VOLUME 12, ISSUE 72 | www.orissapost.com

out in the capital city of Berlin

JANHVI'S BERLIN VACAY

Janhvi Kapoor, who has been busy with the

shooting of 'Bawaal' in Germany, spends her day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi/Kolkata/Lucknow, June

11: Two persons succumbed to

gunshot wounds in Jharkhand cap-

ital Ranchi and fresh demonstra-

tions were held in West Bengal's

Howrah Saturday as tension pre-

vailed in several parts of the coun-

try a day after the violent protests

against the controversial remarks

by BJP's now-sacked two func-

tionaries on Prophet Mohammad.

Internet and tightened security in

the affected districts as they cracked

down on protesters allegedly in-

volved in violence and clashes with

police personnel Friday, with nearly

240 people arrested in Uttar Pradesh

alone. Cases have been also regis-

tered in Delhi, Maharashtra and

Saturday in the Jharkhand capital

on a call by Hindu outfits against

the violence, around 2,500 police per-

sonnel were deployed and the in-

ternet was suspended in the district.

Hemant Soren formed a two-mem-

Jharkhand Chief Minister

JINDAL'S FAMILY LEAVES DELHI

New Delhi: The family of dismissed BJP leader Naveen

Kumar Jindal has left Delhi following a death threat. Jindal

his remark against Prophet Muhammad which was in sup-

statement also against the Prophet. The dismissed leader

was dismissed from the BJP after controversy erupted over

port of suspended party BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's

alleged that a few persons had followed him a few days ago

when he had gone to meet someone. He informed the police

about the same. The police have taken the matter seriously.

While a bandh was observed

other states.

Authorities suspended the

LEISURE

MIGRANTS' WOES

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, JUNE 12 | 2022

UK govt's new plan to fly illegal migrants to Rwanda gets the nod as London HC allows the first flight to proceed INTERNATIONAL

INDIA WOMEN LOSE

Indian women's hockey team suffer 1-2 loss to Belgium in their first of the two-legged FIH Pro League tie

SPORTS

MVA wins 3 out of 6 RS seats in Maharashtra

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 11: The ruling alliance of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress - Maha Vikas Aghadi -Saturday won three of the six Raiva Sabha seats in Maharashtra while it questioned the eight-hour delay in counting of votes.

Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, NCP's Praful Patel and Congress' Imran Pratapgarhi won the fiercely-fought elections.

The BJP winners include Union minister Piyush Goyal and former state minister Anil Bonde, and Dhananjay Mahadik. Of the 284 valid votes, Goyal polled 48, Bonde 48, Mahadik 41.56, Raut 41, Pratapgarhi 44 and Patel 43. The contest was for the sixth seat — the BJP had fielded former MP Dhananjay Mahadik and the Shiv Sena candidate was Sanjay Pawar, who lost. Mahadik and Pawar hail from Kolhapur in western Maharashtra.

The high-stakes battle for the sixth seat turned out to be a nailbiting affair with the Congress and BJP trading charges, even approaching the Election Commission. "Elections are contested not just for the fight, but the victory. Jai Maharashtra," tweeted BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, whose refusal to have a consensus candidate for the Rajya Sabha led to elections in the state after 24 years.

The counting of votes started after an eight-hour delay amid complaints of cross voting and rules violation by BJP and the ruling alliance. Both BJP and the Shiv Sena approached the Election Commission, alleging cross voting and seeking disqualification of votes. The poll panel directed the returning officer of Maharashtra to reject the vote cast by Shiv Sena legislator Suhas Kande.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Looks like news channels are really having hard time to find participants for their debates

WEATHER 30.2°(29.5° Mainly clear sky

as district judiciary. Technology was used to make the judicial process more transparent and accessible to litigants," a senior judicial officer of Orissa High Court told PTI on the annual report and

tion had changed the style of functioning of the courts in Odisha which have been elaborately placed in the report.

In a chapter titled "Introspection and Challenges," the report mentioned ".... Substantial progress has been made in many fields, yet there are certain areas where the performance of the judiciary in Odisha appears to have fallen short dency of cases, the report said.

stitution of cases reflects people's faith in the judiciary, it also poses challenges," the report said.

At the beginning of 2021, the High Court had a pendency of 1.73,510 cases. During the year, 1,28,943 cases were instituted and 1,05,334 cases were disposed of. At the end of the year, the pendency rose to 1,97,119, the report said.

Following the abolition of the Odisha Administrative Tribunal (OAT), around 40,000 cases pending before the OAT were transferred to the High Court, adding to the pen-

This apart, all service-related cases that were earlier being filed



the High Court. The long pendency

the District Courts, the report said. the report said at the beginning pending for 40 years. In the year, 99 more cases were added to the list of 40-year-old cases. As many as 240 such cases were disposed of during the year at the end of the year,

and 164 cases that were 40-year old

condition deteriorated.

Police and fire services person-

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

IMBERING UP



Team India players during a practice session at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Saturday, on the eve of their clash against a marauding South Africa in the second T20 of a five-match series (MORE P12)

head, and 24-year-old Mohammad

Sahil, with bullet injuries on neck

died during treatment, an official

of state-run Rajendra Institute of

Medical Sciences said in Ranchi.

"Both were residents of Ranchi,"

he said, adding that eight others are

Ranchi's Deputy Inspector

Contd to...P4

General Anish Gupta said a Special

Investigation Team has also been

set up to probe the incident.

in the ICU

ACCUSED'S PROPERTY BULLDOZED

Kanpur: A week after the city witnessed chaotic protests

Authority (KDA) Saturday demolished a multi-storey build-

ing owned allegedly by a close aide of the main accused in

the incident, police here said. Joint Commissioner of Police

has demolished a four-storey residential building owned by

(Law and order) Anand Prakash Tiwari said that the KDA

one Mohammad Ishtivag, who is said to be a close aide of

marred by stone-pelting, the Kanpur Development

4 killed as tanker explodes

■ *The deceased include* two locals who had gone to rescue the driver and the helper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 11: At least four persons were charred to death and another received serious burn injuries when an oil tanker exploded after falling off a bridge in Nayagarh district, about 100 km from here, police said Saturday.

The oil tanker was on its way from Paradip to Sambalpur when it hit the Bada Pandusara bridge's crash barrier as the driver lost control over the vehicle. It fell off the bridge over river Kusumi. The incident took place at around 1:45am, the police said.

Sometime after the tanker fell off

The ill-fated tanker at the accident site the bridge, it exploded, they said.

The deceased were identified as driver Sameer Nayak, helper Pankaj Nayak, Dipu Khatua and Chandan Khatua (two local people who had gone to rescue them). Another man was also seriously injured. He was rushed to Nayagarh district headquarters hospital. Later, he was shifted to Bhubaneswar after his nel rushed to the spot and started rescue operation with the help of the local people.

BUS CATCHES FIRE

In a separate incident in Keonjhar district, 30 passengers of a bus had a narrow escape when it accidentally caught fire at Kanjipani Ghati early Saturday morning. However, there were no injuries as the passengers were safely evacuated from the bus, police said.

The bus was on its way to Keonjhar from Rourkela when it caught fire at around 3am near Kanjipani Ghati, police said, adding that the driver took prompt action and asked the passengers to get down from the vehicle after he detected smoke. While the bus was completely gutted in the incident. the passengers left the place in another bus, police said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Justin Bieber suffering from facial paralysis

Los Angeles: Justin Bieber says a rare disorder that paralyzed half of the superstar performer's face is the reason behind his tour postponement. The multi-Grammy winner is suffering from Ramsay Hunt syndrome, he said in video he posted Friday on Instagram, The syndrome causes facial paralysis and affects nerves in the face through a shingles outbreak. Bieber's post comes after he cancelled his shows in Toronto and Washington, D.C. The singer demonstrated in the video that he could barely move one side of his face, calling the ailment "pretty

2 more arrested for fake loan app scam

Bhubaneswar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested another two accused - Rakshith and Sushanth for their alleged involvement in cheating people through fake loan mobile applications, police said Saturday. Rakshith and Sushanth. both residents of Udupi district in Karnataka, were arrested in Bhubaneswar and forwarded to court Saturday, the EOW officials said. The accused were cheating people by forming illegal shell companies -Mudmate Technologies Private Limited, Yellow Tune Technologies Private Limited and Pinkleaf Aryan Communications Private Limited. P4

were pending in district courts.

An analysis revealed that the

major cause of such pendency, at

least in the district courts, is the op-

eration of stay orders by the higher

In 2021, there was a huge loss of

working days in the wake of the

Covid-19 pandemic. On average

67.20 days were lost in the district

courts due to Covid-19. This apart,

abstention from court work by the

local Bar Associations on various

other issues, including the death

of Advocates, raising of demands,

and others also cause an average loss

of 15.69 working days, the report said.

judge-population ratio. As against

a pendency of 1,97,119 cases in the

High Court, there are only 21 judges

(in 2021).

The report also dealt with the

Mamata invites Naveen to attend meet on Prez poll

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi. June 11: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik requesting him to attend a meeting in Delhi June 15 to discuss about upcoming Presidential elections.

The West Bengal Chief Minister has also written to all non-BJP



ing at Constitution Club in New Delhi to strengthen the resistance against the saffron party.

"Presidential elections are around the corner, presenting the perfect opportunity for all progressive opposition parties to reconvene and deliberate on the future course of Indian politics. At a time when our democracy is going through troubled times. I believe that a fruitful confluence of opposition voices is the need of the hour; to echo the deprived and unrepresented communities," Banerjee stated in the letter to all non-BJP CMs and head of opposition parties.

She said a nation with a robust democratic character requires a strong and effective opposition.

Significantly, the BJD has always claimed to have maintained equidistance from the nationalparties and kept the interest of the state above any alliance.

Docket explosion challenge to judiciary: HC report

IN A FIRST, ORISSA HIGH COURT REVIEWS ITS PERFORMANCE IN 2021 AND SAYS IT HAS DISPOSED OF 1,05,334 OUT OF 1,28,943 CASES DURING THE YEAR

prime accused Zafar Hayat Hashmi.

Cuttack, June 11: The Orissa HC is probably the first High Court in the country to have undertaken a review of its performance in 2021 to make the judiciary more accountable and goal-oriented. It has said in the report that the great challenge to the judiciary is docket explosion, which is an increase in the pendency of cases.

Listing the challenges, important judgements, and the problem of docket explosion, the Orissa High Court recently released the Annual Report, 2021, aiming to bring transparency and accountability to the system. "The year 2021 was, in more

ways than one, a year of transformation for the High Court as well its significance.

The Covid-19 pandemic situa-

of expectation."

Undoubtedly, the great challenge to the judiciary is docket explosion, which is an increase in the pen-

'Nupur fire' claims 2

Ranchi stunned; Howrah simmers in protest while authorities

take action against agitators in UP, Delhi & Maharashtra

ber committee, comprising sen-

ior IAS officer Amitabh Kaushal

and Additional Director General

of Police Sanjay Latkar to investigate the violence that left two

persons dead and at least 24 peo-

ple injured, a senior official

to submit its report to the state

Mohammad Mudassir Kaifi, 22,

who had gunshot wounds on his

government in a week, he said.

The committee has been asked

BACKLASH OVER PROPHET REMARKS

'While the increase in the in-

in the OAT, are now being filed in



of cases has also been a feature of

On its performance during 2021, of the year, 305 cases remained



leisure

MILA KUNIS PARTNERS WITH INDIAN SUPERHERO CREATOR

'Black Swan' star Mila Kunis has joined forces with the superhero creator Sharad Devarajan of Graphic India. The two have launched a new entertainment franchise called Armored Kingdom Media Inc. which will span a Web3 trading card game, digital comics, animation and film.

BTS' NEW ALBUM 'PROOF' SOLD OVER **2 MN COPIES ON 1ST DAY OF RELEASE**

BTS' new album "Proof" sold over 2 million copies on the first day of its release. It was the second time that the boy band's album sales surpassed 2 million on the first day, after its fourth album, "Map of the Soul: 7" in 2020. Its title video song, "Yet To Come (The Most Beautiful Moment)," posted on YouTube has garnered nearly 50 million views.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™ reliability • trust

Romance will keep you success will lead to neace and the other way round. You must be careful about expenses and buy only that stuff which you really need. Ganesha says this can save you from putting your

TAURUS

This day you could be in for some unexpected and unpleasant shocks, warns Ganesha. There is a strong likelihood of getting insulted or humiliated. You must therefore be alert and on your toes. You could that way, manage to avert situations that may threaten your standing and reputation. If, however, you do get hurt, control you urge to retaliate. If you can forget the issue and forgive the offender, you will score a moral victory and your spirits will soar.

Today, you will meet someone special, who will stay in your life for good, predicts Ganesha. Your kind and considerate nature will be at its magnanimous best in the afternoon. At the workplace, you will have a fabulous time if you are into marketing and advertising

CANCER

Enough of waiting on the take credit for all your hard work. Today, you will stake your claim to what is rightfully yours, the due credit for your work. Surprisingly for you, your peers and superiors will not only appreciate your work without any fuss, but also share with you the big plans they have in store for you.s

There are many milestones that one covers during the course of one's life, but it is usually the moment of love that one always remembers fondly, says Ganesha. It is guite likely that today will be one such memorable day that ushers in a turning point in your love life. Chances are that you will be busy with arranging a get-together with friends and relatives. After all, what is joy unless you have shared it with the people in your life.

Mission: Finding an exciting relationship, Status: Ganesha smiles. At office, outshine others with both words and actions. Bewitch people with your arsenal of sweet noth ings and charm your way to win their hearts in the evening, says Ganesha.

'Wait and watch' is always a good policy. You have been doing the same, and today. there is every possibility that the talents you have displayed for so long finally get the deserved recognition at work. For the businessman, Ganesha once again advises patience if one wants better future prospects.

SCORPIO

You will gain new admiration as a manager of human resources. In business, long overdue financial arrears may return. At the end of the day, you shall be satisfied with the way you balanced work and home, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

A curious blend of good and bad, foresees Ganesha. While at home, you will receive good support to renovate your home. But, it may end up being more than a bit too heavy on your pocket. A long day's slog will earn you much praise at work.

CAPRICORN

Where there is a will there is a way. True, but even if it's an action driven by a strong will, a dying man cannot wage a war. You will have to be extra careful about your health today, says Ganesha. This besides, you are likely to strike a profitable deal with your clients, which may turn out to be a big achievement for your company. This will also be the right time to indulge in entertaining pursuits.

AQUARIUS

You have been bitten by the explorer's bug. Today, you could be pouring over an encyclopedia, a National Geographic magazine, or even tour your town, discovering little eateries and joints hitherto unknown Ganesha says that if you include friends, it will be so much more fun!

PISCES

You will implement abstract ideas into practice with the all the finesse of a feverish modern-day artist today. The evening will find you satisfied with and unquestion ing about your place in the universe; you will also acknowledge God for the small mercies he gifts you on an everyday basis, says Ganesha.



LOS ANGELES: Justin Bieber can't feel half his face as it has been paralysed by a rare virus following which he had to cancel his shows in Toronto and Washington, D.C. The 'Let Me Love You' hitmaker took to Instagram to explain the "pretty serious virus".

facial paralysis

In a two-and-a-halfminute post, he explained and demonstrated that he is suffering from Ramsay Hunt syndrome, a rare virus that affects nerves in the face and can cause facial paralysis.

can see this eye is not blinking. I can't smile on this side of my face. This nostril will not move. So there's full paralysis on the side of my face,' he shows quite

clearly in the video. 'So for those who are frustrated by my cancellations of the next shows. I'm just physically, obviously not capable of doing them. This is pretty serious. As you can see", he further demon-



MUMBAI: The gorgeous Janhvi Kapoor who marked her debut with 2018 hit 'Dhadak' has not looked back ever since. The star is currently shooting in Berlin with Varun Dhawan for their upcoming film, 'Bawaal'. Now, a few hours back, the Ghost Stories actress shared a new set of photos on her social media handle. She captioned them as: "we're after the same rainbows end."

In the photos, the actress is seen donning a floral top and adding a pair of a denim jacket. Janhvi wore her beautiful tresses down and sported subtle makeup. Reacting to the clicks, fash-

ion designer Manish Malhotra dropped several heart emojis in the comments section.

This marks the first outing of Janhvi and Varun together. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the film is scheduled to hit screens April 7, 2023

Apart from Bawaal, Janhvi will star next in Good Luck Jerry and Mr And Mrs Mahi. AGENCIES

'Been painted as some kind of monsters'



ficking - aren't these charges absurd?' "They did not find any drugs

on my person that day, and yet they arrested me. Sir, you have done me great wrong and ruined my reputation. Why did I have to spend so many weeks in jail - did I really deserve it?" Aryan further questioned.

When the officer later met SRK, the megastar said he was concerned about his son's mental health. He told that Aryan Khan was not sleeping well, and he had to keep him company through the night. The superstar also said that his son was "being vilified" even though there was no substantial evidence against him.

Almost in tears, Shah Rukh Khan told, "We have been painted as some kind of big criminals or monsters who are out to destroy society, and we find it going to work tough every day.'

Real-life 'Mona Darlings' and their mafia sugar daddies

MUMBAI: As is wellknown, the film industry abounds with tales of how many underworld dons seemed to develop a 'crush' on wannabe or even established heroines. Though there are

many rumours of many real-life 'Mona Darlings' who share cosy relations with the mafiosi, some like Mandakini, Mamta Kulkarni and Monica Bedi even grabbed top headlines for their dark liaisons. Despite a satis-

factory beginning in the film world in 1994. Monica Bedi was concerned about her career not really taking off in the sea of mega-heroines of that era. This was where her re-

ported 'friendship' with Abu Salem helped her get some film assignments, but the good times didn't last too long

Similarly, Mamta Kulkarni was once considered a show-stopper who had acted with all top stars like Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Govinda, Akshay Kumar, and more.

After a row over her role in

"China Gate", with allegations of mafia threatening the film-

Dawood Ibrahim in Dubai were splashed in the media. She confessed to the mee

ing wet-dreams to the viewers.

With a floundering career not

moving much after a smooth

take-off, in the early-1990s, pic-

tures of her meeting Don



makers, Mamta's sunset started and by 2002, she had packed up her bags. Though Mamta's whereabouts are not clear, she is reportedly living in a Gulf nation, fighting legal battles in India and Kenya.

Raj Kapoor, Mandakini, became the heart-throb of millions as she cavorted under a waterfall in "Ram Teri Ganga Maili", giv-

ing but furiously rebuffed all sug gestions of having any relationship with the don, and after she bowed out of film industry with her final film "Zordaar" the wagging tongues finally

rested in peace. Presently, Mandakini is said to be an exponent in Tibetan Yoga along with her husband who runs a Tibetan medicine centre. IANS

PEANUTS



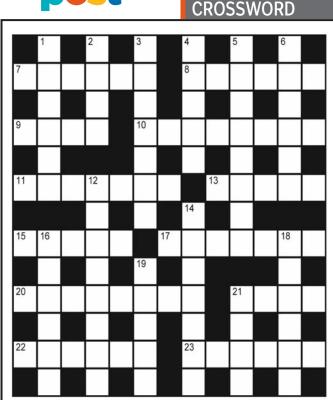
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN POST



Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com 20 Lose your 4 Waste pipe

21 Squeakers

23 Way out

22 Rap session?

footing (4,4)

- Across
- 7 Rabbit hideout
- 8 Bawdy 9 Have supper
- 10 One of a kind
- 11 Spicy
- condiment
- 13 City in northern
- Italy 15 Inedible orange

17 Bauble

Down

- cheese

3 Ticked off

- 1 Disappear
- 2 Mold-ripened

- 16 Terrifies 18 "I missed the bus" is one

21 Roman war god

5 Volcanic glass

leader? (3,5)

6 Llama kin

12 Follow the

14 Compadres

- 19 Theater sections

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.

7	20	4	1				6
			8		3	4	
	8		9	2		7	
			7	-			8
1		3	2)	4	- ×		
	6					2	3
	4		6		П	П	
		2					9
8	A				5		

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

3 5 1

1 6 4 3 2 8 5 7 1 9 6 8 5 3 4 4 8 5 3 9 1 7 6 2 4 7 8 2 9 6 9 2 7 5 1 6 4 8 3 9 2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



AWARENESS DRIVE

Orissa POST		AWARENESS DRIVE	22 23	COVID-19 TRACKER				
SUNDAY JUNE 12 2022 BHUBANESWAR	7	ATTAILE SO DRIVE			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
)		School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash		World	53,99,81,305	51,26,19,900	63,30,347	-(
downtown		flags off a campaign vehicle to create awareness against		India	4,32,13,435	4,26,48,308	5,24,757	
a contraction of the contraction	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	child labour in		Odisha	12,88,620	12,79,292	9,126	3
	The state of the s	Bhubaneswar, Saturday						9
								4

18	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	53,99,81,305	51,26,19,900	63,30,347
***	India	4,32,13,435	4,26,48,308	5,24,757
	Odisha	12,88,620	12,79,292	9,126

WOMAN'S DEATH IN KENDRAPARA

NHRC summons Health Secy over delay in submitting ATR

issue arrest warrant under CrPC

or punish him under IPC if he nei-

ther submits ATR within the stip-

ulated time period nor appears

to comply with the order of the

commission without lawful excuse, he/she might be subjected to

the consequences of non-atten-

dance laid down in Rule 10 and

Rule 12 of order XVI of Civil

Procedure, 1908 and the commis-

sion may be constrained to initi-

ate criminal proceedings under

Sections 175/176 of the Indian

Penal Code, 1860 and such other ac-

tion as it deems proper under the

the H&FW Secretary March 19 last

year to submit an ATR in connec-

tion with the incident. He was also

directed to introduce concrete

measures to prevent quacks from

treating patients in Kendrapara

The commission had directed

Law," said the rights body.

"If the H&FW Secretary fails

personally August 25.



Bhubaneswar, June 11: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued conditional summons directing the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department Secretary to personally appear before it August 25 for failing to submit an action taken report (ATR) in connection with the death of a woman after she consumed medicines offered by a quack in Kendrapara in March 2020.

The vexed rights body has also asked the H&FW department Secretary to present an explanation regarding the reasons for the inordinate delay in submitting the ATR despite repeated reminders.

The NHRC, however, exempted the top official from personal appearance if the requisite report is submitted a week prior to the stipulated date of the personal appearance.

On the other hand, the commission warned the H&FW de-

he rights body has directed the H&FW Secretary to personally appear before it August 25 for failing to submit an ATR in connection with the death of a woman after she consumed medicines offered by a quack in Kendrapara in March 2020

> t has also asked the H&FW Secretary to present an explanation regarding the reasons submitting the ATR despite

he NHRC, however, exempted the top official from personal appearance if the requisite report is submitted a week prior to the stipulated date of the personal

district and submit the report within four weeks.

The commission later sent two remainders August 23 last year and January 21 this year asking for the submission of the required reports but to no avail.

Notably, the Kendrapara Superintendent of Police (SP), in his enquiry report, confirmed that the ailing woman, Laxmibala Mandal, reportedly died few hours after she had taken the first dose of medicine given by quack Tanmaya Giri, who was running a drugstore in the nearby market in Jamboo area of Kendrapara.



Ganjam dominates list of Assembly Speakers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 11: Bikram Keshari Arukha, who is all set to become the new Speaker of the Odisha Assembly, will be the sixth MLA from Ganjam district to be elected for the prestigious post and second man from his own constituency - Bhanjanagar.

The 60-year-old Arukha who was elected six times from Bhanjanagar Assembly constituency in Ganjam district in a row since 1995, filed his nomination papers for the post of the speaker Friday and is all set to be elected Monday.

The post of the speaker was lying vacant after Surya Narayan Patro, also from Ganjam district, resigned from the post on June 4 due $\,$ to his health problems.

Patro, a senior MLA of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD), was elected from Digapahandi assembly constituency in the district.

He was unanimously elected as the speaker of the sixteenth Assembly May 30, 2019. Before Patro, Chintamani Dyan

Samantra of the district was the speaker in the eleventh Assembly Dyan Samantara, who had been elected as an Independent MLA in 1995 from Chikiti Assembly constituency, had served as the speaker from February 16, 1996 to March

Before he became the speaker, Dyan Samantara had served two times as the deputy speaker - from March 28, 1995 to February 12,

Bikram Keshari Arukha, who was elected six times from Bhanjanagar Assembly constituency in Ganjam in a row since 1995, filed his nomination papers for the post of the Speaker Friday and is all set to be elected Monday

he post of the Speaker was lying vacant after Surya Narayan Patro, also from Ganjam district, resigned from the post on June 4 due to his health problems

1996 and from March 18, 1985 to March 3, 1990.

Similarly, Somanath Rath, who had been elected as the MLA from Bhanjanagar segment on Congress ticket in 1980, served as the speaker of eighth Assembly from June 12, 1980 to February 11, 1984.

Lingaraj Panigrahi, who was

elected MLA from the then Kodala (East) assembly constituency on Congress ticket in 1961, was the second MLA of the district to become the speaker of the third Assembly. Panigrahi served the post from July 1, 1961 to March 18, 1967.

Lal Mohan Patnaik, who was elected as an MLA from the then Patrapur segment in 1946 election, was the first MLA from Ganjam to become the speaker of the House. Patnaik had served as the speaker from May 29, 1946 to March 6, 1952.

Rama Chandra Panda, who was elected MLA from Chhatrapur segment in the 2000 election, was elected as the deputy speaker from March 27, 2000 to February 6, 2004.

The Assembly speakers from Ganiam district had successfully conducted the businesses of the Houses because of their past experiences, said JK Mohapatra, former vice-chancellor of Berhampur University.

FIRST PRETRIAL DISPOSAL OF SEIZED DRUGS

STF destroys 1.3kg brown sugar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch has carried out disposal of seized drugs weighing around 1 kg before the completion of the trial under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

The STF had arrested an MBA student from Balasore bus stand and seized 1.3kg brown sugar from his possession August 18, 2020.

The Supreme Court, while ing a case (Union of India Vrs. Mohanlal) in 2016, had directed the authorities to destroy the seized drugs, even in cases in which the proceedings are still pending before the courts

The STF had moved the Orissa High Court seeking clarifications on some technical ambiguities and detailed procedural guidelines for the disposal of the seized drugs. The HC issued a detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) January 31 this year and directed the subordinate courts to dispose the applications filed under sections Section 52A of NDPS Act, 1985.



MBA STUDENT FROM **BALASORE BUS STAND AND** SEIZED 1.3KG BROWN SUGAR FROM HIS POSSESSION AUGUST 18, 2020

THE STF HAD ARRESTED AN

N A FIRST-EVER CASE OF PRETRIAL DISPOSAL OF THE SEIZED NARCOTIC SUBSTANCE IN ODISHA THE STE FRIDAY DESTROYED THE DRUGS AT A GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED

Accordingly, the STF, in a firstever case of pretrial disposal of the seized narcotic substance, Friday destroyed the drugs at a government designated incinerator in Khurda. "The seized drugs was first au-

thenticated/ certificated by the concerned court and handed over to the drug disposal committee. As per the decision of the committee, a team led by STF SP, Khurda Deputy Collector, Khurda Superintendent of Excise, in the presence of scientific officers of State Forensic Science laboratory and member of State Pollution Board disposed of /destroyed the drugs at a designated incinerator following all due procedure," said the STF in a press note.

Notably, at least 4,500 quintals of Ganja and 104 kilograms of brown sugar seized in last three years alone have been kept in various court/ police station Malkhana (storehouses) across the state. The STF officials revealed that they are taking steps for disposal of the seized drugs

Fraudster held for duping couple of ₹11.72 lakh

BHUBANESWAR: The Commissionerate Police

accused has been identified as Gourav Viswakarma, 36, of Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh, Viswakarma had created a company and published advertisements on various social media platforms asking people to join the group as returns to its depositors. Anjan Sahoo and his wife of Sailashree Vihar had invested Rs 11, 72,805 in Viswakarma's company in November 2021. The has closed down the company. They lodged a

Saturday claimed to have arrested a fraudster from Madhya Pradesh for duping a couple from the capital city here of Rs 11.72 lakh promising lucrative returns against their deposits. The

members. The company had promised high couple recently came to know that the accused

'Decline in Covid may be giving rise to other viruses'

ven as global cases of Covid-19 are on the decline, a number of other viruses such as influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, adenovirus, tuberculosis, and monkeypox are on the rise, and have also exhibited strange behaviours in recent months, according to a media report.

Health experts state that reduced exposure due to Covid restrictions may have lowered immunity to infectious diseases, making people more vulnerable to new outbreaks, CNBC reported. The report noted that during Covid the diseases caused by these viruses were subdued

Flu during winters of 2020 and 2021 in the US was one of the mildest on record both in terms of deaths and hospitalisations. But as Covid abated and restrictions were removed, the virusled diseases began ticking upward beginning February and extending well into summers.

"We've never seen a flu season in the US extend into June." Dr. Scott Roberts. associate medical director for infection prevention at Yale New Haven Hospital. was quoted as saying.

"Covid has clearly had a very big impact on that. Now that people have unmasked, places are opening up, we're seeing viruses behave in very odd ways that they weren't before," he added.



ealth experts state that reduced exposure due to Covid restrictions may have lowered immunity to infectious diseases, making people more vulnerable to new outbreaks

espiratory syncytial virus, a cold-Nike virus common during winter months, exhibited an uptick last summer, with cases surging among children in Europe, the US and Japan

A nother is the monkeypox outbreak that has over 1,000 confirmed and suspected cases emerging in 29 non-endemic countries

Respiratory syncytial virus, a coldlike virus common during winter months, exhibited an uptick last summer, with cases surging among children in Europe, the US and Japan.

Adenovirus 41, usually responsible for gastrointestinal illness, is suspected to be the reason behind acute hepatitis among young children - infecting about 700 children in 34 countries and claiming 10 lives. Further, Washington State in the US has seen the worst flare-up of tuberculosis in

20 years, the report said. Another is the monkeypox outbreak that has over 1,000 confirmed and suspected cases emerging in 29 non-

endemic countries. At least two genetically distinct variants of the rare viral infection typically found in Central and West Africa has been detected in the US, likely stemming from two different spillover infections from animals to humans.

The World Health Organisation noted earlier last week that the virus, whose symptoms include fever and skin lesions, may have been going undetected in society for 'months or possibly a couple of years'

DNA sequencing of the monkeypox virus by researchers at the University of Edinburgh in the UK showed that the virus has been circulating since 2017.

The recent outbreak is the first ever to be seen in non-endemic countries outside Africa, and being man-

ifest in men who have sex with men, even after not being a sexually transmitted disease. In addition, symptoms are also appearing in new ways.

"Patients are presenting differently than we were previously taught," said Roberts, noting that some infected patients are bypassing initial flu-like symptoms and immediately developing rashes and lesions, specifically and unusually on the genitals and anus.

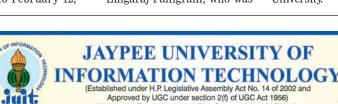
There's a lot of unknowns that do make me uneasy. We are seeing very atypical behaviours in a number of wavs for a number of viruses," he said.

Besides Covid-induced restrictions and mask-wearing over the past two years, the viruses were also missed as public health surveillance that was largely focused on curbing pandemic, the experts said.

Covid-led lockdowns also curtailed childhood vaccinations, potentially raising the risks of other vaccinepreventable illnesses such as measles and pertussis.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, access to primary care, including childhood vaccinations, was unavailable to many children," Jennifer Horney, professor of epidemiology at the University of Delaware, told CNBC.

"To prevent increases in these diseases, catch-up vaccination campaigns are needed globally," she added. IANS





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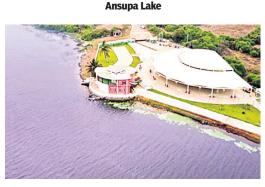
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4 more Ramsar sites likely

Union Env Minister meets top Ramsar Convention official to push for wetlands recognition



Satkosia Gorge





Tampara Lake

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 11: With the Centre pushing for 26 sites to get Ramsar tag, aiming a total of 75 Ramsar sites for India in its 75th vear of independence, four more wetlands of state are likely to bag the international recognition.

Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha are on the list of wetlands proposed to be designated as Ramsar sites, besides 13 from Tamil Nadu, three from

Continued from P1

'Nupur fire' claims 2

66 hree FIRs have been lodged

on to arrest the persons involved in

Delhi Police registered a case

in connection with Friday's protest

outside Jama Masjid and under

section 188 (disobedience to order

duly promulgated by public ser-

vant) of the Indian Penal Code and

further investigation is underway.

Deputy Commissioner of Police

(Central) Shweta Chauhan said.

Fresh violence was reported in

the Panchla Bazaar area in West

Bengal's Howrah district as pro-

testers clashed with the police, set

ablaze several houses and also van-

Protests had erupted in several

parts of Howrah district Friday

with people indulging in stone-

pelting, setting police vehicles on

fire and damaging public property.

Internet services have been sus-

pended across the district till June

13 and prohibitory orders under

Section 144 of CrPC imposed in

several areas such as Uluberia,

Domjur and Panchla till June 15.

On Saturday, authorities sus-

pended internet services in parts

of Murshidabad district also till

June 14. The Bengal government

effected a police reshuffle in Howrah

district, appointing Praveen

Tripathi, Additional CP of Kolkata Police, the new Commissioner of

Police of Howrah City and other officers. The decision was taken during an emergency meeting held in the state secretariat over the cur rent situation in Howrah district.

BJP's West Bengal unit presi-

dent Sukanta Majumdar was ar-

rested Saturday afternoon near

the toll plaza on Vidyasagar Setu

when he was on the way to vio-

lence-hit Howrah district. "His

visit could have created a law and

order situation. This is a preven-

tive arrest," a senior police offi-

cer told PTI. Majumdar, the MP of

Balurghat in Uttar Dinajpur, said

the situation in West Bengal was

fast turning into that in Kashmir.

BJP leaders and workers hit the

streets in Kolkata, Uttar Dinajpur,

Cooch Behar, Birbhum and

Jalpaiguri districts. BJP national

vice-president Dilip Ghosh, however,

managed to enter Howrah and visit

the areas where offices of his party

Nupur Sharma was suspended

by the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) over her controversial re-

marks on Prophet Mohammad.

were attacked.

Following Majumdar's arrest,

dalised a BJP party office.

the violence," he said.

so far. Search operations are

Madhya Pradesh, two from Jammu & Kashmir and one each from Maharashtra, Mizoram, Karnataka and Goa.

With an aim to push for more wetlands to be given international recognition. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav met Ramsar Convention Secretary General Martha Rojus Urrego in Geneva.

Yaday, who also holds charge as the Union Minister for Labour and Employment, is in Geneva to attend the International Labour

Annapurti: Automated grain dispensing

Programme Innovation Awards instituted to celebrate and honour outstanding

automated food grain dispensing machine that ensures food in ration shops is

currently operational in Haryana and Odisha. The first machine in the country

dispensing solution became operational in Bhubaneshwar as a pilot December

30, 2021 at a Fair Price Shop and attracted nearly 430 beneficiaries in three

days, dispensing 2.2 metric tonnes of rice and wheat. The innovation awards

recognise the most innovative solutions, as well as those that are contributing

innovations from over 120 countries. The award was conferred in Munich by

the World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator. 'Annapurti' is an

distributed efficiently and in an error-free manner. These machines are

was launched at Gurugram in Haryana last year. The automated grain

strongly to WFP's overall goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.

machine bags global innovation award

NEW DELHI: Grain ATM 'Annapurti' has won one of the five World Food

Hirakud Reservoir

Conference (ILC).

"Met with Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretary General Ms @martharojasu1 to discuss India's proposed designation of wetlands of international importance as part of #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav (sic)." Yaday said in a tweet after his meeting late Friday night.

This would place nearly onetenth of India's known wetland regime into the international network. The government is aiming at 75 wetlands to get Ramsar tag in India's 75th year of independence,

the Minister added.

These wetlands of international importance are called Ramsar Sites in commemoration of the Convention on Wetlands that took place in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Ramsar sites play an important role in maintaining the ecological biodiversity of a region.

India already has 49 Ramsar Sites, wetlands of international importance, and now, it is pushing for 26 more including four from state. Notably, Odisha already has two Ramsar sites at Chilika lake and Bhitarakanika National Park.

The 26 wetlands that await the Ramsar tag include Pala wetland (Mizoram); Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir & Ansupa Lake (Odisha); Sirpur wetland, Sakhya Sagar & Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Thane Creek (Maharashtra); Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve & Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve (Jammu & Kashmir); Ranganathituu Bird Sanctuary (Karnataka), and Nanda Lake (Goa).

Tamil Nadu has lined up the maximum wetlands: Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex, Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary, Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary, Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary, Pichavaram Mangrove, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary & Pallikaranai Marsh.

24 new Covid cases

BHUBANESWAR: 24 new coronavirus cases were recorded in state Saturday, four more than the previous day, taking the tally 12.88.620, the Health department said. The toll remained at 9.126 as there was no more death due to the pathogen in the last 24 hours. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far. There are 149 active Covid-19 cases while 11 more people recuperated from the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 12.79.292. The daily positivity rate was 0.22 per cent as the new infections were detected from 10,793 sample tested, it added.



The ST&SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department Saturday felicitated Haj pilgrims from Odisha at an event at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik virtually

IN MEMORIAM



CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury speaks at a meeting organised in the memory of former MP Sivaji Patnaik at the conference hall of Institution of Engineers in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

2 more arrested for fake loan app scam



They have disclosed important information which gives indication of a very complex and well organised racket, said officials

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, June 11: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police arrested two more accused for their alleged involvement in cheating people through fake loan mobile apps, the police said Saturday

Rakshith and Sushanth, both residents of Udupi district, Karnataka, were arrested in Bhubaneswar and forwarded to court Saturday, the EOW officials said. The accused persons were cheating people by forming illegal shell companies named as Mudmate Technologies Private Tune Limited. Yellow Technologies Private Limited and Pinkleaf Arvan Communications Private Limited

Police said that both the accused were acting as director of the shell companies to facilitate the transaction of illegal lending and recovery process through illegal digital loan apps. They were doing this in connivance and collaboration with many other shell companies like IWT-India etc. They were also managing a call

to make threatening and humiliating calls and messages to victim loanees and their contacts. They have disclosed many important information which gives in-

centre from Bangalore which used

dication towards a very complex and well organised racket, the details of which are being investigated, said the officials. Earlier, the EOW had arrested three persons, Md Javed Saifi, the proprietor of IWT-India, Tarun

Kumar Dudeja, the proprietor of Digital Batua and other dubious shell companies and Ram Shriram Pathade, Managing Director of Mahagram Payments Pvt Ltd for allegedly cheating people through a fake loan mobile app. The police authority had also

asked the US tech giant Google Inc to remove 45 illegal loan apps from its play store for allegedly violating the policies of Google and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The EOW again advised people to avoid downloading and using these illegal loan APPs to get any loan. Many people have ended their life following harassments by the loan recovery agents of these fake loan apps.

OPCC prez launches Mission-90 for 2024 **Assembly elections**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 11: Newly appointed Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattnavak has announced the launching of Mission-90 (90 seats) for the 2024 Assembly elections and expressed confidence to achieve the goal.

Patttnayak said this Friday after formally taking charge as the new OPCC president by replacing senior leader Niranjan Patnaik. "Keeping in view the accept-

ance of the people across the state, particularly in the recently concluded Brajarajnagar bypolls, we are confident that the Congress will form the government after 2024 elections," he said. Hitting at the 22 year-old BJD

government led by chief minister Naveen Patnaik, the new OPCC president said the common people have not gained anything even as the rich have become richer in the last two decades.

'There has been an increase in migration of people as youths go to places like Surat, Mumbai, Delhi and other places in search of work while the BJD government has been claiming to have setting up industries and solving unemployment problem," he said.

Pattnayak also alleged that the ruling BJD and the Opposition BJP have joined hands for their mutual benefits while people are suffering. He asked the Congress rank and file to reach each household in the state and ensure that the people get to know the real character of the BJD and the BJP

In his bid to infuse confidence among the party workers and leaders, Pattnayak said that Mission-90 is not impossible as the Congress had formed government by securing 90 seats in 1995 elections even as it had only 10 MLAs in 1990. He claimed that people would certainly favour Congress next time and the party will form government in the state even as it has been out of power since 2000.

STUBBORN LA NINA MIGHT PERSIST INTO 2023: WM

If so, it would only be the third 'triple-dip La Nina' (three consecutive northern hemisphere winters of La Nina conditions) since 1950

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, June 11: The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Friday warned of a high probability that the ongoing protracted La Nina event, which has affected temperature and precipitation patterns and exacerbated drought and flooding in different parts of the world, will continue until at least August and possibly to the northern hemisphere fall and start of winter.

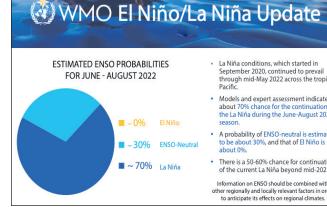
Some long-lead predictions even

suggest that it might persist into 2023. If so, it would only be the third 'triple-dip La Nina' (three consecutive northern hemisphere winters of La Nina conditions) since 1950, the WMO said in a global statement.

La Nina refers to the large-scale cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure and rainfall.

It usually has the opposite impacts on weather and climate as El Nino, which is the warm phase of the so-called El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

The ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa and southern South America bear the hallmarks of La Nina, as does the above average rainfall in Southeast Asia and Australasia and predictions for an above average Atlantic hurricane season.



La Niña conditions, which started in September 2020, continued to prevail through mid-May 2022 across the tropical Pacific.

ut 30%, and that of El Niño is

There is a 50-60% chance for continuof the current La Niña beyond mid-

However, all naturally occurring climate events now take place in the context of human-induced climate change, which is increasing global temperatures, exacerbating extreme weather and climate, and impacting seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns. Human induced climate change

amplifies the impacts of naturally occurring events like La Nina and is increasingly influencing our weather patterns, in particular through more intense heat and drought and the associated risk of wildfires, as well as record-breaking deluges of rainfall and flooding, said WMO Secretary-General

he current La Nina event started in September 2020 and continued through mid-May 2022 across the tropical Pacific

here was a temporary weakening of the oceanic components of La Nina during January and February 2022, but it has strengthened since March 2022

Petteri Taalas.

WMO is providing tailored support to the humanitarian sector as witnessed by a recent multiagency alert on the worsening drought in East Africa. Improved seasonal forecasts are pivotal in this because they help plan ahead and gain substantial socio-economic benefits in climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, food security, health and disaster risk reduction, said Taalas.

In addition to improving climate services, WMO is also striving to-

wards the goal that everyone should have access to early warning systems in the next five years to protect them against hazards related to our weather, climate and water, he reminded of the recent WMO an-

nouncement. The current La Nina event started in September 2020 and continued through mid-May 2022 across the tropical Pacific. There was a temporary weakening of the oceanic components of La Nina during January and February 2022, but it has strengthened since March 2022.

WMO Global Producing Centres for Long Range Forecasts indicate that there is about a 70 per cent chance of the current La Nina conditions extending into boreal summer 2022, and about 50-60 per cent during July-September 2022.

There are some indications that the probability may increase again slightly during the boreal fall of 2022 and early boreal winter of 2022-23.

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-Cookieman-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.

Tusker dead in Hadagarh due to intra-herd conflict: DFO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur/Keonjhar, June 11: The carcass of an elephant was recovered from Pitanau Kadakata forest under Hadagarh sanctuary in Keonjhar district Saturday.

Anandapur DFO Ajit Kumar Satpathy informed that the tusker was killed during a conflict with another tusker at Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary under Anandapur Wildlife Division in Keonihar district.

The 30-year-old tusker fell off a hill during the clash and succumbed to injuries, informed the Anandapur DFO.

The body was recovered Friday. The veterinary doctors and forest officials carried out the post-mortem on the body Saturday. All the organs of the deceased elephant were found intact. The cause of death of the elephant will be ascertained after the autopsy, the official stated.

However, a local BJP leader Tukuna Mohant alleged that the



ers to smuggle its tusks. He has twitted his suspicion, linking the Chief Minister, the 5T secretary and the PMO

According to reports, a herd of eight elephants was roaming inside the forest Friday. The battle took place between two tuskers during the period. Their fight worsened subsequently killing one of them in the wildlife habitat, locals said.

Jumbo tramples woman to death

Baripada: A 70-year-old woman not only lost her life, but her corpse also fell to the wrath of a wild tusker in Mayurbhanj district, police said Saturday.

Maya Murmu was collecting water from a tube well in Raipal village Thursday morning when she was attacked by a wild tusker that strayed from the Dalma Wildlife

The animal trampled her, following which she was taken to a hospital where she succumbed to her injuries, Rasgovindpur police station inspector Lopamudra Nayak said. In the evening, when the family members of the deceased were performing her last rites, the tusker arrived there suddenly, dragged the body from the pyre and again trampled it before fleeing.



Tribal women selling indigenous varieties of mangoes in Keonjhar town, Saturday

₹1.72 CRORE DUES ON DEFAULTING MILLERS

Admin seeks property details

Chhatrapur, June 11: The district administration Saturday asked the tehsildars to submit the property details of 10 rice millers defaulting in payment of ₹1.72 crore pending on them towards milling of rice, a report said.

The property details include both movable and immovable properties of the millers. This was stated here by district civil supplies officer Pusha Munda to media persons here,

Reports said that some millers had lifted paddy during procurement in Ganjam district, but out of them 10 millers did not returned rice after milling. They were asked to deposit the rice stock but they did not respond. Later, they were asked to make payment towards the rice.

However, the millers also defaulted in making payment. Currently, the

over ₹1.72 crore on the district civil supplies department.

Peeved over their response, the food supplies and consumer welfare department decided to register cases under Orissa Public Demands Recovery Act-1962 (OPDR) against the millers and recover the dues from them.

As part of this move, Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange has directed all the tehsildars in the district to prepare property details of the defaulting millers and submit a report to him. The defaulting millers includes two each from Polsara, Khallikote and Rangeilunda blocks while one from Purusottampur, Aska, Kabisuryanagar and Dharakote blocks.

Meanwhile, the proprietor of one of the rice mill has passed away. As a result, the Collector has directed the concerned tehsildar to submit the property details of his family

Some millers had lifted paddy during procurement in Ganjam district, but out of them 10 millers did not returned rice after milling

hey were asked to deposit the rice stock but they did not respond. Later, they were asked to make payment towards the rice

Reports said, the millers had lifted paddy for milling in 2012-13 financial year. However, some of the millers despite milling the paddy failed in depositing rice for several vears

They were repeatedly served reminders asking them to deposit the rice. Later, the civil supplies department conducted a special audit and decided to recover money instead of rice from the defaulting millers. However, the millers continued playing truant and did not

180 ultras, supporters give in

Chitrakonda, June 11: As many as 180 Maoist militia members surrendered before the Malkangiri police and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at Swabhiman Anchal under this block in Malkangiri district, Saturday morning

The militia members burnt their Maoist fatigues and laid down their arms supporting various developmental works undertaken by the government. They surrendered at Dabuguda and Dhakadpadar in Jantri panchayat in the presence of SDPO Anshuman Dwivedi, BSF commandant and district officials.

At about 10am, 180 Maoists including active militias, village committee members, sympathisers and members of Gana Natya Sangha laid down their arms before the police and district administration

The surrendered militias



Ultras were involved in cases of arson, civilian killings, torching of vehicles, passing of info about security forces

hail from Dhakadpadar, Dabuguda, Taber and Arlingpada villages of Jantri gram panchayat under Jodambo police station of Malkangiri district.

Police said the surrendered Maoists were involved in exchanges of fire, arson, civilian killings, hoisting of black flags instead of national flag, torching of vehicles, boycotting of elections, supply of food and logistics to Maoists, passing of information about movement of security forces, intimidation of innocent tribals.

Biker killed in road mishap, 1 critical

Nischintakoili: A biker was killed while a pillion rider was left battling for life after their vehicle hit a stone block on roadside at Nahalpur under this block in Cuttack district, late Friday night The deceased was identified as Manoj Kumar Sahu, 27, and the pillion rider as Ashok Kumar Sahu, 25, of Sadhaknagar village. The two were returning from a marriage function when their collided with a stone block. Manoj died on the spot and Ashok was critically injured. Locals rescued him this morning.

Probe confirms illegal soil lifting from forest land

Sambalpur, June 11: The forest and the revenue departments have investigated the alleged illegal soil lifting from a forest land under Jujumara tehsil in Sambalpur district. The investigating team has confirmed the illegality but action

POST NEWS NETWORK

A few days ago, people of Kabarapalli had spotted that some mafia were excavating by engaging JCB machines from the forest land. They had detained a JCB machine and three Hyva trucks and then

against the guilty is being awaited.

informed the matter to local police and the revenue department.

The police rushed to the spot. But surprisingly, the police allegedly abused the villagers and scared them away. It was alleged that the police set the mafia free along with detained trucks and machine.

Upset, the villagers took up the issue with Sambalpur superintendent of police Batula Gangadhar, who ordered an investigation.

Police and tehsil officials measured the land where the soil was lifted in the presence of the villagers.

₹25L DRINKING WATER **PROJECT GOES KAPUT**

Dasmanthpur: A drinking water project built at

a cost of ₹25 lakh has failed to serve its purpose in A. Malkangiri panchayat under this block of Koraput district. Locals alleged that lakhs of rupees have gone down the drain as the project is ineffective and they have to drive water from an open dilapidated well in a farmland. A population of over 700 people has to suffer in the absence of safe drinking water. However, the rural water supply and sanitation department has not restored the project despite repeated pleas from the local residents. Locals said that the work of the drinking water project was messed up by the contractor concerned.

Andhra officials conduct survey in Kotia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, June 11: Andhra Pradesh has stoked another controversy in Kotia panchayat of Koraput as some of its officials conducted a survey in the area Saturday

Locals spotted a group of officials from the neighbouring state moving around the Galigadara waterfall in the morning. They had survey equipments and some other logistics.

Reports said, the locals of

ZP member Tikai Gemel expressed her displeasure over the entry of Andhra officials in Kotia

Kotia suspected that the survey was meant for a soil conservation project near the Galigadara village forest.

The team was also seen measuring some forest lands with technical devices which may be a mining survey.

With this development, the natives of the Kotia group of villages cast doubts about another plot by the Andhra Pradesh officials to extract mining resources from the Odisha territory illegally.

Zilla parishad member Tika Gemel has expressed her displeasure over the entry of Andhra officials in Kotia and sought to know from them the reason about their survey.

But the officials could not come out with satisfactory replies.

Royal era Rajabandh gasps for breath

MAN-MADE POND SPRAWLING OVER 125 ACRES IS CHOKED WITH SILT, WEEDS



Morada, June 11: Rajabandh is a massive pond sprawling over 125 acres along the Chitrada-Amarda state highway in Haladipal panchayat under Morada block of Mayurbhanj district. The pond, dug out centuries ago by the royals of Mayurbhanj for irrigation and water conservation purposes, has almost lost its existence, for lack of renovation.

Locals have held the administration responsible for the deplorable condition of the man-made lake, as the latter is not taking any step for its renovation. They have demanded for steps for its renovation as it would come handy for irrigation and water conservation. For last several years, the area continues to remain waterstressed in summer every year.

used to come handy for irrigation. People used to raise multiple crops in various seasons by channelising the water from the pond to 300 acre of farmland. In the past, the pond was instrumental in promoting the agrarian economy in the area, locals

weeds over years.

"Earlier people bathed in the pond due to its lean water. We have to face difficulties as its water is contaminated and the pond is covered with weeds and reeds. The government should take up its renovation

and dredging," they added. Local people, senior citizens and varMalati Marandi, sarpanch of Haladipal panchayat, lamented: Rajabandh

panchayat, lamented, "Rajabandh has been losing its existence over years. The state government and the administration should pay heed to its renovation so that it could be of good use for farming and water conservation.

Samiti member Tanaya Das said that if Rajabandh is not renovated, it would be reduced to a narrow creek in a few years.

Maa Dwarasuni shrine is in the periphery of the pond. If the government carries out development and beautification of Dwarasuni Shrine and renovation of the pond, it would boost tourism in the area, locals pointed out.

Kalinga Keshari Jena, founder of Bhanja Sena, said that if Rajabandh is renovated along with its beautification and boating facility, it would attract tourists.

₩UCO BANK

Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upor the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to

Date of Demand

Notice

		The state government and the administration should pay heed to its renovation so that it could be of good use for farming and water conservation
		Samiti member Tanaya Das said that if Rajabandh is not renovated, it would be reduced to a narrow creek in a few years. It should be renovated for farming
		ious organizations have apprised the district administration and local leaders about the need for Rajabandh's renovation in the larger interest of farmers. But all their pleas have fallen on deaf ears, they rued.
ST NEWS NETWORK	Locals said decades ago Rajahandh	Malati Marandi sarnanch of Haladinal

Now, the pond is gasping for breath as the sprawling water body has lost its water retention capacity due to heavy siltation and is choked with

BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrowers/Guarantors KAKATPUR BRANCH/

Borrower: M/s. Maa Associates, Prop.: Mr Dillip Kumar Nayak, S/o.: Mr. Nabaghana Nayak, At: Patasundarpur, PO.: Patasundarpur, Via: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri - 752108/ Guarantors 1) Mr. Dillip Kumar Navak, 2) Mr. Nabaghana Nayak, 3) Mr. Dushasan Nayak, At: Patasundarpur, PO.: Patasundarpur, Via: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri - 752108

2372, 2374, Area: Ac.1.04 Dec, Kissam: Patita, in the name of Mr. Dillip Kumar Nayak, Mr. Pradipta Kumar Nayak & Mr. Nabaghana Nayak, Bounded by North: Road, South: Maheswar Nayak, East: Sudarsan Pradhan, West: Govt. Land

BHANJANAGAR BRANCH/ S/o.: Mr. Radha Mohan Tripathy, At: Dalaka Balisahi, PO.: Lambhai, P.S.: Tarasingi, Dist. Ganjam, Odisha, PIN - 761131 / Guarantor: Mr Radha Mohan Tripathy, S/o.: Late Khali Tripathy At: Dalaka, Balisahi, PO.: Lambhai, P.S. Tarasingi, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN - 761131 BADAKHOLI BRANCH/

Borrower: Mr. Trilochan Badatya, S/o. Shyamghan Badatya, At/PO.: Bhetanai, P.S. Aska, Ganjam, Odisha-761116 / Guarantor: Mr. Shyamghan Badatya, At/PO.: Bhetanai P.S.: Aska, Ganjam, Odisha-761116

Land of Uttam Sahu, West: House of Niranjan Nahak **BALIGUDA BRANCH/**

Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Sanjukta Sahu, W/o.: Binod Kumar Sahu, 2) Mr. Binod Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Mr. Purna Chandra Sahu, At: Main Road Dandapadar, Dist.: Kandhamal, PIN-762103 Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.06.2022

as on 10.11.2021

Amount

Specified Date ₹ 3,15,118.31

as on 09.06.2022

thereon

 Interest and other expenses thereon

₹ 7,02,341.71 as on 15.11.2021 Interest and

thereon

as on 31.03.2021 + Interest and other expenses

PO.: Lambhai, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, PIN -761131, Total Area 697 sq.ft., in the name of Mr. Radha Mohan Tripathy, Bounded by North: Road, East: House of Kandha Nayak, South: Land of rushna Chandra Rout, West: House of Banchha Rout 07.12.2021 All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated over Mouza: Bhetanai, Tahasil: Aska, Dist.: Ganjam

Description of the Immovable Properties

28.01.2022 / 1) All that part and parcel of Immovable property

09.06.2022 situated over Mouza: Balara, P.S.: Kakatpur, Tahasil

Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Khata No.: 441, Plot No.: 3711, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec, Khata No.: 558, Plot No.: 3746, Area: Ac.0.19 Dec,Kissam.

Bagayat, in the name of Mr. Dillip Kumar Nayak, Mr. Pradipta

10.11.2021 All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated over Khata No.: 95, Plot No.: 965, Sale Deed No.: 95,1983, dt.25.03.1983, Kissam: Gharabari, Extent

of the site- Area: Ac.0.016 Dec i.e 697 sq.ft at Dalaka, Balisahi

Kumar Nayak & Mr. Nabaghana Nayak, Bounded by North: Road, South:Laxmidha

Biswal, East: Ramachandra Rout, West: Ashok Senapati, 2) All that part and parce

of Immovable property situated over Mouza: Mahadebabasta, P.S.: Kakatpur, Tahasil

Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Khata No.: 707, Plot No.: 2290, 2293, 2388, 2386, 2381

07.06.2022 Khata No.: 1904/162, Plot No.: 3851/10256, Plo No.: 4004/10257, in the name of Mr. Shyamghan Badatya, S/o. Mr. Govind Badatya, Plot No.: 3851/10256 is Bounded by North Road, East: House of Bhaskar Mohanty, South: Land of Uttam Sahu, West: House of Keshab Badatya, Plot No.: 4004/10257 is Bounded by North: Road, East: House of Saiba Badatya, South

> 18.11.2021 All that part and parcel of Immovable property situated / over Mouza: Baliguda, Thana: Baliguda, Tahasil 08.06.2022 Baliguda, Khata No.: 769/1807, Plot No.: 3233/ 5016, Area: H0.008R, standing in the name of Sanjukta Sahu Bounded by North: Bhima Dalabehera, East: Ghadei Sahu, South .W.D Road, West: Parsuram Panda

Authorised Officer, UCO Bank



Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will

THE MOTHER



Aakar Patel

The BJP must not do

things that give the

chance to lecture us

and to force us to do

outside world a

things we do not

want to do

Vulnerabilities Exposed

overeign nations are those with absolute power over themselves. They cannot be compelled to do what they do not want to do. In international relations a Great Power is one with influence far outside its borders. Not only can such a power resist external influence, it can impose its will

In our time, America remains such a power with influence around the world. This comes because of its dominance across a range of things from military power to being the largest economy, its position as the issuer of the world's reserve currency and its primacy in technology. Russia, though much weaker than America and also weaker than the Soviet Union, also is a major power because of its military strength which is deployed in places like Syria. China of course is now a Great Power, because of the strength of its economy, which is six times the size of our GDP, and its military spending, with a budget now four times ours. China has significant influence on entire continents like in Africa where its investments in infrastructure and other projects give it leverage also in geopolitics.

India does not have currently the economic strength of America or China. Militarily also we are different. We have the second largest army in the world (behind China's) but it is essentially a defensive army focussed on counter-

insurgency inside India, especially in Kashmir, and since 2020 also more focussed on policing the border against China. It is not a military that projects its power outside our borders to any great extent, or has the capacity to do so.

There are good reasons for us not to have tried to do this either. It does not behove a poor nation to spend its limited resources to developing a military strength that is not usable purely for defence. India has, however, still two ways in which it can influence the world. The first is as the world's most populous democracy, it can align with other democracies and spread democratic values. The second is that as an aspiring power, it can strengthen its economy like China so that it can influence the world through trade and investment.

We have failed on both counts here. Let me explain why. Democracy does not mean just the act of a free and fair election and universal franchise. This is how most of us see it but this is not how others in the democratic world see democracy. Democracy is as much about free speech, freedom of religion and of economic. social and cultural rights as about voting. Here we have been found lacking by various global indices that track such things and I agree with those indices. India is partially dem

ocratic. For this reason we cannot use our potential strength. For this reason also we must listen to lectures from other nations on the state of human rights in India and our treatment of minorities.

On the side of the economy, what more can be said other than that Bangladesh has overtaken us in per person GDP? That country was about 50% behind us in 2014 but has gone ahead and will stay ahead for the near future. Our government data on unemployment and on consumption show that things are not going to be better here anytime soon. Given the trajectory we have taken in the last few years, it is clear we will not become the next China or next America economically

Around us, Germany, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, because they developed their economy and their technologies, can be seen as having the capacity to influence the world outside the borders in a way few nations can. India is much larger than all of them combined but does not have such abilities because of our weak economy

We must remember that China's influence of the world, which has expanded exponentially since 2000, has not come on the back of its position on the United Nations Security Council. It has the power to veto things in the UNSC but that is not the source of its strength, which comes almost entirely from its economy. These are the things that we should consider when we examine why the government of India and the ruling party had to give in to the demand of a few Gulf nations. Whether the demand was justified or not is not the point, and whether the BJP should have got India into this mess gratuitously is not the point either. Others have written about this. The issue is why the BJP government was compelled to doing something it did not want to do. It is because the BJP was unaware that the government does not have the capacity to deflect all criticism of internal behaviour. We are vulnerable to the external world in ways that have been exposed. What is the lesson for the BJP to be learned? To resist external pressure, it could use India's inherent assets and try and make democracy stronger by giving more space to human rights and minority rights. This can be done in the short term. Making India a major economic power will take much longer but a first step can be to assess what has gone wrong over the past few years, especially since 2016. If it does not want to do either of these, there is a third way in which external influence can be limited. The BJP must not do things that give the outside world a chance to lecture us and to force us to do things we do not

WISDOM CORNER

A winner is just a loser who tried one more time.

It always seems impossible until it's done. I am a slow walker, but I never walk back.

NELSON MANDELA ABRAHAM LINCOLN

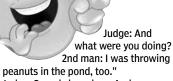
WORDSWORTH

■ Televersity

blend of telecommunications and university, the word televersity describes a new type of further education not vet achieved anywhere. though experiments are taking place at various sites. One proposal is that Suffolk College in Britain should become a university without a campus, teaching students using the resources of information technology, especially Internet communications and multimedia. This is in effect a high-tech update of the existing Open University concept, in which its proponents argue the new university would become something like a knowledge broker. supplying learning materials on demand both to its own students and to students registered at other universities in Britain and Europe. A related scheme is the European Televersity Project, which sees the value of reaching remote communities which could otherwise not gain access to higher education, as well as individuals prevented because of their work, disability or social disadvantage. Another name used for various versions of this concept is virtual university.

Disorderly conduct

Three men stood before a judge on a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct in a public park. Judge: What were you doing? 1st man: Oh, just throwing peanuts in the pond.



Judge: Sounds harmless. And you, were you throwing peanuts in the pond as well?

3rd man: No, sir. I AM Peanuts!

FOCUS LIFE-SCIENCE

THE BIOTECH BOOST

he COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped attitudes toward public health, fiscal policy, and the state's role in the economy. Demands for greater supply-chain resilience and strategic autonomy in developing and producing medicines have given rise to the concept of "life-science sovereignty." French President Emmanuel

Macron, for example, has announced an ambitious plan calling for France to produce at least 20 new biotherapies by 2030. With financing from the French public investment bank, his government's La French Care initiative aims to support the domestic biotech ecosystem and turn France into a "pioneer mRNA nation." Similarly, many other governments - from the Netherlands to the United Kingdom – are doubling down on their domestic biotech sectors.

This attention is welcome, but will it be enough? As the COVID experience has shown, securing approvals for a handful of vaccines and therapeutics requires hundreds of clinical trials for existing and new compounds - many of which fail. Medical innovation is expensive, and the costs and risks associated with it tend to be misunderstood by policymakers and ordinary citizens alike.

Consider the story behind ribonucleic acid interference (RNAi) therapeutics, a new category of medicines that target the genetic causes of disease and use small interfering RNA (siRNA) to "turn off" harmful proteins at their source. These treatments have virtually unlimited potential, but the journey from scientific possibility to real opportunity for patients has been very long. The discovery of the structure and function of DNA in the 1950s launched a sustained research effort to understand the biological mechanisms underpinning the process of gene expression. Building on those breakthroughs, Andrew Fire and Craig Mello discovered RNAi, or "gene silencing," in 1998, for which they won the Nobel Prize in 2006.

Fire and Mello's discovery gen-



The rapid delivery of vaccines against COVID-19 has heightened everyone's appreciation for biotech research and development, leading some governments to embark on a quest for 'life-science sovereignty'

erated widespread excitement about siRNA's possible use as a new type of therapy. Pharmaceutical companies invested heavily in this new area of research, but they soon encountered technical challenges in turning RNAi technology into therapeutics. The most salient problem was how to deliver siRNA to the right place in the human body for it to work effectively (that is, to the organ in which the disease gene was expressed). The difficulties of navigating this uncharted territory led many researchers and companies to lose hope.

By the early 2010s, most large pharmaceutical firms had terminated their investments in the technology entirely. Only a handful of companies – including our own, Alnylam - remained committed, eventually solving the delivery problem with lipid nanoparticles (LNP) as a carrier for RNAi. There are now four RNAi therapeutics approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency, and LNPs are being used in the mRNA vaccines for COVID-19. But it is important to remember that it took Alnylam 20 years and nearly \$7.5 billion to reach this point.

The story of RNAi holds important lessons about "life-science sovereignty." First, success takes more than scientific excellence and public support. Today, Greater

Boston is a world-class biotech hub, hosting more than 1,000 biotechnology-related companies. The Boston biotech ecosystem owes its growth to several interacting forces. The presence of world-class biomedical expertise within the Harvard University and the MIT certainly helped, but the availability of interdisciplinary skills such as engineering, business, finance, computing, and data sciences was also essential. So, too, was the young industry's proximity to some of the world's largest research hospitals. Bringing together the scientific and medical communities was critical for clinical development. Finally, early venture capitalists and investors in Boston and New York provided the necessary funding.

A second lesson concerns "sovereignty," a concept that can be problematic, because it implies a nationalist orientation. In fact, for any life-science ecosystem to succeed, it must be internationally oriented and open, so that it can tap scientific know-how, talent, and capital from around the world. There is a reason why many of the largest European and Japanese pharmaceutical companies – Sanofi, Novartis, Takeda, and Ipsen – invested in facilities in Boston.

To help domestic companies grow internationally, governments need to ensure that their policies

are conducive to attracting both human and financial capital from abroad. The UK seems to understand this. Through its Biobank, a large-scale biomedical database and research resource, it is leveraging National Health Service (NHS) data to build partnerships with global companies and researchers, ultimately leading to the development of new medicines.

Third, medical innovation requires considerable funds from both the public and private sectors. Here, Europe continues to trail the United States. Much more funding will be needed for it to catch up and - perhaps more importantly - not be overtaken by China in the global biotech race.

Finally, to ensure financial sustainability and a continuous cycle of investment, market and policy incentives must be aligned to reward innovation. Here, too, Europe is far behind the US. Because the European market is so fragmented, it takes much longer for innovations to become accessible there, leading to lower returns on investment. Between the limited growth opportunities and the commercial risks associated with unfavourable market access, there are many disincentives for investment in re-

search capacity and clinical trials. A more unified European market, where new innovations are evaluated in a timely and reliable fashion, could fix these problems and create a virtuous circle of investment and growth. But it will require a change of mindset. Decision-makers need to start looking at life-science innovation as a strategic investment instead

of a health-care cost Many other innovative solutions exist, but shepherding them to adoption and use will require more dialogue and a new social pact between the biotech sector, policymakers, and the public.

Phillip A. Sharp is a Nobel laureate. Julien Patris is Head of Policy for International Markets at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals.

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Phillip A. Sharp &

DECISION-MAKERS

NEED TO START

INNOVATION AS

LOOKING AT

LIFE-SCIENCE

A STRATEGIC

INVESTMENT

OF A HEALTH-

CARE COST

INSTEAD

Julien Patris

The repo rate conundrum



Satya Narayan Misra

MONETARY POLICY AND FISCAL POLICY ARE LIKE TWO WHEELS OF **AN ECONOMY'S CHARIOT. UNLESS THEY MOVE HARMONIOUSLY** THE ECONOMY **CANNOT TRUNDLE SMOOTHLY**

each target vou need one instrument; like for combating inflation you need to raise the repo rate. Paul Volker, the Federal Reserve Bank Governor, adopted this inflation targeting policy which brought down inflation from around 13% in 1979 to about 4% by 1981 by increasing the repo rate to 13%. While it had disastrous consequences in terms of spawning recession in USA for quite some time, the spectre of inflation never returned to USA thereafter. During Raghuram Rajan's stint as Governor of RBI, inflation targeting through repo rate was successfully practiced and the double digit inflation came down to 4% by 2017, by reducing reporate from a high level of 8.5% in 2008 to 6%. Rajan's tenure as a Governor witnessed also a stable exchange rate through timely intervention by the RBI.

Since 2016 the earlier practice of the RBI Governor deciding the reporate has been supplanted with a Monetary Policy Committee with experts from the IIMs, economics & statistics participating in the deliberation along with RBI insiders to decide the repo rate. The general consensus has been that the MPC has been taking a broader based approach to rate determi-

rof. Jan Tinbergen, the first nation. In February 2020 the MPC Noble laureate in Economics, had decided on reporate to be 5.15, had famously said that for which was brought down a record low of 4 and a CRR of 3 in May 2020, keeping in view the need to resuscitate the economy from the grip of COVID-19. For almost two years the MPC persisted with this rate, drawing criticism that it is not taking note of spiralling inflation breaching 6% on a persistent basis since March 2021. The Russia-Ukraine conflict and the abnormally high oil prices has also contributed to the cost push inflation due to supply chain bottlenecks and abnormally high energy price.

The RBI's move to increase the reporate by 90 basis points in quick succession in April and June was expected. It appears as though the RBI is making up for its past mistakes of not increasing the repo rate earlier. The RBI Governor has stated that inflation during 2022-23 would be around 6.7% which will be higher than the glide path of 4-6% recommended by the Urjit Patel committee. The growth forecast has been pitched at 7.2%. But the most surprising element of the RBI policy is that it has cast aside its earlier advocacy of 'accommodative stance.' In other words, it looks as though that in future the repo rate might go up to 5.5% in order to tame the spiralling beast of inflation.

home loans are linked to reporates. Similarly durables like cars are also going to be negatively impacted. Economists like Kaushik Basu believe that India is slowly inching towards stagflation.

Such a pessimistic prognostication seems to be unwarranted because the finance minister has taken a number of measures to boost the MSME sector and a slew of fiscal stimulus. In particular, increase in the capital expenditure budget by nearly 35% has been a significant move to propel employment and demand. From an average of 2.1% of GDP in the last decade, the capital expenditure is now around 2.9% and the prime beneficiaries would be sectors like roads and railways. The other development which needs to be complimented is the increase in the MSP of around 6-9% announced by the government for a number of crops.

Monetary policy and fiscal policy are like two wheels of an economy's chariot. Unless they move harmoniously the economy cannot trundle smoothly.

Prof. Richard Musgrave had observed that the most important mandate of an economy is it macroeconomic stability. They encompass essentially four facets -- a strong rupee, low inflation, un-

Most specifically, home loan buy- employment below 5% and low iners would be hugely affected as debtedness. Kenneth Rogoff in a seminal article (Growth in a time debt is an excess of 90% of GDP, the mean growth would be as low as 1.7%, as against 3.7% when debt is below 30% of GDP. India committed to containing its fiscal deficit to 3% in the FRBM Act 2003 by 2008. However, we have slipped badly, thanks to the fiscal stimulus during the pandemic. Though the economy is now recovering the combined debt of Centre and the states is around 90% of the GDP. The other area of serious concern is the precipitous fall of rupee against dollar. This would need to be contained urgently through market intervention by the RBI in a more effective manner. India needs to invest more in infrastructure, education, health and skill. Happily, the tax collection trend, particularly in GST has been encouraging.

The way forward for the government and the RBI is to ensure macroeconomic stability tame inflation, contain debt, promote employment and remove bottlenecks in supply chain. It's a tall order, but realizable.

The writer teaches Macro Economics in KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. Views are personal.

Costlier EMIs

Sir, Leading lenders

picked up the cue from

TO THE EDITOR

etters

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

Stop polarisation

Sir, Massive protests broke out in different parts of the country on Friday over the recent controversial statement on Prophet Muhammad from former BJP national spokesperson Nupur Sharma and the expelled Delhi media unit chief Naveen Kumar Jindal. Some protests in different states have turned into violent mode. Both the police and agitators have been found to be injured in a few places. The visuals coming out of the protests are disturbing for a citizen of India. The past few days have been quite challenging for the police personnel. They have to deal with a lot of anger and violence since the controversy has erupted. Now the religious leaders, political parties, and leaders of ruling and Opposition parties need to intervene and appeal to all communities to handle the issue peacefully and follow all legal ways. The hate-mongers and hooligans should be punished and the angry agitators need to be cooled down before the

country becomes more polarised on this issue. Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

The wheat ban gaffe

Sir, The ban imposed by India on wheat export is a classic example of an administrative gaffe where a complex situation was created out of a simple problem by delayed decision making and lack of inter-departmental coordination. The government machinery seems to have failed to correctly assess the impact of declining production. cut in public procurement and export data, leading to utter confusion and enforcing the ban. This has weakened the prospects of better prices for wheat farmers and dented the country's image as a reliable exporter of this food grain. Many of the farmers have held back their crop in the hope of getting higher prices. No matter what the rationale, the ban on wheat export shipments in the manner the central government imposed is likely to seriously impact its credibility in the international market. The ban's likely suppression of wheat production is another dark omen for a global economy struggling to provide adequate food supplies at sustainable prices.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

the Reserve Bank of India and upped their external benchmark lending rates. About half the country's outstanding banking credit is linked to external rates. Several commercial banks raised their external benchmark-linked loan rates. Banks benefit from higher yields on their lending portfolio, but borrowers will pay through their noses. NJ Ravi Chander.

BANGALORE

national



The National Education Policy seeks to position India as a knowledge hub in todav's knowledge economy. It seeks to make our youth equipped for the world of the 21st century while preserving our ancient values which remain relevant even today RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

MCD TO DEPLOY DRONES

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has decided to deploy drones to map the elevation of landfills and also monitor the reduction in its height along with other parameters, officials said Saturday



responsible for the threats and the possible rise in terrorism in the country. If anything country, then only the BJP is responsible for this. The BJP doesn't

represent the country SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA ME

With the new excise policy

rolled out by

the state government, revenue from the liquor sector will increase to Rs 9,600 crore, and smuggling from the neighbouring states will

HARPAL SINGH CHEEMA PUNJAB FINANCE

We need to uphold the Bengali pride

and continue to fight expose those who try Bengali Pride. We are hopeful that

next time we would come to power and conduct our victory rally at Brigade parade ground (in Kolkata)

SHORT **TAKES**

Cong to protest outside ED offices

Mumbai: Taking umbrage at the Centre's "dictatorship" and the Bharatiya Janata Party's leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul in false cases, the Maharashtra Congress will hold protests outside Enforcement Directorate (ED) offices in Mumbai and Nagpur Monday. State party President Nana Patole said that the BJP government at the Centre is acting out of political vendetta against the Congress President Sonia Gandhi and MP Rahul Gandhi as part of its conspiracy to "silence the Opposition parties" by misusing central

Congress expels **Kuldeep Bishnoi**

New Delhi: The Congress Saturday expelled Adampur MLA Kuldeep Bhishnoi from all party positions after he openly cross-voted against official Congress nominee Ajay Maken in Rajya Sabha polls held on Friday. In a letter, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, wrote. "Honble Congress President has expelled Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi from all his present party positions including the post of special invitee in Congress working committee with immediate

Man arrested

New Delhi: A 32-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing a man who was in a live-in relationship with the accused's wife in central Delhi's Sadar Bazar, police said Saturday. The accused has been identified as Robin, a resident of Paharganj, they said, adding that he was previously involved in five cases of robbery, hurt and theft. Thursday, an incident of stabbing was reported from the Sadar Bazar area. The victim was taken to the Lady Hardinge Hospital where he was declared brought dead, police said.

2 held with arms

Srinagar: Two persons have been arrested with arms and ammunition by Jammu and Kashmir police from South Kashmir's Anantnag district. officials said Saturday. "Police in Anantnag have arrested two persons identified as Rahil Ahmed Malik, son of Gulzar Ahmed Malik and Shabir Ahmed Rather, son of Ghulam Hassan Rather -- both residents of Mehmodabad at a checkpoint established at Khudahmam Dooru," police



Nagaland frames charges against 30 soldiers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kohima, June 11: The Special Investigation Team (SIT), set up by the Nagaland government to probe the killing of 14 people in Mon district in December last year, has named 30 Army men including a Major, in its charge sheet submitted to court, officials said Saturday.

A senior Nagaland Police official said that the SIT submitted its charge sheet to the District and Sessions Court in Mon district on May 30 through the additional public prosecutor and named 30 members of the operation team of 21 Para (Special Force) - the major. two subedars, eight havildars, four nayaks, six lance nayaks and nine paratroopers.

"A CID report seeking sanction for prosecution is forwarded to the Department of Military Affairs in the first week of April and reminder letter sent in May. The sanction for

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: AirAsia

India's two A320 aircraft, which

were heading from Delhi to

Srinagar, returned to national

capital as they faced technical

snag mid-air within a span of ap-

proximately six hours Saturday.

which was being operated on A320 $\,$

aircraft with registration number

VT-APJ, took off from the Delhi air-

port at around 11: 55 am, a pas-

senger who was on this flight said.

about half an hour, the pilot an-

nounced that the aircraft (VT-

APJ) is facing a technical snag,

the passenger stated. VT-APJ air-

craft safely returned to Delhi air-

port at around 1.45 PM with all the

passengers, the passenger stated.

istration number VT-RED was

arranged by the airline to con-

duct the I5-712 flight so that the

stranded passengers could be taken

Sometime after the second

plane took off, the pilot an-

nounced that this aircraft (VT-

RED) too has developed a tech-

nical snag and it will have to

return to the Delhi airport, the

passenger said. VT-RED aircraft

safely returned to Delhi airport

to Srinagar, the passenger said.

Another A320 aircraft with reg-

After the plane was mid-air for

The Delhi-Srinagar flight I5-712,

Planes face technical

snag mid-air; return



prosecution is still awaited. Meanwhile, the charge sheet has been filed, pending sanction for prosecution against the 30 accused."In the CID Report, the SIT has also made various observations with regard to the manner in which the operation was carried out and pointed out the need to address

The Delhi-Srinagar flight

15-712, which was being

aircraft with registration

off from the Delhi airport

at around 5.30 PM with the pas-

The airline then told the pas-

sengers that they can either can-

cel their flight and get the re-

fund, or they can book another

flight within the next 30 days,

When asked about this inci-

dent, Air Asia India spokesper-

son said, "AirAsia India con-

firms that flight from Delhi to

Srinagar had to return back to

Delhi on account of a technical

snag. The aircraft is being operated after rectification of the

snag to recover continuity of

operations to and from

Srinagar." "We regret the in-

convenience and disruption to the

travel plans of our guests and reaf-

firm our commitment to safety in

all our operations," the spokesper-

number VT-APJ, took

at around 11:55 am,

a passenger said

the passenger stated.

operated on A320

propriate authority for taking necessary action," the Nagaland Police said in a statement.

It said that investigation has revealed that Alpha team of 21 Para (Special Force), consisting of 31 personnel led by a major rank officer launched an operation in Oting Tiru area on December 3 last year, based on the intelligence

input about presence of a group of militants belonging to the NSCN-K-YA and the ULFA.

On December 4, at around 4.20 pm, the operation team, which had laid an ambush at Longkhao between Upper Tiru and Oting village and opened fire at a white Bolero pick up vehicle which was carrying eight civilians belonging to Oting village, most of whom were working as labourers in a coal mine at Tiru without ensuring positive identification and failing to carry out challenging procedure.

The statement said that the investigation has also revealed that the operation team had not followed the standard operating procedures and the rules of engagement and resorted to indiscriminate and disproportionate firing, leading to immediate killing of the six occupants of the vehicle on the spot and grievously injuring two persons. When the villagers of Oting and Tiru reached the incident spot in search of the missing villagers and the pick-up vehicle, they turned violent on discovering the dead bodies and a scuffle ensued between the villagers and the security personnel "One paratrooper succumbed to injuries and 14 personnel from the operation team sustained injuries as a result of the scuffle. This led the Major to order opening of fire, killing seven more villagers.'

The Nagaland Police official said that the 22-member SIT, under the overall supervision of Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Sandeep M. Tamgadge, in its charge sheet, incorporated various evidence including relevant documents from various authorities and sources, scientific opinions from CFSL Guwahati, Hyderabad and Chandigarh and technical evi-

3 OF FAMILY

Bhopal, June 11: Three members of a family were found dead inside their home, while a 10-year-old girl belonging to the same family was found in an unconscious state in Madhya Pradeshs Bhind district Saturday

The shocking incident was reported from Bhind district under the Gwalior-Chambal division, around 500 km from Bhopal, on Saturday morning. As per the police, two members of the family identified as Dharmendra Gurjar and his wife Amresh Gurjar, were found hanging while the body of their son was lying on the floor.

The fourth member of the family, a 10-year-old girl, was found lying unconscious. She has been admitted to the government hospital in Gwalior. The incident came to light after some neighbours noticed that the door of the Guriar house was shut, whereas they used to go out for morning walk on a reg-

The neighbours later broke open the door and found two members of the family hanging and two lying on the floor. The neighbours noticed that the minor girl was alive and they immediately took her to a nearby hospital, the police said. Later, Bhind SP Shailendra Singh Chauhan reached the spot with a forensic team and launched a probe into the matter.

The police said that while it appears to be a case of mass suicide, they are also probing a murder angle. "The bodies have been sent for post-mortem. We are investigating the possible involvement of some outsiders in the case,"

Anubrata's bodyguard owns 4 houses, gold

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 11: As many as four houses and few kg of gold were found in the asset list of Sehgal Hossain, the personal bodyguard of Trinamool Congress strongman Anubrata Mondal, who was arrested by the CBI on Thursday in connection with its probe into the cattle and coal smuggling cases in West Bengal.

CBI sources said that out of the four houses enlisted in his asset list, one is a luxurious standalone house at his ancestral place in Domkal in Murshidabad district, while the other three are flats at the New Town area on the northern outskirts of Kolkata. Incidentally, Sehgal's housemaid has been named as a co-owner of one of the flats in

The CBI sleuths, after conducting searches in these flats in New Town for the past two day, have recovered several kg gold in the form of bars, biscuits and ornaments. As per estimates, the current market value of the gold will run into crores of rupees. Now the question arises as to how Hossain, a constable with West Bengal Police whose wife is a primary school

CBI sources said that after talking to Hossain's neighbours in Domkal, the agency sleuths learnt that Hossain's upward graph in financial status started three years ago when he was appointed as the bodyguard of Mondal, Trinamool's Birbhum district president.

teacher, can own such huge assets.



Devotees pay obeisance to Lord Dwarkadheesh on the occasion of Nirjala Ekadashi, at Dwarkadheesh temple,

HC seeks CBI reply on 'extortion'

New Delhi, June 11: The Delhi High Court has sought the response of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a plea moved by jailed conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar alleging that the Tihar prison authorities have extorted around Rs 12.5 crore from him in the last two years.

Issuing notice in the writ petition, Justice Yogesh Khanna, in a recent order, directed the CBI to file a status report in this regard while posting the matter for the next hearing on August 5. Sukesh's counsel Ashok K. Singh said: "A request has been made to CBI to probe into the matter. The matter in question is very serious in nature, which involves most senior Jail officers including the DG of Tihar jail, as they are involved in extortion racket run inside the jail thereby they threaten prisoners and extort money from their family members in the



name of safety of the life and comfort inside the jail."

The plea contended, that in February, a probe has been ordered against three Tihar jail officials for allegedly receiving money from Chandrashekhar. The matter was probed by Delhi Police Economic Offence Wing which later had recommended action against 82 jail officials, who allegedly helped him by providing him luxurious facilities inside the prison.

The 27-yr-old Chandrashekhar, a native of Bengaluru, faces 15 FIRs. To lead a lavish lifestyle, he duped people of several crores in Bengaluru and Chennai. Further, Chandrashekhar has, multiple

regard while posting the matter for the next hearing on August 5 times, claimed a threat to his life

Issuing notice in the writ

petition, Justice Yogesh

order, directed the CBI to

file a status report in this

Khanna, in a recent

inside the prison.

In a handwritten complaint lodged at the Hari Nagar Police station on March 9, he alleged that the jail officials are threatening to kill him if he does not fulfill their demands. Chandrashekhar was arrested last year for allegedly cheating and extorting money from some high-profile people, which includes former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh.

Rijiju-led delegation to carry Lord Buddha relics to Mongolia

THE RELICS WILL BE ACCORDED THE STATUS OF A STATE GUEST AND WILL BE TAKEN IN THE SAME CLIMATE CONTROL CASE IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN KEPT AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: In a special gesture, four holy relics of Lord Buddha are being flown from India to Mongolia for an 11-day exposition as part of celebrations of Mongolian Buddh Purnima falling on June 14, according to an official statement.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju will lead a 25-member delegation to Mongolia carrying the sacred relics. The delegation will leave on Sunday by an Indian Air Force C-17 transport aircraft, the statement issued by the Union Ministry of Culture said on Saturday. To be kept in special caskets, the relics will be displayed at the Batsagaan temple within the premises of the Gandan Monastery.

The Buddha relics, currently housed in the National Museum, are known as the 'Kapilvastu Relics' since they are from a site in Bihar discovered in 1898 and believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu. Briefing reporters here about the visit, Rijiju said it is another historic milestone in India-Mongolia relations and will further boost cultural and spiritual relations between the two countries.



Recalling the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Mongolia in 2015, the Union minister said Modi was the first Indian PM to visit the East Asian country. Taking the relics to Mongolia is an extension of his vision to revive India's relations with the countries with boundary," he said. The Union minister also said whom it has had cultural and spir

itual ties for centuries.

"Mongolia and India look upon each other as spiritual and cultural neighbours and due to this commonality, Mongolia can also be said to be our 'Third Neighbour', even though we don't share any common physical

that the teachings of Lord Buddha

are relevant even today and will guide humanity towards greater peace, harmony and prosperity. India believes in peace and harmony and wants to spread this message throughout the world through the teachings of Lord Buddha which are India's cultural gift to the world, Rijiju said.

The relics are being taken for an 11-day exposition as a special gift for the people of Mongolia, he said. The earlier plan was to take the relics for a week but on the request of Mongolia, they will be

kept there for 11 days. The relics will be accorded the status of a state guest and will be taken in the same climate control case in which they have been kept at the National Museum, the statement said. Two bulletproof casings and two ceremonial caskets are being carried by the Indian delegation for the relics, it said.

The last time these relics were taken out of the country was in 2012 when an exposition was held in Sri Lanka and they were displayed at several locations across the island nation

However, later guidelines were issued and the holy relics were placed under the 'AA' category of those antiquities and art treasures which should not be ordinarily taken out of the country for exhibition, considering their delicate nature.

But they are now being taken out at the request of the Mongolian government, Rijiju said.

Briefing the media virtually, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy said Lord Buddha is revered not only in India but all over the world. The government is making all efforts to spread Lord Buddha's message of peace and compassion all over the



Cong-JD(S) ties go downhill, Bommai asserts BJP is No 1

The BJP benefited from the tug of war between the two parties and won 3 out of 4 seats in the June 10 Rajya Sabha biennial elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belagavi (KTK), June 11: While losing a seat to the saffron party in the Rajya Sabha election has further strained the ties between the Congress and the JD(S), who blame each other as the ruling party's 'B' team, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Saturday said the fight between the two parties has made it clear that the BJP is the 'A' team.

Reacting to the blame game that has ensued between Congress and the JD(S) following the defeat of their candidates Mansoor Ali Khan and D Kupendra Reddy respectively, Bommai said he would neither comment nor intervene in the slugfest between the two parties. "We are not bothered as to who is our 'B' team. The Opposition has accepted that we are the 'A' team,"

Bommai said. Regarding JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy's accusation that Congress wants to 'finish' the JD(S),



would not comment on it.

Would not comment on it.

He, however, said that nobody could 'finish' any political party, for the decision lies with the people who decide the fate of parties. The BJP benefited from the tug of war between the two parties and won 3 out of 4 seats in the June 10 Rajya Sabha biennial elections. The Congress and the JD(S) would have won at least one more seat had they joined hands, which, however, did not happen resulting in an acrimonious fight between them.

Asked about Kumaraswamy's remark that Congress stalwart Siddaramaiah has a soft corner for Bommai, the Chief Minister said Siddaramaiah has targeted him more if one analyses the language he has been using against him.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman, Kannada film actorturned-politician Jaggesh and Lahar Singh Siroya are the 3 BJP candidates who won. Congress nominee Jairam Ramesh too emerged victorious. On the biennial elections to four legislative council seats, two teachers' constituencies and two graduate constituencies, the Chief Minister said the BJP has a good chance to win. "Though Congress is expressing confidence of scoring a big victory in the Legislative Council polls, the reality is BJP has a very good chance to triumph. There is complete unity in the BJP," Bommai said.

Stating that the BJP was getting good response in the Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies, he predicted a landslide victory for Arun Shahapur and Hanumanth Nirani.

Curfew in parts of Jammu; efforts on to defuse tension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TWOSTATES

Bhaderwah/Jammu, June 11: A curfew clamped in parts of Jammu's Chenab valley was in effect Saturday, while a day-long shutdown called against recent remarks on Prophet Mohammad by two now-suspended BJP leaders disrupted life in the Peer Panchal region, officials said.

Even as efforts were intensified to defuse communal tension, prominent citizens from both the communities requested the government to take strict action against 'mischievous elements' bent on disturbing peace.

Broadband and mobile internet services remained suspended in several areas, including Bhaderwah and Kishtwar towns, as a precautionary measure.

Tension had mounted in Bhaderwah township of Doda district and some areas of nearby Kishtwar and Ramban districts of Chenab valley region, prompting the authorities to impose restrictions under section 144 of the CrPC late

Thursday evening.

A curfew was subsequently clamped in Bhaderwah and some other parts of Doda district along with Kishtwar town as a precautionary measure, the officials said, adding that barring a stone-pelting incident in Bhaderwah, there was no untoward incident reported from anywhere.

They said students appearing in the bi-annual Class 12 final examinations were allowed through the curfew-bound areas on furnishing their admit cards.

the curfew-bound areas on furishing their admit cards. "The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, and the participants unanimously requested for

Police, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban

range, Sunil Gupta went round

Bhaderwah town along with a con-

tingent of police personnel and

A women personnel contingent

was also deployed in the town, the

officials said, adding that efforts

were intensified to defuse the ten-

sion by encouraging meetings be-

tween senior citizens of the two

Bhaderwah town under the chair-

manship of District Development

Council (DDC) chairman D S

Kotwal, in which members of the

Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha and

representatives of the Sarafa Jamia

Masjid Committee participated

and assured full cooperation to the

administration in dealing with mis-

chievous elements.

One such meeting was held in

communities

asked people to stay indoors.

stern action against mischievous elements bent upon disturbing peace," Jamia Masjid Committee president Imtiaz-ur-Rehman Bhat said.

Deputy president of Dharam Sabha Manoj Kotwal said some elements were misusing social media to drive a wedge between the two communities and this needs to be dealt with "iron hands."

"There are some elements who want disturbance. They should be identified and thrown in prison. We were looking forward for a good tourism season after three long years but all the efforts to revive tourism suffered a setback," he said.

Reports from the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Peer Panchal region of Jammu spoke of a peaceful shutdown as part of a protest against the recent remarks by the suspended BJP leaders.

The shutdown call was sounded by a body of Muslim preachers and supported by president of Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Mendhar, Balram Sharma. The protests started in Bhaderwah town of Doda on Thursday when hundreds of people staged a sit-in against the remarks made by now-suspended BJP leaders Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal on Prophet Mohammad and the social media posts by right-wing activists in sup-

port of the BJP leaders.

After intense negotiations, the protestors agreed to clear the road and entered the neighbouring Jama Masjid. Purported video clips of the inflammatory speeches went viral on social media. The police have registered a case and warned people against taking the law into their own hands.

However, tension increased around midnight when two women, who came out of the mosque, claimed that they were roughed up by the security forces who were implementing the curfew in the town.

Gang helping illegal B'deshi migrants get Aadhaar busted

The gang had converted ₹4 crore into Bangladeshi currency and transferred it to the neighbouring country in just one year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 11: The Bangalore Rural police said they have busted a nine-member gang, including a software engineer and a pharmacist, for allegedly helping illegal migrants, especially from Bangladesh, get Aadhaar card and other citizenship-related documents.

The gang had converted Rs 4 crore into Bangladeshi currency and transferred it to the neighbouring country in just one year.

According to the police, April 15 this year, Rs 18 lakh was looted from an ATM at Chikkagollarahatti village under Madanayakanahalli police station limits. In this connection, police arrested Sheikh Ismail Kitab Ali from Bangladesh.

During interrogation, Kitab Ali revealed about Syed Akoon alias Shahid Ahmed who had come to India illegally from the Tripura border and started a scrap and plastic waste company in the city. Akoon used to convert Indian

rupee into Bangladeshi currency from his account through agents and transfer the money to his native country.

Based on his inputs, police arrested his son Suman Islam from Hottappanapalya under the Madanayakanahalli police station limits.

On interrogation, they revealed that they used to get the Aadhaar card using the BBMP letter-head, seal and signature of the BBMP health officers. They used to submit the documents to the Bangalore One Centre and obtain Aadhaar card.

Their interrogation led to the arrest of Mohammed Abdul Aleem, who hails from Kulla in Bangladesh capital Dhaka. He used to help get illegal migrants get Aadhaar card using BBMP letter-head and seal. For this service, he used to charge them between Rs 500 and Rs 1,000.

Following their inputs, police arrested Suhail Ahmed, Mohammed Hidayat, Ayesha, Mohammed Amin Sait, Rakesh, Syed Mansoor and Ishtiyaq Pasha alias Medical Pasha, who hail from Devara Jeevanahalli police sta-

The police said Rakesh is a software engineer who became jobless post COVID-19. To make a living he used to create fake letters of gazetted rank officers.

Ishtiyaq was working as a temporary employee in a BBMP hospital, police said, adding that he has confessed to creating many fake negative COVID reports, fake vaccination reports and fake seals of the gazetted rank officers for getting Aadhaar card.

The police said they have seized five seals of health officers at five BBMP hospitals, 26 fake letterheads to create fake seals, 16 mobile phones, three CPUs, two laptops, two printers, 31 Aadhaar cards, 13 PAN cards, 28 voter IDs, four e-Shram cards, five driving licence, three Ayushman Bharat Health Cards, two ATM cards, three voter ID application form-6, 92 certificates for Aadhaar enrolment/update form with seals of BBMP medical officers from the accused

Hunt is on to trace the absconding persons, the police said. The police said the kingpin has three bank accounts. From these accounts, the money was transferred to various other accounts in Kolkata, Chennai, and Punjab.

Further, the Indian currency was converted into Bangladeshi currency with the help of those doing business on India-Bangladesh border and then send it to

Bangladesh.
Karnataka Home Minister Araga
Jnanendra lauded the Bangalore
Rural police for busting the net-



Muslim women hold placards during a protest against controversial remarks made by two now-suspended BJP leaders about Prophet Mohammad, in Srinagar, Saturday.

Target killings aimed to foment unrest in Kashmir Valley: LG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 11: Target killings in the Valley were an act of desperation on part of the terrorists to provoke security forces to commit a mistake so that people can hit the streets in protest, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Saturday.

"Target killings of innocent people have taken place. I believe the society should condemn it. A woman teacher, who imparts education to children, is killed, if the society does not condemn it, then I think, we are shirking away from our duties," Sinha said during a function in Kulgam district in south Kashmir.

Target killings are taking place deliberately in the hope that police and security forces commit a mistake, kill an innocent person, and the people come out on streets to protest, the LG said.

Sinha said the administration will not let that happen. There will be no action against an innocent person by the police, security forces or the J-K administration, he added.

YouTuber held for video on 'beheading' of Nupur Sharma



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 11: A Kashmiri YouTuber, whose video depicting the beheading of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma had gone viral on social media platforms, was arrested here Saturday for breaching public tranquillity and causing fear in the public, police said.

Wani has deleted the video and apologised for it as well. Before his arrest, Wani posted another video in which he said he did not have any intention of hurting the sentiments of people or any religion.

"YouTuber Faisal Wani has been

arrested. He had uploaded an incriminating video on YouTube which is against public tranquility and has caused fear and alarm to the public in general. The FIR has been registered under sections 505 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code at the Safa Kadal police sta-

tion," police said.
Wani's arrest came after he deleted the viral video and issued an apology in a new video posted on his YouTube channel "Deep pain Fitness."

"I had uploaded a video last night about Nupur Sharma. It was a VFX video which went viral all over India and an innocent person like me got implicated. I never Wani has deleted the video and apologised for it as well. Before his arrest, Wani posted another video in which he said he did not have any intention of hurting sentiments of people

have any intention to hurt any other religion, because Islam teaches us to respect other religions," Wani said in the new video. He said he deleted the contro-

versial video after it went viral. "I respect all religions. Yes, I had made that video, but I had no intention to violate anything. I deleted the video last night itself, but I apologise for it. I am sorry," the YouTuber said in the video

with folded hands.

"If anyone is hurt because of this, I am extremely sorry. I had no intention to hurt anyone," he added.

Describing himself as a simple person, Wani expressed hope that the second video would also go viral "so that my apology reaches

Wani's now-deleted video posted on his channel showed the bare-bodied YouTuber wielding a sword and beheading a photo of Sharma.

TEXTBOOK ROW

Minister orders to drop Dalit writer's poem

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 11: Amid the controversy over revision of textbooks in Karnataka, the ruling BJP has ordered to drop a poem by a famous Dalit writer which says that the sun and moon are not gods. The move is likely to trigger a row.

Karnataka Education Minister BC Nagesh has ordered exclusion of the poem 'Bhoomi' by late Siddalingaiah from 4th standard textbook, sources said Saturday.

The decision has been made in the view of complaints received against the poem for hurting religious sentiments. The poem was incorporated in the syllabus by the Textbook Revision Committee headed by Baraguru Ramachandrappa during the Congress rule.

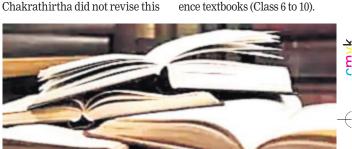
The Textbook Revision Committee formed by the BJP government headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha did not revise this textbook. Allegations surfaced that the 'Nali-Kali' section of the textbook, which is meant for compulsory co-curricular learning, is hurting religious beliefs with its

Many Hindus consider the sun and moon as sacred. The Committee also kept another controversial line that says religious mutts are cheating traps, sources in the Education Department stated.

controversial content.

The poem further says that no one has seen the 'aatma' (spirit) of the God, and that Shastras and Puranas are bundle of lies, and the palace and the abode of the guru are also traps.

The state government has announced revision of the controversial aspects of the syllabus revised by the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee after a huge backlash. The committee revised Kannada textbooks (Class 1 to 10) and social sci-







national

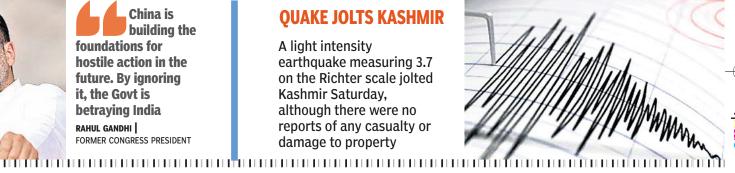


building the foundations for hostile action in the future. By ignoring it, the Govt is betraying India RAHUL GANDHI FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

OUAKE JOLTS KASHMIR

A light intensity earthquake measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale jolted Kashmir Saturday, although there were no reports of any casualty or damage to property





conversion law is necessary and should come into existence in the





Ukraine war

has thrown up a crisis of fuel, food and fertiliser that will

situations and have a very significant inflationary impact S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

2 workers killed

Hvderabad: Two workers were killed while two others sustained injuries in an accident during demolition of an old building in Telangana's Warangal town Saturday. The incident occurred in the Charbowli area of the town when an old structure was being pulled down. A portion of the structure fell on the workers, burying them under the debris, police said. Other workers on the site along with police and municipal employees launched a rescue operation. Bodies of two workers were pulled out of the debris.

IED recovered

Srinagar: Prompt action by the security forces on Saturday averted a major tragedy on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway in Jammu and Kashmir where an improvised explosive device (IED) was recovered. Traffic was suspended after a suspicious object was located in Sangrama stretch of the highway. "The IED was recovered in Putkha area of Sangrama in Baramulla sistrict by 5 Rashtriya Rifles and the J&K Police. Efforts are on to defuse the IED," the police said.

Man booked

Bhopal/Mandsaur: A man was booked in Bhopal and Mandsaur in Madhva Pradesh for allegedly hurting religious feelings through objectionable comments uploaded on social media, police officials said Saturday. Cases were registered Friday evening in Mandsaur's Kotwali police station and Bhopal's Ashoka Garden police station against Abhishek Singh on the complaints of some members of the Muslim community, they said.

Dogs kill boy

Nagpur: A five-year-old boy was mauled to death by stray dogs in Katol town of Maharashtra's Nagpur district Saturday, police said. The incident took place in Dhantoli area of the town, around 60 km from here, in the morning, an official said. The boy, Viraj Raju Jaywar, had stepped out for a walk with his sister, when some stray dogs attacked him. While his sister tried to shoo them away, they dragged the child to a construction site, where he was mauled to death, he said.

6 cops suspended

Vadodara: Six policemen were suspended for negligence in duty in Gujarat's Vadodara city on Saturday, for allegedly releasing an accused in a bailable offence soon after his arrest, hours before the Uttar Pradesh police could take him into custody in another case, an official said. Six policemen, including a sub-inspector, of Manjalpur police station have been suspended pending inquiry, the official said.

Don't panic over Covid surge: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country over the last few days should not be a cause for panic, health experts said Saturday. highlighting that no new variant of concern has been found and the rise so far is limited to a few districts.

They also pointed out towards non-adherence of Covid-appropriate behaviour and people being unenthusiastic about getting the booster dose, which possibly has increased the pool of population susceptible to the infection.

Seventeen districts in the country, including seven in Kerala and five in Mizoram, are reporting a weekly Covid positivity rate of more than 10 per cent, while in 24 districts, including seven in Kerala and four each in Maharashtra and Mizoram, the weekly positivity rate is between five and 10 per cent, an official source said.

"First of all, we have not found any new variant of concern. India now has BA.4 and BA.5, in addition to BA.2, which have a slightly higher transmissibility as compared to the other Omicron sublineages," Dr N K Arora, chairman of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), said.



In addition, there is increased mobility due to the summer holidays, easing of travel restrictions both nationally and internationally and full-fledged opening up of economic activities, because of which there

among vulnerable individuals. "There is another dimension to it and that is, the infection is limited to metros and big cities with a high population density. The important thing is that most of the people who are getting infected these days are immunised and have com-

has been a spread of the infection

mon cold and a mild influenza-like illness."There is no need to panic. but one must remember that Covid is very much around us and we need to adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour and particularly, avoid crowded places and also make masks an integral part of our day-to-day living," Dr Arora said. With a single-day rise of 8,329 cases, India's COVID-19 tally climbed to 4, 32, 13,435 on Friday, according to the Union health ministry.

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY

The top 10 states and Union territories of concern in terms of an

JOY IN THE AIR

First of all, we have not found any new variant of concern. India now has BA.4 and BA.5, in addition to BA.2, which have a slightly higher transmissibility as compared to the other Omicron sub-lineages DR NK ARORA CHAIRMAN OF NTAGI

increasing positivity rate are Kerala, Mizoram, Goa, Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Sikkim, Chandigarh, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

Six states and Union territories Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Haryana and Tamil Nadu -- have more than 1,000 active Covid cases. AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria said although there is a rise in the number of cases, there is no associated increase in hospitalisation or deaths.

"So the rise in the number of cases is not a cause of worry at the moment. But we should not let our guard down and must focus on aggressive testing. Also, complacency has set in among people towards following Covid-appropriate behaviour. Some people who are due for a precaution dose are not taking it, which possibly has increased the pool of susceptible population," Guleria said.

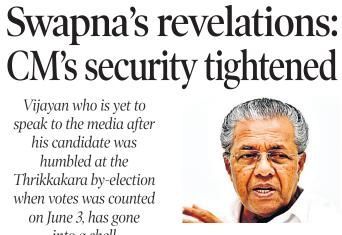
Vijayan who is yet to speak to the media after his candidate was humbled at the Thrikkakara by-election when votes was counted on June 3, has gone

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 11: In the wake of the "damning" revelation by Swapna Suresh on the involvement Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family in the gold and currency smuggling case in which she is the prime accused, M.R. Ajith Kumar IPS, Additional Director General of Police was shunted out from his post.

into a shell

The development took place late on Friday night. In her revelation early this week. Swapna had said that Shai Kiran, a middleman who was trying to settle the case with her, had mentioned about a connection between Kumar and an additional director general of Police- Law and Order (whom she did not name,



but gave his designation). While Kumar maintained stoic

silence, the ADGP law and Order-Vijay Sakhre said he has no clue of why his name was being dragged when he had no role in it.

Meanwhile, Vijayan who is yet to speak to the media after his candidate was humbled at the Thrikkakara by-election when votes was counted on June 3, has gone into a shell.

Mediapersons covering his function in Kottayam, have been asked to be present inside the venue an hour before he arrives on Saturday. Also, no body wearing a black

face mask would be allowed inside. This kind of caution is an exception as such guidelines are is-

sued only when the Prime Minister or President visit the state. Ever since the revelations,

no media person has been allowed near him.

KCR MAY FLOAT NATIONAL PARTY



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, June 11: After failing to make any progress on his idea of a national front, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao appears to have made up his mind to float a national party.

A final decision in this regard is expected to be taken June 19 at the extended meeting of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) executive. The TRS chief, who had a marathon discussion with state ministers and senior party leaders on Friday, is understood to have agreed to the proposal of floating Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

The process to register the new party with the Election Commission of India is likely to start soon. KCR, as the TRS supremo is popularly known, is looking to make a formal announcement of a new party in New Delhi by June-end.

TRS leadership is reportedly keen to have the TRS symbol of 'car' for the BRS as well. The TRS office coming up in the national capital will serve as the headquarters of the proposed national party, party sources said.

KCR, who has already announced his intention to play a key role in national politics, discussed the current political situation with his close aides for more than six hours. He is said to have accepted A final decision in this regard is expected to be taken June 19 at the extended meeting of **Telangana Rashtra** Samithi executive

the proposal by a party MLA to name the proposed party as BRS. After his meetings with Delhi Chief Minister Arvid Kejriwal,

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and former Prime Minister and Janata Dal(S) leader Deve Gowda last month, KCR had said that there would be a sensation soon in the country. Political observers say KCR ap-

parently decided to float a national party after failing to make progress in bringing anti-BJP and anti-Congress forces on a common platform to provide a national alternative. Though he held a series of meetings with leaders of various po-

litical parties including Shiv Sena, DMK, RJD, SP and JD (S) during last few months, no consensus could be reached on forging a front as an alternative to both the BJP and Congress.

An indication that KCR has given up his plans to forge a front came during TRS plenary in April.

At the day-long plenary of TRS held to mark 21st foundation day of the party, he had hinted at floating a national party. As he did not speak at the plenary about his meetings with leaders of various political parties and chief ministers of some states, this gave credence to the buzz that the TRS chief was toying with the idea of forming a national party



2 militants killed in encounters

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 11: Two terrorists were killed in two separate encounters with security forces in Kulgam and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, police said

Acting on specific information regarding the presence of a terrorist in village Khandipora area of Kulgam, a cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces there, a police spokesman said. During the search operation, as the search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the forces, which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter, he said.

However, in order to evacuate the civilians trapped around the encounter site, the forces ensured the evacuation of all civilians to the safer places, the spokesman said. In the ensuing encounter, a categorized terrorist identified as Rasia Ahmed Ganie, resident of Shouch Kulgam of proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter, he said.

As per police records, the killed terrorist was involved in several terror crime cases, the spokesman said. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including a .303 Rifle along with 23 rounds, a pistol along with 31 rounds, a hand grenade etc., were recovered from the site of the encounter

Nine dead, two injured in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Purnea (Bihar), June 11: At least nine people were killed and two others injured when the SUV they were travelling in lost control and fell into a roadside ditch in Bihar's Purnea district on Saturday officials said.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed condolences on the loss of lives in the accident and announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for the families of the deceased. In his condolence message, he said, "The road accident in Purnea district is very painful. My condolences are with the bereaved families. May God give them the strength to bear this immense sorrow.'

The accident took place around 3 AM on Saturday when the car occupants, 11 in all, were going to Nania village in Kishanganj district after attending a 'tilak' ceremony (initial function of a wedding) in Tarabadi area of Purnea district. Baisi Sub-divisional Magistrate Kumari Toushi said.

The driver lost control over the vehicle and it fell into a water-filled ditch beside Purnea-Kishangani State Highway near Kanjia Middle School, the official said.

their bodies were sent for post-Yadav, Karan Lal Yadav, Sandav Lal Yadav, Amarchand Yadav, Manik

BJP's RS strength falls; Congress gains two seats its seats to independent Kapil Sibal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: The ruling BJP's strength in the crucial upper house of Parliament has fallen from the current 95 to 92 while the number of Congress members has gone up slightly from 29 to 31 after results of the just-concluded Rajya Sabha elections.

In the biennial elections to the Council of States that which witnessed a keen contest in four states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and Maharashtra on Friday, the BJP won 22 of the 57 vacancies while the Congress won nine seats. From among the 57 retiring members, the BJP had 25 of its members and the Congress had seven who will retire by next month and new ones will replace them.

Both the BJP and the Congress have banked on new and young faces, some of whom have been nominated by the parties for the first

time. With more strength, the Congress which nominated younger faces is expected to be more aggressive in the coming days in the upper house.

The BJP's strength includes four nominated members who have opted to be with the ruling party. The BJP will have the support of seven more nominated members. These seven seats are currently vacant.

The BJP will also have the support of independent Kartikeya Sharma, whom it backed during the just concluded polls in Haryana. It had also supported independent Subhash Chandra, who has lost from Rajasthan this time. Chandra's current term ends on August 1.

Among other regional parties, the strength of YSR-Congress which is in power in Andhra Pradesh, has gone up from the current six to nine seats, while that of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which is in power in Delhi and



Punjab will now have the strength of 10 seats in the upper house.

The strength of other regional parties like DMK, BJD, TRS, JDU, NCP and Shiv Sena also remains the same as their candidates won as many seats as those who retired. While DMK has 10 members in the Rajya Sabha, BJD has nine, TRS has seven. JDU has five, NCP has four and Shiv Sena has three.

The strength of TMC and CPI-M remains the same with 13 and 5 members respectively. The AIADMK, which currently has five members in the Council of States will now have four as it won only two while three of its members have retired.

The strength of Samajwadi Party has gone down from the current five to three in the RS, as it has given

sembly will also have one more member now, raising the strength to six from the current five. The Bahujan Samaj Party will now has only one member in the upper house, down from three currently. While Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which had only one member current will now have two and

and RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary.

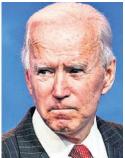
RJD with more seats in the as-

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) which had two members will not have any member in the Rajya Sabha as

all its MPs are retiring. Some of the prominent names who will return to the Rajya Sabha after their re-election are union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal and P Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh (both Congress), Kapil Sibal (Independent), Misa Bharti (RJD), Praful Patel (NCP) and Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena).

Nine people died on the spot and mortem examination, while the two injured were admitted to a nearby hospital. The deceased have been identified as Ganga Prasad Lal Sharma, Ramkrishan Yadav, Gulabchand Lal Yaday, Kali Charan Yadav and Tanveer Alam. Seven of them are relatives.

international



Vladimir Putin) was gonna go into the border. And there was no doubt, and Volodymyr Zelenskyy didn't want to hear it. nor did a lot of people JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

WARNING ON EVERY CIGARETTE

Canada is poised to become the first country in the world to require that a warning be printed on every cigarette. The move builds on Canada's mandate to include graphic photo warnings on tobacco products' packaging -- a policy that started an international trend when it was introduced two decades ago

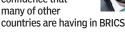




I must admit that the path to a world without nuclear weapons has







CYRIL RAMAPHOSA PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA



deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing crisis, particularly the humanitarian concern, that is the

GERRY RICE | SPOKESPERSON, IMF

impact on people

SHORT **TAKES**

Indian nat'l held in US over scam

Washington: Federal law enforcement officials have arrested an Indian national in Virginia on charges of participating in an alleged nationwide scam targeting senior citizens. Anirudha Kalkote, 24, was produced before a US magistrate in Houston Friday to face the charges. The 12-count superseding indictment charges Kalkote with conspiracy and mail fraud. Also named in the indictment is MD Azad, 25, an illegal resident of Houston, who was originally charged in August 2020.

China delays school reopening

Beijing: Most children in Beijing will not return to school next week as originally planned, Chinese officials said Saturday, after an emerging Covid-19 outbreak prompted authorities to partly reverse a decision to resume in-person teaching. Authorities in Beijing eased many curbs earlier th week, but dozens of infections linked to a bar have led authorities to tighten some restrictions again. Most primary and middle school students will "continue to study online at home" from Monday, city government spokesperson Xu Hejian said at a press briefing Saturday.

NK appoints first lady Foreign Min

Seoul: North Korea has appointed veteran diplomat Choe Son-hui as its first female foreign minister, state media reported Saturday, as Pyongyang pushes ahead with a blitz of sanctions-busting weapons tests and ignores US calls for talks. Choe, who formerly served as the North's vice foreign minister, was tapped to lead the foreign ministry at a ruling party meeting overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, the state media reported.

Dutch government angers farmers

The Hague: The Dutch government unveiled goals Friday to drastically reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides to protect the environment, a plan that would lead to major upheavals in the Netherlands' multibillion dollar agriculture industry and has already angered some farmers. Calling it an "unavoidable transition," the government mandated reductions in emissions of up to 70 per cent in many places close to protected nature areas and as high as 95 per cent in other places. The ruling coalition earmarked an extra \$25.6 billion to finance changes that will likely make many farmers drastically reduce their number of livestock or to get rid of them altogether.

China hardening position along Indian border: US Defence Secy

US Defence Secretary said the US believes that India's growing military capability and technological prowess can be a stabilising force in the Indo-Pacific region

India, the US and several

other world powers have

been talking about the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, June 11: China is continuing to harden its position along the borders with India, US Defence Secretary Lloyd James Austin said Saturday, stressing that America stands by its friends as they uphold their rights as Beijing adopts the war coercive and aggressive approach to its territorial claims.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Austin noted that China is taking aggressive and illegal approaches to the territories it claims also stand by our in the South China Sea

friends as they uphold and advancing its illegal maritime plans. especially important as the 'Further to the West, we see Beijing **People's Republic of China** adopts the war coercive and continuing to harden

the position along the

borders it shares with

India," he said. LLOYD JAMES AUSTIN | DEFENCE The Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a tense border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 5, 2020, when a violent clash between the two sides

erupted in the Pangong lake area. China has also been building bridges and constructing other infrastructure such as roads and residential units in the border areas with India. China also has maritime border disputes with varineed to ensure a free. Vietnam all claim parts of it open and thriving Beijing has built artificial islands and Indo-Pacific in the military installations in the South China backdrop of China's rising Sea. China also has territorial disputes military manoeuvring in with Japan in the East China Sea the resource-rich region

ous countries in

Japan.

the Indo-Pacific

region such as

Vietnam and

main unwa-

vering in our

mutual defence

commit

ments,

Austin assured.

Austin also told the defence del-

egates at the Singapore dialogue the

importance of joint exercises con-

ducted by the USS Theodore

Roosevelt with the Indian Navy

and the Indian Air Force in the

On the Quad or Quadrilateral

Security Dialogue comprising India,

Indian Ocean last spring.

We re-

the US. Japan and Australia, he pointed out that last month's summit in Tokyo had brought together the world's largest producers of prosperity and security. The Quad leaders are eager to work with ASEAN and the Pacific Islands to advance "our shared goals", said

China claims nearly all of the disputed

South China Sea, though Taiwan, the

Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and

He underlined that Australia, India and Japan have been holding security dialogues about maritime security cooperation since 2015.

In the past few months, Japan and the Philippines launched a new 2+2 dialogue and so did Australia and India, noted the defence secretary. 'We are also working together to make the security architecture transparent and more inclusive," he informed the delegates.

Seven bodies found at scene of chopper crash in Italy

REUTERS

Rome, June 11: Rescuers have found the bodies of seven people killed in a helicopter crash in Italy, local authorities said Saturday, two days after the aircraft disappeared from radar screens.

The helicopter had taken off Thursday from Lucca in Tuscany and was heading towards the northern city of Treviso when it was lost in bad weather over a remote "The rescuers have found dead the seven passengers from the helicopter, four of Turkish and two of Lebanese nationality, who were on a business trip to Italy. As well as the Italian pilot," the prefect's office in the city of Modena said in a statement.

The helicopter was found in a mountainous area on the border between Tuscany and the Emilia Romagna region, the statement said. Prosecutors have cordoned off the area as part of the investigation into the incident.

"We got the coordinates, we went to the site and found everything burnt. The helicopter is basically inside a valley, near a stream," a rescuer said in a video posted on the Italian Air Force Twitter account.

The Turkish businessmen worked for Eczacibasi Consumer Products, a subsidiary of major Turkish industrial group Eczacibasi. They had been attending a paper technologies fair in Italy, the company said in a statement.

The helicopter was an AW119 Koala manufactured by defence group Leonardo, a person close to the matter told Reuters

BITING BACK AT US SANCTIONS

Oil producers Iran, Venezuela ink 20-yr cooperation plan

Tehran, June 11: Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year cooperation plan in Tehran Saturday as the two countries, among the world's top oil producers, grapple with US sanctions that are crippling their exports.

The signing ceremony, carried by Iranian state TV, was overseen by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro and took place at the Saadabad Palace in north Tehran. The plan includes cooperation in the fields of oil, petrochemicals, defence, agriculture, tourism, and culture and was signed by Foreign Ministers Hossein Amirabdollahian and Venezuela's Carlos Faria.

It also includes repair of Venezuelan refineries and the export of technical and engineering services. "Venezuela has shown exemplary resistance against sanctions and threats from enemies and Imperialists," Iran's Raisi said "The 20-year cooperation document is testimony to the will of the two countries to develop ties.'

'Sanctions and threats against the Iranian nation over the past 40 plus years have been numerous, but the Iranian nation has



The plan includes cooperation in the fields of oil, petrochemicals, defence, agriculture, tourism and culture

turned these sanctions into an opportunity for the country's progress," he said.

Maduro said through an interpreter that a weekly flight from Caracas to Tehran would begin July 18. Maduro, who arrived in Tehran Friday, is on a two-day visit and heads a high-ranking political and economic delegation. Earlier, he visited Turkey and Algeria.

Iran and Venezuela have expanded cooperation since 2020. particularly in energy projects and oil swaps

Video of women's beating sparks outrage in China

their rights that is

aggressive approach to its

territorial claims

SECRETARY, US

Campaigners say domestic abuse remains pervasive and under-reported while prominent feminists also face regular police harassment and detention



AGENCIES

Beijing, June 11: Nine people have been arrested for a vicious attack on a group of women at a restaurant in China, police said Saturday, in a case that has sparked outrage over predatory sexual behaviour.

Footage of the incident widely circulated online shows a man placing his hand on a woman's back as she shares a meal with two companions at a barbecue restaurant in northern China's Hebei province.

After the woman pushes him away, the man strikes her before others drag her outside and deal a barrage of blows as she lies on the ground. Another woman is also knocked to the floor.

The video renewed an online debate about sexual harassment and gender-based violence in China

THE SCHEME WILL SEE

where the conversation around women's rights has grown in recent years despite pressure from a patriarchal society, internet censorship and patchy legal support.

Web censors blocked keywords linked to the #MeToo movement after a wave of women accused university professors of sexual harassment in 2018.

Police in Tangsh said they had arrested eight people on suspicion of violent assault and "provoking trouble", while a search for one other suspect was ongoing. Two women treated at hospital following the incident were "in stable conditions and not in mortal danger", while two others sustained minor injuries, authorities said Friday.

The attack generated hundreds of millions of comments on social media, where users slammed predatory behaviour and urged authorities to crack down on violence against women. "All of this could happen to me, could happen to any of us," said one commenter in a post liked over 100,000 times.

"How is this sort of thing still happening in 2022?" wrote another. "Please give them criminal sentences, and don't let any of them get away."



Hundreds of protestors cut off the Basra-Baghdad high road to put pressure on the central government and the House of Representatives to provide them with full job opportunities in oil companies in their area in Basra, Iraq, Saturday

Russia using deadly weapons: Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, June 11: Ukrainian and British officials warned Saturday that Russian forces are relying on weapons with the potential to cause mass casualties as they try to make headway in capturing eastern Ukraine and as fierce fighting depletes resources on both sides.

Russian bombers have likely been launching heavy 1960s-era anti-ship missiles in Ukraine, the UK Defence Ministry said.

The Kh-22 missiles were pri-



marily designed to destroy aircraft carriers using a nuclear warhead. When used in ground attacks with conventional warheads, they "are highly inaccurate and therefore can cause severe collateral damage and casualties", the ministry said. Both sides have expended large

amounts of weaponry in what has become a grinding war of attrition for the eastern region of coal mines and factories known as the Donbas, placing huge strains on their resources and stockpiles.

Russia is likely using the 5.5tonne (6.1-ton) anti-ship missiles because it is running short of more precise modern missiles, the British ministry said.

U-TURN BY FIA

Pak PM Shehbaz, son get pre-arrest bail in money-laundering case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, June 11: A Pakistani court Saturday granted pre-arrest bail to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son and Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz in a multi-billion rupees money laundering case, a major relief to the father-son duo after the Federal Investigation Agency took a U-turn and told the judge that their arrest was not required.

Interestingly, the Federal nvestigation Agency (FIA) had submitted an interim investigation report against the premier and other suspects in the Rs 14 billion (\$75 million) money laundering case last week and sought their arrest, arguing that "their custody is needed for further probe in the case as they have not joined the investigation and cooperated with investigators.

"On Saturday, taking completely an opposite stance, the FIA prosecutor told the court that the agency does not require the arrest of the father and son in the investigation," a court official told PTI.

The court then confirmed the pre-arrest bail to the premier, his son and other suspects in the Rs 14 billion money laundering case against them. The court also directed them to submit bail bonds worth Rs 1 million each within seven days.

UK court sides with govt in deporting asylum-seekers to Rwanda

ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO MAKE **DANGEROUS OR ILLEGAL JOURNEYS, SUCH AS BY SMALL BOAT OR HIDDEN IN LORRIES, BEING RELOCATED FOR**

IN RWANDA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 11: UK Home Secretary Priti Patel's new plan to fly illegal migrants to Rwanda got the go-ahead as the High Court in London allowed the first flight to

THEIR ASYLUM CLAIM

TO BE PROCESSED

proceed

The Indian-origin Cabinet minister has described the new immigration strategy that will see illegal immigrants entering the UK being flown out to Rwanda as a "bold and innovative" move. However, campaigners lodged a

legal challenge against the plan but failed in an initial legal bid Friday to halt the removals to the east African country. British Prime Minister Boris

Johnson described the ruling as welcome news after the new plan had been tabled by the UK government in April. "We cannot allow people traf-

fickers to put lives at risk and our world leading partnership will help break the business model of these ruthless criminals," Johnson The first deportations under

the contentious deal are expected to happen next week after the High Court ruling. But critics



continue to deliver on progressing our world-leading Migration Partnership. People will continue to try and prevent their relocation through legal challenges and last-minute claims but we will not be deterred in breaking the deadly people smuggling trade and ultimately save lives PRITI PATEL | HOME SECRETARY, UK

and campaigners have confirmed they will take the case to the

Court of Appeal Monday. Under the new migration part-

Prince Charles calls govt's move 'appalling'

London: Prince Charles has privately described the British government's plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda as 'appalling", two media reports said, as the first flight taking refugees to the East African country is due to leave next week. Charles, heir to the British throne, has been heard criticising the policy, The Times and Daily Mail newspapers reported. Charles is concerned that the controversial asylum policy will overshadow a Commonwealth meeting summit in Rwanda where he is due to represent his mother Queen Elizabeth at the end of this month, The Times reported. "He said he was more than disappointed at the policy," a source told The Times. "He said he thinks the government's whole approach is appalling. It was clear he was not impressed with the government's direction of travel."

nership with the African country, the UK is investing 120 million pounds into the economic development and growth of Rwanda. Funding will also be provided to support the delivery of asylum operations, accommodation and integration, similar to the costs incurred in the UK for these services.

The scheme will initially focus

mainly on single men arriving in the UK on small boats from across the English Channel or hidden in lorries. The UK government has warned the crisis of illegal immigration through such dangerous routes has hit dangerous levels, with over 28,000 migrants crossing the Channel last vear alone.

business



When India became independent, most of the industry was government owned, public owned. Today the government is not a regulator anymore. We are not inspectors anymore. We are facilitators RAO INDERJIT SINGH | UNION MINISTER OF

GOODBYE GOLDEN ARCHES

Sunday marks a new dawn for Russia's fast-food lovers as former McDonald's Corp restaurants reopen under new branding and ownership, more than three decades after the arrival of the hugely popular Western fast food chain



'Blanket exemptions for

WFP a concern for India'

Geneva. June 11: India is not in

favour of extending blanket ex-

emptions from export restrictions

under the aegis of the WTO on

food grains purchased for the UN's

World Food Programme (WFP) as

it would restrict its policy space to

deal with domestic food security

concerns, an official statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



We need to see needs to be done to strengthen discharge its duties effectivelyas well as strengthen the mandates of

protecting the public interests RAJESH VERMA | SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF

growth this year with EV sales hitting 8,00,000-9,00,000 units up from 3,40,000 units last financial year



SOHINDER GILL | DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SMEV

The ABC Renewables platform has showcased immense

project that brings environmentallyfriendly objectives which the country

K RAVI KUMAR REDDY | CHAIRMAN & MD, AXIS ENERGY

SHORT **TAKES**

AU: India's fourth top trading partner

Johannesburg: The African Union (AU) is India's fourth largest trading partner after the United States, China and the United Arab Emirates, propped up by diversification in Indian exports to the continent, a senior State Bank of India official has said at a seminar here. With a share of 8.52 per cent in global trade, India's total trade with Africa in 2019-20 was valued at \$68.33 billion. "India has a negative trade balance with Africa, implying a dominance of imports over exports. In 2019-20, India's trade deficit with Africa was valued at \$9.1 billion, which accounted for nearly 6 per cent of India's total trade deficit in the case of trade in goods,' Syam Prasad, CEO of State Bank of India in South Africa

RBL Bank appoints new MD & CEO

Mumbai: In a regulatory filing, private lender RBL Bank, announced the appointment of veteran hanker R Suhramaniakumar as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The announcement comes nearly six months after RBL Bank's long-term MD & CEO Vishwahir Ahuja had stepped down. The appointment has been made for a period of three vears, "The board of directors have approved the appointment of R Subramaniakumar as Managing Director & CEO of the Bank for a period of three years with effect from date of his taking charge, under Section 35B of the **Banking Regulation Act** 1949," read the readout.

FarEye lays off 250 employees

New Delhi: Software-as-aservice provider FarEye has laid off around 250 employees at the time of their appraisal, according to industry sources. When contacted, FarEye said softness in market conditions and restructuring of the team led to reduction in team size. "With the softness in market conditions, in the year ahead, we are focusing on our efforts and aligning resources in areas that drive maximum value for our customers while addressing their key challenges around operational efficiencies, cost optimization, and delivery experience," FarEye CEO and co-founder Kushal Nahata said in a statement.

US inflation at new 40-yr high as price increases spread

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 11: The prices of gas, food and most other goods and services jumped in May, raising inflation to a new four-decade high and giving American households no respite from rising costs.

cent last month from a year earlier. ing interest rates aggressively.

On a month-to-month basis,



The price of US gasoline averaged more than \$5 a gallon for the first time

prices jumped 1 per cent from April to May, much faster than the 0.3 per cent increase from March to April.

Contributing to that surge were

It's gonna come down gradually, but we're going to live with it for a while JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

We're gonna live with

this inflation for a while.

from airline tickets to restaurant meals to new and used cars.

Those price spikes also elevated so-called "core" inflation, a measure that excludes volatile food and energy prices. In May, core prices jumped a sharp 0.6 per cent for a second straight month. They're now 6 above where they were a vear ago.

Friday's report underscored fears that inflation is spreading well beyond energy and goods whose prices are being driven up by clogged supply chains and Russia" invasion of Ukraine. It also sent stock prices tumbling. The increased pressure on the Fed to raises rates even faster which means higher-cost loans for consumers and businesses - will raise the risk of a reces-

The cost of groceries surged nearly 12 per cent last month from a vear earlier, the biggest such increase since 1979. Rising prices for grain and fertilizer after Russia's war against Ukraine, is intensifying that rise. Restaurant prices jumped 7.4 per cent in the past year, the largest 12-month gain since 1981, reflecting higher costs for food and workers.

said Saturday. The commerce ministry said that India has concerns with making notification requirements burdensome for developing countries in view of the sensitivities regarding shortages, price escalations and the implications of providing advance notice of such measures on

the effectiveness of policies. 'With reference to contributions to WFP, India has been a significant contributor to the WFP over the years and has not imposed export restrictions for WFP procurement, at the same time extending support to neighbours with food supplies. Blanket exemptions for the WFP is a concern for India in view

of domestic food security," it said. In the agriculture sector, the proponents on export restrictions are seeking outcome on two issues exemption of food material purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the WFP from the application of export restrictions, and advance notification of export restrictive measures.

These issues would figure in the 12th ministerial conference (MC) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), beginning here from June 12. MC is the highest decision making body of the 164-member organisation. It is meeting after a gap of four years.

The Indian delegation at the conference is headed by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Discussions on the agri sector are

significant in the WTO as the supply chain of food grains in the global markets has been affected due to the ongoing war between Ukraine

A group of about 70-80 coun-

Consumer prices surged 8.6 per

According to the Treasury,

the Reserve Bank of India

kept its key policy rates

unchanged at four per

cent since May 2020, but

in January 2021 it began to

gradually unwind the

extraordinary liquidity

measures designed to

support growth during

the early part of the

Covid-19 pandemic

Washington, June 11: The Indian

economy has rebounded strongly

despite three significant Covid-19

waves, the US Treasury has said in

India's acute second wave

weighed heavily on growth through

the middle of 2021, delaying its

economic recovery, the Treasury

"However, economic activity re-

bounded strongly in the second

half of the year as India's vacci-

nation rollout accelerated," the

Treasury said Friday, as it praised

in 2020, the output returned to pre-

pandemic levels by the second

After contracting seven per cent

India's vaccination efforts.

said in a semi-annual report.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

a report to Congress.

faster than April's year-over-year increase of 8.3 per cent the Labor Department said Friday. The new inflation figure, the highest since 1981, will heighten pressure on the Federal Reserve to continue rais-

DESPITE 3 COVID WAVES

India's economy recovered

strongly: US Treasury report

Goods imports rose particularly

sharply in the second half of 2021

amid the economic recovery and

leading imports to increase 54%

quarter of 2021, with full-year 2021

growth of eight per cent, it added.

India faced a third major outbreak

driven by the Omicron variant,

but the number of deaths and

broader economic fallout has been

tinued to provide fiscal support to

the economy against the backdrop

of the pandemic in 2021, it said.

The authorities estimate that the

overall fiscal deficit will reach 6.9

per cent of GDP for the 2022 fiscal

vear, which is higher than deficits

prior to the pandemic, it said.

The Indian government con-

limited, it said.

Since the beginning of 2022,

rising commodity prices,

particularly energy prices,



India's exports also rose in 2021,

Remittances grew around five per

cent in 2021, reaching \$87 billion, or

After recording a current account

surplus of 1.3 per cent of GDP in 2020,

its first surplus since 2004, India re-

turned to a current account deficit

deficit was driven by a sharp deteri-

oration in India's trade deficit, which

widened to \$177 billion in 2021 from

\$95 billion the previous year, it said.

bilateral trade surplus with the

United States has expanded sig-

nificantly in the past year. Between

2013 and 2020, India ran bilateral

goods and services trade surpluses

of about \$30 billion with the US.

According to the report, India's

The return to a current account

of 1.1 per cent of GDP in 2021

though at a lower rate than

imports, increasing 43% YoY

2.8% of GDP

much higher prices for everything

NEW ENDORSEMENT NORMS

Celebs to declare stakes in brands they endorse

New Delhi, June 11: The government has tightened norms for endorsers, including celebrities and sports persons, as they are now required to make material connection disclosure and due diligence while endorsing in advertisements.

Based on the new guidelines released by the Consumer Affairs Ministry issued Friday, endorsements must reflect endorsers' honest opinions, beliefs or expe-

Violation of these guidelines will attract a penalty of ₹10 lakh for the first offence and ₹50 lakh for a subsequent offence under the **Consumer Protection Act**

The endorsers must make material connection disclosures; failing to do so will attract a penalty under the Consumer Protection Act (CPA).

Material disclosures mean any relationship that materially affects the weight or credibility of any endorsement that a reasonable consumer would not expect.

"If there exists a connection between the endorser and the trader, manufacturer or adver-



LOGO

such connection shall be fully disclosed in making the endorsement," the guidelines said. The new guidelines 'Prevention of misleading advertisements and

necessary due diligence for endorsement of advertisements', which came into effect from June 10, 2022, have been issued to prevent misleading advertisements. It provides various criteria for

an advertisement to be considered valid and non-misleading and gives clarity on bait advertisements, surrogate advertisements and free claims advertise-

sonably expected by the audience, and Russia.

Under the WTO rules, members can temporarily impose export prohibitions or restrictions to prevent or relieve critical shortages of food material or other products essential to the country.

tries, led by Singapore, is pushing member countries of the WTO to accept binding commitments of not extending export restrictions on food grains procured by the WFP.

India's fuel demand up 24% YoY in May

New Delhi, June 11: India's fuel consumption jumped 23.8% in May from a year earlier, continuing a recovery from a relatively low base in 2021 when the world's third biggest oil consumer was in the grip of a second wave of Covid-19.

Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 18.27 million tonne last month, according to data from the Indian oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell. Last month's increase was the

biggest year-on-year jump since April 2021. Consumption also rose modestly, by 0.4%, from April.

The yearly increase is "because of a lower base, as demand in May 2021 was low due to high COVID

cases at that time," although the monthly rise was surprising, said Refinitiv analyst Ehsan Ul Haq.

'However, high oil prices are likely to have an impact on consumption in the next few months. High fuel prices do not bode well for motorists all over the world," he added. Consumption of diesel rose 31.7% in May year-on-year to 7.29 million tonne and was up about 32.6% from two years earlier.

Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 51.5% higher than a year earlier at 3.02 million tonne

Meanwhile, daily gasoil sales of Indian state refiners declined in May from April as lower consumer spending curtailed truck movement in the country, preliminary fuel sales data showed June 1.

Hindalco's healthcare initiatives benefits 14,000 in Sambalpur

Bhubaneswar: With an aim to improve lifestyle for people in rural Odisha, Hindalco's, healthcare initiatives last year is reported to have benefitted around 14,000 people in 12 villages of Hirakud in Sambalpur. The flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, Hindalco's 'Health Care at Doorstep' programme (Mobile Health Care Units) has provided free diagnosis and medicines under its initiative as part of its community engagement. While three mega multispecialty health camps were held recently at Larpank village in Sambalpur, gynecology, pediatrics

skin, and cancer care services were provide to about 1500 patients. "Two mega blood donation camps were organized by the company to cater to the critical need for blood in Sambalpur district. More than 500 units were collected for Head Quarter Hospital and Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Science and Research (VIMSAR). We have plans to extend our healthcare services further through which will benefit the community around immensely," said Kailash Pandey, Cluster Head of Hindalco. Moreover, the company in partnership with the Hirakud Hospital, has been also engaged in camps and cataract surgeries for senior citizens in Hirakud and adjoining areas of the Sambalpur district. The programme thus far has seen close to 150 vision careoperations and over 300 specialist OPD Clinics at the Hirakud Hospital during the past three years. Bharat Dash, Additional District Medical Officer (ADMO) of Sambalpur has also praised the efforts of Hindalco for taking care of the health of the people of Hirakud community. He also showed gratitude towards organisation

through the terms and con-

ditions of the policy thor-

oughly to understand

how your restoration

benefit will operate.

store at Esplanade Bhubaneswar: Popular sportswear brand, Puma,

Puma launches 4th

launched its fourth store here at Nexus Esplanade Friday. The launching saw Padma Shree Awardee and popular Indian Hockey player Dilip Tirkey grace the occasion as guest of honour. Delighted to be part of the launch, Tirkey said, "It would inspire sport enthusiasts to become more conscious on their daily habits and practices. More people should indulge in sports and fitness programme and change to a healthy lifestyle." Parth Pratim Nayak CD Nexus Esplanade, showed his excitement while announcing that Puma one of the renowned sports brands has become part of his team.



Importance of 'restoration benefit' in health insurance policies

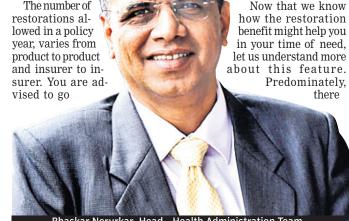
for its continuous support extended during Covid pandemic.

he importance of having comprehensive health insurance has been long established; today we all know how crucial it is to have wide health insurance coverage to ensure that we are duly protected during the time of need. Health insurance has various features which can help bolster your protection by many folds: today we will discuss one such important feature, the restoration benefit.

As the name suggests, restoration benefit restores or replenishes your sum insured to the original amount in case it gets exhausted; it is also known as 'refill benefit'. Therefore, even if you exhaust your entire sum insured, you need not worry about the expenses as this benefit will automatically re-fill your sum in-

Let us understand how this works with the help of an example. Suppose a customer's sum insured is Rs 5,00,000 and the customer is diagnosed with ailment A in the third month of the policy and the customer utilises the entire sum insured for the treatment, however, the customer now has another 9 months before the renewal is due. Now, unfortunately, a few months later the customer is diagnosed with ailment B, and the customer requires another Rs 2,00,000 for the treatment. If the customer's health insurance policy didn't have a restoration benefit then the customer would have to bear the entire Rs 2,00,000 towards the treatment of the second ailment from theirown pocket. However, if the policy had the restoration benefit then the customer's sum in-

sured would be reinstated to Rs 5,00,000, as soon as it got exhausted



Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

are two types of restoration benefits, Complete Exhaustion, and Partial Exhaustion.

Complete Exhaustion: This restoration benefit will be triggered only after the customer's sum insured is completely exhausted. So, suppose the customer's sum insured is Rs 5.00,000 the benefit won't trigger until the entire Rs 5,00,000 is exhausted.

Partial Exhaustion: This benefit will be triggered even after partial exhaustion of the customer's sum insured. So, suppose customer sum insured is Rs 5,00,000 and the customer has exhausted Rs 4,00,000 which means the customer is only left with Rs 1,00,000; however, the customer's sum insured will be reinstated to the original amount even before you exhaust the entire limit.

Who should avail this benefit? The benefit is available for an individual as well as for family floater policies, and it is advisable to have a restoration benefit in your policy since it helps bring down your out-of-pocket expenses significantly. However, it is highly recommended to look for a policy, which also has a restoration benefit while buying a family floater policy. Since in the family floater policy, the sum insured floats between the family members and in case one member exhausts the entire sum insured, you will still have coverage for the other members of the family. In the case of the family floater policy, reinstatement of the sum insured will be available for all the insured persons in the policy. In simple words, this benefit adds another safety layer to your family floater policy.



BARABATI BRACES FOR INDIAN REVIVAL

Test of Pant's captaincy as hosts look to turn the tables on the Proteas in the second T20I today



OrissaPOST

Temba Bavuma (L) and Rassie van der Dussen during SA's practice session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, June 11: Accidental cap tain Rishabh Pant will expect an improved showing from the India bowlers as he plots a comeback against a marauding South Africa in the second T20 of the five-match series here Sunday.

Leading India for the first time ever. Pant had to swallow a bitter pill when David Miller and Rassie van der Dussen shot down an imposing 212 with utmost nonchalance to go up 1-0 in the series.

The southpaw also had a forgettable IPL where he failed to lead Delhi Capitals to the playoffs. Seen as a future white-ball captain, Pant's stakes have suddenly come down post-IPL and that has coincided with the resurgence of Hardik Pandya.

Returning to full fitness, the pace bowling all-rounder took the IPL by storm not only by his form but by pulling off a coup as he led Gujarat Titans to the title in their debut season.

Amid the growing chorus of 'Hardik Pandya - the next whiteball captain of India', Pant will be under scrutiny again as he masterminds a comeback. It may still be early days for Pant the leader, but his body language never stood out and he looked under pressure on his captaincy debut.

He also made a debatable decision to underbowl the IPL Purple Cap winner Yuzvendra Chahal, fresh from claiming 27 wickets

A packed Barabati Stadium watch Team India practice, Saturday

for runners-up Rajasthan Royals. At Kotla, the leggie bowled only two full overs.

As for Pandya, fresh after his historic success with GT, continued from where he left in the IPL. Pandya, who last played for India in November last year in the 2021 T20 World Cup, dazzled with the bat with a 31 not out from 12 balls to prop the total past 200.

But he failed to impress with the bowl and leaked 18 runs in his only over. The big headache for Pant would be the bowling department where he would have to make a call between Arshdeep Singh and pace gun Umran Malik.

While the batting looks in perfect shape, the new-look pace department looked flat in the series opener: Senior-most Bhuvneshwar Kumar did not look the same and leaked runs in the death overs, while Harshal Patel too was taken to cleaners.

Youngster Avesh Khan too failed to impress though he was the most economical among the trio. With the duo of Arshdeep and Malik trying hard to impress at the nets with their pace and accuracy it is likely that one among the duo may be well set for a debut on Saturday.

It would not be an easy task as another slip-up would mean the Pant-led side would have the difficult task of winning three in a row.

Fresh from their individual players' success in the IPL, the Proteas are finding themselves at 'home'. In the form of his life,

THE SQUADS

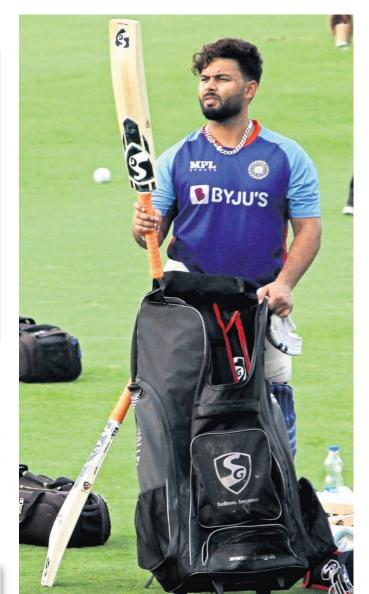
INDIA: Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas lyer, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel. Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Umran

SOUTH AFRICA: Temba Bavuma (c), Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Marco Jansen.

Miller who scored 481 runs at 68.71 in the IPL to play a key role in GT's triumph, has started in ominous fashion and looked unstoppable both against spin and pace at Kotla.

Quinton de Kock failed to convert his start but the Lucknow Super Giants batter also scored a bagful of runs (508) in the IPL and he would look to make it count here.

With Van der Dussen also striking it rich, the trio will form the batting backbone, while the likes of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje would look to stop the



Every series or every game you play is as important as your last. So, for me, World Cup is the goal, this is the right platform to get into the rhythm and a lot of cricket is going to come back to back. Always being in the rhythm is very important. My role will be changed here, I won't be captain (like IPL), I won't be batting higher up the order and guiding through the innings. This will be back to being the Hardik for which I am known for

I think this match is going to be crucial. India will definitely bounce back, they are a quality side. We don't expect anything less. I think every single game till Bangalore will be very, very tough. Obviously it was a great win the other night, we can take a lot of confidence from that, but it's a brand new venue, new conditions, so we need to adapt and start work

We are aware that we didn't bowl well in the first match. So we hope to improve, bowl well and level the series. We still have four matches to go, we have matches in hands to bounce back

STATS & TRIVIA

T he match will be played under the newly installed LED Flood Light (the first LED Sports Flood Light in the state) and newly laid sand-based outfield. An amount of Rs 12 crore had been sanctioned for the LED light installation to achieve the stadium's required illumination for matches and their proper telecast. Notably, a cricket match requires 1000 lux brightness and Barabati Stadium had 1200 lux brightness with the old lights. Now, with the LED flood lights, the venue will have 2800 lux brightness.

This will be only the third T20I at the iconic Barabati Stadium in Cuttack. India met South Africa in one of the two previously played games, where India were bowled out for 92. This match also grabbed headlines as the Indian players had to face the fury of the crowd. In the other, Sri Lanka were dismissed for their joint second-lowest total of 87.

xar Patel and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are the two Indian players from the and Kagiso Rabada are the only two South African players from that match.

R abada is one wicket away from 50 T20I wickets. If he gets there in this Series, he will be the second-fastest South African to the milestone, after Imran Tahir, who achieved it in 31 matches.

PITCH REPORT

The curators have tried their best to prepare a track which is suitable for batting. Keeping the cricket frenzy fans' wish to witness a high-scoring game, the boundary dimensions have been reduced to 65m-70m.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The temperature on the matchday is predicted to be at 28 degrees with 69 per cent cloud cover with very thin chance of thunder showers. To counter the shower, a major overhaul has been undertaken on the outfield of the ground and a hover cover has been brought especially from London to cover the ground

SPECTATORS' GALORE

 $T^{
m he}$ gates of Barabati Stadium will be opened for the spectators from 3pm.

everal objects which can be hurled – like Water bottles, sticks, lighter and helmets - have been banned inside the stadium. The spectators will also not be allowed to carry any food items. Any electronic equipment, sharp objects and coins as well. However, mobile phones will be allowed.

As per BCCI guidelines, masks are mandatory and there will be no entry without

Special parking arrangements have been made for visitors at five different places.

4

*N*e have made adequate arrangements to ensure that spectators enjoy the match without any hassle. There would be special security cordons in and

Mbappe saves France's day INDIA EVES GO DOWN FIGHTING



SUPER SUB: Kylian Mbappe scores late to help France settle for a draw against Austria, Friday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 11: Kylian Mbappe came off the bench to rescue a point for France in a 1-1 draw at Austria in the Nations League, but the defending champion sits in last place with just two points from three group games.

World Cup winner France is under pressure ahead of Monday night's must-win home game against Croatia, which won 1-0 at Denmark thanks to Mario Pasalic's close-range effort midway through the second half. The Danes top Group 1 with six points, while Austria and Croatia have four.

Mbappe, who has recovered from a blow to his knee, latched onto a pass from fellow substitute Christopher Nkunku to sprint clear and curl a left-footed shot into the top corner in the 83rd minute for his 27th international goal at the age of just 23.

Four minutes later, Mbappe hit the crossbar after combining with Karim Benzema and Nkunku.

fielder Matteo Guendouzi having an injury-time effort saved by goalkeeper Patrick Pentz. $France\ looked\ fragile\ in\ the\ first$

France finished strongly with mid-

half, and fell behind when striker Andreas Weimann put former Manchester United interim coach Ralf Rangnick's side ahead in the 37th minute. Liverpool's Ibrahima Konate

made his France debut in the center of defense. But he was far too static on Austria's goal, as Marko Arnautovic sent Konrad Laimer skipping on the overlap down the right and his cross was swept in by

Karim Benzema, who scored minutes into his international debut against Austria in 2007, earlier had a close-range header superbly saved by Pentz. Pentz then kept out Benzema's curler and a shot from Benjamin Pavard as Les Bleus

Mbappe came on in the 63rd for the ineffective Antoine Griezmann, who has not scored for Atletico

Madrid or France since early

Only the group winners make it to the Final Four, while the lastplaced teams will be relegated. The group winners in the lower leagues will gain promotion.

In the second-tier League B, Manor Solomon scored twice in the second half as Israel rallied to win 2-1 in Albania to lead Group 2.

Armando Broja's penalty gave the Albanians the lead in first-half injury time, but Shakhtar Donetsk winger Solomon replied with a superb run and shot from the left flank. He clipped the winner in from close range after a cross came in from the right.

In League C, Kazakhstan drew 1-1 in Belarus and leads Group 3 by one point ahead of Slovakia. Winger Azerbaijan

Vladimir Weiss scored Slovakia's late winner in a 1-0 win at In League D, Group 1 leader Latvia has nine points after winning

4-2 at second-place Moldova for its

third straight win.

Antwerp (Belgium), June 11: The Indian women's team suffered a 1-2 defeat against the hosts Belgium in their first of the twolegged FIH Hockey Pro League tie at Sportcentrum Wilrijkse Plein here Saturday.

Captain Barbara Nelen (third minute) and Amre Ballenghien (35th) were the goalscorers for Belgium, while Lalremsiami (48th) scored the lone goal for India.

An attacking start to the match saw both the teams creating opportunities in the opening minutes, but it was Belgium who got better as they took the lead through captain Barbara in the third minute.

The hosts piled pressure on India with their structured attack and earned two Penalty Corners in the fifth and seventh respectively, but the Indian defence stood tall to deny them from scoring the second goal

Trailing by a goal, India started putting pressure on the Belgian defence and midfield. They even created an opportunity, but to no avail. The home side responded with a

India qualify for **FIFAe Nations Cup**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: India have created history Saturday as they qualify for the FIFAe Nations Cup 2022. This is the first time that India will play at the esports showpiece event, which is set to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from July 27 to July 30. India defeated Korea Republic and Malaysia in the FIFAe Nations Series 2022 Playoffs to seal their qualification for the showpiece event.

India was among 60 countries to participate and was placed in the Middle East & Africa Zone. India finished 3rd in its zone, narrowly missing out on a place in the FIFAe Nations Playoffs 2021



quick counterattack which helped them earn back-to-back penalty corners, but yet again missed out on converting their chances.

Belgium started the third quarter aggressively and earned a PC in the 32nd minute of the match. but their attempt went wide of the goal post. In the 35th Minute, Ballenghien found the back of the net to give the hosts a 2-0 lead.

The Indian defence was caught off guard as Belgium took the long corner quickly and a pass inside the circle gets the final touch from Ballenghien.

celebrates

Not giving up easily, the Indian team put up an improvised attack that saw them converting one of their two chances at the start of the final quarter. After Ishka Choudhary's shot on target, it was

young forward Lalremsiami who pulled a goal back for India in the 48th minute.

She won the ball in the attacking quarter and calmly slotted it home. India went on to pile constant pressure on Belgium in their bid to score an equaliser in the closing stages of the match, but the home side kept the Indians at bay and

Nikhat, Lovlina seal CWG berths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 11: Reigning World Champion Nikhat Zareen and Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain Saturday sealed their berths in the Indian team for the Commonwealth Games (CWG) with dominating wins in the se-

lection trials here. While Nikhat (50kg), the two time Strandja Memorial gold medallist, blanked Harvana's Minakshi 7-0 in an unanimous decision, Lovlina (70kg) outclassed Railways Pooja by an identical margin.

Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Jaismine Lamboriya (60kg) were the other boxers, who also sealed spots for the quadrennial event, which

is set to be held in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8. Nikhat looked in control through-

out her bout, landing clear punches as she danced around the ring dodging her opponent. The Telangana boxer looked at ease in her new weight category. She had won the world championship gold in the 52kg weight division last month.

Tokyo bronze medallist Lovlina, who is coming off an underwhelming World Championships campaign, too put up a convincing performance to punch her way to the Birmingham event.

A two-time former youth world champion, Nitu eked out a 5-2 split decision win over 2019 silver medallist Manju Rani. The Haryana boxer is enjoying a good year. She had won the gold at the Strandja Memorial tournament earlier this year.

Jaismine, the 2021 Asian youth boxing championship bronze medallist, out-punched 2022 World Championship bronze medallist Parveen Hooda in a fast-paced. fiercely contested light-middleweight final.

India had finished second in the 2018 edition of the Games, returning with a haul of nine medals, including three gold and as many silver and bronze. The men's team for the quadrennial event has already been named.

Women's team: Nitu (48kg), Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Jaismine ((60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (70Kg).

