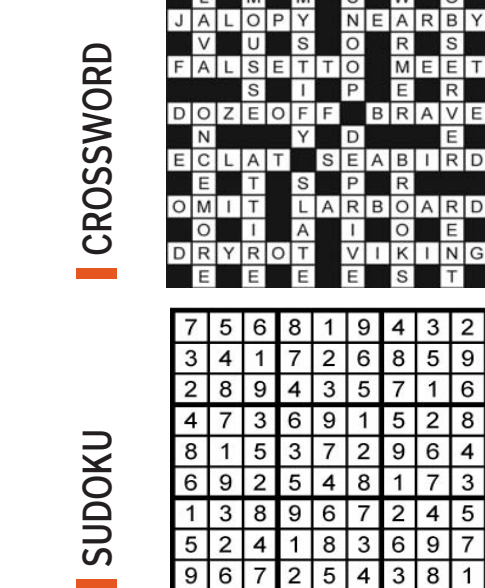
- Across
- 7 Egyptian statue
  - 8 Bird of night
  - 9 Battery fluid
  - 10 Dropped a peg
  - 11 Of no value
  - 13 Soft leather
  - 15 Not real tasty
  - 17 Seaport
  - 20 Hive member (5,3)
- Down
- 21 Colourful salamander
  - 22 International agreement
  - 23 Esoteric
  - 5 Diminutive folklore character (3,5)
  - 6 Lo and \_\_\_
  - 12 Round Table figure
  - 14 Early human (4,3)
  - 1 Period pieces
  - 2 Shuttlecock
  - 3 Rust
  - 4 Jingle
  - 16 Motorboat type
  - 18 Vegetate
  - 19 Domicile
  - 21 Riviera city

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## Workshop on photography organised at Stewart School



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 3:** A training programme in professional photography was organised at Stewart School in Cuttack under the guidance of qualified trainers. Students from Classes VI to XII were enrolled for the programme which was held from May 3 and concluded June 3. The training programme was organised as part of the guidelines of National Education Policy, 2022.

After conclusion of the training programme titled "Focus Fiesta," an exhibition on "Excellence in Photography" was held Saturday 2023 as part of the vocational education programme, 2023 of the school. In the training programme, the participating students were practically trained regarding the salient features of cameras, their functions and the skills

involved in handling and using them with competence for the purpose of producing photographs of creative excellence.

The objective behind such professional training is to produce accomplished photographers, capable of handling the entire process of photography, from the clicking of an image to the preparation of the same for publication in a newspaper, thereby producing exceptionally professional photo-journalists and amateur photographers for the future.

The event was attended by the Bishop, Diocese of Cuttack, CNI, Rt. Rev. Surendra Kumar Nanda, BD Das, CEO of institutions under the Diocese of Cuttack, CNI and the Diocesan executive secretary, Satya Ranjan Das, UR Fullonton, the secretary and RR Senapati, the Principal, Stewart School, Bhubaneswar, Principal of Stewart School Farley North, Cuttack, Rev. Dn. Mojesh Mohanty, Principal (Designate), New Stewart School, Cuttack and Ajit Jena, Elder of the English Baptist Church, Cuttack.



**IN LORD'S PRESENCE:** Devotees throng Srimandir premises for 'darshan' of the deities on 'Ratna Singhasan' on the eve of Debasnana Purnima in Puri, Saturday

OP PHOTO

## KALIA Centres soon at all dist headquarters

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 3:** For the welfare of state's farmers, the government is going to start one Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Centre each in every district of Odisha, informed Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain here Saturday.

The centre will encourage agri-innovation and serve as a one stop resource centre. It will be equipped with adequate technical manpower to resolve different issues of farmers related to different agricultural programmes/activities like Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyoga Yojana (MKUY), Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans (SAFAL), Go Sugam and Krushak Odisha and KALIA, briefed the minister.

A nodal officer from office of the chief district agriculture officer (CDAO) will monitor the day-to-day functioning of the KALIA Centre, he informed.

In this regard, a letter has been issued by Agriculture principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee to all Collectors to arrange a suitable building for functioning of KALIA Centre in and around the district headquarter.



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A nodal officer from office of the chief district agriculture officer (CDAO) will monitor the day-to-day functioning of KALIA Centre, the minister informed

Kalia scheme has been introduced in 2018 to provide support in cultivation to small and marginal farmers and avail livelihood support for landless agricultural households to take up non-farm activities.

The scheme of the state government is perhaps the first Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme of the country. It has been universally acclaimed not only for

its conceptualisation but also for its near effective implementation.

Notably since the launch of the scheme, 43, 04,876 small marginal farmers/actual cultivators (sharecroppers) and 17, 71,756 landless agricultural households (LAH) have been disbursed financial assistance. As per official sources, assistance of more than ₹11,600 crore has been extended to these beneficiaries.

## MAN GETS 10 YR RI FOR RAPING MINOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Aska, June 3:** A local court Saturday sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him in the 2011 rape case of a five-year old minor in Ganjam district.

The convicted man was identified as Runa Das alias Tripathy, a resident of Buguda police limits in the district.

The additional district and sessions judge Prabir Kumar Choudhury also slapped a penalty of 10,000 on the convict, apart from the punishment. The convict has to undergo an additional four months of rigorous imprisonment, if failed to pay the penalty.

The judge passed the order after examining the statements of 13 witnesses in the case and the police chargesheet, public prosecutor Sudhanshu Kumar Panda and associate Surya Prakash Rao said.

The incident occurred when the minor was playing in front of her house, January 17, 2011. Runa approached the minor and took her inside a house and raped her. The matter came up before the police



after the survivor's father lodged a complaint in the Buguda police station. The then Buguda police station IIC Jagannath Mallick conducted a probe and arrested Runa for the offence.

## Special summer arrangements for residents of Sambalpur zoo

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, June 3:** Authorities of Sambalpur Zoo have launched efforts to protect the wild animals from the ensuing heatwave prevailing in the state, a report said.

With temperature often rising to 400 Celsius at Sambalpur, the zoo authorities have intensified their efforts to prevent heatstroke and dehydration among animals. The newly-created botanical garden encircling the zoo with many trees has also supported the zoo environment.

This was stated here by divisional forest officer (DFO) Anshu Prayagn Das of Hirakud Wildlife



bamboo-thatched roofs are sprayed with water twice a day. Showers are used at carnivorous enclosures and bird enclosures during peak hours of the day.

cucumber has been added to their daily diet.

Medicines for preventing heat stress are being given to all animals while water availability in all the enclosures is ensured during the day time. Moreover, glucose along with water is also provided to the animals to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

This apart, veterinary health-care support for the animals has been strengthened. A special veterinarian has been appointed exclusively for the zoo who will keep a close watch on the health of the animals from this year onwards. Now health checkup of all the animals is done on a daily basis by the veterinarian.

A veterinary hospital has been established inside the zoo with all modern equipment and equipped with an operation theatre where the animals can be provided with critical care facilities during emergency. A special rescue centre has also been established with all rescue equipment for use in emergency.



Division to media here Saturday.

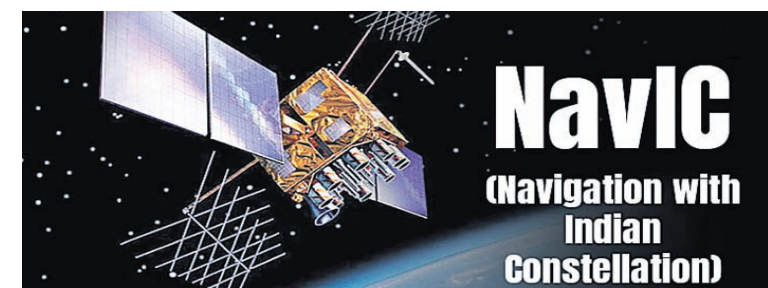
The Sambalpur zoo houses 17 species of animals in 27 enclosures built in its premises. The important animals housed inside the zoo are leopard, bear, chowsingha, sambar, spotted deer and variety of colourful birds like cockatiel, budgerigar and peacock.

All the 27 enclosures have been covered with green net and bamboo-thatched roofs and sidewalls. The

The size of leopard enclosure has been doubled one month back. Earlier, it was 250 square metre, now it has been expanded to 500 square metre. A cooler has been provided in the resting chamber of the leopard and bamboo mats are used at the roof of the enclosure as cooling shed.

All the 17 types of diets served to 330 animals have been modified during summer. Watermelon and

## NavIC could have averted triple train crash in Balasore



The horrific June 2 triple train accident in Odisha's Balasore district could have been averted had Indian Railways taken to using Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) on all its passenger rakes, senior officials familiar with the railways' safety and security protocols have said.

Government sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that the Railways' anti-collision system has been relying solely on the American Global Positioning System (GPS) even when NavIC became fully operational in June 2019.

The precise and real-time position of at least two passenger trains – the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express – would have been known to railway traffic officials as well as the train drivers had they used NavIC-based devices. The third train involved in one of India's deadliest rail accidents was a goods train. No independent confirmation could be made whether the two passenger trains had

operational on board GPS based devices to ascertain positioning and navigation information.

According to sources, a Railway Board Member met with representatives of a Bengaluru-based private company, Elena Geo Systems, on the sidelines of the World Telecom Day May 17 and sought a detailed presentation on NavIC. Elena Geo Systems had in April unveiled a NavIC chip which, when used in a satellite signal receiver, enables "very accurate" positioning, navigation and timing applications in hand-held and other communications devices.

"Since the operationalisation of NavIC, the Central Railway Information System (CRIS) has shown little interest in the advantages of NavIC although it has been "developing and maintaining software for train traffic control and operations for every single train, managing coaches, crew and other operations digitally and performing real-time tracking of trains through satellite-based tracking mechanism," a senior Railway

Board official said, adding that CRIS' reliance, through partial, has been on GPS.

A third important function of CRIS is to inspect and maintain tracks, overhead electric lines, land and signals.

Meanwhile, the Railway ministry spokesperson Amitabh Sharma said that the Kavach system (anti-collision device) was not installed on the route on which the train accident occurred.

The Kavach safety system, called National Automatic Train Protection (NATP), was operationalised March 23, 2022. The Kavach ATP was developed in collaboration with the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO).

Kavach was designed to assist locomotive pilots in avoiding Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD) and over-speeding while also providing support for train operations during inclement weather conditions, including dense fog. The system automatically applies brakes during emergency situations, thereby ensuring effective control over train speed and in the process preventing mishaps.

As part of its move to ensure integrated transportation, the Indian Railways claims to have harnessed data analytics. In March this year, it started a project (under Real Time Train Information System) along with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to enable real-time tracking of train movements with the assistance of satellite imagery and live tracking of trains.

### SOUND OF SOUL

ODISHA EDITION

Classic Concert Series binding Experience, Culture and a Cause

FEATURING

## Padma Shree

# KUMAR SANU

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

In view of the tragic rail accident at Balasore on 02.06.2023 & the state mourning which is observed through-out the state – Keeping in view the sentiments - Team Infracon & Nest Leisure and upon the generous consideration of Padmashri Kumar Sanu it is decided that the Sound of Soul (Odisha edition) with Padmashri Kumar Sanu is being Postpone to 04th June 2023 in Utkal Mandap at 6.30 PM. We are deeply saddened and extend our condolences over the loss of lives and truly stand beside the tragic loss.

**POSTPONED DATE:**

04th June 2023 06:30 Onwards





Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Juvenile & Unreal

A story was reported on 2 June with the headline "Bengal couple accused of being 'Bangladeshi infiltrators' freed from Bengaluru jail after 10 months." The couple were Palash and Shukla Adhikari, who were accused of being foreigners. They spent an extra month in jail after getting bail because they could not produce local sureties.

Another story, somewhat related, was reported the same day with the headline "Political leaders in Nepal object to Akhand Bharat" mural in new Parliament." The story explained that "Akhand Bharat is a concept espoused by Hindutva nationalists envisaging that neighbouring countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka would become part of India." Lumbini – the birthplace of Buddha – is in Nepal but features on the map in the new Parliament.

Both of these are again in a way related to something else. I am writing a book whose title is "The case for Akhand Bharat" which is an attempt to figure out two things. First, if Indians especially Hindus of the BJP type want to unite South Asia, why are they not trying it except in paintings and murals? Second, what would it take to actually bring about an Akhand Bharat?

The answer to the first is easy. The BJP and Hindus who back it do not want a united South Asia. What they want is an empire with subjects. A party ruling India with no Muslim minister or MP or MLA is not going to be attractive to the woman in Chittagong or enthuse the child in Peshawar. What the BJP wants is land, it does not want the people. Look at Kashmir to understand.

Bigotry is boring but the second question is more interesting. What would it actually take to unite the people of the sub-continent? It cannot be the force of arms, because we do not have the capacity, though we do not admit it. This is a fact. Kashmir looks different in reality than it does on the map. It would actually horrify the average Indian, brainwashed by school maps, if they were to learn the actual position. The bits in the west are not in our control and we cannot take them back despite the brave words. Mind you, the opponent is only one-seventh our size. We cannot take them back not because of lack of intent but lack of capacity. The bits on the east are missing too but we do not talk about taking them back for fear of agitating the stronger power we cannot even name.

We can bully Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh up to a point but do not have the legitimacy to stake a real claim on them as opposed to pantomime ones in maps and speeches. And yet there is another way, which is not being considered (and that is what my book is about). What if India as the dominant power, the largest economy, the oldest democracy and the most populous nation reach out to its neighbours and tries to unite them? What would that look like and what would it entail?

Well, firstly, it would have to do with addressing things that were other than political. When the European Union began to form, it was not either through a unified currency or a unified parliament. It was through connecting their steel and coal industries. Why? Because these were the two materials needed to develop their economies and their militaries. First through coercion on Germany after the war and then through consensus, the European nations united themselves. Remember that though belonging to the same religion, they had murdered more of each other than any other part of the world in a mere three decades between 1914 and 1945. What are the things in South Asia that can be similarly connected without addressing issues like a common currency or a common prime minister?

They would have to be transport, meaning open roads and connectivity on rail and air; communications, meaning mobile telephony that can be used on both sides and free travel. That would mean being able to go from Calcutta to Dhaka without a visa for a holiday or from Lahore to Shimla. Is it difficult to do? No, it would take a stroke of a pen. The problem lies in the imagination of nations held hostage mentally to the idea that the neighbour is the enemy.

The next step would be, as the European Union did, easing the movement of goods and services. This would unite the economies eventually and benefit all nations, especially ones that produce and manufacture the things that the others cannot. India can produce and send cars, two wheelers, petrol, software, musical instruments, books, nurses, engineers and biochemists at a more efficient cost than can be produced in the other nations locally. To not do this is to deny Indians opportunity and deny India growth potential.

The final aspect of this softer Akhand Bharat would be some element of political integration as the EU has also done. We do not need to go there here. We do not need to even consider it till the other parts have matured. But we have to understand that this third element is absolutely impossible in the absence of the first two. To think otherwise, as is the case of that mural in Parliament that Nepal and others object to, is to think like a child.

It is a reality that the thinking of the Indian elite, as presented to the world in the new Parliament, is juvenile and unreal. But it is also a fact that needs to be acknowledged and engaged with. Akhand Bharat will not come about through crayons and murals.



Aakar Patel

**Akhand Bharat will not come about through crayons and murals**

# THE BEHAVIOURAL REVOLUTION

FOCUS ECONOMICS

In 2008, University of Chicago economist (and future Nobel laureate) Richard Thaler and Harvard law professor Cass Sunstein published their book *Nudge*, which popularised the idea that subtle design changes in the architecture of choice ("nudges") can influence our behaviour. The book became a global phenomenon and marked an intellectual watershed. But 15 years after its publication, the question remains: Has behavioural economics lived up to the hype?



Antara Haldar

**FOR ECONOMICS TO REFLECT HUMAN BEHAVIOUR, MUCH LESS INFLUENCE IT, THE DISCIPLINE MUST ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY**

Thaler and Sunstein based their thesis on the research and insights of psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, which they had previously applied to the field of law and economics in a Stanford Law Review article (co-authored with Christine Jolls). While the paper was one of the most cited law-review articles ever, it remained virtually unknown outside the discipline.

But following the publication of *Nudge*, and against the backdrop of the global financial crisis, behavioural economics burst into the mainstream, turning Thaler and Sunstein into superstars. Thaler received the Nobel Prize in economics in 2017. Sunstein was recruited by the Obama administration to head the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and translate the book's findings into policy, spawning more than 200 "nudge units" around the world.

Acclaimed author Michael Lewis fuelled further interest in behavioural science with his books *Moneyball* and *The Big Short* (the latter's screen adaptation featured a cameo by Thaler). In just a few short years, behavioural economics went from niche specialisation to cultural phenomenon.

Beyond the buzz, the behavioural breakthrough also promised to usher in a full-fledged epistemic revolution, fundamentally altering the sources of knowledge deemed valuable. In particular, behavioural economists underscored the importance of psychological factors, in addition to econometric analysis, in understanding how economic institutions work.

The integration of behavioural



**The integration of behavioural sciences into microeconomics, which focuses on the decisions and actions of individual actors, has led to a growing recognition that consumers' and firms' own heuristics and biases may cause their behaviour to deviate from the economic model of rationality**

sciences into microeconomics, which focuses on the decisions and actions of individual actors, has led to a growing recognition that consumers' and firms' own heuristics and biases may cause their behaviour to deviate from the economic model of rationality. Nowadays, most major universities incorporate behavioural economics into their curricula, and the majority of mainstream textbooks cite behavioural approaches (even if cursorily). Moreover, by exposing the flaws in the prevailing rational-actor approach, behavioural economics has amplified other perspectives, such as Ernst Fehr's work on "strong reciprocity," Robert Shiller's *Narrative Economics*, and Nathan Nunn's scholarship on cultural economics.

But the impact of the behavioural revolution outside of microeconomics remains modest. Many scholars are still skeptical about incorporating psychological insights into economics, a field that often models itself after the natural sciences, particularly physics. This skepticism has been further compounded by the widely publicised crisis of replication in psychology.

Macroeconomists, who study the aggregate functioning of economies and explore the impact of factors such as output, in-

flation, exchange rates, and monetary and fiscal policy, have, in particular, largely ignored the behavioural trend. Their indifference seems to reflect the belief that individual idiosyncrasies balance out, and that the quirky departures from rationality identified by behavioural economists must offset each other. A direct implication of this approach is that quantitative analyses predicated on value-maximising behaviour, such as the dynamic stochastic general equilibrium models that dominate policymaking, need not be improved.

The validity of these assumptions, however, remains uncertain. During banking crises such as the Great Recession of 2008 or the ongoing crisis triggered by the recent collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the reactions of economic actors – particularly financial institutions and investors – appear to be driven by herd mentality and what John Maynard Keynes referred to as "animal spirits."

Even without a financial panic, as Keynes notes in *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*, "anticipating what average opinion expects the average opinion to be" is fraught with error and uncertainty. But, despite George Akerlof's persistent

advocacy for a behavioural macroeconomics that considers "cognitive bias, reciprocity, fairness, herding, and social status," the real-world foundations of macroeconomic theory remain shaky, and the scope of efforts to systemise our understanding of contagion-type phenomena through tools like network analysis remains limited.

The roots of economics' resistance to the behavioural sciences run deep. Over the past few decades, the field has acknowledged exceptions to the prevailing neoclassical paradigm, such as Elinor Ostrom's solutions to the tragedy of the commons and Akerlof, Michael Spence, and Joseph E. Stiglitz's work on asymmetric information (all four won the Nobel Prize). At the same time, economists have refused to update the discipline's core assumptions.

This state of affairs can be likened to an imperial government that claims to uphold the rule of law in its colonies. By allowing for a limited release of pressure at the periphery of the paradigm, economists have managed to prevent significant changes that might undermine the entire system. Meanwhile, the core principles of the prevailing economic model remain largely unchanged.

For economics to reflect human behaviour, much less influence it, the discipline must actively engage with human psychology. But as the list of acknowledged exceptions to the neoclassical framework grows, each subsequent breakthrough becomes a potentially existential challenge to the field's established paradigm, undermining the seductive parsimony that has been the source of its power.

By limiting their interventions to nudges, behavioural economists hoped to align themselves with the discipline. But in doing so, they delivered a ratings-conscious "made for TV" version of a revolution. As Gil Scott-Heron famously reminded us, the real thing will not be televised.

*The writer is Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge.*

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM CURRENCY

## Internationalising the rupee

Internationalisation of the rupee refers to the use of the rupee for trade settlement, as a reserve currency, or as a medium of exchange by other countries. Since the beginning of 2022, the Indian rupee has been continuously losing its value against the US dollar. Recording a 10% fall against the US dollar, the Indian rupee was the worst-performing Asian currency in 2022. This rupee depreciation was mainly due to high inflation, a widening current account deficit, hike in crude oil price, and depletion in forex reserves. Further, the country's forex reserves have fallen by \$70 billion during the last fiscal year. It dropped to \$524.5 billion last October when the rupee hit a record low against the dollar. However, as on May 19, 2023, India's forex reserves rose to \$593.5 billion due to persistent policy interventions by RBI. Among many policy interventions, RBI endeavoured to make the rupee a global currency. Therefore, it set up the 'International Settlement of Trade in Indian Rupee' mechanism in July 2022. In this connection, India completed its first international trade settlement with Russia in rupee in December 2022.

Moreover, in March 2023, RBI moved one step further by allowing

banks from 18 countries to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) to settle payments in Indian rupee. The reasons are different for the above countries to agree to the settlement of trade in rupee: (i) Russia agrees due to the sanctions imposed on it by the US; (ii) Countries like Kenya, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka have been grappling with a scarcity of dollar reserves; (iii) The dollar is strongly performing against the currencies of Germany, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom, which make imports expensive for those countries.

The benefits of the internationalisation of the rupee for India are manifold. Firstly, using the Indian rupee for international trade settlements will help check the flow of dollars out of India and slow down the rupee's depreciation. Secondly, it will reduce India's dependence on the dollar. It will also act as the best alternative for countries facing acute shortages of dollar and those countries not using dollar for economic sanctions imposed by the US. Thirdly, with the ability to invoice trade in rupee, Indian traders could achieve better pricing for their goods and services. Also, this mechanism is expected to benefit both sides of the trade by reducing currency con-

version spreads. Finally, the rupee's internationalisation will help India become a more important player in the global economy. It will help India attract more foreign investment, as investors will be able to invest in India in rupee.

There are certain challenges that India is expected to confront in the process of internationalisation of the rupee. Firstly, the high volatility of the rupee in the foreign exchange market may make it less attractive as a global currency for some countries. Secondly, internationalisation of rupee may limit RBI's control over the money supply through stabilisation of interest rates as both residents and non-residents of India can trade in rupee-denominated financial instruments. Thirdly, the Indian rupee may face competition from other major currencies, such as the US dollar, euro, pound, Japanese yen, and Chinese yuan, which are already widely accepted as international currencies.

According to IMF's Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER) data, the US dollar tops the list by sharing 58.36% of foreign exchange reserves in the fourth quarter of last year. Comparatively, the euro, yen, pound, and yuan share 20.48%,

5.50%, 4.98%, and 2.70% of foreign exchange reserves in the same period respectively. India shares only 1.8% of the global merchandise trade. The country is overwhelmingly dependent on importing fossil fuels, edible oils, gold, silver, making it unlikely for exporting countries to consider the Indian rupee as an invoicing currency unless it suits their interests.

Considering the pros and cons of rupee internationalisation, some measures can be taken by the government of India to make the rupee an international currency. India must increase its exports via the Atma-Nirbhar Bharat initiative. It must reduce its reliance on imports by increasing research & development spending. India should consider the case of China, which has been able to steadily internationalise the yuan while maintaining control of its capital account. Domestic financial markets must be better equipped to handle external shocks that might arise during rupee internationalisation.

*Dillip Kumar Muduli is Assistant Professor (Economics) and Debasis Pahi is Assistant Professor (Commerce) in KIIT Deemed to be University.*



Dillip Kumar Muduli & Debasis Pahi

**DOMESTIC FINANCIAL MARKETS MUST BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO HANDLE EXTERNAL SHOCKS THAT MIGHT ARISE DURING RUPEE INTERNATIONALISATION**

WISDOM CORNER

Nature shows that with the growth of intelligence comes increased capacity for pain, and it is only with the highest degree of intelligence that suffering reaches its supreme point.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.

MARK TWAIN

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

THOMAS HARDY

WORDSWORTH

Inwit

We must thank (or perhaps blame) James Joyce for this word ever appearing in modern writing, since he helped to revive it by using it as a recurring reference to guilt in *Ulysses* in 1922. *Inwit* had gone out of the language around the middle of the fifteenth century and it would have remained a historical curiosity had not Joyce and a few other writers of his time found something in it that was worth the risk of puzzling his readers. It was formed in Middle English from in plus *wit*, the latter meaning the mind as the seat of consciousness and intelligence (we continue the idea when we talk about native wit or we describe somebody as having a quick wit). To have *inwit* meant that you had an inward sense of what was right and wrong – a conscience. Modern examples – they're rare enough for the word to be extremely unlikely to be in anybody's active vocabulary – almost always echo the complete phrase that Joyce employed, *agenbite of inwit*. This dates from 1340. In that year, a Kentish Benedictine monk, Dan Michelis of Canterbury (often called Michael of Northgate) translated a devotional manual from French into English and titled it *Ayenbite of Inwit*. *Ayenbite*, or *agenbite*, is literally "again-bite", a literal translation of the Latin word meaning "remorse". This has as its root the verb *mordere*, to bite (the Romans felt that remorse was the emotion that returned to savage you). The title meant "remorse of conscience".

No lessons learnt

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Sir, My heart goes out to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones in the ghastly three-train crash near Bahanaga railway station in Balasore district of Odisha, which is said to be the country's deadliest rail accident in more than 20 years. Over the years, while Indian Railways has seen growth in freight, passenger travel, infrastructure and expenditure, it has been faltering in terms of accidents. Sadly, derailments of trains never cease to occur, and there is a huge gap between the government's promises and the ground reality. There are several worrying gaps that point to action not matching the intent of the Railway Ministry. It seems the ministry has lost the sense of accountability and there is little value attached to the precious lives of the rail passengers. Every time a train accident occurs in India, it instantly brings to our memory of the great Lal Bahadur Shastri, who stepped down as the railway minister in November 1956, holding himself fully responsible for the infamous Ariyalur train accident in Tamil Nadu, which resulted in the loss of 142 precious lives. But then the former Prime Minister is often dismissed as too much of an idealist, and men like him would not survive in today's dog-eat-dog world.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Govt's inaction

Sir, This refers to the news report "Arrest WFI Chief by June 9: Farmers" (Orissa POST, June 3). I think this degree of threats from the farmer leaders at the 'khap mahapanchayat' may prove to be effective. The Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has said that all of us are in favour of a speedy investigation. Does the action of the government anyway suggest that investigation is being done with all sincerity? If sexual harassment allegations were levelled against any MP of the Opposition parties, the government at the Centre would not have wasted any time to send the accused behind the bars. When outgoing Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has been charged under various Indian Penal Code Sections, the government ought to have shown promptness in arresting him for immediate justice to the protesting wrestlers.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA



# national

## of the day quote

The BJP will have a very comfortable victory in next year's parliamentary elections and will win 330 seats

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

Pachpadra Refinery is an ambitious project not only for Rajasthan but for the whole country. This is the first refinery where a petro-chemical complex for the manufacture of petroleum by-products is being developed

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

A major success story of the Narendra Modi government has been the rise in the number of start-ups -- from just about 350 before 2014 to 92,683 now

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

## Nine Indian sailors released in Libya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Nine Indian sailors of a merchant vessel who were held captive for several months by a local militia in Libya have been released, people familiar with the development said Saturday.

After their release on Wednesday, the Indian nationals reached the Libyan capital of Tripoli where they were received by the Indian Ambassador to Tunisia.

It is learnt that the group contacted the Indian embassy in Tunisia on February 15 and told that Merchant Vessel MT Maya 1, where they were working, broke down near the coast of Libya and they have been taken into captivity by a local militia.

The mission immediately took up the matter with the Libyan authorities seeking consular access and to ensure safety and repatriation of the group to India as early as possible.

The Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian mission continued to follow up the matter with authorities concerned in Libya and kept the family members of the Indian nationals posted regularly about the developments in the case.

The group has been accommodated in a hotel in Tripoli till their exit visa formalities are completed, the people cited above said.

The ship is owned by a Greek company and carries the flag of Cameroon. It was sailing from Malta to Tripoli carrying petroleum products.



While medal winners and daughters have been demanding justice for months, the Prime Minister is silent and his government's ecosystem is defending the accused MP

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## RESTORATION TO END BY JUNE 15

The Border Road Organisation will complete restoration work on the Amarnath Yatra track by June 15, well before the Yatra commences on July 1



## ODISHA TRAIN CRASH

# Oppn leaders flag questions over safety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: Expressing shock and grief at the tragic train accident in Odisha, opposition leaders Saturday stressed the importance of prioritising the safety of passengers by railways, while there were also demands to fix accountability and for the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The Congress said the "horrendous" train accident in Odisha reinforces why safety should always be the foremost priority in the functioning of the rail network and asserted that there are many questions to ask of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Vaishnaw.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the train accident in Odisha is truly horrendous and is a matter of the greatest anguish. "It reinforces why SAFETY should always be the foremost priority in the functioning of the rail network. There are many legitimate questions that need to be raised but that should wait till tomorrow," Ramesh tweeted.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is a former railway minister twice and flew to the accident site on Saturday afternoon, demanded a proper investigation.



TMC spokesperson Saket Gokhale said there were serious questions about the accident that needed to be answered. "My fervent prayers for those affected & their families. ... That an alleged signalling failure led to 3 trains crashing is shocking beyond belief. There are serious questions which need answering," Gokhale tweeted.

CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya too raised the same question. "Do we no longer have any signalling and safety system in Indian railways? Or will such terrible tragedies become the new normal for rail travel in India? We owe an answer to the victims and to the families who lost their near and dear ones in this mishap," he said in a tweet.

The CPI and RJD demanded that Railway Minister Ashwini

Vaishnaw resign over the incident. "Government concentrates only on luxury trains. Trains and tracks of common people are neglected. Orissa deaths are the result of it. Rail minister should resign," CPI MP Binoy Viswam said in a tweet. Some Congress leaders also called for Vaishnaw's resignation.

The accident highlights the infrastructural deficiencies of the Railways and lapses in passenger safety, Bihar minister and JD(U) leader Sanjay Kumar Jha said. Gurdeep Singh Sappal, co-ordinator in the Congress president's office, said, "Resignation in such cases is expected not just on moral grounds. Resignation is also a means to ensure that those in power and accountability for the accident do not influence such 'high-level enquiry'."

## Govt bans 14 fixed dose combination drugs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: The government has banned 14 fixed dose combination drugs including Nimesulide and Paracetamol dispersible tablets and Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Codeine syrup citing there is "no therapeutic justification" for these medicines and that they may involve "risk" to people.

The Union Health Ministry issued a notification Friday in this regard. The banned drugs included those used for treating common infections, cough and fever - combinations such as Nimesulide + Paracetamol dispersible tablets, Chlorpheniramine Maleate + Codeine Syrup, Pholcodine + Promethazine, Amoxicillin + Bromhexine and Bromhexine + Dextromethorphan + Ammonium Chloride + Menthol, Paracetamol + Bromhexine + Phenylephrine + Chlorpheniramine + Guaiphenesin and Salbutamol + Bromhexine.

The move comes following recommendations by an expert committee. The expert committee said that there is "no therapeutic justification for this FDC (fixed dose combination) and the FDC may involve risk to human beings. Hence, in the larger public interest, it is necessary to prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of this FDC under section 26 A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.



# Sisodia's ailing wife rushed to hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: The Delhi High Court Saturday sought a report from the LNJP hospital on the health condition of AAP leader Manish Sisodia's ailing wife as it reserved its order on his interim bail plea for six weeks in a money laundering case arising from the alleged excise policy scam.

Senior advocate Mohit Mathur, appearing for Sisodia, told Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma that pursuant to the court's directions passed on Friday, the former Delhi deputy chief minister was taken in custody to meet his wife earlier in the day but the latter's health condition deteriorated and was taken to be LNJP hospital before he could reach home.

Mathur thus urged the court to release Sisodia, his sick wife's sole caretaker, on a temporary basis. "Arguments heard. Order reserved. Let a report be called from LNJP and be filed by today evening," said Justice Sharma after a hearing held on a court holiday.

On Friday the judge had directed the Tihar Jail Superintendent to take Sisodia to his residence where he was allowed to meet his ailing wife from 10 AM to 5 PM and listed the interim bail plea for consideration on June 3 after seeking a report from ED.

During the hearing, ED lawyer Zohab Hossain opposed the plea for interim bail on grounds of possibility of evidence tampering. He informed that an FIR has already been registered over "unauthorised removal" of certain docu-



ments from the special secretary vigilance's room.

"In the intervening night of the Supreme Court judgement on the services issue, there was unauthorised removal of several documents from the special secretary vigilance's room and including documents relating to the excise scam. This FIR has been registered. There is material which demonstrates that documents and evidence that are available probably with the department continue to be tampered with," Hossain said.

Mathur said ED was making an "argument of prejudice". Hossain also said Sisodia's wife has been suffering from such medical condition for the last 20 years and even the earlier pleas for interim bail on identical grounds were withdrawn by the former minister.

The agency's counsel further said Sisodia held 18 portfolios as a minister and he could not have been the sole caretaker of his wife under such circumstances.



Students practice yoga ahead of the International Day of Yoga in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

# SC STAYS ALLAHABAD HC ORDER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 3: The Supreme Court Saturday stayed an unusual order of the Allahabad High Court asking the head of the department of astrology of Lucknow University to decide whether a woman, an alleged rape victim, is 'manglik' or not.

The apex court, which held a special sitting on Saturday, took suo motu cognisance of the matter and ob-

served it doesn't understand why the "astrology report is called for" while hearing a bail application. The high court had passed the order on May 23 while hearing the bail plea of the man accused of raping the woman on the false promise of marriage.

The counsel for the man had argued before the high court that since the woman was a 'manglik', marriage between the two could not be solemnised and has been refused. However,

the counsel appearing for the woman had insisted before the high court she was not a 'manglik'.

According to Hindu astrology, a person born under the influence of the planet Mars (mangal) is believed to have 'mangal dosha' (affliction) and is called 'manglik'. Many superstitious Hindus believe marriage between a Manglik and a non-Manglik is inauspicious and can be disastrous. "Mr Mehta, you have seen this?" a

bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Pankaj Mishal asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared in the matter: "I have seen this. It is disturbing. I would request your lordships to kindly stay this order," Mehta said.

An advocate, appearing for the complainant, told the bench the high court passed the order with the consent of the parties. "But this was totally out of context. What's this got to do with the subject matter," the bench observed.

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. UIHEP-08/2023-24 DATE: 03.06.2023**  
No. CAD-827 - Tenders are invited in sealed envelopes from the registered trader/agencies/vehicle owners for providing services as mentioned below:

Description of Materials / Services	Cost of tender paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD in shape of DD/ Banker's Cheque only (Refundable) in Rs.	Period of sale / download of tender document	Last date & time of receipt of tender	Date & time of opening of Techno commercial bid
Hiring of a light vehicle i.e. (Boloro/ Sumo Gold/ TUV 300) for General Duty of UIHEP, Mukhiguda for (03) three years.	7,080/- (Inclusive of GST)	18,100/-	From 12.06.2023 to 23.06.2023 upto 13.00 Hrs.	23.06.2023 (upto 13.30 Hrs)	23.06.2023 at 16.30 Hrs.

For details of the tender documents, terms and conditions please visit our website [www.ohpcid.com](http://www.ohpcid.com)  
OIPR-04008/11/0010/2324 Sd/- C&P Head, UIHEP, Mukhiguda

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India**  
KALINGANAGAR BRANCH, K-7/351, Kalinganagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

**[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Kalinganagar Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices to the following Borrower(s)/Co-Applciant(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Co-Applciant(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules on the date mentioned hereunder. The Borrower(s)/Co-Applciant(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies & any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, Kalinganagar Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest, incidental expenses, costs & charges thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of the Borrower(s)/Co-Applciant(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Demand Notice Date / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable properties
<b>Borrower(s)/Co-Applciant(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) 1) M/s. Perfect IT Solutions, represented by Prop. Mr. Priyaranjan Barick,</b> of Plot No. A/82, Saheed Nagar, Near Canara Bank, Bhubaneswar-751003, 2) Mr. Priyaranjan Barick of Plot No. A/82, Saheed Nagar, Near Canara Bank, Bhubaneswar-751003	₹ 38,92,047.95 + interest & other charges thereon	31.05.2022 / 30.05.2023	EMD of vacant residential landed property situated at Mouza: Biswalpada within the Dist.: Cuttack Sadar, in respect of Mutation Khata No. 270/211, Plot No.: 551/931, Khata No.: 270/211, corresponding to consolidation Khata No.: 27, Chaka No.: 158, Plot No.: 551, Sub Plot No.: 42, Area: Ac.0.038dec., Sub Plot No.: 43, Area: Ac.0.038dec., Sub Plot No.: 44, Area: Ac.0.037.64dec., Total One Khata, One Plot, Three Sub Plots admeasuring Area: Ac.0.113.64dec. out of Area: Ac.0.450dec. i.e. 4950 sqft., KISSAM: Gharabari, Owned by- Mr. Priyaranjan Barick, Bounded by- North: Road, South: Plot No. 549, East: Road, West: Plot No. 548

Date: 03.06.2023  
Place: Bhubaneswar  
Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER, Union Bank of India

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT**  
IDENTIFICATION NO: RWS&S DIVN., BBSR - 07 OF 2023-24  
Tel- (0674) 2384108, E-Mail: [eerwss\\_bbsr@nic.in](mailto:eerwss_bbsr@nic.in)  
No. O-191- The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, BBSR on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in single cover system according to the norms of e-procurement system, in on-line mode from eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Nature of work	Deployment of manpower
1	No. of works	01(One)
2	Estimated Cost	Rs.42.21 lakhs (app.)
3	Time for completion	35 Months
4	Cost of bidding document	Rs.6000/-
5	Class of Contractors eligible	B & A
6	Availability of bids on-line	From 11 hours of 08.06.2023 to 17.00 hours of 22.06.2023
7	Last date and time for seeking clarification	17.00 hours of 16.06.2023
8	Date & time of opening of technical bids & financial bids	On dt 23.06.2023 at 11.30 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, BBSR (All documents should be submitted in online only. No original documents should be dropped in dropping box before opening of technical bid in Division Office).

Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>  
Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, BBSR  
OIPR-25011/11/0004/2324

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RWS&S DIVISION, JAGATSIINGHPUR**  
Tel. No. 06724-223485, mail- [rwssjpspur@gmail.com](mailto:rwssjpspur@gmail.com)

**e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. 10 of 2023-24**  
No. O-188- The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Jagatsinghpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage/ Lump sum composite bids in Single Cover system in online mode for reputed Firms/Electrical contractor's having valid HT Electrical License, GST Regd. No./PAN Card to execute electrical installation for H.T. work in different PWS Projects on Turn Key basis.

1. Name of work	: External Electrical work.
2. No. of work	: 04 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 927785/-, Rs.1065860/-, Rs. 1155756/- & Rs. 1283053/-
4. Cost of Tender Paper	: Rs.4000/- & Rs.6000/-
5. Class of Contractor	: HT License
6. Availability of Tender in website	: 09.06.2023 to 17.06.2023
7. Submission of Bid in online	: 09.06.2023 to 17.06.2023
8. Date of seeking clarification	: 09.06.2023 to 16.06.2023
9. Date of opening of bids	: 19.06.2023 (11.00 A.M.)
10. Name and address of O.I.T.	: Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Jagatsinghpur
11. All other details can be seen from the website	: <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a>
12. Bid cost and Bid security should be submitted in online mode.	
13. Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall only be appeared in above website.	

Sd/- Superintending Engineer  
RWS&S Divn., Jagatsinghpur  
OIPR-25024/11/0003/2324

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

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

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

POKHARIPUT BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property/ies
<b>Borrower: Mr. Kabir Das, S/o-Debdranath Das, Present Address: Flat No.: B104, Nageswar Residency, Nandan Vihar, Kalarahanga, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Odisha, PIN-751024, Permanent Address: Village: Padmapur, PO/PS: Jashipur, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha, PIN-757034</b>	₹ 48,78,068.78 as on 01.02.2023 + interest & expenses thereon	01.02.2023 / 31.05.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of residential Plot situated at Revenue Plot No.: 583, Khata No.: 162, Area: Ac.0.047.10 dec. (2052 sqft.) out of Total Area: Ac.0.84dec., Mouza: Nijgarh Kurukhi, Tehsil: Pipili, PS: Pipili, Dist.: Puri. The property is in the name of Mr. Kabir Das. The Plot is bounded by- North: Govt. Road, South: Part of the Plot, East: Part of the Plot, West: Revenue Plot No. 582.
<b>Borrowers: 1) Mr. Saroj Kumar Samantara &amp; 2) Mrs. Geetanjali Samantara, Both are At: Flat No.: H-142, Cosmopolis Apartment, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha, PIN-751019</b>	₹ 36,13,124.35 as on 10.11.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	10.11.2022 / 03.06.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of residential Plot situated at Plot No.: 1360, Khata No.: 255, Area: Ac.0.073.46dec. (3200 sqft.) out of Area Ac.0.187.50dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Balianta, PS/Tehsil/SRO: Balianta, Dist.: Khordha. The property is in the name of Mrs. Geetanjali Samantara. The Plot is bounded by- North: Revenue Plot No. 1359, South: Revenue Plot No. 1362 & 1361/2840 (Road), East: Other Revenue Plot, West: Road.

Date: 03.06.2023  
Place: Bhubaneswar  
Authorized Officer, Bank of India





# BLOODBATH ON TRACKS

A devastating crash involving three trains near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district has claimed 288 lives and left hundreds injured, many of them critically. Orissa POST takes a close look at the mishap that left a trail of destruction



CM Naveen Patnaik, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi and ST Secretary VK Pandian at the mishap site



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at a hospital in Balasore



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee addresses media in presence of the Railways Minister at the crash site

## Guilty won't be spared, says PM; rail safety should be prioritised: CM

AGENCIES

Balasore, June 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday assured stringent action against the guilty in the Balasore train crash that claimed at least 288 lives, while Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said railway safety should always be prioritised.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the accident site and meeting the injured persons at a hospital in Balasore district, Modi said he was unable to find words to express his pain. "The government has taken the incident very seriously. No one would be spared and strong action would be taken against those found guilty in this mishap," he said, adding that instructions have been given to ensure

proper and speedy investigation of the tragedy. The PM said that it was not possible to bring back those killed in the incident, but the government stands solidly behind their families. "No stone will be left unturned to provide all possible medical help to those injured," he said. Noting that this train accident will be a lesson for the country, he said the government will further stress on the safety of the passengers. He lauded the efforts of the Odisha government in the rescue and relief operations, and commended the locals who turned up in large numbers for blood donation, and to help those injured.

Earlier in the day, CM Naveen visited Balasore hospital and interacted with the injured passengers and treating doctor team.

### MODI, NAVEEN PRAISE BALASORE RESIDENTS FOR GENEROSITY IN HELPING TRAIN MISHAP VICTIMS

AGENCIES

Tam deeply distressed by the extremely tragic train accident, I have to thank the local people and local team who have worked overnight to save people from the wreckage. Railway safety should always be prioritised," Patnaik told media persons.

After arriving here in an Air Force helicopter, Modi visited the accident site at Bahanaga and took stock of relief and restoration operations. He was accompanied by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Union Education

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, an MP from the state. The prime minister was briefed on the situation by Vaishnaw and officers of the disaster management teams that worked overnight to rescue people.

He also interacted with state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Malik and officers of the local police. From the accident site, he spoke to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandavdiya, directing them to ensure all needed help to the injured and their families.

Modi said that special care must be taken to ensure that the bereaved families do not face any inconvenience and that those affected keep getting assistance. He also enquired about the progress of the restoration work at the site, which is a part of the Howrah-Chennai Main Line that connects east India to the south. "Took stock of the situation at the site of the tragedy in Odisha. Words can't capture my deep sorrow. We stand committed to providing all possible assistance to those affected. I laud all those working round the clock, on the ground and helping out in relief work," he later tweeted.

The prime minister also went to the Balasore district hospital, where he interacted with the injured persons.

Among the persons he spoke to, one was from Jharkhand, one from West Bengal and three from Odisha. He enquired about their condition and if they were facing any issues with the treatment. He assured them that all necessary steps were being taken to mitigate their plight. The prime minister also interacted with doctors and health personnel there.

Before visiting Odisha, he had chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi on the train accident, which happened on Friday evening. PM Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to take stock of the situation in the wake of the train mishap in Odisha. Aspects relating to rescue, relief and medical attention to those affected were discussed in the review meeting," his office tweeted.

## Hospitals bursting with patients, medical staff overworked

AGENCIES

Balasore, June 3: The Balasore district hospital and Soro hospital where the injured have been rushed after a triple train accident, are bursting at their seams as the huge flow of patients has crammed up every room with patients spilling out on corridors.

Harried medical staff were seen trying to bring succour to patients, many of whom are from states other than Odisha and had difficulties in communicating. In all till mid-day, some 526 railway accident victims have been admitted to Balasore district hospital.

Mrutunjay Mishra, Additional District Medical Officer (ADMO), Balasore district headquarters hospital said, "I am in the profession for many decades, but have never seen such chaos in my life... All of a sudden 251 accident injured persons rushed into our hospital and we were not at all prepared. Our staff worked all through the night and provided first aid to all."

Sixty-four patients were referred to SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack. Now we have 60 patients in beds. Others were discharged after minor surgery. "We were in fact surprised as a large number of youths made a beeline to donate blood here. We collected around 500 units of blood overnight. Thanks all. It is a lifetime experience. Now things are quite normal," he said.

Police and locals have been volunteering to donate blood at Balasore district hospital and other hospitals through the night, said officials. More than 2,000 people gathered at the Balasore Medical College and Hospital in the night to help the injured, and many also donated blood, officials said.

The morgue at the hospital was a pile of white shrouded bodies, many of them yet to be identified as relatives are yet to make their way to the town with many train services cancelled or delayed due to the accident on a major railway trunk route.

Jagdeb Patra who is admitted to Balasore Hospital with fracture in both

hands said he was travelling to Chennai. Many people, including many from West Bengal, were frantically visiting the Balasore Hospital and Soro in search of their missing relatives and friends.

The injured have been rushed to Balasore, Soro, Bhadrak, Jajpur Hospital and SCB Medical College in Cuttack.

Mukesh Pandit, an injured passenger from Jharkhand, who was going to Chennai in the Coromandel Express told PTI that he "never realised when the accident occurred only regained consciousness to realise he was in extreme pain."

Doctors from AIIMS-Bhubaneswar have been dispatched to Balasore and Cuttack in Odisha to assist in the relief operations at the train accident site, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandavdiya said Saturday.

"Two teams of doctors from AIIMS-Bhubaneswar have been dispatched for Balasore and Cuttack to assist in relief operations at the rail accident site in Odisha," Mandavdiya said on Twitter.

"We are providing all required help and medical assistance to the victims of the tragic train accident to save precious lives," he added.

### Locals line up to donate blood



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 3: Hundreds of local youths have lined up in hospitals to donate blood for the injured victims of the devastating train tragedy in Balasore district.

As news of the accident that occurred Friday evening spread, the youths lined up throughout the night at the Balasore district headquarters hospitals in Balasore and Bhadrak to donate blood.

As per latest information, over 238 persons have been confirmed dead and more than 900 others injured in the massive train mishap which occurred near

the Bahanaga station. As a result of the accident, 17 coaches of the Supermandal Express and SMVT-Howrah Raj Express derailed.

"We (about 25 volunteers) have come here to the Balasore hospital to donate blood voluntarily. If our blood can save someone's life, no other thing can bring happiness like this," said a volunteer, who was standing in a queue. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited the Balasore hospital and interacted with the injured passengers.

He thanked the local people and administration for saving the lives of so many people.



Volunteers distribute food to the affected in Balasore  
1 Passengers face a tough time at Bhubaneswar railway station  
2 NDRF and ODRAF personnel at the mishap site  
3 Tricolour at half-mast at Raj Bhawan

## World leaders extend support to India, condole loss of lives

AGENCIES

London/Moscow, June 3: World leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, expressed their condolences to the families and the government of India Saturday over one of the country's worst train accidents that killed at least 288 people.

The accident, involving three trains, is one of the worst in the country and took place in Odisha's Balasore district Friday night. The accident also injured 803 people.

Russian President Putin expressed his condolences in a Telegram to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Please accept our deep condolences over the tragic aftermath of the train collision in Odisha. We share the grief of those who lost their relatives and close ones in this catastrophe and we hope for a speedy recovery to everyone injured," says the Telegram,

published on the Kremlin's website. UK Prime Minister Sunak extended his heartfelt support and admiration to the survivors and those working tirelessly in the rescue operations.

"My thoughts and prayers are with @narendramodi and with all affected by the tragic events in Odisha. My deepest condolences to the family and friends of those killed, and my heartfelt support and admiration to the survivors and those working tirelessly to respond," Sunak tweeted.

Chinese President Xi sent separate condolence messages to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi over the train accident, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Japan's Prime Minister Kishida sent a condolence message to Prime Minister Modi following the train accident. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the loss of many precious lives in the train accident in the State of Odisha. I pray for the souls of the victims and extend my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I also sincerely hope that those who were

injured will recover swiftly," Hayashi said. Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau said at this difficult time, Canadians are standing with the people of India. "The images and reports of the train crash in Odisha, India break my heart. I'm sending my deepest condolences to those who lost loved ones, and I'm keeping the injured in my thoughts. At this difficult time, Canadians are standing with the people of India," Trudeau tweeted.

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda", who is on a four-day visit to India, tweeted, "I'm saddened by

My thoughts and prayers are with @narendramodi and with all affected by the tragic events in Odisha. My deepest condolences to the family and friends of those killed, and my heartfelt support and admiration to the survivors and those working tirelessly to respond

those affected in the accident. "Deeply saddened to learn of the tragic train accident in Odisha. My thoughts & prayers are with the families of the victims & those injured. I hope for a speedy recovery for all those affected. Sri Lanka stands with India in this time of grief," Ali Sabry tweeted. Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering tweeted, "Sending prayers to @narendramodi and the people of India as we hear developments of the tragic train crash in Odisha. May the loved ones find strength, as they come to terms with the loss and horror. We share your pain and pray for quick healing."

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## Deadliest crashes in Indian Railways' history

The train crash in Odisha Friday, involving the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train in which at least 288 people have been killed and 803 injured, is one of the deadliest such accidents since independence, data shows. Here is a look at other such deadliest train crashes-

June 6, 1981 India recorded its worst train accident that occurred in Bihar. A train fell into the Bagmati river while crossing a bridge, killing more than 750 people.

August 20, 1995 Purushottam Express collided with the stationary Kalindi Express near Ferozabad in Uttar Pradesh. The official death toll was around 305.

August 2, 1999 The Gaisal train disaster occurred when Brahmaputra Mail crashed into the stationary Avadh Assam Express at Gaisal station in North Frontier Railway's



India recorded its worst train accident that occurred in Bihar June 6, 1981

in Punjab's Khanna, killing 212 people.

November 20, 2016 The Pukhrayan train derailed on October 14 when 14 coaches of Indore-Rajendra Nagar Express derailed at Pukhrayan, approximately 60 km from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, killing 152 people and injuring 260.

May 28, 2010 Jnaneswari Express derailed near Jhargram in West Bengal and was then hit by an oncoming goods train, killing 148 passengers.

September 9, 2002 The Rafiganj train wreck occurred when Howrah Rajdhani Express derailed over a bridge on the Dhare river in Bihar's Rafiganj, killing more than 140 people. Terrorist sabotage was blamed for the incident.

December 23, 1964 The Pamban-Dhanuskodi passenger train was washed away by the Rameswaram cyclone, killing over 126 passengers on board.



# Seizure of meth in Himachal leaves law enforcers worried

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, June 3:** A recent seizure of methamphetamine in Solan district has triggered concerns that after adulterated heroin 'chitta', this recreational drug too is making inroads into Himachal Pradesh. Although the amount recovered is small, this is the first time that the drug has been seized in the state, police said.

"The seizure of meth is a serious issue as entry of high-end drugs in Himachal implies that the availability of 'chitta' has turned the state into a drug consuming market, and now new drugs are being introduced," SP, Solan, Virender Sharma told PTI.

Three people, including two from Kharar in Punjab, were arrested last week with 1.56 gm of methamphetamine or meth and 22 gm of chitta in Parwanoo last week.

The trio had come to hand over the drugs in Parwanoo for Rs 10,000, he added. Meth is considered more lethal than other drugs as on an average, 4.8 per cent of its users required emergency medical attention after consumption, according to the Global Drug Survey.

Meth, which gives an instant high, is used in rave parties and mixed with other drugs to make them more addictive.

Recovery of meth is an indication that either rave parties are being organised or the drug is being used for adulteration. Whatever may be the case, the situation is serious, former Director



## LETHAL DRUG

- Meth is considered more lethal than other drugs as on an average, 4.8 per cent of its users required emergency medical attention after consumption, according to the Global Drug Survey
- Meth, which gives an instant high, is used in rave parties and mixed with other drugs to make them more addictive
- Meth is a substitute of amphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant that makes chitta 120 times more addictive

of the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) Arun Sharma said.

Earlier, meth was mixed with chitta along with other synthetic drugs but now it is coming in crystal form which is more dangerous and there is a need to understand

the dynamics and roots of drug trafficking through inter-agency coordination, said former convenor cum advisor of HP Nasha Nivaran Board O P Sharma. "Recovery of meth is a pointer that smugglers might be aiming at producing chitta locally," he said. Opium - the base material for heroin is grown in Kullu and Mandi districts - and it is easy to siphon acetic anhydride, an industrial chemical used for chitta production.

Meth is a substitute of amphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant that makes chitta 120 times more addictive, Sharma, who is also a member of the Institute of Narcotics Studies and Analysis, told PTI. Chitta consumption has increased manifold in the state in the past few years and the seizure increased from 3.4 kg in 2017 to 11.52 kg in 2022.

Over 1,500 cases under NDPS are registered in the state every year, with over 2,000 arrests.

# Muslim body in Meghalaya seeks 4% job quota

ACCORDING TO THE 2011 CENSUS, CHRISTIANS CONSTITUTE 74.59 PER CENT OF MEGHALAYA'S 29.67 LAKH POPULATIONS, WHILE MUSLIMS AND HINDUS CONSTITUTE 4.40 PER CENT AND 11.53 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



**Shillong, June 3:** A local organisation in Meghalaya has demanded 4 per cent reservations in government jobs for the members of the Muslim community.

The Anti-Corruption League (ACL), representing the 'Desi' Muslims inhabiting the plains of Garo Hills region, has written to Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma demanding 4 per cent reservations in government jobs for Muslims in the state, which is dominated by Christians.

The ACL letter was sent to the Chief Minister Tuesday, the day when the Meghalaya government reconstituted a committee to chalk out a plan to implement the reservation roster system and the state reservation policy.

A spokesman of ACL said Wednesday that in the letter, it was mentioned that the state's non-tribal population was 20 per cent when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972.

"Despite being a part of Assam and the Assamese culture for centuries, the 'Desi' Muslims extended their support for a separate hill state with high hopes that their rights and socio-economic aspirations will be protected and accommodated in the new state," the ACL said. "In the historic tripartite meeting among the Central government representatives, non-tribal leadership led by then member of District Council Akramuz Zaman and the tribal leadership led by Captain Williamson A. Sangma (Meghalaya's first Chief Minister), the non-tribals were assured of equal opportunities and fair play by the tribal leaders," the ACL said.

The letter added: "It was also promised that our rights and aspirations, our growth and development will be given equal priority and importance as that of the tribal people of Meghalaya. But the assurances were never fulfilled." The ACL pointed out that the present reservation system in Meghalaya not only deprives the meritorious, but has also created

a group of people who are subjected to injustice and widespread inequalities.

According to the 2011 Census, Christians constitute 74.59 per cent of Meghalaya's 29.67 lakh populations, while Muslims and Hindus constitute 4.40 per cent and 11.53 per cent, respectively.

Meghalaya's 51-year-old job reservation policy entails 80 per cent quota for three matrilineal communities - Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia. The quota is divided equally between the Garos and the Khasi-Jaintia people together.

The Garo tribals are educationally more backward and numerically lower than the Khasi-Jaintia people, and they have hardly been able to get the full benefit of the reservation of 40 per cent.

A person named Z.R. Marak had earlier approached the Meghalaya High Court claiming that other communities were using up the quota meant for the Garo people in violation of the relevant laws.

April 21, the high court had asked the Meghalaya government

to introduce a roster system that would be relevant only for entry-level posts.

Last week, a local outfit, Voice of the People Party (VPP), had organised an indefinite hunger strike in Shillong demanding the review of the reservation policy and the implementation of the roster system prospectively, not retrospectively. Responding to VPP's demand, the state government reconstituted a committee comprising 12 members to discuss the reservation policy and the roster system.

Apart from two senior government officials, the committee has one representative from each political party.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mukul Sangma has demanded implementation of the existing job reservation policy in letter and spirit, stating that the main issues facing the state's youth today are inadequate jobs, livelihood opportunities and sustainable livelihood outside the government sector; and creation of government jobs.

# 117 out of 147 'black spots' treated in Himachal: CM



AGENCIES

**Shimla, June 3:** As many as 117 'black spots' (accident-prone areas) out of 147 identified by the government across Himachal Pradesh have been treated and directions issued to fix the remaining 30 such spots, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Saturday.

Sukhu said a sum of Rs 16 crore will be spent on the Inspection and Certification Centre at Baddi for vehicles, so that only mechanically perfect vehicles are allowed to ply in the state, according to an official statement.

The state government has devised a legal mechanism to challan private buses from other states plying without paying taxes and proper registration. In order to give more teeth to motor vehicle inspectors, they have now been authorized for challaning vehicles defying rules, he added.

The state government is taking up the issues of national highways and four lanes time and again with the Centre and Sukhu has mooted an idea of 'Green Corridor' Highways in the state, besides giving directions to maintain and refurbish the link roads within the state to facilitate commuters, the statement said.

An Advanced Traffic Management System has been prepared under which emergency call boxes along with high-tech CCTV cameras, automatic traffic counter-cum-classifiers, vehicle actuated speed displays and overhead driver feedback system, variable message sign, video incident detection system and Met device are also being installed, it added.

The CM also directed to increase the number of display boards related to speed limits. He urged the National Highways Authority of India to provide financial assistance for the Integrated Command Center, the statement said.

# Arunachal constructing 50 small hydropower plants along China border

THE PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY IN THE BORDER OUTPOSTS UNDER THE BORDER VILLAGE ILLUMINATION PROGRAMME

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Itanagar, June 3:** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has said that his government is constructing about 50 small hydropower projects in the border outposts (BOPs) along the China border under the border village illumination programme.

Addressing a function on the occasion of celebration of 2 Arunachal Scouts' 10 years at Bomdila, he said that several small hydropower projects are already functioning and providing power to the nearby villages as well as Army units posted there.

Khandu said that as a legislator of a constituency (Jang-Mukto) that sits on the border with Tibet (China) in Tawang sector, he has always had respect and confidence in the Indian Army.

"At least once a year, I make it a point to visit the border outposts of my constituency, especially the Mago-Chuna sector. Besides meeting the people there, I always take time out to spend some quality time with the jawans posted along the border."



He said that the presence of youths of Arunachal Pradesh and other northeastern states donning Arunachal Scouts insignia made him swell with pride, and lauded the army units posted in Arunachal Pradesh for their bonding with the civilian population.

He said that the people of Arunachal Pradesh, who are born patriots, have immense respect for the Indian Army and thus bond

with them well in every sphere.

"Here, no civilian programme - be it a music festival, indigenous festival, health camp or any sporting event - is complete without participation of the Army. Likewise, no programme of the Army is complete without participation of the civilians," he remarked.

About the Vibrant Village Program (VVP) of the Central government to transform all villages

along the border, Khandu sought cooperation of the Indian Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in its successful implementation.

"The Indian Army and CAPFs like ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles, are posted all along the border. Their cooperation will be of utmost importance in implementing the ambitious VVP of the central government," he said.

At least once a year, I make it a point to visit the border outposts of my constituency, especially the Mago-Chuna sector. Besides meeting the people there, I always take time out to spend some quality time with the jawans posted along the border

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

For the convenience of the troops posted in high terrains, Khandu assured that all efforts are being made to ensure connectivity in both road and telecommunication sectors. While roads are reaching all remote outposts, he informed, more than thousand 4G towers are being installed all along the border.

Khandu also said that the state government is pursuing with the Central government to strengthen the Arunachal Scouts with more companies besides raising an ITBP unit specifically for Arunachal Pradesh. He requested the Army and CAPF units posted in the state to provide training to local unemployed youths in preparation for recruitment drives conducted every now and then including those under the Agniveer programme.

# 86 per cent of rural households in Mizoram get tap water connections

AGENCIES

**Aizawl, June 3:** Mizoram Deputy Chief Minister Tawnluia Friday claimed that 86 per cent of rural households in the north-eastern state have been provided with tap water connections under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission.

He said that 1.14 lakh of 1.33 lakh rural households in the state have been benefited.

The deputy chief minister said 2,013 of 2,168 schools and 1,526 of 1,583 Anganwadi centres have received tap water connections.

He said the state government has set a target to provide tap water connection to 22,485 rural households this year.

Of this, 4,318 households have been covered so far, he said.



# Unauthorised businesses eat into hoteliers' earnings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, June 3:** Eleven lakh vehicles, including two lakh tourist vehicles, entered Shimla city during May, an increase of 15 per cent over the same month last year, according to police data.

However, despite the increase in numbers, the hotel owners are unhappy as occupancy in hotels remained low and they claimed that unauthorised businesses are eating into their share.

A maximum number of 7.15 lakh vehicles coming from Chandigarh entered through Shogi, 2.04 vehicles coming from Upper Shimla and Kinnaur from Fagu and 1.87 from Mandi and Bilaspur from Heeranagar, according to police data.

There was a 15 per cent increase in the number of vehicles entering Shimla in May as compared to the same month last year. A total of 11.06 lakh vehicles including 2.09 lakh tourist vehicles entered the city last month,

Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI.

The hotel occupancy was 40-50 per cent during the weekdays and it varied between 70-90 per cent on the weekends.

The occupancy did not go up despite discount giving offers by the hotels and the

DESPITE THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES ENTERING SHIMLA, HOTEL OWNERS ARE UNHAPPY AS OCCUPANCY IN HOTELS REMAINED LOW

tourist inflow was not commensurate with the number of vehicles entering the city, said M K Seth, president of the Tourism Industry Stakeholders Association.



Unregistered businesses running in the city are eating into the profit of the hoteliers, who are paying heavy commercial taxes, and the government must rein in the operators of unregistered ho-

tels and homes as it causes loss to the state exchequer, he added.

Despite heavy vehicular traffic, no major traffic snarl was witnessed as the "One-minute traffic light plan" at entry points was in

place to reduce congestion, the SP said. Stopping vehicles for 10-20 minutes at the entry has ensured the smooth plying of vehicles in the city. Breakdown of goods carriers, public transport and tourist vehi-

cles accompanied by a sudden change in weather was the hiccup in managing traffic but halting vehicles has worked, he said.

The police have proposed setting up traffic lights at 10 points to ensure smooth and hassle-free traffic movement in the city. The new system will reduce the time to drive past the city during peak hours from 60-90 minutes to 15-25 minutes, claims police.

The new plan has evoked mixed reactions and some people took to social networking sites, expressing their unhappiness and said that the new plan has increased the traffic woes in the city and leaving and entering the city has become a tedious task. "There are no traffic jams during school time and we are reaching school on time," says Rajvir Rathore, a student of Chapslee School.

"Our friends told us that you would be stuck in traffic in Shimla for hours but we were delighted to see smooth traffic movement," said a tourist from Delhi.



of the day **quote**

The recommendation of the Law Commission that examined the validity and relevance of section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is a case of the doctor prescribing a cure that is worse than the disease

I had stated earlier that we are mulling to introduce a law on it (love jihad). We are studying various existing laws in this connection

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling BJP being silent over the sexual harassment charges levelled by wrestlers against outgoing Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the message is enough for those investigating the matter

**SHORT TAKES**

**Girl electrocuted**

**Mumbai:** A six-year-old girl was electrocuted and another boy was injured when they came in contact with a lamp pole having live electric current, the BMC Disaster Control said here Saturday. The incident which took place just before midnight at Chaitanya Colony in Vakola, Santacruz East, was reported early Saturday morning and rescue teams were rushed.

**5 dead, 9 injured**

**Purnea (Bihar):** Five people, including two girls, were killed and nine others injured when the car they were travelling in collided with a truck on National Highway 31 in Bihar's Purnea district Saturday, police said. The accident took place near Ufrel Chowk in Maranga police station area around 1:45 pm when the deceased were going to attend a wedding function in Khagaria.

**CLASSIFIED**

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Kirit Kumar Kantilal Thakar, S/o. Late Kantilal Thakar, New Colony, Opp. Hotel Swagat, Rayagada, Odisha- 765001 declare by this Affidavit No.5886 that now onwards I shall be known as Kirit Kumar Thakar for all the future purposes.

I, Varsha Kirit Thakar, Wife of Kirit Kumar Thakar, New Colony, Opp. Hotel Swagat, Rayagada, Odisha- 765001 declare by this Affidavit No.-5885 that now onwards I shall be known as Varsha K Thakar for all the future purposes.

I, Vinit Kumar Thakar, S/o. Kirit Kumar Thakar, New Colony, Opp. Hotel Swagat, Rayagada, Odisha- 765001 declare by this Affidavit No.- 0861 that now onwards I shall be known as Vinit Kumar Kirit Thakar for all the future purposes.



**FISHERMEN FREED**  
Pakistan has released 200 Indian fishermen, who were handed over to BSF authorities at the Joint Check Post at the Attari-Wagah border in Amritsar, an official said Saturday

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## Was under pressure to delay verdict: Ex-judge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Meerut (UP), June 3:** Justice (retired) Sudhir Agarwal, who was part of an Allahabad High Court bench which delivered a key judgment in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit in 2010, said he was under "pressure" not to give the ruling and added that had they not done so, there would not have been any verdict in the matter for the next 200 years.

Justice Agarwal retired from the high court on April 23, 2020. Talking to reporters after an event in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, he said, "After delivering the judgment... I felt blessed... There was pressure on me to postpone the judgment in the case. There was pressure from within home and also from outside."

"Family members and relatives used to suggest to somehow pass time and not deliver the judgment," he added. "Had the judgment not been delivered on September 30, 2010 in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, there would not have been any judgement in this matter for the next 200 years," he said.

On September 30, 2010, the



IN A LANDMARK JUDGMENT IN NOVEMBER 2019, THE SUPREME COURT SAID A TEMPLE WOULD BE BUILT AT THE DISPUTED LAND IN AYODHYA AND ORDERED THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE MUSLIM PARTIES AN ALTERNATIVE FIVE-ACRE PLOT

Allahabad High Court pronounced its judgement with majority decision of 2:1 and held that the 2.77 acres land located in Ayodhya would be divided equally among three parties - Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and 'Ram Lalla' or infant Ram represented by the Hindu Mahasabha.

## Man stabs girlfriend 51 times with screwdriver

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Raipur, June 3:** A man allegedly killed his girlfriend by stabbing her 51 times with a screwdriver in Chhattisgarh's Korba district after he alleged that she was having an affair with another person. The victim has been identified as Neelam Kusum Panna and the accused Shahbaz.

Shahbaz, who used to work as a bus conductor, befriended Neelam, a resident of Pump Colony in CSEB police station area of Korba. When he left for Gujarat in search of a new job, the relationship began to turn sour. But as time passed, they again started communicating with each other and started to grow closer.

Despite this, Shahbaz started doubting that Kusum was in love with another man.

A day before Christmas last year, Shahbaz reached Korba from Gujarat and then went straight to Kusum's house where she was prepping for the festivities.

She was alone in the house and a fight between Kusum and Shahbaz ensued. Shahbaz then attacked Kusum with a screwdriver, stabbing her 34 times on the chest and 16 times on the back.

An attempt was made to politicise this murder as a case of 'love jihad' since Kusum was a tribal



According to National Crime Records Bureau data, at least three murder and rape cases are being registered in Chhattisgarh every day

In July 2022, a youth in the state capital Raipur had killed his girlfriend by hitting her with a hammer and was later awarded death sentence

woman and Shahbaz was a Muslim. Shahbaz confessed to his crime after he was apprehended by the police.

He had reached Chhattisgarh from Gujarat via plane, which was also confirmed by the plane ticket recovered from Kusum's room by the police.

Many similar cases have been reported in the state as a result of a relationship gone wrong.

In July 2022, a youth in the state capital Raipur had killed his girlfriend by hitting her with a hammer and was later awarded a death sentence.

## Punjab cops on alert

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Amritsar, June 3:** Just days ahead of the 39th anniversary of the Indian Army's "Operation Bluestar", a hoax bomb call near the Golden Temple Saturday has put the Punjab Police on alert with the deployment of a bomb disposal squad at the spot.

Four persons, including three children, were taken into preventing custody for making the call to the police. Officials said the police received a call at around 1 a.m. about planting four bombs near the Golden Temple.

Operation Bluestar was a military action ordered by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to flush out militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindrawale holed up in the Golden Temple complex. The operation was carried out between June 1 and 8, 1984, and claimed several lives and left the shrine and complex damaged.



This time keeping in view the "Operation Bluestar" anniversary that falls on June 6, Punjab Police has beefed up the security across the state to ensure peaceful observance of this week. Police teams have been conducting flag marches in the sensitive and vulnerable areas as a measure to instil the confidence among the public in all 28 police districts, officials said.

Special DGP (Law and Order) Arpit Shukla said Commissioners of Police and Senior Superintendents of Police have been directed to conduct flag marches in the sensitive areas of their respective districts. Police teams have also apprehended 368 suspicious persons during flag marches.

"Punjab Police will ensure peaceful observance of the Operation Bluestar anniversary for which foolproof arrangements are in place and adequate security has also been deployed across the state," said Shukla.

## Jilted lover kills self

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 3:** A 24-year-old jilted lover tried to slit the throat of a 19-year-old teenager and later committed suicide in Delhi's Rohini area, an official said Saturday.

The teenager is undergoing treatment and her condition remains critical, added the official.

According to police, a police control room regarding the slitting of the throat of one 19-year-old girl at sector-24 in Rohini was received following which a police team rushed to the spot.

"The injured girl, a resident of Rithala, was shifted to BSA hospital where she is under treatment. In the preliminary enquiry, it was revealed that the alleged Amit, a resident of JJ colony in sector 25, Rohini has also committed suicide by hanging himself in the same office of the company 'Creative Concept Design' which is being run by his sister and brother-in-law (Anil)," said a senior police official.



A woman ties thread around a banyan tree as part of rituals of Vat Savitri puja in Mumbai

## Intelligent minds take longer time to solve difficult problems: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 3:** People with higher intelligence were found to take more time to solve difficult problems than those with lower intelligence, in a new study that wanted to understand how the brain's decision-making processes work.

Those with lower intelligence, or those with reduced synchrony between brain areas, were found to "jump to conclusions" when making decisions, rather than waiting until their other brain regions could complete the processing steps needed to solve the problem.

Researchers in the study from Berlin Institute of Health at Charite (BIH) and Charite - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany, performed brain simulations of 650 participants "personalised brain models", created using data from these people to refine a "general" human brain model. The "general" model was initially constructed using digital data from MRI brain scans as well as mathematical models based on biological processes.



Publishing their findings in the journal Nature Communications, the researchers also found that while the higher intelligence models also needed more time to solve challenging tasks, they made fewer errors. The human brain's amazing range of capabilities is made possible by the 100 billion or so neurons, each of which connects with an estimated 1,000 neighbouring or distant neurons to form an unfathomable network. MRI scans showed slower solvers to have a higher average functional connectivity, or temporal synchrony, between their brain regions, something further corroborated by in silico brain models used in the study. The models revealed this greater synchrony to allow neural circuits in the frontal lobe to hold off on de-

## Austin arrives today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 3:** US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin will pay a two-day visit to India beginning Sunday to discuss ways to further expand the bilateral strategic engagement ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Washington.

People familiar with Austin's visit said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the US defence secretary are set to discuss a number of new defence cooperation projects that are set to be unveiled after Modi's talks with US President Joe Biden in Washington more than two weeks later.

China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region as well as along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and ways to combat the threat of terrorism are likely to figure in the talks between Singh and Austin on Monday, they said.

The US defence secretary will arrive in India from Singapore Sunday on a two-day visit, the defence ministry said.

It will be Austin's second visit to India. His previous trip to the country was in March 2021.

The ministry said Germany's Federal Minister of Defence Boris



Pistorius will also visit New Delhi for bilateral talks with Singh that will take place on June 6. A host of bilateral defence cooperation issues, with a focus on industrial cooperation, are likely to be discussed during Singh's meetings with Austin and Pistorius, it said. "US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and German Federal Minister of Defence Boris Pistorius are visiting New Delhi for bilateral talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh," the ministry said in a statement. "The Defence Minister's meeting with the US Secretary of Defence will be held on June 5, while talks with the German Federal Minister of Defence will take place on June 6," it added. The India-US defence and strategic ties have been on an upswing in the last few years.

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# international



**We averted an economic crisis, an economic collapse. It was critical to reach an agreement, and it's very good news for the American people**  
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

## ERDOGAN TAKES OATH AS TURKIYE PM

Turkiye's longtime leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, took the oath of office Saturday, ushering in his third presidential term that followed three stints as prime minister. Erdogan, 69, won a new five-year term in a runoff presidential race last week that could stretch his 20-year rule in the key NATO country that straddles Europe and Asia into a quarter-century



## of the day quote

The lack of unity and action in the Security Council does little to slow the negative trajectory on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea is unconstrained, and other parties are compelled to focus on military deterrence  
ROSEMARY DICARLO | POLITICAL CHIEF, UN

Sudan is at a critical stage of its history with a heightened risk of civil war if the conflict continues  
MICHEL BIANG | UN AMBASSADOR, GABON

Expansion of the BRICS bloc is still a work in progress and members of the five-nation grouping are approaching the idea with a positive intent and an open mind  
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

# Texas bans treatment for transgender minors

*Transgender rights have increasingly become a hot-button issue in US politics, with Democrats decrying moves such as the Texas and Florida laws as encroaching on fundamental rights*

AGENCIES

**Washington, June 3:** Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed into law Friday a ban on treatment for transgender minors, making his state the largest in the United States to place restrictions on youth access to such care.

Abbott followed in the footsteps of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a fellow Republican, who signed a similar bill in May. Texas and Florida are the second and third most populous states in the US.

The Texas law bans medical professionals from prescribing hormone blockers or performing gender transitioning surgeries to anyone under 18 years old. It comes into effect September 1.

The legislation includes an exception for minors already receiving puberty blockers or hormone therapy, but requires that they "shall wear off the prescription drug over a period of time and in a manner that is safe and medically appropriate."

On Friday, the American Civil



Liberties Union of Texas said it would be filing a suit against the state's ban.

"Abbott can't stop trans youth

from thriving in Texas - and we'll take him to court to make sure of it," the rights organization said in a tweet.

Following the passage of the bill by the Texas state legislature last month, US rights organizations - including ACLU of Texas, as well as Lambda Legal and Transgender Law Centre - said the law banned "medically necessary health care."

"Texas Senate Bill 14 bans the only evidence-based care for gender dysphoria for transgender people under 18 and aims to strip doctors of their medical licenses for providing their patients with the care they know to be medically necessary," the groups said in a statement.

More than a dozen Republican-

led states have passed similar bans in recent months.

In March, President Joe Biden said that such "attacks" on transgender rights were "un-American and must end."

More than half of transgender and nonbinary youth in Texas had seriously considered suicide during 2022, according to a survey that year by the Trevor Project, a non-profit organization engaged in suicide prevention efforts among LGBTQ+ youth.

"LGBTQ young people are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, but rather placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized in society," the survey said.

## ECONOMIC CRISIS

# Pak allows barter trade with Russia, Iran, Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, June 3:** In a bid to ease the mounting pressure on its fast-depleting foreign reserves, cash-starved Pakistan has announced a barter trade agreement with Russia, Iran and Afghanistan for certain goods.

The Ministry of Commerce issued the Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) - a declaration outlining the procedure - allowing both state-owned and private enterprises to engage in goods-for-goods trade, with a specific requirement for private enterprises to be listed as active taxpayers by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).



It stated that authorised agents will submit applications through FBR's online portal to initiate trade.

The application will undergo a review and examination process in accordance with the prevailing Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and Export Promotion Office (EPO) regulations, as well as the conditions specified in the order, it said.

If the application meets the necessary requirements, the regulatory Collectorate of Customs may grant approval or authorisation. Subsequently, the system will generate an approval number linked to the applicant's National Tax Number (NTN).

The Ministry of Commerce stated that Pakistan can export a wide range of essential goods. The declaration also highlights the opportunity for the export of surgical instruments and sports equipment.

In terms of imports under the barter system, Pakistan will acquire wheat, pulses, and petroleum products from Russia. It will also import fertilisers and textile machinery from Russia while neighbouring countries will serve as sources for oil seeds, minerals, cotton, fruits, vegetables, spices, and dried fruits.

The decision to allow barter trade comes as Pakistan faces an increasing challenge of winning the International Monetary Fund's approval for a revival of a \$6.5 billion loan package. The programme launched in 2019 will expire June 30, leaving the country in a volatile situation.

The real challenge will be during the next financial year when, according to former finance minister Miftah Ismail, the country needs between \$30-35 billion to pay foreign loans and meet the balance of payments. Currently, the country's foreign exchange reserves are a little over \$4 billion.

# 'Kremlin factions destroying Russia'

**RUSSIAN MERCENARY GROUP LEADER WHO IS SPEARHEADING THE BATTLES IN UKRAINE BELIEVES THAT THE COUNTRY'S DEFENCE MINISTRY IS IN CHAOS**



REUTERS

**Moscow, June 3:** Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin said Saturday that Kremlin factions were destroying the state by trying to sow discord between him and Chechen fighters.

That row had now been settled but infighting in the Kremlin had opened a Pandora's Box of rifts, he said.

Prigozhin, a 62-year-old former restaurateur who founded the Wagner mercenary group and is a member of President Vladimir Putin's wider circle, has gained widespread notoriety during the 15-month war in Ukraine.

His troops have spearheaded battles in the city of Bakhmut and elsewhere, but he has also roared with the Russian military over tactics, logistical support and other issues.

Prigozhin said a dispute between him and Chechen forces who are also fighting alongside the Russian army in Ukraine had been resolved. But he laid the blame for the discord on unidentified Kremlin factions - which he calls "Kremlin towers". Their scheming had got so out of hand that Putin had been forced to scold them at a Security Council meeting, he said.

"Pandora's Box is already open - we are not the ones who opened it," Prigozhin said in a message posted by his press service. "Some Kremlin tower decided to play dangerous games." "Dangerous games have become commonplace in the Kremlin towers...they are simply destroying the Russian state."

He did not identify the Kremlin faction but said that it continued its attempts to sow discord, it would have "hell to pay".

Putin held a Security Council

## Western journos banned from 'Davos'

**Moscow:** The Kremlin said Saturday that journalists from "unfriendly countries" would not be allowed into the St Petersburg International Economic Forum, which President Vladimir Putin has used to showcase the Russian economy to global investors. The forum in St Petersburg, the former imperial capital built by Tsar Peter the Great 300 years ago as a "window" to Europe, has been held since 1997 and is cast by many officials as Russia's answer to the World Economic Forum held in Davos. Western journalists have never before been banned from the forum in such a blanket way. "It has indeed been decided this time not to accredit publications from unfriendly countries to the SPIEF," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS, using the acronym for the forum. "Interest in SPIEF is always great, all other journalists will work on the site," Peskov said. "Unfriendly countries" is a definition used by Moscow to describe those who have sanctioned it over the war in Ukraine. This year's forum will be held June 14-17.

meeting of Friday about what he said were "interethnic" relations inside the country.

Prigozhin said Chechen remarks made about him sounded like something out of the early 1990s when conflicts gripped Russian cities after the collapse of the Soviet Union. "Clearly the statements made were rather provocative, aimed at hurting me and freaking me out," Prigozhin said.

## TUSSLE OVER TAIWAN

# Won't stand coercion, bullying from China: US

*US has been expanding its own activities around the Indo-Pacific to counter sweeping territorial claims from China, including regularly sailing through and flying over the Taiwan Strait and in the South China Sea*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Singapore, June 3:** American Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin vowed Saturday that Washington would not stand for any "coercion and bullying" of its allies and partners by China, while assuring Beijing that the United States remains committed to maintaining the status quo on Taiwan and would prefer dialogue over conflict.

Speaking at the so-called Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual forum bringing together top defense officials, diplomats and leaders, Austin lobbied for support for Washington's vision of a "free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific within a world of rules and rights" as the best course to counter increasing Chinese assertiveness in the region.

He said the US is also committed to deterring North Korea's missile threat and China's claims on Taiwan, a self-governing island democracy that Beijing says is its territory, and said Washington has been stepping up defense planning, coordination and training with partner nations in the region.

"To be clear, we do not seek conflict or confrontation," he said. "But we will not flinch in the face of bullying or coercion."

Chinese Lt Gen Jing Jianfeng, a senior member of the delegation accompanying Defense Minister Gen Li Shangfu, accused Austin of "overtly or covertly making false accusations against China" in his address.

Speaking with reporters after



**We are committed to ensuring that every country can fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows. And every country, large or small, must remain free to conduct lawful maritime activities**

LOYD AUSTIN | SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, US



**US has been deceiving and exploiting Asia-Pacific nations to advance its own self-interests to preserve its dominant position in the region**

JING JIANFENG | MEMBER OF DEFENSE MINISTER'S DELEGATION, CHINA

Austin said that Washington has been holding on to alliances that are "remnants of the Cold War" and establishing new pacts, like the AUKUS agreement with Britain and Australia and the "Quad" grouping with Australia, India and Japan "to divide the world into ideologically-driven camps and provoke confrontation."

Jing, who took no questions, said that by contrast, "China, is committed to the region's development and prosperity."

Austin sought to assure China that the US remained "deeply committed" to the longstanding one-China policy, which recognizes Beijing as the government of China but allows informal relations with Taiwan, and continues to "categorically oppose unilateral changes to the status quo from either side."

# 45 bags of human remains found in Mexico

*Over 100,000 people are currently missing in Mexico, where organised crime has ravaged parts of the country*

AGENCIES

**Mexico City, June 3:** Human remains discovered in 45 bags in western Mexico appear to resemble the features of several missing call center employees, state prosecutors said in a statement late Thursday.

The Jalisco Prosecutor's Office said the remains found in the municipality of Zapopan were still subject to forensic tests to formally identify the bodies.

"According to preliminary information, the findings...in Zapopan coincided with the physical characteristics of some of the young peo-



ple being searched for," the statement said.

Authorities made the discovery in a ravine on the outskirts of Jalisco's capital city, Guadalajara,

earlier this week as part of a search for seven call center workers in their 20s and 30s who had disappeared. An eighth person, potentially linked to the group, is also missing.

On Tuesday, security minister Rosa Icela Rodriguez told reporters that initial investigations showed that the call center workers "were carrying out some type of real estate fraud and some type of telephone extortion."

# Sweden becomes first country to register sex as sport

THE NORDIC COUNTRY IS SET TO HOST FIRST-EVER EUROPEAN SEX CHAMPIONSHIP JUNE 8

AGENCIES

**Stockholm, June 3:** In a world where so many countries do not let you talk about sex openly, Sweden is now turning it into a sport! While many countries, even many European ones, are slow to make big moves in recognizing sex as a recreational activity, Sweden, in true trendsetter style, has not held back.

This Nordic country was the first to register sex as a sport and is now all set to host the first-ever European Sex Championship which will be held June 8. The

championship is being organized by the Swedish Sex Federation and is open to anyone from any European Country.

According to reports, the tournament is expected to last for several weeks, with each participant having to compete for 6 hours a day.

Talking about the participants, 20 people from different countries have applied for the Championship now. The winners will be determined through three juries and audience ratings. In each discipline, participants can score between 5 and 10 points, the reports added.

The contestants will compete in 16 disciplines which include seduction, oral sex, penetration, appearance, body massages, exploring erotic zones, position changes, creativity in the positions, number of orgasms and endurance.

During the final evaluation, winners will be determined through a Contestants are also expected to be well-versed in the Kamasutra and will be given extra points for displaying as many of its disciplines in their challenges.

According to Dragan Bratych, the chairman of the Swedish Sex Association, the focus of sex as a



sport is on maximizing pleasure, so the more pleasure one's partner experiences, the more points one earns. Creativity, strong emotions, imagination, physical fitness, endurance and workability are all under the scanner during

the challenges.

The European Sex Championship values diversity and accepts competitors of any gender or sexual orientation. The organisers have emphasised that sexual orientation can play a strategic role in this sport, which they believe will be adopted by other European countries in the future.

Social media platforms were flooded with opinions

and memes, both for and against. Sport has often been used as a loose term to apply to many weird and unusual activities

such as wife-carrying, underwater hockey, extreme ironing, chess boxing - all legitimate sporting activities that a quick Google search will confirm. But none compare to Sweden's move to declare sex as a sport.

**Just like any other sport, achieving desired results in sex requires training. Therefore, it is only logical for people to start competing in this domain as well**  
DRAGAN BRATYCH | PRESIDENT OF THE SWEDISH FEDERATION OF SEX



## of the day quote

Nifty racing to the all-time high of 18887 and breaking the record are highly possible in the next few trading days. But at record levels, selling pressure is likely since valuations will emerge as a concern

**VK VIJAYAKUMAR** | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

We will soon start handling cargo operations at Manohar International Airport at Mopa. This will help the pharmaceutical area to transport their products

**PRAMOD SAWANT** | CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

India has 750-800 million people with smartphones and internet access, and it presents a huge opportunity for us to spark the next wave of e-commerce adoption in India

**MEGHA AGARWAL** | CXO (USER GROWTH), MEESHO

## SHORT TAKES

### Limit imposed on tur, urad stocks

**New Delhi:** The Centre Friday imposed stock limits on tur and urad dal applicable to wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers, millers, and importers in order to prevent hoarding, control price rise and unscrupulous speculation. Imposition of stock limits on tur and urad will be effective with immediate effect till October 31, official sources said. Under the order, stock limits applicable to each of the pulse individually will be 200 MT for wholesalers, 5 MT for retailers, 5 MT at each retail outlet, and 200 MT at depot for big chain retailers and last three months of production or 25 per cent of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for the millers. Importers are not to hold imported stock beyond 30 days from the date of customs clearance.

### CBI books IL&FS Ltd for fraud

**New Delhi:** The CBI has filed an FIR against IL&FS Transportation Network Limited (ITNL) and its then directors for allegedly causing a loss of more than Rs 6,524 crore to a 19-bank consortium led by Canara Bank, officials said Friday. In its FIR, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Mumbai-based ITNL and its directors Karunakaran Ramchand, Deepak Das Gupta, Mukund Gajanan Sapre and then chief financial officer (CFO) Dilip Lalchand Bhatia for alleged criminal conspiracy and cheating as well as under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. It is alleged that the accused entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat 19 banks under multiple banking arrangements (the Canara Bank being the largest lender). The loan account was declared a non-performing asset (NPA) in 2018 and subsequently, categorised as "fraud" in 2021.

### RBI fines IOB

**Mumbai:** Reserve Bank on Friday imposed a penalty of Rs 2.20 crore on state-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for non-compliance of income recognition and other deficiencies in regulatory compliance. The fine is imposed for contravention of the provisions of certain directions issued by RBI on 'Prudential Norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning Pertaining to Advances - Divergence in NPA Accounts', 'Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016' and Advisory on 'Man in the Middle (MITM) Attacks in ATMs'.



The MPC will not change the repo rate. The inflation is less than five per cent and will be in the coming months

**MADAN SABNAVIS** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, BANK OF BARODA

### BANGA TAKES OVER AS WB HEAD

Indian American Ajay Banga on Friday took over as the President of the World Bank, making him the first person of colour to head either of the two global financial institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. On May 3, the Executive Directors of the World Bank selected Banga, 63, as the 14th President of the World Bank for a five-year term



## OPEC+ may cut output

Western nations have accused OPEC of manipulating oil prices and undermining the global economy through high energy costs



REUTERS

**London, June 3:** OPEC and its allies began two days of meetings Saturday that may culminate in further production cuts of as much as 1 million barrels per day, OPEC+ sources told Reuters, as the group faces flagging oil prices and a looming supply glut.

OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, pumps around 40% of the world's crude, meaning its policy decisions can have a major impact on oil prices.

Three OPEC+ sources told Reuters Friday that cuts were being discussed among options for Sunday's session, when OPEC+ ministers gather in Vienna.

OPEC held a separate brief meeting Saturday but ministers made no comment on possible policy decisions afterwards.

The sources said cuts could amount to 1 million bpd on top of existing cuts of 2 million bpd and voluntary cuts of 1.6 million bpd, announced in a surprise move in April and which took effect in May.

If approved, this would take the total volume of reductions to 4.66 million bpd, or around 4.5% of global demand.

"This number is premature, we

- CUTS COULD AMOUNT TO 1MM BPD: SOURCES
- GLOBAL VOLUME TO REDUCE AROUND 4.5%
- SAUDI MIN TOLD SHORT-SELLERS TO 'WATCH OUT'

didn't go into these things (yet)," Iraq's oil minister Hayan Abdel-Ghani said prior to the meetings, when asked about a possible cut of 1 million bpd.

Typically production cuts take effect the following month after they are agreed, but ministers could also agree a later implementation. They could also decide to hold output steady.

Western nations have accused OPEC of manipulating oil prices and undermining the global economy through high energy costs. The West has also accused OPEC of siding too much with Russia despite Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

In response, OPEC insiders and watchers have said the West's money-printing over the last decade has driven inflation and forced oil-producing nations to act to maintain the value of their main export.

Asian countries such as China and India have bought the lion's share of Russian oil exports and

The oil market is doubtful a consensus for another output cut can be reached between the Saudis and Russians, but traders should never underestimate what the Saudis will do and leverage during OPEC+ meetings

**EDWARD MOYA** | ANALYST, OANDA

refused to join Western sanctions on Russia.

### SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT

"We look forward to a resolution that will secure sustainability of balance of supply and demand" UAE's Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazroui said ahead of meetings.

The surprise output announcement in April helped to drive oil prices about \$9 per barrel higher to above \$87, but they swiftly retreated, under pressure from concerns about global economic growth and demand. On Friday, international benchmark Brent settled at \$76.

Last week, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz said investors who were shorting the oil price, or betting on a price fall, should "watch out", which many market watchers interpreted as a warning of additional supply cuts.

The International Energy Agency expects global oil demand to rise further in the second half of 2023, potentially boosting oil prices.

Analysts at JPMorgan, however, said OPEC had not acted quickly enough to adjust supply to record high levels of US output and higher than expected Russian exports.

"There is simply too much supply," the JPMorgan analysts said in a note, adding that extra cuts could amount to around 1 million bpd.

## FOREX RESERVES FALL FOR SECOND STRAIGHT WEEK

REUTERS

**Mumbai, June 3:** India's foreign exchange reserves fell for a second consecutive week and stood at a one-month low of \$589.14 billion as of May 26, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data showed Friday.

That was a decrease of \$4.34 billion from the previous week. Reserves had fallen by \$6.05 billion in the week ended May 19, the biggest fall in more than three months.

The central bank intervenes in the spot and forwards markets to prevent runaway moves in the rupee.

The rupee rose 0.1% in the week ended May 26, having traded in a range of 82.5575 to 82.8500. The rupee ended at 82.3050 Friday to record its best week in five.

The changes in foreign currency assets, expressed in dollar terms, include the effects of appreciation or depreciation of other currencies held in the RBI's reserves. Foreign exchange reserves include India's Reserve Tranche position in the International Monetary Fund.

## Tata Group inks \$1.6bn EV battery plant deal

REUTERS

**Ahmedabad, June 3:** India's Tata Group signed an outline deal Friday on building a lithium-ion cell factory, based on investment of about Rs 130 billion (\$1.58 billion), as part of the nation's efforts to create its own electric vehicle supply chain.

Compared to the size of its population, India's car market is tiny. Tata Motors dominates its electric vehicle (EV) sales, which made up just 1% of India's total car sales of about 3.8 million last year.

A joint statement on the memorandum of understanding, between Tata's unit Agravas Energy Storage Solutions and the government of the western state of Gujarat, said work on the plant, to be based in Sanand, northern Gujarat, was expected to start in less than three years. It would have initial manufacturing capacity of 20 Gigawatt hours (GWh), which could be doubled in a second phase of expansion, the statement said.

## Not a merger but only transfer of Sahara Life's policyholders: SBI Life



### SBI LIFE INSURANCE SAID IT WOULD REACH OUT TO THE TWO LAKH POLICYHOLDERS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 3:** SBI Life, a subsidiary of country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI), has said it is not a merger between the two companies but only a transfer of the policyholder related assets and liabilities of Sahara Life Insurance.

On Friday regulator Irdai directed SBI Life Insurance to take over the policy liabilities of around two lakh policies along with assets of stressed Sahara India Life Insurance Co Ltd (SILIC).

The decision was taken at the meeting of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) in view of deteriorating financial health of the SILIC.

Following the Irdai order, SBI Life assured two lakh policyholders of "high levels" of service and commitment as is accorded to our customers.

"We have started and we are expeditiously working on the process of integrating all these policyholders in our systems. While the full integration may take some time, we request these policyholders to reach out to us on our helpline number 1800 267 9090 or email us at saharalife@sblife.co.in," it said

SBI Life will shortly reach out to these policyholders and intimate them about various touch points and manner of servicing for a smooth transition, it said.

Sahara Life Insurance was also not allowed to underwrite new business. Thereafter, further directions were issued to the insurer to meet the regulatory requirements.

"Despite being provided ample opportunities and sufficient time to ensure compliances, SILIC has failed to comply with directions of the authority and take any affirmative steps to protect the interests of its policyholders," the regulator had said.

Further, the policy data of SILIC reveals that the company's portfolio is showing run-off trend. The financial position has been deteriorating with rising losses and higher percentage of claims to total premium.

"If the trend is allowed to continue, the situation will worsen and lead to erosion of capital and SILIC may not be able to discharge its liabilities towards policyholders, thereby endangering the interest of its policyholders," Irdai had said.

It said the action against SILIC has been taken after due consideration of all the facts and circumstances.

The authority added in its meeting held June 2, 2023 that the action was warranted to protect the interest of the policyholders of SILIC. Further, Irdai said it will continue to monitor the situation and also issue necessary directions as required in the interest of the policyholders of SILIC.

## FPIs INVEST ₹43,838CR IN MAY

EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT THE POSITIVE SENTIMENT MAY LINGER ON FOR SOME MORE TIME

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 3:** Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) invested Rs 43,838 crore in the Indian stock markets in May.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said the FPIs were aggressive buyers in the market in May having invested Rs 43,838 crore through the stock market and primary market put together.

A survey among foreign portfolio investors showed that India is now the consensus overweight among all emerging markets. In May, India attracted the largest investment among all emerging markets, and FPIs were sellers in China, he added.

FPIs are likely to continue their



investment in India in June too since the latest GDP data and high frequency indicators reflect a robust economy gaining further strength. Financials, automobiles, telecom and construction are attracting big investments, he said.

Joseph Thomas, Head of Research at Emkay Wealth Management, said the equity market has been holding quite well buoyed by the better than expected national income data, encouraging manufacturing PMI, and fi-

FPIs likely to continue their investment in India in June too since the latest GDP data and high frequency indicators reflect a robust economy gaining further strength, according to experts

nally, a closure to the US debt ceiling discussions.

However, in the immediate term one should be cognizant of the high probability for exports to slowdown with almost all auto companies reporting a decline in the exports component, and a slowdown in FPI flows if the strength in the US unit endures, he said.

## Everything to know about shifting motor insurance policy



**SUBHASISH MAZUMDER**  
Head-Motor Distribution, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Nothing beats the excitement of buying a brand-new vehicle; typically while purchasing a new vehicle we pay little or no thought to motor insurance, and we tend to simply go with the insurer that the showroom suggests.

At this stage, we are more excited about the vehicle than anything else. However, after a few months, we may realize that we should have selected a different insurer; so does that imply that we are stuck with the current insurer? Or is there any way to move to a different insurer without losing on the benefits? The answer is 'Yes,' you can shift your motor insurance policy to another insurer. Is it difficult or

easy to shift to a different insurer? Let us find out.

**WHEN TO SHIFT?** The best time to port is during the renewal. It is advisable to initiate the transfer process at least 45 days before the policy expiry date to ensure a seamless transfer.

**HOW TO SHIFT?** Once you have finalized the insurer you would like to shift to, simply reach out to their agent or visit their website. Complete the necessary formalities like filling out the proposal form; you will also have to share details of your active policy or the policy that has expired; if the policy has expired, then an inspection of the vehicle might be required. You will have to fill in the particulars of the current insurer; policy number, and details of any claims that you might have made. One of the most important bits is to mention your current No-claim Bonus (NCB) so that the next slab of NCB can be extended to you, in

case of a claim-free year; thus you continue enjoying NCB benefits.

**THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN CHANGING THE POLICY:** Since you were not satisfied with the existing plan and service, it is paramount that you thoroughly read and research before switching the insurance company. Claims are the moment of truth in insurance; you should assess the claims-paying capability of the insurer before anything else. You can simply speak to the garage where you usually get your vehicle repaired and ask them which insurance company offers a smooth claim settlement experience, and you will have your answer. You can do online research and read customer testimonials for further clarity. Additionally, look at the solvency ratio of the insurer to evaluate their financial health; the solvency ratio shows the cash inflow of the insurer against the

liabilities. The insurance regulator has mandated all insurance companies to maintain a solvency ratio of 1.5 or 150%. A company that has high solvency ratio, will likely have a good claims-paying capacity. Apart from these parameters, a quick search for various services and add-on covers provided by insurance companies will help you pick the right insurer. You should also look at the network garage of the insurer to avail cashless claims settlement, do not simply look at the number of network garages, and rather focus on the garages which are near to you, or are in your routine driving route. Furthermore, keep in mind that you speak to an authorized person from the insurance company for porting the policy; please beware, there are many fraudsters today who claim to be representatives of the insurance company. It is best to meet the representative in per-

son and verify their details. When it comes to making online payments, please pay using only the authorized platforms of the insurance company.

Lastly, but most importantly, when looking for a new insurer; try not to base your purchasing decision only on the premium, rather take a more wholesome view of things and evaluate the insurer for their services and claim paying ability. The reason is quite simple, on the onset you may find a certain insurer a better choice because of the lesser premium, but you may later face challenges during the time of claim. As the famous adage goes, "There are no free lunches," a relatively lower premium likely comes with its caveat. Always remember, the cost of insurance is substantially low compared to the amount of claim. Search for an insurer of repute and goodwill, which will make your life easier during the time of claim.



# Warner reveals future plan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beckenham (UK), June 3:** Star Australian opener David Warner Saturday revealed his desire to end his red-ball career with a swansong Test at his home ground at the SCG against Pakistan in January. Talking ahead of Australia's training session here, Warner, who is preparing for next week's World Test Championship (WTC) final against India, said he hopes the

Sydney Test against Pakistan would be his last.

However, given his recent struggle in the longest format of the game, the southpaw isn't guaranteed a spot in the Australian Test side and he is well aware of it. "You've got to score runs. I've always said the (2024) T20 World Cup would probably be my final game," Warner said.

"I probably owe it to myself and my family - if I can score runs here

and continue to play back in Australia - I can definitely say I won't be playing that West Indies series. If I can get through this (WTC final and ensuing Ashes campaign) and make the Pakistan series I will definitely finish up then," he added.

After the WTC final, Australia are scheduled to play a five-match Ashes series against England. Warner is a part of Australia's squad for the WTC final as well as

the first two Ashes Tests. But the selectors have also picked Marcus Harris and Matt Renshaw as options.

Warner, who has played 103 Tests, managed just 26 runs in three Test innings during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India earlier this year. He returned home mid way from the series owing to an elbow fracture.

"For me I've always played every game as if it's my last," Warner said.

"That's my style of cricket. I enjoy being around the guys, I love being part of the team, trying to be that ball of energy in the group. I want to just keep working as hard as I can to get there."

After wrapping up the Ashes, Australia travel to South Africa for a white ball series before competing at the ODI World Cup in India. At the end of the year, Pat Cummins and his men will take on Pakistan in a three-Test series with the final game slated to be played in Sydney January 3 post which they host the West Indies for a full series.

"Going back 12 months, (the schedule) looked very daunting. Whether or not you're going to play this Test before this series, given there is a World Cup as well, and we have South Africa as well. And then cricket on the back end of the World Cup in India.

"Leading into a home summer it's going to be exhausting and I think the boys, rightfully so, the selectors have been speaking to them about the series that we are priding ourselves on. This (WTC) championship, the Ashes, then the World Cup, the big one."

He reiterated that he wants to play till the World Cup next year. "I want to play that 2024 World Cup, it's something at the back end of my mind. We've got a lot of cricket before that."

"And then I think it stops from February. For me, then I have to play the IPL, some of the other franchise leagues and then get into the rhythm to play that, in June. Will be a bit of cricket around to play."

Warner, who was struck on the same elbow that he injured earlier this year, said he is doing okay despite the latest blow Thursday.

"It was sore, it got me right on the same point but from a different angle," said Warner. "It went numb and I had to get it strapped, but it's fine now - a little bit sore, but lucky it didn't hit me on top," Warner added.

## INDIA'S FIELDING DRILLS

# Players try to adjust to wicked deviation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Portsmouth, June 3:** The Indian team's training sessions over the years have had their share of innovations and it is now using multi-coloured rubber balls for catching practice in order to adjust to last-minute deviations which could cost the side dear.

One of the Indian team's fielding drills at the Arundel ground here saw rising star Shubman Gill taking catches with the colour of the ball being green. There were also yellow coloured balls but not the lawn tennis balls one usually gets to see when keepers and close-in fielders take powerfully hit reflex catches.

"These are specially made rubber balls, not the ones we are used to seeing in gully cricket. This is made for fielding drills. These balls are named 'reaction balls' and it is used for fielding drills only in some specific countries, mainly England or New Zealand where breeze and colder conditions become a factor," a renowned fielding coach, who has worked at NCA and at national camps, told PTI.

Asked if there was any significance for the green coloured balls that was used to give catching prac-

tice to Gill, he said: "I don't think there is any specific scientific or cricketing reason for any specific colour. But certainly there is a reason for using that kind of rubber balls for catching practice - especially for slip fielders and keepers."

"In England, due to underlying moisture and the lush green outer area (beyond 22 yards) means that the ball will wobble a lot more than usual. "England is the only country and to some extent in New Zealand, you will find that deliveries that beat the batter's outside edge is deviating wickedly, making it difficult to gather or catch the ball. The Dukes in England in fact wobbles even more," the coach added.

He then explained why these rubber "reaction balls" are being used for training. "These balls are lighter in weight and hence it would wobble and also swing or deviate more. The idea is to get adjusted to this changing trajectory or line of the ball.

"Now coming to the colour the various colours are used because it is a human tendency to lose the sight of ball at last second. Various colours help you to judge the line of deviation till the last moment while catching the ball," he added.

# Lakshya goes down fighting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangkok, June 3:** The Indian challenge at the Thailand Open ended after star shuttler Lakshya Sen lost a tough three-game men's singles semifinal against Thailand's second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn here Saturday.

The 21-year-old from Almora looked in control in the first game against his seeded opponent but lost his way as the match progressed to eventually go down 21-13, 17-21, 13-21 in a contest that lasted one hour and 15 minutes.

Kunlavut will next play the winner of the other semifinal between Hong Kong's eighth seed Cheuk Yiu Lee and Toma Junior Popov of France.

Lakshya had entered the semifinal for the first time this season, having come close in Indonesia Masters, where he exited in the quarterfinals. His ranking has dropped down to 23 from a career-high sixth due to a string of below-par performances this year.

It was neck-and-neck between the two shuttlers initially in the first game before Lakshya surged to 11-6 lead at the break. The Thai came out strong after the break and won four straight points to reduce the lead to 11-10. But Lakshya upped his game just at the nick of time to take a five point lead and the closed down the opening game quite easily without giving



any chance to his opponent.

The second game was fought on an even keel between the two players as they matched each other till 10 points before Kunlavut used his cross-court smashes to take a narrow 12-10 lead for the first time in the match.

The Indian, however, forced his way with the help of long rallies and precise drop shots as the battle continued between the two players. But Kunlavut raised his game a few notches and pocketed four straight

points to win the second game and take the match into decider.

In the decider, the momentum initially shifted in Kunlavut's favour as he raced to a 5-2 lead but Lakshya clawed his way back as the two players fought tooth and nail.

The long rallies finally took a toll on the Indian, who looked tired as the final game progressed, handing Kunlavut a substantial 18-12 lead and then Thai closed down the decider quite easily.

# French Open: Ruud rallies past Zhang

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, June 3:** Last year's finalist Casper Ruud rallied to beat Zhang Zhizhen in the third round of the French Open Saturday, ending a strong run by the Chinese player. The fourth-seeded Ruud, who lost to Rafael Nadal in last year's final, won 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4.

Zhang was the first Chinese man to reach the third round at Roland Garros since Kho Sin-Khie in 1937. Kho also reached the fourth round in 1936 but that proved a step too far for Zhang, despite a lightning start on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Zhang broke Ruud in the opening game and went on to take the set as the Norwegian player grew more and more frustrated. Matters grew worse for Ruud as he found himself 0-40 down on his serve early in the second set but he collected his emotions and - after a topsy-turvy set - went on to level the match at his first opportunity.

Ruud then improved in the last two sets and sealed the match with a forehand down the line on the first of two match points.

The match was scheduled to be followed by an intriguing third-round encounter involving two teenagers: American Coco Gauff, who is 19, and Russian Mirra Andreeva, who is 16.

However, reigning Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina pulled out of the French Open before her third-round match Saturday be-



cause she is sick.

## Nothing bothers Djoko

Novak Djokovic makes no secret of the way he loves to feed off negativity during a tennis match. Doesn't really matter whether he's ahead or behind on the scoreboard. The guy simply finds motivation and inspiration from all manner of slights, real and perceived.

Maybe it's how a chair umpire is officiating that particular day...or the way Djokovic's entourage is sitting in place in the stands instead of rising to encourage him...or the criticism he receives for wading into a political issue - all of which already have happened

during this French Open.

Or maybe it's how he's treated by the spectators who, as they did Friday during Djokovic's 7-6(7-4), 7-6(7-5), 6-2 victory over 29th-seeded Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in the third round at Roland Garros, get on his case and jeer him for seemingly no good reason at all.

Which is what happened at Court Philippe Chatrier during the longest three-set Grand Slam match of the 22-time major champion Djokovic's long and distinguished career, clocking in at 3 hours, 36 minutes. He wasn't thrilled at how difficult things had been in the match, didn't love double-faulting three times in a single game, and really didn't

like the feedback coming from a portion of the fans.

"A majority of the people comes to enjoy tennis or support one or the other player. But they are individuals. There are people - there are groups or whatever - that love to boo every single thing you do. That's something that I find disrespectful and I frankly don't understand that," Djokovic said later at his news conference. "But it's their right. They paid the ticket. They can do whatever they want."

During the match, sitting in his chair with his shirt off and a white towel around his shoulders, Djokovic heard the negativity and responded with gestures. He waved a hand, as if to say, "Give me more!" He gave a sarcastic thumbs-up and nodded. He applauded. He shook his head and chuckled.

Other seeded men advancing included No.1 Carlos Alcaraz, No.5 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No.11 Karen Khachanov and No.17 Lorenzo Musetti. Lorenzo Sonego defeated No.7 Andrey Rublev, while Juan Pablo Varillas took out No.13 Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(7-3), 4-6, 6-2 in Friday night's last contest.

Alcaraz was a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 winner over No. 26 Denis Shapovalov in the night session. He'll next play Musetti, who won their only previous matchup, while Djokovic meets Varillas, a 27-year-old from Peru who is ranked 94th and had never won a Grand Slam match until this week.

# Panda sisters secure silver at Kazakh tourney

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 3:** The Panda sisters - Rutaparna and Swetaparna - of Odisha secured a silver medal in the women's doubles event of the Kazakhstan Future Series badminton tournament.

The Indian pair performed well in the final but couldn't get the desired result as they lost to the Indonesian pair of Fuyui Iwasaki and Nethania Irawan 13-21, 15-21.

The Kazakhstan Future Series is a BWF Future Series event organized by Kazakhstan Badminton Federation at Shymkent, Kazakhstan from May 31 to June 3.

Rutaparna is pursuing MBA, while Swetaparna is pursuing BBA at KIIT - Deemed to be University,

# India beat Great Britain via penalty shootout in FIH Pro League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, June 3:** India defeated Great Britain 4-2 in a penalty shootout to earn a bonus point after both sides were locked at 4-4 at the end of the regulation time in a high-scoring second leg FIH Pro League match here Saturday.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (7th minute), Mandeep Singh (19th), Sukhjeet Singh (28th) and Abhishek (50th) were the goal scorers for India. Sam Ward (8th, 40th, 47th, 53rd) was the star for the home team firing all the four goals.

The win ensured a bonus point for India but they are still lying second in the standings below Great Britain with 24 points from 12 games. Great Britain are atop the table with 26 points from 11 matches.

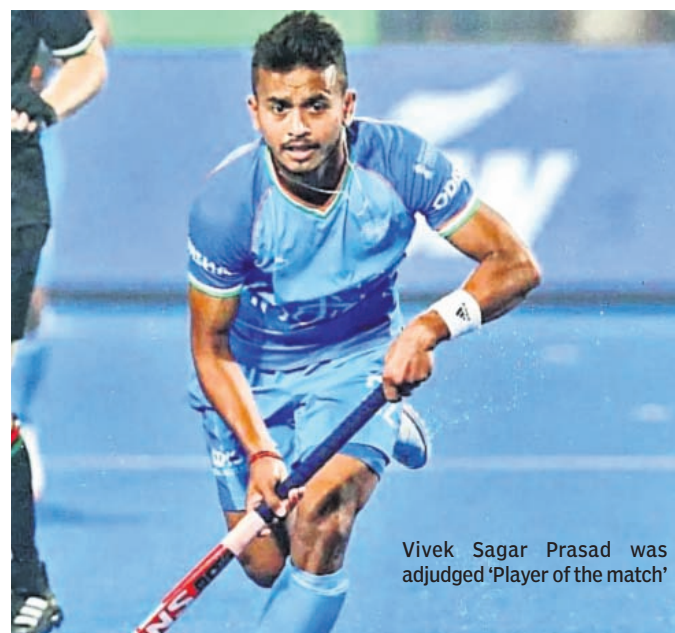
India had earlier lost 2-4 to Great Britain here in the first leg before thrashing Belgium 5-1. India will

next travel to Eindhoven, Netherlands to play the hosts June 7 in the Europe leg of their FIH Pro League campaign.

Mandeep earned a penalty corner for India and skipper Harmanpreet's low drag flick sounded the post past Great Britain goalie David Ames to hand the visitors the lead. India's joy was short-lived as Ward converted a penalty corner in the very next minute to level the scores.

Both the teams continued to play at a frantic pace in the second quarter but it was India who surged ahead again through Mandeep, who hammered the ball into the goal from Hardik's Singh brilliant pass.

Two minutes from halftime, Sukhjeet made it 3-1 in favour of India with a tomahawk after being fed by Hardik as the visitors went into the breather with two-goal cushion.



Vivek Sagar Prasad was adjudged 'Player of the match'

Both the teams failed to create any clear cut chance after the change of ends till the 40th minute when India conceded another penalty corner and Ward scored with a powerful flick to reduce the margin.

An unmarked Ward equalised for Great Britain in the 47th minute with a field effort. Great Britain dominated the possession in the final quarter but it was India who restored their lead in the 50th minute through a field goal from Abhishek from a counter-attack.

It was the Ward show Saturday as he brought Great Britain level again with a field goal, his fourth of the night. Both Great Britain and India got a few penalty corners in the final minutes of the game but faltered in execution. In the shootout, Manpreet Singh, Harmanpreet, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Abhishek scored for India.

## India eves maul Uzbeks 22-0 in Asia Cup match

**KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN):** Annu slammed a double hat-trick as India started their campaign in the women's Junior Asia Cup on an emphatic note with a 22-0 thrashing of a lowly Uzbekistan, here Saturday. Annu (13th, 29th, 30th, 38th, 43th, 51st) was the star performer for India, while Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (3rd, 56th); Mumtaz Khan (6th, 44th, 47th, 60th); Sunelita Toppo (17th, 17th); Manju Chorsiya (26th); Deepika Soreng (18th, 25th); Deepika (32nd, 44th, 46th, 57th); and Neelam (47th) were the others on target. India will next play Malaysia in their second pool game June 5.