



JANHVI'S BERLIN VACAY

Janhvi Kapoor, who has been busy with the shooting of 'Bawaal' in Germany, spends her day out in the capital city of Berlin

LEISURE P2



MIGRANTS' WOES

UK gov't's new plan to fly illegal migrants to Rwanda gets the nod as London HC allows the first flight to proceed

INTERNATIONAL P10



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 P12

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 Rajya 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 Dhnananjay 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 Dhnananjay 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 nail-biting 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 Fadnis, 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		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	29.5°C	30.2°C
MIN	22.0°C	21.8°C
Humidity	93%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

LIMBERING 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)

OP PHOTO

'Nupur fire' claims 2 4 killed as tanker explodes

Ranchi stunned; Howrah simmers in protest while authorities take action against agitators in UP, Delhi & Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi/Kolkata/Lucknow, June 11: Two persons succumbed to gunshot wounds in Jharkhand capital Ranchi and fresh demonstrations were held in West Bengal's Howrah Saturday as tension prevailed in several parts of the country a day after the violent protests against the controversial remarks by BJP's now-sacked two functionaries on Prophet Mohammad.

Authorities suspended the Internet and tightened security in the affected districts as they cracked down on protesters allegedly involved in violence and clashes with police personnel Friday, with nearly 240 people arrested in Uttar Pradesh alone. Cases have been also registered in Delhi, Maharashtra and other states.

While a bandh was observed Saturday in the Jharkhand capital on a call by Hindu outfits against the violence, around 2,500 police personnel were deployed and the internet was suspended in the district.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren formed a two-member committee, comprising senior 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 people injured, a senior official told PTI.

The committee has been asked to submit its report to the state government in a week, he said. Mohammad Mudassar Kaifi, 22, who had gunshot wounds on his

BACKLASH OVER PROPHET REMARKS



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 in the ICU.

Ranchi's Deputy Inspector General Anish Gupta said a Special Investigation Team has also been set up to probe the incident.

Contd to...P4

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 condition deteriorated.

Police and fire services person-

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 serious." MORE P2

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

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



chief ministers to attend the meeting 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 national parties 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

AGENCIES

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

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 its significance.

The Covid-19 pandemic situation 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 of expectation."

Undoubtedly, the great challenge to the judiciary is docket explosion,

which is an increase in the pendency of cases, the report said.

"While the increase in the institution 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 pendency.

This apart, all service-related cases that were earlier being filed in the OAT, are now being filed in



the High Court. The long pendency of cases has also been a feature of the District Courts, the report said.

On its performance during 2021, the report said at the beginning of the year, 305 cases remained

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

were pending in district courts. An analysis revealed that the major cause of such pendency, at least in the district courts, is the operation of stay orders by the higher courts.

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.

The report also dealt with the judge-population ratio. As against a pendency of 1,97,119 cases in the High Court, there are only 21 judges (in 2021).

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Romance will keep you occupied today. Monetary success will lead to peace and the other way round. You must be careful about expenses and buy only that stuff which you really need. Ganesh says this can save you from putting your money into some dubious schemes.

TAURUS
This day you could be in for some unexpected and unpleasant shocks, warns Ganesh. 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 your urge to retaliate. If you can forget the issue and forgive the offender, you will score a moral victory and your spirits will soar.

GEMINI
Today, you will meet someone special, who will stay in your life for good, predicts Ganesh. 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 sidelines, watching others 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.

LEO
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 Ganesh. It is quite 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.

VIRGO
Mission: Finding an exciting relationship. Status: Accomplished. And so Ganesh smiles. At office, outshine others with both words and actions. Bewitch people with your arsenal of sweet nothings and charm your way to win their hearts in the evening, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
'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, Ganesh 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 Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
A curious blend of good and bad, foresees Ganesh. 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 Ganesh. 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. Ganesh 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 unquestioning about your place in the universe; you will also acknowledge God for the small mercies he gifts you on an everyday basis, says Ganesh.



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.



Justin Bieber struck with facial paralysis

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". In a two-and-a-half-minute 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.

"As you 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 demonstrated in the video. **IAN5**

'Been painted as some kind of monsters'

MUMBAI: Megastar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan has made "soul-searching queries" to the lead investigator on the drugs case against him. The report, based on an interview with Sanjay Singh, the senior NCB officer who headed the probe, said Aryan Khan asked, "Sir, you have painted me as an international drug traf-

ficker, that I finance drug trafficking - 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." **AGENCIES**

Janhvi soaks up the sun in Berlin

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, fashion 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**

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

MUMBAI: As is well-known, 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 satisfactory 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 reported '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 filmmaker, Mandakini's career was not moving much after a smooth take-off, in the early-1990s, pictures of her meeting Don Dawood Ibrahim in Dubai were splashed in the media.

She confessed to the meeting but furiously rebuffed all suggestions of having any relationship with the don, and after she bowed out of film industry with her final film "Zorbaar", 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. **IAN5**

PEANUTS

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET TOGETHER OUT THERE!

LET'S START CALLING FOR THOSE FLY BALLS!

I THINK MAYBE, PERHAPS, HOPEFULLY, IF EVERYTHING GOES RIGHT AND NOTHING UNPREDICTABLE HAPPENS, POSSIBLY I GOT IT!

THAT ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I MEANT!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

HI BABY DOLL, IT'S ME. YEAH, I'M BABY SITTING THE KID DOWN THE STREET.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, THE LITTLE MONSTER... HMM? WELL SO FAR, NO PROBLEM.

HE HASN'T BEEN ANY TROUBLE, YOU JUST HAVE TO SHOW THESE KIDS WHO'S THE BOSS... MM HMM.

HOW MUCH LONGER TILL SHE LETS US OUT OF THE GARAGE?

SHE SAID 8 O'CLOCK, AND IT'S ALMOST 6:30 NOW...

BREVITY

DID YOU SEE THIS REALLY COMPLIMENTARY ARTICLE ABOUT THE BLOWFISH?

YEAH, IT'S A REAL PUFF PIECE!

FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9		10			
11	12			13	
			14		
15	16			17	18
			19		
20					21
22				23	

- 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
 - 20 Lose your footing (4,4)
 - 21 Squeakers
 - 22 Rap session?
 - 23 Way out
- Down**
- 1 Disappear
 - 2 Mold-ripened cheese
 - 3 Ticked off
 - 4 Waste pipe
 - 5 Volcanic glass
 - 6 Llama kin
 - 12 Follow the leader? (3,5)
 - 14 Compadres
 - 16 Terrifies
 - 18 "I missed the bus" is one
 - 19 Theater sections
 - 21 Roman war god

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

R	A	M	B	O	E	Y
P	T	A	N	G	O	R
C	C	G	A	T	U	O
O	C	H	R	E	S	H
R	R	T	I			
D	A	M	A	S	K	
S	H	O	W	B	I	Z
A	R	U	U	C	A	D
B	O	S	S	R	O	O
R	F	E	E	M	I	E
E	F	F	O	R	T	S

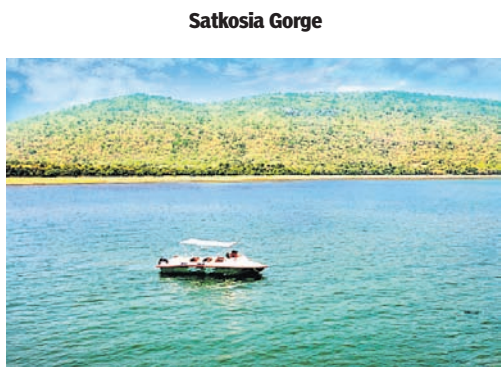
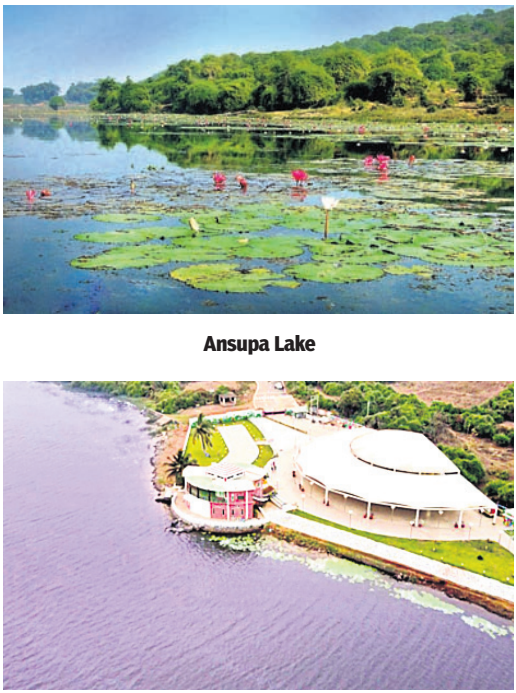
SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

4 more Ramsar sites likely

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



Satkosia Gorge



Hirkud Reservoir

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 year of independence, four more wetlands of state are likely to bag the international recognition.

Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirkud 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

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 Bhitarkanika National Park.

The 26 wetlands that await the Ramsar tag include Pala wetland (Mizoram); Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirkud Reservoir & Ansupa Lake (Odisha); Sirpur wetland, Sakhya Sagar & Yashwanth Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Thane Creek (Maharashtra); Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve & Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve (Jammu & Kashmir); Ranganathitlu 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, Udhayamarhandapuram 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 & Pallikarantai Marsh.

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

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 Udipi 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 Limited, Yellow Tune Technologies Private Limited and Pinkleaf Aryan 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 centre from Bangalore which used to make threatening and humiliating calls and messages to victim loanees and their contacts.

They have disclosed many important information which gives indication 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 Duda, 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

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

Pattanayak said this Friday after formally taking charge as the new OPCC president by replacing senior leader Niranjana Patnaik.

"Keeping in view the acceptance of the people across the state, particularly in the recently concluded Brajaraj nagar 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.

Pattanayak 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, Pattanayak 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.

Annappurti: Automated grain dispensing machine bags global innovation award

NEW DELHI: Grain ATM 'Annappurti' has won one of the five World Food Programme Innovation Awards instituted to celebrate and honour outstanding innovations from over 120 countries. The award was conferred in Munich by the World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator. 'Annappurti' is an automated food grain dispensing machine that ensures food in ration shops is distributed efficiently and in an error-free manner. These machines are currently operational in Haryana and Odisha. The first machine in the country was launched at Gurugram in Haryana last year. The automated grain dispensing solution became operational in Bhubaneswar 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 strongly to WFP's overall goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.

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.

DIVINE JOURNEY



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 addressed the programme

STUBBORN LA NINA MIGHT PERSIST INTO 2023: WMO

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

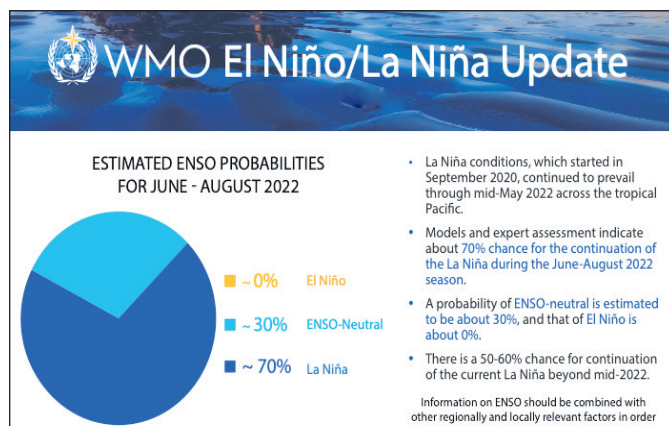
Geneva, June 11: The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Friday warned of a high probability that the ongoing protracted La Nina event, which has affected temperature and precipitation patterns and exacerbated drought and flooding in different parts of the world, will continue until at least August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



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 rainfalls and flooding, said WMO Secretary-General

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

Petteri Taalas. WMO is providing tailored support to the humanitarian sector as witnessed by a recent multi-agency 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 announcement.

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.

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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), Bommai told reporters here that he



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 actor-turned-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 is 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

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.

Deputy Inspector General of

Police, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban range, Sunil Gupta went round Bhaderwah town along with a contingent of police personnel and asked people to stay indoors.

A women personnel contingent was also deployed in the town, the officials said, adding that efforts were intensified to defuse the tension by encouraging meetings between senior citizens of the two communities.

One such meeting was held in Bhaderwah town under the chairmanship 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 mischievous elements.

"The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, and the participants unanimously requested for

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 support 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 Ishtiyak Pasha alias Medical Pasha, who hail from Devara Jeevanahalli police station limits.

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.

Ishtiyak 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 network.

GROWING PROTESTS



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 tranquillity 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 station," 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

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 controversial 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 everyone."

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

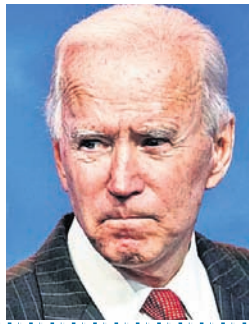
textbook. Allegations surfaced that the 'Nali-Kali' section of the textbook, which is meant for compulsory co-curricular learning, is hurting religious beliefs with its controversial content.

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.

The poem further says that no one has seen the 'atma' (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 science textbooks (Class 6 to 10).





(Russian President Vladimir Putin) was gonna go into the border. And there was no doubt, and Volodymyr Zelensky 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



of the day quote

I must admit that the path to a world without nuclear weapons has become even more challenging



FUMIO KISHIDA | PM, JAPAN

A number of other countries want to join in BRICS speaks volumes about the confidence that many of other countries are having in BRICS



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

Clearly Sri Lanka is facing a very difficult economic condition and severe balance of payments problems. We are deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing crisis, particularly the humanitarian concern, that is the impact on people



GERRY RICE | SPOKESPERSON, IMF

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

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 in the South China Sea and advancing its illegal maritime claims.



India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resource-rich region

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea.

We also stand by our friends as they uphold their rights that is especially important as the People's Republic of China adopts the war coercive and aggressive approach to its territorial claims

LLOYD JAMES AUSTIN | DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

Further to the West, we see Beijing continuing to harden the position along the borders it shares with India," he said. 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 various countries in the Indo-Pacific region such as Vietnam and Japan. "We remain unwavering in our mutual defence commitments," Austin assured.

Austin also told the defence delegates at the Singapore dialogue the importance of joint exercises conducted by the USS Theodore Roosevelt with the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force in the Indian Ocean last year. On the Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprising India, 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 Austin. 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.

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 this 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.

Video of women's beating sparks outrage in China

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

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 Tangshan city Saturday 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

FIGHT FOR JOBS

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-



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

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

THE SCHEME WILL SEE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO MAKE DANGEROUS OR ILLEGAL JOURNEYS, SUCH AS BY SMALL BOAT OR HIDDEN IN LORRIES, BEING RELOCATED FOR THEIR ASYLUM CLAIM TO BE PROCESSED 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

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 traffickers to put lives at risk and our world leading partnership will help break the business model of these ruthless criminals," Johnson tweeted. The first deportations under the contentious deal are expected to happen next week after the High Court ruling. But critics



I welcome the court's decision in our favour and will now 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 year alone.

