



FOCUS ON FITNESS

Actor Esha Gupta says a lot of people don't work on their physique at all and still talk about body positivity

LEISURE P2



MORE HELP FOR UKRAINE

Western nations are promising to bolster Ukraine's defence by supplying them with the latest modern weapons

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA BAG BRONZE

Birendra Lakra-led India secure bronze at the Asia Cup hockey tournament beating Japan 1-0

SPORTS P12

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 62 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, JUNE 2 | 2022

12 PAGES | ₹5.00



PIL to cancel Barabati T20I match

Cuttack: Sanjay Nayak of Bhuban locality in Dhenkanal district filed Wednesday a PIL in the Orissa High Court seeking cancellation of the India-South Africa T20 International match at the Barabati Stadium here to be played June 12. In the PIL, Nayak has said that the venue lacks adequate fire safety measures and hence it would be dangerous to host the game with spectators. The Odisha government, BCCI, Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) and 12 others have been made parties in the case. Earlier the Odisha Human Rights Commission had also sought a report from the OCA regarding the fire safety measures at the stadium.



Key Lakhimpur Kheri witness shot at

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP): BKU leader Dilbag Singh, a key witness in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, was allegedly attacked by two unidentified men here, police said Wednesday. Singh, a district president was fired on when he was returning home from Aliganj-Muda road in Gola kotwali area in his SUV, Tuesday night. He however, escaped unhurt. In the violence case which took place October 3, last year, eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed. Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra was arrested in connection with the incident. Singh said he bent down quickly and managed to avoid the bullets.

Vig sleuths arrest senior Hindol cop while taking bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, June 1: Officials of the Vigilance department arrested Wednesday, the SDPO of Hindol, Malaya Kishore Nayak for taking a bribe. He was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹30,000 in Karanda area of this district. Sources said that Nayak had asked one Dukhabandhu Sahu, a stone quarry owner, to pay ₹30,000. Nayak had told Sahu that by paying the amount he will be able to carry out stone quarrying and transportation without any problems. Sahu however, lodged a complaint on the issue with the Vigilance department. Personnel of the department accordingly laid a trap and arrested the SDPO on charges of demanding and accepting the bribe. Following the arrest, Vigilance sleuths conducted simultaneous raids on the properties of Nayak at six places including Bhubaneswar, Puri, Angul, Dhenkanal and Sambalpur. The

NAVEEN COMPLETES 25 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE



MAN OF ALL SEASONS: BJD Raja Sabha nominees and other elected lawmakers and party members gathered Wednesday at the Naveen Niwas to congratulate the Odisha CM on completion of 25 years in public service

From being a writer to one of the most successful chief ministers of India, the BJD supremo's journey has been inspirational

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Veteran politician and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik completed 25 years of public service Wednesday. On this very day (June 1) in 1997, for the first time, Naveen got elected to the Lok Sabha from Aska constituency. With this, his journey began in public service. "It has been a nostalgic journey in public life. Twenty five years back on this day, I was elected as an MP from my state. Gratitude to my 4.5 crore family for their enduring love & unwavering support," Naveen tweeted with the hashtag, 'Jai

Jagannath'. Since 2000, Naveen has remained in the Chief Minister's chair by winning the trust and heart of the people of Odisha for another four consecutive assembly elections in 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019. In the process he has created a record of five consecutive wins for a Chief Minister in India. His journey has been very encouraging since he took office as chief minister of Odisha in 2000. Naveen took the state to a role model in disaster management, financial surplus status with single-minded devotion and commitment. Naveen, a mind-boggling developmental politician, was always

focused on the aspects of shelter, food, health and social security for the people of Odisha as well as expediting progress of industry and agriculture. Transformational leadership has been his forte. Naveen has won many international and national laurels. The United Nations felicitated and applauded him for his efficient handling of disaster management in the aftermath of Cyclone Phailin with the model of zero casualty. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when the country needed oxygen, it was Odisha under his leadership that provided the life-saving gas to various states in India. **More P3**

Hospital vehicle mows down patients

Both accidents in Bhadrak district were due to carelessness leading to loss of lives and causing grievous injuries to a large number of people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, June 1: Two persons were killed and 10 others injured, several of them critically in two separate road accidents that took place in various parts of Bhadrak district, Wednesday. In the first incident, one person was killed and eight others were seriously injured when an SUV engaged in Rural Health Mission ran into a queue of patients and their associates in front of the OPD ticket counter at the Agarpada community health centre. The toll from the accident may rise as the condition of four of the eight injured are stated to be critical. Among those injured, is a minor boy. The deceased has been identified as Sridhar Lenka of Badabarchikayan village in the district. All the injured are undergoing treatment at the Bhadrak district headquarters hospital (DHH). The four-wheeler was engaged in medical duty and had come to the health centre to unload medicines. Some people were unloading medicines from the vehicle when the accident occurred. It happened after a staff of the health centre got inside the vehicle and by mistake pressed on the accelerator. In a flash the vehicle had mowed down a number of people standing in front of the ticket counter. Police have seized the vehicle



People at the accident spot in Agarpada community health centre

and started an investigation into the matter. The hospital staff, allegedly a sweeper who got into the vehicle and started it, has also been detained by the police. He has told the police that the engine of the vehicle was running and while trying to shut it down, he had pressed the accelerator by mistake. "Some patients were standing in the queue in front of the ticket counter at Agarpada CHC. A staffer got into the vehicle which was parked nearby. He accidentally pressed the accelerator and the vehicle ploughed into the crowd. Before people could react a number of them were run over," said an onlooker. "We were standing in the queue to book tickets when the vehicle hit us from the rear. I have been injured, but luckily it is nothing serious," said a patient who had come to the healthcare centre for treatment. In the second incident a woman was killed and two others were critically injured after the car they were travelling in rammed into a stationary water tanker from the rear on National Highway-16 near the Charampa petrol pump in this district. The deceased was identified as Maharani Pradhan of Jaleswar town in neighbouring Balasore district. The mishap occurred when the driver of the car lost control at high speed and hit the water tanker. The car was coming from Bhubaneswar, police said. Locals and fire personnel rescued the injured and took the three to the Bhadrak DHH where the woman was declared dead on arrival.

Govt wants safety survey of ghat roads

6 tourists from West Bengal were killed and more than 40 injured in the Kalinga ghat accident which took place May 24

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: In the wake of tragic bus mishap at Kalinga ghat in Ganjam district, the Odisha government has asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Works department to conduct a safety survey of all ghat roads in the state. Commerce and Transport department principal secretary

Bishnupada Sethi has written a letter to the Works department principal secretary and NHAI chief general manager (CGM), Odisha in this regard, recently. In his letter, Sethi said, many fatal road accidents have occurred in the ghat/hilly areas of Odisha in the recent past. Hilly/ghat roads are generally vulnerable because a single accident results in multiple fatalities. "In view of the vulnerability, hilly/ghat roads are required to be maintained properly. The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety has asked all states to take all possible safety measures like putting crash barriers etc in the hilly areas," Sethi said in his letter.

Sethi also asked the NHAI and Works department to instruct their field-level officials to conduct a survey of the entire ghat/hilly area under their jurisdictions, find out the gaps and take all safety measures to save human lives in future. He sought a report in this regard within one month which will be presented to the Chief Secretary. Sethi also mentioned in the letter about another accident which had occurred on the Dwarasuni ghat road in Mayurbhanj district. On inspection it was found that proper signages had not been put up on the road. Also crash barriers on many parts of the road were damaged and there were no road reflectors, Sethi said in the letter.



Welcome to the party! We didn't want leaders who abused you in the past to share the stage with you

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	55381.17 ↓ 185.24
NIFTY	16522.80 ↓ 61.70
DOLLAR	78.20 ↓ ₹0.13
EURO	82.62 ↓ ₹0.62
GOLD	₹50,877 ↑ ₹22
SILVER	₹61,372 ↑ ₹247

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 35.9°C	35.8°C
	MIN 27.9°C	27.5°C
Humidity	74%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
	Forecast Partly cloudy sky	

Political slugfest over KK's death

The opposition has alleged that mismanagement of crowd at the venue led to KK's suffocation and he suffered a cardiac arrest

AGENCIES

Kolkata, June 1: Hours after the sudden demise of popular playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath (KK) after his performance at Nazrul Manch in South Kolkata late Tuesday evening, political mudslinging has started over the possible mismanagement in crowd-

control at the venue. Initially, many suspected that KK's uneasiness was due to the malfunctioning air-conditioning machines at Nazrul Manch. However, police sources confirmed that while the air-conditioning machines were working normally, their effects were reduced to a great extent following the over-the-capacity crowding at the venue. "While the capacity of the venue is around 2,700 to 3,000, around 6,000 spectators flocked in at the venue Tuesday evening. Probably, over-crowding could have created some suffocation. But it cannot be definitely said that suffocation was



the reason for KK's death," said a Kolkata police official. However, that has not stopped political slugfest. West Bengal Congress president and MP, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has demanded a thorough enquiry in the unfor-

tunate event citing crowd mismanagement. BJP's national general secretary, Dr Anupam Hazra said in his Twitter message that the organisers of the show should be arrested for pushing a talented singer to death by confinement in a suffocated room. Reacting sharply to the comments, TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said the BJP should stop its 'vulture politics' and should not politicise an unfortunate incident. "His (KK's) death is really unfortunate. All of us are really sad about it. But what the BJP is doing is not at all expected," Ghosh said.

ED heat on Sonia, Rahul



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned Wednesday Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her MP son Rahul Gandhi for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper, officials said. While Sonia, 75, has been asked to depose before the federal agency at its headquarters here June 8, Rahul Gandhi has been asked to appear Thursday (June 2). Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi informed at a press conference that Sonia will comply with the summons. Rahul on the other hand has written to the probe agency to postpone the date to after June 5 as he is not in India at present, Singhvi and another Congress leader Randeep Surjewala told reporters. "The Modi government should know that by registering such fake and fabricated cases, they cannot succeed in their cowardly conspiracy," Singhvi said. The case to probe alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted 'Young Indian' which owns the National Herald newspaper was registered recently.

The Congress leadership is fearless and ready to present itself before the probe agency. We will not be afraid of such tactics, but we will fight hard legally, socially and politically

ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI

The agency, officials said, wants to record the statements of Sonia and Rahul under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The National Herald is published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by 'Young Indian Pvt Limited'. The questioning of the senior Congress leaders and the Gandhis is part of the ED's investigation to understand the shareholding pattern, financial transactions and role of the promoters of 'Young Indian' and AJL, officials said. The agency registered a fresh case under the criminal provisions of the PMLA after a trial court here took cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe against 'Young Indian Pvt Ltd' on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013. **MORE P7**

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

The day may start with a dilemma, but that's exactly how your skills will come into play. As evening approaches, you will be applauded for your outstanding performance. If Ganesh is particularly generous today, you may sign new agreements.

TAURUS

Priorities and money matters will line up impatiently to knock on your door (and desk). Your financial constraints will get an outburst today. People may be taken by surprise with the way you get poignant. You will also enjoy the higher accountability reposed on you, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today, you will get an opportunity to rejuvenate yourself with seamless energy. How? Ganesh's guess is that you will find — or at least you will believe that you have found — your purpose in life. It will keep you excited throughout the day, and maybe even for days to come. You may spend lavishly to improve your personal appearance. Such expenditures are only an investment, feels Ganesh.

CANCER

Ganesh believes that today you may have to take certain financial decisions at home as well as at work. If you are in-charge of a certain project, you will trust the judgement of those working on it, mostly because they have been hand-picked by you.

LEO

You are blessed with a visionary's creative streak. Perhaps, that's why, you see things differently from others. Today, thanks to the stars, your creative side will surge forth with renewed vigour. You will generate ideas effortlessly and continuously as you reach your creative peak. Just remember that having an imaginative mind means learning lessons from the past and visualising a better future. So, ideate responsibly, advises Ganesh.

VIRGO

Take a little break today, and spend some time looking within. At your office there may be some bitter confrontations, so Ganesh advises you to be very careful and try to prevent things from getting too difficult. In matters of love, a new romance may develop. Ganesh says you may enjoy a peaceful evening with friends.

LIBRA

There are many kinds of worries that you must equip yourself to deal with. To do this, you may have to learn and follow the basic steps of problem-analysing techniques. The steps involve obtaining facts, analysing them and then arriving at a decision based upon your observations. Most important, though, is that you must act upon the decisions thus derived, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

Ganesh feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baffle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

You will discover a flair for flirting as you puppet words to your romantic will with ease and grace. Most of today will be spent in the company of a loved one, perhaps a picnic for two, or a day-long romantic date. Stay prepared for the worst as this may not necessarily blossom into a long-lasting relationship, warns Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

The work load may take away all your vigour, leaving you lethargic and dull, but you will come out of the sluggish phase before it can do any harm to your reputation, says Ganesh. Being observant and attentive while in meetings will help you in the long run, and in more ways than you can imagine. As you may have already guessed, it won't be a very productive day, it but won't be a very bad one either.

AQUARIUS

Good news from across the seven seas brings cheer! If you're seeking a visa, you may get one today. Everything looks positive and it reflects in your mood. Share your happiness with your family, says Ganesh, and you will find it multiplies manifold.

PISCES

Conflicts galore will come your way at the workplace today. Keep a calm head over your shoulders and do keep tabs on your tongue. Differences only crop up if there are substantial thought processes involved, and keeping this in mind ought to give you the perspective needed to get ahead, says Ganesh.

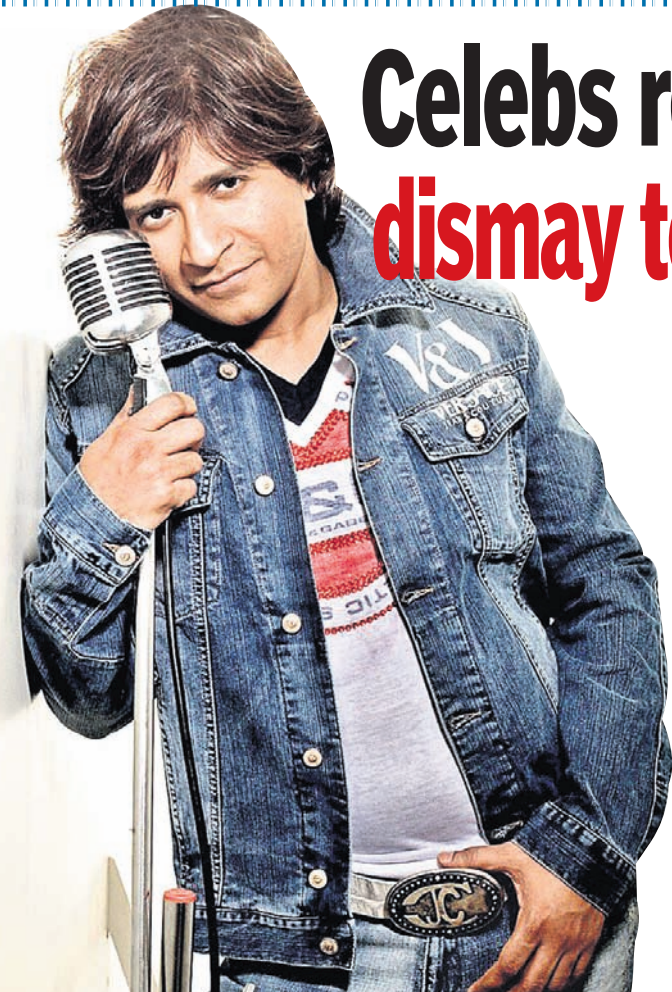


BEATRIZ WAS IN LABOUR WHEN SHE RECORDED ENCANTO SONG

Actress Stephanie Beatriz has shared she was in labour while she was recording a track for her movie *Encanto* and was singing her lines in between contractions. The actress was pregnant with her daughter Rosaline when she voiced for the song *Waiting On A Miracle* despite going into labour.

ZEGLER TO STAR IN PREQUEL OF THE HUNGER GAMES

West Side Story star Rachel Zegler is to play the lead in *The Hunger Games* prequel *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. The movie is being adapted from Suzanne Collins' 2020 book of the same name, which takes place decades before Katniss Everdeen's adventures in *The Hunger Games*.



Celebs react with dismay to KK's exit

so ominous. The news of KK's death, that too right after a live performance, is terrible. He sang for films I was associated with, so his loss seems that much more personal. RIP #KrishnakumarKunnath."

KK was born in Delhi in 1968 and studied at Mount St Mary's and Kirori Mal College. He became famous after his first album *Pal*, whose title song has remained a hardy perennial at all farewells, was recorded in several languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Bengali.

The other who mourned KK's passing included:
Former cricketer **Virender Sehwag**: "Tragic to hear about the passing away of KK after falling ill while performing in Kolkata. Another reminder of how fragile life is. Condolences to his family and friends."
Actress **Dia Mirza**: "KK... you always filled my heart with love... The nicest human being and the most soulful voice."

KK, about 10 hours before his death, took to Instagram and shared pictures from his concert. His death came as a shocking surprise for his family and many friends.
Vicky Kaushal: "Your magical voice will live on forever. Thank you for your evergreen songs."
Sonu Nigam: "KK, mere bhai, not done."
Shreya Ghoshal: "I am unable to wrap my head around this news. Numb. #KK Why! This is too hard to accept! Heart is shattered into pieces." IANS

MUMBAI: The Hindi film world reacted with shock and disbelief to the news of the death of popular playback singer KK Tuesday night in Kolkata at the age of 53.

"In utter shock. Just heard about KK. Someone please tell me it's not true," music director **Pritam** tweeted, articulating the sentiments of the countless fans of the late singer.

Vishal Dadlani commented: "The tears won't stop. What a guy he was. What a voice, what a heart, what a human being. #KK is FOREVER!!!"

Krishnakumar Kunnath, or KK, began his career in 1996 and gave the world hits such as *Tadap Tadap* from *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*, *Dus Bahane* from *Dus* and *Kya Mujhe Pyaar Hai* from *Woh Lamhe*, among many others.

Actor **Manoj Bajpayee** said: "It's so so heartbreaking! A talent with grace & dignity! Pure gem of a person! Known him for many years!! Will take a lot of time to come to terms with this loss!! Condolences to his family & friends!! #RIPKK SPEECHLESS!!"
Ajay Devgn also wrote: "It seems

Guv unveils 'Galaxy of Stars' at SAI International School

1st Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo Memorial Lecture 2022 marks the birth anniversary of SAI International Education Group Founder-Chairman Bijaya Kumar Sahoo



Dignitaries including Governor Ganeshi Lal attended the event

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Inauguration of 'Galaxy of Stars' by Governor Ganeshi Lal and delivery of '1st Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo Memorial Lecture 2022' by University of California, Davis Vice-Chancellor Dr. Prasant Mohapatra at SAI International School here marked the birth anniversary of Sahoo, the Founder-Chairman of SAI International Education Group, Wednesday.

A centre for sharing knowledge on space and research, 'Galaxy of Stars' was Sahoo's dream project that aims at fostering scientific temperament, curiosity and critical thinking among the students of the premier school.

The facility will offer a platform to learn about planets and the universe. A host of educational ac-

tivities will be organised to cultivate the spirit of scientific enquiry and creativity among the students, it was learnt.

The Governor also inaugurated the official websites of SAI International Education Group and SAI International School on the occasion.

Earlier in the day, Mohapatra, who is also on the advisory board of the Group, delivered the '1st Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo Memorial Lecture 2022' on 'Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the Future of Education' at the school's Indraprastha auditorium.

Mohapatra said, "AI has been instrumental in optimising the way we live," and added "Pandemic has made us realise that technology will remain a much bigger part of teaching and learning than it was in the past."

Group's Chairperson Dr. Silpi Sahoo, said the Bijaya Kumar Sahoo Memorial Lecture will be conducted June 1 every year to mark his birth anniversary.



Governor Ganeshi Lal and SAI Int'l Education Group Chairperson Dr Silpi Sahoo at 'Galaxy of Stars', the dream project of Bijaya Kumar Sahoo



Esha wishes to age gracefully

MUMBAI: Esha Gupta is one actress in the film industry who undoubtedly has one of the best bodies in the business. The actress is a fitness enthusiast and wishes to age gracefully.

In an interview with a news portal, the actress opened up about her love for fitness and its importance. According to her, she doesn't want to see herself grow up to a certain age where she is unable to move her body properly and people are trying to look after her or help her out. The actress wants to be very capable

of walking, eating, standing, running and enjoying.

Esha further added that when she goes to foreign countries, she sees many aged women enjoying their life without being in proper shape, embracing their loose bodies. They are able to walk without any support and enjoy the joys of life. She wants that kind of life. The actress also pointed out that a lot of people don't exercise or work on their bodies at all and still talk about body positivity. On the work front, Esha will next be seen in Prakash Jha's *Aashram 3* which stars Bobby Deol in the lead role. It is slated to release June 3, 2022. IANS

NATYADHARA: DAY 1



A scene from the Odia play *Pratihinsa* presented by Angul based theatre troupe Natyam at Bhanja Kalamandap, Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Written by Shankar Tripathy, the drama was directed by Sudhanshu Mohan Dwivedi. The play was part of the monthly theatre show Natyadhara, jointly organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Odia Language, Literature and Culture department.

FUN post

PEANUTS



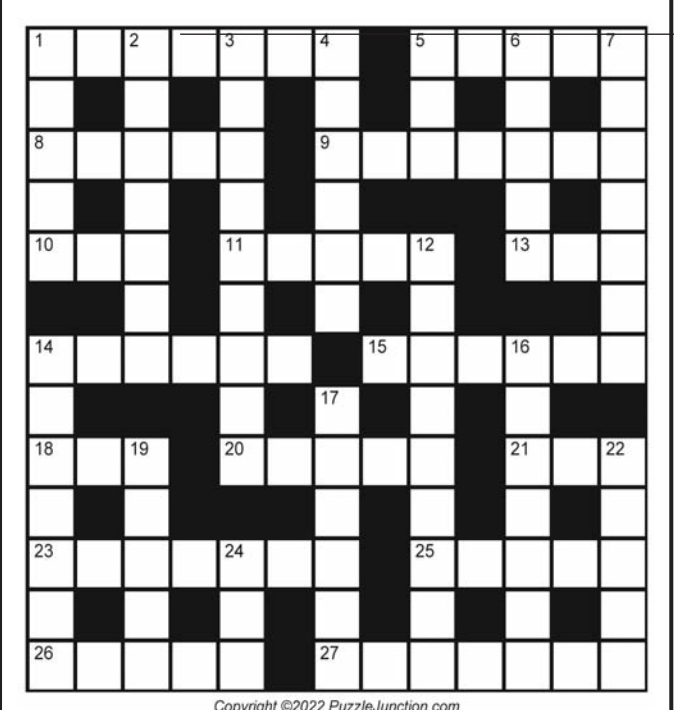
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



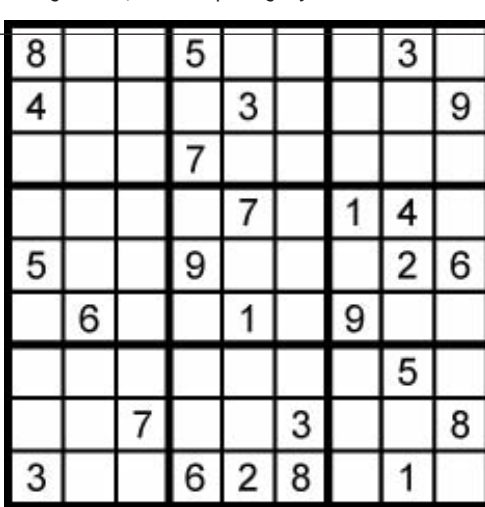
CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Pie plant
5 Tough, durable wood
8 Column style
9 High-spirited horse
10 Sapporo sash
11 Bouquet
13 Freudian topic
14 Rubicon crosser
15 Leafy vegetable
- Down**
18 "O Sole ___"
20 Grain disease
21 Flop
23 Employ
25 Whiskers
26 Hostile force
27 Ceremonial staff
- Across**
5 Grassy area
6 Worker's demand
7 Gathering place
12 Respected
14 ___ with nature (3,4)
16 Seasoned sailor
17 Means of escape
19 Speak out
22 Sidestep
24 Winter travel warning

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



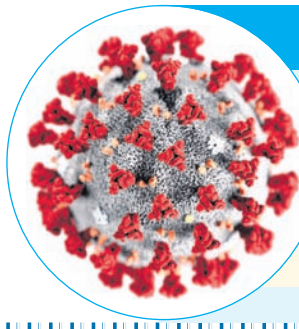
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CULTURAL FETE

The cultural wing of Women and Child Development department stage play *Samparka Ra Dori* at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	53,30,25,275	50,40,79,304	63,14,245
India	4,31,60,832	4,26,17,810	5,24,636
Odisha	12,88,454	12,79,205	9,126

80 pc big-ticket projects sailing smoothly in state



The Cabinet Committee on Investment Project Monitoring Group Wednesday reviewed 33 projects from eight sectors including railways, road and highways, oil and gas, agriculture, mines, communication and cement

The progress of work for railway projects like doubling of Banaspani-Jakhapura line, Rourkela-Jharsuguda third line (102 km), Bhadrak-Nergundi third line, doubling of Hatia (Ranchi) Bondamunda line (159 km), third and fourth lines between Budhapank-Salegaon (170 km), Vizianagaram-Tilagarh third line (264.6 km), doubling of Sambalpur-Talcher line (174.11 km), Khurda-Bolangir new broad gauge link (289 km), Talcher-Bimlagarh new line and Angul-Sukhinda new line was reviewed at the meeting.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: The Cabinet Committee on Investment Project Monitoring Group (CCI-PMG) Wednesday reviewed the progress of 33 big ticket investment projects in Odisha.

The review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra at the conference hall of Lokseva Bhawan here. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Special Secretary Amrit Lal Meena, DPIIT Director Arvind Pandey and senior officials of Central PMG participated in the joint review meeting wherein the project proponents presented the ground-level issues for discussion.

The Committee reviewed 33 projects from eight sectors including railways, road and highways, oil and gas, agriculture, mines, commu-

nication and cement. The panel also reviewed several coal projects of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) including Bhubaneswar open cast, Kaniha open cast and Belpahar open cast mines.

Similarly, several national highway (NH) projects including four laning of Talcher-Chandikhole and Singara-Binjhabahal, upgradation of Cuttack-Angul section of NH-42 (New NH-55), upgradation of Angul-Sambalpur section of NH-55, six laning of Bhadrak-Balasure section of NH-5 (New NH-16) and six laning of Chandikhole-Bhadrak section of NH-16 were reviewed by the CCP-PMG.

The officials also take stock of the progress made on construction of the corridor passing through Angul, Balaram, Putagadia, Jarapada along with the link from Putagadia to Tentuloi.

The issues pertaining to land alienation, removal of encroach-



The state government has taken proactive steps for quick implementation of the projects. Out of the total 165 big ticket projects being monitored through the CCI-PMG portal, 132 projects (around 80 per cent) are sailing smoothly because of the timely action of the state government

AMRIT LAL MEENA | DPIIT SPECIAL SECRETARY

ments, forest clearance, wildlife clearance, construction of wildlife underpass, distribution of compensation, compensatory afforestation and shifting of utilities were discussed and resolved in the meeting.

Mahapatra set timelines for field-level implementation of the decisions taken in the meeting.

Examining various contours of the issues flagged up by the project developers, Mahapatra gave necessary guidance for their resolution. He also set timelines for implementation of different tasks to resolve various issues. The departments concerned, respective district administrations and project proponents were asked to adhere to the timelines without fail.

"The state government has taken proactive steps for quick implementation of the projects. Out of the total 165 big ticket projects being monitored through the CCI-PMG portal, 132 projects (around 80 per cent) are sailing smoothly because of the timely action of the state government," Meena said.

The field-level problems flagged up by 33 project developers have also been substantially resolved by the state and district administrations, he added.

"This joint exercise has been very helpful in expeditious implementation of the large scale infrastructural and investment projects," said the Chief Secretary.

Naveen frontrunner in promoting hockey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: As Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik completes his 25 years in public service, his tireless efforts to give a fillip to hockey in Odisha and transformational initiatives under 5T are worth mentioning.

When the nation did not have a sponsor for the men's and women's hockey teams, it was Naveen, who came forward to sponsor both these hockey teams of the nation that brought laurels to the country. Naveen, it can easily said, has transformed Bhubaneswar into the sports capital of India.

Naveen's 5T mantra of teamwork, technology, transparency and time leading to transformation has worked wonders at the grassroots of Odisha by bringing a silent revolution in areas of health, education, public governance and cultural development of Odisha.

Naveen's tireless efforts for the development of Odisha and its 4.5 crore people along with his nation-

building activities have led to the emergence of Odisha as a role model in governance and public policy for the nation and the world.

The Odisha CM has left a number of innovative creations as a footmark in sands of time. From turning Odisha as a state which was known in the eighties for hunger and starvation deaths, to transforming the state into a developing and emerging state of Odisha that the whole nation is taking notice of and talking about.

From empowerment of women through 7 lakh women self-help groups (SHGs) and 80 lakh women in these SHGs to Mamata scheme which was copied as National maternity scheme, Naveen has left indelible footmarks in the sands of time.

Renovation of several shrines including Puri Srimandir corridor project also drew the attention of many. The Chief Minister has recently inaugurated the re-developed Tara Tarini shrine in Ganjam district.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup trophy and then Team India skipper Manpreet Singh



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the renovated Tara Tarini temple in Ganjam



Naveen Patnaik being sworn in as the Chief Minister of Odisha in 2000

CM dedicates 532 transformed high schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday dedicated 532 government high schools in five districts, transformed with modern facilities under the 5T initiative of the state government, to the people.

Under the High School Transformation programme, altogether 1,070 high schools were transformed in the first phase while another 2,907 schools were redeveloped in the second phase.

Of which, 532 schools were inaugurated Wednesday while the remaining will be dedicated in a phased manner till June 10. The Chief Minister dedicated 339 transformed high schools in Mayurbhanj district, 81 in Khurda, 24 in Boudh, 47 in Malkangiri and 41 in Sonepur through virtual mode

Under the High School Transformation programme, altogether 1,070 high schools were transformed in the first phase while another 2,907 schools were redeveloped in the second phase

Of which, 532 schools were inaugurated Wednesday while the remaining will be dedicated in a phased manner till June 10

through virtual mode. Speaking on the occasion, Patnaik said each child is unique and has great potential. The children have dreams of a better future and dreams of doing something big in

life. The school transformation programme has added wings to their dreams and brought new opportunities for them, he added.

"If the dream of the children comes true, the goal to build a new Odisha will be fulfilled and the foundation of a new Odisha will be laid," said the Chief Minister.

He further said that new look of the schools has filled the hearts of the children with joy and excitement. This has created new hopes and aspirations among the students, he added. Stating that school life is the best time for a person, Patnaik appealed to the students to utilise their time properly and create a new identity for themselves, their families and the state.

He further said the transformation of the school is a classic example of the 5T programme. He

elaborated how the 5T (technology, teamwork, time, transparency and transformation) principle has brought transformation in the school education. The Chief Minister thanked the school management committees, members of panchayati raj institutions (PRIs), members of alumni associations and teachers for their support in the transformation of schools.

Ministers Sudam Marndi, Padmanabh Behera, Niranjan Pujari and Ashok Chandra Panda, Nabarangpur MP Ramesh Majhi and Boudh MLA Pradeep Amat were present at various places in the five districts during the inauguration of the transformed schools. Among others, Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and senior officers from different departments attended the function.

IIT-Guwahati develops device to tap wastewater for green energy

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed a bio-electrochemical device called Microbial Fuel Cell (MFC) which can generate green energy by treating wastewater.

According to officials, the use of organic material such as wastewater in MFC makes it an eco-friendly device that offers a dual benefit of bioelectricity generation and waste management.

Rapid population growth has led to rising energy demands and environmental concerns, necessitating the development of renewable and sustainable energy production techniques. Along with several renewable energy sources (solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy, and geothermal energy, among others), the sustainable energy sources also include the 'Blue Energy' sources of energy harvesting, said T G Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati.

These are those sources of energy generation that have no negative impact on the environment, and energy is generated from various wastes, such as sewage waste and food industries wastes. This development by IIT team has provided an excellent sustainable energy source along with treating several waste waters. After scaling the process, it can be used as a source of clean energy using municipal waste water and other such areas economically, he added.

Explaining the long-term impact of the research, Mihir Kumar Purkait, Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, said further implementation of this process may provide an excellent alternative to several costlier renewable energy extraction processes.

This study reveals that the prepared Cation Exchange Membranes



The use of organic material such as wastewater in Microbial Fuel Cell makes it an eco-friendly device that offers a dual benefit of bioelectricity generation and waste management

odic chamber anaerobically oxidizes organic matter present in waste water to produce electrons and protons. Protons are transported to the cathodic chamber through the PEM. The external circuit conducts the electrons to the cathode, completing the electrical circuit. At the cathode, electrons and protons react in the presence of oxygen (or another electron acceptor), which gets reduced to water.

(CEMs) are cheaper and perform better as compared to the several reported membranes, assisting in the separation of charges and potential development, he said.

MFC is a bio-electrochemical reactor system that utilizes electrons liberated in the biochemical oxidation of organic substrates catalysed by anaerobic microbes. A conventional MFC reactor comprises an anaerobic biotic anode chamber, an aerobic biotic or abiotic cathode chamber, and a separator such as a Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM). The active biocatalyst in the an-

The present research focuses on the development of cost-effective and high-performance CEMs for application in MFCs. CEMs being the heart of the energy extraction process using MFCs need to be highly cost-effective along with being able to perform magnificently in order to make the process feasible and scalable.

The waste sugarcane bagasse has also been used in the study to improve the membrane performance, thereby preparing a valuable product from the agricultural waste. The investigation approves the applicability of prepared CEMs as a suitable PEM for application in MFC, said Purkait. PTI

CHARIOT WORK



Carpenters toiling hard to construct chariots for this year's Rath Yatra in Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

HC: Don't delay posting on compassionate grounds

A bench of Justice SK Panigrahi held that authorities should create supernumerary posts if there is no suitable post for appointment on compassionate grounds

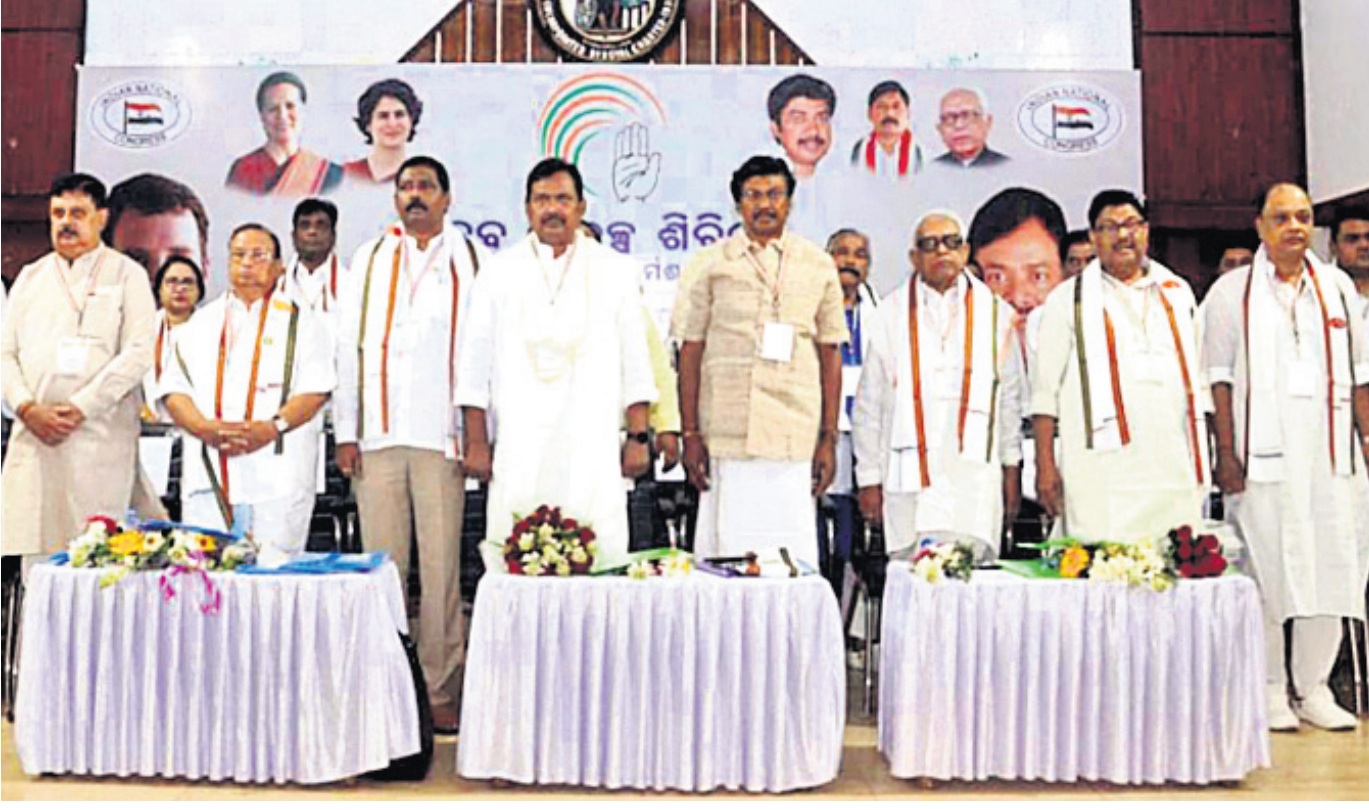


New Delhi, June 1: The Orissa High Court has ruled that there should not be any delay in claims for appointment on compassionate grounds as the purpose of providing such appointment is to mitigate the hardship caused by the death of bread earners in the family.

The HC gave its ruling on a petition filed by Biswajit Parida of Kendrapara. Parida had filed an application for a job under Odisha Civil Service (Rehabilitation Assistance) Rule, 1990 in 2015 after the death of his father Bichitra Kumar Parida, who was working as assistant teacher in Bandhapada primary school under block education officer, Mahakalpada.

The petitioner has not been provided the job so far either as per the Orissa Civil Service (Rehabilitation Assistance) Rule 1990 or Amendment Rule 2016. The petitioner approached the High Court in 2021 challenging the order of the district education officer, Kendrapara in rejecting his representations for compassionate appointment. The High Court observed that seven years of delay in the case has shown the callous attitude of the authorities concerned.

CONG MEET



Congress leaders pose for a photo at 'Naba Sankalpa Sibira' organised at Institution of Engineers in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

14 fresh Covid cases in state

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Odisha recorded 14 new Covid-19 cases Wednesday, 11 more than the previous day, taking the tally to 12,88,454, the Health department said. The toll remained at 9,126 as there was no death due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours.

Govt for 'deletion' of texts, pictures from Class III book

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: After drawing flak from several quarters, the Directorate of Teacher Education and SCERT asked the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSPEA) to give necessary instructions to teachers to ignore the page of a Class III language book that has texts and pictures of some specific brands.



regard and DEOs may be instructed to ensure that teachers are properly sensitised not to use and demonstrate this page while teaching students. This decision was taken after some parents complained that the School and Mass Education department is promoting some brands by placing their products in the book.

Women Child Development and Mission Shakti department Minister Tukuni Sahu, HT&H department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Subha Sharma, Textiles & Handlooms Director Sushant

Special Handloom Expo-2022 inaugurated at Ekamra Haat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts (HT&H) department Minister Padmini Dian Wednesday inaugurated the Special Handloom Expo-2022 at Ekamra Haat here. Organised by Sambalpur Bastralaya, the exhibition, which will continue till June 16, 2022, has 33 stalls in which weaver members of the PWCS/SHGs of Bargarh, Cuttack, Sonepur, Athagarh, Dhenkanal, Baripada, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Boudh zone, including Sambalpur Bastralaya will showcase and sale their products.



Kumar Dash, Serifed and Utkalika Special Secretary, MD Saroj Kumar Patel and Bargarh Sambalpur Bastralaya Managing Director Sisir Kumar Nag were present in inaugural ceremony. According to HT&H department sources, as many as 870 artisans and weavers participated in 14 exhibitions conducted by the department at Ekamra Haat between October 2, 2021 and May 31, 2022.

OJEE 2022 starts July 4

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: The Odisha Joint Entrance Examination-2022 (OJEE-2022) will be conducted from July 4 to 8 for admissions into undergraduate and post-graduate courses in technical and professional colleges of the state, an official said Wednesday. The examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for all the courses. The exams will be held in three shifts— 9:00am-11:00am, 12:30pm-2:30pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm.



People under the banner of Nikhil Utkal Thikadar Mahasangha stage a sit-in in front of Nirman Soudha in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, to press for fulfilment of their demands

FOR A CAUSE

Minister launches two Bioincubator products in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Minister of Science and Technology Ashok Chandra Panda Wednesday launched two products developed by the startups incubated at ILS-Bioincubator. The RNA isolation kit developed by RNA Biotech will help in diagnosis and detection of diseases and pathogens. The growth promoters from agricultural waste materials have been developed by Thinkgenix Biotech.

Summer camp at BJEMS concludes



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 1: A seven-day summer camp at BJEM School here concluded with a ceremonial function Wednesday. Students from Class-V to Class-VIII participated in the summer camp with great enthusiasm. The students enjoyed varieties of activities including Yoga, communicative English, pottery, clay modeling, paper craft and martial art at the camp.

STUDENTS FROM CLASS-V TO CLASS-VIII PARTICIPATED IN THE SUMMER CAMP WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND ENJOYED VARIETIES OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING YOGA, COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH, POTTERY, CLAY MODELLING, PAPER CRAFT AND MARTIAL ART AT THE CAMP. THE STUDENTS WERE ENTHRALLED BY THE SURPRISE BONANZA OF HORSE RIDING. THE ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMP WERE CONDUCTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCED COACHES.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

It is hereby informed that original ROR in name of Jayashree Agrawal bearing Khata No. 230/218 and Plot No. 135/850 in Mouza- Aiginia, Area Ac. 0.043 deca. has been lost on Dt.21.05.2022 near Laxmisagar Chhak, Bhubaneswar. If found I request to handover to me and not to misuse. Sd./- Jayashree Agrawal, 9776481626

Insurers can launch products sans Irdai nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Regulator Irdai Wednesday permitted insurers to launch health and most of the general insurance products without its prior approval, a move aimed at having a fully insured India. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has extended the 'Use and File' procedure for all the health insurance products and almost all the general insurance products in line with the reforms agenda taken up towards having a fully insured India.



the regulator said in a statement. "This is a stepping stone towards improving the ease of doing business in the insurance sector by moving from the current regime requiring prior approval for launch of the products to a regime where products could be launched without any prior approval," it said. The regulator further said it is envisaged that the initiatives will enable the insurance industry in launching suitable products in a timely manner.

MD and CEO Tapan Singhel said the proactive initiative by the regulator will provide some necessary mechanisms to insurance companies which wish to bring out more innovative products in the market at a faster frequency. "Use and File procedure essentially means that insurers can introduce their products to the market on filing with the regulator thus avoiding a long waiting duration in offering innovative insurance solutions to customers in order to help address the dynamic environment," he said.

Commenting on the Irdai's move, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

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

SHORT TAKES

2 killed after bike rams into tree

Daringbadi: Two people died when their bike rams into a roadside tree along National Highway-59 under Daringbadi police limits in Kandhamal district Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Salu Pradhan and Amap Pradhan of Saleju village. Another youth identified as Ristu Pradhan sustained severe injuries. Reports said the trio was returning from home from Daringbadi when accident took place. Locals rushed them to Daringbadi community health centre but two of them had succumbed on the way. Police seized the bike and started an investigation.

7 held for murder bid on youth

Berhampur: The Baidyanathpur police here Wednesday arrested seven persons on charges of murder bid on a youth and robbing him of ₹30,000 at Saradhabali Square in Khodasingh of Ganjam district, Tuesday evening. The arrested identified as Kanhu Das, Manoj Das, Kiran Das, Arakhita Das, Mangulu Das, Anil Das and Sanjay Das of Ambapua under Gopalpur police limits were produced in court. They were accused of orchestrating an organised murderous attack on a youth identified as Bulu Das. The incident occurred when Bulu was on his way to Berhampur to attend some work when the accused attacked him with swords and stones. Bulu sustained critical injuries and collapsed on the spot. Suspecting Bulu's death, the accused youths fled the scene. Locals rescued Bulu and rushed him to MKCG from where he was shifted to Visakhapatnam after his condition worsened.



Children attired in various divine forms participated in a procession as the month-long Maa Narayani Yatra in Phulbani came to an end, Wednesday. OP PHOTO

Two persons on bypoll duty die

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 1: Two personnel engaged in polling duty for byelection to Brajarajnagar Assembly seat in Jharsuguda district have died, officials said. The bypoll to Brajarajnagar constituency was held May 31 following the death of BJD MLA Kishore Mohanty in December last year. One of the officials, identified as schoolteacher Dilip Khadia, 45, of Tangarpalli village under Jharsuguda Sadar block, was deputed as booth number 169 in Phalsadipa village. While performing his duty Tuesday, he fell unconscious at the



FILE PHOTO

booth in the evening. He was rushed to Central Hospital at Mandalia in Brajarajnagar where the doctors declared him brought dead, the officials said. It is suspected that he died due to cardiac arrest.

The second victim was 45-year-old Trilochan Mohanty, a resident of Jharsuguda. Mohanty, who used to work as a home guard in Jharsuguda Sadar police station, was deputed at booth number 238 in Government

Primary School in Phatar area. He felt uneasy Sunday after which he was admitted to the district headquarters hospital at Jharsuguda. Mohanty was shifted to VIMSAR at Burla in Sambalpur district Monday as his condition deteriorated. He died Tuesday and the doctors are yet to confirm the cause of death. The family members of the deceased officials will be provided compensation as per ECI norms, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Odisha, SK Lohani told PTI. An official gets an ex gratia of ₹15 lakh for death on duty while the amount is ₹30 lakh if the cause of death is Covid-19.

7 months on, tusker death still a mystery

Locals demand a Crime Branch probe into the incident and rejected Forest dept's claim that charred body parts of the animal were sent for forensic tests

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 1: Seven months after the burnt remains of a tusker were found in Mundeidumberchuan reserve forest under Sadar range in Sambalpur, the death of the elephant is shrouded in mystery as the forensic report is yet to come, prompting locals and wildlife activists to seek a Crime Branch probe into the incident. As per sources, some days before recovery of the elephant's remains, locals had got the whiff of poaching of an elephant in the area, as the foul smell kept wafting up from the area from time to time. However, the Forest department had no inkling of the incident.

The locals had informed about the incident to the divisional forest officer (DFO) who had later ordered an investigation into the matter.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Madanlal Sharma, Jhankarpalli forester Suryanayan Khillar, Bhimkhaj forester Kulamani Panigari and other forest officials scouted the area from where the stench was emanating. But, they failed to find any carcass. However, they could find the tyre marks of bikes and other vehicles on the ground which pointed to possible presence of poachers. Interestingly, days before the

foul smell was noticed, a local had claimed to have seen an elephant carcass which he said had disappeared later.

Locals suspected that poachers had chopped the carcass into pieces before burnt it by using tree trunks, kerosene and petrol.

Both Orissa POST and Dharitri had carried reports about suspected poaching of an elephant in Mundeidumberchuan reserve forest following which the Forest department woke up from slumber and started an investigation.

On searching the area, the forest officials found some charred bones and ashes October 20, 2021 which they sent to forensic lab for testing.

What is shocking is that though seven months have passed, the forensic report is yet to reach the Forest department.

Locals and various outfits expressed doubts whether the department is genuinely probing the issue or it's trying to hush the matter up.

Sadar ranger Akshaya Maharana said that letters have been sent to the Dehradun-based forensic lab twice seeking the report, but it is yet to be made available to them.

However, locals, who sought a Crime Branch probe into the matter, claimed that the Forest department has never sent the samples for forensic tests.



FILE PHOTO

SITAL SASTHI AHEAD

Engagement rituals of Gudeswar Baba held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 1: The week-long festival of Sital Sasthi, which is held in Western Odisha to mark the divine marriage of Lord Shiva with his consort Goddess Parvati (an incarnation of Goddess Sati), started Wednesday.

As part of the festival, the engagement rituals, (locally known as Patarpendi or Nirbandha) of Sri Sri Gudeswar Baba, were performed Wednesday.

Priests Sachhidananda Mishra and Samir Satapathy conducted the special rituals in the presence of temple trust board president-cum-groom's father Hemant Kumar Mohapatra Saptarshi, Gourishankar Dash, Dindayal Agarwal, Harish Agarwal, Lalit Agarwal, Pradip Tulsian, Arta Mohapatra and Kamal Soni.

Later, the groom's family members began a search for the bride amid the blowing of conchs and other traditional musical instruments. They reached the bride's house of Sitaram Agarwal at Tiwari Lane in Khetrajpur where the bride's family members welcomed them and held discussions about the marriage. The bride's father agreed to the

proposal and gave his consent to the marriage.

The festival, which is held with much fanfare, also marks the onset of monsoon and is celebrated by the farmers. The intense heat wave prior to it symbolises the severe austerity observed by Goddess Sati to get Lord Shiva as her husband.

Legend has it that the demon Tarakasur had received a boon that he would be killed by Lord Shiva's son. But Lord Shiva was busy in meditation on Mount Kailash after the death of Sati. So the Devas requested Shati to take the form of Parvati and marry Lord Shiva and save them from the menace of the demon.

Parvati performed rigorous meditation to get Lord Shiva as her husband. On the day of 'Jyestha Shukla Paksha Sasthi' Shiva was satisfied with her austerity and married her. Sital Sasthi was the marriage day.



'Jala Samrudhi' for pond renovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 1: After script success in implementation of its programmes like Tara, Swayamsidha, Nirbhay Kadhi and Mo Gelha Jhia, the Ganjam administration Wednesday launched another programme called 'Jala Samrudhi' for renovation of 100 ponds.

This new initiative is aimed at groundwater conservation.

Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange launched desitiation of



Gate Bandha, a big pond, in Chhatrapur Wednesday. "Under Jala Samrudhi, 100 ponds

in the district will be renovated and dredged. The programme will be executed in both urban and rural areas in collaboration with Panchayati Raj, Revenue, drainage divisions and urban development agencies," he said.

The Collector further said that the muck and silt which will be recovered from ponds will be used by farmers in their farmlands.

Podapara, Kanamana and Chikalkhandi panchayats have been attached with pond renovation programme of Gate Bandha.

SACRED RITUALS



Construction of chariots started after age-old rituals at Sabar Srikshehra in Koraput, Wednesday. OP PHOTO

For this betel vendor, grapes are not sour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, June 1: Although Odisha's climate is not conducive for grape cultivation, Akshaya Swain, a betel vendor at Pateni village in this district headquarters town, has a different story to tell as he has tasted success in growing the vine fruits organically in his backyard.

His happiness knew no bounds when the 49-year-old farmer, who has a keen interest in growing various plants, harvested more than 10 kg grapes from a vine in his backyard.

Swain had brought the grape plant from Kashmir and planted it in his backyard. He watered the plant and nurtured it well but never



Akshaya Swain had brought the grape plant from Kashmir and planted it in his backyard. He watered the plant and nurtured it well but never used any fertilizers or pesticides for its growth



The vines grew substantially and Swain carefully crafted them to help them creep evenly across his backyard. Finally, the vines bore fruits

used any fertilizers or pesticides for its growth.

Subsequently, the vines grew substantially and Swain carefully crafted them to help them creep evenly across his backyard. Finally, the vines

bore fruits. Recently, he has harvested over 10 kg of grapes and is waiting to harvest 2 to 3 kg more of the temperate crop.

Today, his experiment has become a success with

grapevines covering his entire backyard and providing much-required respite during summer days.

The grapes are very sweet and highly demanded in the market. This has helped him

earn ₹1,000 by selling the fruit in the market.

Encouraged by the success, Swain is mulling to take up grape farming as a source of livelihood. This year, he has planned to take up the cultivation on 18 decimal of land for which he has started preparing the land. He will expand the crop area in phases if yields are good.

Swain said he maintained the vines by pruning them occasionally. "I did not use any pesticides or chemical fertilisers, as the methods were organic and vines grew on compost without the use of soil," he adds.

"Weather is crucial for growing grapes, which require a combination of hot and humid conditions. If the weather suits the geograph-

ical region, anyone can grow grapes in their backyard or terrace," Swain revealed.

Today, his backyard attracts visitors from nearby villages and other enthusiastic farmers.

₹1.22cr assets of three ganja mafia attached



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur/Umerkote, June 1: The Nabarangpur police, Wednesday, attached illegally acquired properties of three ganja traders worth ₹1.22 crore at BS Padar Banuaguda village under Umerkote police limits.

The properties confiscated belong to three ganja traders - Subhas Biso and his two sons Subir Biso and Rama Chandra Biso in the village. Subhas and his two sons had acquired the properties through illegal means of ganja trade. Meanwhile, Biso and his two sons are absconding.

The attached properties include both movable and immovable assets of Subhas and his two sons. The properties were seized on the order of SP Sushree under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, said an official press release said.

Nabarangpur police froze immovable and movable properties of Subhas and his two sons which include two buildings, one bullet motorcycle and a cash balance of ₹4,39,909, held in SBI, ICICI and Axis banks, the release stated.

The three are accused of supplying ganja to states like Delhi, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh through an illegal network and their names fig-

ure in several cases under NDPS Act. Cases were registered at Koshagumuda police station March 24, 2021 and at Kodinga police station April 21 in the same year.

They had earned the properties through illegal ganja trade. Former MP Smith Parmar had sought permission from the Kolkata office of the Union Finance Ministry to attach the properties.

Later, the district police with the assistance of Roads and Buildings department, bank authorities and revenue department conducted a valuation of the landed properties, house and money saved in the bank. The Union Finance Ministry ordered for attachment of properties of the Bisois in letter FNDPSA/B-52/22-23, May 31, 2022.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. Sr.DMM/KUR/EP/2022-23/05, Date: 30.05.2022
The following tenders have been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in
(1) TENDER NO. 81225441: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: BUS TERMINAL CONNECTOR (18 MM), QUANTITY: 3460 NOS.
(2) TENDER NO. 81225469: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: GPS BASED JUMBO CLOCK, QUANTITY: 8 NOS.
Closing Date: 24.06.2022 (For Sl. No. 1) and 17.06.2022 (For Sl. No. 2).
Closing Time: 1500 hrs. (for both Tenders)
Sr. Divisional Materials Manager/PR-154/N/22-23 Khurda Road

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited
Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited. (भारत सरकार का उपकरण) (A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN: U1510MH950000187 Website: www.irel.co.in ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001: 2018 Company

Ref: ADVT.NO.22-23/05 TENDER NOTICE Date: 02-06-2022
IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions:
Bid No. Job / Item Description
GEM/2022/B/2204998 Supply of Coal.
GEM/2022/B/2206704 Supply of Sodium Sulphide.
GEM/2022/B/2206613 Supply of Caustic soda lye.

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in> or <http://gem.gov.in> website. Any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.
davn 48129/12/0008/2223 -Sd/- Executive Director, OSCOM

FOCUS SOCIETY

ENDING HERITAGE CONFLICT



If leaders of both Hindu and Muslim communities are told to have an agreed solution on preserving existing structures as heritage centres or crucibles of living history it would rid history writing process of its biases

society are taken into account, it would be huge. Court cases alone would have cost several millions. Add to it the several disruptions due to statewide curfews, Mumbai and Aligarh riots among others, upheavals in businesses, loss of wages are not easy to fathom. There have been losses of lives as well. Now billions of rupees are being poured in for reconstruction too. The divide remains sharp, though RSS chief Mohan Bhagavat says the communities share the same DNA.

The route to solution may be simple but may not be easy to accept. The Qutab complex, which is also in the eye of the storm, provides a way out. The inscriptions in the complex say 27 temples were there. The ASI plaque also mentions it. These are heritage monuments. If their possession is handed over again to any of the groups, another process of distortion is likely to begin. Hurt feelings would worsen. Again, if the documentations and evidence are lost, it may repeat history of emotional outbursts in future.

Once the Varanasi, Mathura shrine issues are resolved many such sites in other states may become part of the heritage harmony circuit by agreeing to preserve these as centres for depicting living history and reconciliation process.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has built a beautiful Prime Ministers' museum. If leaders of both Hindu and Muslim communities are told to have an agreed solution on preserving existing structures as heritage centres or crucibles of living history it would rid history writing process of its biases. A harmonious process of community interaction can begin at these sites under the Archaeological Survey of India. These living museums of the structures could be christened 'Harmony Museums' and usher in a new era. This 'New India' would invite people from across the globe to learn about the novel way Indians can solve critical social issues that Northern Ireland Peace Walls could not do.

Global Buffer Vital

Food shortages are beginning to cast a shadow over the world. One long-term factor is the warming of our planet, which has slowly destroyed agricultural land. But the proximate cause of greatest concern is the war in Ukraine and Russian President Vladimir Putin's Black Sea blockade, which is preventing Ukrainian grain and fertilizers from leaving the port of Odessa.

This is an extremely urgent problem, and policymakers are rightly scrambling to solve it. But there is also a generic problem, beyond the immediate emergency, that needs to be understood if we are to overcome the current food crisis. It arises from our failure to keep pace with the march of economic globalisation by implementing global policy and conventions.

Since late 2019, the world has been in relentless crisis mode as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, supply-chain disruptions, and now Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine. This train of crises has naturally left all concerned citizens rushing to put out one fire after another. But, if we spend all our resources fighting fires, we will probably fail to produce innovative flame-resistant institutions. In this spirit, I want to step back from our immediate concerns, grave as they are, to address their underlying causes.

Some of these causes are clearly visible, starting with the Russian blockade around Ukraine. Until 2021, Ukraine exported roughly 17 million tonnes of wheat annually, or 8.5 per cent of the world's total. But it is not immediately clear why this should lead to such a big increase in wheat prices, and to the dangers of global food shortages and famine that we are seeing today. After all, most countries have some buffer stocks and should be able to absorb this shock.

The answer lies in the behavioural response of national and local governments and even of individuals. When global policy coordination is poor, the natural reaction to news of some shortage is to hoard supplies. We know this from studies such as Amartya Sen's classic work on the 1943 Bengal Famine, and we see it happening now.

While Ukraine has halted its wheat exports because it had no option, other countries have chosen to stop or curtail shipments. India, for example, announced a virtual ban on wheat exports May 14. And it is not alone; 26 countries have limited their wheat exports to ensure that they have sufficient supplies for their own citizens. All this is causing global wheat prices to rise precipitously. India's announcement alone triggered a 6 per cent price increase.

A similar phenomenon occurs at the household level. Once fear of shortages sets in, people stock up on more food than they immediately need in order to guard against a full-blown crisis. Yet, these small actions by millions of people, along with local and national government policies, can end up causing just that.

This is not unique to food. We have seen the same thing happen with vaccines: Countries acquire far more doses than they need in order to guard against the possibility of a future shortage. Such hoarding explains some of the glaring global inequities in access to COVID-19 vaccines.

If such responses were inevitable, we would have to treat them like the law of gravity, which is not something we can do anything about. But there is much we can do through collective action to overcome shortages that the market cannot fix. A system of global buffers or an international agreement that countries with a surplus must help others during times of scarcity would go a long way toward solving much of the problem. Just like the introduction of deposit insurance put an end to bank runs, most people would stop hoarding once they had confidence that this system worked, and that in itself would help avert a crisis.

If this sounds like wishful thinking, consider what happened in India, a country with a history of food shortages and hoarding. Longstanding efforts to establish a national public food distribution system resulted in a major improvement in 1992 and culminated in the 2013 National Food Security Act. With a sophisticated system of minimal food guarantees in place for three decades, the psychology of hoarding at the household level has diminished, which in turn has diminished the need to hoard.

Global agreements and buffers to mitigate food crises may seem impossible. But a similar arrangement at the national level for a large country like India also was thought to be out of reach until it happened. Likewise, large republics like the United States had seemed impossible until the US Constitution was ratified. The fact that a successful global or regional buffer system or surplus-sharing agreement has never existed is not a reason to give up hope.

This argument carries over from food to other economic and social domains. Despite recent hiccups, the march of globalisation will not end, so we must try to establish minimal global conventions and agreements to prevent it from trampling the most vulnerable.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Nothing is permanent in this wicked world - not even our troubles.
CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Whosoever desires constant success must change his conduct with the times.
NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI

In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.
THOMAS JEFFERSON

WORDSWORTH

Tautochrone

A tautochrone is a curve on which an object falling under gravity will reach the bottom in the same amount of time, no matter from where it starts. This may seem like the most abstruse of mathematical ideas, but it makes accurate pendulum clocks possible. It goes back to the seventeenth century Dutch scientist Christiaan Huygens, who knew that the pendulum is not quite the perfect keeper of time that one would like. It works well enough if its movements are kept small, but as the size of the pendulum's swing varies, so does the time it takes - only slightly, but it's a serious problem if you're trying to make your clock accurate. Huygens discovered that there is one curved shape, and only one, which is perfect in this respect: the cycloid, the curve traced out when a point on the edge of a wheel rolls along a road. If you position a cycloidal curve like an inverted arch, and release a marble from any point on it, it will always take exactly the same time to reach the bottom, no matter where on the curve you start from. So the cycloid is said to be a tautochrone. Huygens used this discovery to construct curved jaws from the point of support of the pendulum; these forced its string to follow the right curve no matter how large or small the swing. The word comes from the Greek tauto, "the same" (which we have inherited in words like tautology) and chronos, "time" (as in chronometer); so the word means a curve of equal time.



A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away.
THE MOTHER



Shivaji Sarkar

MONUMENTS OR SHRINES CAPTURED, REBUILT OR DEMOLISHED BY FORCE HAVE GIVEN RISE TO EMOTIONS, APPREHENSIONS, DOUBTS AND SOCIETAL AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES

There is growing churning. Monuments or shrines captured, rebuilt or demolished by force have given rise to emotions, apprehensions, doubts and societal and economic uncertainties. Only harmony can revive the country's fortune. Should we not build 'Harmony Museums' to preserve the heritage and showcase these as the beginning of a new dawn?

Yes, the country needs harmony to give a fillip to the economy and preserve the harsh historical process. Lack of it, impacts severely, may be in terms of billions. Post-Partition armed gangs have been raiding majority areas periodically in many states. The 1986 Shankhnaad for Ram Janmabhoomi saw a thaw. Marching paces, it witnessed demolition of the old temple or Babri structure much against the wishes of Atal Behari Vajpayee, LK Advani, archaeologist Swarajya Prakash Gupta and many Sangh luminaries, followed by marches, court cases, decisions and reconciliation for the temple and mosque. The structure reminiscent of historic power process is demolished. Gyanvapi has raised ripples again.

There is one agreement. Those who are raking up the issue through the portals of courts or otherwise and their opponents who have possession over the premises know the reality - these were forcibly occupied and destroyed. Even eminent historian Prof Irfan Habib of Aligarh Muslim University, an expert on the issue, says these were part of past power games and demolitions are a reality. None, however, wants to give it up, be it Gyanvapi, Mathura or Bhojshala. Gyanvapi, whether has a Shivaling or not, would be difficult to culminate into another Vishwanath temple. As per religious ethos there should not be two shrines in one enclave.

The solution to the Indian economy remains difficult. Inflation - retail at 7.79% and wholesale at 15.1% - is high. A little cut in additional excise duty on petroleum is a small relief. The RBI pegs growth at 7.2%. The societal emo-

tions and aberrations can hurt the process.

Interestingly Gyanvapi cases begin with the Places of Worship Act 1991, the law that prohibits changes in religious character of a shrine as it existed August 15, 1947. It was demolished September 2, 1669, on the orders Aurangzeb. A Varanasi court has ordered Archaeological Survey of India to probe the structure. The Gyanvapi case is now encouraging many to stake claims to occupied structures for prayers including the Taj Mahal in Agra, the Qutab Minar in Delhi and Lord Krishna birthplace, Mathura. This has also stoked passions in Srirangapatna in Karnataka for repossession of a Jamia mosque.

The courts may follow the process of the Ayodhya judgement. Those wanting possession are acting with emotional vengeance for restoration to them. Perhaps, another phase of renovation, demolition and reconstruction can follow. It is all about egos, passion and historical reality. It will not end the conflict. In the process, the economy, not in a happy shape, may thaw if not regress, while conflicts, confusion and mutual distrust may grow and the nation may see volatile reactions. How much would be the loss? It depends over the in-

tensity or the lack of it.

Should it then not be given up by those who are possessing and be possessed by the aspirants? Certainly. All would have to come forward to create the Harmony Museum preservation. It is a composite culture. Be it Varanasi, Mathura, Moradabad, Meerut, Aligarh or any Uttar Pradesh city, one community, somewhere Hindu the other Muslim, is the investor and other provides the labour or logistics. There is inter-dependence. A bit of uncertainty would put these and many other places into disarray. The community pressure prevents them from taking the supposed rational step. None, including Habib, dares speak out.

Should Gyanvapi or other monuments such as Mathura or Bhojshala meet the same fate as old Ram Lalla structure? These mustn't. These are heritage conflicts. None of the present generation ascribes to these. Nobody owns up Aurangzeb or other tyrants. None has the courage to openly oppose these either.

The cost of Ram Janmabhoomi movement is difficult to estimate. But if court cases by the three parties - the Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and the Ram Lalla Virajman, distinct arguments, law and order expenses, occasional violence or tension in

SPECTRUM AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban in a bind



Asad Mirza

WHAT CONCERNS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS THE SERIES OF TALIBAN DIKTATS ON SOCIAL ISSUES, TARGETING WOMEN AND SPECIFIC MUSLIM SECTS IN PARTICULAR

The latest international conference to discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan and also review the response of the neighbouring and regional countries to the latest Taliban decisions, took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, last week.

National Security Advisors (NSA) from Tajikistan, India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and China, with Pakistan abstaining as it currently has no NSA, attended the Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan.

It is believed that all the NSAs highlighted the need to find constructive ways to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan and combating risks from terrorism emanating from the region and particularly ensure that Afghanistan doesn't become a terror hub again.

This has been a primary concern for India since the Taliban took over the country, besides the rights of Afghan citizens, especially women and minorities. India has already closed down its diplomatic missions in Afghanistan, which the Taliban keenly wants to be reopened. Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said at the meeting that certain countries in the region and beyond were transferring Takfiri terrorists to Afghanistan, adding that ter-

rорism and extremism are among the main causes of insecurity in Afghanistan. However, what concerns the international community more is the series of Taliban diktats on social issues, targeting women and specific Muslim sects in particular.

May 9, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) ordered women and older girls to cover their faces when in public. The order further said that punishments for violating the decree would be inflicted on their male family members. Taliban leaders responded to public outcry by insisting that the decree is not mandatory, but so far their own enforcement efforts contradict those statements. Further, May 21, the IEA's Ministry of Vice and Virtue ordered all women television presenters to cover their faces, stating "the decision was final and that there was no room for discussion."

This latest order is part of a steady flow of Taliban actions that have blocked girls' secondary education, pushed women out of most employment, curtailed women's freedom of movement, obstructed women's access to healthcare, and abolished the system designed to protect women and girls from violence. They have gradually imposed more restrictions on Afghan women and Shia community. After banning them from acquiring certain gov-

ernment jobs, getting education, and travelling alone outside their cities, they have now ordered them to wear the burqa or to cover themselves from head to toe in public.

Afghanistan of present might become a nation with contradictory notions of personal freedom as viewed by them in contrast to internationally recognised definition of personal freedom. They very well understand that international recognition will bind them to certain western norms and obligations, on human rights in particular, and as those would completely contradict their self-defined ideology or interpretation of Islam, they are ready to ignore it for the time being.

They might have thought that they would be able to deceive the international community by making shallow promises regarding female education and introducing an inclusive political structure. With the US unfreezing their sovereign funds and after some key Islamic states formally recognising them, the Taliban would go about enforcing their actual agenda.

The international observers' hope was that the members of the Afghan delegation based in Doha might be able to influence their counterparts in Afghanistan, to follow the international demands.

But in reality these moderate elements were sidelined in the new government and the hawks amongst them took control based on their ideological beliefs. Justifying their initial actions, some supporters pointed that their conservative mindset would take time to adjust to global realities. But the truth is that they have even failed to address the security concerns of their immediate neighbours.

So far they have even been unable to control the militant Islamic organisations like IS-Khorasan, which is present in some key Afghan provinces. This inaction on their behalf gives goose bumps to their immediate and regional neighbours, both. Similarly, they have been unable to reign in the Tehreek-i Taliban Pakistan, which in fact enjoys full support of the IEA regime.

The irony is that Taliban's supporters, who were sincerely ready to offer them a second chance are dismayed by the double meaning actions or inactions by the IEA, as it puts the future of a vast majority of common Afghani on the block and does not bode well for the country's future, besides pushing those supporters into a tight corner.

The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi.

Rest in peace KK

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, The untimely demise of renowned playback singer KK has saddened all music lovers across the country. It was a bolt from the blue. KK was a noble man with a God-gifted voice. His voice was enthralling, appealing, soothing and motivating. He did not sing for money but for aesthetic pleasure. He mesmerised his fans by his mellifluous voice. KK's music was life-giving, therapeutic, wholesome and inspiring. He was a cut above the rest. KK was a guiding light for many budding singers of the Hindi film industry. He was a source of inspiration for all of us. Art is long and life is short. May his soul rest in peace. The whole nation mourns his tragic death. It is painful and hurting.
Prabhuduti Dash,
BHUBANESWAR

Commendable order

Sir, The Supreme Court's order on sex work lays emphasis on the importance of ensuring a dignified life for sex workers. Through the order the Supreme Court also conveys the message of dignity of labour. As per the order, police must not treat sex workers harshly. In addition, media must not publish sex workers' pictures or reveal their identity while reporting rescue operations and further said that the offence of voyeurism under Section 354 C must be enforced if media violates this direction. The Supreme Court direction has come as a relief for sex workers who are often ostracized and ill-treated by society. There is widespread prejudice against them and they are discriminated against and ridiculed in public places. Society often sees prostitution as adultery and those who engage in the act of sex as perpetrators. The existing laws on sex work allow private prostitution but soliciting it, doing it publicly and owning a brothel are illegal. According to the order, whenever there is a raid, since voluntary sex work is not illegal, sex workers must not be arrested or penalised or harassed or victimised. This order is very important as police often enforce anti-trafficking laws and take action against sex workers and their clients. The Supreme Court's another direction is that the complaints of sex workers must be treated as any other complaints. It also directed that the children of sex workers must not be forcibly separated from them. The Supreme Court must be commended for issuing such an important order. All people, notwithstanding their jobs, have right to a dignified life. Women and girls are often dragged to flesh trade because of circumstances. No woman is born as prostitute.
Venu GS, KOLLAM

of the day quote

An extensive conversation recently with Foreign Minister @melaniejoly of Canada. Discussing expanding our political and economic engagement, as also our cultural and community connect. Spoke about misuse of freedoms and the dangers of extremism

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Lalu Ji was demanding a caste-based census for a long time. We have taken initiatives for it several times, like when I had written a letter to the Chief Minister for an all-party delegation to meet the Prime minister. Over all, we have fought at every stage for caste-based census. So it is a win for us and Lalu Ji

TEJASHWI YADAV | RJD LEADER

Corruption had become institutional. Separatism, extremism and terrorism were on the rise. Anarchy was at its peak. People did not trust the government before 2014

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Shah to review situation in Kashmir

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level meeting on June 3 to discuss the situation in Jammu and Kashmir with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and others, officials said here Wednesday. They said besides the Lt Gov, senior functionaries of the home ministry and officials from the union territory would participate in the meeting. The meeting comes in the wake of targeted killings of Hindu government employees by terrorists in the Valley, and also as the administration prepares for the Amarnath Yatra from this month-end.

India, B'desh flag off new train service

New Delhi: To further strengthen people-to-people connectivity through the railways between India and Bangladesh, the two countries started a new passenger train service, Mitali Express, via the recently-restored Haldibari-Chilahati rail link Wednesday. The third passenger train service between India and Bangladesh, which was virtually inaugurated by the prime ministers of the two countries March 27 last year, was flagged off virtually by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohammad Nurul Islam Sujon.

Craving for beer leads to murder

New Delhi: A 22-year-old youth has been stabbed to death by three men after the former refused to give them beer, an official said Wednesday. Police have arrested the three accused -- identified as Ankit Kumar a.k.a. Muhbada (21), Brijesh Mathur a.k.a. Sadhu (20) and Himanshu Kumar a.k.a. Katappa (20). DCP (northwest) Usha Rangnani said a PCR call was received at Adarsh Nagar police station May 29 around 11 p.m. regarding an injured person lying in a pool of blood near Vardhman Mall, GTK Road, Azadpur.

Sujoy Lal Thaosan takes over as SSB DG

New Delhi: IPS officer Sujoy Lal Thaosan Wednesday took charge as the new director general (DG) of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), which guards Indian frontiers with Nepal and Bhutan. Thaosan, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, was handed over the baton by officiating DG and ITBP chief Sanjay Arora at the headquarters of the force in R K Puram.



I offer my sincere tribute to the martyrs of the separate Telangana movement. For more than six decades, the struggle to realise separate statehood was unabated. It witnessed the spirited participation of all sections of the people

TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN | TELANGANA GOVERNOR

BIDDING ADIEU

The Indian Navy will decommission two of its frontline warships Friday, marking an end to their glorious voyages of protecting the nation's maritime interests for around 32 years. The two ships -- Nishank and Akshay -- were among the key naval assets that were at the forefront of several key missions and crucial maritime operations



ED SUMMONS

Congress accuses Centre of hatching 'cowardly conspiracy'

The opposition party alleged that the "fake issue of AJL, (Associated Journals) is an attempt by BJP's propaganda machinery to deviate, divert and digress the attention of citizens from the multifarious vital issues of inflation, falling GDP and social unrest, social divisiveness in this country"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



moned, and that he has written to the probe agency to postpone the date to after June 5 as he is not in the country. "It is clear that the dictator is scared now and is trying to hide all his failures on the governance front by misusing all government agencies. A nasty and cowardly conspiracy is being hatched against the Congress leadership in order to mislead the nation," Surjewala said. He alleged that the Modi government has turned blind in the pursuit of political vendetta. "This time they have come out with a new hideous and cowardly conspiracy, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi getting ED notices issued against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," he said. Singhvi said, "The Modi government should know that by registering such fake and fabricated cases, they cannot succeed in their cowardly conspiracy." Neither will the ED be able to stop the National Herald, the voice of the freedom movement, nor will it be able to scare Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, he said, adding that there has been an exchange of no money in the case and the question of laundering does not arise. "The Congress leadership is fearless and ready to present itself before the probe agency. We will not be afraid of such tactics, we will not bow down, but we will fight hard legally, socially and politically," Singhvi added. "This is a part of a larger disease. A disease, which will consume the ruling party ultimately. The disease is one of attacking every political party purely on vendetta terms from Kashmir to Kanyakumari," he said, alleging that the BJP has tried to bring every political opponent under the net of "puppet" agencies like ED, CBI, IT, etc. The government has said that the agencies are doing their job and the opposition leaders should not worry if they have done no wrong.

Coal loading to power houses increased by 28% in May: Rlys

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: The railways Wednesday said the loading of coal to power houses increased by more than 11 MT in May with 52.4 MT being moved as against 41.01 MT last year, showing a growth of 28 per cent.

Cumulatively, in the first two months of 2022-23, the Indian Railways has loaded more than 18 MT extra coal to power houses, as compared to the same period last year, with a growth of 24 per cent, the railway ministry said. "In terms of number of rakes of coal loaded per day for power houses, IR has moved more than 421 rakes of domestic coal and more than 22 rakes of imported coal on a daily basis over longer distances, as is reflected in increased lead of thermal coal from 501 km to 560 km.



"With these sustained efforts, the trend of reducing coal stocks at power houses has been reversed and the coal stocks at the power houses have again started improving on a regular basis," the ministry said in a statement. It also said that overall too, the railways recorded the best-ever monthly freight loading of 131.6 MT in May. The incremental loading in May was 16.89 MT, a growth of 14.7 per cent over the previous best May figures achieved in 2021.

India cautions over threat of bio agents misuse as weapons

India said new and emerging technologies may increase the risk of Weapons of Mass Destruction access by terrorist groups



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, June 1: India has cautioned over the "heightened" threat of misuse of biological agents and chemicals as weapons against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and called on the international community to address the rapid evolution of proliferation risks. It said new and emerging technologies may increase the risk of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) access by terrorist groups and other non-state actors. "The access to these weapons of mass destruction by terrorists and other non-state actors adds a serious dimension to threats posed by these weapons to international peace and security," A Amarnath, a counsellor at India's UN Mission, said Tuesday. Speaking at the open consultations of the UN Security Council 1540 Committee on the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, he said a key area that needs the focus of the international community is the rapid evolution of proliferation risks. "New and emerging technologies may increase these risks of WMD access by terrorist groups and other non-state actors. The growing capabilities of terrorists and other non-state groups to access delivery systems like missiles and unmanned/uncrewed aerial systems have compounded the risks of terrorism using WMDs." "Similarly, in the Covid-era, the threat of misuse of biological agents and chemicals as weapons, combined with advances in chemistry and biology, has heightened. The open consultations would be a useful forum to deliberate on these issues and how the Committee can assist member states in this area," he said in a statement. An outbreak of novel coronavirus was first reported in central China's Wuhan city in December, 2019 and spread rapidly to become a pandemic. Over 530,022,000 cases of Covid-19 have been reported globally while the disease has claimed the lives of over 6,292,000 people, according to Johns Hopkins University.

NEET-PG results out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: The NEET-PG 2022 results were declared Wednesday, with Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya lauding the National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) for announcing them in record 10 days. The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) Post Graduate-2022 was held May 21 at 849 centres. A total of 1,82,318 candidates had taken the exam. "NEET-PG result is out! I congratulate all the students who have qualified for NEET-PG with flying colours. I appreciate @NBEMS_INDIA for their commendable job of declaring the results in record 10 days, much ahead of the schedule," Mandaviya tweeted.



ROYAL GRAB: A Royal Bengal Tiger in a pond inside its enclosure on a hot summer day, at Tata Steel Zoological Park in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

MOOSEWALA MURDER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 1: The Punjab Police Wednesday reconstituted the special investigation team (SIT), probing the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala, under the supervision of head of the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) to expedite investigations into the murder case, officials said.

Punjab Police reconstitutes SIT

Additional Director General of Police Pramod Ban is the head of the AGTF. Now, the six-member SIT (earlier it had three members) will have a new chairman, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jaskaran Singh, and two new members, including Assistant Inspector General AGTF Gurmeet Singh Chauhan and Mansa Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gaurav Toora.

Mansa SP (Investigation) Dharamveer Singh, Bathinda DSP (Investigation) Vishawajeet Singh and In-charge of CIA Mansa Prithpal Singh are the existing three members of the SIT. In his fresh order, Director General of Police V K Bhawra stated that the SIT shall conduct the investigation on a day-to-day basis, arrest the perpetrators of this



heinous crime, and on completion of investigation, police report shall be submitted in the court of competent jurisdiction.

The SIT can co-opt any other police officer and take the assistance of any expert/officer, with approval of the DGP, the order further reads. The state police had termed the incident as a case of an inter-gang rivalry and said the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was behind the murder. Canada-based Goldy Brar, a member of Bishnoi gang, claimed the responsibility of the murder.

Govt 'procures' DNA kits to study racial purity of population

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 1: The Ministry of Culture has started procuring an array of DNA profiling kits and associated state-of-the-art machines for establishing the genetic history and "trace the purity of races in India", reports the New Indian Express. As per the sources, the acquisition process began recently following a meeting that Ministry of Culture Secretary Govind Mohan held with well-known archaeologist Professor Vasant S Shinde and senior scientists and scholars of the Lucknow-based Birbal Sahani Institute of Paleosciences (BSIP) in Hyderabad two months ago. The ministry has allocated a ₹10 crore budget for the project and is

in the midst of acquiring DNA-profiling kits and equipment to establish genetic history, the report said. The government claims it wants to study the genetic diversion of India's population with the help of the project. The acquisition process began after a meeting two months ago between ministry secretary Govind Mohan and archaeologist Vasant S Shinde along with other scholars in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. Shinde is an adjunct professor of the National Institute of Advanced Studies at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore city. He is known to support a Hindu-majoritarian narrative that rejects a theory stating the Aryan race migrated to India and dis-



placed the country's indigenous population. The rejection of the Aryan migration theory is something endorsed by the currently ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The archaeologist said they wanted to see how the "mutation and mixing of genes in the Indian population has happened in the last 10,000 years." Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, a member of Rajya Sabha, took to Twitter to slam the government's "sinister" move. "Nothing can be more sinister than the decision of the union ministry of culture to acquire DNA

As per US' 2021 Human Rights report, since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rise to power in 2014, India has witnessed a spate of violence against minority communities

tion" to continue with the project because of the issue being "politically loaded". The organisation was part of this project which was "initially conceived in 2019". The ANSI had earlier said it wanted to understand the genetic diversity of Indian populations among various ethnic groups across the country based on the re-sequencing of haploid genomes. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at the government Tuesday over the report, which Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy called "fake news". "The last time a country had a culture ministry studying 'racial purity', it didn't end well," Gandhi posted on Twitter. "India wants job security & economic prosperity, not 'racial purity', Prime Minister."

Kolkata bids farewell to KK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 1: Kolkata Wednesday bid an emotional farewell to popular playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath (KK), who died late Tuesday evening in the city after a stage performance.

The state government organised a gun salute for the deceased singer at the cultural centre, Rabindra Sadan, which was attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who rushed back to the state capital, cutting short her political programmes at Bankura district.

KK's wife and daughter were present on the occasion and the Chief Minister was seen consoling them as they were sobbing over grief over the loss of their dearest one. Initially, it was decided that the deceased singer would be given a gun salute at Kolkata Airport only. However, the venue was changed to Rabindra Sadan at the last moment.

Soon after the post-mortem formalities were completed, KK's mortal remains were brought to Rabindra Sadan Wednesday afternoon. His popular track 'Yaad Aayenge Ye Pal', was playing at the background then. Many of his fans were seen bursting into tears at that emotional moment.

After the gun salute, his mortal remains were taken to the airport via a 'green corridor'. His body



Gun salute being given to singer KK at Rabindra Sadan in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

will be flown to Mumbai and his last rites will be performed there Thursday.

Meanwhile, a team from Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), the controlling authority of Nazrul Mancha, where KK performed last Tuesday night, went to the venue Wednesday afternoon. The team led by KMDA's Director General, Supriyo Maiti especially checked the air-conditioning machines there.

KMDA, it was learnt, will soon issue a set of guidelines for conducting such mega events at Nazrul Mancha.



Mortal remains of KK being taken to airport from Rabindra Sadan

Webley & Scott to up production as demand for guns grows in UP

The firm's exclusive manufacturing unit in Sandila in UP's Hardoi district, will now increase production to 400 revolvers per month

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 1: Despite the crackdown on mafia and criminals by the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, the gun culture continues to prosper.

Well-known British firearms manufacturing company, Webley & Scott, which has an exclusive manufacturing unit in Sandila in Hardoi district, will now increase production to 400 revolvers per month in view of growing demand.

Webley & Scott had collaborated with Lucknow-based Sial Manufacturers Private Ltd. for the arms manufacturing unit which had begun operations in Sandila in 2020.

Director of its India-based partner, Maninder Pal Singh Sial, told reporters that until now they were getting orders for 175-200 revolvers, but the demand has increased to 400 in the past month from across the

country. "So, we have demanded our English partner for the upgrade. New machines from England have already been set up to increase production. A team of engineers from England has also paid a visit to the unit to guide the workers," he said.

He also added that "maximum orders are being made for our .32 revolver of Webley & Scott, which also happens to be the first foreign company to manufacture firearms here. We are also giving a stiff competition to the arms manufactured by the ordinance factory. For the first time, people are getting world-class weapons at their doorsteps."

He said the maximum orders are those from the states of southern and central India.

The government's support and the Centre's 'Make in India' policy have helped the project not only take the final shape but also increase the production, Sial added.

He said that from July, they will also begin manufacturing of .32 pistols which will surely become a rage among the buyers.

Webley & Scott, which armed the Allied forces during the two world wars and produced weapons for at least 15 countries, has its sole presence in the Indian sub-continent in Sandila.



Probe begins into KK's death

Kolkata Police has registered a case of unnatural death over the demise of renowned Bollywood singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, and started an investigation.

Post-mortem examination of the singer's mortal remains was conducted and the report is awaited, police said.

Police spoke with manager and other staffers of the hotel where KK had put up. A case of unnatural death has been registered with New Market Police Station, under whose jurisdiction the hotel falls where the singer felt unwell before being taken to a hospital, an officer told PTI.

"We are scrutinising CCTV footage to understand what had happened before he was taken to the hospital," the police officer said, adding that two persons have been questioned in connection with the case.

An initial probe has revealed that the 53-year-old singer, who was on a two-day tour to Kolkata to perform at two college programmes, was almost mobbed by fan followers at the hotel where

he had returned to after performing at Nazrul Mancha auditorium in the southern part of the city, he said.

The singer had allowed a couple of fan followers to take snaps with him, but then he refused to carry on with the selfie session. He left the lobby and then went upstairs where he had reportedly stumbled and fallen on the floor. People who were with him informed the hotel authorities, the officer said.

KK was then rushed to a private hospital in the southern part of the city where he was declared brought dead by doctors, he said, adding that probably because of the fall, the singer had two injuries - one on the left side of his forehead and another on his lips.

He was brought to the hospital around 10 pm. It's unfortunate that we could not treat him, a senior official of the hospital said.

Doctors at the hospital said they suspected cardiac arrest to be the cause of the death. The autopsy report will throw light on the exact cause of death. We are waiting for it, the police officer said.

TAKING TO STREETS



Nurses participate in a protest rally in Kolkata, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Kolkata to have zero shadow moment June 5

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 1: The city will have its zero shadow moment June 5 when there will be no shadow from sunlight at a particular time of the day.

This happens twice a year when the sun is exactly overhead, astrophysicist Debiprosad Duari said Wednesday.

Any form of visible light falling on an object generally produces a shadow, unless it is exactly above the object. People and any object, all around the world, living between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn (+23.5 and -23.5 degrees latitude) lose their shadows, though momentarily, twice a year. These two days are called zero shadow days, he said.

FOR KOLKATA THE FIRST ZERO SHADOW DAY THIS YEAR WILL BE JUNE 5, 2022 AND THE ZERO SHADOW MOMENT WILL BE AROUND 11.34AM

ON ITS RETURN PATH (CALLED DAKSHINAYAN) THE SUN WILL AGAIN BE EXACTLY OVERHEAD IN KOLKATA JULY 7, THE SECOND ZERO SHADOW DAY, AT AROUND 11.41AM

The city is around 2,500 km from the equator and around 93.5 km from Tropic of Cancer, the imaginary line which passes close to Krishnanagar in Nadia district.

For Kolkata the first zero shadow day this year will be June 5, 2022 and the zero shadow moment will be

Yogi lays foundation stone for Ram temple's sanctum sanctorum

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ayodhya, June 1: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Wednesday, performed the 'shila puja' of the 'Garbha Griha' or the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram temple by placing the first carved stone in it, amid chanting of mantras.

With this ceremony, the construction of the temple will pick up pace.

Yogi Adityanath said that the Ram temple would be known as 'Rashtra Mandir' on completion. Millions of Hindus had been yearning for this day since decades, the Chief Minister said, adding that he was fortunate to be a part of the ceremony.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and other members of the temple trust were also present on the occasion.

Later, the chief minister offered prayer at Hanuman Garhi and the Ram temple.

In a statement issued last week, the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust, which is heading the temple's construction, had said white marbles from the Makrana hills of Rajasthan would be used in the sanctum sanctorum.

The temple trust said the total stone volume to be used for the temple project included 8 to 9 lakh cubic feet of carved sandstone, 6.37 lakh cubic feet of uncarved granite, 4.70 lakh cubic feet of carved pink sandstone for the temple and 13,300 cubic feet of Makrana white carved marble for the sanctum



Sale of liquor banned near temple complex

The Uttar Pradesh government has ordered a ban on the sale of liquor around the Ram Janmabhoomi temple complex in Ayodhya. UP Excise Minister (independent charge) Nitin Agrawal said that the licenses of all the liquor shops in the Ram temple area have been cancelled. Saints and seers have been demanding a total ban on liquor and meat sale around religious places. The chief minister has already ordered a ban on sale of meat in Mathura-Vrindavan area.

sanctorum.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the 'Bhoomi Pujan' or the foundation stone laying ceremony for the temple in August 2020 after which construction had started. The temple is expected to be ready just before the 2024 national elections.

According to the Trust, construction of sanctum sanctorum is expected to be completed by December 2023.

SDO suspended over Laden's pic in office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Farrukhabad (UP), June 1: An officer of a state-run power distribution company was suspended Wednesday over having a picture of Osama bin Laden in his office describing the slain Al-Qaeda founder as world's best junior engineer, officials said.

Ravindra Prakash Gautam, sub-divisional officer (SDO) with the Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (DVVNL), placed a picture of Laden in his office, with a note below it that read "Respected Osama bin Laden, world's best junior engineer", the officials said.

After the Laden's picture with the message went viral on social media, senior district officials took a cognizance and ordered SDO's suspension. The picture of Laden was also removed from the office, they said.

Meanwhile, the suspended officer has defended his act. "Anyone can be an idol. Osama was the best junior engineer of the world. The picture has been removed, but I have its several copies," Gautam said.

Kolkata to host lit fest on sweets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 1: A three-day literature festival themed on sweets will be held in the city from December 9.

The unique literary meet, to be participated by Oxford University professor Dr Kunal Basu, painter Jogen Choudhury and former Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar among others, will be the first of its kind in the region, the organisers said in a statement Wednesday.

It is to be spread across 10 venues that will bring together some of Kolkata's iconic addresses - traditional homes, art galleries, and modern institutions - each venue will for the first time, also have the world's longest tables of 'mishti' (sweetmeat) with over 60 varieties.

The event, to take place December 9-11, will witness one of the largest gatherings of writers, historians, food aficionados, and stalwarts from the world of cinema and theatre.

New Jalpaiguri-Dhaka Mitali Exp flagged off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Jalpaiguri (WB), June 1: Passenger train connectivity between India and Bangladesh took a step forward with the railway ministers of the two countries virtually flagging off New Jalpaiguri-Dhaka Mitali Express Wednesday, an official of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) said.

The train made its inaugural run from New Jalpaiguri Railway Station in West Bengal. The two countries already operate Maitree and Bandhan express trains connecting Kolkata with Dhaka and Khulna respectively.

Indian Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and his Bangladeshi counterpart Md Nurul Islam Sujjan from Delhi virtually flagged off the inaugural run of Mitali Express at 9.20am Wednesday, NFR spokesperson Sabyasachi De said.

The bi-weekly service will run as a day train from New Jalpaiguri starting at 11.45am IST Sundays and Wednesdays, while it will be an overnight service from Dhaka commencing journey from there at 9.15pm Bangladesh Standard Time Mondays and Thursdays, he said. The fully air-conditioned train



consists of four chair cars and four sleeper coaches, De said.

The general manager of NFR, Anshul Gupta, who was present at New Jalpaiguri station for the inaugural run of the international service, said that the train connectivity will provide more opportunities for tourism and trade between Bangladesh and northern West Bengal, blessed with several destinations in the Darjeeling Hills and forests and tea gardens in Doars.

Local MP Jayanta Roy, who attended the programme, said that the service fulfils a long-standing demand of those associated with travel trade.

Passengers travelling on the inaugural service said that the train connectivity will further strengthen cultural and social ties between the people of the two countries, apart from boosting tourism.



around 11.34am. However in other locations the day of zero shadow will vary depending upon their position between the two Tropics, Duari said.

On its return path (called Dakshinayan) the sun will again be

exactly overhead in Kolkata July 7, at around 11.41am and the day will be the second zero shadow day of the year, he added.

Every year on the zero shadow days, students and astrophiles who are located between the two Tropics

erect vertical poles, different objects and sometimes even stand outside to see for themselves the cosmic event.

In different cities where the zero shadow day has already occurred this year, has experienced the zero shadow moment when every object under the Sun lost their shadows for a few moments.

Duari said this event also reminds the people of motions and position of celestial bodies with respect to Earth which have direct links to events on the planet like change of seasons, tides and eclipses besides the zero shadow moments.

The sun is almost never exactly overhead at noon, but usually transits a bit lower in altitude a bit to the north or a bit to the south, he added.



They (government) will have to think about the security aspect. They will have to do something (to ensure security of these Hindu employees). Please call leaders of different political parties to find out way as to how we control this (security) crisis

GREAT INITIATIVE

In a first, the Himachal Pradesh government this month is launching a five-year veterinary "hospital on wheels" to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick livestock, Animal Husbandry Minister Virender Kanwar said Wednesday



of the day quote

Only one message of Gautam Buddha should be kept in mind and that is to leave the ego. The people who dropped their ego have become victorious (in life). But some people nurture ego. If the ego is set aside, then many issues plaguing society, the state and the country will be solved. Someone should convey this to Narendra Modi

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP

National Herald newspaper was started in 1942. At that time the British tried to close it, today the Modi government is also doing the same thing as the Britishers did. Now the ED is being used for this purpose. The Enforcement Directorate has given notice to our president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi

RANDEEP SINGER SURJEWALA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

This (Naga insurgency-political problem) is a big complex issue. The Government of India has already nominated AK Mishra to negotiate with the NSCN(IM) and find out a solution that is acceptable to everyone

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

S'pore invites Kejrri to present 'Delhi Model'

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday said he has been invited to attend the World Cities Summit in Singapore to present the "Delhi Model" and is looking forwards to discussing urban solutions with other leaders. The summit will take place August 2-3.

India, Italy to boost ties

New Delhi: The two-day India-Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting, held in Rome from Tuesday, has decided to strengthen defence ties between the two countries, an official statement said Wednesday. As per a Defence Ministry statement, the MCG is a forum established to boost defence cooperation between the two countries through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels between the headquarters of India's Integrated Defence Staff and the Joint Staff HQ of Italian Armed Forces.

3 more Lankans arrive in TN

Chennai: With Sri Lanka facing an acute economic crisis, the migration of people coming to India continues as three more persons from the island nation reached Tamil Nadu Wednesday. Rameswaram Marine police found them at the seashore near the Gothandaram temple during a routine inspection.

Three die in septic tank

Nuh (Haryana): Three people, including an eight-year-old boy, died in a septic tank in this district, police said Wednesday. The incident took place in Bichnor village in Punhana block Tuesday, they said. After the boy fell into the tank accidentally while playing near it, the boy's father and one other person went into it to save him.

Football player killed

Vijayawada: A state-level football player was stabbed to death by rivals in Vijayawada, police said. Akash (23) was murdered by rivals at a friend's house after a brawl at a bar in Gurunanak Colony late Tuesday.

KPs 'preparing' for mass migration

Rajni Bala, hailing from Samba district in Jammu division, was shot dead by terrorists Tuesday inside the government school in Kulgam where she was posted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 1: A group of Kashmiri Pandit employees, who were given jobs under a prime minister's package for the community, Wednesday began preparations for "mass migration" out of Kashmir, protesting against a series of targeted killings of non-Muslim employees by terrorists.

The group said they were meeting truck-owners Wednesday to negotiate a rate for transporting their goods. Hours after a female teacher was shot dead by terrorists in Kulgam district, an organisation of KP employees had threatened to leave the Valley if the government did not relocate



Relatives and family members of government teacher Rajni Bala mourn during her funeral

them to safer places in 24 hours. "We have come to fix the rate with truck-owners. Let's see if any decision comes from the government by this evening. If not, then we will migrate from here tomorrow," one of their representatives said here Wednesday. "We have decided that if the

government did not take any concrete step for us (safety) within 24 hours, there will be mass migration again," one of the employees said here. He said the target killing of Kashmiri Pandits is continuing and the community is now tired of making appeals with the government. "We should be relocated so

that we can be saved. Our delegation had met the LG earlier and we had asked him to save us. We are asking for temporary relocation for two to three years till the situation in the valley returns to normal. It is the same time frame put by IGP Kashmir for making Kashmir terrorism-free," he added. Umesh Talashi, a National Conference leader from south

Kashmir, hit out at the BJP for the present situation.

"Back to 1990, #KashmiriPandits out fixing the rates with truck drivers for shifting their base to Jammu after back to back target killings in #Kashmir. Another exodus on cards. #BJP missed to mention this while showcasing their 8 years of achievements yesterday!!" Talashi tweeted.

HINDU TEACHER KILLING Protests rock Jammu for 2nd day

Samba (J&K): Protests against the killing of a Hindu school teacher in Kulgam continued to rock several parts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir on the second consecutive day Wednesday. The protesters Wednesday blocked the Jammu-Pathankot Highway in Samba and demanded dismissal of officers responsible for failing to transfer Bala to a safe place that resulted in her killing. Meanwhile, Samba, the district the victim belonged to, observed a complete shut down to protest against the killing. Hundreds of protesters took out a rally toward the Jammu-Pathankot Highway and raised anti-government and anti-Pakistan slogans. They staged a sit-in on the highway, blocking the vehicular traffic and demanded dismissal of officers, especially that of Kulgam CEO, for turning down repeated requests of the couple and delaying Bala's transfer to Kulgam for months. The protesters also raised slogans against Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over the complete failure on the security front to protect the Hindus serving in government offices in the Valley and burnt an effigy of the administration.

WhatsApp bans 16.6L bad accounts in India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 1: Meta-owned WhatsApp Wednesday said that it banned over 16.6 lakh bad accounts in India in the month of April in compliance with the new IT Rules 2021.



The platform had banned over 18 lakh such accounts in the country in March. The company also received 844 grievance reports in April within the country, and the accounts "auctioned" were 123. In March, WhatsApp received 597 grievance reports and the accounts "auctioned" were 74.

"This user-safety report contains details of the user complaints received and the corresponding action taken by WhatsApp, as well as WhatsApp's own preventive actions to combat abuse on our platform. As captured in the latest Monthly Report, WhatsApp banned over 1.6 million (1,666,000) accounts in the month of April," a WhatsApp spokesperson said in a statement.

The company said that data shared highlights the number of Indian accounts banned by WhatsApp between April 1-30 using the abuse detection approach, which also includes action taken in furtherance to negative feedback received from users via its "Report" feature.

"Over the years, we have consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other state of the art technology, data scientists and experts, and in processes, in order to keep our users safe on our platform," the company added.

Under the new IT Rules 2021, big digital and social media platforms, with more than 5 million users, have to publish monthly compliance reports.

ED attaches over ₹68L deposits of PFI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 1: The ED Wednesday said it has attached bank deposits of more than Rs 68.62 lakh of Islamist body PFI and its 'front' organisation Rehab India Foundation in connection with a money laundering investigation against them.



A provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been issued by the federal probe agency as part of which a total of 33 bank accounts of the two organisations have been attached.

Twenty-three bank accounts of the Popular Front of India (PFI) having collective balance of Rs 59,12,051 and 10 bank accounts of PFI's front organisation Rehab India Foundation (RIF) having collective balance of Rs 9,50,030 have been attached in the ongoing money laundering investigation against PFI and its related organisations, the Enforcement Directorate said in a statement.

"A total amount of Rs 68,62,081 has, thus, been provisionally attached," it said. Following the developments, the PFI issued a brief statement saying, "As per media re-

I-T dept raids at 400 locations of liquor barons

New Delhi: The Income Tax department on Wednesday started search operations at about 400 locations belonging to various groups, including liquor barons, across the country, sources said. The search operation is on at five states, including Haryana's Gurugram, Mumbai, Delhi. In Mumbai, an I-T team reached the office of Embassy Group situated in Bandra Kurla Complex. Nobody was allowed to leave or enter the office. At Gurugram, the search operation was on at the office of a businessman who deals with liquor.

ports it has come to our notice that ED has provisionally attached bank accounts of PFI. We are reviewing this report and will issue a statement tomorrow."

The ED has been investigating the PFI's alleged "financial links" on charges of fuelling the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests in the country, the Delhi riots that took place in February, 2020, alleged conspiracy in the Hathras (a district in Uttar Pradesh) case of alleged gangrape and death of a Dalit woman and a few other instances. The Islamist organisation was formed in 2006 in Kerala and is headquartered in Delhi. It has filed two charge sheets against PFI and its office bearers before a special PMLA court in Lucknow. Talking about the latest action, the ED said a probe found "huge amounts of money including cash from questionable sources have been received by PFI and RFI.



An ancient statue during the handing over ceremony of 10 retrieved antiquities to the Government of Tamil Nadu, in New Delhi

Indian projects fully comply with IWT, Pak told

India said it is committed to bilateral resolution of issues and suggestions given by Pakistan during a meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission, the report said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: India has underscored that its projects are fully compliant with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and it is committed to bilateral resolution of issues and suggestions given by Pakistan during a meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission, sources said.

The discussion was held during PIC's 118th meeting, comprising Indus Commissioners of India and

Pakistan, that concluded Tuesday here. India has also said it is already providing information of extraordinary discharges of water from reservoirs and flood flows after Pakistan requested New Delhi to provide advance flood information during the forthcoming flood season, they said. Technical discussions were not held during the meeting, sources said.

India further assured that the same will be continued in the manner provided in the Treaty, they



said. No discussions were held on Pakistan's objections on design of Indian hydroelectric projects on Western rivers, sources said.

India assured that Indian projects are fully compliant with the provisions of the Treaty and it is committed to bilateral resolution of issues, and suggestions given by Pakistan during 117th meeting will be examined and discussed in the next meeting, sources said.

Both sides also decided that tours of the Commission to both sides of Indus basin shall be held after the end of the flood season at mutually convenient dates, sources said.

Three doses of same or mixed jabs work equally well against Cov: Study

The researchers found that three doses of any mRNA vaccine appear to be most effective (96 per cent) against non-severe Covid-19 infections and most effective (95 per cent) in reducing Covid-19 related hospital admission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Three doses of the same Covid-19 vaccine or a combination of different jabs work well in preventing infections, even against different variants, according to the largest study of its kind.

The findings, published in The BMJ, suggest that the number of vaccine doses seems to be the key to improving immunity rather than the combinations of vaccine

types, and should help inform future public health decision making.

While the effectiveness of individual vaccines for Covid-19 are well known, the effectiveness of vaccine combinations is less clear, especially for particular groups, such as older people and those who are immunocompromised, the researchers said.

Despite a rapid decline in Covid-19 infections and deaths, concerns about waning vaccine immunity and new variants makes it important to understand which vaccine combinations are most effective, they said.

The researchers from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) analysed 38 World Health Organisation (WHO) Covid-19 databases for published studies and preprints on a weekly basis from March 8, 2022.

They identified 53 studies involving over 100 million participants with 24 combinations of approved Covid-19 vaccine courses and seven different vaccine types



for analysis. "While a three dose mRNA regimen seems to be the most effective in preventing Covid-19 infections, any heterologous and homologous three dose regimens work comparably well in preventing Covid-19 infections, even against different variants," the authors of the study said. Receiving three doses of the same vaccine is known as a homologous regimen, while getting a third dose that differs from those given as primary shots is known as a heterologous regimen.

Using an mRNA booster after two doses of adenovirus vector

vaccines also has a satisfactory effectiveness of 88 per cent, they said. The results also show that any three dose regimen -- heterologous or homologous -- induces higher immunity in all age groups, even in the over 65s, than a two dose homologous regimen, according to the researchers. A third booster dose is needed to prevent infection caused by the Omicron variant, they said.

The study found that in immunocompromised patients, a third mRNA booster dose, as part of a heterologous or homologous regimen, greatly improves protection compared with two doses.

However, the effectiveness of three dose vaccine regimens against Covid-19 related death remains uncertain, the findings show. These are statistical analyses of observational and randomised controlled trial findings.

The researchers acknowledge that they did not evaluate the optimum time interval for prime boost or boosting regimens, owing to limited information.

Buying property in Delhi to get costlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 1: Buying property in Delhi is set to get expensive as the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi has decided to hike transfer duty by 1 per cent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city, official sources said Wednesday.

Officials said after the hike, the transfer duty will be 4 per cent for men and 3 per cent for women buyers.

The move is aimed at improving the financial health of the municipality which has been hit severely in past years especially due to Covid-19 pandemic. It is a first major decision after the three civic bodies -- north, east and south -- were unified last month.

The decision was taken in a meeting Tuesday where a proposal to increase the transfer duty by 1 per cent was moved.

The proposal was passed by the special officer of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), who has been entrusted with the power



to run the civic body till the new House is elected.

"A proposal was moved before the special officer in capacity of the standing committee to hike transfer duty on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh by 1 per cent. The proposal was approved by the SO (special officer). After the hike, transfer duty will be 4 per cent for men and 3 per cent for women," official sources told PFI.

Currently, the transfer duty on sale and purchase of property in the national capital is 3 per cent for men and 2 per cent for women buyers.

international

of the day quote

I did not consider that the circumstances in which I received a fixed-penalty notice were contrary to the regulations. I have accepted the outcome and paid it in compliance with legal requirements

BORIS JOHNSON | PM, UK

You keep putting on shows for us with your planes. Don't try to dance with Turkey. You'll get tired and stuck on the road. We are no longer holding bilateral talks with them. This Greece will not see reason

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

Today we are preparing several agreements between specific ministries, which will help Ukraine and give Poland an economic impulse

MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI | PM, POLAND

SHORT TAKES

Hurricane Agatha kills 10, 20 missing

San Isidro Del Palmar: Hurricane Agatha caused flooding and mudslides that killed at least 10 people and left 20 missing, the governor of the southern state of Oaxaca said. Agatha made history as the strongest hurricane ever recorded to come ashore in May during the eastern Pacific hurricane season. It made landfall Monday afternoon on a sparsely populated stretch of small beach towns and fishing villages in Oaxaca. It was a strong Category 2 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian woman

Jerusalem: Israeli troops shot and killed a knife-wielding Palestinian woman in the occupied West Bank Wednesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said that an assailant armed with a knife approached a soldier "conducting routine security activity" north of the West Bank city of Hebron and that soldiers opened fire. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the woman, identified as Ghafran Warasna, died after she was shot in the chest near the Al Aroub refugee camp.

Mexico bans sales of e-cigarettes

Mexico City: Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador signed a decree Tuesday outlawing the sale of e-cigarettes, continuing the government's anti-vaping policy. Mexico had already prohibited imports of the devices since at least October. And even before that, consumer protection and other laws had been used to discourage sales. Despite Tuesday's decree, many Mexicans import or buy vaping cartridges or fluid under the table or online domestically.

Two earthquakes hit China, 4 dead

Beijing: A powerful earthquake of 6.1-magnitude killed at least four people and injured 14 others as it jolted the city of Ya'an in southwest China's quake-prone Sichuan province Wednesday afternoon, according to local authorities. The epicentre, with a depth of 17 km, was monitored at 30.4 degrees north latitude and 102.9 degrees east longitude, the CENC said. Sichuan province suffered China's deadliest 7.9-magnitude earthquake in 2008 in which 90,000 people were killed.



Sanctions will have a negative effect for Europe, us and the whole global energy market. A reorientation is under way to find alternatives for the oil that will no longer be sold to Europe

DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESMAN, KREMLIN

BTS VISITS WHITE HOUSE

K-Pop sensation BTS met US President Joe Biden at the White House to discuss the rising cases of hate crimes against South Asians in the US



West vows more, better arms for Ukraine

Western arms have been critical to Ukraine's success in stymieing Russia's much larger and better equipped military. As the war drags on and Russia bombards towns in its inching advance in the east, Ukraine has repeatedly pleaded for more and better weapons

REUTERS

Kyiv, June 1: Western nations promised more and more advanced arms to bolster Ukraine's defence as its troops battled a grinding Russian offensive that was closing in on capturing a key city in the east.

Germany said Wednesday it will supply Ukraine with modern anti-aircraft missiles and radar systems, and the US will unveil a new weapons package later in the day that will include high-tech, medium-range rocket systems.

Germany has come under particular fire, both at home and from allies abroad, that it isn't doing enough.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told lawmakers that the IRIS-T SLM missiles it will send are the most modern air defense system the country has. "With this, we will enable Ukraine to defend an entire city from Russian air attacks," he said.

Scholz said Germany is in talks with the United States to coordinate the supply of rocket systems Kyiv has asked for.

In addition to the rocket systems it has promised, the US package will include helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more, two senior administration officials said Tuesday.

GERMANY TO SUPPLY UKRAINE WITH MODERN ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES AND RADAR SYSTEMS



NEW US PACKAGE INCLUDES AMMUNITION, COUNTER FIRE RADARS, A NUMBER OF AIR SURVEILLANCE RADARS, ADDITIONAL JAVELIN ANTI-TANK MISSILES, AS WELL AS ANTI-ARMOUR WEAPONS

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

We have moved quickly to send Ukraine a significant amount of weaponry and ammunition so it can fight on the battlefield and be in the strongest possible position at the negotiating table

OLAF SCHOLZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

One official noted that the advanced rocket systems will give Ukrainian forces greater precision in targeting Russian assets inside Ukraine.

The announcements come as a regional governor said Russian forces now control 70% of Sievierodonetsk, a city that is key to Moscow's efforts to complete their capture of the Donbas,

where Ukrainian and Russian-backed separatists have fought for years and where the separatists already held swaths of territory.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile said the country is losing between 60 and 100 soldiers a day in the fighting and that another 500 are wounded.

He told the US TV channel Newsmax Tuesday night that "the

US adding fuel to fire: Russia

London: Russia Wednesday sharply criticised a US decision to supply advanced rocket systems and munitions to Ukraine, warning of an increased risk of direct confrontation with Washington.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "We believe that the United States is purposefully and diligently adding fuel to the fire."

When asked how Russia would respond if Ukraine used US-supplied rockets to strike Russian territory, Peskov said: "Let's not talk about worst-case scenarios".

Washington agreed to supply

the rockets, which are capable of hitting targets as far away as 80 km (50 miles), after Ukraine gave "assurances" they will not use the missiles to strike inside Russia itself, senior US officials said.

Peskov said Moscow did not trust such assurances. He said it was assessing the risk of rockets being fired into Russian territory and was taking appropriate measures, but that it viewed Washington's step "extremely negatively."

He said such supplies would not encourage Ukraine's leadership to resume stalled peace talks.

Any arms supplies that continue, are on the rise, increase the risk of drawing the United States into direct conflict with Russia

SERGEI RYABKOV | DY FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

RUSSIA HOLDS NUCLEAR DRILLS

Shortly after the US decision was announced, the Russian defence ministry said Russia's nuclear forces were holding drills in the Ivanovo province, northeast of Moscow, the Interfax news agency reported. Some 1,000 servicemen were exercising in intense manoeuvres using more than 100 vehicles including Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launchers, it cited the ministry as saying. Russia has also completed testing of its hypersonic Zircon cruise missile and will deploy it by the end of the year on a new frigate of its Northern Fleet, a senior military officer said Wednesday.

most difficult situation is in the east of Ukraine and southern

Donetsk and Luhansk," two regions that make up the Donbas.

Record number of women in Australia's new Cabinet



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canberra, June 1: A record 13 women, including the first female Muslim, were sworn in as ministers in Australia's new government Wednesday.

The ceremony conducted by Governor-General David Hurley in the capital, Canberra, came 11 days after new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese led the center-left Labor Party to an election victory over

the incumbent conservatives.

"Proud to lead an inclusive government that is as diverse as Australia itself," Albanese wrote on Twitter. "Welcome to all these new Labor members."

Anne Aly was sworn in as Australia's first female Muslim minister while Ed Husic became the first Muslim to serve in Cabinet. Linda Burney became the first woman, and only the second Indigenous person, to serve as

Indigenous Affairs minister. Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong were sworn in early last week so they could fly to Tokyo for a summit with President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida and Indian PM Narendra Modi.

Of the 30 ministers appointed to the new government, nearly half are women. Women also hold a record 10 spots out of 23 in core Cabinet roles. With some votes still to be counted from last month's election, the Labor Party has secured enough seats to hold an outright majority in the 150-seat House.

Albanese's Cabinet includes some new faces as well as some lawmakers who served in the previous Labor government that last held power nine years ago. "We have an overflow of talent on our side of the parliament," Albanese said, adding that "it's the most experienced incoming Labor government in our history since federation."

Cooking oil, ghee prices skyrocket in Pak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karachi, June 1: The Pakistan government shocked consumers by pushing up ghee and cooking oil rates by an unprecedented Rs 208 and Rs 213 to an all-time high of Rs 555 per kg and Rs 605 per litre respectively.

An official in the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) in Karachi confirmed to Dawn that the USC had issued a notification of this whopping jump in ghee and cooking oil rates effective June 1.

The official, however, did not comment as to why the rates had been jacked up so mercilessly which would hit the consumers badly.

The maximum rate of ghee and cooking of renowned brands in the retail markets still hovers between Rs 540-560 per kg/litre.

However, Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) Secretary-General Umer Islam Khan hinted that the retail rates of ghee and cooking

GOVT SHOCKS CONSUMERS



oil would soon come on a par with USC prices.

He said ghee/cooking oil man-

ufacturers have stopped giving the products on credit to the USC as the corporation had not cleared outstanding Rs 2.3 billion to the manufacturers.

He said around 160,000 tonne of palm oil stocks are available at the twin ports of Karachi which are sufficient for three weeks of consumption. Despite the lifting of an export ban by Indonesia on palm oil May 23, not a single loaded vessel had been on the high seas or at Indonesia port for shipments to Pakistan.

Shanghai revives post 2-month lockdown

REUTERS

Shanghai, June 1: Shanghai sprung back to life Wednesday after two months of bitter isolation under a ruthless Covid-19 lockdown, with shops reopening and people going back to offices, parks and markets, hoping to never go through a similar ordeal again.

For many of the 25 million residents finally able to experience the outdoor world again in China's largest and most cosmopolitan city, street life looked like a flashback from a distant memory. Cars were back on the roads,



while commuters hopped on trains and buses again. Joggers, skaters and dog walkers defied the muggy heat to roam through riverfront parks.

There was the joy of reuniting with close ones, the relief at being able to shop for anything, but also the wariness of another potential outbreak as people licked their wounds after a sustained period of frustration, stress and economic loss.

MALAYSIA BANS CHICKEN EXPORTS

MALAYSIA'S EXPORT BAN IS THE LATEST SIGN OF GROWING GLOBAL FOOD SHORTAGES AS COUNTRIES, REELING FROM THE EFFECTS OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE, EXTREME WEATHER, AND PANDEMIC-RELATED SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS, SCRAMBLE TO SHORE UP DOMESTIC SUPPLIES AND TAME FOOD INFLATION

REUTERS

Kuala Lumpur, June 1: Singapore is bracing for a shortage of its de-facto national dish, chicken rice, as major supplier Malaysia halts all chicken exports from Wednesday.

Restaurants and street stalls in the city-state are faced with hiking prices of the staple food or shutting down altogether as their supplies dwindle from neighbouring Malaysia, where production has been disrupted by a global feed shortage.

Singapore, although among the wealthiest countries in Asia, has a heavily urbanised land area of just

730 square km (280 square miles) and relies largely on imported food, energy and other goods. Nearly all of its chicken is imported: 34% from Malaysia, 49% from Brazil and 12% from the United States, according to data from Singapore Food Agency (SFA).

A plate of simple poached chicken and white rice cooked in broth served with a side of greens is a dish beloved by the country's 5.5 million people, and is usually widely available for about S\$4 (\$2.92) at eateries known as hawkker centres.

The SFA has said the shortfall can be offset by frozen chicken from



Brazil, and has urged consumers to opt for other protein sources like fish.

Malaysia, itself facing soaring

The ban would mean we are no longer able to sell. It's like McDonald's with no burgers

DANIEL TAN | OWNER OF A CHAIN OF SEVEN STALLS CALLED OK CHICKEN RICE

prices, has decided to halt chicken exports until local production and costs stabilise.

Prices have been capped since

February at 8.90 ringgit (\$2.03) per bird and a subsidy of 729.43 million ringgit (\$166 million) has been set aside for poultry farmers.

Chicken feed typically consists of grain and soybean, which Malaysia imports. But the government is having to consider alternatives amid a global feed shortage. Lower quality feed means the birds are not growing as fast as usual, slowing down the entire supply chain, said poultry farmer Syaizul Abdullah Syamil Zulkaffly.

Previously, Syaizul's farm of broiler chicken was able to harvest as many as seven times a year,

with 45,000 birds harvested per cycle. This year he expects only five harvest cycles.

Syaizul, who started feeling the pinch of higher operating costs during the pandemic, says the export ban will only make things worse for poultry farmers.

"I don't know if this industry can sustain me ... for the next five or 10 years," he said, adding that he's had to go into debt to keep up with costs.

"Maybe I should go work at a petrol station or something is even better, less headache than actually managing a chicken farm," he added.

REMEMBERING LOST SOULS



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden pay their respects at the Robb Elementary School memorial, where a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers in the deadliest US school shooting in nearly a decade, in Uvalde, Texas



I am certain that India's Space Policy will enable us to build satellites not only for domestic consumption but for international market too
S SOMNATH | CHAIRMAN, ISRO

KOREA FAIR OPENS IN INDIA

Over 60 exhibitors are showing products from segments like cosmetics, electronics and jewellery at the fourth edition of the five-day Korea Fair in India inaugurated in New Delhi Wednesday. According to the data from Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy (MOTIE), bilateral trade between the two countries reached \$23.7 billion in 2021



of the day quote

I have urged them to open R&D centres in India as we are going to be the hub of knowledge and innovation for the next 2-3 decades



ANURAG JAIN | SECRETARY, DPIIT

India will do extremely well in the cruise sector. We have aggressive expansion plans. We want to add at least three cruise vessels by 2025 that could cost over \$1 billion



JURGEN BAILOM | CEO, WATERWAYS LEISURE TOURISM

Currently, present in more than 70 countries, Cuemath aims to expand to over 100 countries by the financial year 2023. This plan includes bolstering its presence in North America, APAC, the UK, Europe, and the Middle East and capturing markets in Africa and South America



VIVEK SUNDER | CEO, CUEMAT

SHORT TAKES

CIL production at 108MT in Apr-May

New Delhi: State-owned CIL Wednesday said it produced 108.2 million tonne of coal in the first two months of the ongoing fiscal year, registering year-on-year increase of 28.8 per cent. The company had produced 84 million tonne (MT) of coal in April-May last fiscal year. Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE. The company's output in May increased to 54.7 MT from 42.1 MT in the corresponding month of previous fiscal year, the filing said.

RBL buys 40% stake in Legno SPA's biz

New Delhi: Reliance Brands Ltd (RBL) Wednesday announced that it has entered into a JV with Italian toy manufacturing company Plastic Legno SPA by acquiring a 40 per cent stake in its India business for an undisclosed amount. This investment would help RBL in bringing in vertical integration for its toy business and diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India, a joint statement said.

LuxSE, India INX strengthen unity

New Delhi: BSE's international arm India International Exchange (India INX) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE) Wednesday signed a co-operation agreement through which the two bourses will enhance the visibility of listed Indian securities towards international investors by facilitating admission of such securities on LuxSE. The agreement builds on the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two institutions in November 2020, which placed a specific focus on advancing green finance in India, India INX said.

Slice raises \$50mn

New Delhi: Fintech unicorn Slice has raised \$50 million (about ₹387 crore) as part of its Series C round funding led by Tiger Global, the company said Wednesday. Existing investors Moore Strategic Ventures and Insight Partners, and a new investor GMO VenturePartners also participated in the round, which enhanced the firm's valuation to over \$1.5 billion. "With its core credit product set to achieve profitability in the coming months, slice will be utilising this new capital for shoring up the balance sheet to support the expansion of its new UPI product," the company said in a statement.

SUMMER TRAVEL

Fuel sales soar in May

Industry sources said consumption in May is higher because of demand returning after high prices in the previous month impacted sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: India's petrol and diesel sales soared in May on the back of a surge in summer travel to escape from the heat and vacation during annual breaks at educational institutions, preliminary industry data showed on Wednesday.

Petrol sales by state-owned fuel retailers, which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, at 2.8 million tonne in May was 55.7 per cent higher than the same period last year when a devastating second Covid-19 wave wreaked havoc on the economy.

This consumption was 76 per cent higher than the demand in May 2020 and 12 per cent more than 2.5 million tonnes of sales in



COOKING GAS SAW SALES RISING BY A MARGINAL 1.48 PER CENT TO 2.19 MILLION TONNE

the pre-Covid May 2019. Month-on-month sales were up 8.2 per cent, as per the preliminary data.

Diesel, the most-used fuel in the country, saw sales jumping 39.4 per cent year-on-year to 6.82 million tonnes in May. This was, however, 2.3 per cent lower than sales in May 2019. It was 1.8 per cent higher than 6.7 million tonnes of consumption during April this year.

Industry sources said consumption in May is higher be-

Petrol sales by state-owned fuel retailers was at 2.8 million tonne in May, rise of 55.7% YoY

Diesel saw sales jumping 39.4 per cent year-on-year to 6.82 million tonne in May

cause of demand returning after high prices in the previous month impacted sales. Also aiding the demand was the start of the harvesting season.

Another factor was the low base effect. April saw consumption drop due to a ₹10 per litre hike in petrol and diesel prices after an over four-month hiatus. But the biggest factor seemed to be an increase in travel to colder regions to escape from record temperatures and utilise annual breaks

ATF & commercial LPG rates reduced

Oil prices have eased from a near 14-year high of \$140 per barrel, it continues to trade above \$100. On Wednesday, Brent crude was trading at \$117.07 per barrel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Jet fuel prices Wednesday were cut by 1.3 per cent - the first reduction after 10 rounds of price hikes - on softening international crude oil rates.

Simultaneously, prices of commercial LPG - used by business establishments such as hotels and restaurants - were reduced by ₹135 per 19-kg cylinder.

The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) - the fuel that helps aeroplanes fly - has been reduced by ₹1,563.97 per kilolitre, or 1.27 per cent, to ₹1,21,475.74 per kl (₹121 per litre) in the national capital, according to a price noti-



reduction of state-owned fuel retailers. This is the first reduction after 10 rounds of price increases this year. Rates were hiked by ₹6,188.25 per kl, or 5.29 per cent, on May 16, to a record high level of ₹1,23,039.71 per kl.

Commercial LPG rates were reduced to ₹2,219 per 19-kg cylinder, from ₹2,354, the notification showed. Prior to the cut, rates of commercial LPG had risen by ₹355.5 per cylinder this year.

However, prices of cooking gas LPG used in households remained unchanged at ₹1,003 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

Rates had been hiked by ₹3.50 a cylinder May 19. Prior to that prices were hiked by ₹50 per cylinder March 22 and again by the same quantum May 7.

HDFC raises lending rate by 5 bps; loans to get dearer

PNB also raised its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate by 15 basis points or 0.15 per cent across all tenures, a move that will lead to an increase in EMIs for borrowers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd Wednesday announced an increase in its benchmark lending rate by 5 basis points (bps), a move that will make loans dearer for both existing and new borrowers.

This is the third hike effected by HDFC in the last one month.

"HDFC increases its Retail Prime Lending Rate (RPLR) on housing loans, on which its Adjustable Rate Home Loans (ARHL) are benchmarked, by 5 basis points, with ef-



fect from June 1, 2022," the housing finance company said.

The revised rates for new borrowers range between 7.05 per cent and 7.50 per cent, depending on credit score and loan amount. The existing range is 7 per cent to 7.45 per cent. For existing customers, the rates would rise by 5 basis points or (0.05 per cent). Last month, HDFC had increased its benchmark lending rate by 35 basis points making EMI for existing borrowers expensive.

HDFC follows a three-month cycle for repricing its loans to existing customers. So the loans will be revised in sync with increased lending rate

GST revenues up by nearly 44% in May

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: GST revenues bucked the two-month rising trend in May and stood at nearly ₹1.41 lakh crore, registering a year-on-year increase of 44 per cent.

Although the May Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues came in lower than the record high collection in April at ₹1.68 lakh crore and ₹1.42 lakh crore in March, it is still the fourth highest collection since the rollout of the new indirect tax regime on July 1, 2017.

In February, revenues from taxing sale of goods and services was at ₹1.33 lakh crore, while in January it was ₹1,40,986 crore.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is ₹1,40,885 crore of which CGST is ₹25,036 crore, SGST is ₹32,001 crore, IGST is ₹73,345 crore (including ₹37,469 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹10,502 crore (including ₹931 crore collected on import of goods)," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The revenues for the month of May 2022 are 44 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year at ₹97,821 crore.

This is the fourth time that the monthly GST collection has crossed



the ₹1.40 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST and the third straight month since March 2022.

"The collection in May, which pertains to the returns for April - the first month of the financial year - has always been less than that in April, which pertains to the returns for March, the closing of the financial year. However, it is encouraging to see that even in the month of May 2022, the gross GST revenues have crossed the ₹1.40 lakh crore mark," the Ministry said.

The total number of e-way bills generated in the month of April 2022 was 7.4 crore, which is 4 per cent less than 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in the month of March 2022.

MUSK'S TESLA ULTIMATUM

Return to office or leave company

REUTERS

Washington, June 1: Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk has asked employees to return to office or leave the company, according to a memo sent to staff that has been circulating on social media.



"Anyone who wishes to do remote work must be in the office for a minimum (and I mean minimum) of 40 hours per week or depart Tesla," the memo said.

In response to the memo that was tweeted from an unverified account, the billionaire, who has proposed to take Twitter private in a \$44 billion deal, said, "They should pretend to work somewhere else." Musk would "review and approve" any cases where they could not meet the minimum, according to the memo.

Tesla joins a wave of companies mandating a return to office for employees. While some big employers have embraced voluntary work-from-home policies permanently, others including Alphabet Inc's Google are betting that it is best to push in-person interactions among colleagues.

Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal tweeted in March that Twitter offices would be reopening but employees could still work from home if they wanted to.

UCO Bank unveils Pre-Approved Personal Loans

Bhubaneswar: Putting forth needs of customers at the UCO Bank Wednesday launched Pre-Approved Personal Loans (PAPL). In this offer, all eligible customers will get their loans sanctioned and disbursed in just five minutes through mobile without visiting any branch or office. UCO customers who are in need of urgent funds or otherwise can avail PAPL instantly on 24x7 basis. Loan will carry 10% Rate of Interest (ROI) without any pre-closure charges. With the aim to register 15% loan book growth and to onboard new age customers, UCO Bank is ushering an era of digital transformation in the Bank, and pre-approved personal loans is just to begin with. UCO Bank is streamlining the processes and products to bring more digital offerings in days to come.



PNB ED to visit Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Kalyan Kumar, Executive Director of Punjab National Bank (PNB) is arriving at Bhubaneswar June 3, 2022 on one-day official visit to the state. During his stay, he will review the business of Bhubaneswar Zone and its constituent circles with focus on recovery of stressed assets, credit growth under retail, agriculture & MSME segment in the zone. In the evening, he will interact with selected branch officials and other members for improving customer service and business growth of the bank. The country's largest nationalised bank has a conspicuous presence in the state of Odisha with a wide network of 340 branches, a total of 472 ATMs and 548 number of BC locations spread across all 30 districts of the state. In the current financial year, the bank has a plan to further widen its network through opening of new branches with focus on improving CD ratio of the Bank in the state.



Automakers report robust domestic despatches in May

PASSENGER VEHICLE INDUSTRY, WHICH HAD SHRUNK TO 1.03 LAKH UNITS LAST MAY, HAS REBOUNDED TO 2.94 LAKH UNITS IN MAY THIS YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Leading carmakers Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Tata Motors reported robust despatches to dealers in May on the back of strong demand for passenger vehicles across regions, even as the global semiconductor shortage continued to impact production.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Kia India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Honda Cars and Skoda also witnessed strong demand for their models last month.

The month of May also witnessed Tata Motors race ahead of Hyundai in terms of domestic wholesales.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said its domestic sales stood at 1,34,222 units in May. The company had dispatched just 35,293 units in May

2021 amid the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

The period saw massive disruptions which impacted both production and sale of cars.

"The basic parameters of demand in terms of enquiries, bookings remain robust. However, supply chain issues remain and there is no clear visibility by when things will normalise," MSI Senior Executive Director (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava told PTI.

"The April-May numbers are at about 5.88 lakh unit mark for the industry as compared with 3.9 lakh units last year...First quarter should touch 9 lakh units which is a good indication for the industry," Srivastava stated.

Last month, sales of the company's mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, jumped to 17,408 units, compared to 4,760



in May 2021. Taking the second spot in terms of domestic despatches last month, Tata Motors reported passenger vehicle wholesales of 43,341 units.

This is the company's highest-ever monthly sales since inception - PV and EV domestic combined - led by robust dispatch of

plants in Chennai observed the scheduled biannual maintenance shutdown, leading to no production for six days in the month (May 16-21), the automaker noted.

Mahindra & Mahindra said its domestic passenger vehicle sales stood at 26,904 units last month. "With sales of 26,632 SUVs in May, we continued the growth momentum with all our brands performing well, including XUV700 and Thar," M&M President (Automotive Division) Veejay Nakra said.

Kia India reported sales of 18,718 units in May. It had dispatched 11,050 units to dealers amid the second wave of COVID-19 in May 2021.

Similarly, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said its wholesales stood at 10,216 units in May. The company had dispatched just 707 units to dealerships in May 2021.

Honda Cars India said its domestic sales last month stood at

8,188 units. "The demand for Honda cars continued to stay strong as positive sentiments prevailed in the market but the prolonged supply chain-related issues still remain a hindrance and we are making all efforts to cater to the demand effectively," Honda Cars India Director (Marketing and Sales) Yuichi Murata noted.

Skoda Auto India said its wholesales stood at 4,604 units in May. The company had sold 716 units in the Covid-hit May last year. MG Motor India said its retail sales stood at 4,008 units in May. It had sold 1,016 units in the same month last year.

In the two-wheeler segment, Bajaj Auto reported total domestic sales of 1,12,308 units. It had dispatched 60,830 units in May 2021. Similarly, TVS Motor Company said its domestic two-wheeler sales stood at 1,91,482 units last month, compared to 52,084 units in May 2021.

LAKRA & CO CONCLUDE THEIR ASIA CUP JOURNEY WITH A THIRD-PLACE FINISH AFTER BEATING JAPAN 1-0, WHILE SOUTH KOREA CLAIM A RECORD FIFTH TITLE EDGING PAST MALAYSIA IN THE FINAL

India settle for bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 1: The young Indian men's hockey team produced a spirited performance to beat Japan 1-0 and clinch the bronze medal in the Asia Cup here Wednesday.

After missing out on a place in the title clash on goal difference following an exciting 4-4 draw with South Korea Tuesday, defending champions India came out with purpose and scored a field goal through Raj Kumar Pal as early as in the seventh minute of the game and then defended in numbers to seal the deal.

South Korea clinched a record fifth Asia Cup title by beating Malaysia 2-1 in the summit clash. Manjae Jung (17th) and Taeil Hwang (52nd) scored two field goals for Korea. Malaysia's lone goal came from the stick of Syed Chohan in the 25 minute.

Earlier in the day, India started brightly and pushed hard in the first five minutes of the match but their attacks fizzled once out inside the opposition D.

The Indians, however, broke the deadlock in the seventh minute from a brisk counter-attack with Uttam Singh doing all the hard work on the right flank to set it up for Rajkumar Pal, who neatly pushed it past the Japanese goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa.

Three minutes later, the Indians secured two back-to-back penalty corners but squandered both. In the



last five minutes of the first quarter, Japan pressed hard in search of the equaliser and mounted numerous raids but the Indian defence stood firm to hold on to their lead.

Trailing by a goal, Japan continued to attack and in the process earned two consecutive penalty corners in the 20th minute but the Indians defended in numbers to keep their lead intact.

Both Japan and India had a few more chances in the second quarter but both the teams faltered. Japan came out attacking after the change of ends and secured two more penalty corners in quick succession but they failed to break the resolute Indian defence.

In between India had a golden chance to extend their lead but Rajkumar shot over from close quarters off an SV Sunil pass.

In the 48th minute, Japan secured three successive penalty corners but couldn't breach the Indian backline. Japan earned another penalty corner in the 51st minute but the Indian defence once again foiled the chance.

While Japan pressed hard in the remaining minutes, the Indians put numbers at the back to successfully defend their one goal lead and secure a podium finish.

Nadal tops Djoko in quarters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 1: Rafael Nadal insists he can't know for sure whether any match at Roland Garros might be his very last at a place he loves, a place he is loved.

For now, if he keeps winning and keeps performing the way he did during his monumental quarter-final victory over longtime rival Novak Djokovic that began in May and ended in June, Nadal will have more chances to play.

With a mix of brilliant shot-making and his trademark resilience, Nadal got past the top-seeded defending French Open champion Djokovic 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(7-4) to move a step closer to his 14th championship at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament and what would be a 22nd major trophy overall, adding to records that he already owns.

For anyone lucky enough to be there, too — provided they were able to stay awake — or even anyone watching from afar. The match began a little past 9 pm Tuesday and concluded more than four hours later, after 1 am Wednesday.

The bracket said this was a quarter-final, yes, but it felt like a final, from the quality of play to the quality of effort, from the anticipation that preceded it to the atmosphere that enveloped it. The only missing ingredient: There was no trophy handed to the winner.

Nadal turns 36 Friday, when he will face third-seeded Alexander Zverev in the semifinals. When the subject of Nadal's future was brought up during his on-court interview, he smiled. "See you, by the way, in two days," Nadal said. "That's the only thing that I can say."

This showdown was their 59th,



SWIATEK IN SEMIS

PARIS: Top-ranked Iga Swiatek won her 33rd match in a row with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over 11th-seeded Jessica Pegula to advance to the semifinals of the French Open. The 21-year-old Swiatek will next face Daria Kasatkina of Russia for a spot in the final. Swiatek, who won the 2020 French Open, had also beaten the American earlier in her winning streak. The Polish player has won her past five tournaments, going unbeaten since February for the WTA's longest such stretch since Serena Williams compiled a 34-match run in 2013. Kasatkina entered her first GS semifinal with a 6-4, 7-6(7-5) win over Veronika Kudermetova.

more than any other two men have played each other in the Open era. Nadal narrowed Djokovic's series lead to 30-29 while improving to 8-2 against his rival at Roland Garros.

Nadal is now 110-3 for his career at the place. Two of those losses came against Djokovic, including in last year's semifinals. This time, Nadal made sure Djokovic remains behind him in the Slam count with 20. Nadal broke their three-way tie with Roger Federer at that number by capturing the Australian Open in January, when Djokovic was not able to play because he had not been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Before Nadal advanced to his 15th semifinal in Paris, Zverev reached his second in a row by holding off 19-year-old rising star Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 7-6(9-7).

In women's action, 18-year-old American Coco Gauff and 28-year-old Martina Trevisan of Italy reached their first GS semis. Gauff beat Sloane Stephens 7-5, 6-2, while Trevisan eliminated Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 6-7(3-7), 6-3.

BADMINTON AT 2022 CWG

Easy draw for India in mixed team event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Defending champions India will have an easy entry into the knockout stage of the badminton event of the Commonwealth Games as they have been drawn against Australia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan in Group 1 of the mixed team competition.

The badminton competition at the quadrennial event, which will take place in Birmingham from July 29 to August 8, consists of the mixed team event, followed by the individual event. The final of the mixed team event will be played August 2.

A total of 16 teams will be competing in the mixed event and they have been drawn into four groups with the top two nations progressing to the knockout stage.

The draw was conducted in Birmingham in March but Nigeria subsequently withdrew in early May with Zambia now confirming their replacement.

Five-time champions Malaysia, who were beaten by India in the final of the last edition in Gold



Coast, are in Group 4 with South Africa, Jamaica, and Zambia.

England, winners of the first eight editions of the team event starting from 1966, are in Group 2 with Singapore, Mauritius, and Barbados, while Group 3 features Pan Am powerhouses Canada, alongside Scotland, Maldives, and Uganda.

Each tie in the team event consists of best-of-five matches with men's and women's singles and three doubles — men's, women's and mixed, which will test the overall strength of the team.

Nations League returns with eyes on WC

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, June 1: The third edition of the Nations League begins this week with many participants already thinking about the World Cup. National teams will get a rare opportunity to play several matches in a row — practically serving as a preseason — as the international dates were moved to June because of the World Cup beginning in November.

Some teams will play four matches in June and two more in September to finish the group stage of the biennial Nations League ahead of the World Cup in Qatar. "This is a competition that is really close to the World Cup, so obviously these matches will be meaningful," Portugal midfielder William Carvalho said.

The Nations League starts later Wednesday with Wales visiting Poland in the top-tier League A. Thursday, the highlight will be the match between Spain, last year's runner-up, and Portugal, the inaugural winner of the competition. "We are already thinking about Portugal, it's the start of this Nations League and we want to make it to the Final Four and, above all, prepare for the next World Cup, which will begin in no time and we will have to be ready," Spain defender Dani Carvajal said.



SWEATING IT OUT: Cristiano Ronaldo goes for a challenge against Bernardo Silva as Bruno Fernandes (behind Ronaldo) and Ruben Neves (R) look on during a practice session ahead of their Nations League campaign opener against mighty Spain, Friday

For some teams, like Wales, the Nations League begins even before it has been able to qualify for the World Cup. It will visit Poland without some of its regular starters as the match comes just four days

before it faces either Scotland or Ukraine in a World Cup playoff.

Scotland and Ukraine will also face each other in the Nations League as they were drawn in the same second-tier group.

Defending Nations League champions France will make their debut Friday at home against Denmark, while the Netherlands visit Belgium.

Saturday, England is at Hungary and Germany is at Italy, one of the

teams that will likely have more to play for in the Nations League as it missed out on the World Cup again.

Italy and England are in the same group and in future games will play a rematch of the 2020 European Championship final won by the Italians. Likewise, France will play against Croatia in a rematch of the 2018 World Cup final.

The Nations League will also give players a chance to try to secure their spot in the World Cup if they do well so close to the tournament in Qatar.

Many coaches will likely rotate their squads considerably in the four matches, both to test and rest players after a long season. Belgium coach Martinez is certainly taking it seriously. He said he will use his best players to test his team ahead of the World Cup.

Germany coach Hansi Flick challenged players who were left out of his 26-man Nations League squad to keep fighting for a World Cup place even if they were not called up now. The four group winners in the main league will make it to the Final Four; with one of the nations that qualified expected to host the finals in June next year.

The group winners in the lower tiers will gain promotion, while the last-place finishers in the top two tiers will move down.

Online tickets sold out despite 'technical delay'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 1: All the available online tickets for the upcoming T20 International between India and South Africa at the iconic Barabati Stadium here June 12 have been sold out Wednesday despite a long delay in sale's kick off.

The ticket sale was scheduled to kick off at 11 am Wednesday, but it was delayed by almost 2 hours 45 minutes as the sale went to live at 1:45 pm. Despite the unfortunate delay, all the 5000 tickets were sold out by late afternoon.

"The online tickets for the upcoming T20I (India vs South Africa) scheduled June 12 at the Barabati Stadium, Cuttack went to live at 1:45 pm this afternoon (Wednesday) with 5000 tickets available through the online portal for public sale," Odisha Cricket Association said in a press release.

"However, with a system glitch and the server crash with unexpected turnaround of enthusiasts looking to buy online tickets which was scheduled to begin on 11 am. There was a delay of almost 2 hours 45 minutes with the online sale kicking off late — but all the tickets were sold out by late afternoon," they added.

T20Is not for bilateral series: Ravi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Former India coach Ravi Shastri reckons that T20 format is not meant for bilateral series between international teams and the slam-bang style of cricket should be restricted to just World Cup.

Shastri also feels that franchise cricket together with a biennial T20 World Cup is best way forward when it comes to shortest format, considering fans' appetite for it.

Shastri's comments have come,

days before India's five-match T20 series against South Africa. "There's too much of bilateral stuff going on in T20 cricket. I've said that (before), even when I was the coach of India, I could see it happening in front of my eyes," Shastri told ESPNcricinfo.

"It should go the football way, where, in T20 cricket, you just play the World Cup. Bilateral tournaments — no one remembers."

Shastri, whose tenure as India coach ended last year, said he doesn't "remember a single (T20) game

in the last six-seven years as coach of India, barring the World Cup."

"A team wins the World Cup, they will remember it. Unfortunately we didn't, so I don't remember that either. Where I am coming from is: you play franchise cricket around the globe; each country is allowed to have their franchise cricket, which is their domestic cricket, and then, every two years, you come and play a World Cup."

The IPL media and broadcasting rights for the next five-year cycle are going to go up for sale in June. Discussing the future of IPL, former India opener Akash Chopra said: "I actually foresee there might be two editions of the IPL in every calendar year. And that's not too far away."

Shastri agreed with Chopra. "That's the future," he said. "It could be tomorrow — 140 games, split 70-70. In two seasons. You never know. That's the way it's going to go. That's the way it's developed as a beast of a property. And you cannot hide away from that."

"You might think that's overdose, but nothing is overdose in India. I have been sitting outside the bubble, I have been watching people, how they have seen, how they have reviewed these last few months, especially [after coming] out of Covid. And they are loving every bit of it, and they are almost having withdrawal symptoms."

Jay Shah clarifies Dada's cryptic 'app-launch' tweet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 1: Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly Wednesday issued a cryptic tweet about his "new journey" that raised speculations about his continuation as BCCI President, prompting the cricket board secretary Jay Shah to clarify that he has not resigned from his post.

Ganguly in his tweet said he is embarking on a new journey which was all about launching an educational app. "2022 marks the 30th year since the start of my journey with cricket in 1992. Since then, cricket has given me a lot. Most importantly, it has given me the support of all of you. I want to thank every single person, who has been part of the journey, supported me, and helped me reach where I am today," he wrote in a brief statement.

"Today, I am planning to start something that I feel will probably help a lot of people. I hope you continue your support as I enter this chapter of life."

Ganguly was elected BCCI President in October 2019 and still has four months left in his three-year tenure.

Ganguly's tweet took the social media by storm as many, including media outlets, started speculations about his future. "The rumours



doing rounds about Mr Sourav Ganguly stepping down from the post of BCCI President are factually incorrect," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement issued to this agency.

"We have some exciting times in the form of media rights coming up and my colleagues and I are completely focused on the upcoming opportunity and safeguarding the interest of Indian cricket," Shah further stated.

It has been learnt that Ganguly's tweet was related to his upcoming project. Ganguly later clarified that his tweet has been misinterpreted and it was related to his new business venture. "I have launched a new education app worldwide. It's an educational app launched worldwide. "I was surprised (with the speculations). It was a simple tweet, there is no mention of resignation, nothing," he said.

AC Milan to be sold to RedBird for 1.2bn euros

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, June 1: Serie A champion AC Milan is on the verge of being sold to American investment firm RedBird Capital Partners for 1.2 billion euros (USD 1.3 billion) after the two parties signed a preliminary agreement.

Milan said Wednesday that RedBird is expected to complete the purchase of the storied Italian club from fellow American firm Elliott Management by September.

"We are honored to be a part of AC Milan's illustrious history and are excited to play a role in the club's next chapter as it returns to its rightful place at the very top of Italian, European and world football," RedBird founder and managing partner Gerry Cardinale said.

Milan clinched their first Serie A title in 11 years last month. RedBird has a stake in Fenway Sports Group, which owns English Premier League club Liverpool.

US-based hedge firm Elliott had owned Milan since 2018 after the club's former Chinese owner failed to repay part of a loan. Former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi controlled Milan for more than 30 years before selling to the Chinese group in 2017.