



FRANK CONFESSION

Actor Nushrratt Bharuccha opens up on her taboo-breaking role in upcoming movie 'Janhit Mein Jaari'

LEISURE

P2



WOMAN TO 'MARRY' SELF

Gujarat woman to marry herself June 11 to break stereotypes; claims it would be first 'sologamy' in India

TWO STATES

P8



MESSIMAGIC SINKS ITALY

Lionel Messi inspires Argentina outclass Italy 3-0 in a heavyweight clash at the Wembley Stadium

SPORTS

P12

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hate speech grows on Facebook, Insta

NEW DELHI: There has been a rise of around 37.82 per cent in hate speech on Facebook and 86 per cent jump in violent and inciting content on Instagram in April, said 'Meta' Thursday according to a report released by it May 31. The majority of the content in the report is based on detection by social media platforms before users reported to them. The report states Facebook detected 53,200 hate speeches in April, which is 37.82 per cent higher compared to 38,600 detected in March. On the other hand, Instagram acted on 77,000 violence and incitement-related contents in April compared to 41,300 in March. Meanwhile Centre said that it plans to set up a grievance appellate committee to look into appeals filed by individuals against decisions of grievance officers of social media platforms.

Sans funds, no takers for Nigerian UTP's body

BHUBANESWAR: Stuck in procedural rigmarole, the body of Nigerian undertrial prisoner (UTP) Augustine Odikpo has been lying in the SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, for more than a week. Authorities are awaiting approval for the body's transit to New Delhi. Odikpo was arrested in Patna a few years ago. Later, Puri police brought him on remand for his involvement in a cyber crime case. He had been in Puri district jail since February 11, 2019. Odikpo was admitted May 9 to Puri District Headquarters Hospital for an infection and then referred to SCBMCH May 24 where he died May 26. Odikpo's brother Sylvester Obinna Ekwenze has expressed his inability to take the body due to fund crunch. Ekwenze has written to the Puri jail authorities in this regard. It has been forwarded to the Puri district magistrate Samarth Varma for his approval. However, as the approval is yet to come in, there are no takers for Odikpo's body. Incidentally, the deceased's brother stays in an old age home in Delhi and is financially not in a position to organise the transit of Odikpo's body.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our economy is world's fastest-growing and still you anti-national is giving us only peanuts!

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	55818.11	436.94
NIFTY	16628.00	105.20
DOLLAR	78.23	₹0.03
EURO	83.01	₹0.43
GOLD	₹51,221	₹433
SILVER	₹62,255	₹675

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	37.2°C	38.0°C
MIN	28.0°C	28.0°C
Humidity	84%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

HITTING BACK HARD



A Russian armoured carrier burns amid abandoned light utility vehicles after being hit by a Ukrainian rocket on the outskirts of the city of Sloviansk where fierce fighting between troops of the two countries has been raging for some time now

AP PHOTO

HC seeks report over tree felling

Children took part in the protests by drawing and painting pictures emphasising on the importance of protection of the environment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Even as school students joined the ongoing protests against the felling of trees in the stretch from Rabindra Mandap to the Commissionerate Police office in the state capital, the Orissa High Court directed the government to submit an affidavit mentioning the detailed project report (DPR). The protests against the decision to cut 870 trees for the construction of MLA quarters have been growing for the past few days now. Now children have upped the ante of the protests.

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by activist Jayanti Das, the Orissa High Court asked the Secretary of General Administration (GA) department to submit the DPR, including construction of multi-storey buildings for MLAs, felling of trees and their re-plantation. In her plea, Das has said that the felling of trees should be stopped immediately and if necessary the construction of building for the MLAs should be shifted to some other place.

The court has fixed June 27 as the next date of hearing. So till then



FIGHTING FOR NATURE: Children draw and paint pictures to protest against the cutting of trees in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

trees won't be cut.

Earlier in the day, the students drew and painted pictures as a mark of protest and conveyed their messages to the state government to protect the environment.

Social outfits like 'Mahanadi Banchao Andolan', 'Samrudha Odisha' and 'Prerana' have been conducting the protests for a few days now. They engaged children who came up with paintings on the importance of trees to the environment. Some of the students emphasised on the need for planting more trees instead of cutting the existing one.

A few days back, eminent environmentalist Jaykrushna Panigrahi had pointed out the state capital is slowly turning into a concrete jungle and felling of trees will increase its woes. Meanwhile the protes-

tors once again asserted that they will not allow under any circumstances, to axe the remaining trees on the stretch.

So far, 300 trees of different species like peepal, banyan, mango, jack fruit, neem, ashoka and deodar have been cut. If the entire operation is conducted many more varieties of trees will be axed in the future which the protesters want to prevent at any cost.

The multi-storied building of MLAs with around 300 quarters, garden, gym, rest house, parking lot and other modern-day amenities is expected to come up by the end of 2024. It will cost the state government ₹275 crore out of which ₹50 crore has been already paid to the construction company involved in the project.

Srimandir verdict today

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 2: The Supreme Court reserved till Friday its order on pleas alleging illegal excavation and construction work by the Odisha government at the famed Shree Jagannath temple in Puri. A vacation bench of Justices BR Gavai and Hima Kohli said it would pronounce its order after the counsel for the parties completed their arguments.

At the outset, senior advocate Mahalakshmi Pavani, appearing for the petitioner, said there's a clear embargo that there can be no construction in the prohibited area. "They (Odisha government) did not even take permission to construct in the regulated area," Pavani submitted.

The state, she said, got a no objection certificate from the National Monuments Authority (NMA) and



went ahead. She informed that the NMA could not have granted a valid certificate and this is something only the director of archaeology in the Central or the state government can do.

Advocate General for Odisha

Ashok Kumar Parija submitted that under 'The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, the authority is the NMA, and the competent authority has been notified by the Odisha government.

"Construction does not mean repair or remake existing structures or clean the sewage, drains etc. This is how it is understood and DG ASI also understands the same way. Grant of permission was by director culture... Director culture of the government of Odisha is the competent authority. What was prohibited within 100 metres was construction. The concept plan of the state aims to provide amenities and beautify the temple," he said.

Parija pointed out that more than 60,000 people visit the Srimandir everyday and there is need for more toilets.

Contd... P4

Ultras kill 2 non-locals in J&K

AGENCIES

Srinagar, June 2: Terrorists shot dead Thursday bank employee Vijay Kumar (in pix), who is from Rajasthan inside the office premises in Kashmir's Kulgam district. This is the eighth targeted killing in the Valley since May 1 and the third of a non-Muslim government employee. Of the eight killings, three were off-duty policemen and five civilians.

Kumar, a manager with the Ellaqui Dehati Bank at Areh Mohanpora branch in the south Kashmir district, received grievous gunshot injuries and died on his



way to hospital, officials said. The latest killing led to a chorus of condemnation from political parties across the spectrum, including the National Conference and the BJP.

Kumar, 29, a resident of Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, had joined the Kulgam branch only a week ago. He had earlier been working in the Kokernag branch of the bank, co-owned by the Central government, the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the State Bank of India.

In another incident, a non-local labourer was shot dead by militants at Magraypora in Chadoora area of central Kashmir district.

APPROXIMATELY 256 PEOPLE HAVE DIED AND OVER 1,000 INJURED DUE TO MASS SHOOTINGS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE US IN 2022

Gunman, 4 others dead in Oklahoma firing

AGENCIES

Washington, June 2: Five people, including the gunman, were killed in a shooting spree that took place Wednesday at a hospital campus in Tulsa, the second largest city in the US state of Oklahoma, authorities said Thursday.

Tulsa Police Captain Richard Meulenber said the shooter was reported 'down' around 5.30pm Wednesday and the situation at the St Francis Hospital campus, which was active about four to five minutes,

was being treated as 'a catastrophic scene'. "We know there are multiple injuries, and potentially multiple casualties," the Oklahoma police department said in a Facebook post, Thursday. It added that so far there have been five casualties.

"Officers are currently going through every room in the building checking for additional threats," police said in a Facebook post just before 6.00 pm. "We know there are multiple injuries, and potentially multiple casualties."

The shooter was armed with a



rifle and a handgun and fired both weapons at the Natalie Medical Building, a physicians' office on the premises, according to Tulsa Police

In the first 21 weeks of 2022, there have been 213 cases of mass shooting in the US

27

of these mass shootings have occurred in schools

Deputy Chief Eric Dagleish. He informed that the shooter's fatal wound was self-inflicted. Wednesday's incident comes after 19 children and

two teachers were killed May 24 in a mass shooting at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

There have been 213 mass shootings in the first 21 weeks of 2022 in the US, including 27 school shootings and up to approximately 10 mass shootings every week, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

President Joe Biden has been briefed on the Tulsa shooting, White House officials said in a statement. He had earlier May 28 urged Americans to make their voices heard to prevent further gun violence.

The Leaders' Choice

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JOLT TO VARSHA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 2: The Cuttack Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) court asked Thursday actor Varsha Priyadarshini to vacate actor-turned-politician Anubhav Mohanty's ancestral house. The court also ordered Anubhav to pay a compensation of ₹30,000 to Varsha within the 10th of every month and said that the latter should vacate the house within two months after receiving the first tranche of payment.

Based on a petition filed by the Kendrapara MP, the SDJM court passed the directives to both Varsha and Anubhav.

In his petition, Lok Sabha

MP Anubhav said he did not prefer to live with Varsha in the same house. He also informed in his plea that his parents are not well and they are not comfortable with Varsha staying in the same house. So he would prefer if he and Varsha did not stay under the same roof.

It should be stated here that while hearing a case of divorce between the two, the Orissa High Court had ordered Anubhav May 27 to refrain from making any video/ comment against his estranged wife. It also passed a directive to Varsha to stay away from making any comments on the issue before the media, including social media platforms.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today is the day for creativity, while you leave the logic for tomorrow, even when it comes to work. You are bent upon success at work, but Ganesh warns that it requires commitment and devotion. In the evening, you may want to be left alone with your spouse or a book.

TAURUS

Today your money will be burning holes in your pockets. You will be dying squander it away and get rid of it as fast as possible. You'll be tossing it around as if you owned a gold mine. Ganesh urges you to hold your horses and tighten your purse strings. Other wise you are going to regret it, and feel like an idiot.

GEMINI

You fill be filled with energy and enthusiasm in the morning. You will be able to productively utilise your energy in your work. You will be able to take up projects dear to your heart.

CANCER

Today, your action will usher in incredible results, thanks to your forthright approach, foretells Ganesh. Later in the day, you may work on self-improvement and personality development. You may make some changes in your house.

LEO

Do not underscore your influence and importance today, says Ganesh. You hold the key to many doors, and hence, your ability to influence people is at its strongest today. In business, this means that you have a major role to play in new deals. But remember that you merely hold the keys, you cannot predict what lies behind each door.

VIRGO

Perhaps, your artistic talents will shine out today, says Ganesh. You will be very happy with your personal belongings, which you have preserved for years. Later in the day, you may beautify your house by adding furniture and artefacts at appropriate places.

LIBRA

Some things are always remembered with fondness. Today may be one of those days when you tend to get wistful and nostalgic. Let this emotion spur you on and later in the day, you may strive hard to reconnect with your near and dear ones. Listen to your heart. You can do nothing wrong today, as your charisma will be overwhelming.

SCORPIO

You are likely to have an urge to lead a more active and healthy lifestyle today. You will focus on improving your eating habits and consider your options for exercise, says Ganesh. On the work front, you will realise that learning to enjoy work is the best way of getting things done. Darned with this realisation, you will feel complete and content.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesh foresees a gradual weakening in your position. You are most likely to bring troubles upon yourself as the day progresses. Good economic gains are expected if you change the hub of your activities.

CAPRICORN

Nothing in the world can be as comforting as the support of your family members, and you will have that in plenty today, especially if you're setting out to refurbish your house, says Ganesh. With their support, you can win the world and achieve the impossible, but since everything comes with a price tag – even happiness – get ready to pay for a fat bill; the support of your loved ones won't come cheap.

AQUARIUS

Fame and fortune woo you today! And along with recognitions and rewards, you receive encouragement to do even better. Your bosses are pleased, but feel that you haven't really given your 100%. Head on your shoulders and feet on the ground, says Ganesh, is the best policy.

PISCES

Contemplating on the source which triggered problems for you recently will be the order of the day. Identifying the source is half the work done; eliminating it is just a matter of initiative and courage, says Ganesh.



JADA PINKETT SMITH HOPES HER HUSBAND, CHRIS ROCK 'RECONCILE'

Jada Pinkett Smith wants to see her husband Will Smith and Chris Rock move on from the Oscars controversy. The 53-year-old actor hit Chris, 57, during the Oscars ceremony in March after the comedian made a joke about his wife.

KIM KARDASHIAN LAUNCHING SCIENCE-BACKED SKINCARE LINE

Reality star Kim Kardashian - who founded shapewear brand SKIMS back in 2019 took to Instagram to reveal that her next business venture will be a nine-product skincare line. She added that fans will be able to experience a product made with science-backed ingredients.



Nushrratt opens up on her taboo-breaking role

Mumbai: Nushrratt Bharuccha's upcoming feature film *Janhit Mein Jaari* explains how it changes the perspective of the whole conversation that addresses the issue of illegal abortion, the taboo attached to condom and increasing population.

The story of the film revolves around the character Neeti played by Nushrratt who is a sales girl and works in a condom manufacturing company. How being a girl, selling condoms in a society where even the word 'condom' is a taboo, makes her struggle worse and despite everything she wins the heart of many, which sets the journey of the story.

Nushrratt said: "It is interesting that whenever we watch a condom ad film, it shows how pleasurable the act could be if a condom is used. So, we are always trying to highlight the male's perspective there. Our film is changing that thought because using condoms during sex is more impor-

tant for a woman, than a man."

However, Nushrat mentioned that the best part of the film is how a complex, sensitive issue is told in the film with a dash of humour.

Janhit Mein Jaari is releasing theatrically June 10. **IANS**



Amber Heard defamed Johnny Depp: Jury

Los Angeles: A Virginia jury has found that actress Amber Heard defamed Hollywood star Johnny Depp when she wrote a 2018 Washington Post op-ed alluding to her past claims of domestic violence, reports Variety.

The jury also found that Depp defamed Heard, through his attorney, in the course of fighting back against her charges.

It awarded Depp \$10 million in compensatory damages, plus \$5 million in punitive damages, which Judge Penney Azcarate reduced to \$350,000 in accordance with the state's statutory cap.

Heard was awarded \$2 million in compensatory damages for her counterclaim. The jury, five men and two women, who have been deliberating on their

verdict since this past Friday, also found that Heard had acted with 'actual malice', meaning that they were convinced she had made the statements knowing they were false.

Responding to the verdict from the United Kingdom, where he has been attending concerts, Depp said Heard's false claims had 'a seismic impact on my life and my career.'

He said: 'And six years later, the jury gave me my life back. I am truly humbled.' In a statement, Heard said "The disappointment I feel today is beyond words."

"I'm heartbroken that the mountain of evidence still was not enough to stand up to the disproportionate power, influence and sway of my ex-husband," she pointed out. **IANS**

ARIJIT TO PAY SPL TRIBUTE TO LATA



Mumbai: Celebrated playback singer Arijit Singh is gearing up for a special performance to pay tribute to legendary singer late Lata Mangeskar on a television reality show *Naam Reh Jayegaa*.

Even though Arijit is reclusive by nature, this is a very special act for him with a repertoire of Lata Ji's Bengali and Hindi songs in a never-seen-before performance.

Talking about his influence of Lata Mangeskar, Arijit said, "I was introduced to Lata Ji's songs at an early age by my mother and that is how the love and respect for Lata Ji were seeded in me."

He will be performing songs like *Jo waada kiya woh, Tujhse naraaz nahi zindagi, Dikhaiye diye yu* among others. "These songs seem easy but when you sing you realise it's not easy at all. Every song has different memories attached to it," added Arijit.

The show *Naam Reh Jayegaa* is all the more special for Arijit because of Gajendra Singh, who earlier brought Lata Mangeskar in his music reality show *Voice of India*, the only TV show in which the legendary singer made her appearance. **IANS**



Neena shuts down trolls

Mumbai: Veteran actress Neena Gupta has come down heavily on trolls who criticised her for wearing shorts when she met celebrated lyricist Gulzar to gift him a copy of her book *Sach Kahun Toh*.

The *Badhaai Do* actress had met Gulzar last year to seek his blessings and had shared a video of her interaction with the legend on Instagram.

As per a media report, the actress gave a befitting reply to trolls after the video surfaced on the internet again.

She said, "I would like to educate some trolls who were targeting me for wearing shorts while meeting Gulzar Sahab: We became friends as he used to pick me up every morning to play tennis. So we were always in shorts when we met." Neena, who is known for standing her ground, minces no words when it comes to setting things right.

The actress is currently receiving a lot of positive response for her work in the recently released Prime Video web series *Panchayat*. **IANS**

NATYADHARA: DAY 2



A scene from the Odia play *Feranta Mousumi*, presented by the artistes of Talcher-based theatre troupe 'Ame Banchichhu' at Bhanja Kalamandap, Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Written by Fakir Singh, the play was directed by Mukunda Satpathy **OP PHOTO**

FUN post

PEANUTS



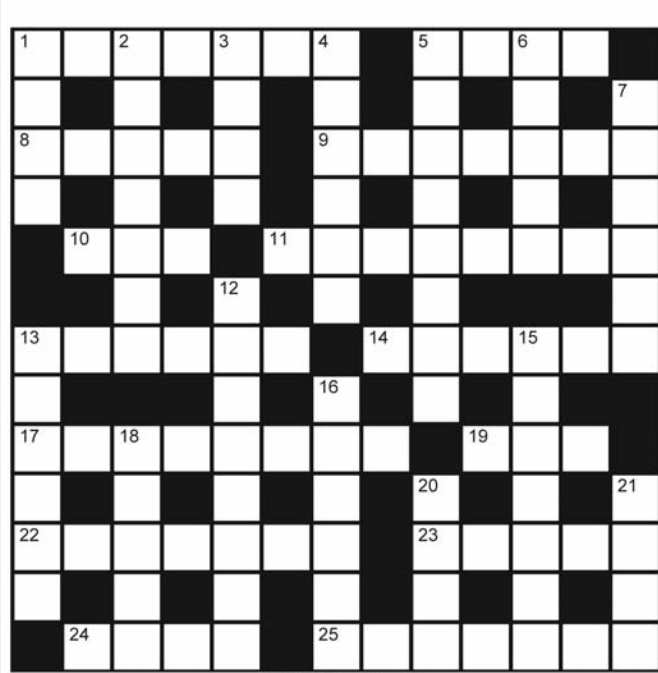
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



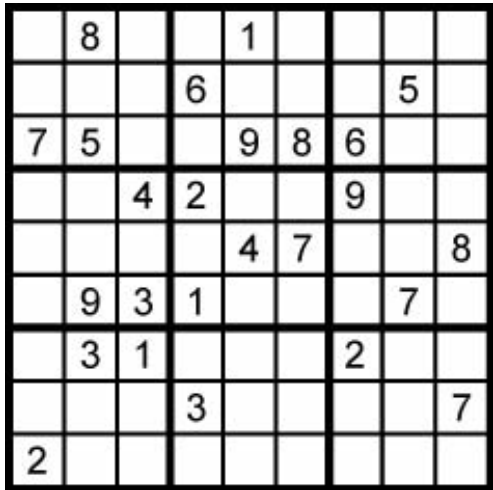
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Tia Maria, e.g.
 - 5 Hook of Holland, for one
 - 8 Intrepid
 - 9 Defile
 - 10 Hog haven
 - 11 Type of belt
 - 13 Gloomy
 - 14 Slip away
 - 17 Type of pig
 - 19 Insane
 - 22 Boat race
 - 23 Additional
 - 24 Unwritten
 - 25 Injuries
 - 6 Expensive
 - 7 Battlefield shout
 - 12 Monopoly avenue
 - 13 Top of the line
 - 15 Apparition
 - 16 Yielding
 - 18 Big cat
 - 20 Greek salad
 - 21 Gossips
- Down**
- 1 Test sites
 - 2 Physics type
 - 3 Shangri-la
 - 4 Apportion
 - 5 16th century sailing ships

SUDOKU

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

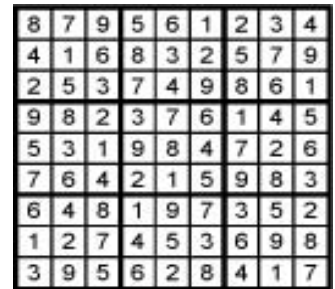


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Protect rights of women, weaker sections: Naveen



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the orientation programme of newly-elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday asked the newly-elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to protect the rights of the poor, women and weaker sections.

Addressing the orientation programme of the newly-elected PRI members including Zilla Parishad presidents, block chairpersons and sarpanches here, the Chief Minister asked them to ensure that the common people are not harassed and deprived of various government benefits. The elected representatives should consider the problems of the villages as their own and make sincere efforts to resolve them, said the Chief Minister.

Congratulating the newly-elected representatives, Patnaik said this time, a large number of women have won the panchayat elections and taken a leadership role.

“Biju Babu’s dream for women empowerment has now been realised. You all are well aware of the importance of the panchayat in our governance and development plans. The panchayat is the center of public service,” Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister advised the PRI members to always remain

with the people during their good and bad times. He also asked the elected representatives to create an identity for themselves as the ambassador of development in their respective areas.

Speaking about the 5T (team work, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit) principle of the state government, Patnaik urged the PRI members to utilise the same for the development of the villages.

Stating that the public has put their trust in them, Patnaik advised the PRI members to never let the people down and serve them by considering their trust as a sacred responsibility. Speaking at the orientation programme, Panchayati Raj Minister Pratap Jena highlighted the role of PRIs in the development of the state and implementation of various welfare schemes. Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said all the infrastructure of the panchayat has now been mapped out through GPS technology. This will help the public to resolve their grievances immediately, he added.

Attending the event, Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo said the Chief Minister has taken steps to empower women and youth in Odisha and

strengthen the panchayats. “If every one adheres to the 5T principle, we can be able to bring massive transformation in our state,” Sahoo said.

Mission Shakti Minister Tukuni Sahu said the Chief Minister has given women an opportunity to do social work. This is nothing but women empowerment, she said.

In his welcome address, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said the PRIs have been strengthened financially. Huge amount of funds is being spent for the development of the panchayats. This training programme is very important for the fruitful utilisation of the funds sanctioned to the panchayats, he said.

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department principal secretary Ashok Kumar Meena offered vote of thanks. The orientation programme was attended by 1,06,352 PRI representatives, sources said.

For the first time, the state government has decided to provide training on disaster management, women empowerment, fruitful utilisation of funds to all 1,06,352 PRI members including 30 zilla parishad presidents, 822 zilla parishad members, 314 block chairpersons, 6,479 panchayat samiti members, 6,749 sarpanches and 91,913 ward members within six months.

Extortion gang busted in City; seven arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The Commissionerate police Thursday busted a gang involved in extortion from small traders in Airfield police station area. The cops arrested seven members of the gang and seized various sharp weapons from their possession.

The accused are Rajesh Behera alias Raja, 20, Birendra Bhoi alias Pintuna, 19, and Debaraj Behera alias Deba, 22, from Sundarpada area; Sunil Samal alias Sonu, 21, and Amar Samal alias Babu, 19, from Pokhariput area; and Manoj Bhoi alias Manua, 20, from Kapil Prasad area under Airfield police limits here.

Another accused Biren Rout alias Baru, 19, who is a resident of Khandapada in Nayagarh district, has been staying at Dhipa Sahi in Sundarpada area here.

Based on a complaint lodged by a tea stall owner, the Airfield police arrested the individuals. As per the complaint, the gang allegedly perpetrated a murderous attack on the complainant’s brother after he refused to pay the extortion money to the accused May 27 evening.



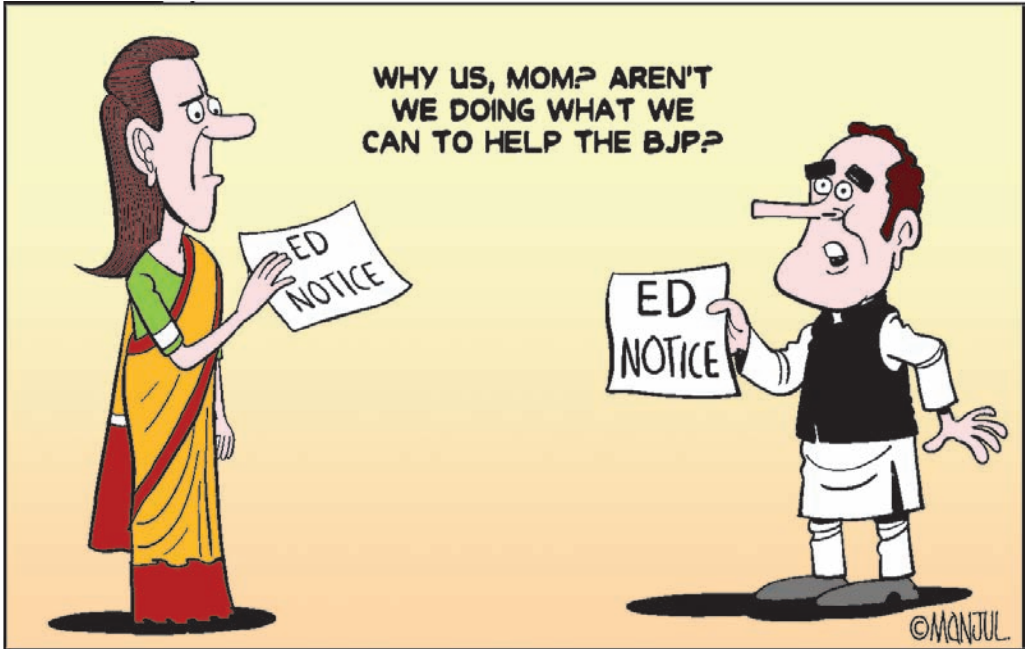
The members of the gang had reportedly asked the tea stall owner at Botanda market to pay a particular amount around seven days before the attack. The victim had sustained severe injuries in the attack.

The accused persons created the gang to extort money from small traders and persons coming to the area from outside.

They have also made several videos with sharp weapons and shared those on various social media platforms to cast terror among the residents.

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	53,37,28,348	50,46,57,278	63,16,332
India	4,31,64,544	4,26,20,394	5,24,641
Odisha	12,88,465	12,79,214	9,126

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



CM approves master plan for renovation of Sarala temple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday approved the master plan for redevelopment and renovation of Sarala temple at Jhankada in Jagatsinghpur district.

The temple and its peripheral development work would be taken up under the 5T Integrated Development of Heritage and Monuments and Tourists Destination scheme of the state government.

The Works department Thursday presented the project details before the Chief Minister. In the first phase, Rs 42 crore will be spent for redevelopment of the temple. The project will be completed in one year.

As per the master plan, four gates, a kitchen, Anand Bazar, godown and a few other structures will be constructed at the shrine. This apart, the state government will construct a shoe stand, toilets, parking place and a shelter house for the devotees. A police control room would be set up near



The Works department Thursday presented the project details before the Chief Minister. In the first phase, Rs 42 crore will be spent for redevelopment of the temple

5T Secretary VK Pandian had recently visited the temple and discussed the redevelopment plan with the locals, servitors and officials of the district administration

At least 72 vendors will be rehabilitated at a proposed shopping complex near the temple, sources added.

In the second phase, the road connecting the shrine will be widened.

Notably, 5T Secretary VK Pandian had recently visited the temple and discussed the redevelopment plan with the locals, servitors and officials of the district administration. Accordingly, a master plan was prepared to redevelop the temple.

the shrine and steps would be taken to renovate the Chandan Pokhari (temple pond), sources said.

Cyber frauds siphoned off ₹95.75 lakh in May

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Cyber criminals siphoned off more than Rs 95.75 lakh from residents of the Capital city in May. The above fact came to fore after the cyber crime help desk of City police released its monthly data Thursday.

The City police revealed that 336 people from different places of the state contacted the cyber help desk last month. Out of them, 300 victims belong to the Capital city.

Cyber fraudsters duped as many as 136 persons after deceitfully fetching their UPI account details while 54 mistakenly shared vital credit and debit card details with the connen. The total amount looted from the City in May was Rs 95,75,374.

On the other hand, 16 victims managed to get back the complete amount or a major part of amount whisked away by the connen in May. The Police managed to retrieve only Rs 7,69,562 and blocked Rs 66,389 last month.



Security personnel conducting a mock drill at Barabati stadium in Cuttack, Thursday, to tackle any untoward incident during the upcoming T-20 International cricket match between India and South Africa

Chellakumar slams govt over migrant labour issue

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The two-day ‘Naba Sankalpa Samabesh’ of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) concluded here Thursday.

Many senior leaders of the party, its district unit and block presidents participated in the conference and devised a strategy for the 2024 General and Assembly elections in state.

Addressing the conference, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Odisha A Chellakumar congratulated Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on completion of the latter’s 25 years in public service. But, the Congress leader claimed that Patnaik has not done anything for the people.



“Patnaik has not fulfilled the promises which he had given to the people during the elections. The Chief Minister is claiming that he has given a transparent government to the people. If so, the state government should write to the Centre for CBI investigations into the Chit Fund and mining scams in Odisha,” said Chellakumar.

The Congress leader also criticised the BJD government in Odisha over the migrant labourer issue. “Why thousands of people from Odisha are going to other states for livelihood opportunities? Why the income of the farmers in Odisha is not rising? The state government should give its answers on these issues,” said the Congress leader.

Sonepur sizzles at 44.8 degrees Celsius

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Blistering heat and intense humidity scorched parts of Odisha Thursday, with at least 15 weather stations recording a maximum of over 40 degrees Celsius, officials said.

The maximum rose by around 1.3 degrees in a few places and nine areas saw the temperature shooting up to 43 degrees Celsius or more, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

Sonepur recorded 44.8 degrees Celsius, the highest in the state, followed by 44.5 in Bolangir, 43.8 in Sambalpur and 43.6 in Bargarh.

The mercury settled at 43.5 degrees Celsius each in Malkangiri and Bhawanipatna, while it was 43.4 in Jharsuguda, two notches above the average, it said.

New colourful species of leopard geckos found in Odisha, AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Researchers have identified a new colourful species of leopard geckos deep in the forests of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, which they said is already collected for pet trade and may be smuggled illegally.

Eublepharis pictus, also known as the Painted Leopard Gecko, was known to researchers before but they have only now revealed its true identity.

In 2017, Zeeshan A Mirza of the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore and C Gnaneswar from the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in Chennai found a gecko in a water tank near a temple in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, during a field survey.

However, back then, they thought

it belonged to the East Indian Leopard Gecko species (Eublepharis hardwickii).

“The species appears to be common in the hill forests, but its distinctness was only confirmed by other researchers,” Mirza noted.

The study, recently published in the journal Evolutionary Systematics, looked for the evolutionary history and relationships within and between the leopard gecko species in the genus Eublepharis.

The researchers found that what had until then been considered a southern population of East Indian Leopard Gecko might be distinct enough to represent a new species.

They then made morphological or structural comparisons between the species, looking at specimens across natural history museums.

“These lizards have conserved



morphologies and most species are quite similar in general appearance,” Mirza said.

“With a few characters based on the number of specimens examined, we described the species and named it the Painted Leopard Gecko - in Latin, Eublepharis pictus, for its colouration,” he added.

With this new addition, the gecko genus Eublepharis now contains seven species. Two of them - E Pictus and E Satpuraensis - were described by Mirza.

The Painted Leopard Gecko measures 11.7 centimetres in length,

which is somewhat large for a leopard gecko.

The Brahmani River, which runs through the Eastern Ghats, separates it geographically from the East Indian Leopard Gecko, with which it shares a lot of similar traits. The researchers noted that the new species lives in dry evergreen forests mixed with scrub and meadows. It is strictly nocturnal, actively foraging along trails in the forest after dusk. While looking for food, it has been observed licking surfaces as it moves, which suggests it might use its tongue as a sensory organ, they said.

Even though the Painted Leopard Gecko seems to be widespread across the state of Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh, the researchers worry about its conservation. “The species is collected for the pet trade and even now may

be smuggled illegally,” they said, which is why they have not given out the exact locations where it may be found.

The authors of the study noted that the species would stand more of a chance against humans if more people knew it was actually harmless. To protect it, they suggest listing it as Near Threatened based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) conservation prioritisation criteria, until more is known about the size of its populations.

More research may also encourage better protection of biodiversity in the area, the authors of the study noted.

“The Eastern Ghats are severely under-surveyed, and dedicated efforts will help recognise it as a biodiversity hotspot,” they added.

Srimandir verdict today

Continued from P1

“What is being carried out is to beautify the area and create facilities for the devotees. Some other work is for the security of the temple. Can’t toilets be constructed in a world heritage site,” the AG said. The AG also apprised the court about the hardships faced women devotees in the absence of toilets.

Highlighting the importance of the project, senior advocate Pinaki Misra submitted that 15 to 20 lakh people congregate in Puri during Rath Yatra and there have been stampede in the past. He further submitted that the redevelopment plan around the temple is to decongest the area and entire sevayat community is backing the project.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Ardhendu Kumar Das and others alleging illegal excavation and construction work by the Odisha government at the temple site.

According to the petition, state agencies have been working in gross violation of Section 20A of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The plea alleged that the Odisha government is carrying out unauthorised construction work. This poses a serious threat to the structure of the ancient temple, it said.

CLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name SOUMYA DHAL SAMANTA to SOUMYA PATTNAIK for all purposes.

I, Srikanta Srichandan, aged about 40 years, S/o.- Dhruva Charan Srichandan, Mobile No.9439537853 resident of Vill/ PO- Khelaur, P.S.- Pipili, Dist- Puri, Pin code- 752016 do, hereby solemnly affirms and state as follows:- 1. That, I am the sole deponent of this affidavit. 2. I informing that, on dated 13.05.22 while returning from Delang Tahasil to my home, I lost one original Saledeed (1531001734) of Volume No. 586 and 1 original ROR (713/207) of Mouza Khelaur, P.S.-Pipili, Dist-Puri which were in the name of Ranjan Kumar Sahu, S/o.- Gangadhar Sahu. 3. I purchased the same Property from him. And I have applied for a loan in piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited, Bhubaneswar against the same Property. 4.I have not done any other use of the above mentioned 2 original documents. 5. That, this affidavit is require to be produced before the concernd authority for legal necessity and necessary action. 6. That, the fact stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Srikanta Srichandan, Deponent

LOST

I, Sri Banamali Khamari, S/o- Balmiki Khamari of Ghagurli, P.S.- Belpara, Dist- Balangir, Odisha declare that I lost my Registered deed of sale bearing No.1391/2004, Recorded in my name, on date 31.05.2022 at Balangir. While I was moving Dailyway market, Balangir. The matter is intimated at Town P.S. Balangir vide S.D.No.09, Date 01.06.2022. If found please contact - 8018259096.



Judicial officers posed for a photo with Deputy Speaker Rajani Kant Singh and other dignitaries near the Gandhi statue at Odisha Assembly in Bhubaneswar during their induction training programme, Thursday

PHOTO OP WITH DEPUTY SPEAKER

New academic wing of SCSTRTI inaugurated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The new academic building of the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Research & Training Institute (SCSTRTI) was inaugurated Thursday by Padma Shri Damyanti Besra, former principal of MPC Autonomous College, Baripada, in the presence of ST & SC Development Department Principal Secretary Ranjana Chopra, and SCSTRTI Director AB Ota and other senior officers and staff of the department and SCSTRTI.

The three-storey 28,000 sq ft academic wing has an ethnic design. It houses a state-of-the-art 100-seater conference hall. All the facilities including fire fighting measures are in place. The building complies with the guidelines of differently abled-friendly infrastructure with facilities like ramps, rails, and special toilets. Tribal paintings adorn the inner and outer walls of the building. The courtyard showcases the images of pre-independence tribal leaders.

The academic wing will accommodate research personnel of the SCSTRTI. It will also provide space for collaborative research with institutes of national and international repute.



Re-affiliate colleges to new varsities: HE dept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The Higher Education (HE) department Secretary Saswat Mishra Thursday directed all state public universities to re-affiliate colleges to the newly established universities in state.

In a letter to all Vice Chancellors, Mishra wrote that several new state public universities have been established in the last couple of years in state. Some colleges are to be dis-affiliated from their respective parent universities and re-affiliated to their new universities.

Some colleges are concerned as their new universities are demanding affiliation fee/pledge money afresh; instead of getting it transferred from the respective parent university, which is “quite improper” since these colleges were validly affiliated to their parent universities.

The letter directed the parent universities to transfer the affiliation fee deposit to the new affiliating universities immediately by July 31.

State’s GST mop-up rises 41.89% in May

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Odisha has registered a growth of 41.89 per cent in OGST by collecting ₹1,174.02 crore during May 2022 against ₹827.43 crore in the same month last year, an official said Thursday.

Claiming that Odisha has also maintained the growth rate of gross GST with a collection of ₹3,955.75 crore during May 2022 as against ₹3,196.75 crore collected during May 2021 registering a growth of 24 per cent, he said, adding that there is also collection of ₹978.25 crore in CGST with growth of 42 per cent, ₹1105.51 crore in IGST with growth of 0.99 per cent and ₹697.97 crore in cess with growth of 19 per cent during May, 2022.

The total collection of VAT (Petrol & Liquor) is ₹993.11 crore during May 2022 as against ₹794.88 crore during May 2021 with growth rate of 25 per cent.

Of the above, collection from petroleum products is ₹803.69 crore during May 2022 against ₹667.60 crore collected during May 2021 with growth of 20.38 per cent.

Similarly, the collection from liquor is ₹189.41 crore during May



2022 against ₹127.28 crore collected during May 2021 with growth rate of 48.81 per cent.

There is a growth of 35.52 per cent in Professional Tax with a collection of ₹23.31 crore during May 2022 against collection of ₹17.20 crore during May 2021.

All GST registered taxpayers as well as other professionals have been advised to pay their annual Professional Tax in the first quarter of 2022-23, he said.

“Improved compliance by taxpayers through filing of regular returns, close surveillance and intelligence based action against the tax evaders as well as growth in mining and manufacturing sectors

Odisha has maintained the growth rate of gross GST with a collection of ₹3,955.75 crore during May 2022 as against ₹3,196.75 crore collected during the corresponding period of 2021, registering a growth of 24%

The total collection of VAT (Petrol & Liquor) is ₹993.11 crore during May 2022 as against ₹794.88 crore during May 2021 with growth rate of 25%

There is a growth of 35.52% in Professional Tax with a collection of ₹23.31 crore during May 2022 against collection of ₹17.20 crore during May 2021

have contributed significantly in ensuring healthy growth in GST collection in the state,” said Commissioner of commercial tax and GST SK Lohani.

Lohani also asked the field officers to ensure at least 90 per cent return filing, return scrutiny of all suspected/ big taxpayers as well as prompt demand and recovery in case of detection of irregularities.

He has also advised officials to devise sector specific strategies for detection of tax evaders and also to focus on real estate, minor mineral, trading sector.

During the current fiscal, as many as 7,739 new taxpayers have been bought under the GST fold.

WODC chief lays stone for town hall in Khariar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Nuapada, June 2: Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) Chairman Asit Tripathy, who is on a two-day visit to Nuapada, laid the foundation stone for a town hall at Khariar in the district Thursday.

With an estimated cost of ₹9.8 crore, the 500-seat town hall will benefit the residents of Khariar as well as students of Khariar Autonomous College, said an official, adding that the facility will be built with 18 months.

Earlier in the day, Tripathy interacted with the women farmers of Satya Sai Producers’ Group at Bhaludungri village in Bhojpur Khariar tehsil.

The WODC chairman also visited Nilamadhav Fish Hatchery at

Areda (Tarapur) of Khariar block where he interacted with MKUY entrepreneur Susanta Kumar Sahu, who is into fish seedling production and sale business.

Tripathy also interacted with students of Khariar Autonomous College and encouraged them to peruse career in entrepreneurship and agrobusiness. Some of the issues faced by students were highlighted.

The WODC chairman also assured them that their charter of demands like upgradation of college gymnasium, development of playground, rooftop solar system and girls’ common room will be taken care of by the WODC.

On Wednesday, Tripathy laid the foundation stone for construction of Nuapada town hall-cum-auditorium with an estimated cost of ₹7.78 crore.



Tectonic linkage in Indian Plate’s NE edge to 1950 Assam quake

THE EASTERN HIMALAYAN SYNTAXIS (EHS) ON THE FOOTHILLS OF EASTERN ARUNACHAL PRADESH AND BORDERING REGIONS OF ASSAM IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS ONE OF THE MOST SEISMICALLY ACTIVE REGIONS IN THE WORLD

The subduction of the Indian Plate discontinues north of 27°N latitude and the indentation process is responsible for seismicity in region connected with the Assam earthquake of 1950 (magnitude 8.6), a study has found.

The study has also suggested that the Indo-Burma Range (IBR) is more susceptible to deeper earthquakes, while crustal-scale earthquakes are more likely to occur in the Eastern Himalayan Syntaxis (EHS).

The Eastern Himalayan Syntaxis (EHS) on the foothills of eastern Arunachal Pradesh and bordering regions of Assam is acknowledged as one of the most seismically active regions in the world.

The northeast corner of the Indian Plate in the EHS belongs to the seismic zone V of the national zoning map of India and has a potential to trigger major earthquakes in the future.

The researchers analysed the earthquake data recorded by the local broadband seismograph network as well as reviewed catalog data of the International



Cracks appeared on the road, near Dibrugarh Town

Seismological Center for the seismicity in the north-eastern fringe of the Indian Plate in the EHS (Tidding-Tuting Suture) and adjoining areas.

The study published in Tectonophysics Journal also found that the Tidding-Tuting Suture Zone is seismically active up to approximately 40km depth. Another major finding was that the Mishmi, Tidding, and Lohit thrusts are steeply dipping thrust faults while

the Walong fault is a strike-slip fault with a minor thrust component. (All places in the Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh).

“The TTSZ is seismically active up to around 40 km depth. In contrast, the seismicity in the Indo-Burma Ranges (IBR) is observed up to a depth of around 200 km, suggesting the active subduction (a term borrowed from oceanography, which means the tectonic process at convergent margins by



Liquefaction during the earthquake

which slabs of oceanic lithosphere descend into the mantle) process of the Indian plate beneath the IBR. It suggests that the IBR is more susceptible to deeper earthquakes, while crustal-scale earthquakes are more likely to occur in the TTSZ,” the study said.

This research suggests that the subduction process terminates north of around 27°N latitude and the indentation process of the rigid Indian plate into south-east Asia pre-

dominantly controls the seismicity north of the IBR.

“This seismic structure forms a complex tectonics, which produced the great Assam earthquake of 1950 and may be building up stress for a future earthquake. The Great Assam Earthquake is the largest intra-continental earthquake ever recorded,” it said.

In contrast to several studies carried out in the EHS and adjoining SE Tibetan plateau, the north-east-

ern fringe of the Indian Plate in the EHS (TTSZ) is studied extremely less for understanding seismo-genesis and its tectonic linkage.

A team led by Devajit Hazarika from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, established 11 broadband seismological stations in the Lohit Valley and eight stations in the Siang Window of Arunachal Himalayas to obtain information of moderate and micro-earthquakes in the region.

The results reveal that the closely spaced Mishmi, Tidding, and Lohit faults along the Lohit and Dibang River Valleys of eastern Arunachal Pradesh are steeply dipping thrust sheets that accommodate the large crustal shortening owing to the indentation process and clockwise rotation tectonics.

The Walong fault, in the upper part of the Lohit river valley of Arunachal Pradesh, is characterised by strike-slip motion with a thrust component that facilitates the clockwise rotation of crustal material around the syntaxis. IANS

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DGP urges Maoists to join mainstream



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Bansal Thursday appealed to the people who have accepted the Maoist ideology to surrender and join the mainstream.

He said this when as many as 50 Maoist supporters of Malkangiri district surrendered before Odisha police in his presence Thursday.

The Maoist sympathisers including two women surrendered before the DGP during his visit to Jantri police camp in Swabhiman Anchal (earlier known as cut-off area) in the Maoist-hit Malkangiri district.

“Maoist supporters and some people who have been involved in a few police attack cases have surrendered today. Welcoming all to the

Red banner found in Bargarh district

PAIKAMAL: Maoists have once again made their presence felt in Paikamal area under Padmapur sub-division of Bargarh district after a banner of the Left-wing extremists were found hanging here, Thursday. Police seized a banner from Bhuliabandha area about 9 km from Paikamal. The banner written in Hindi and addressed by Communist Party of India (Maoist) alleged that political leaders and contractors are involved in corruption while executing public welfare schemes like construction of check dams and that people are forced to migrate to other states for work due to lack of livelihood opportunities. Paikamal IIC Biswajit Manbodi said the banner was seized and an investigation launched.

The Maoist sympathisers have submitted a joint written letter to the DGP before surrendering

In the letter, they requested the DGP to close all cases pending against them in different police stations of Malkangiri district

mainstream of society, I told them nothing can be achieved from violence. They also took a pledge not to support or perpetrate violence,” the DGP said.

He appealed to the people who have accepted the Maoist ideology to surrender and join the mainstream. All should come and partake in the development, he added.

The Maoist sympathisers have submitted a joint written letter to

the DGP before surrendering. In the letter, they requested the DGP to close all cases pending against them in different police stations of Malkangiri district.

Later, Bansal reviewed the anti-Maoist operations taken up in the districts with BSF and inaugurated a new building of Mathili police station.

14 of robbers’ gang nabbed

AGENCIES

Berhampur, June 2: Fourteen people, including seven juveniles, were nabbed as a major dacoity gang was busted in Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

At least 10 of them were part of a plan to rob a bus, and had assembled near a temple on the outskirts of Bhanjanagar town Wednesday night when police raided the place.

Four other suspects were arrested later, Bhanjanagar police

station inspector Dhresh Das said. Investigations revealed that the gang was involved in several dacoity and snatching cases in and around Bhanjanagar town, he said.

Thirty-nine mobile phones, one laptop, three swords, three crude bombs, chilli powder and three motorcycles were among the items seized from the robbers, according to the police officer.

“We will hand over the mobile phones to the owners after proper verification,” Das said.

TRUE TO TRADITION



Priests consecrating the gold ornaments and idols for Sital Sashti festival after they were taken out of the district treasury in Sonapur, Thursday

OP IMPACT



two in Community Medicine, five in General Medicine, four in General Surgery, four in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, two in Microbiology, two in Orthopaedics, two in Ophthalmology, four in Pathology, and one each in Pharmacology, Mental Health, Radiology, Skin and VD departments.

However, this has failed to appease the locals who alleged that the state government has replaced the experienced and expert doctors with PG doctors. They questioned whether PG doctors can perform

The move comes after Orissa POST published a report highlighting how healthcare services has been seriously hit at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur due to 113 vacancies in doctors’ posts at the hospital.

However, they have been given appointment for a period of one year, a communiqué released by the state Health and Family Welfare department said

like senior and experienced doctors at the hospital.

They said the state government should not only fill the vacant posts but appoint senior and experienced doctors to help improve the quality of healthcare services in the hospital.

When contacted, principal-cum-dean of MKCG Medical College Dr Abani Kanta Mishra said, “The state government is giving due importance to MKCG Medical College and Hospital and the fresh appointments will help in improving the healthcare services at the hospital.”

NH-326 blocked over missing of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

MV 79, June 2: Vehicular traffic on National Highway-326 at MV 72 connecting Malkangiri district with Hyderabad came to a grinding halt Thursday when some locals staged a road blockade on the highway over a missing minor boy.

According to reports, the minor boy of MV 75 was in love with a girl of MV 72 village.

The issue took a serious turn

when the girl’s father spotted both of them at a place Wednesday evening. Enraged, the girl’s father beat up boy black and blue and later the boy went missing. Protesting the incident, the residents of MV 75 village staged a road blockade opposite the girl’s house on the highway passing through MV 72 village.

Police rushed to the spot and tried to placate the agitators but they refused to relent when the last report came in.

Bombs hurled at NAC officer’s house

MALKANGIRI: Family members of an NAC executive officer had a narrow escape late Wednesday night when some unidentified miscreants hurled bombs at their house in Balimela of Malkangiri district. Based on a complaint by the NAC officer, Krushna Chandra Rath, Thursday, police registered a case and launched a manhunt. The walls, doors and windows have been damaged in the bomb attack. Locals woke up to the sound, rushed to the spot and doused the flames caused due to the bombing.

Renaming of JK Road rly station hangs fire

CONFUSION STILL PREVAILS OVER THE JUSTIFICATION REPORT OF JAJPUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 2: A proposal sent to the Union Railway Ministry for rechristening of the Jajpur-Keonjhar Road railway station as Jajpur railway station has been pending for approval for the last three years allegedly due to the negligence by the district administration in submitting a justification report to the Centre.

Reports said Jajpur-Keonjhar Road railway station is on the Howrah-Chennai mainline at Jajpur Road. However, not a single train runs from this station to Keonjhar, raising doubts about the rationale behind the name of the railway station.

As the proposal has been stuck for non-submission of a justification report, the state Commerce and Transport department had issued a letter (No. 1277/9/2021) to the Jajpur district administration, reminding the latter that the proposal has not been executed till date.

Deputy secretary of the Transport



department Durgacharan Sahu has again sent a reminder to the Jajpur Collector seeking a justification report May 27, but to no avail. Locals have pointed fingers at the district administration for its alleged negligence in carrying forward the move to rename the station.

JK Road Railway Station is at Vyasanagar, the gateway to

Kalinganagar Industrial Complex in Jajpur Road. Although there is no train that runs to Keonjhar district from here, the name of Keonjhar has been part of the station’s name since the British rule.

One Harishchandra Sahu, who was staying in Baradpur in New Delhi, first initiated his attempt to remove ‘Keonjhar’ from the station’s

Deputy secretary of the Transport department Durgacharan Sahu has sent a reminder to the Jajpur Collector seeking a justification report May 27, but to no avail

Locals have pointed fingers at the district administration for its alleged negligence in carrying forward the move to rename the railway station

name board. He had also sent a letter to then Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in November 2018 in this regard. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had also written to Goyal about the need for changing the name of the railway station July 22, 2019.

In the letter, he stated that Keonjhar district already has railway lines and the name of Jajpur-Keonjhar Road railway station is completely wrong. Keonjhar has its own railway station - Kendujharghar railway station.

Keeping the name of Keonjhar

with Jajpur Railway Station is redundant, he argued.

A BJP delegation from Vyasadev Mandal had submitted a memorandum to the DRM of the East Coast Railway (ECOR), to rename the station as Jajpur or Dolipur railway station.

The ECoR had thoroughly examined the demand in this regard. However, it was stated in commercial circular of the Railway Board July 17, 1999 that the Union Home Ministry cannot alone approve the proposal.

The ECoR suggested that the state government should approve the proposal and send it to the Home Ministry. Hence, the Transport department deputy secretary has again sent a reminder to the Collector seeking a justification report May 27.

As for the issue, Collector Chakraborty Singh Rathore said, “A justification report with data had been sent to the railway ministry last year, but it has not been confirmed whether the Railway Ministry has received the latter. Another report will be sent.”

ART AND CRAFT EXPO



Girls of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya at Umerkote in Nabarangpur district flaunt their painted faces during the annual art and craft exhibition being organised on their school premises, Thursday

GOVT APPOINTS 35 PG DOCS AT MKCG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 2: In a bid to tide over doctors’ crunch at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here, the state government has appointed 35 Post Graduate (PG) doctors at the premier healthcare facility of south Odisha, a report said.

The move comes after Orissa POST published a report highlighting how healthcare has been seriously hit at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur due to 113 vacancies in doctors’ posts at the hospital.

However, they have been given appointment for a period of one year, a communiqué released by the state Health and Family Welfare department said. Among them, 23 doctors have passed out of MKCG, three from VIMSAR at Burla, three from SCB at Cuttack and one from Rayagada.

Four of them have been appointed in the Anesthesiology department, two in Bio-Chemistry,

Reports said the state government had transferred 13 senior and experienced doctors of various departments of MKCG elsewhere March 11. Later, seven doctors were appointed in their place. Hardly a month of the transfer, eight doctors were again shifted elsewhere.

Frequent transfer of doctors from MKCG to other hospitals had sparked resentment among the residents. Peeved over the development, the denizens staged a sit-in against the transfer of doctors to other hospitals.

However, that failed to have any impact, as the state government again transferred four doctors to other hospitals May 26 and appointed two doctors in their place.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 05/ET/SSBP/ENGG/2022-23
Date: 30.05.2022
e-Tender No. 03-ET-DENC-SBP-22
Name of the work: CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FOURTH INTEGRATED PIT LINE OF 650 M AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING STABIL LINE BY 257.815M AT COACHING DEPOT SAMBALPUR.
Approx cost of the work: ₹5,67,52,785.03, EMD: ₹4,33,800/-, Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) Months.
Date & time of Tender Closing: 27.06.2022 at 1500 hrs.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>
The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./I) Sambalpur
PR-162/N/22-23

NOTICE

This is to inform all concern that M/s B.D. Patnaik Minerals Pvt. Ltd. (Regd. Office: Plot No. H-12, Civil Township, Rourkela, Dist: Sundergarh, Odisha) has accorded the Environmental Clearance (EC Identification No. 22B001OR189382 dtd. 22/02/2022) for Sarumuhan-Chunaghuti Limestone and Dolomite Mines over an area of 44.742 Ha. located at village: Sarumuhan and Chunaghuti, Tahasil: Rajgangpur, District: Sundergarh, Odisha for production of 0.25 Million TPA Limestone under the Provision of EIA Notification dated 14th September 2006 & amendment thereafter.

The copy of the clearance letter is available in the Website of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India at <http://www.environmentclearance.nic.in>.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PARALAKHEMUNDI, GAJAPATI ‘e’ Procurement Notice

No. C-417 Bid Identification No. 02/PKDM - 2022-23 Letter No. 1433 Date: 31.05.2022	
1 Nature of the work	98 (Ninety Eight) Nos. of Civil Construction Works.
2 Estimated Cost	Varies from Rs.17.85 lakhs to Rs.0.89 lakhs
3 Period of Completion	Three Calendar Months
4 Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	From 02.06.2022 at 10.00 A.M. to 13.06.2022 at 5.00 P.M.
5 Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	13.06.2022 at 5.00 P.M.
6 Submission of Financial Documents (Bid cost & EMD) by Registered Post or Speed Post	On or before 17.06.2022 by 5.00 P.M.
7 Date and time of opening of bid	18.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
8 Name and address of the Officer, Inviting Bid	Executive Officer, Paralakhemundi Municipality
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal “ https://tendersorissa.gov.in ”.	
Sd./- Executive Officer Paralakhemundi Municipality OIPR-13145/11/0007/2223	

True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become.

SRI AUROBINDO

Engaging with China

The world order is at risk of a lasting split, with the United States and its allies on one side, and China and its partners on the other. As US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen noted at an Atlantic Council event last month, this outcome is far from desirable, and the US must work with China to prevent it. But, practically in her next breath, Yellen advocated actions that could thwart such an effort.

In Yellen's view, the US should be deepening ties with countries that have "strong adherence to a set of norms and values about how to operate in the global economy and about how to run the global economic system." In her view, picking partners that are "committed to a set of core values and principles" is the key to effective cooperation on important issues.

But where does that leave countries with different values and principles? How can the global institutional architecture survive if countries limit open engagement only to those who view the world the same way they do? If the West excludes a power like China from its multilateral arrangements, what can China do other than spearhead alternatives?

A better approach to China would be based on three key considerations. The first is that multilateralism is impossible without China. Not only is China the world's second-largest economy; it also has one of the world's largest financial systems, with assets amounting to nearly 470% of its GDP. China's gross national savings – equivalent to about 45% of GDP – are similarly massive.

Moreover, China is the world's largest bilateral lender; and it contributes substantially to multilateral financial institutions – and not only those built and led by the West. In fact – and this is the second consideration – China has assumed an important role in the international financial architecture, as both a member and builder of institutions.

In recent years, China has pioneered the creation of two new regional multilateral development banks. Both the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB) are designed to complement the international financial architecture, proving that China can lead institutions, act as a major provider of development finance, and be a "responsible stakeholder" in a system created by the US and its allies.

But, in a sense, that system is failing China. At the International Monetary Fund, China's voting share is 6.1%, slightly lower than Japan's 6.2% and well below the 16.5% US share. Their shares at the World Bank are 5.4%, 7.28%, and 15.5%, respectively. Though this is clearly out of line with China's economic weight, the pace of reform has been slow, not least because of American obstruction – a point Yellen brushed aside when discussing the need to modernize the IMF and the World Bank.

This gives China's leaders good reasons to consider other options, including decoupling the institutions it leads from the existing multilateral system and creating new ones. The result would be a fragmentation of the global financial safety net, which would become less responsive, predictable, and inclusive, inevitably leaving some countries exposed to systemic risks.

The third consideration that must shape the West's approach to China is the thorniest: China's economic and political systems – and thus China's objectives and incentives – differ sharply from those of the G7 countries. This is a major source of tensions between the West and China, and a key reason why officials like Yellen advocate the easier engagement that is possible with "likeminded" countries.

To be sure, navigating conflicting perspectives, ideologies, and interests is challenging. This has been apparent during Russia's war against Ukraine, which China has refused to join the G7 in condemning. But, as frustrating as China's reticence is, confronting the country's leaders will not help matters. Nor will excluding China from multilateral arrangements.

Instead, the G7 countries should focus on identifying areas of common interest where the risk of misunderstanding and disagreement is low and seize whatever opportunities for cooperation there may be. Climate change – and, in particular, climate finance – is an obvious example, but it is hardly the only one. While Western media have often presented China's leaders as intransigent or even deceitful, China has continued to engage constructively with the West on a variety of economic and financial issues.

One example is debt management. Late last month, China joined Zambia's creditor committee and committed to the G20's Common Framework debt-restructuring process. It is a good sign not only for Zambia – whose debt burden currently amounts to nearly \$32 billion, or around 120% of GDP – but also for other heavily indebted African countries.

Even with regard to Russia's war in Ukraine, there is some convergence between Western and Chinese positions, albeit for very different reasons. In early March, the AIIB, citing the financial risks, froze all business with Russia and Belarus, and the NDB announced that it had "put new transactions in Russia on hold."

This shows that appealing to shared values is far from the only way to convince countries to advance shared goals; practical considerations are also very powerful. In dealing with China, the West should attempt to build international dialogue and policy cooperation on a foundation of concrete common interests.

Contrary to the prevailing narrative in the West, cooperation with China has been the norm for decades. But if G7 leaders decide to make "core values" the basis of international cooperation, this could well change. A global economy in which China and the G7 follow separate, non-converging paths will leave both sides worse off.

The writer is Professor of International Economics at the University of London's Queen Mary Global Policy Institute.



Paola Subacchi

A global economy in which China and the G7 follow separate, non-converging paths will leave both sides worse off



Avilash Roul

MULTILATERALISM HAS NOT FAILED. IT IS THE GOVERNMENT(S) WHICH HAVE MISERABLY MISCARRIED THE ETHOS OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

MULTILATERALISM KEY



It's time to allow new models or approaches of environmental governance where citizens, communities, and vulnerable groups take care of their planet in an equal partnership with governments and private actors

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, the UNEP had a roller-coaster ride since its inception in 1972 through UNCHE. In its first decade, minimal financial support from industrialised countries had almost crippled its activities. However, the Ozone diplomacy and its subsequent agreement and protocols, establishing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), facilitating migratory species convention, are a few of many such successful examples of environmental management, conservation and protection led by UNEP. Environmental diplomacy or environmental cooperation among countries, foundation of international environmental law, popularising EIAs/SEAs are the heritage of UNEP/Stockholm Summit.

Prior to the 1972 Stockholm Summit, there have been instances of unilateral and bilateral initiatives in managing or protecting the environment, especially wildlife.

Protecting nature and natural resources dates back to ancient Greece, ancient Egypt and ancient India. The earliest codified laws related to the environment in India can be traced to the third century BCE when king Ashoka made laws in the matter of preservation of wildlife and environment. At Dhauri, in Bhubaneswar, one can see the Ashokan Rock Edict which decreed that no living thing was to be sacrificed for festival.

The Environmental Protection Agency in the US was established in 1970 in response to massive public outcry against rampant pollution in land, sea and air as the example of the first national institutionalisation of the environment. A century before the Stockholm Conference in 1872, the Switzerland government proposed (unsuccessfully) an international regulatory commission to protect migratory birds in Europe. After 35 years of prolonged initiative, the European Convention Concerning

the Conservation of Birds Useful to Agriculture signed by 11 countries in Paris in 1902, which could be termed as the first multilateral convention on environment especially on species.

It is unwarranted to lament on the failure of inter-governmental mechanisms or multilateralism to protect our ecosphere as activists, academicians and writers have been telling us to believe. Glasgow COP 26, the climate change conference meeting last December, was neither a failure, nor a sole indicator of failed multilateralism. Neither, it's the cause of the beginning of the apocalypse.

Multilateralism has not failed. It is the government(s) which have miserably miscarried the ethos of multilateral environmental cooperation. Governments and their leaders have failed to arrest the decline of the environment in their respective countries and beyond. So are private players, who have put their money somewhere else, in the name of sustainability. Senator John Kerry, a couple of days ago, deplored that millions of dollars are spent in wrong climate solutions.

Now, it's time to allow new models or approaches of environmental governance where citizens, communities, and vulnerable groups take care of their planet as an equal partnership with governments and private actors. It's time to make just and courageous choices. Institutionalisation of environmental governance must go beyond the clutches of governments. Cooperative or collaborative environmental governance is the need of the hour. Humankind must make immediate indispensable choices to sustain themselves and this small planet. 'Only One Earth'.

The writer is a scientist and teaches at IIT Madras. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Recognising sex-work as work



Bijayani Mishra

WHAT SUPREME COURT'S POSITION WOULD INVARIABLY DO IS CHALLENGE CERTAIN INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS THAT PREVENT SEX-WORKERS FROM ACCESSING BASIC RIGHTS

May 19, 2022, the Supreme Court made headlines by adopting a welcome move of recognising prostitution as a profession and emphasising that sex-workers, like any other professionals, are entitled to dignity and Constitutional rights. Prostitution (or sex-work) - a much-tabooed topic of discussion was recently brought into the drawing rooms of the so-called 'common' Indian families by the popular movie Gangubai Kathiawadi claimed to be based on the real life of Gangubai Harjivandas, a much-celebrated social activist of Kamatipura. The question that this film successfully raised was: Why isn't sex work seen as any other kind of work?

Interestingly enough, prostitution is not really illegal in India per se. According to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), however, several activities under prostitution are punishable by law - pimping, renting out property for running brothels. In 1986, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act emphasised that sex-workers can practice their profession but any person who makes an earning from prostitution is to be punished. This involves procuring, abducting or inducing a person for prostitution; a move significant enough to ensure trafficking for sex trade was under check.

Further, the Act states that to lawfully participate in prostitution, sex-workers have to maintain at least a distance of around 200 metres from any public place, preferably in an isolated area with no public institutions in sight. In other words, sex-work is to be done in secrecy, away from the gaze of the larger 'normal' society. This isolation clearly works into othering sex-workers, putting the legality of their profession in ambiguity.

What is the significance of the ruling? The major issues that sex-workers in India face are basically associated with the fact that despite not being illegal, the secretive nature of its practice almost presents an illusion of it being a crime. By that logic, every sex-worker is deemed to be a potential criminal. The police, the legal system and legal personnel also contribute to how sex-workers are seen more as perpetrators of crime rather than being at the receiving end of it. Much like the dilemma of a married woman whose sexuality is 'believed' to be an unconditional obligation towards the husband, possibilities of rape, violence and trauma that clients can cause to sex-workers has been negated as an impossibility. Moreover, since the nature of the work is seen as 'immoral' or 'dirty', any disease caused

by poor sexual and menstrual hygiene - most significantly HIV-AIDS and cervical cancer - do not receive proper medical attention. Additionally, due to lack of ration cards or failure of them being recognised as valid, sex-workers fail to avail any subsidised resources earmarked for the disadvantaged socio-economic sections. Children born out of brothels are not easily accepted into schools. The progressive ladder of mobility which seems to be so easily available for everyone in our democratic society on the basis of merit is far from reality for children of sex-workers. Many continue working in the same profession as their mothers or become associated with work in manners that might be seen as crime.

Recognising sex-work as work could open up doors of legal protection to sex-workers against sexual harassment. Under the mandates of the order, the police have to take complaints of sex-workers - sexual or of another nature - seriously. The callous nature in which the police generally approach the complaints of sex-workers as simply 'normal occupational outcomes' would no longer be acceptable. With the latest orders of the Supreme Court, any sex-worker who is a victim of sexual assault will be given all of the same serv-

ices as a survivor of sexual assault, including immediate medical attention.

To sum up, what the Supreme Court's position would invariably do is challenge certain institutional barriers that prevent sex-workers from accessing basic rights and equality. The apex court order is only the first step towards removing some of the limitations that sex-workers have long faced due to the nature of their job and the stigma associated with it. In a country like India, which is severely marred by poverty, destitution, hunger and inequality, survival often takes top priority. The morality/immorality of the nature of work does not and should not count as a factor of constructing hierarchies amongst vocations. India as a democratic nation constitutionally enshrines justice, equality and liberty to every section of the society.

Unfortunately, sex-workers have been structurally kept outside the dimensions of 'equal opportunities' merely on the basis of social perceptions and taboos associated with their work. It is time that such grave disregard for human rights and dignity comes to an end.

The writer is Assistant Professor, Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility.

SIGMUND FREUD

LOL FREE HAIRCUTS

A barber gave a haircut to a priest one day. The priest tried to pay for the haircut, but the barber refused, saying, "You do God's work." The next morning the barber found a dozen Bibles at the door to his shop.

A policeman came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused to pay, saying, "You protect the public." The next morning the barber found a dozen doughnuts at the door to his shop.

A lawyer came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment, saying, "You serve the justice system." The next morning the barber found a dozen lawyers waiting for a free haircut.



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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Purest form of love

Sir, It is only in a parent's eyes can one see the purest form of love on this earth. While a good father is a source of inspiration and self-restraint, a good mother is the root of kindness and humbleness. Parental love is truly selfless, forgiving and unconditional. There can be no bigger sin than displaying indifference to one's own parents. A son or a daughter should know that they have grown up emulating his/her father's example or advice, often both. Many countries have a strong support system for the elderly. In India, as joint families gave way for the nuclear ones, comfort zone for parents began to crumble. Men and women consistently turn over a new leaf; if the natural process is called 'old', so be it. Viewing old age as a burden, considering parents' well-meant advice as exercise in exasperation, incurable diseases of parents, single parent especially father – all these are easy and convenient reasons for children to abandon their parents. If a parent has no reserves to fall back on, the situation is worse. Children are often ignorant to the disorders of the elders. Senile dementia is one condition that can incapacitate the old. A father or a mother does not hesitate to sacrifice his/her own lucrative career for the sake of their child. There is no 'perfect', only 'real', parent. Unconditional love, healthy development, tackling challenges, overcoming trauma, and grooming for the evening of life: all are parents' gifts to children.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Courageous & creative

Sir, Cartoonists are creative people with exceptional courage. Their works on politics, corruption and other sensitive issues give them a witty look, laced with satire and parody, and that calls for a great amount of intrepidity. The critical voice of a cartoonist, especially a political cartoonist, can provide a vital safety valve for a society. By mocking politicians for their excesses and failings, cartoonists hold them accountable. A caricaturist provides insights into power relations, key social issues and events. Many powerful political figures have been skewered by a cartoonist's sharp pen over lies, machinations and crimes. Cartoons are both a strong plea and a stress test for freedom, tolerance and a society's ability for conducting a dialogue. And it doesn't matter whether you live in a dictatorship or a democracy. As history repeats and patterns emerge, two popular aphorisms fortify the independent voice: i) the pen is mightier than the sword, and ii) a picture is worth a thousand words.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Targeted killings of civilians and the pervasive fear among the people in Kashmir belie the government's claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

The government currently in power at the Centre is based on the frivolous doctrine of "strong Centre - weak states"

K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO | CHIEF MINISTER OF TELANGANA

In a futile bid to cover up the humiliation of Satyendar Jain's arrest, Arvind Kejriwal is playing the victim card by declaring that Manish Sisodia may be the next target of the ED

ANIL KUMAR | DELHI CONGRESS CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Maha: 6 labourers killed in accident

Nashik: At least six persons were killed and several injured when two tractor-trolleys carrying labourers and their families overturned and fell on a car in Maharashtra's Nashik district on Thursday, police said. The accident took place on a stretch of Nashik-Kalwan road passing through the hills near Vani town around 3.30 pm, an official said. A tractor with two trolleys, carrying labourers and their families including children, attached to it, was on its way to Vani town when the driver lost control of the vehicle as the brakes failed, he said. The trolleys overturned and fell on a car which was standing stationary on the side of the road.

India, Israel decide to boost defence ties

New Delhi: India and Israel finalised a vision statement Thursday to further step up their overall defence cooperation, especially in the co-production of key military equipment and joint research and development of futuristic technologies for the armed forces. The decision to further broad-base the already close bilateral defence ties was taken during wide-ranging talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his visiting Israeli counterpart Benjamin Gantz. A "letter of intent" on enhancing cooperation in the field of futuristic defence technologies was also exchanged between Singh and Gantz, the defence ministry said.

Flood situation improves in Assam

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam improved significantly Thursday though nearly 75,000 people are still hit by the deluge in four districts, an official bulletin said. According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), more than 74,800 persons are hit due to floods in Cachar, Dima Hasao, Morigaon and Nagaon districts. Morigaon is the worst hit with over 40,000 people suffering, followed by Nagaon where more than 21,000 are reeling and another 13,700 people hit in Cachar.

Illegal Hookah bar raided

Ghaziabad: Ghaziabad Police has arrested 8 people during a night raid at an illegally run Hookah Bar, here, an official said Thursday. The accused were identified as Ashu, Deepak, Sourav, Arham Khan, Rajkumar, Zuber Khan, Sami Khan and Sakeeb Khan while the owners of the said Hookah bar Rajat Chauhan and Sahil Rajput are absconding. According to the official, the raid was conducted during the intervening night of June 1-2.



Take immediate steps to restore peace in Kashmir, Prime Minister ji
RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

DGCA FINES VISTARA

Aviation regulator DGCA has imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Vistara for letting an improperly trained pilot land an aircraft with passengers on board at the Indore airport, officials said Thursday



RS polls: Around 40 Raj Cong MLAs leave for Udaipur hotel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 2: Around 40 Rajasthan Congress MLAs and some Independents left for a hotel in Udaipur as the party tries to keep its flock together before the June 10 Rajya Sabha elections.

The MLAs boarded a luxury bus from the Chief Minister's residence in the Civil Lines and left for Udaipur around 5 pm. The bus was escorted by a police team.

The legislators and other leaders, who attended a state Congress workshop at a hotel in Jaipur, were called at Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's residence for lunch. After the lunch, the MLAs left for Udaipur in the bus.

The party has decided to shift the MLAs to Udaipur fearing poaching by the BJP, which apart from fielding one official candidate is backing media baron Subhash Chandra, who has filed nomination as an Independent. The Congress has fielded three candidates.

The fresh move came after media baron Subhash Chandra, who is backed by the BJP, filed his nomination papers as an independent candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls. Chandra is currently a member of the Upper House of Parliament from Haryana and his term is going



to expire August 1.

The filing of papers by him as an independent candidate had prompted Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to allege that the BJP wants to indulge in horse trading.

Gehlot made the statement as the ruling Congress with its 108 MLAs in the state Assembly is set to win two of the four seats.

After winning two seats, the Congress will have 26 surplus votes, 15 short of the required 41 to win the third seat, which makes the support of Independent MLAs crucial. On the other hand, the BJP has 71 MLAs in the state Assembly and set to win one seat, after which it will be left with 30 surplus votes.

Gehlot and the Congress candidates on Tuesday held a meeting

This is not the first time when the ruling Congress in the state has shifted its legislators to a hotel

The Congress decision reminds of two instances in 2020 when the party shifted its MLAs to a hotel ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls and during a political crisis triggered by the rebellion of party leader Sachin Pilot and 18 MLAs close to him

with 10 of 13 independent MLAs in Rajasthan. Earlier Wednesday, BJP leader Rajendra Rathore targeted CM Gehlot, saying the Congress leader himself is an expert in "elephant trading", referring to the election symbol of the BSP, whose six MLAs had defected to the Congress in 2019.

The Bahujan Samaj Party also wrote to Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and Assembly Speaker C P Joshi demanding that the six party MLAs who had defected to the Congress be barred from voting in the Rajya Sabha polls. Reacting to this, state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra had said the six MLAs had merged with the Congress and now they are party legislators.

Indian team in Afghan to oversee distribution of aid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: For the first time since the Taliban's capture of power in Kabul, India has sent a team led by a senior diplomat to Afghanistan to oversee the delivery of its humanitarian aid and meet with senior members of the Taliban.

The team, led by JP Singh, the external affairs ministry's point person for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, will meet the senior members of the Taliban and hold discussions on India's humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, according to an official statement on Thursday.

An Afghan foreign ministry spokesperson said that acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi received Singh and the team and the discussions focused on India-Afghan diplomatic relations, bilateral trade and humanitarian aid. "A team led by the Joint Secretary (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), is currently on a visit to Kabul to oversee the delivery operations of our humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan," the MEA said in a

statement.

It said New Delhi's development and humanitarian assistance have received a widespread appreciation across the entire spectrum of Afghan society and the Indian team will meet the "senior members of the Taliban, and hold discussions on India's humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan".

India has not yet recognised the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. However, it has been sending aid to the people of Afghanistan to address the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the country.

At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the team will try to visit various places in Afghanistan where India-assisted projects and programmes are being implemented.

He, however, did not provide details such as the composition of the team, duration of the trip, places to be visited by it apart from Kabul and its scheduled meetings. In September last year, after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, India's envoy to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, met senior Taliban leader Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai at the Indian embassy in Doha.



Indian delegation led by MEA Joint Secretary (PAI) JP Singh during their visit to see Indian developmental projects, in Kabul

PTI PHOTO



Farmers sow paddy in a field at a village in Karad, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

ICMR guidance document for use of drones

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 2: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Thursday released a guidance document for use of drones in healthcare for medical supplies in far-flung areas. The research body has come up with this document after using the drones for delivering Covid-19 vaccines in the northeastern states of Manipur

and Nagaland.

As per the guidance document, the Covid-19 vaccines and serums with storage temperature between 2AoC and 8AoC, tablets and capsules, syrups in bottles, gloves, syringes, blood bags, diagnostic biological tissues, urine, blood, sputum, saliva or frozen specimens can only be transported by drone. "As a nation with 1.3 billion, we have faced several chal-



lenges in upgrading our healthcare system. The Covid pandemic further added to this challenge but also gave us an opportunity to revisit some of the issues and fix

them. With the advent of Covid-19 vaccines, ICMR envisaged the delivery of these vaccines to hard-to-reach-terrains in India. This guidance document will assist in understanding different nuances involved in planning and execution of drone-based delivery of medical supplies," Prof Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General of ICMR, has said in the foreword of the document.

Shark antibodies may help fight Covid, says study

Over the course of time, sharks and other fish with cartilage skeletons developed what is now believed to be the oldest adaptive immune system in the animal kingdom

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/New York, June 2: Sharks, known as ancient predators with prehistoric immune systems, may be key to developing effective Covid-19 treatments, suggests a study.

Fossil evidence suggests sharks first existed 420 million years ago, predating humanity, Mount Everest,

and even trees.

Using the Advanced Photon Source's (APS) extremely bright X-ray beams, researchers showed that variable new antigen receptors (VNARs) - the smallest unit of a shark antibody - can stop SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19 and its variants.

Professors Aaron LeBeau of the University of Wisconsin and Hideki Aihara of the University of Minnesota said that an antibody, whether human or shark, binds to a virus protein when a region of molecules called amino acids from the antibody encounters a similar region on the virus protein.

In humans, these amino acid regions tend to only bind one flat surface to another, just as a sticker



would adhere to a bowling ball. In sharks, the VNARs' amino acids bind not only to flat parts of a target protein, but also bind snugly inside deeper grooves.

This means that instead of sticking only to the surface of

the bowling ball, shark VNARs could bind tightly and flexibly into the ball's finger holes as well. This heightened molecular dexterity means shark VNARs can access pockets in the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein that existing human

antibodies cannot, they wrote in the study published in the journal Nature Communications. In their study, the researchers put three shark VNARs to the test against SARS-CoV-2.

"Structurally, it was surprising that the two VNARs had such different modes of recognition of the virus spike protein," said Cornell University's Surajit Banerjee.

"The shark antibodies neutralised the proteins in ways we weren't expecting." Functionally, however, the shark VNARs proved highly stable, as effective as or better than current treatments for Covid, and resilient to the changing structures of variants. This may help in the development of new treatments for SARS-CoV-2

variants, such as Delta and Omicron.

The VNARs also showed promise as therapeutics for other known beta coronaviruses and future emergent diseases. They appear able to identify and bind to regions of amino acids that are the same among different coronaviruses.

The small size of the VNARs, their resilience and their cost-effective availability are all reasons why the researchers believe there is more to learn from the study of shark adaptive immune systems. It may even be possible to formulate VNAR "cocktails" to treat SARS-CoV-2 infection in individuals who are already infected or who are at immediate high risk of infection.

Fear-stricken employees march, demand transfer to home dists

Jammu, June 2: Amid unabated targeted killings in Kashmir; hundreds of government employees posted in the valley took out a march here Thursday to demand their immediate transfer to their respective home districts.

The protesters were carrying placards in support of their demand and pictures of their colleague Rajni Bala, a school teacher who was shot dead by terrorists at a school in south Kashmir's Kulgam district Tuesday, and chanted slogans demanding relocation.

The march was carried out from Press Club to Ambedkar Chowk. Assembled under the banner of 'All Jammu-based reserved categories employees association', the protesters said they will not resume their duties as the government has "failed" to stop targeted killings and provide a secure atmosphere to them.

"Nearly 8,000 employees from different districts of Jammu are working in Kashmir under inter-district transfer policy and we are not going to return and resume our duties in the present atmosphere. We are serving there for the last 15 years but are feeling insecure and tense in view of the spurt in the targeted killings," Ramesh Chand, a teacher posted in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, told reporters.

He said they have also come to pay homage to Bala and demand the government to ensure free education to her minor daughter and secure a government job for her.

"We are frustrated by the deteriorating security situation as nobody, including Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs are safe there. Anyone can become a victim of terrorists anytime," he said and referred to the latest killing of bank manager Vijay Kumar from Rajasthan in Kulgam district Thursday.

Another employee Anjana Bala, a teacher posted in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, said, "We do not



Hindu families flee as targeted killings rise

Srinagar: More than 100 Hindu families have fled Kashmir as panic spread after the killing of a Hindu school teacher in India's only Muslim-majority region, a community leader said Wednesday. Militants Tuesday shot dead Rajni Bala, 36, outside a government school in Kulgam that lies south of Kashmir's main city of Srinagar - the latest in a spate of targeted killings of Hindus and Muslims. Avatar Krishan Bhat, president of a Hindu Kashmiri Pandit colony in northern Kashmir's Baramulla, said that around half of the 300 families living in the area had fled since Tuesday. "They were terrified after yesterday's killing. We will also leave by tomorrow as we are waiting for a government response," he said. "We had asked the government to relocate us outside Kashmir." Residents said police had sealed off a Hindu area in Srinagar and stepped up security around places where Kashmiri Pandit government employees live. The local administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment on families fleeing, but the region's top government official, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, last month assured Kashmiri Pandits that measures would be taken for their security.

need government accommodation or promotion, we only want our transfer from the valley as providing security to each employee is not possible." "There is no safer place in the valley and we are not ready to accept the government proposal of relocation within the valley," she said, adding they have never faced any problem from the locals who have always supported them.

She said if the government can abolish decade-old Article 370 in August 2019, what stops them from making minor changes in the transfer policy and relocating them to their home districts.

"We did not support the people

of Kashmir who were against the revocation of Article 370. They were right and today we regret our decision as nothing changed on the ground except that we had lost the special status," she said.

"The government is saying that they will relocate us to safer places but even after that if something untoward happens, who will be responsible. Today a bank manager was shot dead inside his secured office, while recently a Kashmiri pandit employee was gunned down in his office chamber," he said.

He said they have lost faith in the administration and will not return to the valley to become scapegoats.

In a first in India, Gujarat woman to 'marry herself'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 2: A 24-year-old woman has created a buzz in Gujarat's Vadodara city with the announcement that she would be marrying herself by undergoing traditional rituals of a Hindu wedding June 11.

Experts, however, said that a 'sologamy' or self-marriage would not have any legal standing in India.

Speaking about her intentions, Kshama Bindu said she wished to break stereotypes and inspire others who are tired of finding true love. Bindu, who identifies as bisexual, also claimed that her marriage will be the first instance of sologamy in India.

"At one point in my life, I realised that I don't require a prince charming because I am my own queen. I



want the wedding day, but not the next day. That is why I have decided to marry myself June 11. I will dress up like a bride, take part in rituals, my friends will attend my wedding and then I will come back to my house instead of going with the groom," she told reporters.

Bindu, who is a working pro-

fessional, added that her mother, who lives in another city, has given her consent for this unusual groomless wedding.

"I have already booked a pandit (priest) to solemnise my marriage. I have observed that unlike in the West, self marriages are not popular in India. Hence, I have de-

cided to start this trend and inspire others. People may not like my idea, I am confident that I am doing the right thing," she said. Reacting to comments that she was doing it for publicity, Bindu said she is already popular on social media as an influencer.

"I just want to break stereotypes and inspire others to love themselves. There are people who are tired of finding love or getting divorced multiple times. Being a bisexual, I was also in love with a man and a woman in the past. But now, I want to give all the love to myself," she said.

Legal experts, however, say that sologamy does not have any legal backing in India. "As per Indian laws, you cannot marry yourself. There has to be two persons in a marriage. Sologamy is not legal," senior High Court advocate Krishnakant Vakharia said.



Shiv Sena Dogra Front members shout slogans and burn a Pakistan flag during a protest against the killing of bank employee in Kulgam area of Kashmir, in Jammu, Thursday

I am joining Narendrabhai's army as sepoy, says Hardik

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, June 2: Hardik Patel, who once levelled a number of allegations against the BJP government and led the reservation movement for patidars, Thursday joined the BJP after resigning from the Congress.

He donned the saffron colour at a program held at Kamalam, the BJP headquarters in Gandhinagar.

In the presence of religious leaders and BJP office bearers including Gujarat BJP state president CR Patil, former deputy chief minister Nitin Patel, Hardik Patel wore a saffron scarf. Before this, he took part in a roadshow on Gandhinagar Highway from Koba Circle to Kamalam amid the playing of DJ and dhols.

Addressing a press conference after joining the BJP, Hardik Patel said that Prime Minister Modi, CM Bhupendra Patel, party chief JP Nadda and state president CR Patil are working hard in the interest of the nation.

"I joined the party as a sepoy in Narendrabhai's army, just as a squirrel contributed to the construction of Ramsetu. I am ready to accept whatever responsibility party gives me. This is my home coming. My father used to help Anandiben, the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, as much as he could and serve the BJP," he added.

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HARDIK PATEL

During the Patidar movement as well as after joining the Congress, Hardik hurled insults at the BJP and also levelled many allegations against the party. "We were protesting against the government at that time," Hardik said in response to a question. "The result can only come if the nature of the movement is fierce. I resigned from the PASS only when the Prime Minister announced the 10 per cent EBC reservation. I have also been imprisoned for this movement. Even a small child rebels against his parents. So I was right at that time and I am right when I resigned from the Congress and joined the BJP."

With Hardik Patel, former Congress MLA Shweta Brahmhatt also joined the BJP along with her supporters. CR Patil welcomed her with a saffron scarf. "Congress is a party without direction and without guidance," Shweta said. "I have other career options with my degree but I am involved in politics to do social work," she added.



Will Mehsana, a 'political lab', be cakewalk for BJP?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mehsana (Gujarat), June 2: The trend of voting against the wave has earned Mehsana district the trademark of being a 'political laboratory' in Gujarat.

Since Independence, 17 elections for the Lok Sabha have taken place. The voters of Mehsana Lok Sabha seat have given varied results in contrast with the general trend and the mood of the nation. It saw an independent candidate from Swatantra Party win in 1967, one from the Bharatiya Lok Dal in 1977, then Janata Party in 1980 and later the Congress and the BJP.

The district has seven Assembly seats. In 2007, BJP won all seven; in 2017 though Mehsana was the epicentre of Patidar movement, BJP won five of the seven seats. This is why it is regarded as a 'political laboratory' by the leaders.

This district has given big stalwart cooperative leaders like Atmaram Patel, Narottam Pitambar Patel, Shankarlal Guru, Motibhai Chaudhary, political leaders like Gangaram Raval, Shankersinh Vaghela, Narendra Modi, Anandiben Patel and Amit Shah recalls Bharat Patel, a political observer from Visnagar town in the Mehsana district.

Mehsana voters have generally voted against the wave. In 1980



when the entire nation stood with the Congress and Indira Gandhi, Mehsana voters voted for the Janata Party candidate Motibhai Chaudhary Again in 1984, when the nation was swayed with sympathy for Congress after Indira Gandhi's assassination, the BJP won two seats in the country. Of these two, one was Mehsana, when AK Patel gave the victory for the BJP. "This is one reason that the place has got the nickname of political laboratory," said Jitubhai Patel, Congress state unit vice president and Mehsana Lok Sabha constituency in-charge.

According to Jitubhai another reason is that of all major movements, Mehsana has been an epicenter, be it the Kshatriya, OBC or Patidar movement in the state.

The district's caste equations also makes it a social engineering laboratory, as the district is dominated by upper caste Patidars, Kshatriya Thakor (OBC), Anjana Chaudhary Patel (OBC), Dalits, Muslims, Brahmin and other communities. When they vote for a specific party or candidate, it is like sample testing of voting patterns in the state, analysed the political observer.

Santoor loses her comrade, Pt Bhajan Sopori no more

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 2: Santoor player, Pt Bhajan Sopori (73) passed Thursday in Gurugram after a prolonged illness. He was diagnosed with Colon Cancer last June.

Recipient of the Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Jammu and Kashmir State Lifetime Achievement Award, Sopori who hailed from Sopore in Kashmir belonged to the Sufiana gharana. His family had played the santoor for over six generations and the late master gave his first public performance at the age of 10.

Learning Western classical music at Washington State University, where he also taught music for several years, the late musician had a double master's degree in

Indian classical music specialising both in sitar and santoor.

Contributing immensely to improving the santoor by adding more bridges and strings to the instrument, he also modified the tonal quality of the instrument.

An outspoken critic of favouritism and biases in the classical music scene, the artist, who formed the music academy 'SaMaPa- Sopori Academy for Music and Performing Arts' in 2004 takes the guru-shishya tradition forward. The academy, besides teaching students also brought music to jail inmates as therapy.

In times of networking and social media outreach by many artists, the musician always never joined the bandwagon and always stressed on creative excellence and oppor-

tunities for the truly deserving, a major reason why he set up the music academy.

With thousands of compositions from major Persian and Urdu ghazal writers including Ghalib, Jammī, Momin, Iqbal, Faiz and Hali, Sopori, he was instrumental in establishing a cultural link between Kashmir and the rest of the country.

When transferred to Delhi by All India Radio, no music was being produced in the valley. When he went back to Kashmir, he noted that even accompanists were unwilling to play due to threats from Islamic militants. However, he managed to convince them to come back to their art forms and

ascertained that musicians in the valley could practice their art and earn a living.

His son, Abhay Rustum Sopori, himself an accomplished santoor player and recipient of the Central Sangeet Natak



Akademi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar and J&K State Award has performed across the world. Having also learned Western

Classical, he is the youngest visiting faculty at the University of Massachusetts and has been the only contemporary Indian composer, whose Haftrang, as a tribute to Kashmir, has been conducted by maestro Zubin Mehta.

On his father's demise, Abhay said, "He was 73, and would have celebrated his 74th birthday June 22. We lost a really great musician, a great human being and a great father. It's really hard for me to believe this and imagine my life without him."

of the day quote

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Before 2014 an atmosphere of despair prevailed across the country which was replaced with a sense of robust optimism with the arrival of Narendra Modi

Last year in February, we undertook a pilot project on the 'faceless services' plan. Then in August, we introduced it in a full-fledged way. After many months, I have come to see how is the feedback

If we lose in 2024, the spirit of liberal democracy will be lost. We have to undertake elections in the party at the earliest

SHORT TAKES

Sonia Gandhi tests Cov positive

New Delhi: Congress President Sonia Gandhi Thursday tested positive for Covid-19 and has isolated herself, the party said. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said she had developed a mild fever Wednesday evening and was found Covid positive on testing this morning. Surjewala, however, asserted that she is determined to appear before the ED June 8. He said the Congress President has been meeting leaders and activists over the last week, some of whom have been found Covid positive.

Police constable hacked to death

Kanpur (UP): A 30-year-old police constable was hacked to death at his rented accommodation here, police said Thursday. The body of Desh Deepak was found lying in a pool of blood, police said, adding that the incident took place at the Braham Nagar locality here. The constable who originally hails from Firozabad was posted in Bilhaur since 2019, they said. Station House Officer, Bilhaur, Arvind Kumar Singh, said Deepak's family informed him that they were not getting any response on his mobile which was switched off since Wednesday noon.

1 dead, 2 missing as boat capsizes

Rewa (MP): A 19-year-old man died and two others went missing after a rowboat with six persons on board capsized in Tamas river in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, police said Thursday. The incident occurred Wednesday noon and the body of the man was recovered Thursday morning, they said. "There were six people on board the ill-fated boat, which was being rowed by one Satyam Kewat (19). The boat capsized around noon Wednesday when it was on its way to Gurguda village from Hardahan village.

Monsoon enters NE

New Delhi: After a brief lull, the Bay of Bengal arm of the south-west monsoon has stirred into action and entered north-eastern parts of the country and is set to bring heavy rains over Assam and Meghalaya over the next two days, the IMD said Thursday. On Wednesday, the monsoon had covered Bengaluru, Chikmagalur, Karwar. Under the influence of monsoonal westerly winds from the Arabian Sea over the south peninsular India, the weather office has forecast fairly widespread rainfall over coastal and south interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep and over the next five days.



The Congress will win three out of four Rajya Sabha seats from the state going to polls June 10
ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

Govt proposes to amend social media rules

The proposed move assumes significance against the backdrop of instances of accounts, including that of celebrities, being blocked by social media platforms such as Twitter for alleged violation of respective community guidelines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The Centre plans to set up a grievance appellate committee to look into appeals filed by individuals against the decisions of grievance officers of social media platforms.

Besides, the panel has to dispose of the appeals within 30 days of receiving them and its decision will be binding on the intermediaries or the large social media companies concerned, according to a notification to amend the Information Technology (Intermediary



Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

"The central government shall constitute one or more Grievance Appellate Committees, which shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, as the central government may, by notification in the official gazette," the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) said in the draft notification.

The aggrieved person can appeal against the decision of the grievance officer concerned before the committee within 30 days of receipt of the order.

"The Grievance Appellate Committee shall deal with such appeal expeditiously and shall

make an endeavour to dispose of the appeal finally within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal. Every order passed by the Grievance Appellate Committee shall be complied with by the concerned intermediary," the draft notification said.

The committee will provide an alternate grievances redressal mechanism but the complainant will also have the right to seek judicial remedy on the grievance at any point of time, as per the draft notification issued June 1.

The rules for social media companies came into effect from May 26, 2021. It mandated large social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to enable identification

of the 'first originator' of the information that undermines the sovereignty of India, the security of the state, or public order.

Under the rules, significant social media intermediaries -- those with over 50 lakh users -- are required to appoint a grievance officer, a nodal officer and a chief compliance officer. These personnel have to be residents in India.

As per the draft notification, intermediaries have to acknowledge suspension, removal or blocking of any user or user account or any complaint from its users in the nature of request for removal of information or communication link within 24 hours and dispose of the complaint within 15 days.

In the case of any complaints in the nature of request for removal of information or communication link carrying defamatory, obscene, pornographic, invasive of another's privacy, libellous, false and untrue information, those should be redressed within 72 hours of the reporting, according to the draft notification.

Also, the intermediary concerned will be required to take all rea-

sonable measures to ensure accessibility of its services to users along with reasonable expectation of due diligence, privacy and transparency.

"The intermediary shall respect the rights accorded to the citizens under the Constitution of India," the draft notification said. Meity has sought comments on the draft notification till June 22.

Since the implementation of the rules in May last year, various social media platforms, including Facebook, have been coming out with monthly compliance reports. In its compliance report for April, mobile messaging platform WhatsApp said it banned over 16 lakh accounts of Indian users in April to prevent harmful activities on the platform.

There has been a rise of around 37.82 per cent in hate speech on social media platform Facebook and 86 per cent jump in violent and inciting content on Instagram in April, as per the monthly report released by Meta. Meta company was earlier known as Facebook and WhatsApp is also part of Meta.



SAKINAKA RAPE-MURDER

Accused gets death sentence



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 2: Seven months after Mumbai was shaken by the brutal rape-cum-murder of a 32-year old woman at Sakinaka, a Mumbai Court Thursday sentenced the sole accused to 'death', here Thursday.

Dindoshi Sessions Court Additional Sessions Judge HC Shende delivered the death verdict to Mohan Chauhan, 45, for the heinous offence that was compared with the Nirbhaya case of Delhi for its sheer brutality.

Earlier Monday, ASJ Shende had pronounced the 'guilty' verdict on Chauhan, hailing from Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, and after hearing the arguments between the prosecution and defence on the quantum of sentence, sealed the death penalty.

The rape-cum-murder took place late September 10, 2021 at in the Khairani Road area of Sakinaka, deserted at that hour, rattling the Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Chauhan had pounced on the victim, raped and brutalised inside an open tempo parked near the Rashid Compound off the Chandivali Studios.

After the rape, he shoved an iron rod inside the woman's private parts, rupturing her intestine and other vitals before decamping from there.

Bleeding profusely from her grievous injuries, the woman lay helpless even as a local watchman alerted the Mumbai Police Control Room alerting them of the crime.

A police team was rushed to the spot within 10 minutes and rushed her to the BMC's Rajawadi Hospital where she succumbed after a 33-hour battle for life.

PRESENCE OF LAWYER DURING JAIN'S QUESTIONING

ED MOVES DELHI HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday approached the Delhi High Court challenging a trial court's order allowing the presence of a lawyer during the interrogation of Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain, arrested in a money laundering case.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta allowed the request of the ED's counsel for an urgent listing of its plea and fixed the matter for hearing on Friday.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, had vehemently opposed this in the trial court. The ED has challenged the condition before the high court and submitted that the agency had filed a petition in this regard and urgent listing be allowed.

It said that a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court in another case was pleased to reject an identical contention of allowing as-



sistance of a counsel during interrogation.

"Aggrieved by the impugned direction in the order dated May 31, 2022, to the extent that the special court has directed that the advocate of the respondent be present during the enquiry/interrogation, the petitioner is approaching this court by way of the present petition...", the plea said, adding that the trial court has erred in passing such a direction.

The ED said the special court has erred in allowing the prayer of the respondent qua the presence of

Satyendar Jain was arrested May 30 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the trial court May 31, remanded him to ED's custody till June 9

While remanding Jain to ED's custody, the trial court had allowed his plea that during the time of enquiry/investigation of the accused, one advocate of the accused shall be allowed to remain present at a safe distance where he can see the accused but not hear him

a lawyer during interrogation as the same amounts to interfering with the statutory powers. It said the order permitting the presence of a lawyer within visible but not audible distance is contrary to the statutory mandate.

The plea said the presence of an advocate is not needed as the interrogation is being videographed and the footage will be available and therefore there is no possibility of any concern.

CBI files charge-sheet against Deshmukh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 2: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday filed a charge-sheet against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh and his aides Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde in a corruption case.

The 71-year-old NCP leader, who was arrested in November last year, and the other two accused are currently in judicial custody in a money laundering case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and are lodged in the city's Arthur Road Jail.

The charge-sheet was filed at the court's registry and will come before the special judge for cognizance after verification of documents.



It was revealed during preliminary enquiry the accused and others allegedly attempted to obtain undue advantage for improper and dishonest performance of their public duties, the CBI said in a press note.

It was also alleged the said accused and others exercised undue influence over the transfers, postings of police officers, the agency said in its press note, adding that further investigation was continuing in the case.

In April this year, the CBI had, for probe into the corruption case, taken custody of Deshmukh, Palande, Shinde, and dismissed policemen Sachin Waze. Waze, who was made an approver in the case Wednesday, has not been named in the charge sheet.

NO RESPITE



A woman covers her child as she walks along a road during a hot summer day in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

IIT-Madras urges countries to absorb people fleeing for climate change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras have suggested a normative framework to address cross-border migration due to climate change under which asylum seekers are absorbed into host countries and not forced to return.

The team has developed a normative framework which highlights that the prevailing international law is barely adequate to protect the entire class of forcibly-displaced people. The research has also been published in the reputed peer-reviewed journal WIRES Climate Change.

According to the researchers, with climate change intensifying the push to migrate, all asylum seekers have to be absorbed into host countries under the principle of 'non refoulement', the practice of not forcing refugees and asylum seekers to return to a country where they could face persecution. This will ensure that refugees are not forced to return to their home countries to face harm, they said. Asylum seekers from vulnerable zones, they underlined, must be absorbed in host countries in proportion to their greenhouse gas emissions.

Given the severity of the anticipated Global Environmental Changes and associated harms, taking early and appropriate action is vital. However, the question "did this person migrate because of climate change?" may never be fully answered, they said.

"In recent years, the increased risks of environmental hazards, including climate change, have intensified the push to migrate. One such case is the teeming slums of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, where the residents are on the frontlines



People living along the coast have been migrating to the Bangladeshi capital due to monsoon flooding and cyclones caused by rising sea levels. For these residents, the worsening climate change is not a faraway threat. It is a grim reality
SUDHIR CHELLA RAJAN | DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES, IIT MADRAS

of a climate crisis."

"Climate scientists have known for more than a decade that tens of millions of people, if not more, will be forcibly displaced from some of the poorest countries as a result of climate change. If their countries are no longer viable homes through no fault of their own, the international community has a moral responsibility to provide refuge," he added.

The research paper said all asylum seekers must be deemed worthy of refuge, even if they do not meet the narrower requirements of the Refugee Convention. Parties

who want to protect climate exiles must honour all identifiable asylum seekers under a non-refoulement principle. The host countries may choose to formulate a protocol for developing shares that are proportionate to their cumulative emissions, it said.

"There is an urgent need to ensure that people from countries that have emitted very little greenhouse gases are not left fending for themselves. Climate exiles or migrants have no legal standing. "These are the kinds of issues that ought to be addressed in the climate negotiations track of Loss and Damage under non-economic losses," Sujatha Byravan, co-author of the research document and an independent scholar, said.

The study points out that the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reported that 40.5 million people were displaced in 2020 and 30 million among these were forcibly displaced due to weather-related disasters.

"The research emphasises on identifying vulnerable zones based on scientific evidence. Low-lying states, countries with low lying delta regions, areas facing desertification or flooding, hill-slopes subject to erosion, are all vulnerable zones.

of the day quote

I was not briefed on the prospect of nationwide shortages of infant formula for about two months

There are a series of formal steps before Denmark can be admitted to the defence agreement

Pumping (Western) weapons into Ukraine does not change all the parameters of the special operation

SHORT TAKES

Quake hits over 13,000 people

Beijing/Chengdu: The powerful 6.1-magnitude earthquake that jolted China's Sichuan province on Wednesday has affected over 13,000 people and damaged five hydropower stations besides causing extensive damage to many houses, local rescue officials said Thursday. Four people were killed and 41 injured in the earthquake which rattled Lushan county of Ya'an in Sichuan province on Wednesday evening.

Tunisia's President sacks 57 judges

Tunis: Tunisia's President Kais Saied dismissed 57 judges, accusing them of "obstructing the functioning of justice" as he strengthened his grip on the judiciary. Last July, critics accused Saied of making a grab for one man-rule after he sacked the government and took hold of executive powers. He was accused of staging a coup after ditching the 2014 constitution, to rule instead by decree.

Plane crash: Last rites performed

Kathmandu: The last rites of the four members of an Indian family, who were killed along with 18 others in the Tara Air plane crash in Nepal's mountainous Mustang district, were performed on Thursday on the banks of Bagmati river near Pashupatinath temple here. The bodies were brought to Aryaghat Cremation Centre at Pashupatinath Temple premises on the banks of Bagmati River on Thursday morning. It took two days to complete the post-mortem of the 22 bodies of those killed in the plane crash on Sunday.

Palestinian killed

Ramallah: A Palestinian man was killed Thursday during clashes with Israeli soldiers in the Al-Dheisheh refugee camp adjacent to the West Bank city of Bethlehem. The Palestinian Ministry of Health said that Ayman Muheisen, 29, died in a hospital after he was shot amidst the clashes, reports Xinhua news agency. The Ministry said two other men were injured.

Over 50 hurt in fire

Prague: A massive fire in a nursing home for Alzheimer patients in the Czech Republic has left two people dead and injured more than 50 others, officials said Thursday. The regional rescue service said the bodies of the two patients were discovered in the badly damaged building following the fire that broke out late Wednesday at the home in Roztoky, a town just north of Prague. A total of 55 people were injured with two in critical condition, officials said. Almost 100 firefighters battled the blaze. Police said the fire might have been caused by human error.

US raises concern over 'rising' religious attacks in India

CHINA 'FIRMLY OPPOSES' US, TAIWAN TRADE TALKS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, June 2: China Thursday said it "firmly opposes" trade talks between the United States and Taiwan after Taipei and Washington announced the launch of a new initiative to deepen economic ties. Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and tries to keep it isolated on the world stage, bristling at any attempt to treat the self-governing democracy as an independent nation. "China always opposes any form of official exchanges between any country and the Taiwan region of China, including negotiating and signing any economic and trade agreements with sovereign connotations and an official nature," commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said. Washington is vying to bolster its influence in the region to counter Beijing and US President Joe Biden is coming under bipartisan pressure from US lawmakers to deepen ties with Taiwan. The talks announced Wednesday -- the "US-Taiwan

PM Modi assures fertiliser to Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of fertiliser supplies to help the debt-ridden country avert severe food shortages caused by crop losses and exacerbated by the worst economic crisis, the president's office said on Thursday.



President Rajapaksa, while speaking with a group of irrigation officials on the next harvesting season's requirements, said Prime Minister Modi asserted that the supplies will be delivered for the next cultivation season. He said the fertilised supplies, to be delivered under the Indian Line of Credit, would be distributed within 20 days after the consignment reaches Colombo. Sri Lanka is aiming to boost its agriculture sector to avoid any disruption in the agriculture market following the drop in paddy cultivation during the Maha session. Yala is the season of paddy cultivation in Sri Lanka that lasts between May and August.

POMP, PARTIES AND PARADES

Thousands gather as Platinum Jubilee celebrations begin

Families and friends gathered in bright sunshine on the main grand roads running up to Buckingham Palace, cheering the regimental marching bands, waving Union flags and wearing paper crowns

REUTERS

London, June 2: Tens of thousands of royal supporters lined the streets of London Thursday to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and kick off four days of pomp, parties and parades to mark her record-breaking 70 years on the British throne.



Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng

Initiative on 21st-Century Trade" -- come on the heels of a trade agreement announced last week between the United States and 12 Asian economies, which excluded Taiwan. Like the earlier trade agreement, the discussions with Taiwan will not involve tariffs or market access -- items that would require congressional approval, US officials said. In a statement, the



Students from Miguel Contreras Learning Center high school in Los Angeles demonstrate in front of City Hall after walking out of school to protest US gun violence

YEMEN WARRING PARTIES AGREE TO EXTEND TRUCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, June 2: The United Nations Thursday said Yemen's warring parties have agreed to renew a nationwide truce for another two months. The announcement is a glimmer of hope for the country, plagued by eight years of civil war, though significant obstacles

POMP, PARTIES AND PARADES

Thousands gather as Platinum Jubilee celebrations begin

Millions of people across Britain and the world are expected to join street parties, watch the festivities and light beacons in honour of the 96-year-old queen, the government said. She has reigned for longer than any of her predecessors. Senior members of the royal family including Elizabeth's son and heir Prince Charles, his eldest son William and wife Kate arrived at a military parade on horseback or in an open carriage to huge cheers, while world leaders also sent messages of goodwill. "Thank you to everyone who has been involved in convening communities, families, neighbours and friends to mark my Platinum Jubilee, in the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth," the queen, who appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace during a military parade, said in a statement. "I continue to be inspired by the



Bangladesh has changed a lot... Bangladesh has proved it is no longer dependent on foreign funding by self-financing the construction of the Padma Bridge

SHEIKH HASINA | BANGLADESH PM



Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State

treatment of Rohingyas, and Pakistan, for its continued use of the draconian blasphemy law that is punishment by death. "In India, the world's largest democracy, and home to a great diversity of faiths, we've seen rising attacks on peo

US Trade Representative said that "both sides will work at pace... to develop an ambitious roadmap for negotiations for reaching agreements with high-standard commitments and economically meaningful outcomes."

'Historic breakthrough'

Taiwan's lead trade negotiator John Deng said the talks would "open up more room for economic cooperation." Deputy USTR Sarah Bianchi and Deng met on Wednesday to launch the new initiative. The trade agency said it was "intended to develop concrete ways to deepen the economic and trade relationship, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, and promote innovation and inclusive economic growth for our workers and businesses."

The first meeting under the initiative will be held in Washington later in June, and will cover customs procedures and regulations, including rules governing agriculture trade,

worker rights and the fight against "harmful non-market policies".

Taiwan is the 10th largest export market for the United States, as well as a vital source of semiconductors. A global shortage of semiconductors is hitting industries that rely on them from cars to smartphones, and pushing inflation higher.

A spokesman for the Taiwanese government on Wednesday emphasised the "crucial role" the island plays in the semiconductor supply line. "In light of the increasing trade conflict between China and the US, and also the fallout from the covid pandemic to the world's economy... the US government has realised that it needs to strengthen the economic and political links with Taiwan to ensure the stability and safety of the supply chain," Lo Ping-cheng added.

The US Commerce Department has launched a separate dialogue with Taipei on tech and investment -- two other areas covered by Indo-Pacific Economic Framework or IPEF.

NOT TURKEY ANYMORE

The UN has granted Turkey's request to change its name to Turkiye, a spokesman for the world body said



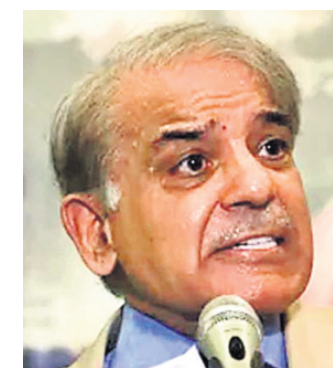
ple in places of worship," Blinken said. He did not specify them, but the 2000-page report indicated these attacks were carried out at Christian and Muslim places of worship. Rashad Hussain, the State Department's Ambassador-at-Large for international religious freedom, said at the release of the report that was brought out under his leadership, that: "In India, some officials are ignoring or even supporting rising attacks on people and places of worship."

The State Department report did not, however, go as far as to name India as a "country of particular concern", disregarding a recommendation from the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an American watch-

dog on global religious rights, for the second successive year. This body has been a strident critic of India in the past and even attempted to send officials to India on fact-finding missions that were blocked by New Delhi.

Blinken's criticism of Indian will irk New Delhi which has bristled at such remarks and observations from American officials in the past. Lately, India has gone on the offensive, saying it also harbours concerns about rights and freedoms in the United States. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had raised the issue of racial equality with erstwhile US President Donald Trump at the peak of the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020.

Shehbaz warns Imran



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad/Ankara, June 2: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday reacted sharply to his predecessor Imran Khan's controversial comments about "breaking Pakistan into three pieces" and said the former premier was "unfit" for any public office after his latest utterances.



that Niazi is unfit for public office, his latest interview suffices," the Prime Minister tweeted. "Do your politics but don't dare to cross limits and talk about division of Pakistan," he added.

According to Pakistan's Dawn newspaper, the former Prime Minister admitted in the interview that he did not enjoy absolute power as the prime minister, indicating

While I am in Turkey inking agreements, Imran Niazi is making naked threats against the country. If at all any proof was needed that Niazi is unfit for public office, his latest interview suffices

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAK PM

Our hands were tied. We were blackmailed from everywhere. Power wasn't with us. Everyone knows where the power lies in Pakistan so we had to rely on them

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAK PM

Khan in an interview with Bol News Wednesday talked, among other things, about possible breakup of the country if the right decisions were not made. Shehbaz Sharif, who is on an official visit to Turkey, taking strong exception to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's choice of language in the interview, especially those about breaking up the country, accusing him of "making naked threats against the country", and warned him against "talking about [the] division of Pakistan".

"While I am in Turkey inking agreements, Imran Niazi is making naked threats against the country. If at all any proof was needed

that the actual centres of power in the country lied elsewhere and that "everyone knows where that is".

Khan, who came to power in 2018, reportedly with the backing of the military, is the only Pakistani Prime Minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament. He was replaced by PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif. The Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 73 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy. However, the army has continuously denied its involvement in politics.

UK pledges missiles to Ukraine



Russia's much larger and better-equipped military during a war now in its 99th day. But as Russian forces closed in on a key city in

recent days, the Ukrainian government said its fighters needed better rocket launchers to prevail.

Russian forces continued to pound towns and cities overnight and to tighten their grip on the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk. The UK Defense Ministry reported that Russia had captured most of the city, one of two in Luhansk province that had remained under Ukrainian control.

POMP, PARTIES AND PARADES

Thousands gather as Platinum Jubilee celebrations begin

boulevard before they were dragged away by police. Police said several people were arrested for public order offences.

In a sign of the monarch's age and recent "episodic mobility" issues that have led her to cancel some engagements, Elizabeth's personal involvement in the events will be somewhat limited compared with previous major gatherings.

MILITARY PARADE

Thursday marks not only the start of the Jubilee, but also the 69th anniversary of the coronation of Elizabeth, who became queen on the death of her father George VI in February 1952.

The celebrations began with the Trooping the Colour, a military parade in central London where 1,500 soldiers marched to military music in ceremonial uniforms of scarlet tunics and bearskin hats. Elizabeth, holding a walking

stick and wearing a dusky dove blue outfit that she also wore for an official Jubilee photograph released on Thursday, took the salute from the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

Senior royals, including Charles, 73, and William, 39, will also carry out other ceremonial duties on the queen's behalf, although much attention will be focused on those who will not be present.

The queen's second son Prince Andrew, 62, who settled a U.S. lawsuit in February in which he was accused of sexually abusing a woman when she was underage, is not expected to attend.

Her grandson Prince Harry, now living in Los Angeles with his American wife Meghan, watched the parade but will be absent when the royal family gathers on the palace balcony to watch a fly-past by modern and historic Royal Air Force planes after the parade.

of the day quote

Digital transformation could have implications for markets and for our interactions with counterparties, as well as how we carry out monetary policy

JOHN WILLIAMS | PRESIDENT, NEW YORK FED

We have to convince cooperatives to register as buyers on GeM and start procurement of goods and services. We have to do it very systematically

PK SINGH | CEO, GOVERNMENT E-MARKETPLACE

In India, we started nurturing the startup ecosystem 2016 onwards under the leadership of our Prime Minister, and today, we have risen to be the third largest startup ecosystem in the world in just five-six years which is not a very big time

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Olivan appointed Meta's new COO

San Francisco: Meta Platforms (FB.O) veteran Javier Olivan is taking over as the company's chief operating officer after playing a crucial but largely behind-the-scenes role stoking the social media company's explosive growth for 15 years. The Spaniard will replace Sheryl Sandberg, who announced on Wednesday she was stepping down from Meta. The move comes as Meta struggles with slowing growth and rising costs. It is transforming from a social media company to one focused on building the metaverse, a collection of virtual worlds that could be a decade away.

Swiggy declares lucrative offers

New Delhi: On-demand convenience platform Swiggy on Thursday said that users subscribing to its Swiggy One membership programme will now be able to access more benefits. "The program now offers users unlimited free deliveries on food delivery from all restaurants as far as 10 km, and for orders starting at ₹149 only," Swiggy said. On Swiggy Instamart, members can save more with exclusive offers on over 1,000 popular products in categories, ranging from daily essentials, fruits and vegetables, baby products, personal care, home utilities, cleaning essentials, and more, it added.

Maaza thriving brand of Coca-Cola

New Delhi: Fruit drink brand Maaza is the fastest-growing brand for Coca-Cola in India in 2022 so far, helped by its expansion to the rural markets, said top company officials. Coca-Cola is focusing on its nutrition portfolio in the country and expects it to be the biggest growth driver through its fruit juice-based brands - Maaza and Minute Maid. "We are very clear (that) this (nutrition portfolio) is going to be one of our biggest growth drivers for our volume, value and consumer base," Coca-Cola India and Southwest Asia Vice President and Head Marketing Arnab Roy said in a media round table here.

Bitcoin drops 6.9%; Ether plunges 7.5%

Washington: Bitcoin, the world's biggest and best-known cryptocurrency, dropped 6.9% to \$29,555.35 Wednesday, losing \$2,262.81 from its previous closing price. It was down 38.9% from the year's high of \$48,234 on March 28. Ether, the coin linked to the ethereum blockchain network, dropped 7.52% to \$1,794.68, losing \$145.87 from its previous close.



Rural agriculture, tribal economy is in trouble. If we want to be **atmanirbhar** (self-reliant), then we need to concentrate more on rural agriculture

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

KIA ENTERS EV SPACE

Kia India Thursday forayed into the electric vehicle segment in the country with the launch of EV6, priced at ₹59.95 lakh (ex-showroom). Built on a dedicated EV platform -- the electric-global modular platform (E-GMP), the EV6 marks the beginning of Kia's EV journey in the country



TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS TO \$23.33 BILLION

May exports up 15.46%

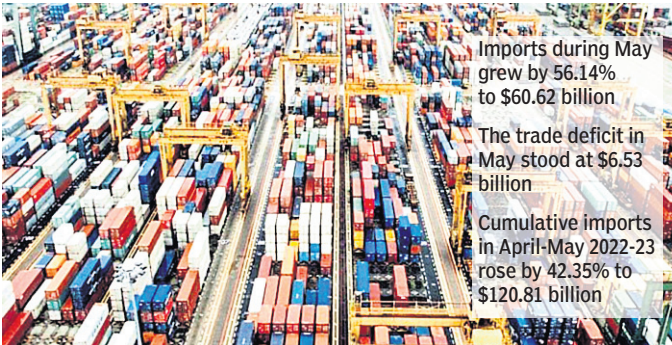
India recorded the highest ever merchandise export this year. The performance was driven by healthy performance in segments such as petroleum products, electronic goods, and chemicals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: India's merchandise exports rose by 15.46 per cent to \$37.29 billion in May account of healthy performance by sectors like petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals, even as the trade deficit widened to \$23.33 billion during the month, the commerce ministry said Thursday.

Imports during the month too grew by 56.14 per cent to \$60.62 billion. The trade deficit in May 2021 stood at \$6.53 billion. "India's merchandise export in April - May 2022-23 was \$77.08 billion with an increase of 22.26 per cent over \$63.05 billion in April - May 2021-22," it said.

Petroleum and crude oil imports during May 2022 surged by 91.6 per cent to \$18.14 billion. Coal, coke and briquettes imports jumped to \$5.33 billion, as against \$2 billion in May 2021. Gold imports increased to \$5.82 billion during the month under review, from \$677 million



Fiscal deficit seen at 6.7% in 2022-23

Mumbai: As the country's fiscal policy is moving in sync with the monetary policy amid the runaway inflation, the tightening measures along with rising subsidies imply that the consolidated fiscal deficit may remain elevated at 10.2 per cent of GDP in FY23, down 20 bps from FY22, according to a report. As per the report, the central deficit is expected to be at 6.7 per cent and states' at 3.5 per cent in the current fiscal. The Government has pegged the combined fiscal shortfall at 9.8 per cent of which the central deficit is seen at 6.4 per cent (down from 6.7 per cent in FY22) and states' at 3.4 per cent for FY23. The brokerage also maintained that CPI averaging 6.5-7 per cent in FY23 will force the RBI-MPC to gradually hike the repo rate to 5.5 per cent by FY23-end and to 6 per cent by FY24-end to help contain the second-round impact of higher input prices on the real economy, Tanvee Gupta Jain, UBS Securities chief India economist said.

in May 2021. Trade deficit during the first two months of this fiscal widened to \$43.73 billion as against \$21.82 billion earlier.

Engineering goods exports in May increased by 7.84 per cent to \$9.3 billion, while petroleum products exports grew by 52.71 per cent to \$8.11 billion.

Gems and jewellery exports stood

at \$3.1 billion in May against \$2.96 billion in the same month last year. Exports of chemicals rose by 12 per cent to \$2.5 billion in May.

Similarly, shipments of pharma and ready-made garments of all textiles grew by 5.78 per cent and 23 per cent to \$1.98 billion and \$1.36 billion respectively during the month under review.

COMPETITION HOTS UP

UltraTech to invest ₹12,886cr in capex



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Leading cement manufacturer UltraTech Cement Ltd on Thursday announced to invest ₹12,886 crore (around \$1.65 billion) to add 22.6 MTPA capacity in its total production, with a mix of brownfield and greenfield expansion.

The board of the Aditya Birla Group firm in a meeting held Thursday approved the expansion plans, said an UltraTech Cement in a regulatory filing.

"The Board of Directors at its meeting held today approved capex of ₹12,886 crores towards increasing capacity by 22.6 MTPA with a mix of brownfield and greenfield expansion," it added.

The investment, which will cater to the "future growth" of the company, will be funded through a mix of debt and internal accruals,

UltraTech said.

"This would be achieved by setting up integrated and grinding units as well as bulk terminals. The additional capacity will be created across the country," it noted.

Commercial production from these new capacities is expected to go on stream in a phased manner by FY25, according to UltraTech.

At present, UltraTech's production capacity is 119.95 Metric Tonne Per Annum (MTPA) and after the completion of the sanctioned expansion along with the current expansion programmes, which are estimated to be completed by FY23, it would go up to 159.25 MTPA.

"Upon completion of the latest round of expansion, the company's capacity will grow to 159.25 MTPA, reinforcing its position as the third-largest cement company in the world, outside of China," it said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 2: SBI Research has projected the Indian economy to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2022-23, an upward revision of 20 basis points from its earlier estimate.

As per official data, the economy grew by 8.7 per cent in FY22, net adding ₹11.8 lakh crore in the year to ₹147 lakh crore, the report said, adding this was however only 1.5 per cent higher than the pre-pandemic year of FY20.

Nominal GDP expanded by ₹38.6 lakh crore to ₹237 lakh crore, or 19.5 per cent annualised. In FY23

also, as inflation remains elevated in the first half, nominal GDP will grow 16.1 per cent to ₹275 lakh crore, he said.

The report basis its optimism on the rising corporate revenue and profit and the growing bank credit coupled with ample liquidity in the system.

On rising corporate growth, the report notes that in FY22, around 2,000 listed companies reported 29 per cent top line growth and 52 per cent jump in net profit over the previous year.

Construction sectors including cement, steel, etc reported impressive growth in both revenue

DROP IN RUSSIAN PRODUCTION

OPEC+ to boost oil output

THE ALLIANCE SAID IT HAD AGREED TO BOOST OUTPUT BY 648,000 BPD IN JULY - OR 0.7% OF GLOBAL DEMAND

REUTERS

Dubai, June 2: Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ states agreed to bring forward oil production rises to offset Russian output losses to ease surging oil prices and inflation and smooth the way for an ice-breaking visit to Riyadh by US President Joe Biden.

OPEC+ said it had agreed to boost output by 648,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July - or 0.7% of global demand - and a similar amount in August versus the initial plan to add 432,000 bpd a month over three months until September.

The move will be seen as a sign of willingness by Saudi Arabia and other OPEC Gulf nations to pump more after months of pres-



sure from the West to address global energy shortages worsened by Western sanctions on Russia.

Oil rose on the news towards \$117 a barrel as analysts said the real production boost will be insignificant as most OPEC members except for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are al-

LESS BUYING BY POWER SECTOR

Decline in coal imports in FY'22

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 2: The government Thursday said the drop in coal imports in FY'22 was mainly on account of the power sector's in-bound shipments declining.

Coal imports that had touched 248 million tonne (MT) in FY'20 dropped continuously during the next two financial years to 215 MT in 2020-21 and 209 MT in 2021-22.

"The decline in coal import during 2021-22 is largely due to decrease in import by Power Sector which came down from 45 MT in 2020-21 to 27 MT in 2021-22, decline of almost 40 per cent," the coal ministry said in a statement.

"The decline is more steep if we compare coal imports by power sector in 2021-22 to pre-Covid year of 2019-20 when such import was 69 MT," the ministry said.

This is despite the fact that total thermal power generation in the country increased to 1,115 billion units (BU) in 2021-22 from 1,032 BU in 2020-21, an increase of almost 8 per cent.

Coal imports grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22.86 per cent during the period 2009-10 to 2013-14. At this CAGR, coal imports would have reached 705 MT in 2020-21 and further to 866 MT in 2021-22. The import of coal could



Despite steep rise in actual demand of coal from 956 MT in 2019-20 to 1,027 MT in 2021-22, imports of the dry fuel have not increased

Country's coal output increased to 777 MT in 2021-22 over 716 MT in 2020-21

be checked only by sustaining increased domestic supply over the years, it added.

Therefore, despite a steep rise in actual demand for coal from 906 MT in 2020-21 to 1,027 MT in 2021-22, imports could be contained due to increased domestic dispatch from 691 MT in FY21 to 818 MT in FY22.

Coal imported by non-regulated sectors, including cement and sponge iron, increased to 125 MT in FY22 from 119 MT in FY21.



Given the high inflation and the subsequent upcoming rate hikes, we believe that real GDP will incrementally increase by ₹11.1 lakh crore in FY23

SOUMYAKANTI GHOSH | CHIEF ECONOMIST, SBI

as well as net income with 45 per cent and 53 per cent, rise respectively in revenue.

The RBI is likely to raise the repo rate cumulatively by 125-150 basis points over the pandemic level of 4 per cent.

The central bank may also in-

crease the CRR cumulatively by another 50 basis points, after raising it by 50 basis points in the last monetary policy which will lead to absorption of ₹1.74 lakh crore from the market on durable basis (₹87,000 crore absorbed earlier).

Bank credit to NBFCs surges 10% in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 2: Bank credit to NBFCs grew in double digit in FY22 with outstanding bank credit to them rising by 10.4 per cent to ₹10.5 lakh crore on the back of improvement in overall economic activities and banks' renewed focus on the NBFC sector following improvement in their balance sheets, says a report.

In absolute terms, according to an analysis by Care Ratings, bank credit to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) expanded by ₹ 99,000 crore in FY22, from FY21.

Meanwhile, mutual funds' debt exposure through commercial papers (CPs) and corporate bonds, to NBFCs rose 14.3 per cent to ₹1.7 lakh crore in FY22 as NBFCs issued more CPs to fund IPOs and as they shifted from long-term to short-term investments on expectation of hike in interest rates.

ONDC: India's project for an open e-commerce network

Government estimates that India's e-commerce market was worth more than \$55 billion in gross merchandise value in 2021 and will grow to \$350 billion by the end of this decade. Currently, Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart control more than 60% of the market

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 2: India's government in April launched its Open Network For Digital Commerce (ONDC) as a prospective alterna-

tive to dominant global giants Amazon.com and Walmart in its fast-growing e-commerce market. Here is a description of the different moving parts of ONDC.

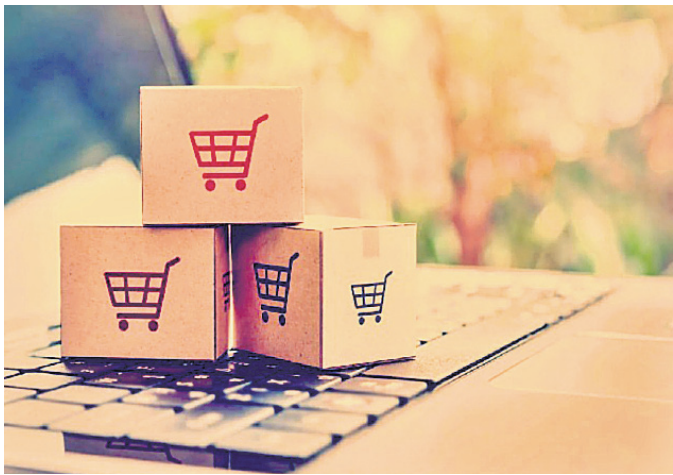
WHAT IS ONDC?

ONDC is a non-profit company whose network will enable the display of products and services from all participating e-commerce platforms in search results across all apps on the network.

For example, if both Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart integrate their platforms with ONDC, a user searching for a Bluetooth headset on Amazon would also see results from Flipkart on the Amazon app.

WHAT ARE ONDC'S TRANSACTION TARGETS?

ONDC aims to raise e-commerce penetration in the next two years to 25% of India's consumer pur-



chases, from nearly 8% now, in a country of 1.35 billion people.

It also hopes to sign up 900 million buyers and 1.2 million sellers

on the shared network within the next five years, while achieving gross merchandise value of \$48 billion.

HOW DOES ONDC AIM TO BOOST COMPETITION?

The government says existing platforms work in silos and are tightly controlled, keeping out many small players. It expects ONDC to increase competition and foster innovation by start-ups.

It also hopes to bring in logistics firms and others who can collaborate with sellers to deliver products to customers. The focus would be on small merchants and rural consumers, with apps in Indian languages.

ONDC officials liken the network to a mall with 1,000 gates instead of just two, thereby limiting opportunities for selected sellers to receive preferential treatment - a common accusation against major e-commerce companies. Users will be able to rate service providers on ONDC, which will be applicable

and visible across the network.

The government says ONDC will help to end "predatory pricing, especially in high-margin, high-value products". Amazon and Flipkart deny that they have engaged in predatory pricing.

WHAT CHALLENGES DOES ONDC FACE?

ONDC aims mainly to tap millions of small businesses that often lack technological expertise, so the government will have to run a massive awareness campaign to get them on board, said the Confederation of All India Traders, a group that represents 80 million such businesses.

Smaller businesses with low volumes may also lack the resources to match the discounts offered by heavyweights like Amazon and Flipkart.

ALBICELESTE REIGN SUPREME

Wembley witnesses a Messi masterclass as South American champions Argentina script a dominating 3-0 win over European title holders Italy in the Finalissima



REUTERS

London, June 1: Argentina marked the revival of the Cup of Champions in style as an inspired Lionel Messi helped them outclass Italy 3-0 in a heavyweight clash billed as the 'Finalissima' at a raucous Wembley Stadium Wednesday.

First-half goals by Lautaro Martinez and Angel di Maria put the South American champions in complete control against an Italy side who were back at Wembley 11 months after beating England to win the delayed Euro 2020.

With thousands of their supporters in the 87,000 crowd determined to turn north west London into Buenos Aires for the night, captain Messi set up two goals as Argentina proved simply too quick and slick for the lumbering Azzurri.

Martinez tapped home from close range in the 28th minute from Messi's low cross to reward Argentina's early dominance.

Inter Milan's Martinez then slid a pass through for Di Maria to outpace Giorgio Chiellini and double the lead with a dinked finish on the stroke of halftime to send the Albiceleste fans behind the goal into raptures.

Italy had their moments before the break but Argentina could have scored a sackful of goals after it with Messi pulling the strings and Italy keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma sparing his side a drubbing with a se-

ries of fine saves.

Substitute Paulo Dybala finally underlined Argentina's superiority with a drilled low finish in stoppage time after another mesmerising run by Messi.

It was a disappointing end to Italy stalwart Chiellini's international career as the 37-year-old was substituted at halftime on his 117th and final appearance.

The Finalissima is the revival of the CONMEBOL-UEFA Cup of Champions that has been played only twice before – in 1985 and 1993 – and while it is viewed as something of a novelty, Argentina celebrated as though it was a World Cup final.

Messi, who lit up the evening with a series of trademark dribbles, was hoisted into the air by his team mates who danced jigs of

joy on the lush Wembley turf.

Argentina, who ended a 28-year wait for a trophy by beating Brazil to win the 2021 Copa America, produced a display that augurs well for their hopes at the Qatar World Cup this year, extending their unbeaten run to 32 games.

But for Italy it was a sobering reminder of just how quickly fortunes can change. Last July Roberto Mancini's team were euphoric after a penalty shootout win over England but have since failed to qualify for the World Cup for the second successive tournament after losing in a playoff to North Macedonia.

In the build-up Mancini described the game as the 'end of a cycle' and the defeat left him in no doubt as to how much work is required to revive Italy's fortunes.

MESSI equals CR7

London: Lionel Messi equalled Cristiano Ronaldo's record of major international honours with Argentina's Finalissima victory Wednesday. The Finalissima trophy delight comes 11 months after Messi led Argentina to Copa America success, ending their 18-year drought. Argentina's two pieces of silverware over the past year have brought Messi level with rival Ronaldo on their tally of international victories. The Manchester United star led Portugal to Euros triumph in 2016 before clinching Nations League success in 2019. However, both stars have the chance to pip the other as they head to Qatar in search of adding a world title to their CV.

Leo terms Finalissima coup a 'beautiful' one

LONDON: Lionel Messi could not escape the grips of his teammates as he was launched into the air in celebration to mark his man-of-the-match display at Wembley against Italy. Two assists from the PSG striker helped Argentina cruise to victory against the European champions. Messi hailed Argentina's 'beautiful final' after they downed Italy to claim Finalissima success. As he looked to celebrate with teammates, he soon found himself trapped inside a circle and it didn't take long before he was manhandled and tossed up in the air by teammates as attention focused on one man. "It was a beautiful final, full of Argentines. What we experienced here was beautiful," Messi told reporters. "We're here to fight anyone. Today was a nice test because Italy is a great team. We knew it was going to be a nice match and a nice setting to be champion."



Iga extends winning streak to be in final



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 2: No.1-ranked Iga Swiatek reached her second French Open final and extended her winning streak to 34 matches by beating No.20 Daria Kasatkina 6-2, 6-1 on a sunny, breezy afternoon Thursday.

Their semifinal was even at 2-all after 20 minutes, before Swiatek used her heavy forehand, quick-strike ability and all-court excellence to seize control with a five-game run. After the 20th-seeded Kasatkina picked up one game, Swiatek took the last five.

She ended the match with 22 winners, more than twice as many as Kasatkina's 10. And Swiatek was efficient, too, limiting her unforced errors to 13.

In Saturday's final, Swiatek will face either 18-year-old American

Coco Gauff or 28-year-old Italian Martina Trevisan.

Swiatek, who turned 21 Tuesday, is bidding for her second Grand Slam trophy. The other came at Roland Garros in 2020.

Swiatek has won her past five tournaments, last losing in February, against 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko. The only Polish player to win a major singles title in tennis is now on a winning streak that equals one Serena Williams had in 2013. The only longer run this century was a 35-match unbeaten stretch by Venus Williams in 2000.

The semifinal Thursday, played with the temperature hovering around 75 degrees Fahrenheit (about 25 Celsius), was the fourth match between Swiatek and Kasatkina in 2022.

Cilic enters 1st French Open semis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 2: Marin Cilic is 33, nearly eight seasons past his one Grand Slam title at the 2014 US Open — and, more than four full years removed from his most recent trip to the semifinals of a major tournament.

If he keeps serving like this, there's no reason to think about quitting tennis anytime soon.

Cilic delivered 33 aces to get to the final four at the French Open for the first time, edging No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(10-2) Wednesday in a 4-hour, 10-minute test of strength and will.

The Croatian is the fifth active man to complete a full set of at least one semifinal run at all four Slam events, joining Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray, each of whom has been ranked No.1 and won multiple majors.

Cilic was the runner-up to Federer at Wimbledon in 2017 and the Australian Open in 2018; the latter had been Cilic's most recent trip to a Slam semifinal.

Friday, Cilic will take on No.8 Casper Ruud for a spot in the final. The other men's semifinal is 13-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal, who eliminated Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals, against No.3 Alexander Zverev.

Ruud, a 23-year-old from Norway, beat Rune, a 19-year-old from Denmark, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6(10-2), 6-3 to get



to his first Grand Slam semifinal. Their match got a bit testy, with

Ruud telling Rune he didn't appreciate him questioning an obvi-

Ukraine win on emotional return

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glasgow, June 2: Ukraine's emotion-filled quest to qualify for the World Cup amid an ongoing war moved past the first hurdle with a 3-1 win over Scotland in a pulsating playoff semifinal. Now the team need just one more win to reach Qatar.

Veteran captain Andriy Yarmolenko lifted his nation by scoring a deft lobbed goal in the 33rd minute and then helped set up Roman Yaremchuk's header in the 49th to make it 2-0.

Ukraine dominated for much of a deserved win but had to resist a Scotland revival as risk-filled attacks brought a goal in the 79th by Callum McGregor, before Ukraine substitute Artem Dovbyk broke clear to score with the last kick of the game.

Dovbyk led teammates toward the corner of the stadium to share the celebration with 3,000 Ukraine fans in the 51,000 crowd, applauding each other with hands raised high above their heads.

Ukraine coach Oleksandr Petrakov said the win was for "the armed forces in the trenches and in the hospitals, who give their last drop of blood, those in Ukraine who suffer every day."

Now Ukraine move on to face Wales Sunday with a place at the World Cup at stake. The winner in Cardiff will go to Qatar in November to play in a group against England, the United States and Iran.

Ukraine put in a slick display despite using six starters who had not played a competitive game of any kind since December.

Most of Ukraine's squad play for home-based clubs whose league



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Ukraine supporters are delighted as their team celebrate a goal against Scotland, Wednesday

was shut down after Russia's invasion, and the playoff in Glasgow was postponed in March. FIFA and Scotland agreed to give the Ukrainian team a fair chance to prepare for games that have become a focus of national identity and pride.

Scotland lacked the class needed and their wait for World Cup soccer now extends beyond the 24 years since it went to the 1998 tournament.

Ukraine is riding a wave of global goodwill as the victim of Russian aggression and its players' intense motivation to reward the nation with a place on soccer's biggest stage was clear.

The Ukrainian players all walked onto the field each with a blue and yellow national flag draped on their shoulders. The warm welcome saw Ukraine's national anthem "Shche ne vmerla Ukrainas" applauded loudly by Scotland fans. Many of those same fans stayed after the

game to salute their victorious opponents off the field.

In Kyiv, fans determined to get together to see the match had the war-time night-time curfew to contend with, which kicked in at 11pm local time, before the start of the second half.

The Beer & Meet bar in downtown Kyiv got around the restriction on movement by offering fans the possibility to stay there until 5am, when the curfew ends.

Police swung by the bar in a patrol car a few minutes before kick-off, asking fans who had gathered outside to go down into the drinking hole's basement rooms, because of an air-raid warning.

Oleksii Safin, 40, who works as a voice actor, stood with his right hand over his heart as he belted out the national anthem. He and other supporters erupted in celebration when Ukraine scored first. But the war raging in the east of the country wasn't forgotten.

From hero to being 'unwanted'

AGENCIES

London, June 2: There were times when Egyptian star Mohamed Salah was often compared to one of the world's best – Lionel Messi. However, time has changed and the same fans want the winger leave Liverpool.

Frustrated Liverpool fans took aim at Salah after it was reported that the forward would prefer to sign for a Premier League rival if he doesn't agree a new deal at the Anfield. Notably, Salah is out of contract in June 2023 and so far talks over an extension have not been able to unite both parties.

The 29-year-old Egyptian has made it clear that he is fully focused on Liverpool next season, his future beyond that is unclear, with the 'Athletic' claiming that the Egyptian would prefer to stay in the Premier League if he leaves Liverpool.

And, the news has not gone down well in Merseyside with fans flocking to social media to vent their



anger and frustration.

A social media user wrote: 'Let him go.' Another user said: 'Get rid of Salah right now, his form has stunk for the last 6 months so let him go he's creating a bit of a bad vibes. Salah will always be a legend #LFC.' A third said: 'Get rid this summer.'

Salah is unlikely to leave this summer or in the January transfer window despite there have been no face to face talks between

Liverpool and representatives of the player since December. The 29-year-old has scored 156 goals in 254 games since arriving at Anfield from Roma for 43.7 million pound in 2017.

He has gone on to become an iconic figure at Anfield, scoring in the 2019 Champions League final success over Tottenham. This season Salah has scored 31 times in all competition as Liverpool secured Carabao Cup and FA Cup success. They missed out on Premier League title by just a point before losing the Champions League final to Real Madrid.

Liverpool have been linked with in-form Rennes forward Martin Terrier and Tottenham's Son Heung-min as they prepare for the exit of Sadio Mane. But losing Salah and Mane in quick succession would be a body blow to Jurgen Klopp's side who will look for an all-out assault on next season's Premier League title after so narrowly missing out this time to Manchester City.

BAVARIA RELEASES FILES ON MUNICH GAMES MASSACRE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, June 2: Authorities in Bavaria say they are releasing all previously unpublished files on the attack at the 1972 Munich Olympics following criticism from relatives of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches who died there.

Joachim Herrmann, the top security official in the southern German state, said Thursday that Bavaria will no longer keep any files under wraps, but conceded that federal authorities might still hold confidential files.

The Palestinian group Black September took numerous members of the Israeli team hostage September 5, 1972, with the goal of forcing the release of prisoners held by Israel and two left-wing extremists in West German jails. Eleven Israelis and a West German police officer died during a botched rescue attempt.

Complaints about persistent secrecy surrounding the files had threatened to overshadow a planned memorial event for the 50th anniversary of the attack. Some relatives of those killed have also demanded compensation from Germany, something the government has rejected.

