



TRAUMATIC PAST

'Sacred Games' actor Kubbra Sait confesses that she has been sexually abused when she was a teenager

LEISURE P2



CLEANING MOUNTAINS

Nepal Army collect over 33 tonne of wastes from four mountain peaks in a 2-month-long cleaning campaign

INTERNATIONAL P10



BALE PROPS WALES

Gareth Bale's free-kick guides Wales into the World Cup, ending a 64-year wait, while Ukraine are left heartbroken

SPORTS P12

State enhances scholarships for SC, ST students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The Odisha government Monday enhanced the pre-matriculation scholarships for the students belonging to Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) communities.

The pre-matriculation scholarship for boy students has been increased to ₹950 from ₹750. Similarly, the girl boarders will now be entitled to get ₹1,000 from ₹800.

An expenditure amounting to ₹490 crore would be incurred annually towards pre-matric scholarships. The monthly scholarships for the SC, ST students was last enhanced in the year 2015.

Provision of pre-matric scholarships to ST&SC boarders of schools under the ST&SC Development department and School & Mass Education department is one of the flagship schemes of the Odisha government.

The scholarship primarily meant for the mess management in the hostels, aims at the educational and holistic development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe boarders.

Further, millet (mandia)-based food items would be introduced in the menu of the hostels to address the nutritional security of all the boarders. The scheme once implemented, would benefit more than five lakh ST&SC boarders.



Mamata replaces Governor as Chancellor

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will replace Governor Jagdeep Dhanekar as Chancellor of all the state-run health, agricultural, and animal & fishery sciences universities. A formal decision was taken Monday by the state Cabinet to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the visitor of private universities operating in the state. West Bengal is the second state after Tamil Nadu to implement this rule. "The Monsoon Session of the West Bengal Assembly will start June 13. The amendment bills will be tabled clearance. Once cleared, they will be sent to the Governor for his consent," said a member of the Cabinet.



Aircraft crashes at Birasal; pilot injured

Dhenkanal: A Cessna 152 aircraft belonging to pilot training organisation GATI crashed Monday on the Birasal airstrip at Kamakhyanagar area in this district. The trainee pilot who was flying the aircraft solo suffered injuries, but his condition is stable, sources said. He was initially taken to the Birasal community health centre and then shifted to the Kamakhyanagar hospital. The DGCA informed Monday that a probe has been initiated over the incident. The aircraft, which has registration number VT-EUW nosedived while landing at the Birasal airstrip, officials said. The propeller and the nose wheel of the aircraft were extensively damaged, they added.

YOGA MAVERICKS



ITBP personnel go through their yoga drills at an altitude of over 22,000 feet on Mount Abi Gamin in Uttarakhand ahead of International Yoga Day, June 21

PTI PHOTO

Telemedicine care for prison inmates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Following the intervention of Orissa High Court, the state government and especially the Prisons Directorate have been taking various measures to address the lack of basic amenities in the jails. The Prisons Directorate has often attracted flak from the high court for failing to provide necessary healthcare facilities to inmates in jails.

Sources informed that the Prisons Directorate has recently proposed to the Health and Family Welfare department to start telemedicine facility or video-based telehealth consultations in jails to deal with the shortage of medical staff.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Either we can respect all religions or we can defend our party... you decide!

10 die in road mishaps

The spike in road accidents is certainly becoming a cause of concern for the Odisha government

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Nine persons were killed in road accidents Monday in various parts of Odisha. The ever-increasing rate of accidents is certainly becoming a cause of worry for the state government and concerned departments.

Three persons died on the spot and four others suffered injuries when the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in collided with a tanker on NH-49 near Tabalakata square in Sambalpur district. The injured have been rushed to a hospital in Kuchinda. The conditions of two of the injured are stated to be critical.

In another incident, six-year-old Shubyan Khan was killed after being run over by a brick-laden truck in Binjharpur locality of Jajpur district. The truck ran over the kid while he was playing outside his house at Sasanda village, killing him on the spot.

In another road mishap in the same district, two cousins including a minor girl were killed in a road mishap near Barabati Square on NH-16.

Police said 23-year-old Ranjit, son of Pratap Lenka of Damodarpur village under Kuakhia police limits and Shubhra



The mangled remains of the auto-rickshaw after it collided with a tanker in Sambalpur

Sambhabna (15), daughter of Ashish Lenka, were on their way back from Jarka, when an unidentified vehicle hit their two-wheeler.

While the minor girl died on the spot, Ranjit was rushed to a nearby hospital in Dharmasala. However, as his condition deteriorated he was referred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. However, en route to the hospital,

he succumbed to his injuries. Another person died in Chandikhole

In Koraput district, a person was killed and two others sustained serious injuries after their motorbikes collided head-on at Kumarguda under Nandapur police limits. The deceased was identified as Dhanurjaya, a resident of Silpada village under Machhkunda tehsil.

CM asks axed ministers to avoid controversy

The former ministers have been asked to interact with people regularly to maintain the party's votebank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik met Monday at his residence here several former ministers who have been dropped from the new team during the recent Cabinet reshuffle and asked them not to court controversy. He asked them instead to work for the people and the party.

A total of 11 leaders were dropped from the new council of ministers. However, excluding Bikram Keshari Arukha, all the 10 other legislators met the CM here at Naveen Niwas here.

During the meeting which lasted for more than a couple of hours the former ministers were told to look after the constructive and organisational activities of the BJD. The CM also asked them to strengthen the party at grassroots level by constantly serving the people. He also said that they should regu-



larly visit various blocks and panchayats to keep the party's vote bank intact. Above all they should avoid being controversial, Naveen pointed out.

Among the former ministers who visited 'Naveen Niwas' were Padmanabha Behera, Pratap Jena, Arun Kumar Sahoo, Sudam Marndi, Susanta Singh, Dibya Shankar Mishra, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Premananda Nayak, Raghunandan Das and Padmini Dian.

Contd...P4

2ND FOREIGN TRIP FOR NAVEEN AS CM

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will embark on his second foreign trip since assuming office in March 2005, this month. The last time Naveen went on a foreign trip was in May 2012 when he visited the United Kingdom for eight days. Official sources said, Naveen will leave the state capital for a trip to the UAE and Rome starting June 28. He will attend several events, including an industrial and investors' meet. The CM is also likely to meet non-resident Odias in the Gulf and in Rome.

Government forced to fire after Gulf outrage

7 MORE COUNTRIES INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UAE HAVE CONDEMNED THE COMMENTS ON PROPHET

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 6: Amid growing criticism by the Islamic countries over controversial remarks made by now-suspended and expelled BJP leaders against Prophet Mohammed, India slammed Monday the comments by Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) as 'narrow-minded' and 'motivated, misleading and mischievous'.

A day after Kuwait, Qatar and Iran summoned Indian ambassadors, several Islamic countries in-



cluding Saudi Arabia, Jordan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Indonesia, Bahrain, Maldives and

Oman also denounced the comments while some of them welcomed BJP's punitive action against

the duo Sharma and Jindal.

Reacting strongly to remarks by the OIC, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India accords 'highest respect' to all religions and that the statement by the 57-member grouping exposed its 'divisive agenda' which is being pursued at the behest of 'vested interests.'

The OIC has also urged the UN to take necessary measures to ensure that the rights of Muslims are protected in India.

"We have seen the statement on India from General Secretariat of the

OIC. The Indian government categorically rejects the OIC Secretariat's unwarranted and narrow-minded comments. The Indian government accords the highest respect to all religions," Bagchi said.

"The offensive tweets and comments denigrating a religious personality were made by certain individuals. They do not, in any manner, reflect the views of the government of India. We would urge the OIC Secretariat to stop pursuing its communal approach and show due respect to all faiths and religions," Bagchi added.

2kg brown sugar seized; 3 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The special task force (STF) of Crime Branch seized late Sunday night more than two kilograms of brown sugar worth ₹2.5 crore from the Odisha capital. Three persons have been arrested for their involvement in the illegal trade. All the three were produced in the court of District & Sessions-cum-Special Judge, Bhubaneswar and remanded to judicial custody police said Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the STF conducted a raid at a locality close to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar under Tamando police station in Khurda district and seized the narcotic drugs from the three peddlers. The

accused have been identified as Bhagirathi Bhatt, Biswajit Nayak and Chandan Mallik. All the three, who are residents of this city, were charged with possession and selling of illegal drugs.

The STF registered a case against the three accused under relevant sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

Since 2020, STF in the special drive against narcotic drugs has seized 54kg of brown sugar, 202 grams cocaine, 103 quintals of ganja, 750 grams opium and arrested 150 drug peddlers. Police also said that they are trying to ascertain whether the three accused have any connections with other gangs.

leisure



DWAYNE GETS NEW HOME FOR MOM

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has surprised his mother with a new home, which is particularly special because she will spend the rest of her life there. Mom Ata Johnson was in tears of happiness when Dwayne revealed the news.

SADIE SINK DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO APPLY MAKE-UP

Stranger Things star Sadie Sink has shared that she's got no idea how to apply make-up and simply smears on eyeliner and then rubs it off. Sink said make-up leaves her baffled and she has come up with a bizarre way to apply it herself.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You will want to catch up with old friends that you have been neglecting for some time. The stars suggest that you will enjoy yourself. Your excitement will brighten up your activities. Your frankness and honesty are what set you apart from others, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
There ain't no mountain high enough and there ain't no valley deep! Today, you will find yourself on an invincible run. You might be your own worst enemy today, if you waste your effort and energy for unproductive purposes. Overall, it is smooth sailing today and Ganesh advises you to stay focused.

GEMINI
You will try to think up creative ways to perform your daily routine to get a break from the boredom and the rut of your daily schedule. You need to mingle more with people and practice some humility. Guests will come visiting at your home. You will spend the evening in conversation with your family, friends or neighbours, says Ganesh.

CANCER
The day looks set to be so good that you may end up inviting jealousy and envy from people around you. The stars are favourable for matters pertaining to heart. In short, a great day for boosting love and relationships. Fantastic opportunities may come your way, if you have been looking to woo a sweetheart, whispers Ganesh. However, don't let this heady feeling make you attempt something inappropriate, which may then spoil your reputation.

LEO
Though God is benevolent, it is but necessary that we reciprocate the magnanimity of the Almighty through our actions. So wake up today with a little prayer on your lips. Make it a point to visit a temple for some peace of mind. The other alternative is to do a small puja at home. Connect with your spiritual side through meditation and find peace with yourself, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
The day will bring unexpected changes and pleasant surprises. You may hit the road with your loved ones, and the journey will not only be exciting but also calm your nerves. Overall, a bright, happy day to make most of, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
It's time to take what is already good, and turn it into something better. Take this day as a day to bring about improvements in your life and yourself. You may also consider taking up some extra courses in the evening. Maybe it's time for a salsa lesson, or learn how to toss a few Italian delicacies. Small crash courses go a long way in enhancing your efficiency, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
You are one social butterfly today. However, shunning the gossip, you spread kindness and happiness in your social groups. People will look up to you today for this reason. What goes around, comes around; spread joy and you are sure to receive joy, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Skilled at multi-tasking as you are, today you may just take things one by one. Instincts will rule the roost for most of the time. And govern your actions too. But as peculiar as the day may be, you shall find yourself back to being your own assured self.

CAPRICORN
Not many can match you when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle, and as Ganesh says, health won't be an issue today either. On the work front, you are likely to complete pending projects successfully and your boss, who may be furious because of the delay caused, will reluctantly admit that you did justice to the work and that it was worth the wait. While money matters may take a back seat later in the day, small issues will affect you in a big way.

AQUARIUS
You wish to have more than twenty-four hours in a day! You are determined to finish off your pending work but somehow you will find it extremely difficult to get the load off your shoulders. You will try everything; from cancelling your vacations to postponing your dates, but nothing will seem enough, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
Ganesh feels that you will sympathize with people today. This will help you get people's good wishes. You can prove to be a good boss, co worker, husband or wife and son or daughter. Ganesh advises you to carry on with these virtues.



Kubbra bares her traumatic past

MUMBAI: Kubbra Sait has come up with her memoir titled, *Open Book: Not quite a Memoir* where the actress has confessed that she has been a victim of sexual abuse as a teenager. In her book, Kubbra revealed that she was abused by her 'uncle' who her family thought was an 'angel'. The actress also added that she endured the abuse at a young age in order to save her family from being 'destroyed'. Kubbra mentioned regularly visiting a Bangalore restaurant with her family, when the owner became close to both her and her brother, Danish. The actress stated that he even helped their mother with her 'financial woes'. Taking advantage of their helplessness, the man molested her quite a few times and finally managed to take her to a hotel where he forced her to have physical relationship with him. According to the *Sacred Games* actress, her mother was oblivious to everything happening between the 'angel' and her daughter, and would scold her for supposedly fighting with him, when he refused to help the family. Kubbra went on to add that she was relieved when she got an opportunity to move to Sharjah away from all of these

MTV MOVIE, TV AWARDS

Zendaya, Holland bag top honours

'Spider-Man: No Way Home' takes home the Best Movie honour while the Best Show award goes to 'Euphoria'

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood stars Zendaya and Tom Holland took home top honours at the MTV Movie and TV Awards. Actress Vanessa Hudgens hosted the ceremony live on MTV. Tayshia Adams took over the hosting duties for the second part of the show, honouring the best in unscripted television, reports *Variety*. Zendaya and Holland won big, with each scoring a Best Performance nod for their respective roles in *Euphoria* and *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, which also won best show and best movie awards. Actress Scarlett Johansson won Best Hero for her turn as

Black Widow, while Daniel Radcliffe took home the

best villain award for his performance in *The*

Lost City. Actor Jack Black took home the Comedic Genius Award, while Jennifer Lopez accepted the Generation Award.

Earlier in the ceremony, Lopez also took home the award for best song for *On My Way (Marry Me)*.

Spider-Man: No Way Home took home the Best Movie honour: It was competing against films such as *Dune*, *Scream*, *Shang-Chi* and the *Legend of the Ten Rings*, *The Adam Project* and *The Batman*.

The Best Show award went to *Zendaya*-starrer *Euphoria*. Others in the same category included names such as *Squid Game*, *Ted Lasso*, *Inventing Anna*, *Loki* and *Yellowstone*.



Tom Holland

Zendaya

RANBIR ON BRAHMASTRA

'We had opportunities to create our own Marvel'

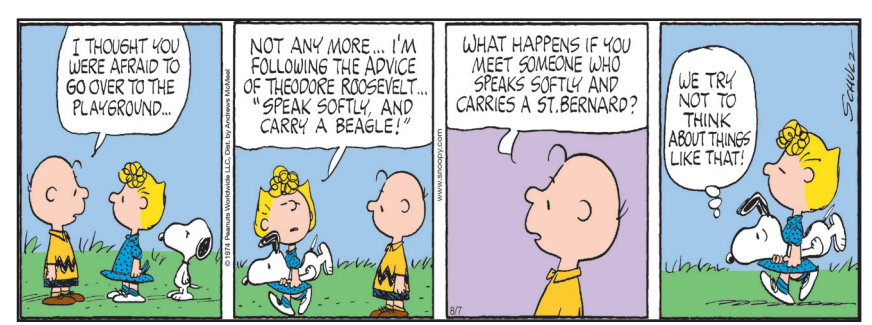
MUMBAI: Filmmaker Ayan Mukerji's upcoming magnum opus *Brahmastra Part One: Shiva*, is now moving towards the finishing line after years in the making. The film stars Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Nagarjuna Akkineni and Mouni Roy. Based on Indian mythology, the film is set in contemporary India, where a secret society called the Brahmastra has guarded 'Astras' created in ancient India for generations. The most powerful among these, the Brahmastra, is now waking up and it threatens to destroy the universe, reports *Variety*. Constructed as a trilogy, which is part of an 'Astraverse' created by Mukerji, the first part follows the protagonist Shiva (Kapoor), who is in love with Isha (Bhatt). Their lives are changed forever when Shiva learns that he has a mysterious connection to the Brahmastra and a great power within him that he doesn't understand just yet - the power of fire. "It's deep rooted in Indian culture, and we had the opportunity to create our own Marvel, which Ayan is trying to do with his Astraverse," Ranbir told *Variety*. He added: "Any film, any good compelling story, made in your culture, in an authentic way, in a true form, will connect to a large audience."



Security beefed up at Salman's residence

MUMBAI: A day after Salman Khan and his father, writer Salim Khan received death threats, a Mumbai Police team landed at their Bandra west home to carry out investigations and increased security there, Monday. Led by Joint Commissioner of Police Vishwas Nagre-Patil and other officers, the team queried the Khan family on a letter received near their flat in Galaxy Apartments Sunday, threatening to do a 'Moosewala' with the celeb father-son duo. "I will comment only after getting all the preliminary information in the case," said Nagre-Patil, even as extra security personnel were deployed at the Khans' residence. Taking serious cognizance, the Bandra Police have lodged an FIR against unknown persons for issuing the death threats and launched their probe even as the Mumbai Police Crime Branch also started its own investigations. Police said that Salim Khan, 87, was handed over the unsigned, hand-written threat letter Sunday morning around 7.30 am by an unknown person on a bench where he normally rests after jogging at the Bandra Bandstand promenade, and it was addressed to him and his son Salman. The letter is signed off with some initials which the police are probing and also attempting to unravel if they are linked to any past incidents targeting Salman Khan. The police are also scouring CCTV footage of the area for clues and questioning locals for further leads on the threat letter.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

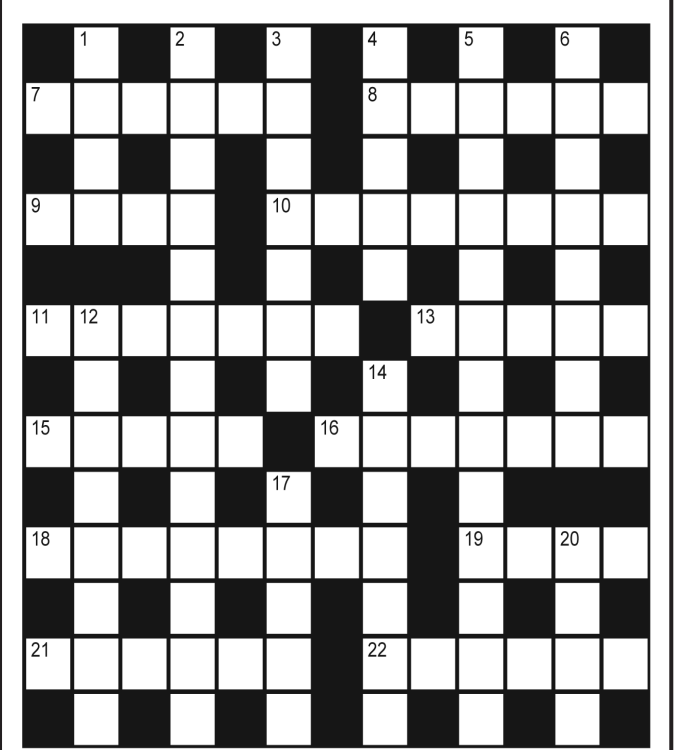


BREVITY



FUN post

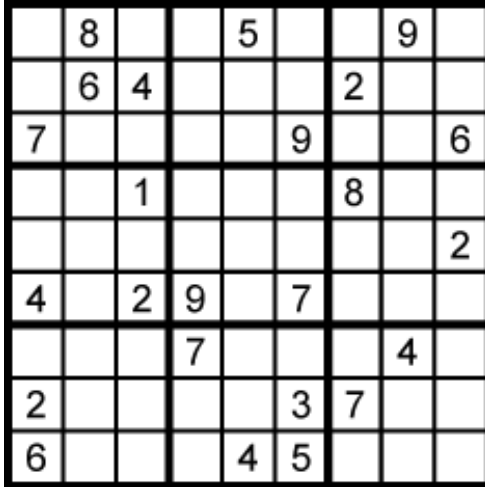
CROSSWORD



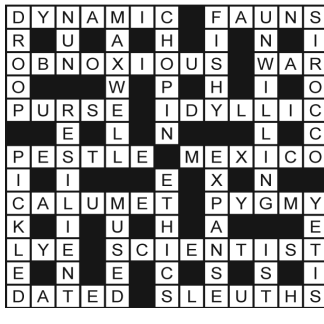
- Across**
- 7 Cleo's love
 - 8 Means of escape
 - 9 Flightless bird
 - 10 Adequate
 - 11 Point of view
 - 13 Bedroom set
 - 15 Church song
 - 16 Fruit drink
 - 18 Brimless Scottish cap
 - 19 Sacred
 - 21 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 - 22 Suffering
- Down**
- 1 Pro's foe
 - 2 Status seeker
 - 3 Indication
 - 4 To the lowest degree
 - 5 Pirate booty (8,5)
 - 6 Kept apart
 - 12 Rickety
 - 14 Sheepskin
 - 17 Horse carts
 - 20 Instrument for Orpheus

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



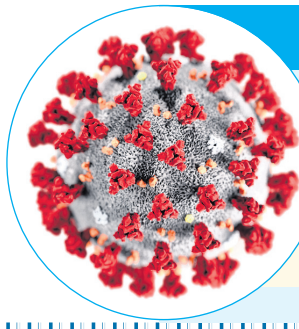
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



WARM GREETINGS

People from Jain Samaj greet newly-appointed Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholakia in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	53,55,22,238	50,65,51,572	63,20,720
India	4,31,81,335	4,26,30,852	5,24,701
Odisha	12,88,517	12,79,253	9,126

SC unhappy with mining sans forest clearance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The Supreme Court Monday took strong note of continuing 'illegal mining' of minerals by some firms in Odisha without obtaining forest clearance (FCs) from authorities under the garb of 'status quo' orders, and asked the state high court to dispose of such matters in six months.

The SC was irked over the fact that the mining companies, which have not been granted FCs by the Centre and other authorities, are continuing with the 'illegal excavation' of minerals on grounds that the high court has passed the status quo orders with regard to the dispute.

"How can the mining be continued without getting forest clearance under the garb of a status quo order from the HC," a vacation



bench of Justices MR Shah and Aniruddha Bose said. The bench, which was hearing the appeal of M/s Balasore Alloys Ltd of Odisha against the HC's refusal to continue with the status quo order favouring the firm, permitted the company to withdraw its plea. It said that it would permit the withdrawal but the company cannot be allowed to mine

as it does not have the forest clearance to mine as on today and hence, this is illegal and cannot be done.

"We've heard the... Counsel. It is not in dispute that the petitioner is not having the forest clearance at this stage. Merely because the application for forest clearance is pending cannot be treated as having obtained the forest clearance permitting the petitioner to carry on the mining," it said.

"Before parting with the present order, we request, the (Orissa) high court to decide and dispose of all such pending matters, where the order of status quo is continuing since long and the mining activities have been continued under the order of status quo, within a period of six months from today without fail. With this the present SLP is dismissed as withdrawn," it ordered.



IN SYNC

Girls perform at the concluding event of 30th Nityanjali festival and award ceremony organised at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Nepal team lauds state's food security measures



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The 10-member delegation from Nepal, which is in Odisha to learn the methods adopted by the government towards ensuring food security to all, Monday applauded the coastal state for its successful implementation of the food security programmes.

The delegation applauded the state after looking into the details of Odisha's planning, implementation and monitoring of the food security programmes during a high-level interactive session held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra here.

While interacting with the delegation, Mahapatra said, "No poor will stay in hunger is the motto of our government and governance." All departments work in tandem for materialising the motto on a sustainable basis, he said.

The state is implementing National Food Security Act, State Food Security Scheme, social security measures for the elderly, differently-abled and destitute, said Mahapatra.

Sources said the public distribution system (PDS) has recently been transformed to a higher level with adoption of technology.

Food Security and Consumer Welfare department Principal Secretary VV Yadav said, "We started our journey as a food importing and dependent state; and,

now we are a food surplus state." Odisha has been participating in decentralised paddy procurement operation of the Centre since 2003-04. "It is now procuring around 76 lakh million tonne of paddy from farmers which get converted to around 52 lakh million tonne of custom milled rice inside the state," said Yadav.

Against this procurement, the state's requirement for different schemes comes around 30 lakh million tonne while the balance 22 lakh million tonne is delivered to the central pool of the Centre. Odisha is now the 4th largest rice supplier to the central pool, Yadav added.

The state has ensured food security for more than 95.74 lakh families embracing around 3.33 crore members which constitutes nearly 80 per cent of the total population of the state as per 2011 Census.

Presently, around 12,124 FPSs are distributing nearly 1.87 lakh MT of foodgrains to 33.3 million beneficiaries per month through 90 per cent Aadhaar and mobile OTP based authentication.

Women and Child Development Secretary Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma spoke about introduction and implementation of different supplementary nutrition programmes, mid-day meal, additional nutrition for undernourished children, various pensions, Aahar program in different urban centres near hospitals, rail stations and bus stands.

SUNDARGARH HOCKEY PLAYERS' ELECTROCUTION DEATHS

NHRC seeks report from Energy secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought action-taken reports (ATRs) from the Sundargarh superintendent of police (SP) and the Energy department secretary in connection with the electrocution deaths of two budding hockey players in the tribal-dominated district in May this year, an official said Monday.

While hearing a plea filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC asked the duo official to submit the reports within four weeks.

In case of non-submission of the reports within the stipulated time, the commission shall be forced to invoke coercive process under section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 calling for a personal appearance of the authority concerned for submission of the report, it said.

In his petition, Tripathy in-



formed the commission that Sujal Ekka, 19, a resident of Pandratoli Kukuda under Alanda panchayat, and Birendra Kujur, 20, of Jhagarpur village, had gone to Gariamal coaching centre in Alanda for practising hockey around 6am. While returning home around 9am, Sujal and Birendra were electrocuted as they came in contact with a live electric wire. The two were rushed to the community health centre at Rajgangpur where doctors declared them brought

Report sought on journo's torture

BHUBANESWAR: Expressing displeasure over the 'lackadaisical' attitude of the Balasore police in submitting report in connection with the alleged torture meted out to a journalist in the district in April this year, the NHRC Monday once again asked the district's SP to submit an ATR in connection with the incident.

While hearing a plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak, the NHRC asked the Balasore SP to submit the report within four weeks.

In case of non receipt of ATR within the stipulated period, the commission would seek personal appearance of the SP, said the NHRC order.

On May 11 this year, the commission had asked the SP to submit the ATR within four weeks. However, no report was submitted before the rights body.

Quoting media reports, Nayak had informed the commission that Lokanath Dalei, a senior journalist, was chained to a bed at Nilagiri in Balasore where he was being treated soon after his arrest by Nilagiri police April 6. Nayak also accused the police of implicating the scribe in a false case.

Claiming that the incident of chaining Dalei to hospital bed has violated his human rights, Nayak urged the NHRC to direct the state government to pay ₹5 lakh to the victim.

dead, said the rights activist, alleging that the mishap had oc-

curred due to the sheer negligence of the electricity officials.

CM buys first ticket of India-SA T20I match



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday purchased the first ticket of India-South Africa T20 match, to be held at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack June 12, a CMO official said.

Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, the president Odisha Cricket Association (OCA), and Sanjay Behera, the secretary of OCA, handed over the ticket to the Chief Minister at Naveen Niwas, he said.

Behera briefed the CM about the arrangements made for the smooth sale of tickets, the official added.

Heatwave singes W Odisha; 44° C in Nuapada

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 6: A heatwave scorched parts of western Odisha Monday even as the weather was comparatively better in other regions of the state due to overcast conditions, the MeT office said.

At least 11 weather stations recorded a maximum temperature of over 40 degrees Celsius, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

Heatwave prevailed in a few places over Subarnapur, Bolangir, Boudh and Bargarh. The conditions are likely to continue for the next two days in the districts, according to a bulletin. Nuapada recorded 44 degrees Celsius, the highest in the state, followed by 43 each in Boudh and Bolangir.

The mercury shot up to 42 de-



The IMD forecast isolated to scattered rain with thunderstorms over the next five days under the influence of a north-south trough and strong southwesterly winds from the Bay of Bengal

grees Celsius each in Sambalpur and Subarnapur. The temperature in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack dropped by a notch below average to settle at 35.6 and 35.8 degrees Celsius respectively, the weatherman said. There will be no significant change in the max-

imum temperature over the next four-five days, it said.

The agency forecast isolated to scattered rain with thunderstorms over the next five days under the influence of a north-south trough and strong southwesterly winds from the Bay of Bengal.

India successfully tests Agni-4 missile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: India Monday successfully carried out a "training launch" of the Agni-4 Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, marking a significant boost to the country's military capabilities.

In a brief statement, the defence ministry said the test was carried out at around 7:30 pm. It said the successful test of Agni-4 reaffirms India's policy of having a "credible minimum deterrence" capability.

"A successful training launch

of an Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-4, was carried out at approximately 19:30 hours June 6 from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha," the ministry said.

"The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command," it added.

The ministry said the launch validated all operational parameters as also the reliability of the system.

"The successful test reaffirms India's policy of having a credible minimum deterrence capability," it said.

IN MEMORIAM



People from various walks of life pay tribute to freedom fighter Binod Kanungo on his birth anniversary on State Archives premises in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Why not all obese patients develop diabetes

Obesity, often a result of eating too much fat and sugar in combination with low physical activity, is known as a key factor for developing Type 2 diabetes. However, some obese people do not develop the disease that affect millions globally. Turns out their gut bacteria have a role to play.

Andrey Morgun and Natalia Shulzhenko of Oregon State University and Giorgio Trinchieri of the National Cancer Institute developed a novel analytical technique, multi-organ network analysis, to explore the mechanisms behind early-stage systemic insulin resistance.

The findings, published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine, showed that a particular type of gut microbe leads to white adipose tissue containing macrophage cells, large cells that are part of the immune system, associated with insulin resistance.

In the human body, white adipose



The findings, published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine, showed that a particular type of gut microbe leads to white adipose tissue containing macrophage cells, large cells that are part of the immune system, associated with insulin resistance

The human gut microbiome features more than 10 trillion microbial cells from about 1,000 different bacterial species

tissue is the main type of fat. "Our experiments and analysis predict that a high-fat/high-sugar diet primarily acts in white adipose tissue by driving microbiota-related damage to the energy synthesis process, leading to systemic insulin resistance," said Morgun, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the OSU College of Pharmacy.

"Treatments that modify a patient's microbiota in ways that tar-

get insulin resistance in adipose tissue macrophage cells could be a new therapeutic strategy for Type 2 diabetes," he added.

The human gut microbiome features more than 10 trillion microbial cells from about 1,000 different bacterial species.

"The so-called 'western diet', high in saturated fats and refined sugars, is one of the primary factors. But gut bacteria have an important role to play in mediating the

effects of diet," Shulzhenko said. Experiments in mice, looking at the intestine, liver, muscle and white adipose tissue, the team found "adipose tissue has a predominant role in systemic insulin resistance".

Further they "discovered that the Oscillibacter microbe, enriched by a western diet, causes an increase of the insulin-resistant adipose tissue macrophage".

The researchers add, however, that Oscillibacter is likely not the only microbial regulator for expression of the key gene they identified, Mmp12, and that the Mmp12 pathway, while clearly instrumental, is probably not the only important pathway, depending on which gut microbes are present.

Previously studies have shown that another microbial species "Romboutsia ilealis worsens glucose tolerance by inhibiting insulin levels, which may be relevant to more advanced stages of 'Type 2 diabetes'," Shulzhenko said.

CONTINUED FROM P1

9 die in road mishaps

In another road mishap in Sundargarh district, two persons were killed and eight injured after a speeding ambulance rammied into an auto-rickshaw near Poi village under Lahunipara police limits. The deceased were identified as Malati Kisan and Priyanka Sahu.

A Class IX girl student also lost her life when a Hyva truck ran over her while she was returning home from tuition on her bicycle at Jhinkidi-Hatabanapur Square in Kendrapara district.

The deceased has been identified as Lakshmi Priya Lenka, 15, daughter of Santosh Lenka.

The mishap occurred when Lakshmi Priya was returning home from tuition from Jhinkidi village when a Hyva truck ran over her on Jhinkidi-Hatabanapur Square on Kendrapara-Danpur road under Sadar police limits.

The mishap sparked tension in the area as angry locals thrashed the driver and ransacked the truck.

They also demanded ban on entry of heavy vehicles on the road and adequate compensation for the bereaved family.

Later police arrived the spot and detained the driver. The situation returned to normalcy only after tehsildar Sujit Kumar Swain reached the spot and gave away ₹10,000 to the bereaved family for the last rites of the deceased girl. He also assured them of compensation

CM asks axed ministers to avoid controversy

“Cabinet reshuffle is a usual practice. The Minister position is being in rotation basis as BJD is a very big and largest party in Odisha. So many leaders are there. Therefore, chances should be given to others,” said Raghunandan Das after the meeting.

He, however, expressed displeasure as no one from Jagatsinghpur district has been inducted in the new Council of Ministers.

Pratap Jena said the Chief Minister has asked them to work for the organisation keeping in view the general elections in 2024. Various responsibilities in organisation will be given to the dropped ministers, he said.

“In the present scenario, organisation is more important than the government. So, we will work for further strengthening the party at the grassroots level,” Jena said.

Sources said that those who have not got ministerial slots may get posted as district party presidents and party observers.

The sources also said these ministers lost their positions for facing criticism over various issues and for failing to give their hundred per cent in the recently-held panchayat elections among other reasons.

The BJD supreme is following the same strategy following the panchayat elections in 2017. Sources said the changes have been made keeping mind the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

Before Notary Public, Berhampur, I Priyadarshini Raika, D/o. Masia Raika, Bapujinagar, 2nd lane, Behind Pushpak Restaurant, A/p-Naldiapadar, P/S-Golanthara, Ganjam say that as per my Aadhaar Card my Birth Certificate (3566/2003) issued by Berhampur Municipal as Priyadarshini Raika, But my Passport No. (E 7637039) wrongly mentioned as Priyadarshi Raika. Both Priyadarshi & Priyadarshini Raika as same person. Henceforth I shall be known as Priyadarshini Raika for all purposes.

Naveen unveils 490 more revamped high schools



Cuttack District Magistrate Bhawani Shankar Chayani speaking at the inauguration of 135 transformed high schools held at Sayeed Seminary School, Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday dedicated 490 more government high schools, transformed with modern facilities under the 5T initiative of the state government, in five districts to the people.

Chief Minister dedicated 135 transformed high schools in Cuttack district, 100 in Kalahandi, 70 in Jharsuguda, 90 in Bargarh and 95 in Kendrapara on virtual mode.

Earlier, 532 schools were inaugurated June 1, 531 schools were inaugurated June 3, and 492 more schools were unveiled June 4. The remaining schools will be unveiled in a phased manner till June 10

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen said, “Each child is unique and holds great potential. Children dream of a better future and doing something big in life. The school transformation programme

Chief Minister dedicated 135 transformed high schools in Cuttack, 100 in Kalahandi, 70 in Jharsuguda, 90 in Bargarh and 95 in Kendrapara on virtual mode

Earlier, 532 schools were inaugurated June 1, and 531 more school were inaugurated June 3

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

has added wings to their dreams and brought new opportunities for them. If the dreams of children come true, the goal to build a new Odisha will be fulfilled and the foundation of a new Odisha will be laid.”

He further said that the new look of schools has filled the hearts of

children with joy and excitement. This has created new hopes and aspirations among the students.

Stating that school life is the best time for an individual, Naveen appealed to students to utilise their time properly and create a new identity for themselves, their families and the state.

He further said transformation of school is a classic example of the 5T programme. He elaborated how the five Ts (technology, teamwork, time, transparency and transformation) have brought positive changes in the school education sphere.

He thanked the school management committees, members of panchayati raj institutions, members of alumni associations and teachers for their support.

Among others, Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and senior officers from different departments attended the function.

SIT-IN FOR SOCIAL SECURITY



People under the banner of Samajika Surakhya Bhatta Parishad stage a sit-in in Bhubaneswar demanding ₹2,500 under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana

DEMOLITION DRIVE



Bhubaneswar Development Authority demolished an illegal structure at Gobinda Prasad mauza under Laxmisagar police limits in Bhubaneswar, Monday

‘Puri police hand in glove with excise offenders’

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 6: An excise inspector Monday levelled serious allegations against Puri police regarding government’s crackdown on illegal narcotics trade.

The concerned excise inspector, Sanjay Panda, has alleged that the staffers of Puri district police are receiving bribe from various drug peddlers. In a letter to Excise Commissioner, Panda has highlighted such irregularities and the problems faced by the Excise staff in carrying out their duties.

“While conducting raids in Puri district in the past one year, I found that whenever we arrested any excise offenders, they said they are giving huge monthly ‘commission’ to the police station staff,” wrote Panda.

According to Panda, the number of excise cases detected by the police is less because of their nexus with the offenders. Such offenders also have little fear about the Excise department officials.

“We are getting less salary as compared to those working in police station who also get additional benefits like quarters and medals,” said Panda.

Levelled serious allegations against the Excise Superintendent, Panda also said that he (the former) doesn’t know anything. He is only oiling higher-ups’ palms to safeguard his service.

Panda has also brought the matter to the notice Puri SP, Collector for appropriate action at their end. In his reaction, Excise Superintendent Amarendra Jena said the Excise Inspector might have developed psychiatric issues.

Puri among top picks of pilgrims in India: OYO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The Holy City of Puri has emerged as one of the top five pilgrimage destinations, according to a report by travel tech firm OYO.

Along with Puri, pilgrimage destinations like Varanasi, Tirupati, Amritsar and Shirdi too have acquired top spots as travelers’ choices.

The report titled ‘India’s Treasure Trove of Cultural Travel 2022’ said with over 3.5 times growth over the past year, Srinagar clocked the highest growth in bookings among cultural destinations in 2022.

Besides Srinagar, Pahalgam and Jammu in J&K also ranked among the top cultural destinations in India, the report released Monday said.

As per OYO’s booking data analysed between January to April 2022, Srinagar, Pahalgam, Bodhgaya, Shirdi and Jammu are among India’s top five cultural destinations in order of ranking.

“Varanasi, seen by many as the spiritual hub, tops the chart as the most popular pilgrimage destination in India in 2022. This is followed by Tirupati, Puri, Amritsar and Shirdi. Besides this, OYO’s Mid-Summer Vacation Index also highlights keen consumer interest in visiting Vaishno Devi this summer,” it said.

As per the report, when it comes to heritage sites, Ajanta & Ellora



Cultural tourism has always been a huge contributor to India’s tourism economy. With an increase in domestic travel across India, people are looking forward to exploring rich cultural destinations over the past few years

SHREERANG GODBOLE | SVP, PRODUCT & CHIEF SERVICE OFFICER, OYO

caves in Aurangabad and Taj Mahal in Agra were tied for the top spot. Hampi, Khajuraho and Mahabalipuram round up the balance of the top five heritage sites.

“Cultural tourism has always been a huge contributor to India’s tourism economy. With an increase in domestic travel across India, people are looking forward to exploring rich cultural destinations over the past few years,” said Shreerang Godbole, SVP-Product & Chief Service Officer - OYO.

Climate change turning snow covered white Alps green

The findings led by researchers at the University of Basel in Switzerland suggest that although alpine greening could increase carbon sequestration in the region, feedbacks between snow and vegetation are more likely to lead to more pronounced environmental changes in the future like amplified warming, thawing of permafrost and increased habitat loss

The satellite imagery of the European Alps spanning the past 38 years shows that climate change is driving a decline in snow cover and increase in plant productivity, a process also known as “greening”.

Mountain landscapes are biodiversity hotspots and provide a host of important ecosystem services. For example, meltwater from alpine glaciers and snow provides nearly half of the world’s freshwater resources.

However, mountain environments are also more sensitive to climate change - warming roughly twice as fast as the global average. This is expected to impact snow cover and vegetation productivity in alpine regions, just as it has in the Arctic.

The findings led by researchers at the University of Basel in Switzerland suggest that although alpine greening could increase carbon sequestration in the region,

According to the findings, snow cover across the region has declined significantly, although in less than 10 per cent of the area studied

On the other hand, vegetation productivity has increased across 77 per cent of the above tree-line area in the study region

The feedback loop between greening and snow recession suggests that continued greening will likely accelerate snowmelt, which could have important implications, including altering the region’s albedo (its ability to reflect solar energy), potentially releasing greenhouse gases through melting permafrost, and disrupting ecological structures, putting fragile alpine plant and animal communities at further risk

feedbacks between snow and vegetation are more likely to lead to more pronounced environmental



changes in the future. This includes amplified warming, thawing of permafrost and increased habitat loss.

Climate feedbacks are processes that can either

amplify or diminish the effects of climate forcings.

To determine these effects in the European Alps, the highest and most extensive mountain range

in Europe, Sabine Rumpf and a team from the University used Landsat images and evaluated the spatial and temporal trends of snow cover and vegetation production from 1984 to 2021.

According to the findings, snow cover across the region has declined significantly, although in less than 10 per cent of the area studied.

On the other hand, vegetation productivity has increased across 77 per cent of the above tree-line area in the study region.

The feedback loop between greening and snow recession suggests that continued greening will likely accelerate snowmelt, which could have important implications, including altering the region’s albedo (its ability to reflect solar energy), potentially releasing greenhouse gases through melting permafrost, and disrupting ecological structures, putting fragile alpine plant and animal communities at further risk.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Two trampled to death by wild elephants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal/Baripada, June 6: Two persons lost their lives in separate incidents due to elephant attacks in the state.

In the first instance, a tusker trampled a 70-year-old man to death at Bhingiri village under Bampha section of Hindol forest division in Dhenkanal district Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Nirupa Samal.

The incident occurred when the elderly man had gone to answer nature's call in the backyard of his house. He came face to face with the tusker that had strayed into the village and was hiding in his backyard.

The tusker lifted him and dashed to the ground before trampling him. Hearing the screams, neighbours rushed to his rescue and chased the pachyderm away.

Samal, who was critically injured in the attack, died on the way to the district headquarters hospital here by his family members.

Forest department officials from Hindol have launched an inquiry into the incident.

In another incident, a youth was trampled to death by one of the 14-member herd of elephants when he was asleep inside a liquor shop at Manchabandha near here in Mayurbhanj district, late Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Dhiraj Kumar Singh, a native of Aurangabad in Bihar and an employee at a local country liquor shop.

The incident occurred when the herd was on its way to Manchabandha from Mahulia. The herd barged inside the liquor shop after smelling the aroma of 'Mahuli' - a country brew prepared in the locality.

One of the elephants in the herd picked him on its tusk and trampled him under its feet.

Locals rescued him in critical condition and rushed him to PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada where doctors pronounced him dead.

ROW OVER INTER-CASTE MARRIAGE

Family in Ganjam ostracised



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 6: In a shocking incident, a family of Kalamba village under Polsara police limits in Ganjam district faced social ostracism by members of its own community following inter-caste marriage of their son, a report said Monday.

The incident occurred after Arabind Pradhan, son of Arun Pradhan in the village, had married a girl of a different caste amidst traditional rituals at Mardakote January 24, this year.

The matter of ostracism came to

the fore after Arun's family members visited the Collectorate in Chhatrapur and submitted a written complaint to the Collector demanding justice Monday. They also warned of moving the Orissa High Court if the matter remains unresolved.

Earlier, Arun had lodged a complaint with Polsara police June 1. He demanded a fair probe into the matter and action against the wrongdoers. Meanwhile, police registered a case and launched an investigation.

The incident became a flash point as they convened a meeting of their community members and socially ostracised the family members, Arun alleged. The community leaders also slapped penalty on the relative and kin attending the marriage function and also tortured them mentally. The community leaders also collected the penalty from them at midnight, he alleged.



Artistes performed traditional 'Bagha Nacha' during a procession on the concluding day of Sital Sasthi Yatra in Sambalpur, Monday

Dhinkia villagers want industry

Medha Patkar and her team had to return empty-handed following protest by the villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kujang, June 6: A four-member team led by National Alliance of People's Movements founder Medha Patkar had to retract from Dhinkia village, the site of proposed JSW's steel plant near here in Jagatsinghpur district, after villagers came out vehemently in support of the project Monday.

Patkar was accompanied by Sudarshan Pradhan, general secretary of Samajwadi Party, Prof Manoranjan Mohanty and farmer leader Lingaraj. She was here for discussion with Dhinkia villagers over alleged human rights violation in the village. However, she had to return from the village entrance due to stiff opposition by the locals.

The team members first met Debendra Swain, lodged in Kujang sub-jail. Swain, a former panchayat member, was leading a campaign



JSW PLANT ISSUE

against the project. Later, they visited Dhinkia and wanted to meet family members of Swain.

However, locals opposed the team's entry on the grounds that this would disrupt the peace and brotherhood in the village. Such a massive pro-industry action by the villagers was seen here for the first time since withdrawal of Pohang

Iron and Steel Company (POSCO).

The team led by Patkar also intended to assess the JSW project response during its visit to Dhinkia. However, villagers stopped them midway and communicated that they have voluntarily supported JSW project and now they didn't want any disturbance among people on ac-

Such a massive pro-industry action by the villagers was seen for the first time since withdrawal of POSCO

count of outsider interference.

During a discussion with Patkar, villagers said that they have been provided timely compensation for the betel vine removal and assured of employment opportunities. Moreover, the workers engaged in the betel vines have also received their allowances for 10 years.

They also said that the project will help improve the socio-economic standard of the villagers. In response, Patkar said she has no objection if they find everything right with the project and the team had to pull back after a peaceful discussion.

Girl slits throat in suicide bid



POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, June 6: A 20-year-old girl is battling for life after she slit her throat in an attempt to kill herself at Kanpur village under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district Sunday.

Family members came to her rescue in the nick of the time and rushed her to Anandapur sub-divisional hospital from where she was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as her condition deteriorated.

The exact reason behind her extreme step is yet to be ascertained, said sources. Ghasipura Police started an investigation into the matter after registering a case of unnatural death.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
Tender Notice No. PCMM/EP/2022-23/64, Date: 02.06.2022	
SL.No.01	TENDER NO.03221827, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: POLYMER SPRING PACK, QTY: 600 SET.
SL.No.02	TENDER NO. 08223359, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: INHIBITED MINERAL INSULATING OIL, QTY: AS PERT.S.
SL.No.03	TENDER NO.03223926, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: BRAKE CALLER UNIT, QTY: 38 NOS.
SL.No.04	TENDER NO.03221998, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: LOCKLIFT LEVERASSLY, QTY: 9813 NOS.
SL.No.05	TENDER NO.03223917, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: BRAKE CYLINDER PBAC254-130, QTY: 25 SET.
SL.No.06	TENDER NO.03221138, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: HOSE COUPLING FOR FEED PIPE, QTY: AS PERT.S.
SL.No.07	TENDER NO.03221328, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: HEAD STOCK COMPLETE, QTY: 45 NOS.
SL.No.08	TENDER NO.03223860, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: INTERCARGANGWAY MOUNTING, QTY: AS PERT.S.
SL.No.09	TENDER NO. 07221014, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: VINYL COATED UPHOLSTERY FABRIC, QTY: 20690 MTR.
Tender Opening Date: for SI.No. 01 & 2: 20.06.2022, for SI.No. 03: 22.06.2022, for SI.No. 04, 05 & 06: 27.06.2022, for SI.No. 07: 29.06.2022, for SI.No. 08: 01.07.2022 and for SI.No. 09: 04.07.2022	
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender condition, please visit Website www.reps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in	
Principal Chief Materials Manager/ PR-1731N/22-23	

Rail roko for express train halt



POST NEWS NETWORK

The protesters demanded restoration of the halt of Sri Jagannath Express and Utkal Express at Soro railway station

Soro, June 6: Normal life was affected Monday after members of Soro Nagarika Manch, a local outfit, staged a 'rail roko' at the railway station here in Balasore district demanding restoration of scheduled halts of two express trains.

The agitators squatted on the tracks that hindered the movement of trains. The protesters including women started the agitation on railway tracks at 7:30am Monday and demanded restoration of the halt of Sri Jagannath Express and Utkal Express at the station.

They also held their protests on platforms. On the other hand, many other trains had to make a detour due to the agitation. "Our agitation will continue for an indefinite period, until our demands are

met," the agitators said.

The two express trains used to halt at Soro station before the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the stoppage of the trains was suspended during the lockdown. The agitators said that the locals, who depend on the railway station, are now facing inconvenience due to the suspension of the halt.

Officials of Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) have been deployed at the railway station to tackle any kind of untoward situation. The agitation was called off after the officials assured to hold a meeting in this regard June 8.

Misuse of 'Yaas' funds alleged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, June 6: People of several villages under Khaira block in Balasore district have alleged that funds provided for restoration works after cyclonic storm 'Yaas' are being misutilised.

Funds are being spent on repair of roads passing through pasturelands, cremation grounds, forest and private lands which is in violation of official norms. The amount should have been spent on repair of roads on government land, sources said.

They also alleged that contractors and junior engineers have messed up a number of repair projects. However, in spite of that their bills are being approved.

Reports said various parts of Khaira block suffered extensive damage due to cyclone 'Yaas' in May 2021. Government officials had made a list of roads, schools and other infrastructure facilities that have been damaged by floods.

Road restoration works were started in Gadapokhari panchayat. However, it was alleged that most of these roads were on pasturelands, cremation grounds, forest and even private lands.

22 injured in group clash



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 6: As many as 22 villagers were injured, five of them critically, following a group clash over a land dispute between two villages under Mohana police station in Gajapati district Monday.

While 12 of the injured are from Bijipur village, the remaining 10 are from Bahadapada. The critically injured five were first admitted to Mohana community health centre (CHC). After preliminary treatment, they were shifted to Berhampur-based MKCG Medical College & Hospital here after their condition worsened.

The critically injured have been identified as Jibina Bir and Antari Lima from Bijipur; and Srimiti Gouda, Tarini Dalai and Kandhuni Mahakud of Bahadapada village.

If reports are to be believed, residents of the two villages have a longstanding dispute over a piece of pastureland in Bahadapada village under Chandragiri mouza.

Earlier, the natives of both the villages had sought the intervention of police and district administration in this regard, but to no avail. The dispute prevailed despite repeated police complaints. Things took an ugly turn Monday when a few residents of Bahadapada had gone to clean the said land in their village. Learning about this, Bijipur villagers rushed to the spot and opposed their counterparts, thereby resulting in a group clash.

Soon, the clash escalated wherein villagers from both sides used axes, machetes and wooden planks to attack each other. Mohana police reached the spot after being informed and brought the situation under control.

Siddhamatha medicinal plant garden on the wane

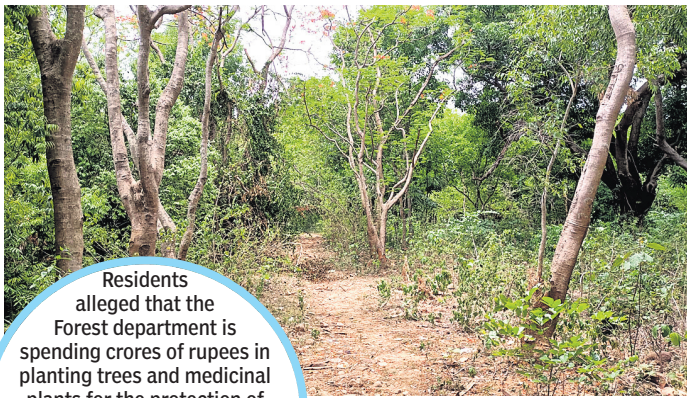
POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 6: Chorus for revival of a medicinal plant garden on the premises of ancient religious shrine Siddhamatha in this town has gained momentum as several rare and precious medicinal plants are slowly becoming extinct due to lack of proper upkeep, said sources.

The shrine on the foothills of Chulia hill is situated in natural surroundings with various medicinal plants and trees dotting the landscape. However, due to lack of proper upkeep, the shrine and the adjoining medicinal plant garden are slowly on the wane.

Legend has it that the place was once abound with dense forests as saints and monks used to meditate inside it. The shrine has several temples on its premises including that of Lord Jagannath, Siddha Kali, Siddha Hanuman, Siddha Shiva, Shani and of Sai Baba of Shirdi.

The temples are managed by the Endowment department while the



Residents alleged that the Forest department is spending crores of rupees in planting trees and medicinal plants for the protection of environment, but it has overlooked the protection of a large and ancient garden which is full of rare and precious medicinal plants

The garden has become a safe haven for criminals and timber smugglers

The plants and trees are slowly vanishing from the garden and the day is not far off when there will be no trace of the garden

Forest department looks after the garden. However, due to lack of proper coordination between the two departments the shrine and the medicinal plant garden are on the verge

of extinction. Moreover, the walls and houses inside the shrine and garden have started crumbling.

Sanjay Tripathy, a priest of Siddhamatha temple, said that the

place was once full of precious medicinal plants but they are becoming extinct fast due to theft.

The garden is spread over two acre of area and houses several precious medicinal plants like red sandalwood, white sandalwood, Indian rose chestnut (Nageshwar), Champak, Karnikar (muchukunda), Myrobalan (Haridra), Bastard Myrobalan (Bahada), Indian Gooseberry (Amla), Arjun, Neem, Pongame Oiltree (Karanja), Odasmari, Asana and Bhalia.

However, due to lack of proper upkeep and safeguard, many of plants and trees including many sandalwood trees are slowly getting extinct due to theft by timber mafia.

Residents alleged that the Forest department is spending crores of rupees in planting trees and medicinal plants for the protection of environment, but it has overlooked the protection of a large and ancient garden which is full of rare and precious medicinal plants.

The garden has become a safe

haven for criminals and timber smugglers. The plants and trees are slowly vanishing from the garden and the day is not far off when there will be no trace of the garden.

The department instead of renovating this garden seems to be keen on constructing a new medicinal garden which is only wastage of public funds. The tranquil beauty of the place makes it a much sought-after retreat for nature lovers, physicians and botanists away from the din and bustle of urban life.

When contacted, Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD said, "Steps will be taken soon for the revival of medicinal plant garden."

An Ayurvedic physician Kabiraj Harekrushna Mohanta said medicinal plants and herbs are getting extinct now due to loss of forest cover. It is high time that steps were taken for revival of the garden which would go a long way in conservation of the precious herbs and plants. This will also help in protecting the environment, he added.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA REGIONAL OFFICE, BHUBANESWAR-7	
No.:	Cont.13(221)/2022/Rupsa-Baripada
Date:	-06.06.2022
INVITATION FOR E-TENDER	
On behalf of FCI, Odisha Region, online tenders are invited from eligible tenderers for;	
1. Tender 1 : Appointment of regular Handling and Transport Contractor for handling of food grains at RH, Rupsa and transportation of food grains from RH, Rupsa to FSD, Baripada and vice versa for a period of two years.	
2. Tender 2 : Appointment of regular Road transport Contractor for transportation of food grains from FSD Balijhari to SWC/ PEG Lohardaga (Point to Point basis) for a period of two years.	
The tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from GeM Portal https://gem.gov.in or FCI website www.fci.gov.in .	

JSL JINDAL STAINLESS PUBLIC NOTICE	
It is being brought to the notice of all that M/s Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) has obtained Environment Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi; vide MoEFCC Letter No. F.No. IA-J-11011/281/2007-IA.II(I), dated 1st June, 2022 for expansion of Crude Steel Production from 2.2 MTPA to 4.5 MTPA and Cold Rolling Mill Production from 1.6 MTPA to 2.6 MTPA within the existing Steel Plant at Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex (KNIC), Danagadi, Dist-Jajpur-755026. The copies of the clearance letter are available with SPCB, Odisha and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at http://envfor.nic.in .	
Sd./-Director M/s Jindal Stainless Limited	

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KENDRAPARA (R&B) DIVISION No.II, KENDRAPARA E-mail eerandbdivn2kpd@gmail.com , Tel No.06727-220408	
No.B-264: GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" procurement Notice e-Procurement Notice for Road and Building works	
Bid Identification No - S.E.(R&B) KPD - II- 03/2022-23	
1. No of works	-: 2 Nos. of Roads & 3 Nos. of Buildings
2. Estimated Cost	-: Rs. 41,38,288/- Rs. 45,89,507/-, Rs. 49,23,051/- Rs. 35,61,267/-, Rs. 49,63,303/-
3. Period of Completion	-: 03 (Three) to 6 (Six) Calendar Months
4. Date & time of sale & receipt of bid Document	-: From 10.00 A.M. of 09.06.2022 to 5.00 P.M. of 20.06.2022
5. Last Date/ time of receipt of bids	-: 5.00 P.M. of 20.06.2022
6. Date & time of opening of Bids	-: 11.00 A.M. of 21/06/2022
7. Name and Address of the Inviting Bid	-: Superintending Engineer, Kendrapara (R&B) Division-II, Kendrapara
Further details with any addendum, corrigendum, cancellation can be seen from the state Govt. Portal " https://tendersorissa.gov.in " Sd./- (Er. S. K Nayak) Superintending Engineer, Kendrapara, (R&B) Division-II OIPR-34158/11/0002/2223	

FOCUS HEALTH SYSTEM

TWO TALES ON INDIA



While ASHAs make us proud, the state of the health management system makes us hang our heads in shame

India's ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) as well as the Indian media appear to be pleased that the nation's Accredited Social Health Activists, or ASHAs as they are popularly called, have been chosen for the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General's Global Health Leaders Award, as announced in Geneva May 22. WHO recognised the ASHAs' "outstanding contribution towards protecting and promoting health," which in other countries would be the job of a public health workforce.

The Prime Minister stated on Twitter: "They are at the forefront of ensuring a healthy India." There is something very celebratory about the work that ASHAs do in the Indian system. Yet, we must also recognise that ASHAs are technically "volunteers" from and for the community. The Union Minister of State, MoHFW, Dr. Bharati Pawar told Parliament last year that ASHAs receive an honorarium of ₹2,000 per month effective 2018-19, with an additional ₹1,000 as maximum incentive (based on visit/services rendered, like preventive antenatal care, immunisations) and ₹1,000 further added for COVID-related work. States add top-up payments that vary. Billings and payments are often not transparent, verifiable or audited easily.

In essence, ASHAs are minimally trained community volunteers that are now being seen as the backbone of India's health delivery. Are we happy that a large part of the onerous burden of health promotion and disease prevention among low-income families, especially in rural areas, rests on these ASHAs? If ASHAs have come in for laudatory mentions from WHO, then India's response to the pandemic has received a different mention from the WHO.

It was only last month that WHO said five million Indians died as result of the pandemic, nearly ten times the official count of 520,000 deaths admitted by India. India stood out as the worst performer of all nations by this count. India was also the only nation to oppose the WHO findings, which were based on independent and robust

models that have been upheld by a range of global experts.

That huge disparity became an unseemly dispute limited to numbers, diverting the discussion from core issues of how numbers are counted or not counted as a reflection of the quality of the government's health management.

Almost 75 years Independence, we do not yet have a system to count deaths as "health events" with a reliable or reasoned out cause of death. We rely on a civil registration system that counts deaths as "demographic events" for estimating, for example, the number of deaths during the pandemic. This reduces death to a deadpan number rather than the insight it can offer to prevent more deaths, if cause of death is understood and spread of disease deduced. It is not that COVID numbers were underreported. We do this with all diseases because the system is geared to undercount. We under-report mortality from all important diseases like pulmonary tuberculosis, extra-pulmonary tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, typhoid fever, leptospirosis, brucellosis, scrub typhus, haemolytic uremic syndrome, viral encephalitis, influenza, acute respiratory distress syndrome, bacillary and amoebic dysenteries, red-tide algal toxicity, and so on. Even death by snakebite is not well reported or appropriately counted.

This is because we just do not have a public health infrastructure to collect reliable numbers

of health events and place facts in the public domain every week, like a "marked to market" value that offers the current and live view of a portfolio. While ASHAs make us proud, the state of the health management system makes us hang our heads in shame. Globally, health management comprises two parts - a) healthcare, which is the response to disease and b) public health, the eyes and ears watching health events, studying microbial spread and building the dashboard that managers must use to mount a meaningful response to diseases. Without the public health dashboard, the health care car will not know where to drive, what speed to go and where it has to reach. In other words, the lack of a watchful eye on diseases renders all response un-objective and less scientific, less timely or less useful than it ought to be. It is only the public health system that demands case-based, real-time, comprehensive disease surveillance under which every registered medical practitioner has a legally binding duty to report to the local public health officer any of the many notified communicable diseases. Often clinically suspected, that fact has to be reported without any delay. India has none of this in place.

Either by default or by design, we do not have a "public health" wing while we have a whole ministry to supervise the widespread healthcare hardware, software and personnel under the govern-

ments, Union and states, and we have a flourishing set of private sector healthcare establishments that the MoHFW qualifies as the "healthcare industry".

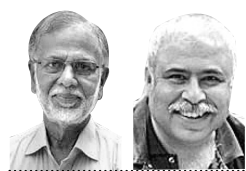
The term "public health" originated in a Parliamentary Act in England in 1848, which came about as a result of the advocacy of a lawyer-cum-social reformer, Edwin Chadwick. He had understood that epidemics of communicable diseases had environmental determinants; only the government had the jurisdiction over environment. The Public Health Act mandated the government to bring about comprehensive sanitation and that resulted in a drastic reduction in disease burdens. Diagnosing and treating individuals with disease, be it communicable or non-communicable, remained in the realm of the duties of physicians and the medical establishment. Thus, a clear distinction was obvious - healthcare was for individual needs whereas public health was for the benefit of the community as a whole.

We have made huge strides in fighting disease. India has had its contribution too. India created two excellent vaccines - the adjuvanted, inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (Covaxin) and a live attenuated Rotavirus vaccine (Rotovac) developed from an indigenous virus isolate (by Late Dr Maharaj K Bhan) and extensively researched by US investigators who found it to be suitable for a vaccine. Thereafter Indian scientists developed and evaluated it until approved as a vaccine that is in current use in our national immunisation programme.

Yet, in terms of the simple cause of death, we appear not to understand that numbers are more than mere numbers, because they tell us exactly how we are performing. Awards and recognition should spur us to act and not sit self-contented with a pandemic death toll that is worst anywhere in the world.

Dr T Jacob John is retired Professor of Clinical Virology, CMC, Vellore. Jagdish Rattanani is a journalist and a faculty member at Bhavan's SPJIMR.

©THE BILLION PRESS



Dr T Jacob John & Jagdish Rattanani

IT IS NOT THAT COVID NUMBERS WERE UNDERREPORTED. WE DO THIS WITH ALL DISEASES BECAUSE THE SYSTEM IS GEARED TO UNDERCOUNT

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Surviving a future of extreme heat

Although nearly all heat-related deaths are preventable, heatwaves kill thousands of people worldwide every year. At this very moment, an extreme heatwave in India and Pakistan, affecting about one billion people, is "testing the limits of human survivability," warns Chandni Singh, a lead author for the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report. In April, the average maximum temperature for northwest and central India was the highest in 122 years.

This is not just a South Asian problem. In recent years, similarly extreme conditions occurred in the United States, Australia, Europe, Scandinavia, and Japan, resulting in thousands of hospitalisations and excess deaths. Extreme heat is also linked to increases in premature births, low birthweight babies, and stillbirths; reductions in worker productivity; higher rates of chronic kidney disease of unknown origin; and increases in suicide.

Extreme temperatures are thus an "all of society" problem. Such conditions not only harm human health; they also have detrimental effects on infrastructure, crop yields, and poultry mortality, threatening livelihoods and undermining food security. The 2021 heat dome

in the Pacific Northwest and western Canada was a case in point.

It was an event that would have been virtually impossible without climate change. Temperature extremes were about 5°Celsius above previous records, causing approximately 1,000 excess deaths and a 69-fold increase in heat-related hospitalisations. Already, nearly 40% of heat-related deaths are attributable to climate change. And because climate change is expected to increase the frequency, intensity, and duration of heatwaves, the need for additional measures to protect people will only become more urgent. Without immediate and significant investment to enhance community and health-system resilience, the deaths associated with heat exposure will increase.

Well-communicated, evidence-based action plans are needed to keep people cool and reduce hospitalisations and deaths. In addition to early-warning and response systems, longer-term planning is needed for life on a warmer planet. That means providing more blue and green spaces, changing building materials, and focusing on ways to cool people, rather than the surrounding environment. Early-warning and response sys-

tems require more than just a single threshold for determining the start of a heatwave. Effective systems also should include collaborative processes to ensure that interventions account for local capacities and constraints. Health ministries will need to work closely with (among others) hydrometeorological services, police and fire departments, emergency services, agencies responsible for elder care, and trusted voices for vulnerable populations (such as adults over 65) and marginalised communities.

Resources should not be a barrier. Effective early-warning systems already exist worldwide, including in low-resource settings such as Ahmedabad, India. Moreover, organisations like the Global Heat Health Information Network are collecting and sharing data on local and national experiences and best practices. The demand for additional guidance is growing rapidly, in tandem with the increasing frequency and severity of heatwaves.

But most of today's early-warning systems do not explicitly account for the risks of a changing climate. To be more adaptive, planners should adopt timelines for reviewing changes at the beginning and end of the summer season,

while also developing regional collaborations to ensure consistent messaging. There will also be a greater role for tiered early-warning systems that account for multiple thresholds, such as temperature readings combined with local knowledge of particularly vulnerable populations.

For example, initial warnings might be issued several days before the peak of a heatwave to alert at-risk groups such as older adults, young children, and pregnant women. A second set of warnings could then be issued at somewhat higher temperatures for outdoor workers and people engaged in sports or related activities, followed by a third set of warnings for the general public at the usual threshold for declaring a heatwave. These warnings would need to be paired with effective communications, so that people are properly motivated to take the appropriate measures to stay cool.

Proven models need to be scaled up to enhance resilience and sustainability. Unprecedentedly higher temperatures are survivable, but not unless we prepare for them.

The writer is a Professor at the University of Washington.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Only the soul that is naked and unashamed, can be pure and innocent, even as Adam was in the primal garden of humanity



SRI AUROBINDO

Chicken-rice, War

When war combines with a pandemic, it is, indeed, a recipe for disaster. Almost every country is having a taste of it, but Singapore is paying the worst price as its staple diet - chicken-rice - is faced with the threat of disappearing from the menu of 5.5 million citizens of the city-state. Singapore is bracing for a shortage of its de facto national dish as major supplier Malaysia has halted all chicken exports from the beginning of June. There is panic everywhere and a mad rush to stock as many of the birds as possible to stave off the crisis as long as possible. This further complicates the situation as private hoarding leads to chicken going out of the market too fast. Restaurants and street stalls in Singapore are faced with raising prices of the staple food or shutting down altogether as their supplies dwindle. The main cause for the unprecedented crisis is the decision of neighbouring Malaysia to ban export of chicken. This has dealt a great blow to the supply chain as Singapore imports one third of its need which amounts to 3.5 million chickens a month. But, Malaysia is not to blame for the ban since production there has been disrupted by a global feed shortage.

In fact, Malaysia's export ban is the latest case of growing global food shortages as countries, reeling under the effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic-related supply disruptions, are scrambling to maintain their own domestic supplies and control food inflation. Rising prices for basic food items have already triggered protests in countries such as Argentina, Indonesia, Greece and Iran. India has already banned export of wheat and sugar so that it can meet its domestic demands. It is the second largest sugar exporter in the world. Indonesia also blocked exports of palm oil to rein in domestic cooking oil prices, though it is now trying to relax the export restrictions.

Unfortunately, Singapore is faced with a situation unlike any other country because of its people's food habits and the city-state's geographical position. Malaysia's ban, fear owners of many supply chains in Singapore, will be catastrophic for vendors. The ban would mean they would no longer be able to sell and they compare their plight with the hypothetical situation where McDonald's is unable to sell burgers. Singapore is among the wealthiest countries in Asia, but it has a heavily urbanised land area of just 280 square miles for which it has to depend largely on imported food, energy and other goods. Nearly all of its chicken is imported - 34 per cent from Malaysia, 49 per cent from Brazil and 12 per cent from the United States, according to data from the Singapore Food Agency (SFA).

A plate of chicken and white rice cooked in broth served with a side of greens is a dish the country's population loves most. It is usually widely available for about 4 Singapore dollars (US\$2.92) at eateries known as hawkers centres. The dietary habit of the population is such that they take rice with chicken brought live from Malaysia and cooked fresh in Singapore. The only option that the Malaysian ban has forced on Singapore is to switch to using frozen chicken. But, the people detest the choice so much that frozen chicken with rice is a "no-go." Knowing well the alimentary habit of Singaporeans, the SFA has urged the consumers to opt for other protein sources such as fish and make do, at least for the time being, with frozen chicken from Brazil.

Malaysia itself is facing soaring prices as the bloody conflict between Russia and Ukraine has caused a severe dislocation in the supply of feed. Chicken feed typically consists of grain and soybean, which Malaysia imports. But the government is having to consider alternatives amid a global feed shortage due to the war and the pandemic. Lower-quality feed means the birds are not growing as fast as usual, slowing down the entire supply chain.

Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, does not find a ray of hope in the prevailing gloomy situation in the world due to the Ukraine war. In a loaded message, he warned his people to be prepared for the worst. "This time it is chicken, next time it may be something else. We have to be prepared for this," he said.

It does not augur well, especially for the poor who are the hardest hit when prices of essential commodities go up or supplies dry up for some reason or the other. The common man in India is currently being made to pay through his nose to buy fuel, a steep rise of which has already got cascading effects pushing the prices of common food items sky high. The attention of the big players in the Russia-Ukraine conflict has so long been riveted on the geopolitical impact and effects of sanctions by the US and its allies on Russia. The present situation reconfirms the age old belief that leaders and rulers do not care a bit for the lowest in the economic ladder. Their cries are not heard nor seen by the rich and powerful of any nation.

WISDOM CORNER

A man can be himself only so long as he is alone, and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom, for it is only when he is alone that he is really free.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

Experience without theory is blind, but theory without experience is mere intellectual play.

IMMANUEL KANT

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

THOMAS HARDY

WORDSWORTH

Teetotum

This was a small spinning top. Strictly and originally, it wasn't just any spinning top, but one with four sides, each with a letter on it that decided the outcome of a player's turn in a game. The letters were conventionally TADN, the initials of Latin words, one of them being totum, take everything from the pot. This supplied the old name of the device, the initial T, expanded to tee, being added later. The other letters stood for aufer, take one stake from the pot, depone, put one stake into the pot, and nihil, do nothing. The letters were later changed to fit English words, but the old name remained, though it can sometimes mean a four-sided die instead. Despite its form, teetotum has no connection with teetotal. It is an ancient device, once common in adult gambling, but by the nineteenth century was largely restricted to children's games. The device was so familiar that it was commonly used to refer to the act of spinning around, as Mary Kingsley did in her Travels in West Africa: "We spun round and round for a few seconds, like a teetotum, I steering the whole time for all I was worth, and then the current dragged the canoe ignominiously down river, tail foremost". It appears in Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass: "Are you a child or a teetotum?" the Sheep said, as she took up another pair of needles. "You'll make me giddy soon, if you go on turning round like that." It isn't surprising that the word should have taken on the broader sense of spinning top, losing the connection with a game of chance. The toy has had many local or dialect names, such as jenny-spinner, whirligig, and scopperig, the last of these once known in the Midlands and North of England; these names often referred to an improvised top, perhaps made from a button with a piece of wood through it, rather than to a method of playing a game of chance. Jews will know dreidel (from a Yiddish word related to German drehen, to turn), similarly a four-sided spinning top that was used especially for a children's game played at Hanukkah. This has the Hebrew letters nun, gimel, he and shin on it. The letters are often said to spell out the initials of the Hebrew phrase "a great miracle happened there" (the miracle being the tiny amount of oil that burned for eight days in the Temple in Jerusalem) but in the game meant "do nothing", "take all", "take half" and "put in".



Kristie L. Ebi

IN APRIL, THE AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR NORTHWEST AND CENTRAL INDIA WAS THE HIGHEST IN 122 YEARS

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Negligence writ large

Sir, Renowned singer Krishnakumar Kunnath alias KK died after a live concert in Kolkata. At the same time, on his death, an eyewitness has claimed that the AC was not functioning in the crowded auditorium. KK had also complained about this. In his social media post, the eyewitness wrote: There was a lot of crowd in the closed auditorium. KK was drowning in sweat because of the AC's inactivity, and he was breathless and in pain. In fact, when the auditorium had 2,000 seats, the organisers accommodated 5,000 people to make more money. In a capitalist society, no matter what profession a person is in, he or she is a labourer who provides his or her services. KK is an artist who comes to this working class. His death was not unexpected, but the organisers of the event were responsible for the death. Unfortunately, there was no minute investigation launched into the matter. It is known that how much money Bollywood has earned from this artist, but no one stands with him. Some artists have responded their reactions in tweets. Could it be a tribute to KK? Workplace deaths caused by negligence on the part of the organisers need to be properly investigated in accordance with labour laws.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Spelling bee champ

Sir, It is a matter of great pride and rejoice for all Indians that Harini Logan, the 14-year-old Indian-American student from Texas, has been crowned champion of the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee contest. Harini's winning word was 'moorhen' (the female of the red grouse). For years, the annual Spelling Bee competition, which is loaded with plenty of excitement and nail-biting moments, has been dominated by children of Indian origin, who comprise just about 1 per cent of the total US population. Harini, who reportedly draws inspiration from the US Vice President Kamala Harris, also of Indian descent, clinched the title by correctly spelling 22 out of 26 words attempted. In a research, exploring the amazing success rate of Indian-American students at the Spelling Bee, it has been revealed that exceptional quality of memorisation and networks give these students an edge over others. It is completely a normal scenario in an Indian-American household to see kids knowing not one, but multiple dictionaries by heart, astoundingly by the age of 12!

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

national

of the day quote

The Centre is ready to get the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala probed by a central agency like NIA if the Punjab government recommends it

MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA | BJP LEADER

Covid cases are on the rise in many countries, including the United States of America, Australia, Germany, and India. So it is very important to be careful

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

From Monday (June 6) all illegally operating massage parlours will have to be shut down

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

SHORT TAKES

Varanasi court reserves order

Varanasi: A Varanasi court Monday reserved its order on a plea moved by Sri Vidya Mutt head Swami Avimuktsharanand, who has been on an indefinite fast seeking permission to pray to a purported Shivaling-like structure recovered from inside the Gyanvapi mosque during a videography survey in May. District judge in-charge, Anutosh Sharma, a special judge of the Pocco court and filling in for District Judge Ajay Krishna Vishvesha, who is on leave, reserved his order after hearing the submissions of Avimuktsharanand's counsel Ramesh Upadhyaya. In his application, the Hindu monastery head requested that his plea should be heard on urgency as the 'Lord is hungry'.

ED conducts raids at Jain's premises

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday was conducting raids at multiple locations belonging to Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain days after his arrest in a money laundering case. Jain is currently in the custody of ED. He was arrested May 30. In April, the ED attached property worth ₹4.81 crore belonging to Jain's relatives. "Immovable properties worth ₹4.81 crore belonging to different firms owned by Swati Jain, Sushila Jain, and Indu Jain were attached. Kinchan Developers Pvt Ltd, Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, Mangalayatan Projects Pvt Ltd, JJ Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd were the firms against which actions were taken," an ED official said.

Terror module busted in J&K

Jammu: A terror module, being run by LeT terrorist Mohammad Amin alias Khubaib from Pakistan, was recently busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, police said Monday. "It is evident that Khobaib is making desperate attempt to revive militancy in Chenab region and attempts are made to allure and trap local youth in the net of militancy to run terror modules for carrying out attacks in Jammu province," a police official said.

Cops release posters of rioters

Kanpur: The Uttar Pradesh Police have released a poster with photographs of 40 persons who were caught on camera pelting stones and participating in the violence that erupted in Kanpur Friday. A WhatsApp number has been provided for the people to inform the police if they have any information about the alleged miscreants.

Moosewala killing: Eight sharp shooters identified



DAVINDER ALIAS KALA WAS NABBED SUNDAY EVENING FROM FATEHABAD, TAKING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HELD IN THE CASE FROM HARYANA SO FAR TO THREE, POLICE SAID MONDAY

AS MANY AS 15 TEAMS HAVE BEEN CONSTITUTED BY THE POLICE TO ARREST THE CULPRITS INVOLVED IN THE KILLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bathinda (Punjab), June 6: The Punjab Police has arrested one more person from Haryana in connection with the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, even as sources said eight sharp shooters have also been identified.

Davinder alias Kala was nabbed Sunday evening from Fatehabad, taking the number of people held in the case from Haryana so far to three, police said Monday. Two suspects involved in the killing had allegedly stayed with Davinder, police sources said.

June 3, two other suspects were nabbed by the Punjab Police from Fatehabad and their roles in the Moosewala's murder were being probed. Meanwhile, eight sharp shooters are learnt to have been identified by the police in connection with the case and they hail from different states, including Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra, the sources said.

Besides, police have also rounded up some people and got several important leads in connection with the murder, they said. As many as 15 teams have been constituted by the police to arrest the culprits involved in the killing.

Two days after the killing of Moosewala in Mansa district, the Punjab Police had on May 31 made the first arrest in this case. Manpreet Singh, who was arrested from Uttarakhnad, was accused of providing logistic support to the assailants. Meanwhile, politicians cutting across parties continued to reach Moosewala's native village in Mansa to meet the singer's family to express their condolences.

"There cannot be bigger pain than a father having to see his young son dying like this. Everyone wants justice in this incident," senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot, who met the family on Monday, said. While interacting with reporters, he expressed concern over the alleged deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab.

"Every day there is one incident or the other: Drug mafia, gangsters and terror elements are spreading their tentacles," the Congress leader from Rajasthan said. Referring to Moosewala's killing, he said the state and Central governments should go to the bottom of this incident and exemplary punishment should be given to those involved in the gruesome killing.

He said Moosewala was a popular singer and a Congress leader. Pilot said that people of Punjab have seen dark days of militancy and at no cost will anyone want that such period comes back again.

May 29, Moosewala was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district, a day after the state government curtailed his security cover. His cousin and a friend, who were travelling in a jeep with him, were also injured in the attack. Moosewala was among the 424 people whose security was withdrawn or curtailed by the Punjab Police on a temporary basis.

The state police had termed the incident a case of an inter-gang rivalry and said the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was behind the killing. Canada-based Goldy Brar, who is a member of the gang, had claimed the responsibility for the murder.

Oppn seeks Nupur Sharma, Naveen Kumar's arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Stepping up pressure for legal action against Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, opposition parties Monday demanded that they be arrested for their controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad and accused the BJP of denting the image of the country.

While the ruling party faced more criticism at home, the diplomatic fallout of the row continued as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Indonesia, Jordan, UAE and Afghanistan joined several Muslim nations in condemning the controversial remarks.

The BJP had Monday suspended its spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled Naveen Kumar Jindal, its Delhi media head, in a fire-fight-

ing exercise, but the opposition parties like the Congress, AAP, BSP, SP and the Left dismissed it as mere "drama" and "sham" and demanded strict legal action against the two. While Sharma is facing cases in various cities over her remarks, the Delhi Police has now registered an FIR on her complaint that she is receiving death threats.

The Congress hit out at the BJP, demanding the immediate arrest of those who have defamed India at the international level instead of enacting a "drama of action". "Divided internally, India becomes weak externally. BJP's shameful bigotry has not only isolated us but also damaged India's standing globally," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged the

RS polls: BJP follows Cong

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, June 6: After Congress, the BJP Monday also shifted its MLAs to a private hotel in Rajasthan ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections June 10.

Close on the heels of the Rajasthan Congress taking their MLAs to Udaipur fearing poaching, the BJP on Monday also shifted its MLAs to a private hotel till June 10, which is the scheduled date for the Rajya Sabha elections in the state.

While Congress openly admitted that it is undergoing political fencing, BJP, has named it a training camp. As the MLAs were being shifted to a hotel, leader of the opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said that the ruling government had to take their MLAs to far off location from the capital city as they are scared that their MLAs can be poached.

"The way Congress MLAs have to go 400 km away from the headquarters from June 2 and the manner in which their mobile phones and internet connection were switched off, speak the story of the panic they are undergoing," he said. "Had we been afraid, we would



BJP MLAs board a bus and head to Jamdoli ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections, in Jaipur

not have started our training camp in Jaipur openly and would have preferred going to some far off location," Kataria said. The BJP MLAs gathered at the BJP headquarters on Monday from where they were taken in two buses to Hotel Deviratna, situated on the Agra-Jaipur road.

Here Rajya Sabha election in-charge and Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and BJP state in-charge Arun Singh, State President Satish Poonia, organisation general secretary Chandrashekhar, former Chief Minister Vasudhara Raju, leader

of the opposition Gulab Chand Kataria, Deputy leader of the opposition Rajendra Rathod will meet all MLAs in the hotel on late Monday evening. There will be 13 training sessions in 4 days for the MLAs. Meanwhile, Kataria also said that a few Independent and Congress MLAs are in touch with the saffron party leaders and they shall dent the Congress' prospects of winning all three seats. The BJP has fielded senior leader Ghanshyam Tiwari as its candidate, while it is supporting Independent Subhash Chandra for the fourth seat.

LALU SEEKS PASSPORT

Rashtriya Janata Dal supremo Lalu Prasad has appealed before a special CBI court for release of his passport in order to renew it as he may need to travel abroad for a possible kidney transplant, his counsel said Monday



Old-age homes in every district soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The government is planning to establish old age homes in every district of the country and has identified 250 districts where it will be tying up with local NGOs of the area, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said Monday.

Addressing a press conference, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar listed out various initiatives taken by his ministry in the last eight years. He said the government is planning to establish an old-age home in every district of the country for the elderly.

He added that the ministry is tying up with local NGOs to set up such old-age homes. A senior ministry official explained that 250 districts have been identified for the purpose and work is going on.

Meanwhile, he said the government has started a major reformulation of the schemes through which scholarships are provided to SC students scholarships owing to complaints.

Also for the first time, the students are getting the money directly to their accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, the ministry official said, adding 41 lakh students have so far been benefited under it.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Kumar said the Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity (SACRED) portal and nine start-ups have been roped in for senior citizen employment seekers. The IT platform brings such employment seekers and providers together.

The senior ministry official said a strong movement is going on across the country under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan. The government is targeting to make 100 districts 'nasha mukta' this year as part of the campaign.

Cops order DNA test of stolen buffalo

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shamli (UP), June 6: In an interesting case, the Shamli police has ordered the DNA test of an allegedly stolen buffalo that was traced by its owner in a nearby village.

Chandrapal Kashyap, a labourer, had complained that a three-year-old male buffalo was stolen from his cowshed on August 25, 2020. It was found in November 2020 in Beenpur village of Saharanpur but the new owner Satbir Singh refused to part with the animal claiming it was his.

The matter had taken a back seat during the Covid-19 pandemic. Shamli SP, Sukriti Madhav has ordered a DNA test of both the mother buffalo (which is still with Kashyap) and the Saharanpur buffalo to ascertain the rightful owner.

Madhav said "It was really a challenge to find out the real owner. But since Kashyap claimed he had the mother, we decided to go for a DNA test."

Kashyap, meanwhile, explained how he identified the lost animal: "Like humans, animals also have distinct features. Firstly, it has a scar on its left leg. It also has a white patch at the tail end. And the third thing is its memory. When I went closer, he recognised me and tried to reach me. What else do I need to establish its identity?"

VOICING CONCERN



People belonging to tribal communities stage protest demanding improvement in the deteriorating health services in the tribal areas, in Thane district

At least 3 trees felled every hour in Delhi in last 3 yrs: Data

THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF TREES FELLED COULD BE MUCH MORE IF THE NUMBER OF TREES CUT ILLEGALLY IS ALSO CONSIDERED, ENVIRONMENT ACTIVISTS SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The Delhi forest department granted permission to cut or transplant at least 77,000 trees, or three trees every hour, for developmental work in the city in the last three years, according to government data submitted to the high court recently.

It also said only one-third of the trees transplanted during the period have survived. Officials allowed agencies to cut or transplant 29,946 trees under section 9 of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA) and 47,474 trees under section 29 of the Act in the last three years.

The actual number of trees felled could be much more if the number of trees cut illegally is also con-

sidered, environment activists said. They also feared that the project proponents cut more trees than allowed over the years.

The data has been submitted in response to orders on a contempt plea filed by RTI activist Neeraj Sharma through advocate Aditya N Prasad against the concretisation of trees in east Delhi's Vikas Marg area. Section 9 of the Act says anyone desiring to remove a tree should file an application before the tree officer concerned for permission with ownership documents of the land and the girth measure of trees at a height of 1.85 metres from the ground level.

Section 29 empowers the government to exempt "any area or any species of trees" from the Act in public interest through a notification.



According to the data, authorities in the West forest division granted permission to cut 8,953 trees and transplant 13,486 trees, the maximum among all forest divisions

in the capital, in the last three years. The forest department granted permission to cut 2,866 trees and transplant 701 trees in the Central forest division during the

period. Officials allowed agencies to cut 689 trees and transplant 269 trees in the North forest division. They permitted the felling of 982 trees and transplantation of 2,000 trees in the South forest division.

The Delhi government issued 52 notifications under section 29 of the DPTA from 2019 to 2021, allowing the felling of a total 15,426 trees and the transplantation of 32,048 trees in the capital. In a status report dated May 18, the forest department said only one-third (33.33 per cent) of the 16,461 trees transplanted under section 9 of the Act in the last three years have survived.

An affidavit filed by the department on May 31 painted a grim picture of compensatory plantation. It said the user agencies

planted just 1,58,522 saplings as against the mandated 4,09,046 in the last three years in lieu of the trees cut. According to the provisions of the DPTA, the forest department has to ensure that 10 saplings are planted for each tree felled.

The data showed that a large number of offences registered for illegally cutting, damaging, pruning and concretising trees in the last three years are pending and the offenders have not submitted fines in most cases.

Hearing the petition, Justice Najmi Waziri had on May 20 directed that no tree will be felled in Delhi till June 2, saying the capital cannot have the luxury to allow such "large-scale of denudation of trees" due to the rampant air pollution.

Gujarat's vibrant co-op sector suffers as politicians hijack leadership roles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, June 6: There was a time when the cooperative sector was producing political leaders, who led the state through mainstream politics. With time things have reversed, now political leaders have hijacked the cooperative sector in Gujarat.

Political parties have started controlling cooperative societies' elections. This will not only kill the cooperative leadership but the cooperative sector in the long run, fear leaders from the cooperative sector.

Citing the example of the recent Rajkot Agriculture Produce Market Committee elections, cooperative leader Hardevsinh Jadeja said BJP leader Parshottam Savaliya had the support of 11 members of the board, whereas another BJP leader Jayesh Boghra was supported by just two members. Yet, Boghra is the chairman of the Rajkot APMC and not Savaliya, because the party mandate was for Boghra. This is the new norm of the cooperative sector.

Jadeja said earlier local leaders were forming a group or panel and contesting cooperative societies elections, where even the district political leadership had little say, forget the state leadership. Those cooperative leaders had direct contact and were in touch with farmers, so the farmers were well aware whom to vote for. Now the political party in power has started imposing leaders on the farmers.



HUGE VOTE BANK

There are 76,000 cooperative societies in Gujarat comprising fisheries, small financial credit societies, agriculture finance

The total membership of the cooperative sector is in the millions, it makes a huge vote bank which no party would like to ignore

For this vote bank, the ruling party is abusing power, luring directors or leaders and if required indulging in arm twisting, so that it can control the sector

During the Congress regime, the party never interfered in the cooperative societies elections, directly or indirectly, be it the milk union, cooperative banks, sugar cooperatives or APMCs. But since the last one year, the BJP state leadership has started finalising panels. By doing so they have started taking control of cooperative societies, which will kill the cooperative movement's leadership, alleged Jadeja.

There is no harm if state leaders decide, because they do take the local leaders into confidence while finalizing the panel for a cooperative society election, defended Jayesh Radadiya, Chairman of the Rajkot District Cooperative Bank and a BJP leader.

Citing his own experience, Radadiya said, "I was given charge of Rajkot district, because the party is aware that on the ground I will know the local leaders, the grassroots connects and strengths. I prepare a panel, which is approved by the state leadership and announced, meaning local leaders do have a say in the selection."

According to the state cooperative registrars and the state cooperative union records, there are 76,000 cooperative societies in Gujarat comprising fisheries, small financial credit societies, agriculture finance. This includes 20 sugar cooperatives, one state cooperative bank, 18 district cooperative banks, 240 nagrik cooperative banks and 18 district

cooperative milk producers union.

The total membership of the cooperative sector is in the millions, it makes a huge vote bank which no party would like to ignore.

For this vote bank, the ruling party is abusing power, luring directors or leaders and if required indulging in arm twisting, so that it can control the sector. Cooperative leaders or directors have no choice but to join the ruling party and this practice is going to kill the cooperative sector in the long term, says Dhruv Chavda, a former chairman of the Kaira District Cooperative Bank Ltd.

Take the example of Sabarkantha District Milk Producer's Union Ltd's (Sabar Dairy) vice chairman Jayanti Patel, who after his long association with the Congress, quit the party and joined the BJP in March 2022, said a cooperative leader wishing anonymity.

The leader also cited the appointment of Keshubhai Nakrani as chairman of the Bhavnagar District Cooperative Bank. According to him, Nakrani has no experience of banking or the cooperative sector, but he was appointed just because he is a BJP leader and a former MLA.

The Congress can never regain control of these cooperative societies, because the present leadership has given up fighting the ruling party. On the other hand, the BJP is active to make the cooperative sector 'Congress Mukta', says Kanjibha Bhalala, a cooperative leader from Surat.

Satellite phone calls tracked again in K'taka

AGENCIES

Bangalore, June 6: Intelligence agencies have alerted the Karnataka government after they tracked satellite phone calls made to foreign locations from state's coastal and Malnad regions, sources said Monday.

Three calls were detected from the thick forests in these regions between May 23 and 29, according to the sources. Two calls were tracked in places near Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district, Chikkamagalur and Uttara Kannada jungles by the Central intelligence agencies.

The sleuths of State Internal Security Division (ISD) visited the spot and have launched a probe. Preliminary findings have suggested that the satellite phone calls were made from four locations in 10 days. The agencies are tracking down the persons who used the banned satellite phones.

Sources explained that this is the third time that satellite phones were being used in this year in the coastal and Malnad regions. The Central agencies have been alerting the state police department on these developments.

This time satellite phone signals originated from the forest that falls between Yallapur and Sirsi towns in Uttara Kannada; Natekal, Kulai regions in the outskirts of Mangaluru city; and the jungles between Kadur-Birur towns in Chikkamagalur, the sources said.

Earlier, the phone calls were tracked to Mudibidre, Mudipu regions in Dakshina Kannada; in dense forest regions of Uttara Kannada; and another two locations from Chikkamagalur.

Since terror activities target-



AGENCIES ON HIGH ALERT

This is the third time that satellite phones were being used in this year in the coastal and Malnad regions

Since terror activities targeting civilians were being reported from Jammu and Kashmir, Central agencies have told their counterparts and authorities in Karnataka to be vigilant about the developments

After the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, using satellite phones was banned by the Directorate General of Shipping

ing civilians were being reported from Jammu and Kashmir, Central agencies have told their counterparts and authorities in Karnataka to be vigilant about the developments. Central agencies have gathered information about suspected anti-national activities taking place in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udipi; and Chikkamagalur and Shivamogga districts in the Malnad region.

The issue of the use banned satellite phones was raised in the state Assembly session last year and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra had given detailed statements that the government is handling the situation in co-

ordination with Central agencies, including the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). Intelligence agencies suspect and track whether the anti-national forces are activating sleeper cells in the state. The phone calls are being made despite intelligence agencies being on alert in the state. Jnanendra had stated on the floor of the House that there were 256 instances of satellite phone usage in 2020 and 220 in 2021, which were tracked to foreign locations.

After the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, using satellite phones was banned by the Directorate General of Shipping.

TRICOLOUR RALLY



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal waves at supporters during the party's 'Triranga Yatra' car roadshow, in Mehsana, Monday.

Time to send an IAS officer to jail: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 6: Expressing displeasure that government officials were not following the orders of the High Court, a division bench of the Karnataka HC Monday made an observation that "it's time an IAS officer is sent to jail."

A single-judge bench ordered the state July 19, 2021 to issue a notification within two months of a draft amendment rules regarding merging Group-C with Group-B jobs in the various municipalities of the state.

An employees association of the Karnataka city municipality workers had filed a contempt petition as the single judge order was not followed.

The matter came up for hearing May 31, 2022 but the state gov-



ernment had failed to issue the notification.

The HC had posted the hearing to June 6 and directed Additional Chief Secretary Rakesh Singh of the Urban Development Department and MS Archana, di-

rector of Municipal Administration to be present.

Monday, both the officers were present before the division bench of the court headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.

Additional Advocate General

Dhyan Chinnappa informed the court that the draft rules have been framed and notified June 3. Objections can be filed within 15 days. An affidavit stating this was submitted to the court.

The court recorded the submission and adjourned the case by six weeks. The court also directed that the officers should be present in court on the next date of hearing too.

During the hearing Monday, the court observed that officers were not taking court orders seriously. It was because they were summoned to court that the court order was followed to an extent.

The HC said "it is time an IAS officer is sent to jail," as it made no secret of its displeasure about the behaviour of government officers not following court orders.

Beacon of hope in polarised state

Karnataka's 'five-rupee doctor' has been treating people for 4 decades

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 6: Mandya district in Karnataka may be in the news for all the wrong reasons in connection with the Jamia Masjid row, but a large number of people from the same district are more concerned about the health of the people's doctor, Dr Shankare Gowda.

He had suffered a heart attack recently. His ill health made headlines and news of his discharge was flashed by state media and celebrated by the people.

Dr Shankare Gowda, a native of Shivalli and a resident of Bandi Gowda Layout in Mandya, is known as the 'Five Rupees Doctor'.

He has been treating people for this meagre amount for four decades. Family members told IANS that he will be operated on again in another 10 to 15 days and he is responding well to the treatment.

If he attends a marriage, funeral, or other programmes, people would queue up wherever he went. People are required to go to him with a blank paper and pen. Gowda treats them irrespective of where he is.

An MBBS from Kasturba Medical College of Manipal, he has also done his Diploma in Venereology and Dermatology (DVD). He started his service at the age of 30 years. He remembers 1,500 medicines and keeps updating. He would choose the cheapest medicine for skin treatment and he won't allow medical rep-



Dr Shankare Gowda recovering from a heart attack at a hospital.

representatives who try to market costly drugs.

He attends to thousands of patients at his village and clinic in Mandya every day and charges Rs 5 for check-up, consultation, prescription and also for an injection. He also gives free medicines to those who cannot afford them.

Most of his patients are farmers who are exposed to sunlight more than anyone and are thus more prone to skin diseases.

R. Gurumurthy Harohalli, who has closely seen Shankare

Gowda's service for decades told IANS the reason for his charging only Rs 5 from patients. "The doctor started his service in 1982. He took Rs 5 as fee for consultation which was considered costly at that time. He has not hiked the amount till date. He explained that the income of farmers has not increased since then. Their income has not increased by 0.1 per cent. A petty shop owner, small vegetable vendor, and small hotelier will secure his life and make assets in 10 years. But farm-

ers are not able to," Harohalli says.

In this age, when a consultation with a doctor costs a minimum of Rs 200 to Rs 500, Gowda has vowed to give free treatment to people. "Recently he had shifted his clinic to his house. The family has started a medical store there and he has stopped taking Rs 5 also from patients these days," he said.

"The doctors association has tried its best convincing him to hike the fee. Gowda told them up-front that they have not made him study medicine and they don't have any right to question him." Talking to IANS, Lankesh MC, a family friend and social worker, said they had organised thousands of free health camps under his leadership. "The news of his ill health is not just sinking in. He is the symbol of honesty and service," Lankesh adds.

Tagganahalli Venkatesh, a relative and former ZP President, said that Shankare Gowda is the son-in-law of his village. "He could have chosen to make money at any point of time. He chose service. People are really concerned about his health. They believe that God would bless him with good health," he said.

Gowda had also contested elections as an independent candidate for the Member of Parliament seat from Mandya. He won the Zilla Panchayat elections. Till date, Gowda has treated lakhs of people irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

Over 90% land acquired for bullet train project

The Rs 1.10 lakh crore project was earlier expected to be completed by 2022, but faced land acquisition hurdles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Ahmedabad, June 6: Over 90 per cent of the total land required for the ambitious Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project spread across Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli has been acquired, the project's implementing agency NHRCL said Monday.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the progress of the project in Surat and Navsari districts of Gujarat Monday and said he was confident that the first train will start running between Surat and Bilimora in the state in 2026. The high speed bullet train is expected to cover the 508-km journey from Ahmedabad to Mumbai in 2 hours and 58 minutes, as against the current travel time of over six hours.

Out of 1,396 hectare land required for the project, 1,260.76 hectare, or 90.31 per cent, has been acquired as on June 5, said the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL), the special purpose vehicle formed to implement the project.

As per details shared by the

NHRCL in a release, 98.79 per cent of the land required for the project in Gujarat has been acquired, while in neighbouring Maharashtra, the figure stands at 71.49 per cent. Besides, all the land required for the stretch covering the Dadra and Nagar Haveli has been acquired, it said.

At 954.28 hectare, Gujarat accounts for majority of the land required for the project, covering eight districts of Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Kheda, and Ahmedabad. Of this, 942.72 hectare has been acquired, the NHRCL said. In Maharashtra, the project covers Mumbai, Thane and Palghar, requiring 433.82 hectare land, out of which 310.14 hectare has been acquired so far.

For the project stretch covering Dadra and Nagar Haveli, all the 7.90 hectare land has been acquired, the agency said.

As per the NHRCL, the construction works are in various stages on all eight stations for the bullet train project in Gujarat, and 100 per cent contracts have been

awarded for the construction on the 352-km route in the state and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

The passenger terminal hub at Sabarmati, integrating the high speed rail station, Metro, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System and two stations of the Indian Railways, is expected to be completed by August this year, it said.

There will be 12 stations along the route of the bullet train, including eight in Gujarat and four in Maharashtra. Its operational control centre will be located at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad. There will be three depots, - at Surat and Sabarmati in Gujarat and Thane in Maharashtra.

The foundation stone of the project, which received a soft loan of Rs 88,000 crore from a Japanese agency, was laid on September 14, 2017 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his then Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.

The Rs 1.10 lakh crore project was then expected to be completed by 2022, but faced land acquisition hurdles.

of the day quote

Entire Haj process has been made 100% digital/online which includes Digital Health Card, 'E-MASHIHA' health facility & 'E-luggage pre-tagging', providing all information regarding accommodation/transportation in Makkah-Madinah to Haj pilgrims in India itself

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER

According to Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, no one should work in Tribal Affairs Ministry. I appeal all the officers and staff to keep working for the tribals of our country

KIREN RIJUJI | UNION MINISTER

People from outside are not responsible for the pollution problem in Delhi. City residents need to cut down their own share of pollution

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Heroin worth ₹250 crore seized

Ahmedabad: The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Gujarat had received information that a large quantity of narcotics would be loaded in a Pakistani boat -- Al Noman -- from the Gwadar port which would land in Jakhau, Gujarat. Based on this information, teams of ATS and Coast Guard searched the Pakistani boat but found no drugs in it. After that the ATS filed a complaint against the sailors of this boat following which all the seven Pakistani nationals onboard the boat were arrested under the Foreigners Act for illegally entering India.

Ex-armyman found dead

Bhopal: Ex-armyman Braj Mohan Sharma, who had fought in the Kargil war in 1999, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his home town in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district, the police said Monday. Police recovered the retired soldier's body tied with stones and a rope from a well. In its preliminary investigation, the police suspect that Sharma was killed due to electoral rivalry as he was contesting the Zilla Panchayat elections.

Sidhu hospitalised

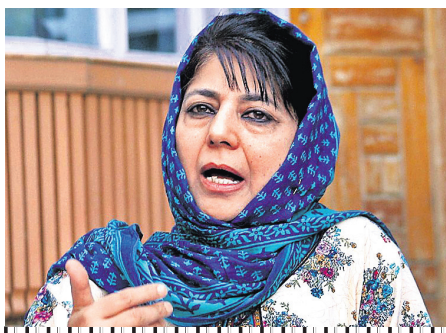
Chandigarh: Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, who is undergoing a one-year jail sentence, was Monday admitted in hepatology ward of the PGIMER in Chandigarh due to liver-related problems, a statement said. "He required further evaluation. He has been kept under observation and is stable now," Virender Singh, Head of the Department of Hepatology, said.

Man kills wife

Bhopal: A 32-year-old woman was shot dead by her husband after a feud erupted between the couple in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district early on Monday. The accused husband, Rishabh Singh Bhadoria, is a former spokesperson of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee.

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: A Pakistani LeT terrorist was killed in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces at Sopore area in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district Monday, police said. "One Pakistani terrorist affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT killed. Incriminating materials including arms and ammunition recovered," J&K police tweeted.



Is the Centre too fragile to withstand a peaceful protest by mainstream political parties in Kashmir?

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

COURT RESERVES ORDER

A Delhi court Monday reserved the order on the interim bail plea moved by Sharjeel Imam, in connection with a sedition case linked to the alleged inflammatory speeches delivered by him



Boost to India's military prowess



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: In a significant move, the defence ministry on Monday approved the procurement of military equipment and platforms worth Rs 76,390 crore from domestic industries.

The procurement proposals were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the ministry said.

For the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded approval for the procurement of next generation corvettes (NGCs) at an estimated cost of around Rs 36,000 crore, it said. These NGCs will be versatile platforms for a variety of roles namely surveillance missions, escort operations, deterrence, Surface Action Group (SAG) operations, search and attack and coastal defence.

The NGCs would be constructed based on a new in-house design of the Indian Navy, using latest technology of ship building, the ministry said in a statement.

The DAC also approved a proposal for the manufacture of Dornier aircraft and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with a focus on enhancing indigenisation. For the Indian Army, the DAC

The DAC has approved a proposal for the manufacture of Dornier aircraft and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with a focus on enhancing indigenisation

For the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded approval for the procurement of next generation corvettes (NGCs) at an estimated cost of around Rs 36,000 crore

accorded a fresh approval for the procurement of Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks (RTFLT), Bridge Laying Tanks (BLTs), Wheeled Armoured Fighting Vehicles (Wh AFVs) with Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) and Weapon Locating Radars (WLRs) through domestic sources, with an emphasis on indigenous design and development.

"In pursuance of the government's vision for digital transformation in defence, 'Digital Coast Guard' project under 'Buy' (Indian) category has been approved by the DAC," the ministry said. "Under this project, a pan-India secure network for digitising of various surface and aviation operations, logistics, finance and HR processes in Coast Guard will be established," it added.

Covid orphan gets loan recovery notices

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 6: After reports emerged of a teenage Covid orphan being troubled by loan agents for the repayment of outstanding debt left behind by her late father, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman intervened and asked officials to take up the case.

The finance minister has asked the Department of Financial Services and Life Insurance Corporation to look into the matter. "Please look into this. Also brief on the current status," Sitharaman tweeted while attaching the news report titled "Orphaned Topper Faces Loan Recovery Notices" with it.

The father of 17-year-old Vanisha Pathak from Bhopal was an LIC agent and had taken a loan from his office. Since Vanisha is a minor, LIC has blocked all her father's savings and the commissions he would get every month, as per the report. Her father died during the second wave of Covid in 2021. She had reportedly received the last legal notice on February 2, 2022, to repay Rs 29 lakh, or else would be subjected to legal consequences, the report said.

BENGAL SHOCKER

Man chops off wife's hand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 6: In a shocking case of jealousy or sheer inferiority complex, a man in West Bengal Monday chopped off his wife's hand from the wrist to prevent her from joining a state government nursing job.

The husband in question is Sher Mohammad, a resident of Ketugram in East Burdwan district and the victim is his wife, Renu Khatun. What was the worst is that he went to admit his wife at a local hospital on Monday morning after his brutal attack but concealed the severed body part at his residence to make sure that the doctors are unable to reattach it.

After admitting his wife, Sher Mohammad went absconding and soon after that, his family members too went into hiding. Local residents told the police that Renu Khatun was undergoing nursing training and was working as a nursing assistant in a private hospital at the nearby industrial town-



Locals said that since Sher Mohammad was himself unemployed, he feared that his wife would abandon him after getting the government job

ship of Durgapur. Recently, she got the state government appointment too, which made her husband irate.

Locals said that since Sher Mohammad was himself unemployed, he feared that his wife would abandon him after getting the government job. There were frequent quarrels between the couple on this count, as Sher Mohammad was insisting that she not accept the job. However, Renu Khatun did not agree.

Finally, on Monday, Sher Mohammad took the drastic action. Ripon Sekh, her elder brother, told media persons, since the time her sister got the state government appointment letter, Sher Mohammad had been insisting that she reject that offer.

"However, my sister always dreamt of pursuing a nursing career and she refused. We never knew that Sher Mohammad's feeling of 'insecurity' will take such a tragic turn," he said.

Hindi will reduce Tamils to 'shudras': DMK MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 6: Wading into the Hindi imposition row, senior DMK leader and the party's Rajya Sabha member TKS Elangovan has said the language would reduce Tamils to the status of "shudras" and claimed the Hindi-speaking States in the country were not the developed ones while those with vernacular languages as mother tongue were doing well.

Attempts are being made to "impose Manu dharma through the imposition of Hindi," Elangovan said in his remarks, that have went viral, while speaking at a conference on the language imposition issue, organised by the Dravidar Kazhagam, recently. The DMK leader, who also opposed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's pitch for Hindi, was not immediately



available for comments. "What will Hindi do? Only make us shudras. It will do no benefit to us," he said. 'Shudras' is the term used to denote the so-called lower rung in the caste hierarchy.

They are trying to destroy the culture and trying to impose Manu Dharma through Hindi...This should not be allowed...if we did, we will be slaves, shudras

TKS ELANGOVAN | DMK LEADER

Elangovan further pointed out at non-Hindi speaking West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat and asked if these states were developed or not.

"Why I am asking is Hindi is not the mother tongue of people in these states. The undeveloped states are (the Hindi-speaking) Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and the newly created ones (apparently Uttarakhnad). Why should I learn Hindi," he asked.

Alleged Hindi imposition is a sensitive subject in Tamil Nadu and the DMK had successfully used the issue to mobilise public support in the 1960s. The ruling party has of late been decrying attempts to 'impose' the language. Incidentally, the state government has even alleged that imposition of Hindi in the National Education Policy 2020 and has made it clear Tamil Nadu would only follow its two language formula -- Tamil and English - which has been in vogue in the State for decades.

Elangovan further said the Tamil pride is 2000 years old and that its culture always practised equality, including among genders. "They are trying to destroy the culture and trying to impose Manu Dharma through Hindi...This should not be allowed...if we did, we will be slaves, shudras," he said.



Children cool off in a pond on a hot day in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Waliullah gets death in Varanasi blast case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Terrorist and mastermind of the 2006 Varanasi serial bomb blasts, Waliullah Khan, was sentenced to death by a Ghaziabad court on Monday. The verdict came after over 16 years of the blasts, in which at least 20 people were reportedly killed and nearly 100 people injured.

The blasts were rocked at the Sankat Mochan temple and the cantonment railway station in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi on March 7, 2006. On Saturday, District Sessions Judge Jitendra Kumar Sinha convicted Waliullah in two cases lodged under IPC sections of murder; attempt to murder; and mutilation, and under the Explosives Act.

Hailing from Prayagraj, Waliullah, a mufti or Islamic legal authority, was arrested by police



after a case was opened and his case was taken to Ghaziabad after Varanasi lawyers refused to protect him. He faced trial in three cases, which included six cases registered at Lanka and Dashashwamedh police stations and the Government Railway Police precinct in Varanasi.

HARDIK CHANGES TONE

AHMEDABAD: 'The Taming of the Shrew' is a comedy by William Shakespeare which details how considerations determine choices. An updated version of it was scripted in Gujarat last week when the roaring reservation stir lion, Hardik Patel turned a timid, self-confessed squirrel to eat crow.

He had flailed violently against the BJP in 2015, even forced out its Patidar-led government. Seven years later, he was a pale reminder of his rebellious self as he pleaded for entry into the very same party and after being told 'you are in queue, please wait' was finally admitted in, June 2 at a cold-pressed event.

There are two clear characteristics that define Narendra Modi's rise and sustained success. He guards his citadel and fine tunes his politics to a fault while Home Minister Amit Shah maintains a

hawk-like vigil. Though nowhere on the scene, Modi's imprint on the entire gamut of 'rebel' affairs is clearly visible. There were three youthful pillars of the so-called insurrection that brought down the Anandiben Patel-led BJP government in 2016. They were Patidar pro-quota leader Hardik Patel, OBC leader Alpesh Thakore and Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani. Two of the three had joined the Congress while the third chose to remain independent backed by it.

As of date, two of these three leaders are now part of the furnishings in the Gujarat BJP's tapestry. Alpesh was the first to join after resigning from the party and the State Assembly to contest afresh as a BJP candidate, only to

lose. He is sparsely seen and rarely heard thereafter. Hardik began making all the right noises after the enormity of the acts of violence during the Patidar agitation and



the implications of the over two dozen cases including two of sedition filed against him (alongside others) were spelled out to him. He shifted shop June 2 pledging to be a loyal soldier of Narendrabhai's

army and being like the squirrel which contributed to the construction of the Ram Setu.

If he was seeking to wipe away the bitter memories of an agitation which had cost the party dearly, he miserably failed. Questioned by the media in the interaction thereafter on the responsibility devolving from the acts of violence and destruction during the stir, Hardik put his foot in his mouth attributing it to anti-socials. Popular anger was clearly visible as the social media came alive with disparaging remarks and replay of the clips of his name-calling speeches that had viciously targeted the Prime Minister, Shah as well as the state BJP leaders. And this is the masterstroke

of Modi. In common perception, the two firebrands are now no more than men of clay whose political aspirations rather than popular welfare guided their past actions.

If Hardik was hoping to be inducted into the party at the hands of the Prime Minister, he was living in a fool's paradise. In fact, in his last engagement May 28 when he inaugurated a hospital built by the Patel Sewa Samaj at Atkot near Rajkot, Prime Minister Modi turned it into a direct reach-out to the Patidar community, cutting through the clutter of assorted community leaders. The BJP pulled out all stops and 1,200 road transport corporation buses besides 350 school buses were mobilised to bring people for the event from all over Saurashtra.

Saurashtra is a politically volatile region. The PM's rally

was not meant to merely re-affirm that the Patidars continue to solidly back the BJP but also to send out a message to the discontented within the set-up to mend their ways. The replacement of Vijay Rupani and his entire Cabinet last September had led to a lot of heart burn, particularly among the Congress defectors who had been accommodated in the Cabinet and left out in the cold thereafter.

In fact, the Congress had made impressive gains in Saurashtra in the 2017 elections winning 28 of the total 48 seats, up 13 seats from 2012 with the BJP being pulled down 11 seats to 19. It rejoiced for denting the Patidar vote-bank of the BJP and rewarded Hardik, the Patel quota crusader with a working vice-presidency of the party in Gujarat. Hardik quit and is now a Modi man.

international



As I understand it, the Russian government has mentioned the variant of severing diplomatic relations. We can't just break off diplomatic relations and stop talking to each other. We must preserve the ability to speak to each other
JOHN J. SULLIVAN | US AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA

WORLD'S BIGGEST TRIAL ON FOR 4-DAY WEEK

More than 3,300 workers at 70 UK companies start working a four-day week from Monday for six months with no loss of pay in the world's biggest trial of the new working pattern



of the day quote

The next couple of months will be the most difficult ones of our lives. We must prepare ourselves to make some sacrifices and face the challenges of this period
RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | PM, SRI LANKA

I will do my best and give every ounce of my strength to serve Singapore and Singaporeans. In turn, I seek your support, as I take on my latest appointment as DPM, and take another step forward in embracing my new responsibilities
LAWRENCE WONG | FINANCE MINISTER, SINGAPORE

Some are casting aspersions about me and money. I have never stolen money from anywhere, be it from our taxpayers; be it from anywhere; and I will never do so. My integrity as a leader will never allow me to do so
CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

SHORT TAKES

Biden to appear on US talk show

Washington: Another sign America's entertainment landscape is returning to normal: President Joe Biden will make his first in-person appearance on a late-night talk show since taking office. Biden will be a guest Wednesday night on ABC's 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' the White House said. Kimmel tweeted Sunday: 'Our very elected President @JoeBiden visits @JimmyKimmelLive Wednesday night. No malarkey.'

Man charged in needle attacks

Paris: French prosecutors have charged a 20-year-old man in southern France in connection with a fresh spate of needle attacks that have mystified police and alarmed authorities since the start of the year. The man was detained and charged Sunday, two days after around 20 people reported needle injuries during the filming of a televised concert on a Riviera beach in Toulon Friday evening. One woman was hospitalised and police had to be called in after reports of the stabbings caused panic in the crowd.

Alex heads for Bermuda area

San Juan: Bermuda shuttered its schools, businesses and government agencies as Tropical Storm Alex headed for a brush with the British overseas territory Monday after killing three people in Cuba and deluging parts of Florida. The first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season had grown to near hurricane force late Sunday, reaching 70 mph (110 kph), but weakened a bit Monday morning on a track just north of Bermuda.

Nigeria Church attack claims 21

Lagos: Gunmen who attacked a Catholic church Sunday with explosives in southwest Nigeria killed at least 21 worshippers, including some children, local officials said. The violence in St Francis Catholic Church in Owo town during a Sunday service prompted international condemnation after a rare attack in Nigeria's usually safer southwestern region. Richard Olatunde, spokesman for the Ondo State governor's office, told AFP that dynamite exploded inside the church before gunmen opened fire.

Nepal Army collects 33 tonne of waste from 4 mountains

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kathmandu, June 6: Teams led by the Nepal Army have collected over 33 tonne of wastes, including human skeletons, from Mount Everest and three other peaks in a two-month-long cleaning campaign. The cleaning teams involving a total of 92 individuals started their work April 5 on Everest, Mount Lhoitse, Mount Kanchenjunga and Mount Manaslu, which attract

climbers from around the world each year, reports Xinhua news agency. "Our teams collected 33,877 kg of wastes from the four mountains along with skeletons of two human bodies," Himansu Khadka, a Nepal Army Brigadier General, said at a press conference.

The cleaning teams had sorted out biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes, which weighed 7,227 kg and 26,650 kg respectively, and the skeletons re-



covered from the base camp of Kanchenjunga were handed over to Taplejung district police for identification and cremation.

RESPONSE TO NK

US, S KOREA FIRE MISSILES

AGENCIES

Seoul, June 6: The US and South Korean militaries launched eight ballistic missiles into the sea Monday in a show of force matching a North Korean missile display a day earlier that extended a provocative streak in weapons demonstrations.

The allies' live-fire exercise involved eight Army Tactical Missile System missiles — one American and seven South Korean — that were fired into South Korea's eastern waters around 10 minutes following notifications for air and maritime safety, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and US Forces Korea.

The tit-for-tat missile launches were aimed at demonstrating the ability to respond swiftly and accurately to North Korean attacks, the South Korean military said.

The South's military Sunday detected North Korea firing eight short-range missiles over 35 minutes from at least four different locations, including from western and eastern coastal areas and two inland areas north of and near the capital, Pyongyang, in what appeared to be a single-day record for the country's ballistic launches.

REMARKS ON PROPHET

India faces flak from Muslim nations

AGENCIES

Dubai, June 6: Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Jordan, Bahrain and Afghanistan Monday joined several Muslim nations to condemn the controversial remarks of a BJP leader against Prophet Mohammad, stressing the importance of respecting all religious beliefs.

In a statement, Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs ministry expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the statements made by the BJP spokesperson, saying it insulted Prophet Mohammad.

The ministry reiterated its "permanent rejection of prejudice against the symbols of the Islamic religion." It also rejected anything that gives rise to prejudice against "all religious figures and symbols."

While welcoming the measures taken by the BJP to suspend the spokeswoman, the ministry reaffirmed the "Kingdom's position calling for respect for beliefs and religions". In a separate statement, the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina Monday condemned the "insulting statements" made by the spokesperson of the BJP against the Prophet. Indonesia, the most populous



Shelves having Indian products were covered with plastic sheets. Printed signs in Arabic read: "We have removed Indian products"

Muslim nation in the world, also strongly condemned what it called "unacceptable derogatory remarks" against the Prophet by two Indian politicians. "This message has been conveyed to Indian Ambassador in Jakarta," the Indonesian Foreign Ministry tweeted.

The United Arab Emirates also condemned the controversial statements, expressing its denunciation and rejection of insulting the Prophet. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) affirmed the UAE's firm rejection of all practices and behaviours that contradict moral

and human values and principles. Jordan also "condemned in the strongest terms" the offensive remarks of the BJP leader, who has been suspended from party's primary membership.

Pakistan said Monday that it has summoned the Indian chargé d'affaires to convey its categorical rejection and condemnation of the controversial remarks.

In New Delhi, the BJP Sunday suspended its national spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled its Delhi media head Naveen Kumar Jindal after their controversial remarks against the Prophet. Amid protests by Muslim groups

over the remarks, the party also issued a statement aimed at assuaging the concerns of minorities and distancing itself from these members, asserting that it respects all religions and strongly denounces the insult of any religious personality. Bahrain's foreign affairs ministry welcomed the decision of the BJP to suspend the party's spokeswoman, stressing "the need to denounce any reprehensible insults against the Prophet Muhammad PBUH, as a provocation to Muslims' feelings and incitement to religious hatred."

The interim Afghan government, led by the Taliban, strongly condemned the derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammad, Pajhwok News, Afghanistan's largest independent news agency said. The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Nayef Falah Al Hajraf, also condemned, rejected and denounced the statements made by the spokesperson of the BJP against the Prophet.

The GCC is a regional, inter-governmental, political, and economic union that consists of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Millions of Indians work in GCC countries.

Pak lawmaker warns suicide attack if Imran Khan is harmed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 6: A Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party lawmaker loyal to former Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday threatened to target the current rulers of the country with a suicide attack if his leader was harmed. Attaullah, elected from Karachi in 2018 on the symbol of PTI, posted a video clip on Twitter to make clear his intention in case Khan was harmed.

"If a single hair on Imran Khan's head is harmed, then those running the country be warned. Neither you nor your children will remain. I will be the first to carry out a suicide attack on you, I will not let you go. In the same way, thousands of workers are ready," Attaullah said in the video message. Attaullah is a lawyer by profession and an ardent supporter of Khan.

Khan, who was ousted from power in April through a no-trust vote, has been claiming that the no-trust motion against him was the result of a "foreign conspiracy" because his independent foreign policy and funds were being channelled from abroad to oust him from power. He has named the US as the country behind the conspiracy, a charge denied by Washington. His supporters have warned of threat to his life and then information minister Fawad Chaudhry in the beginning of April had disclosed that a plot to assassinate Khan had been reported by security agencies.

10 KILLED IN 4 US SHOOTINGS THIS WEEKEND

AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE

Philadelphia, June 6: At least 10 people were killed and more than two dozen wounded in four shootings across the United States this weekend, as lawmakers struggle to respond to the country's long-running epidemic of gun violence.

The shootings came after a spate of mass killings that have sparked renewed calls for reform of the nation's gun laws.

An eruption of violence in Chattanooga, Tennessee Sunday resulted in 14 people being shot, including two killed, while another person died and two more were injured after they were struck by vehicles fleeing the scene, police chief Celeste Murphy said, adding several victims remained in critical condition. The pre-dawn incident occurred near a nightclub.

In Philadelphia Saturday, two men and a woman were killed when multiple people opened fire on a crowd at a popular south street nightlife area.

Philadelphia police commissioner Danielle Outlaw said one of the victims got into a fight with another man, which could have been the cause of the shooting. The two others were innocent bystanders, she told reporters.

In Saginaw, Michigan, three people were killed and two others wounded in a shooting Sunday, mlive.com and Weyi television reported, citing police. And in Clarendon County, South Carolina, five teens and a 12-year-old were among seven people wounded in a shooting at a graduation party Saturday that killed one adult, police said in a statement.

UK TO GIFT CUTTING-EDGE ROCKET SYSTEMS TO KYIV



ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, June 6: The UK will gift multiple-launch rocket systems to Ukraine to help the country defend itself against Russian aggression, the country's Defence Secretary announced Monday.

The cutting edge M270 weapon system, which the UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) said can strike targets up to 80 kilometres away with "pinpoint accuracy", will offer a significant boost in defence capability for the Ukrainian forces.

The MoD said its decision has been coordinated closely with the US decision to gift the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)

variant of Multiple-Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS).

Alongside the weapon system, the UK will also supply M31A1 munitions at scale.

"The UK stands with Ukraine in this fight and is taking a leading role in supplying its heroic troops with the vital weapons they need to defend their country from unprovoked invasion," said UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.

"If the international community continues its support, I believe Ukraine can win. As Russia's tactics change, so must our support to Ukraine. These highly capable multiple-launch rocket systems will enable our Ukrainian

All this fuss around additional deliveries of weapons, in my opinion, has only one goal: to drag out the armed conflict as much as possible
VLADIMIR PUTIN

friends to better protect themselves against the brutal use of long-range artillery, which (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's forces have used indiscriminately to flatten cities," he said.

The minister's decision comes in response to requests from Ukrainian forces for longer range precision weapons in order to defend themselves from the Russian heavy artillery, which has been used to devastating effect in the eastern Donbas region of Ukraine.

Ukrainian troops will be trained on how to use the launchers in the UK, so that they can maximise the effectiveness of the systems.

Britain previously announced that Ukrainian personnel would be trained to use a variety of armoured vehicles which the UK donated, including Mastiff, Husky and Wolfhound.

B'desh blaze battle runs into third day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, June 6: Bangladeshi firefighters were Monday struggling to douse the devastating container depot fire that killed over 40 people and injured nearly 300 even as an initial probe found that the private facility in the port city of Chittagong stored hazardous chemicals close to the export-bound garment products.

A massive fire broke out at the chemical container depot, a Bangladesh-Dutch joint venture, near the country's main Chittagong Seaport Saturday night. The number of fatalities is likely to go up as some of the injured are in critical condition.

TV footage showed smoke billowing out of the BM Container Depot in Sitakunda, on the outskirts of the port city. Official investigations were underway with the authorities constituting separate committees to probe the tragedy but the fire brigade said that its initial observations found that the depot had minimal safety equipment like hydrants.

Fire officials alleged that the



management of the container facility did not inform rescuers about the presence of chemicals, which could have saved many lives, including those of firefighters.

A journalist who is covering the salvage operations told PTI by phone that the entire depot site 21 acres of land now "looks like a war devastated area".

Some containers were still emitting smoke over 41 hours after the eruption of fire along with a series of subsequent explosions shattering the windows of buildings in the neighbourhood.

Police and media reports Sunday suggested that the fire and explosions killed 49 people, including nine firefighters, but authorities were revising the figure, saying their latest tally found the toll to be 41. Nearly 300 people were wounded in the fire.

Musk aims to build Starships to transport life to Mars

THE BILLIONAIRE MONDAY SAID HIS SPACE VENTURE SPACEX AIMS TO BUILD OVER 1,000 STARSHIPS TO TRANSPORT LIFE TO MARS
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, June 6: Billionaire Elon Musk Monday said his space venture SpaceX aims to build over 1,000 Starships to transport life to Mars. The Tesla CEO stated that mak-

ing life multiplanetary will help backup the ecosystems on Earth. He added that apart from humans no other species can transport life to Mars.

Referring to Biblical patriarch Noah who built an Ark that survived the great flood on Earth, Musk said his Starship models will be modern Noah's Arks, that can save life from a calamity on Earth.

Making life multiplanetary expands the scope & scale of consciousness. It also enables us to backup the biosphere, protecting all life as we know it from a calamity on Earth, he tweeted.

Humanity is life's steward, as no other species can transport life to Mars. We can't let them down, he added. When a user asked Musk what's the plan, he replied Build



1000+ Starships to transport life to Mars. Basically, (very) modern Noah's Arks.

SpaceX is developing Starship to take people and cargo to the moon,

Mars and beyond. The vehicle consists of two elements a first-stage booster called Super Heavy and an upper-stage spacecraft known as Starship.

NASA selected the vehicle to be the first crewed lunar lander for its Artemis programme, which aims to put astronauts on the moon in the next few years

Starship and Super Heavy are both designed to be completely and rapidly reusable, and both will be powered by SpaceX's new Raptor engine - 33 for Super Heavy and six for Starship. Musk earlier said that Mars settlement and deep space exploration will see reduced costs due to its reusability. NASA also sees considerable

promise in Starship. The US space agency selected the vehicle to be the first crewed lunar lander for its Artemis programme, which aims to put astronauts on the moon in the next few years.

However, the Starship programme has not yet been given a green signal by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA, last week, delayed the completion of its environmental review of the Starship by another two weeks to June 13.

While SpaceX has conducted a number of high-altitude test flights of Starship prototypes at Starbase site in South Texas, its plan to launch the system's first-ever orbital test mission needs approval from the FAA and a host of other regulatory bodies.



The company is aiming at green mining options and planning to increase its underground output

PRAMOD AGRAWAL
CHAIRMAN, COAL INDIA

'NO PLAN TO CHANGE GANDHI'S FACE FROM NOTES'

Dismissing reports, the Reserve Bank Monday said there is no proposal to replace the face of Mahatma Gandhi with that of others on currency notes. In a statement, the central bank said there are reports in certain sections of the media that the Reserve Bank of India is considering changes to the existing currency and banknotes by replacing the face of Mahatma Gandhi with that of others



of the day **note**

There is adequate availability of urea in the country. We have urea stocks to meet domestic requirements till December. We do not need to import till December

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS MINISTER

Digital technologies have advanced faster than any other innovation in human history. MGVerse is a step forward where users can interact with visualised data, just like in the real world

GAURAV GUPTA | CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER, MG MOTOR

Harnessing renewable energy is the need of the hour. We are committed to the Government's vision of making India rich in the use of renewable energy sources

HISASHI TAKEUCHI | MD AND CEO, MSI

OVER FAKE-ACCOUNT DATA

Musk warns to walk away from Twitter deal

REUTERS

Washington, June 6: Elon Musk may walk away from his \$44 billion deal to acquire Twitter Inc if the social media network fails to provide data on spam and fake accounts, the billionaire warned in a letter to the company Monday.

Twitter was in a "clear material breach" of its obligations and that Musk reserves all rights to terminate the merger agreement, the letter said. This is the first time Musk has threatened to walk away from the deal in writing as opposed to airing it on



Twitter's social media platform. Twitter had previously downplayed Musk's warning that the deal was "on hold", arguing that the data would help him prepare for his ownership of

Twitter, not to carry out due diligence and reopen negotiations.

Earlier in March, Musk said he would put the deal "temporarily on hold", while he waits for the social media company to provide data on the proportion of its fake accounts.

"Musk believes Twitter is transparently refusing to comply with its obligations under the merger agreement, which is causing further suspicion that the company is withholding the requested data," according to the letter.

A self-proclaimed free-speech absolutist, Musk has questioned the ac-

curacy of Twitter's public filings about spam accounts representing less than 5% of its user base, claiming they must be at least 20%.

"Musk is clearly entitled to the requested data to enable him to prepare for transitioning Twitter's business to his ownership and to facilitate his transaction financing," his lawyers said in the letter.

Musk has said that he has lined up financing for the deal, through equity and loans, pulling in top shareholders including Saudi Arabian investor Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and Sequoia Capital.

MPC meet: Liquidity withdrawal expected

RETAIL PRICES IN APRIL WERE 7.79% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER, EXCEEDING THE RBI'S TOLERANCE BAND FOR INFLATION OF 2% TO 6% FOR A FOURTH MONTH IN A ROW. INFLATION IS EXPECTED TO STAY HIGH IN THE NEAR FUTURE

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 6: Measures to tighten liquidity are expected to accompany a rise in Indian interest rates Wednesday, adding upward pressure to bond yields and increasing the need for central bank measures to support government borrowing.

The rise in interest rates is not in doubt, because the governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said May 23 that the decision would be a "no brainer".

Economists polled by Reuters expect a rise of 25 to 75 basis points. It will follow a 40-basis-point rise in May that kicked off the central bank's tightening cycle, which economists expect to be relatively short.

"A hike at this week's RBI... policy meeting is a foregone conclusion," said Radhika Rao, senior economist at DBS Bank.

"Inflation has proved to be persistently high in the past three years, even as drivers have changed - from supply bottlenecks to commodities and re-



opening pressures," she added.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said late last month the bank's primary focus was to bring inflation down closer to target but it could not disregard concerns around economic growth.

Analysts also expect the RBI to reduce liquidity, reinforcing its fight against inflation and extending its effort to return monetary conditions to what they

THE BENCHMARK 10-YEAR YIELD HAS ALREADY RISEN MORE THAN 100 BASIS POINTS IN 2022

GOV'T RAISING ITS BORROWING REQUIREMENT WITH FISCAL MEASURES TO HOLD DOWN INFLATION

I expect a rate hike between 35-50 basis points in the June policy. Based on inflation data and external factors, including oil and commodity prices, expect a total of 100 to 150 bps increase in repo rate from the current 4.4 per cent

SHANTI EKAMBARAM | GROUP PRESIDENT, MPC

RBI comes out with provisioning norms for large NBFCs

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday came out with a set of norms for provisioning for standard assets by large Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in view of the increasing role played by such entities in the financial system. In a circular Monday, the central bank specified rates of provision for outstanding loans extended by 'NBFC-Upper Layer'. In case of individual housing loans and loans to Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs), the rate of provision has been specified at 0.25 per cent and for housing loans extended at teaser rates, it has been fixed at 2 per cent. The latter will decrease to 0.4 per cent after 1 year from the date on which the rates are raised. For Commercial Real Estate - Residential Housing (CRE - RH) sector, the rate of provision is 0.75 per cent, and for CRE, other than residential housing, it will be 1 per cent.

Auto retail sales in slow lane in May, says FADA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Retail sales of passenger vehicles grew last month but the sales of two-wheeler and commercial vehicles remained low compared to the pre-Covid month of May 2019, according to automobile dealers' body FADA.

Monday, FADA said that overall auto retails stood at 16,46,773 units in May, down from 18,22,900 units in May 2019.

"May 2022 retails when compared to May 2019 reveal that sales are still not on a growth trajectory as overall retails were down by 10 per cent. While PV and tractors continued its positive run... Two-wheeler, three-wheeler and CV sales are yet to show any signs of healthy run-rate," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Vinkesh Gulati said.

While a Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) comparison with May 2021 shows an exceptionally healthy growth rate across all categories, it is important to note that both May 2021 and May 2020 were affected by nationwide lockdown due to the COVID pandemic, he stated.

According to him, a better com-



The retails in Covid-hit May 2021 and May 2020 stood at 86,479 units and 31,951 units, respectively

parison will be with May 2019 which was a normal pre-COVID month.

Last month, the Passenger Vehicle (PV) retail sales stood at 2,63,152 units. This was 11 per cent higher compared to 2,36,215 units sold in May 2019.

The commercial vehicle sales stood at 66,632 units last month, up from 17,607 units in May last year. It, however, remained low as compared to 75,238 units in May 2019.

Similarly, three-wheeler sales remained muted last month at 41,508 compared with 51,446 units in May 2019. In May last year, the retail sales stood at 5,215 units.

Trade with GCC nations increasing at rapid pace

India's trade with Gulf nations has come into prominence after a diplomatic row over derogatory comments made by the ruling BJP's spokespersons against Prophet Muhammad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: India's bilateral trade with all the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), including the UAE and Saudi Arabia, has risen significantly in 2021-22 on account of increasing economic ties between the two regions.

India's exports to the GCC have increased by 58.26 per cent to about \$44 billion in 2021-22 against \$27.8 billion in 2020-21, according to data of the commerce ministry. The share of these six countries in India's total exports has risen to 10.4 per cent in 2021-22 from 9.51 per cent in 2020-21.

Similarly, imports rose by 85.8 per cent to \$110.73 billion compared to \$59.6 billion in 2020-21, the data showed. The share of GCC members in India's total imports rose



to 18 per cent in 2021-22 from 15.5 per cent in 2020-21.

The GCC was established in May 1981. Its members are Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

The top five product categories which were exported from India to GCC countries during 2021-22 included petroleum products; pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; premium metals and articles of imitation jewellery; electrical machinery and equipment; sound recorders and reproducers; television image and sound recorders; iron and steel; and organic chemicals.

The main imported goods included petroleum products, premium metals, imitation jewellery, fertilisers, chemicals and plastics.

TRADE DATA

Saudi Arabia: It was the fourth-largest trading partner last fiscal. Total bilateral trade has increased to about \$43bn in 2021-22 from \$22bn in the previous fiscal.

Qatar: India imports 8.5 million tonne a year of LNG from Qatar and exports products ranging from cereals to meat, fish, chemicals, and plastics. Two-way commerce between India and Qatar rose to \$15bn from \$9.21bn YoY.

Kuwait: It was the 27th largest trading partner of India in the last fiscal. Bilateral trade has jumped to \$12.3bn as compared to \$6.3bn YoY.

UAE: It was the third-largest trading partner of India in 2021-22. India's bilateral trade with the nation increased to \$72.9bn as compared to \$43.3bn YoY.

Oman: It was the 31st largest trading partner of India in 2021-22. India's bilateral trade with the nation has increased to about \$10 billion in 2021-22 as compared to \$5.5 billion in 2020-21.

Bahrain: Two-way commerce with India stood at \$1.65bn in 2021-22 as against \$1 bn in 2020-21.

May gold imports plunge 677% YoY

IN VALUE TERMS, MAY IMPORTS SURGED TO \$5.83 BILLION FROM \$678 MILLION A YEAR AGO

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 6: India's gold imports in May jumped 677% from a year ago to the highest level in a year as correction in prices just before a key festival and wedding season boosted retail jewellery purchases, a government source said Monday.

Higher imports by the world's second-biggest bullion consumer could support benchmark gold prices, but the surge could increase India's trade deficit and put pressure on ailing rupee.

India imported 101 tonne of gold in May, compared to 13 tonne a year earlier, the source said Monday on condition of anonymity as he is not authorised to speak to media.

"Retail consumers were waiting for price correction. As prices corrected during Akshaya Tritiya festival, they rushed to jewellery shops," said Harshad Ajmera, the proprietor of JJ Gold House, a wholesaler in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata.

Buying gold is considered auspicious during the annual Hindu and Jain festival, celebrated in the first week of May.

Local gold futures fell to Rs 49,572 per 10 grams in May, the lowest in



nearly three months.

Demand for gold was also improved last month because of wedding season as lots of weddings were postponed to 2022 from the last year because of restrictions imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19 infections, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a private bullion importing bank.

Gold is an essential part of the bride's dowry in India and also a popular gift from family and guests at weddings.

India's gold imports in June could fall below 60 tonne as demand has started to falter due to the recent rebound in prices, the dealer said.

Global wheat prices jump after India export ban, Ukraine war

Last month, India announced that it was banning wheat exports in a bid to check high prices amid concerns of wheat output being hit by the scorching heat wave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, June 6: The price of wheat has jumped in the international markets after India announced a ban on the export of the staple cereal and due to the reduced production prospects in Ukraine following the Russian invasion, the UN food agency has said.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Price Index averaged 157.4 points in May 2022, down 0.6 per cent from April.

The index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of a basket of commonly-traded food commodities, however, re-

mained 22.8 per cent higher than in May 2021.

The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 173.4 points in May, up 3.7 points (2.2 per cent) from April and as much as 39.7 points (29.7 per cent) above its May 2021 value.

"International wheat prices rose for a fourth consecutive month, up 5.6 per cent in May, to average 56.2 per cent above their value last year and only 11 per cent below the record high reached in March 2008," it said Friday.

"The steep increase in wheat prices was in response to an export ban announced by India amidst concerns over crop conditions in



several leading exporting countries, as well as reduced production prospects in Ukraine because of the war," it said.

In contrast, international coarse grain prices declined by 2.1 per cent in May but remained 18.1 per cent above their value a year ago. Slightly improved crop condi-

cessive month in May.

Quotations strengthened in all the major market segments, but monthly increases were least pronounced (2.6 per cent) for the most widely traded India varieties, amid ample supplies, especially in India, it said.

The FAO Sugar Price Index declined by 1.1 per cent from April, as a bumper crop in India buoyed global availability prospects.

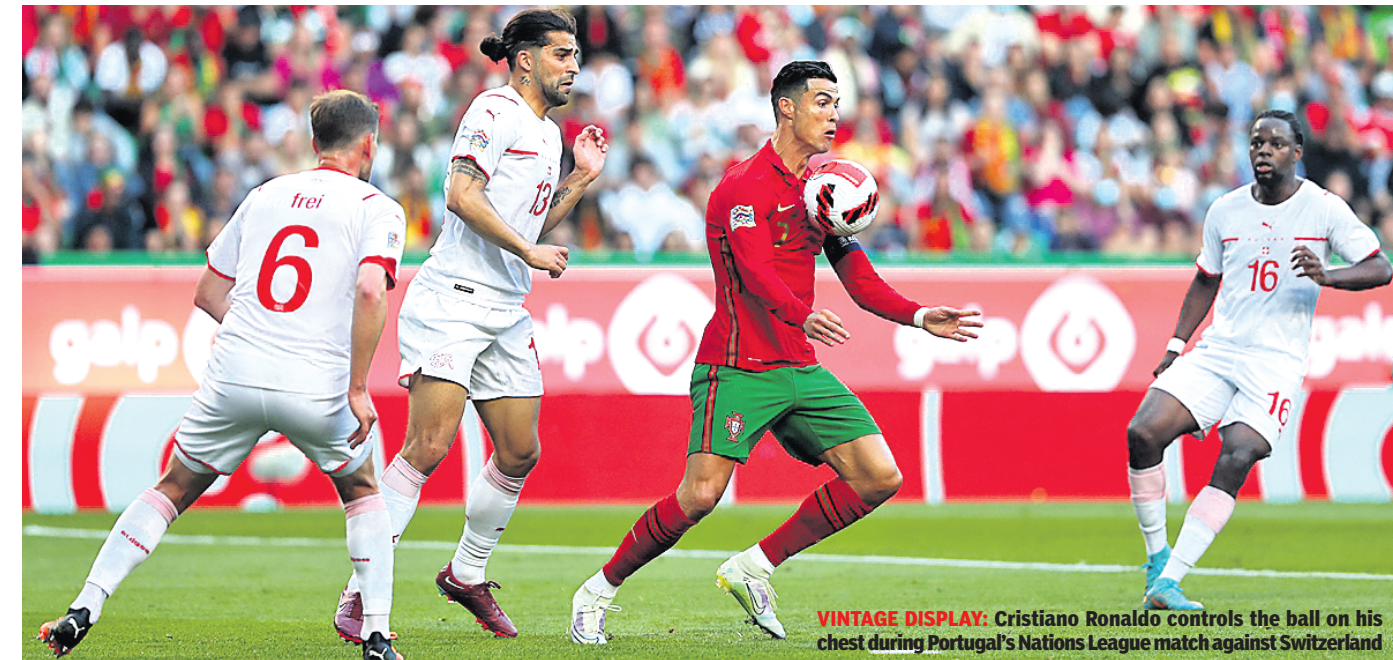
The weakening of the Brazilian real against the US dollar, along with lower ethanol prices resulted in further downward pressure on world sugar prices.

"The FAO Sugar Price Index averaged 120.3 points in May down 1.3 points (1.1 per cent) from April, marking the first decline after sharp increases registered in the previous two months," the agency said.

Cyient to acquire Celfinet for ₹340cr

New Delhi: IT solutions provider Cyient will acquire Portugal-based wireless engineering services firm Celfinet for 41 million euro (about Rs 340 crore) in an all-cash deal, the Hyderabad-headquartered company said Monday. Cyient will pay 65 per cent of the deal amount upfront and the remaining 35 per cent as an earnout over two years, subject to business performance.

CR7 brace lifts Portugal



VINTAGE DISPLAY: Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball on his chest during Portugal's Nations League match against Switzerland

Haaland extends goals tally for Norway, while Gavi opens his international scoring account, breaking Barcelona teammate Ansu Fati's record for the youngest on scoresheet for Spain

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, June 6: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his world record-extending 116th and 117th goals for Portugal. Erling Haaland got his 17th and 18th at a faster rate for Norway. Gavi opened his Spain account at age 17. Ronaldo had gone five games and nearly nine months without an international goal until Portugal routed Switzerland 4-0 in the Nations League Sunday. After scoring twice in four first-half minutes, Ronaldo missed two more good chances before half-time, had a goal disallowed for a late offside flag and forced Swiss goalkeeper Gregor Kobel into two good saves late in a lopsided League A game between World Cup-bound teams in Lisbon. It's now 117 goals in 188 international games for the 37-year-old Ronaldo heading to his fifth World Cup in November. Portugal is in a group with South Korea, Uruguay and Ghana.

Erling Haaland has 18 goals in 19 games for Norway after scoring twice in a 2-1 win at Sweden in League B to show why the 21-year-old forward might be the biggest talent missing in Qatar. There was a first international goal for teenage Gavi in an eighth international game for Barcelona's latest midfield prospect, and Spain drew 2-2 at the Czech Republic in League A. Gavi's curling left-foot shot between two defenders in first-half stoppage time in Prague leveled a fourth-minute opener for the Czech Republic by Jakub Pešek.

At the age of 17 years and 304 days Gavi broke the record set in 2020 by his Barcelona teammate Ansu Fati who found the net for Spain at the age of 17 years and 311 days.

The Czechs led again when Jan Kuchta scored in the 66th with an audacious chip over advancing goalkeeper Unai Simon. Spain drew level, again late, when Inigo Martinez's 90th-minute header was checked to have crossed the goal-line.

Portugal now leads top-tier Group 2 with four points after drawing 1-1 at Spain Thursday. Switzerland has now lost three games and drawn one in 2022 and it gets no easier hosting Spain and Portugal in Geneva next week.

The Swiss had an apparent goal ruled out early on, for a handball spotted on video review, before Portugal led in the 14th. William Carvalho reacted to a loose ball after Kobel parried Ronaldo's free kick that was deflected.

Ronaldo scored with an emphatic

shot when the ball was laid back to him by Diogo Jota, then pounced on a close-range rebound after Kobel saved from Jota.

LEAGUE B

Two prolific scorers were on the mark in Group 4 for leader Norway and second-place Serbia. Haaland, whose penalty beat Serbia Thursday scored again from the spot in the first half at Sweden. He extended the lead in the 69th, advancing to score with an angled shot.

Serbia won 4-1 against visiting Slovenia, and Aleksandar Mitrovic opened the scoring midway through the first half. It was a 45th international goal in 73 games for the 27-year-old Fulham forward.

Mitrovic's previous goal for Serbia was in November when his 90th-minute winner in Portugal sent Serbia to the World Cup and put Ronaldo and his teammates into the playoffs. Serbia is in a

World Cup group with Brazil, Switzerland and Cameroon.

LEAGUES C & D

Greece leads third-tier Group 2 after a second straight 1-0 win for coach Gus Poyet's team, this time at Kosovo. In the same group, Cyprus drew 0-0 with Northern Ireland. In Group 4, Georgia leads with six points after winning 5-2 at Bulgaria. North Macedonia trails Georgia by two points after its 2-0 win at Gibraltar. There was one game Sunday in the seven-nation tier in League D. Malta won 2-0 at San Marino.



HOGGING LIMELIGHT: Gavi (in white) and Erling Haaland react after scoring for Spain and Norway, respectively



THE DRAGONS BREAK UKRAINE HEARTS TO END 64-YEAR WAIT FOR WORLD CUP RETURN

Gareth 'Bales' out Wales of curse

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cardiff, June 6: Weeks of back spasms were not going to stop Gareth Bale's mission to lead Wales back to the World Cup. Try stopping the captain taking to the field when there is a 64-year drought to end.

Try stopping a free-kick from a forward who was once the world's costliest footballer: Ukraine winger Andriy Yarmolenko could only divert it into his own net with a header.

The 1-0 win over war-disrupted Ukraine Sunday, secured in the 34th minute in the Cardiff downpour, was enough to send Wales back to the World Cup as the country with the longest gap between qualifications for the FIFA showpiece.

"It's the greatest result in the history of Welsh football," Bale said. "I'm just delighted we are going to a World Cup. It means everything, it's what dreams are made of. I'm speechless. I'm so glad we've done it for these amazing fans."

Bale was one of those spectators for the remaining 10 minutes or so after being substituted when his body could offer no more.

The trip to Qatar gives Bale — British soccer's most decorated foreign export at Real Madrid — a chance to finally play on the sport's biggest stage. But the five-time Champions League winner is without a club for next season after being released by Madrid. While saying he has "loads" of offers, the 32-year-old free agent had been coy about his playing future.

Now there is a new club to find to stay match fit for the November 21 World Cup opener against the



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Gareth Bale (L) is delighted, while his teammates celebrate Wales' World Cup qualification

United States. Then there is Iran and England to play in Group B. The Welsh also played their neighbors at the 2016 European Championship when they lost to England in the group stage.

But Wales did go further than England at Euro 2016 in France, reaching the semifinals where Cristiano Ronaldo led Portugal to victory and then the title. Another soccer great knocked out Wales at the 1968 World Cup, with Pele netting the only goal in eventual champion Brazil's quarterfinal win.

Wales did contest a third tournament last year, returning to the European Championship and los-

ing to Denmark in the round of 16. Now Doha is the destination for Wales, which is more accustomed to featuring at Rugby World Cups, having qualified for all nine editions. Thanks most of all to goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey who thwarted nine shots on target to prevent Ukraine scoring.

This qualification has been achieved with coaching uncertainty. Robert Page stepped up to lead the team on a temporary basis in early 2021 with Ryan Giggs still out of the management job while awaiting trial on charges of domestic violence. Now Page is set to lead the team in Qatar.

MESSI NETS FIVE, OVERTAKES PUSKAS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pamplona (Spain), June 6: Lionel Messi scored five goals for Argentina for the first time in a 5-0 rout of Estonia in a friendly match in Spain, becoming the fourth-highest scorer for a national team in men's football.

Messi scored twice in the first half, including from a penalty kick, and three times after the interval to reach 86 international goals. He moved past the 84 goals of former Hungary great Ferenc Puskas.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo tops the list with 117 goals — including two Sunday as Portugal routed Switzerland 4-0 in the Nations League — followed by



Iran's Ali Daei with 109 and Mokhtar Dahari of Malaysia with 89.

Messi had never scored five times before for Argentina at senior level. He scored five goals with Barcelona in a 7-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen in the round of 16 of the 2011-12 Champions League.

The 34-year-old Messi had two assists last week when Argentina defeated Italy 3-0 in the first Finalissima meeting of the South American and European champions. He last year helped Argentina win the Copa America for his first major title with the national team.

Argentina is unbeaten in their last 33 matches. The match was played at Osasuna's stadium.

ANAND SEALS WIN AGAINST CARLSEN, LEADS STANDINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger (Norway), June 6: Indian ace Viswanathan Anand returned to winning ways, upstaging World No.1 Magnus Carlsen in the fifth round of the Classical section early Monday in the Norway Chess tournament to climb to the top spot.

After defeating the Norwegian superstar in the Blitz event that preceded the Classical section, Anand claimed the victory in a thrilling Armageddon (sudden death game) after the regular match ended in a 40-move draw.

In the Armageddon, the 52-year-old Anand recreated magic of old when he stunned Carlsen to post a win in 50 moves. With 10 points in his kitty, the Indian GM leads the field with four more rounds to go in the prestigious tournament which features some of the best players in the sport.

Anand had started the Classical section with three straight wins, beating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) and Hao Wang (China) before American Wesley So ended his streak in the fourth round.

Carlsen lies in second spot with 9.5 points despite the loss to his long-time rival. So, who won the Blitz section earlier, shares third place with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan) on 8.5 points.

Sindhu, Laskhya aim for good show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 6: Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy, the heroes of India's historic Thomas Cup triumph, have been drawn to clash in the pre-quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open where Saina Nehwal may run into nemesis Carolina Marin in the second round of the Super Series 500 event, starting Tuesday.

The Indian shuttlers will look to hit top gear in the build up to the Commonwealth Games, starting July 28. The men's shuttlers touched a new high with their Thomas Cup exploits where India defeated 14-time champions Indonesia to win their first ever title.

World No.9 Lakshya, seeded sev-

enth, will take on Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in a tricky opening round clash. The top-ranked Indian has a 0-2 head-to-head record against Kristian.

Sen last faced him in the Denmark Open in 2020 when he lost his pre-quarterfinal to the home favourite. The 20-year-old would be keen to better his record against Kristian.

In absence of Thomas Cup hero Kidambi Srikanth, the main draw has four Indians with the other two being Parupalli Kashyap and Sameer Verma.

Prannoy will also run into a Danish man in Rasmus Gemke, the same opponent the Indian defeated in the must-win third singles in the Thomas Cup semifinals.



Drawn in the top-half, 37th seed Kashyap will face Tzu Wei Wang and if he overcomes the first round hurdle then he is expected to lock horns with world No. 1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen.

Saina Nehwal and Sindhu will lead the Indian challenge in the women's singles main draw. After making a semifinal exit in the Thailand Open, double Olympic medallist Sindhu will look to go all the way. She will begin with a clash against Line Christophersen of Denmark.

Saina, who missed the Uber Cup after missing the trials, will open her campaign against Denmark's Line Hoejmark Kjaersfeldt, who is ranked 33rd.

In the men's doubles, Manu Attri

and B Sumeeth Reddy will take on local lads Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yeremia Erich Yoche Jacob Rambitan.

There are two Indian pairs in the women's doubles section. Seeded 2nd, Ashwini Ponappa and N Sikki Reddy find themselves in the top-half and open their campaign against Jacqueline Lima and Samia Lima of Brazil.

The Indian duo faces a potential tough second round clash against top-seed Chinese duo of Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan.

Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker is the second Indian pair in the main draw, up against second seed Lee So Hee and Shin Seung Chan of South Korea, in its tournament-opener.

SA's Pretorius wants to inculcate Dhoni's perks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Preparing for the upcoming T20 series against India, South African all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius Monday said he would like to inculcate the legendary MS Dhoni's calmness and self-belief.

The South African made his IPL debut for Chennai Super Kings this year after joining the franchise for a base price of Rs 50 lakh. Pretorius played just six matches, scoring 44 runs and claiming six wickets with best bowling figures of 2/30. The limited opportunities notwithstanding, Pretorius said playing alongside Dhoni has been his biggest gain.

"Playing my first IPL was a great experience. It was one of my bucket list items and that too to get the opportunity to play for CSK, one of the most successful franchises. I enjoyed every moment of it. You get a lot of responsibility as a player."

"I really enjoyed playing under Dhoni as well and batting with him, seeing the brand value he has in India just shows how big he is and what he has done for the sport in this country. It was awesome being a part of that," the 33-year-old said.

"The biggest thing that I have learnt from him is how calm he is at the crease, the way he takes the pressure off himself and tries to put it on to the bowler."

"He made me realise that at the death it's actually the bowlers who are under pressure. It was a fresh mindset and also he doesn't get too excited and is always optimistic. He believes he can do anything and I am going to try to bring his calmness and self-belief into my game," Pretorius added.

The five-match T20 series between India and South Africa starts here Thursday, followed by matches in Cuttack (June 12), Visakhapatnam (June 14), Rajkot (June 17) and Bangalore (June 19).

Arshdeep hones yorker skills, DK tries lap-scoop at India nets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Umran Malik got an extended spell during India's first training session, but it was his colleague Arshdeep Singh who looked way more impressive at the nets, which included honing of his yorker skills.

However, both the juniors might have to wait for their turn with Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal

Patel, Avesh Khan ahead in the pack. If push comes to shove, Arshdeep looks a better bet than Umran.

The Indian team's evening session under Rahul Dravid and Paras Mhambrey was as intense as it could get. While Umran, the toast of the nation for his express pace, bowled as quick as he can, Rishabh Pant didn't leave any opportunity to smash him with equal ferocity.

Young Arshdeep first bowled a short spell and then had a session under bowling coach Mhambrey, when he was seen practicing the blockhole deliveries.

Mhambrey kept a baseball mitt (gloves) on the front crease, exactly on middle stump line for the yorker on middle stump and an energy drink bottle around tramline for the wide yorker. Arshdeep was supposed to hit the two 'props'

as part of match simulation.

Dinesh Karthik might not be a certainty going into the first game with Pant being deputy to KL Rahul but his short net session was entertaining.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who will lead the pack, bowled for hardly 15 minutes. Similarly, Harshal Patel, who is also a certainty was rested on the day along with two sure-shot first XI candidates, Yuzvendra

Chahal and Hardik Pandya. Before the match, the ones who bowl more at the nets are the ones who are likely to be benched.

At 36, Karthik knows what he needs to practice and thus asked the throwdown experts Nuwan, Daya and Raghu to provide him with deliveries that allows him to play lap scoop and reverse lap scoop over short fine and short third man fielder.

