LOOKING INWARD

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 76 | www.orissapost.com

Actor Kiara Advani, after completing eight years in the film industry, shares the biggest learning during her career



NEW GROUP ON THE BLOCK

Aiming to re-energise American alliances globally, the US, UAE, India and Israel have formed a grouping called I2U2 INTERNATIONAL P10



PRANNOY ADVANCES

HS Prannoy ends Lakshya Sen's journey at the Indonesia Open badminton tournament with a comprehensive win

SPORTS P12

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, JUNE 16 | 2022

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

PWC SETS FOOT IN STATE; OPENS **OFFICE IN CITY**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 15: PricewaterhouseCoopers India Wednesday said it would create 10,000 additional employment opportunities in India over the next five years, as it set foot in Odisha for the first time with an office in capital Bhubaneswar.

It plans to hire around 500 people in the state within the next year. The new office in Bhubaneswar will be a flexible, multi-use one serving clients in the region, a top company official said.

This expansion is in line with the firm's commitment to create 10,000 additional jobs in the country over the next five years," he said. "Our talent pool is no longer centered in metro cities and we are looking to leverage the wealth of skilled professionals in other cities, too," PwC Chairperson Sanjeev Krishan said. Between 2006 and 2017, tier-2 and tier-3 cities received five times more investment for retail infrastructure than tier-1 and metro cities, Krishan said.

Apart from Bhubaneswar, the firm had recently expanded operations in Jaipur. It will also set up branch offices in Noida and Thane, he said.

GRILLS RAHUL FOR THIRD DAY IN A ROW



FACE TO FACE: Police stop Congress workers during a protest outside the AICC office against summoning of party leader Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the National Herald case, in New Delhi, Wednesday

New Delhi, June 15: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate for about eight hours Wednesday, the third day of his appearance in the National Herald money laundering case.

Gandhi (51) left the Enforcement Directorate (ED) headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road in central Delhi around 9:30 pm. His statement was recorded in multiple sessions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and after Wednesday's round of questioning, he has clocked close to 30 hours with the ED

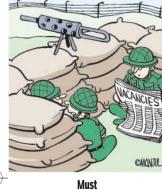
He has been called by the agency for the 4th day June 17 as he sought an exemption for Thursday. The grand old party has called the agency's action vendetta politics of the Centre against opposition leaders as the party's supporters continued protests on roads lead-

ing to the ED office. HERALD The probe pertains to

alleged financial irregularities involving Young Indian Private Limited, promoted by the Congress, which owns National Herald. The newspaper is published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian.

Gandhi (51) arrived at the ED headquarters around 11.35 am with his Z+ category CRPF security escort. He was accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as his convoy whizzed past police barricades thronged by media persons and party supporters. The questioning began at 12 noon. He was grilled for about three hours after which he left for an hour long break, possibly for lunch.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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WEATHER

NEWS IN BRIEF

MONSOON TO ENTER **STATE IN 48 HOURS**

Bhubaneswar: The southwest monsoon is likely to make an onset over Odisha during the next 48 hours, the IMD said. Chitrakonda in Malkangiri district and some other places in the southern part of Odisha have already started experiencing pre-monsoon rainfall, the Bhubaneswar Centre of IMD's Meteorological Department said Wednesday. One or two places in 16 districts of the coastal state are likely to experience thunderstorm accompanied by lightning for 24 hours beginning from 8.30am June 15, the weather office said.

MEGA 5G AUCTION GETS CABINET NOD

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has approved the auction of airwaves capable of offering fifth-generation or 5G telecom services including ultra high-speed internet, and gave its nod for setting up of captive 5G networks by the big tech firms. The auction of over 72 GHz of the spectrum will be held by July-end, said an official statement detailing the decision taken by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at its meeting held June 14. The spectrum auction will commence MORE P11 July 26, 2022.

State turns graveyard of 'poached' elephants

■ With another skeleton found at Badamba range, at least six elephants have been killed in Athagarh forest division since Feb

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Skeletal remains of one more elephant were exhumed from Athagarh forest division in Cuttack district, forest officials said Wednesday.

The skeletal parts, suspected to

be of a male elephant, were detected from Chandragiri reserve forest under Badamba range of Athagarh forest division. "Forest staff of Athagarh Division has recovered the body parts of one

more elephant from the Chandragiri reserve forest of Janipadar beat of Badamba Range near Kharod village June 14," informed Athagarh DFO Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav.

Yadav said the remains which appear to be part of a male elephant were discovered while the



forest officials were investigating the cases of recovery of body parts of two elephants in Badamba range. No tusks were recovered from the site, Yadav said.

Earlier this month, a team of special task force of Odisha Crime Branch had exhumed skeletons of two jumbos from a place on the foothills of Chandragiri hills in Gopinathpur section of the same forest range. Similarly, a sub-adult tusker succumbed to pallet wounds in the same forest division Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan sought immediate intervention of the Odisha government to check poaching of wild elephants. The death of a wounded pachyderm who was shot by poachers in Athagarh forest is

distressing for all wildlife enthu-

siasts, he said in a tweet.

Citing media reports, he said, around 947 elephants have died due to poaching, poisoning, electrocution and accidents in the last 12 years in Odisha. "The dense forests and wildlife are a unique identity of our state. Elephants are pillars of our ecosystem and have a special role in environment & forest conservation. Growing number of elephant deaths in Odisha over the years is a matter of grave concern for everyone. Pradhan said.

So long, Internet Explorer! Browser 'dies' after 27 yrs

Marking Explorer's passing on Twitter, some users referred to it as a 'bug-ridden, insecure POS' or the 'top

Formal notification issued for Prez poll

Bhubaneswar, June 15: The Election Commission of India (ECI) Wednesday issued formal notification for election to the next President of India. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha SK Lohani has republished three notifications of the ECI for the poll sched-

uled for July 18. As per the notifications, the nominations can be filed till June 29 while scrutiny of papers will be done the next day (June 30). July 2 (Saturday) has been set as the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures.

The election will be held July 18 (Monday) at Room No 54 (1st Floor), Odisha Legislative Assembly here. The MPs of both Houses would cast their votes at Room No 63, 1st Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

Normally, MPs are expected to cast their votes at New Delhi and members of all respective state Assemblies at the concerned place of poll. However, on account of any exigency for special circumstances, the Members of Parliament can vote in any of the places of polling in any State/ Delhi/ Puducherry, the notice said.

BJD snubs Oppn meet, **Rajnath calls Naveen** New Delhi: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD)

Wednesday skipped the meeting called by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to hold discussion on the presidential elections. The Opposition's meeting, attended by leaders from 17 parties, was presided over by NCP president Sharad Pawar. Following the meeting, Pawar said that steps will be taken to bring parties like BJD, TRS, Aam Aadmi Party, which skipped the meeting, on the floor. Meanwhile, The BJP Wednesday began the consultation exercise on evolving a consensus name for the presidential election with senior party leader Rajnath Singh speaking to a number of key Opposition leaders including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Similarly, any MLA desirous of voting at Parliament, New Delhi or at any other Legislative Assemblies instead of his/her concerned place of poll, can also do so.

Counting for the poll will take place in the National Capital July 21. after all ballots from states are brought to Delhi.

FIFA U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

KALINGA STADIUM ST INDIA MATCH

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 15: In a good news for football lovers, Kalinga Stadium in City is all set to host India's matches of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 October 11. 14 and 17 this year.

The DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai will host the summit clash of the U-17 Women's World Cup on October 30 while the semifinals will be played in Goa, FIFA and Local Organising Committee (LOC) announced Wednesday

The official draw will take place June 24th. The 24 group stage games will conclude October 18 and the matches will be shared among all

three host states - Odisha, Goa and Maharashtra.

Speaking about the landmark moment to come, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed his excitement. "Extremely happy and excited to learn that Bhubaneswar

will be hosting group matches of India in the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022. The leading sports destination is ready to provide the grandeur the home team needs for this grand tournament," said Patnaik.

This is a major feather in the cap for Odisha after having previously hosted the Men's Hockey World Cups at both the senior and

junior levels

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, June 15: Internet Explorer is finally headed out to pasture. As of Wednesday, Microsoft will no longer support the once-dominant browser that legions of web surfers loved to hate — and a few still claim to adore. The 27-year-old application now joins BlackBerry phones, dial-up modems and Palm Pilots in the dustbin of tech history.

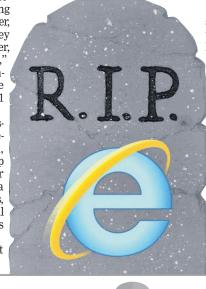
IE's demise was not a surprise. A year ago, Microsoft said that it was putting an end to Internet Explorer June 15, 2022, pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015.

The company made clear then it was time to move on. "Not only

browser for installing other browsers', while for others it was a moment for 90's nostalgia memes is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications," Sean Lyndersay, general manager of Microsoft Edge Enterprise, wrote in a May 2021 blog post.

Users marked Explorer's passing on Twitter, with some referring to it as a "bug-ridden, insecure POS" or the "top browser for installing other browsers." For others it was a moment for 90 s nostalgia memes, while The Wall Street Journal auoted a 22-year-old who was sad to see IE go.

Microsoft released the first



version of Internet Explorer in 1995, the antediluvian era of web surfing dominated by the first widely popular browser, Netscape Navigator. Its launch signaled the beginning of the end of Navigator Microsoft went on to tie IE and its ubiquitous Windows operating system together so tightly that many people simply used it by default instead of Navigator.

The Justice Department sued Microsoft in 1997, saying it violated an earlier consent decree by requiring computer makers to use its browser as a condition of using Windows. It eventually agreed to settle the antitrust battle in 2002 over its use of its Windows monopoly to squash competitors. It also tangled with European regulators who said that tying Internet Explorer to Windows gave it an unfair advantage over rivals such as Mozilla's Firefox, Opera and Google's Chrome.

Users, meanwhile, complained that IE was slow, prone to crashing and vulnerable to hacks. IE's market share, which in the early 2000s was over 90%, began to fade as users found more appealing alternatives.

Today, the Chrome browser dominates with roughly a 65% share of the worldwide browser market, followed by Apple's Safari with 19%, according to internet analytics company Statcounter. IE'sheir, Edge, lags with about about 4%, just ahead of Firefox.



eisure



'SQUID GAME' UNIVERSE TO BE EXPANDED TO NEW REALITY SERIES

After greenlighting the second season of their mega hit South Korean drama 'Squid Game,' Netflix is now expanding the story's universe by adapting it into a reality competition series called 'Squid Game The Challenge.'

SPEARS DIDN'T INVITE BROTHER TO WEDDING

Britney Spears insisted her brother Bryan wasn't invited to her wedding after he claimed she 'can't even make a dinner reservation.' The 'Toxic' superstar tied the knot with Sam Asghari at her California home June 9 after five years together but her family were noticeably absent from her big day.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.co™ accuracy • reliability • trust

You are feeling very excited what you want. Put all that energy to productive use. Ganesha says this is the time to work and not to make plans as today you can accomplish very difficult tasks. So work now, you can indulge in your parties later

TAURUS

This day promises to be like any other. You will, as usual, begin by attending to home chores and then get caught up in your hectic office schedule. Later in the day you will, says Ganesha, feel an urge to take time off and indulge in some social izing. You could, finally, be meeting your loved ones, your close friends and having a great time together. This will be a good way to end the day.

There are chances that your love life will go through warns Ganesha, Care and concern must be the watchwords in the afternoon. You will probably take chances in money matters. Don't lose your head, keep the faith and get back to your charming self.

CANCER

You will be extremely eager and enthusiastic today, portends Ganesha. At work, your emotions will prevail over your common sense. Things, however, wil change for the better as the day progresses. Loved ones will shower care and concern at night.

On most days, people go about seeking luck; but seems like today, you are not going to be one of them. Lady Luck is coming your way with a full, bright smile says Ganesha, so you can be assured of a good day. Look forward to good tidings from abroad towards the afternoor Ganesha also says it is a good day to express your love for that special some one in the evening. With things going your way all day, you will sleep like a baby at night.

Your love life will hit choppy waters today, warns Ganesha, Care and concern are important in all the matters, especially in the afternoon. Hedge a het in matters of money. But, keep your head high and flip back to your own charismatic self, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

The Darwinian legacy of the 'supremacy game' takes on a new turn for you today. Ganesha expects you to find a progressive and lenient side to yourself later in the day. This will enable you to achieve phenomenal career growth, and make you virtually indispensable in office. 'Go get them tiger!' says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Passionate love affairs will he even more intense and seductive than before, predicts Ganesha. Evening may see a new romantic aura around you. Professionally you shall answer all the riddles that have left you in a lurch till now. Ganesha predicts marriage proposals homing in on many of you.

SAGITTARIUS

You may be surprised at the state of your support and subsidy, says Ganesha. Economics will worry you today. Your generally upbeat mood will be marred by small, insignificant problems at work. Hedge your bets carefully in matters of money, advises Ganesha. But keep those spirits high and meet all such mat-

CAPRICORN

If you had scheduled the launch of a new product today, tarry a while, says Ganesha. It will be in your benefit to delay the launch till late in the day. But if you are headstrong on following the plan, be prepared to face disappointments because the response may not be as satisfying as you may have envisaged. While in the fray, you will be successful in countering the threats posed by your opponents, and will bag the appreciation of your supporters.

AQUARIUS

Your ambition makes you overbearing, and foot-inmouth will be a common phenomenon today. If you're too forceful or insistent, you may be tormented by regret tomorrow. Avoid being coerced into taking drastic decisions,

PISCES

While no major troubles ought to crop up to disturb your peace of mind, you will still find yourself dealing with a few minor irritants at the workplace today. Delay the start of long-term projects for a more opportune time. The evening should probably see you socialising and relaxing with good food, wine and music, says Ganesha

8 YEARS IN SHOWBIZ

biggest learning

MUMBAI: Kiara Advani has been on a roll of late. The actress was recently seen in Kartik Aaryan and Tabu starrer 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' and has been basking in the success of the horror-comedy these days. Besides, the 'Good

years in the industry. When quizzed about her biggest Newwz' actress learning during her career so far, is looking forthe actress stated, "Everything. ward to the From my first film to now I think release of every step in my journey has been an experience, has been a learning, and has made me who I am today. Every single person I have worked with my actors, directors, the teams, and technicians, I've learned so much from them. So I feel I would-

> n't be who I am or where I am without them and I am just.... There's so much gratitude"

'JugJugg Jeeyo' with Varun

Dhawan, Anil Kapoor and Neetu

Kapoor. Interestingly, Kiara has

another reason to grin from ear

to ear as she has completed eight

Interestingly, Kiara's 'JugJugg Jeeyo' co-star Varun was also heaping praises for her and stated that the actress has grown over the years. "If there's anyone who's grown tremendously in their craft, I think that's Kiara, she has gotten so much better," the 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania' actor added.

ODISSI NRUTYA NATIKA UTSAV 'AZADI' BEGINS

Kiara reveals her Gandhi comes alive on stage in 'Mahatma'



A presentation by the members of Orissa Dance Academy

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: 'Azadi,' a three day Odissi dance drama festival (Odissi Nrutva Natika Utsav), began here at Rabindra Mandap,

Wednesday. The event, a part of 75-weeklong celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', is being organised jointly by The Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) and Odia Language, Literature and Culture (OLL&C) department, Government of Odisha. It is dedicated to those who have been instrumental in the growth of India as a nation.

The first evening witnessed the

dance drama 'Mahatma,' presented by Orissa Dance Academy (ODA), showcasing the complex life of the Father of the Nation.

ODA secretary as well as the president of OSNA Aruna Mohanty, who choreographed Mahatma said, "The path of non-violence along with his experiment with truth was Bapu's weapon to counter the mightiest. We knitted Gandhi's life as a poetic appliqué where his ideas and philosophy of life were showcased through music and dance. His ideas of truth, non-violence, Swadeshi, Swaraj and self realisation were taken as metaphors and the whole choreography was like poetry in motion in our presentation. It was more about how Gandhi is relevant to our times and lives than a biographical description.

Verses from the poems of famous poets like Narsi Meheto, Sumitra Nandan Pant, Harivanshrai Bachchan, and acclaimed Odia poet Radhamohan Garnaik were used in the production, she added.

The second performance of the evening, 'Bira Bhumi Utkal, 'choreographed by Guru Durga Charan Ranbir of Nrutyayan, highlighted various episodes from Odisha's freedom struggle

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

The official journey of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commenced March 12, 2021 and will end August 15, 2023 on the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence. Apart from OSNA president

Mohanty, OLL&C Secretary Madhusudan Padhi, Odissi danseuse Priyambada Mohanty, OSNA vice-president Manmath Kumar Satpathy, secretary Praobdh Rath attended the event as guests.



BTS' TIME-OUT LEAVES FANS TEARFUL

Pleading exhaustion, the K-pop pioneers announced a break from group musical activities to pursue solo projects

SEOUL: K-pop pioneers BTS faced tears and sympathy from fans but anger from shareholders in their management company Wednesday, a day after the band, pleading exhaustion, announced a break from group musical activities to pursue solo projects.

Many in South Korea reacted with shock and dismay at Tuesday's news that, with some of its seven members approaching military service age, also triggered speculation about the future of a band whose upbeat hits and messages of vouth empowerment have turned them into global stars.

"I could relate to them as they shed tears and honestly told us how they felt," fan Nini Lee told

Reuters from a café in Seoul where to give my voice of courage to she had gathered with other fans.



as a fan had only wanted more from BTS at a time when they were struggling, wishing them a well-deserved break to recharge their bat

BTS Leader and rapper RM, in a tearful video released Tuesday on the ninth anniversary of a group that last year became the first Asian band to win artist of the year at the American Music Awards, said he had 'felt guilty and afraid' to ask for the rest that he desperately needed. Singer Jimin said they were

struggling to find their identity

in what he called an 'exhausting process,' while RM also lamented that the K-pop industry could not provide young artists with 'time to mature' On social media, some other fans blamed BTS' management group HYBE for relentlessly push-

eymaking opportunities, read more The company did not immediately respond to a request for com-

CROSSWORD

ing for new albums and other mon-

'Lagaan' to be adapted as Broadway show



MUMBAI: 'Lagaan: Once Upon A Time' has completed 21 years of its release in Hindi cinema Wednesday and now the Aamir Khan-starrer is set be adapted as a Broadway show in the UK, reports say.

According to a source: "Several leading producers from the UK have requested for the rights from Aamir Khan Productions and a final decision will be made soon regarding the West End Theatre.'

The West End Theatre is the equivalent to the Broadway show which is one of the biggest and most popular theatres worldwide.

SUDOKU

1

3

8

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

4

3

6

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

6

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

The source added: "Aamir Khan's team is yet to make a final decision about it. The makers have different plans which include doing a worldwide tour of the show that will feature a com-_ pletely original cast.'

'Lagaan' is a tale set in 1893 during the late Victorian period of India's colonial British Rai. The film is directed by Ashutosh Gowarikar and is produced by Aamir Khan Productions.

On the work front, Aamir is gearing up for the release of Laal Singh Chaddha August 11. IANS

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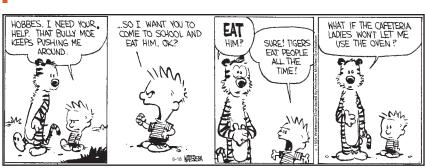
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3

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



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Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com

22 Befuddle

24 Dollar rival

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- 6 Jewish spiritual leader
- others 4 Cheap

1 Less common

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- - 19 Tree with catkins 20 Primitive

21 Winter wear

7 Underwater

device

8 Cultural

13 Army unit

setting

head

14 Carpentry tool

16 Part of a place

17 Wreath for the

- weapon

4 6 1 2 5 3

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

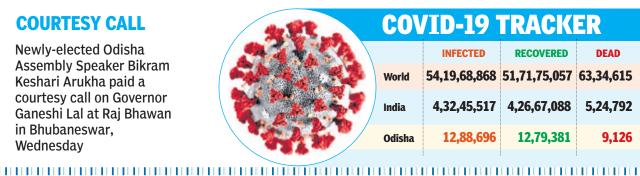
downtown



Newly-elected Odisha Keshari Arukha paid a

COURTESY CALL

Assembly Speaker Bikram courtesy call on Governor Ganeshi Lal at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER RECOVERED **INFECTED** 54,19,68,868 51,71,75,057 63,34,615 4.32.45.517 4.26.67.088 5,24,792

JUMBO DEATH AT ATHAGARH

Centre for stringent action against poachers remain secluded for 14 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: A day after two elephants died in quick succession in separate incidents in Narasinghpur of Cuttack district and in Kapilas zoo in Dhenkanal district, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav Wednesday said his ministry has taken cognizance of the jumbo deaths in Odisha and the matter has been taken up with the state government. In a reply to Union Education

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in twitter, Yadav said, "Elephant is our heritage animal and has been given the highest protection under Wild Life Protection Act. The ministry has taken cognizance of the incident and the matter has been taken up with the state government for stringent action against the poachers to ensure protection of our wildlife heritage.

In his twitter account, Pradhan had earlier said, "Death of a wounded tusker who was shot at by poachers in Athagarh forest is distressing for all wildlife enthusiasts. This is not just a one-off incident in Odisha.'

As per report, a tusker that was

Naveen commends **Indian Army for** rescue of Rahul Sahu



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday commended the role of Indian Army and other agencies for successfully rescuing Rahul Sahu from a borewell in Chhattisgarh after marathon operation which lasted for five days.

In his twitter account CM said, I commended the role of Indian Army Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI), Indian Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), SDRF and other agencies for the successful rescue of Rahul Sahu from a borewell in Chhattisgarh after gruelling operation of more than 100 hours. CM wished his speedy recovery.

Rahul Sahu, the hearing and speech-impaired kid who had fallen into an abandoned borewell at Pihrid village in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district Friday was rescued few minutes before midnight Tuesday. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Army, local police and state disaster response force (SDRF), battled for more than 100 hours, to rescue the 11-year-old kid. Immediately after Rahul was brought out, officials said that the kid was breathing but not showing any discernible movement. He was immediately rushed to a hospital in Bilaspur for treatment. Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel had been personally monitoring the rescue operations.

POST NEWS NETWORK

the state.

number of crowds.

the main draw.

Bhubaneswar, June 15: The

Odisha Handicrafts Museum, Kala Bhoomi here at the capital city cel-

ebrated the Raja Mahotsava in a

colourful way for two consecutive

days showcasing art and culture of

The festival which was organised

by the Handlooms, Textiles and

Handicrafts Department of Odisha

on June 14 and 15 drew a large

The Museum premises held a

craft bazaar where the visitors en-

joyed watching the fantastic hand-

icrafts products made of stone,

wood, and terracotta material

Different art skills, displays of

Soura Paintings, carvings of woods, engraving of palm leaves and orata

and charkha used for weaving were

Pottery, Paper masks and Straw

A Sambalpuri dance perform-

ance in the museum's open air the-

atre by Shankar Behera and the

workshops were also held during



battling for life for eight days near a rivulet at Jaipur jungle under Narasinghapur range and Athagarh forest division in Cuttack district after being shot at by poachers succumbed to the injuries, Tuesday. This was stated in Athagarh by forest ranger Prafulla Kumar Dehuri

In the second case, a newborn jumbo calf which had been rehabilitated at the elephant rescue centre of Kapilas zoo in Dhenkanal following its rescue from Kunua area under Hindol forest range died while undergoing treatment Tuesday afternoon. The calf died despite forest officials and veterinarians putting up their best ef-

forts for its revival, sources said. The project elephant division of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, meanwhile, wrote to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Odisha, seeking a detailed action taken report (ATR) in connection with the elephant death in Athagarh division.

It is worth mentioning here that the Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO) and Animal Welfare Trust Ekamra (AWTE), two non-profit organisations, have recently alleged that the Forest department appears to have mastered the art of covering up elephant deaths and misleading public on the actual cause of death.

heritage animal and has been given the highest protection under Wild Life Protection Act. The ministry has taken cognizance of the incident and the matter has been taken up with the state government for stringent action against the poachers to ensure protection of our wildlife heritage

BHUPENDER YADAV I UNION MINISTER FOR environment, forest & climate change

In a report, the two organisations claimed that as many as 133 elephants have either been poached or poisoned, 144 have been electrocuted and 36 have been mowed down by trains in Odisha during the last 12 years

It was revealed that in the last 12 years, 947 elephants have died in the state, of which only 426 have died due to natural reasons. The reason could not be ascertained in case of 202 deaths primarily due to highly decomposed bodies, some of them down to skins and bones, of which majority of deaths could be due to unnatural reasons.

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAMME

BMC suspends SDVO for alleged cruelty to dogs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Taking cognizance of allegations regarding animal cruelty at government veterinary hospital at Shahid Nagar here, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday suspended the in-charge doctor for ruthlessly torturing dogs while implementing Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme.

THE CIVIC BODY HAS ISSUED A SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE TO THE PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, **ENGAGED TO IMPLEMENT THE** ABC PROGRAMME IN THE CITY AND SUSPENDED SUB-OFFICER SAROJ KUMAR PRADHAN FOR ALLEGED CRUELTY TOWARDS DOGS

PRADHAN WAS ACCUSED OF STERILIZING THE DOGS WITHOUT GIVING ANESTHESIA AND THEN ALLOWING THE DOG TO DIE WITHOUT PROVIDING NECESSARY MEDICAL ATTENTION

The civic body has issued a showcause notice to the private organization, engaged to implement the ABC programme in the city and suspended Sub-Divisional Veterinary Officer (SDVO) Saroj Kumar Pradhan for alleged cruelty towards dogs, sources said.

Pradhan was accused of sterilizing the dogs without giving



anesthesia and then allowing the dog to die without providing necessary medical attention. "He used to tie the dogs to the porch and operate on them in scorching heat. Even after the dog's surgery, no antibiotics or pain relievers were administered. resulting in the dog's premature death," said a source.

'Taking account the concerns raised by the citizens along with a preliminary enquiry, the state government has posted a new SDVO for Bhubaneswar with immediate effect. We have instructed the service delivery agency for the ABC programme to deploy a mix of experienced and young doctors along with skilled surgeons and paramedics for the ABC programme,"

Commissioner Sanjay Singh. Singh along with Mayor Sulochana Das, Animal Husbandry Director Kendula Vijay and other BMC officials inspected the SDVO office and said the civic body's internal monitoring team shall keep strict vigil on any violation and negligence in service delivery with regard to the ABC programme.

"A detailed bi-lingual standard operating procedure (SOP) shall be developed for the ABC programme. Additional CCTVs and a display board listing available amenities shall also be installed at the centre. The private agency engaged for the implementation of the ABC programme may be blacklisted if we do not receive a satisfactory response on the showcause notice," said the Mayor.

Srimandir deities 'fall sick', to The deities are first given med-

Daitapati servitors undertake secret

rituals and help the deities to re-

iuvenate before the annual Rath

Yatra. "In secret rituals, we apply

Phuluri Tela (sesame oil with flower

and herb extracts) provided by

Bada Odia Mutt. The Lords also

undergo the Panchakarma treat-

ment to look fresh." one of the



Devotees visiting Alarnath shrine at Brahmagiri, Wednesday

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, June 15: A day after having a lavish bath using 108 pitchers of aromatic water, the sibling deities-Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath-Wednesday remained indoors in their temple as by tradition they fall sick and remain secluded for a fortnight.

Only 'daitapati' servitors are allowed inside the temple where the Lords rest after falling ill, said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in Jagannath culture.

Mishra said the deities were kept in isolation at the sick room called 'Anasar Ghar'. They are being treated with herbs, flower and root extracts on instructions of the 'Raj Vaidya', the palace ayurvedic doctor. They are treated just as human beings would be when ill, he said.

During the 'Anasar Ghar' stay, the

icines to lower the temperature of the body and then the parts of the 'Sree Anga' (sacred body) are treated with herbal oil.

The deities during the period also do not get normal 'Prasad' and are offered only fruits, he said, adding that some of the servitors also massage the Lords.

During the 14-days of Anasar, the devotees are requested to pray before the 'Pattachitra' (palm leaf painting) of the Trinity. The devotees are also told to visit Lord Alarnath, located in the Puri district and receive his blessings.

During Anasara period, the door of Patitapabana, the representative image of Lord Jagannath worshipped at the Lions' Gate of the temple, is also closed.

Mishra said that the deities would recover from sickness, a day before Rath Yatra on the occasion of 'Naba Jaubana Darshan' (youthful appearance) to appear afresh before devotees.



Chariot construction going on at full pace at Rath Yard in Puri, Wednesday

PROTEST AGAINST ED ACTION

Delhi Police detains MP Saptagiri Ulaka

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 15: Congress MP from Koraput, Saptagiri Ulaka, was detained by Delhi Police Wednesday for protesting against the Enforcement Directorate's summon to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in connection with a money laundering case with regard to the National Herald

Ulaka was deained by the police in front of All Indian Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in Delhi and taken to the Parliament Street police station. He was released after three hours.

While talking to

Orissa POST, the Congress MP said that police were not allowing the Congress leaders to enter AICC headquarters at Akbar Road here. He also alleged that the Delhi police have beaten up Congress leaders at the AICC headquarters.

The Koraput MP said the ED has been dealing with Rahul Gandhi in a very inhuman way. "They are interrogating him for over 9-10 hours. We will continue our protest against this inhuman treatment being meted out to Gandhi," Ulaka said.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM

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Saturday, 18th June, 2022; 7:00 p.m. onwards at Hotel Lucky International, chidiapolo V. N. Marg, Balasore - 756 001, Odisha.

Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.



MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.



- CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from DOCO to 31-03-2024 for Assets (11 nos) under "Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme XX" in Eastern Region. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (i) Bihar State Power
- (Holding) Company Ltd, (ii) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd., (iii) Grid Corporation Of Orissa Ltd., (iv) Damodar Valley Corporation, (v) Power Department, Govt Of Sikkim, Gangtok, (vi) Jharkhand State Electricity Board.
- Line Length, No. of Bays, Apportioned Approved capital cost (Rs. In Lacs), Date of Commercial Operation and Capital cost up to date of Commercial Operation (Rs. In Lacs): et Line Neef Apportioned DOCO Cor

Asset	Length (km)	Bays;	approved Capital cost (Rs in Lakhs)	росо	on DOCO (Rs in Lakhs)
Asset-I 0.80 km (S/C twin)		01 (400kV) 01(220kV)	3772.19	06.09.2019	2224.21
Asset-II	-		1574.97	01.10.2019	733.10
Asset-III	-		167.16	21.12.2019	118.83
Asset-IV		01 (400kV) 01(220kV)	2079.56	31.12.2019	1650.96
Asset- V	-	01 (400kV) 01(220kV)	2719.00	01.01.2020	2096.24
Asset- VI		01 (400kV)	1352.66	13.01.2020	776.88
Asset-VII	-	01 (400kV)	293.67	19.02.2020	64.98
Asset-VIII	et-VIII - 01 (400kV) 01(220kV)		3090.99	31.07.2020	2275.99
Asset-IX	-	-	17371.00	31.03.2021	12880.95
Asset- X	- 2		380.75	02.04.2022	1001.84
Asset- XI	-	01 (220V GIS) 01(132kV GIS)	2563.94	19.02.2022	3342.52

4. The annual transmission tariff for the tariff period 2019-24 is summarized as below

					(RS IN Lakns
Asset/Tariff	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Asset-I	393.54	788.57	811.91	823.59	823.04
Asset-II	96.95	239.43	250.11	246.22	242.46
Asset-III	5.62	24.08	28.34	30.28	30.17
Asset-IV	111.93	476.76	509.63	527.05	529.11
Asset-V	130.67	568.35	617.27	643.88	644.83
Asset-VI	34.99	176.94	188.31	188.13	185.50
Asset-VII	5.15	50.08	55.15	57.30	58.55
Asset-VIII		420.89	663.73	679.56	678.43
Asset-IX		5.55	2105.86	2203.46	2194.19
Asset- X			168.06	183.05	184.87
Asset- XI		-	64.63	604.59	647.12

The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of

Sr. General Manager (Commercial) POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

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Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001, (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719 eg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016. Tel: 011-26560112, 2656012 www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121

Raja fest at Kala Bhoomi a big draw IMD: Monsoon to hit Odisha in 2 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: The southwest monsoon is likely to make an onset over Odisha during the next 48 hours, the regional centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday.

Chitrakonda in Malkangiri district and some other places in the southern part of the state have already started experiencing pre-monsoon rainfall, IMD said. "Condition is favor-

able for the southwest monsoon to enter Odisha within next two days,' said Bhubaneswar Met Centre director, HR Biswas.

Usually, the monsoon reaches Odisha around June 10. This year, it was slightly delayed. However, this delay would not have any impact on agri-

culture activities, he opined. With the prevailing climatic con-

dition, the day temperature has come down in many places across the state and it will also remain normal in most places in coming days, Biswas added.

According to weather office fore-

cast, one or two places in 16 districts of the coastal state are likely to experience thunderstorms accompanied by lightning for 24 hours.

"Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts Jharsuguda. Sundargarh, Deogarh,

Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Mayurbhanj Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Koraput and Nabarangpur,' the IMD's regional centre said.

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over the districts of interior Odisha, besides Gajapati, Ganjam and at a few other places, it informed.



troupe regaled the spectators.

The festive fervor continued for

the second day as there were a number of cultural programmes in store for more than 4000 audience. A classical performance by renowned Odissi dancer Sashwat Joshi and Banshi and Tabla jugalbandi by Sushant Kumar Jena and group greeted by thunderous

There were stalls for various traditional cakes and famous Raja Pan which is savoured on this occasion. The audience also enjoyed watching Raja Doli.

Now, state to reward unsung heroes of Fire Services dept



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; June 15: The unsung heroes of fire services department will not remain unsung anymore as the Fire Services directorate has decided to reward fire personnel of the state who often brave their lives while carrying out various rescue operations in risky and hazardous situations. The directorate, in a circular, said that such personnel will be periodically awarded with a cash prize of Rs 1000, along with certificate of appreciation and mementos. Besides, Rs 10,000 fund can also be sanctioned to the fire stations across the state following public acclamation for any exceptional The Fire Services directorate plans to publish either monthly or quarterly bulletin narrating the spirited performances of the unsung heroes

public and community services by

The by-laws of Fire Services, Home Guards and Civil Defence Welfare Fund currently have no provision to felicitate the brave fire personnel who risk their lives while saving animals and human

Let's pledge to take extra care of elders: Naveen

WORLD ELDER ABUSE

AWARENESS DAY

role in guiding us on the right path.

On World Elder Abuse Awareness

Day, let us pledge to take extra care

of our elders and give them the

Governor Ganeshi Lal said,

"Elders should always be revered

and loved. On this World Elder

love and respect they deserve."

beings in various precarious situations. Their act of bravery often

In order to honour such unsung heroes, the directorate has made necessary changes in the by-laws by creating a welfare fund. Now, the fire personnel will periodically be rewarded when such commendable works are reported to the Chief Fire Officers (SAG).

A committee chaired by SAG along with three range officers as members will select the personnel for award on every fortnight.

Similarly, money will be sanctioned from the welfare fund for the distribution of food packets to the firemen engaged in rescue and restoration services during natural calamities and fire hazards. The staffers deployed to bookkeeping of the accounts of welfare fund will now get Rs 500 per month as remuneration.

The directorate also proposes to publish either monthly or quarterly bulletin narrating the spirited performances of such personnel. Copies of the bulletin will be sent to various fire stations in the state to motivate other staff. The IT cell of the SAG has been asked to ensure the regular publication and distribution of the bulletin.

Abuse Awareness Day, let's take a

pledge to respect our elders and

help prevent & stop elder abuse."

Bhubaneswar, too, observed the day.

Highlighting the significance of the

day Suresh Chandra Kar, the forum's

secretary, said World Elder Abuse

Awareness Day is observed to en-

courage the world to pay greater

attention to the well-being and ad-

equate health care of the elderly.

Senior Citizens' Forum of



Members of Utkala Sammilani pose for a photo op after paying floral tribute to Byasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati near Utkal University in Bhubaneswar.

Wednesday

3 ESIC hospitals in state on cards

New Delhi, June 15: Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameswar Teli Wednesday said the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) will set up three new hospitals at Bhubaneswar, Jajpur and Paradip in Odisha.

Teli along with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Wednesday inaugurated an ESIC hospital in Angul and a Sub-Regional Office in Jharsuguda, a

labour ministry statement said. As per the statement, Teli said three new ESIC hospitals, one 150bed at Bhubaneswar, one 100-bed at Duburi in Jajpur and one 30-bed at Paradeep have been sanctioned by

Three new ESIC hospitals—one 150-bed at Bhubaneswar, one 100-bed at Duburi in Jajpur and one 30-bed at Paradeep— have been sanctioned

He said the labour force is the backbone of the nation's development and the Centre is taking all round steps to ensure their holistic development.

About the e-shram initiative, Teli said 27 crore labourers, including 1.3 crore from Odisha from the unorganised sector have registered in the portal and various social sector benefits are being extended to them.

Teli also talked about the PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana and said that a new facility is being introduced through which employers of workers like the housemaids in the unorganized sector can contribute their share of pension for

Angul and Jharsuguda have many industries, so also labour

workers concerned.

Hence it is the duty of the government to ensure their wellbeing and this hospital as well as the sub-regional office will serve that purpose, said Pradhan.

While formally inaugurating

the hospital at Angul, he said, it has acted as a 'Sanjeevani' for the people of Odisha and saved many lives during the second wave of the pan-

The hospital aims at benefiting more than 3 lakh people in Angul and adjacent districts with superspecialty services while the sub-regional office at Jharsuguda aims at benefiting around 2 lakh workers in 13 districts of Odisha.

Talking about the initiatives of the government in the past eight years, Pradhan said the Central government has replaced the provision of royalty with the District Mineral Fund scheme, which ensured that mineral rich districts get adequate funds for development directly from the Centre.

Formal notification issued for Prez poll

Continued from P1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: As the

state observes World Elder Abuse

Awareness Day (WEAAD)

Wednesday, Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik urged the people take extra

care of the elderly and give them the

love and respect they deserve. Taking

to Twitter, Naveen wrote: "Elderly

persons are indispensable threads

of our social fabric and play vital

Kovind's term ends July 24 and an election for the next President has to be completed before that day. With the EC setting the ball rolling, all eyes are now on who will be the BJP's choice for the top con stitutional post as the party with the support of its allies has a clear advantage. Though the BJP and its allies in the NDA have fewer MLAs than they had during the 2017 presidential polls, their numbers of MPs have gone up since.

A BJP leader said the ruling NDA already has close to 50 per cent of votes in the Electoral College. The alliance is hopeful of getting support from independent regional parties like the ruling YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh and the incumbent BJD in Odisha. The BJP is also counting on support from AIADMK. its ally in the last Tamil Nadu as sembly polls.

Despite not having numbers on its side, the Opposition is likely to put up a joint candidate for the election and consultations in this regard have already begun.



Children celebrate Raja in Rasulgarh area of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

JAJPUR STUDENT DROWNS IN PURI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 15: A 20-year-old youth drowned at Narendra tank here Wednesday, police said.

According to Kumbharpada police, the incident occurred in the morning when Smruti Ranjan Sahoo, a Plus III second year student of Gopabandhu Choudhury College at Ramachandrapur in Jaipur district, was taking a bath at Narendra tank along with one of his friends.

Kumbharpada inspector incharge (IIC) Bichitrananda Sethy said Smruti and his five friends have come to the Holy City to witness the Suna Besha of the deities, Tuesday, After witnessing the bathing rituals of the deities, they visited several places of the city.

"It was around 9am Wednesday when Smruti, along with one of his five friends, entered the tank to have a bath while others were busy gossiping nearby. A few minutes into the bath. Smruti went deeper into



victim's friends. Later, locals joined the rescue mission and managed to bring the youth out of the pond. He was

care facility where doctors declared him 'dead on arrival', added the IIC. On being informed, police reached the hospital and recovered the body before sending it for

rushed to a nearby state-run health-

post-mortem. A case (10/22) of unnatural death has been registered in connection with the mishap. Smruti's body has been handed over to his

family members after an autopsy, said Sethy

State registers 22 fresh Covid cases

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Odisha Wednesday recorded 22 new coronavirus cases, eight more than the previous day, with the tally rising to 12,88,696, a Health department bulletin said. The death toll remained at 9,126

as no fresh fatality due to the infection was reported in the last 24 hours, it said.

Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Odisha now has 166 active cases and 14 more people recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,79,351, the bulletin said.

study that has used India-specific data and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) tool across a 'cradle to grave' cycle of substrates has revealed that aluminium beverage cans have superior environmental performance over glass, PET

The LCA compared the environmental sustainability of aluminium cans, glass bottles, PET plastic bottles and multi-layer packaging (MLP), all of which were studied against 18 environmental impact categories including global warming potential (GWP), water consumption, acidification and material circularity.

and multi-layer drinks containers.

The first-of-its-kind in India study by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) assessed 250 ml and 500 ml aluminium cans: 200 ml, 600 ml and 750 ml PET bottles; 200 ml, 330 ml and 650 ml glass bottles; and 200 ml MLP cartons.

"In its 500 ml form, aluminium cans, already the world's most recvcled drinks container, averaging 69 per cent globally and 85 per cent in India, performed the best in multiple impact categories, in particular because of its recyclability, high recycled content and light weight, a the study 'Sustainable Beverage Packaging Options in India: A Comparative Life Cycle Assessment Study' said.

The 200 ml MLP cartons came a



'Aluminium cans have superior environmental performance'

close second with regards to GWP, followed by the 600 ml PET bottles. 'The single use glass bottles did

200 ml MLP cartons not perform well across several impact categories due to their high

energy intensive manufacturing

The first-of-its-kind

Resources Institute

500 ml aluminium

and 750 ml PET

bottles; 200 ml,

330 ml and 650 ml

glass bottles; and

assessed 250 ml and

cans; 200 ml, 600 ml

in India study by

The Energy and

and relatively low-recycled content," the study said.

The study used India-specific data and the LCA tool across a 'cradle to grave' cycle of substrates, including raw material extraction, the manufacture of primary and secondary packaging materials, transportation between the different stages in the value chain, as well looking at the endof-life aspects of the different packaging types.

Vibha Dhawan, director general, TERI, said, "This study has been carried out at a time when there is growing environmental consciousness among Indian consumers and significant policy thrust by the Indian government towards promotion of circularity across various sectors.



This study has been carried out at a time when there is growing environmental consciousness among Indian consumers and significant policy thrust by the Indian government towards promotion of circularity across various sectors

VIBHA DHAWAN | TERI DIRECTOR GENERAL

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7 including 4 siblings critical



Kodala, June 15: Seven persons including four siblings sustained critical injuries while three houses collapsed in a major cracker explosion at Beruanbadi village under Kodala police limits in Ganjam district, Wednesday.

The injured were identified as Bishnu Behera, 28, Tripura Behera, 22, Srihari Behera, 26, Balaram Behera, 31, all sons of Dandapani Behera, their relative Mithun Behera, 22, neighbours Kailash Behera, 53 and his son Kanha Behera. It is suspected that the ex-

plosion occurred when the siblings were preparing crackers for marriage ceremonies of Bishnu and Sridhar scheduled for June 26.

All the injured were admitted to Kodala community health centre (CHC) first and later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur after their condition deteriorated.

Five among the injured were stated to have received over 50 per cent burn injuries. However, a 28day old newborn had a close shave as it escaped without any injuries during the blast.

On being informed, Kodala po-

lice and fire services personnel rushed to the spot and started an investigation. Purusottampur SDPO Suryamani Pradhan also visited the spot and took stock of the situation.

The intensity of the blast was so huge that villagers, for a moment, could not exactly figure out what happened and started running hel-

Later, some villagers noticed smoke billowing out of the house of Behera and the burnt pieces of household articles and asbestos roof lying scattered in the area.

Some of them mustered courage and rescued all the seven injured persons from inside their houses. Kailash and his son sustained critical injuries after a wall of their house collapsed under the impact of the blast. Acting on a complaint,

Purusottampur Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO), additional superintendent of police and Kodala police reached the spot and started investigation. Police are looking into the safety

angles of cracker manufacturing by the family members.

LEISURELY HOURS



Tourists having a timeout on Bateshwar sea beach near Kantiagarh village in Ganjam district, on the occasion of Raja festival, Wednesday

TRACKING JUMBOS

Watch tower installed at Sarisua hill

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, June 15: Residents living on the foothills of Sarisua hill under this tehsil of Balasore district heaved a sigh of relief as a watch tower was installed on the hilltop by the Forest department to track the movement of the elephants, a report said.

The forest officials deployed on the watch tower installed at Badbil village will track the movement of elephants over 16.5 sq km area around the hill and alert the residents in advance in case of any possible elephant attack. This has brought relief to residents residing in five panchayats around the hill.

Reports said elephants from nearby jungles frequently stray into the villages around the hill and destroy life and properties. The elephant menace has become more acute during last 10 years as people were found living in constant fear of elephant attack and destruction of their properties.

They always pleaded with the authorities to save themselves but no solution was ever coming. The Forest department finally decided to install a watch tower on the hill to track the movement of the animals. Sources said ₹20 lakh was sanctioned for the watch tower project and the construction was started from January this year.

When contacted, forest ranger Babita Soren said that the tower has become functional which will help track the movement of elephants and trace the wildlife poachers and nab them.

Notably, a man in Kutirapal village and a woman in Kaithagadia village in the area died in elephant attack two years back. People in the area have been living amid fears of elephant attacks.

AC vehicles to boost footfall in Debrigarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 15: In a bid to attract more tourists to Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Sambalpur district, the Hirakud wildlife division authorities, Wednesday, launched five air-conditioned safari vehicles.

Attabira MLA Snehangini Chhuria and DFO of Hirakud Wildlife Division Ashipragyan Das flagged off the safari vehicles.

These vehicles are in addition to a fleet of nine common safari vehicles that are already operational at the tourism site.

Addressing the launching ceremony, the DFO said that the addition of five AC safari vehicles will give the necessary leg-up to the tourist destination

"Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary has its own identity for its rich flora and fauna. Tourists from various parts of Odisha and 25 other states like Chhattisgarh and West Bengal visit the sanctuary every year. Even during the Covid times last year, the wildlife sanctuary has recorded a footfall of 55,000 tourists. Since the Covid restrictions are over now, more tourists are expected to visit the sanctuary this

year," the DFO said. Of the five safari vehicles, three are four-seater Mahindra Thor while two of them are mini buses with a sitting capacity of 12 each.

In yet another development, safari vehicles are now allowed to ferry tourists to Samalei temple, Sambalpur town (to buy Sambalpuri handloom items), deer park, Nrusinghanath temple in Bargarh and Kedarnath temple in Barpahad range, it was stated.

TAKING STOCK

Earlier, the safari vehicles were allowed to ferry tourists within the sanctuary precincts. Moreover, the route chart of the safari vehicles may be changed for the convenience of the tourists.

All kinds of recreational facilities - food, cycling, trekking and boating - have already been put in place inside the sanctuary for the tourists. Many unemployed youths of the peripheral villages have been engaged in all such activities. Notably, Debrigarh is home to a variety of wildlife like deer, leopADDITION TO A FLEET OF NINF COMMON SAFARI VEHICLES THAT ARE ALREADY OPERATIONAL AT THE TOURISM SITE

OF THESE SAFARI VEHICLES. THREE ARE FOUR-SEATER MAHINDRA THOR WHILF TWO OF THEM ARE MINI BUSES WITH A SITTING CAPACITY OF 12 EACH

THE VEHICLES ARE NOW ALLOWED TO FERRY TOURISTS TO SAMALEI TEMPLE, SAMBALPUR TOWN, DEER PARK, NRUSINGHANATH TEMPLE IN BARGARH AND KEDARNATH TEMPLE IN BARPAHAD RANGE

ards, peacocks, barking deer, sambar and boars. Speaking on the occasion, Chhuria said the state government has been undertaking a slew of programmes to promote tourism in Odisha. "Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has given special focus on Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary. With the launch of five AC safari vehicles, more tourists will visit the sanctuary," she added.

Woman attacked by croc, survives

POST NEWS NETWORK

bathing in a river miraculously escaped from the jaws of a crocodile in Pattamundai area of Kendrapara district, Wednesday. Reports said, Manjulata Samal, a native of Raulia village under Pattamundai block, was bathing in Kanthia river Wednesday when a crocodile dragged her into the river.

However, she managed to escape from the jaws of the reptile. She was critically injured in the attack. She was first rushed to Kendrapara district headquarters hospital and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack

Government High School at

Rainagar inside Bhitarkanika were

among the first-day visitors to the

boat library. The students, who are

from three gram panchayat areas

ture and environment. It was fun

to be in a library in a boat," said S

P Priyadarshi Behera, a student of

Omprakash Bari, the school's

science teacher, said the effort is

novel and hoped that it will cre-

ate interest among the children in

the environment and the wetlands.

"The students here liked it all the

more because of the innovation.

standard nine of the school.

"We saw so many books on na-

nearby, were happy.

Social boycott endemic in Ganjam villages



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 15: The drastic rise in ostracism cases has become a matter of grave concern in rural villages of Ganjam district. In the recent past, there have been several instances of 'social boycott', mostly in villages.

This age-old tradition of socially boycotting a family for various reasons still exists in most villages in the district. Just a few days back, there were reports of an Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel being boycotted by his family for an inter-caste marriage.

Meanwhile, as many as 18 families of fishermen community at Kainchapur village under Ganjam block have been socially boycotted from their village for the last six

The matter came to the fore after these families met Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Rai Monday and sought his intervention in the issue. Despite repeated complaints, police officials have turned deaf ears to their plights, the families alleged.

They also have brought serious allegations against present Zilla Parishad member Sanatan Behera, who is the person behind their social boycott.

According to the families, the fishermen community spends a lot of money every year on the village deity. However, Behera, who is also the president of the Mahasangh, does not show the expenditure list and is alleged to

Despite claims of awareness progs by administration and police, incidents of social boycott are on the rise in the district

have bungled the funds.

When asked for the expenditure list, he spread rumours against the 18 families and ostracised them, the families alleged.

Behera claims that the expenditure list was destroyed by rodents and refuted the allegations of ostracizing the fishermen families. "It is a drama to defame me," Behera said.

Notably, families of two defence personnel in Polasara have appealed to the district administration for justice following alleged boycott by villagers after one of the two youths recently married a girl of another caste.

The families were living peacefully until things took an ugly turn following Aurobindo's intercaste marriage in January this

Despite claims of awareness by administration and police, incidents of social boycott are on the rise in Ganjam. Last month, a woman samiti member and a former sarpanch in Ganjam block were reportedly ostracised for defying the village committee decisions.

Boat library for visitors in Bhitarkanika Nat'l Park

PNN/AGENCIES

Dangamal, June 15: Deep inside Bhitarkanika National Park, the foresters have set up a boat library for children The library housed in a sta-

way to the forest, threw open its doors June 5, the World Environment Day, this year. The boat is stationed at the ecotourism complex so that students

tionary boat at Dangamal, the gate-

of nearby schools as well as children of visitors to Bhitarkanika, can use the library. Spread over 672 sq km,

Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary is the second largest Mangrove ecosystem in India. Once the hunting ground of the princely Raj Kanika family, it is now famous for its large population of salt water crocodiles. Bhitarkanika DFO JD Pati, who

along with others planned the boat library, said a boat discarded by the department has been taken over and refurbished into a library

It was retrofitted for the purpose and a room was created in its hull to house books. Stairs were constructed to reach the room from the ground.

"The aim of the library is to connect children and youth to na-

ture and sensitise them about conservation," Pati said. Inspiration was drawn from commitment and continuous support for mangrove conservation by locals.

"To commemorate their efforts and build capacity of the next generation, we felt the requirement of a dedicated platform where data, books, documents can be shared with youngsters to motivate them to conserve the mangrove and wetlands," Pati said.

He credits the forest division officers including his wife for conceptualising and designing the

The library houses about 1,500 books which have been funded by the government-run Bhitarkanika

Eco-Tourism and Eco-Development Society (BEEDS).

A delegation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA, visited Dhenkanal and took stock of the faecal

sludge treatment plant being implemented by self-help groups and other projects of Dhenkanal Municipality,

As it is off-season for tourists now, the boat library is open to local children of the area, which is located in the coastal Kendrapara

The national park is closed from

The library houses about 1,500 books which have been funded by the government-run Bhitarkanika Society

A single room with 32 compartments has been created in the hull of the ooat to house the books, which have peen placed on shelves in a way that ldren find easy to use



May 1 to July 31 every year for mating and nesting by saltwater crocodiles. For now, children of two to three local schools will be allowed to visit the library. Pati said.

Much thought has been given to attract children to the library. The boat has been painted in bright colours with motifs to attract them. A single room with 32 compartments has been created in the hull of the boat to house the books, which have been placed on shelves in a way that children find easy to use.

The lowest shelves are for children between three and five years of age and have picture books in Odia, Hindi and English, besides card games.

The shelves above it are for children between five and 10 years and are stocked with folk tales, short stories and biographies. Books for those between 10 and 15 years are placed in the higher racks and have encyclopedias, books on nature, conservation, atlas, science projects and biographies.

On the topmost racks are books for those who are above 15 years. There are books on wildlife conservation, mangrove forests and ecology, besides government brochures and publications on wetland conservation.

Students of Naga Narayan

Bhitarkanika mangrove was designated a Ramsar Wetland of

International importance in 2002. 'We will also look for donations for stocking more books if there is sufficient response," Pati said.

The boat library will be open on all days during the summer vacation in the schools and will be thrown open to visitors when tourism season resumes August 1, he said.

Every Sunday, students of two to three schools will be allowed to visit the boat library.

There are plans to hold drawing competitions for local schools besides capacity building for conservation, the DFO added.

TRAIN NO. 20819, 20820, 20861, 2086 22827, 22828, 22866, 22865, 22890 22889, 12843, 12844, 12881, 12882 18419, 18420, 22883, 22884, 22836 22835 (WEEKLY SERVICES) OF (PUR GROUP II) OF PURI COACHING DEPO FOR A PERIOD OF 'TWO' YEARS. dvertised Value : ₹4,01,96,220.78 EMD : ₹3,51,000/-, Tender Documer Cost : ₹11,800/-, Period of Completion 24 Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. of 06.07.2022.

Manual offers are not allowed again this tender, and any such manual off

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eceived shall be ignored.

in website http://www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Coaching Depot Office OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, ROURKELA

TENDER CALL NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-SERKL-07 of 2022-23 Name of the Work Total No. of Works Estimated Cost 8 (Eight) Nos. Rs.14.02 lakhs to 47.89 lakhs "D", "C", "B" & "A" Class 03 (Three) to 04 (Four) Calendar Months Single Cover Class of Contractor Availability of Tender Online for Bidding Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Online-SERKL-07 of 2022-23 urther details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in IPR-25067/11/0012/2223 Sd./- Superin



What you are not able to do today, ou will achieve tomorrow. Persevere and you shall conquer. THE MOTHER



Alexander Müller &

dimensions of food

access, stability,

security - availability,

and utilisation - are

threatened by the

combined negative

effects of climate

change, conflict,

COVID-19, and cost

Violet Shivutse

Today, all four

Broken Food System

The global food system is broken. Although it produces more than enough calories to feed everyone, up to 811 million people – more than 10% of the world's population – go to bed hungry each night. Sadly, effective governance to ensure access to food for all is still lacking. A globally coordinated effort to address both the short- and long-term aspects of the hunger crisis must therefore be the top priority.

Today, all four dimensions of food security – availability, access, stability, and utilisation – are threatened by the combined negative effects of climate change, conflict, COVID-19, and cost. By disrupting global trade and pushing up food prices, these four "Cs" are creating a short-term challenge of increasing hunger. At the same time, the man-made climate crisis poses a medium to long-term threat.

Climate change has already started to affect the environment in which food can be produced. Exceptional droughts, heatwaves, and floods are undermining farming in regions as different as the Horn of Africa and the Midwest of the United States. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent Sixth Assessment Report leaves no doubt: The climate crisis will have increasingly damaging consequences for food systems around the world.

Russia's war against Ukraine is aggravating this already dire situation. Armed conflicts have long been major causes of hunger, usually at the regional level. But the Ukraine war, involving two of the world's largest producers of agricultural commodities, is distorting global trade. As a result, the Food Price Index compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

hit an all-time high in March. Prices of basic commodities such as flour or vegetable oil have tripled in some regions since the war began. Food producers also face skyrocketing prices for fossil fuel-based fertilisers, of which Russia is one of the biggest exporters. In severely affected countries, rising food prices may threaten social stability. When food prices soared in 2008, more than 20 countries reported social unrest and instability.

Then there is COVID-19. According to the UN, the pandemic has caused tens of millions of people to go hungry. And lockdowns aimed at combating the virus have disrupted supply chains, adding to the upward pressure on food prices. Our food systems face further challenges. Overconsumption of cheap calories, enabled by global trade in commodities and fossil fuelbased inputs, has led to widespread obesity and caused severe environmental problems. But the negative effects of production systems on the environment have often been treated as economic externalities and thus ignored.

More generally, and notwithstanding last September's UN Food Systems Summit, there have been very few holistic approaches to food-system transformation. Industrialised agriculture continues to hold sway.

That means there is much to be done. But threats to global food security will increase if policymakers trying to stem the immediate hunger crisis continue to ignore the climate and biodiversity crises and delay necessary steps to make food systems more sustainable. For example, postponing the implementation of the European Union's Farm to Fork Strategy, as some have proposed, will not provide the amount of food needed in the coming months and will further undermine the resilience of European agriculture.

As risks to food security mount, we cannot exclude the possibility that agricultural production from the food, feed, fibre, and fuel sectors will be insufficient to meet demand. Scarce supplies and disruptions to global trade will force

Countering the effects of the Ukraine war and the four Cs will require a globally coordinated response. The key question is whether the multilateral system will be able to provide an active platform where states and all stakeholders can manage these challenges effectively. If existing multilateral mechanisms are not up to the task, global solidarity demands a swift response by the G7. In fact, the G7 has started to address the situation, and new pledges are being made to equip multilateral financing mechanisms to support countries in need. Furthermore, G7 countries should make a firm commitment to share grains currently used as animal feed and biofuel with poorer economies

Such a step would demonstrate that the rich world has learned its lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic, when it shared too few tests, vaccines, and other supplies with poorer countries. A G7 agreement would provide a fast solution, create trust, and thus could spur the multilateral system to act, both now and to avert future food crises.

Again, it is vital that immediate responses to the current hunger crisis also support the long-term transformation of our food systems. Albert Einstein reportedly defined insanity as doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting a different result. So, why try to revive a broken system in times of crisis? The G7 initiative would create a starting point for the muchneeded transformation of food systems everywhere. The alternative is increasing hunger and further instability.

Alexander Müller is Managing Director at TMG Think Tank for Sustainability. Violet Shivutse is Founder and Coordinator of Shibuye Community Health Workers.

WISDOM CORNER

ungrateful to those teachers.

Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.

When one's expectations are reduced to zero, one really appreciates everything one does have.

have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet, strange, I am

WORDS**WORTH**

■ Theranostics

heranostics is widely known within the pharmaceutical field but is almost unknown outside it. A report in 2000 said that the drugs firm PharmaNetics had invented it as a blend of therapeutics and diagnostics. Its original sense was of a two-stage drugs package - a diagnostic test that identified patients who were most likely to be helped by a new medication, and a targeted drug therapy based on the test results. The aim was to create treatments, using genetic and other methods, which were tailored to individual patients, an area of research called personalised medicine. With the development in the past decade of specialist techniques at the molecular level, theranostics has also come to refer to a medication that would simultaneously diagnose and treat a disease and even provide feedback about how effective it has been in each individual patient. This is still in its early stages - a researcher predicted in New Scientist that "theranostics will enter clinical trials within the decade." Example citations: Scientists had been excited about "theranostics." where implanted devices would both diagnose and treat illnesses in people automatically, giving insulin for diabetes, for example (New York Times, 30 Nov. 2012). Theranostics is referred to as a treatment strategy that combines therapeutics with diagnostics, aiming to monitor the response to treatment and increase drug efficacy and safety, which would be a key part of personalized medicine and require considerable advances in predictive medicine (Biotech Week, 26 Sep, 2012).



COMBATING DISINFORMATION



Sabina Inderjit

FACT-CHECKING ORGANISATIONS GROWING GLOBALLY MUST BE SEEN AS A WARNING THAT STANDARDS ARE FALLING

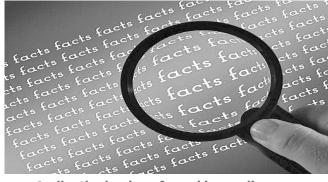
The famous quote 'facts' are sacred, but comment is free,' by British journalist CP Scott, founder of what is The Guardian today in the UK is more relevant than ever before in these times of bitter competition and proliferation of websites and digital media overtaking the traditional print journalism globally. The need for objectivity, impartiality and balance in journal ism is a bigger challenge for media professionals today, amidst the current climate of fake news, misinformation or disinformation.

Sadly, the basics of good journalism are increasingly getting eroded in this era of cut-throat competition and a new genre of journalists. Verifying facts prior to publication or putting on websites are being given a go-by, impacting the right of citizens to make an informed decision.

Further, the internal procedures adopted by newspapers and magazines for verifying facts as in the early 1920s to ensure objectivity prior to publication, it is said are on the decline due to economic crisis. At the same time, external fact checking, as per Fact-Checking as Idea and Practice in Journalism by Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Communication, has become prevalent over the past two decades with the growing number and visibility of websites dedicated to debunking falsehoods circulating online or repeated by politicians

and other public figures. In particular, fact-checking is an effort to combat public misinformation. The digital media environment also raises "new questions for journalists about whether to report, and how to corroborate, online rumours or reports from citizens during breaking news events..." Fact-checking outlets, which specialise in evaluating claims from politicians, journal ists, or other public sources have proliferated online in the new millennium. According to an annual census of such groups, as of February 2018, 149 non-partisan fact-checking operations were active in 53 countries.

Over the past decade, fact-checking sites have been launched by both journalists and civil society groups around the world; Europe and South America emerged as early hubs, while Asia, Africa, and the Middle East have seen more growth in the past several years. The growth of global factchecking operations grew by nearly 100 per cent from 2014 to 2019, ac-



Sadly, the basics of good journalism are increasingly getting eroded in this era of cut-throat competition. Verifying facts prior to publication or putting on websites are being given a go-by, impacting the right of citizens to make an informed decision

cording to a recent census by the Duke University Reporters' Lab. The census found 342 fact-checkers in the world this year, compared to 277 in 2018 and, despite a slow-down in the last two years, the numbers are still growing.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a sharper focus on 'fact-checking' and it has been accepted that it is critical to the media to limit spread of disinformation. Election reporting is another area which has thrown up challenges to get the focus right -- as in to provide citizens with access to all facts, opinions and ideas in the campaigns so they make the right choice and not get carried away by false claims or statements, which every candidate inevitably indulges in and now more so on social media. Additionally, growing nationalism, populism and disinformation has made it more imperative to separate the wheat from the chaff Even social network sites are getting wiser and have become cautious against the misuse of their platforms for spreading fake news and have fact-checkers in place.

The International Federation of Journalists has noted: "As the phenomenon of 'fake news' becomes more widespread, it's essential for media professionals to have the right tools needed to face its hazards. Investigative journalism goes hand in hand with fact checking, especially when facts that can be key to public interest are often buried and inaccessible.

The media, be it print, broadcast or digital, needs to gain the trust of its readers and viewers. Journalists need to reiterate their commitment to be accurate and true as possible and guard against getting carried away by misinformation online or unverified news by rivals. Fact-checking organisations growing globally must be seen as a warning that standards are falling. Examples in the two largest democracies in the world can be ominous signs.

International Fact-Checking Network, an umbrella organisation which monitors trends in fact checking, provides training resources and hosts a yearly conference #GlobalFact. It aims to promote best practices in fact checking and provide a place for collaboration between fact checkers worldwide. Poynter Institute in Florida also houses the Pulitzer Prize-winning Politifact which is the largest political fact-checking news organisation in the US, which has published over 16,000 factchecks of politicians and pundits.

India too is witnessing the scrouge of fake news, which has prompted mushrooming of factchecking organisations. FactChecker.in is India's first dedicated fact check initiative, based out of Mumbai. Since early 2013, it has been "scrutinising and researching for veracity and context, statements made by individuals in public life." Besides, picking up on issues where 'there is a strong need to examine data that is in public domain.'

Boom, an independent digital iournalism initiative to fight misinformation, explains issues and makes the internet safer by providing readers journalistically verified facts. Alt News seeks to reach out to communities as "the majority is still unaware that there

is something called fact-check ing."Factly, aims to strive to transform the public information landscape in India by "improving access & understanding of the common public about important government data/information and evolve into a reliable and significant resource in the context of public information & governance."

The growing wave of fact-checking organisations isn't a good omen. Misinformation or fake news is giving governments handle to bring in laws to come down heavily on independent media under its garb. Media houses and journalists need to watch out and make amends Rather than laws, self-regulation is a better option. India is witnessing stricter policies such as 'IT (Guidelines for Intermediary and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.' It has been challenged on grounds of impacting independent functioning of digital/online media. DIGIPUB News India Foundation, an association of 11 digital news media publishers, aims to "represent, amplify and evolve best practices to build a robust digital news ecology that is truly world-class, independent and upholds the highest standards of journalism.'

Indeed, self-regulation is gaining ground. Unlike the print media, which is regulated by Press Council of India Act 1978, with objective of "preserving the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies," there is 'self-regulation' by news channels. The News Broadcasters Association, established in 2008 with aim of "fostering high standards, ethics, and practices" has constituted National Broadcasting Standards Authority and has 'Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards' as a model for self-regulation to avoid content that is "malicious, biased. regressive, knowingly inaccurate, hurtful, misleading or aimed at wilfully concealing a conflict of interest." It can 'warn, censure, or express its disapproval' against the broadcaster and in some cases can even prescribe a fine.

In print media, a number of media houses are opting for an 'Ombudsman' for self-regulation. While this is welcome, much would depend on effectiveness and acceptability. Media must stick to the thumb rule of being accurate and objective. Else be prepared to get increasingly 'checked' by governments, other than fact checkers doing their job.

The convolutions of a bear market



Sourajeet Pradhani

IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, WE HAVE **SEEN MULTIPLE CORRECTIONS OWING TO MYRIAD GLOBAL EVENTS**

bear market is one, wherein the market has corrected by more than 20 per cent from its highest peak level. Although the Indian market didn't correct by 20 per cent, it was very much close to it from the October peak. Sensex reached 61,765 points October 18, 2021 and plummeted to 52,842 points March 7, 2022 (a correction of 14.4 per cent). While the inflation woes were considered to be transitory in nature, the myth has been busted. Inflation is a reality and very much

Broadly, a typical bear market has three stages - a steep downfall, an intermittent crest-trough phase and a prolonged downtrend. The first phase is the sharp correction owing to selloff, profit booking or anticipation of any negative event/trend. The second phase is characterised by intermittent rallies and corrections, since the sharp correction provides entry opportunities for the investors. The third

phase is a phase of non-ambiguity. The market 'factors in' all the possible events of the future.

This is a universal phenomenon in the fundamental behavioural analysis of markets across the world. We can analyse the bear market behaviour across eras. During the Asian currency crisis in 1997, the Sensex dropped by almost 25 per cent in the first six months of the crisis. This was followed by market volatility for a year. Finally, in July 1999, the market reached its previous peak.

Similarly, in January 2008, the Sensex touched an all time high level of twenty-one thousand points. In September 2008, during the Lehman Brothers' crisis, the Sensex corrected by almost 64 per cent to reach eight thousand points. Finally, in November 2010, the Sensex recovered back to twentyone thousand points again. It almost took two years to reach the peak level again.

Today, we are witnessing a similar trend. In the last few months. we have seen multiple corrections owing to myriad global events. The Federal Reserve's announcement of imminent rate hike, the oil issue and the Russia-Ukraine war have been primary contributors to this. We have also witnessed intermittent rallies as well. But broadly, the Indian market is in correction phase. Large cap, mid cap and small cap categories have corrected by 9.8 per cent, 15.6 per cent and 12.8 per cent respectively from the peak October level.

The Indian market may not be in bear market at this point, but may see one very soon due to the macroeconomic and geopolitical reasons. Hence the market recovery may not be the end of the 'selloff' phase. It is just the transition phase. The 50 basis points rate hike by the MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) of the Reserve Bank of India is the onset of market clarity. There

is no discrepancy from the government's and the market's perspective. Curbing inflationary pressures would prevail over growth

impetus in the coming months. Historically, October to December period is considered to be the 'festival months' in the Indian domestic market. One can expect a rally during that period. But that may not be deemed as the onset of market recovery. Returns from the equity asset class in the short term will continue to be volatile and uncertain. The long term returns from market will remain unchanged.

FY 22-23 will be a year of market consolidation, Macroeconomic factors and global events will result in intermittent crests and troughs. Investors must focus on asset allocation strategy and not be tempted by bullishness or bearishness of the market.

The writer is an investment banker. Views are personal.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Conservation paramount

Sir, Recently, the spotting of a black feline of the big cat family at the Male Mahadeshwara region of Karnataka created some sensation. That the 'black panther' was seen in an area amidst busy road traffic consisting of two adjoining protected forest areas has underlined the need to protect the wildlife at all costs. It was picked up by the camera traps in Biligirirangana Hills Tiger Reserve as well as Male Mahadeshwara Hills Reserve in a short span of a few months indicating its movement between the two corridors. Panthers are not species in themselves; they can be described as black leopards belonging to the felidae family. These animals are special to Asia and Africa. In India, dense forests of the southern part harbour the black panthers. The black cats love to live in dense evergreen forests so that they can, as far as possible, avoid light. Not too dense, not too dry -- the best climate for the black leopard, and these months should be utilised to track them. But the clever animal revels in a hide-and-seek game: give a glimpse and move away. Not as evasive as the snow leopard, an uninhibited frenzy grips wildlife connoisseurs whenever the black cat is spotted in the wilds, the latest in Karnataka is an example. The excitement is understandable because when Kenya reported the spotting of a black panther in 2019, it was the first such instance in a century. Knowledge of black leopards' habit and habitat may be of help in their conservation effort

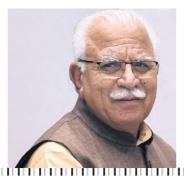
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Funding animal welfare

Sir, It is heartening to learn that, an animal helpline number has been released by the active support of the state government. It shows the commitment of the state government towards the preservation and protection of animal species. No previous state government has thought about this. During the extraordinary situation arising out of the pandemic, there was a special release of financial help for animals and birds. We are living peacefully because of the sacrifice of the animal species. Crows are scavengers who purify the surroundings. Similarly, stray dogs eat our leftovers and provide us security at night. Squirrels eat harmful pests and moths. Cows provide us dietary products to enhance our lives. Let us take a pledge to sustain our ecosystem for the benefit of our posterity. There should be more budgetary allocation for +the welfare of animal species.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

national



The youth recruited in the armed forces under the Centre's **Agnipath scheme will be** given preference in government jobs in Haryana MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR CHIEF MINISTER CHIEF MINISTER

EXPERTS DISPEL POLIO RESURGENCE FEARS

Fears that the dreaded polio virus has resurfaced after being eradicated eight years ago were dispelled by medical experts who examined the virus found in the city sewage here and found it inactive



Neither the Centre nor the state given instruction that knowledge of Hindi or English language is mandatory for students to take part in a tour programme to other states, as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav (75 years of

B C NAGESH K'TAKA PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDU MIN

Our cities, our beaches are beautiful, but villages are more beautiful than cities. There is a lot of importance to spiritual tourism, not confined to any religion. There is scope for spiritual terrorism. There are so many important things (related to it)

PS SREEDHARAN PILLAI GOA GOVERNOR



MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Youth stage protest against 'Agnipath'

Jaipur: Agitating youth protesting against the 'Agnipath' scheme announced by the government for recruiting youth into the armed forces blocked the Delhi-Ajmer highway Wednesday, creating traffic jams on the busy highway. Within 24 hours of the announcement of the scheme, protests have started in Jaipur as youth preparing for army recruitment tests gathered in large numbers and blocked the Delhi-Ajmer highway, raising slogans against the Agnipath scheme.

NIA conducts searches in J&K

New Delhi: The Nationa Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at three locations in Baramulla district and one location in Handwara in connection with the cross LoC trade and terror financing case. A senior NIA official said that the search operations were conducted at the premises of suspected cross-border traders and connected persons.

4 killed in WB road mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

(IMD) said.

June 1966

New Delhi, June 15: As monsoon

rain pummelled the Northeast.

Cherrapunji in Meghalaya recorded

a massive 811.6 mm of rainfall in

24 hours ending 8.30 am Wednesday,

the highest in June since 1995, the

India Meteorological Department

from Cherrapunji, Mawsynram,

the wettest place in India, gauged

period, the maximum since

710.6 mm of rainfall in the same

One of the wettest places in the

At an aerial distance of 10 km

Bankura (West Bengal): Four persons were killed and three others injured Wednesday when a truck collided with a cattle-laden vehicle parked on a roadside in West Bengal's Bankura district, police said, The accident occur around 3.30 am on the Bishnupur-Arambagh road near Raibaghini area after the sand-laden truck hit the vehicle loaded with bovines, a police officer said

Govt announces post-retirement job possibilities for 'Agniveers'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Centre Wednesday announced a raft of post-retirement employment possibilities for 'Agniveer' like priority in recruitment to the central armed police forces (CAPF) and Assam rifles but that failed to assuage the concerns of the opposition Congress which warned the "transformative" 'Agnipath' scheme will reduce the operational effectiveness of the armed forces.

The main opposition party had a day before voiced serious apprehensions about the future of these soldiers most of whom will retire quite young after a short service of barely four years.

The government had unveiled the scheme on Tuesday that will overhaul the decades-old selection process to bring in fitter and younger troops to tackle future security challenges facing the nation. Around 46,000 soldiers will be recruited this year between the ages of 17 and a half years and 21 years into the Army, Navy and the Air Force. Home Minister Amit Shah's office on Wednesday tweeted 'Agnipath' is a visionary and welcome decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a bright future of the country's youth. "In this context, today the Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to



give priority to Agniveers who have completed four years under this scheme in the recruitment of CAPFs and Assam Rifles," the HMO India tweeted. "Detailed planning work has started on this decision,' it tweeted. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said soldiers recruited under the 'Agnipath' scheme will be given preference in police recruitment in

the state. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the government and asked why it was making recruitment in the army its "labo-

"When India faces threats on two fronts, the uncalled for Agnipath scheme reduces the operational effectiveness of our armed forces. The BJP government must stop compromising the dignity, traditions, valour and discipline of our forces," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

The main opposition party had on Tuesday expressed concern about the future of the youth once they have completed the four-year

contractual service under the scheme. Mindful of the concerns over the future career prospects of 'Agniveers', the Ministry of Education (MoE) has decided to launch a special three-year skillbased bachelor degree programme for them.

by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will be recognised both in India and abroad for employment and education, an MoE official said. The Army, Navy and Air Force

The degree programme offered

will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IGNOU for implementation of the scheme. The remaining 50 per cent credits will come from a basket of courses that cover a wide variety of subjects like languages, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Mathematics, Education, Commerce, Tourism, Vocational Studies, Agriculture, 'Jyotish' and ability enhancement courses on Environmental Studies and **English Communication Skills.**

The programme is aligned with the norms of University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Credit Framework and National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) as mandated under the new National Education Policy (NEP).

Pawar declines to be Oppn's Prez candidate



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: Leaders of several opposition parties Wednesday urged NCP supremo Sharad Pawar to be the joint opposition candidate for the Presidential elections, but the veteran leader once again declined the offer at a meeting convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee here

As the Opposition held its first meeting on the Presidential polls and names of Faroog Abdullah and Gopalkrishna Gandhi also cropped up, the ruling BJP reached out to several parties across the political spectrum to build a consensus choice with senior party leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaking to Sharad Mallikarjun

Kharge(Congress), Mamata Banerjee(TMC), Akhilesh Yadav(SP) and Naveen Patnaik(BJD).

Sources said Singh also talk BJP ally and JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. BSP supremo Mayawati and YSR Congress leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Reddy. BJP chief JP Nadda spoke to leaders from the National Conference(NC), National People's Party, Naga People's Front, AJSU and some independents. The BJP has authorised Singh and Nadda to consult with other parties for building a consensus.

Incidentally Kharge, Banerjee, Pawar and Yadav were part of the opposition meeting on the Presidential polls.

After Pawar, 81, declined the offer, Banerjee later suggested the names of NC leader Faroog Abdullah, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, and Gopalkrishna Gandhi as a possible

opposition candidate, sources said. While the Congress said it will play a constructive role in ensuring all opposition parties arrive at a consensus candidate for the Presidential polls, and urged them

Cherrapunji records highest rainfall in 27 yrs

11 file nominations

New Delhi: Eleven candidates filed their nominations on the first day Wednesday for the July 18 presidential polls, and the paper of one of them was rejected for want of proper documents, sources said. The nomination process began with the issuance of the notification Wednesday calling electors to fill up the vacancy at the country's highest constitutional post. The nomination process would continue till June 29. The candidates who filed nominations Wednesday were from Delhi, Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

to be proactive rather than reactive in making the decision, regional rivalries came to the fore as some non-BJP parties like the AAP, SAD, AIMIM, TRS and BJD skipped the

The absence of these parties brought some cheer to the ruling BJP as it believes that this has only highlighted the faultlines and one-upmanship among its rivals. With the ruling NDA having about close to half the votes of the electoral college and the possible support of fence-sitters like the BJD, AIADMK and YSR, its candidate is likely to sail through the contest.

The process to file nominations for the Presidential elections. meanwhile, began Wednesday with the Election Commission issuing a notification calling upon the electors to fill the vacancy. Eleven people filing their nominations on the first day.

election

scheduled to be held July 18. As many as 17 opposition parties attended the opposition meeting to build a consensus on fielding a ioint candidate against the BJP led NDA. They will meet again on June 20-21 which will be convened by Pawar in Mumbai

Power struggle back in AIADMK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 15: Separate closed door meetings and back-to-back parleys Wednesday over who should lead the party indicated a gathering storm of power struggle in the AIADMK between top leaders, O Panneerselvam and Edappadi K Palaniswami.

Ahead of the general and executive council meetings here June 23, posters rooting for their leaders Panneerselvam (OPS) and Palaniswami (EPS) respectively surfaced in several parts of Tamil Nadu. Supporters of OPS staged a protest here opposing 'removal' of posters in support of their leader.

Following deliberations with EPS, senior AIADMK leader, Dindigul Srinivasan along with former Minister RB Udhayakumar visited OPS at his residence. Asked on talks, Srinivasan told reporters that negotiations were being held without any hindrance. 'Wait and see,' he said, answering a question on who would be formalised as the party head. On whom he

would support, he said he would be backing EPS. Separate meetings were held by OPS and EPS in which their supporters participated and discussions were on handling the 'unitary leadership' question, party sources said. Meanwhile, Panneerselvam took to Twitter and asked the party workers to "maintain calm." "I kindly request all the AIADMK workers to maintain calm," the party Coordinator said. A demand

party meeting here. In wall posters, supporters of

that the party be led by a single

leader emerged again in the main

opposition AIADMK June 14 at a

GEARING UP

OPS hailed him as the political heir of late party supremo J Jayalalithaa while EPS loyalists praised him as the choice of 1.5 crore ordinary party workers. Similar poster wars had erupted in the past as well.

Last night, party deputy coordinator R Vaithilingam and JCD Prabhakar had held consultations with OPS. Vaithilingam had however ruled out any discussions with OPS on who should lead the party. While EPS appears to have an upper hand in the party, it remains to be seen if he would be able to pacify the OPS camp and assume the top party position.

SIPPY SIDHU MURDER

Himachal HC acting CJ's daughter held

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, June 15: The CBI Wednesday arrested Kalvani Singh, daughter of Himachal Pradesh High Court acting Chief Justice Sabina, in connection with the murder of national-level shooter Sukhmanpreet Singh, a.k.a. Sippy Sidhu, in Chandigarh in September 2015.

In January 2016, the case was transferred to the CBI, after which the investigating agency registered a fresh murder case.



Advocate Sippy, 36, was shot dead on September 20, 2015, in a park in Sector 27. A .12 bore gun was used in the crime and four bullets were fired from it.

Chandigarh Police had registered a case of murder and recorded the statements of various suspects. including the judge's daughter, who is believed to be a close friend of the victim, though it failed to make any headway.

She was questioned twice by the police. Sidhu's family had held protests alleging that she was being shielded by the police.

In December 2020, the CBI had informed the court that it has no evidence of the involvement of a former Punjab and Haryana high court judge's daughter in the crime. However, it said it would keep investigations open as it has "strong suspicions about the role of a woman to eliminate Sippy.'

Sippy was a rifle shooter and had won the team gold along with Abhinav Bindra in the Punjab National Games in 2001.

Two LeT terrorists killed in encounter

at Vindhyachal Dham in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 15: Two Lashkar e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including the one allegedly involved in the recent killing of a bank manager, were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district Wednesday, police said.

Acting on specific information regarding the presence of terrorists in Shopian's Kanji Ullar village, a cordon-and-search operation was launched by the security forces in the area, according to a police spokesperson.



During the search operation, as the forces approached the suspected spot, the terrorists fired indiscriminately on them, which was retaliated effectively, the spokesperson said.

They were identified as Jan Mohammad Lone, a resident of Braripora in Shopian, and Tufail Nazir Ganie, a resident of Ramnagri in Shopian, the spokesperson said.

Kids born outside wedlock are eligible to get family property'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 15: Setting aside a Kerala High Court order, the Supreme Court has ruled that the illegitimate children of a couple living together for a long time without getting married can have a share of the family property.

Students of Maharshi Sanskrit Ved Vidyalaya perform Yoga in preparations for upcoming International Day of Yoga,

The apex court was dealing with a plea filed against the high court order that denied the property share claim of an alleged illegitimate child citing the parents of the plaintiff did not engage in marriage.

However, observing that the couple was living together for a long time, the top court noted that their relationship is as good as marriage.

"It is well settled that if a man and a woman live together for long years as husband and wife, there would be a presumption in favour of wedlock. Such a presumption could be drawn under Section 114 of the Evidence Act. Although the presumption is rebuttable, a heavy burden lies on him who seeks to deprive the relationship of legal origin to prove that no marriage took place," it said.

It also said that the Trial Court on examination of the evidence



The apex court was dealing with a plea filed against the high court order that denied the property share claim of an alleged illegitimate child citing the parents of the plaintiff did not engage in marriage

on record held that the couple Damodaranand Chiruthakutty was cohabiting for a long time.

According to the plaintiffs, Damodaran married Chiruthakutty in 1940. However, there is no direct evidence of their marriage. The first plaintiff Krishnan was born in the year 1942.

'The documents produced by the plaintiffs were in existence long before the controversy arose between the parties. These documents, coupled with the evidence would show the long duration of cohabitation between Damodaran and Chiruthakutty as husband and wife," stated the order passed by the bench of Justices S. Abdul Nazeer and Vikram Nath. The court also referred to its ear-

lier order in which it was stated that-"Law leans in favour of legitimacy and frowns upon the bastardy."

world, Cherrapunji has recorded more than 750 mm of precipitation on a June day on 10 occasions since the IMD started keeping records, the IMD data showed. On June 16, 1995, the town nes-



tled in the East Khasi Hills gauged 1563.3 mm of rainfall. A day before, on June 15, 1995, it received 930 mm of precipitation. On June 10, 1966, Mawsynram had recorded 717.6 mm of rainfall. On June 7, 1966, it had received 944.7 mm of precipitation, the highest on a June day since the IMD began maintaining records. The town had gauged a 24-hour rainfall of 623.4 mm on June 8, 2015.

"Mawsynram is at present the wettest place in India, with an average annual rainfall of 11802.4 mm (average of the 1974-2022 period). Cherrapunji receives 11359.4 mm of rainfall in a year (average of the 1971-2020 period)," Sunit Das, Scientist E at IMD's regional centre in Guwahati told PTI.

The Met office said the southwest monsoon further advanced into more parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and coastal Andhra Pradesh Wednesday

It said the ongoing spell of intense rainfall is likely to continue in the northeast and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next

Notice to Kannur mosque 'unwarranted': Ker CMO

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: The Kerala government Wednesday made it clear that it did not be lieve that communal propaganda was being carried out in mosques in the state and termed as "unwarranted" the notice issued by the police to the Juma mosque in Kannur district to refrain from any 'communally divisive' sermons during Friday prayers.

A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said such a notice was "completely unwarranted and contrary to the view of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government"

It stated that the SHO of the Mayyil police station issued a wrong notice without understanding the government policy and the State Police Chief has re moved him from office in connection with the incident.

The statement came in the wake

of criticism of the police action by the opposition, with Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) vice president VT Balram referring to the recent alleged hate speech by veteran politician PC George at a temple event and questioning whether the LDF government was going to issue notices to temple committees in the state to ban hate propagandists.

Claiming that "misleading propaganda" was being carried out against the government in connection with the notice, the CMO statement said that at a time when some vested forces were allegedly trying to create communal tensions in the state, it was important to preserve the friendship and peace that exists between the various faiths, religious institutions and the general public.

It also clarified that the government was not of the opinion that communal propaganda was being carried out in the mosques.

A Delhi court Tuesday granted the Punjab Police the transit remand of Bishnoi to take him to Punjab in the case.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

der case.

Chandigarh, June 15: Gangster

Lawrence Bishnoi, who was brought

under heavy security to the state by the Punjab Police from Delhi

in the early hours of Wednesday,

is being questioned at length in

the singer Sidhu Moosewala mur-

Crime Investigation Agency office

in Kharar near here, sources said.

Bishnoi was produced before a

court in Mansa district which re-

manded him into seven-day police

custody. As per an official state-

ment issued here Tuesday evening,

Bishnoi has been named as an ac-

cused and conspirator in the mur-

der case of the singer.

Bishnoi is being questioned at the

After he was brought from Delhi,

The Delhi court passed the order after the Punjab Police produced Bishnoi before it after formally arresting him in the case

After being brought to Mansa, he was produced before a court following a medical check-up at the district civil hospital. The court later remanded him into weeklong custody of the Punjab Police, the sources said

From Delhi to Mansa and then from Mansa to Kharar, Bishnoi was brought in a bullet-proof vehicle under heavy police escort.

MOOSEWALA MURDER CASE

Bishnoi being grilled

at length: Pb Police

The Special Investigation Team constituted in the Moosewala murder case and the Anti-Gangster Task Force will question him at length, the sources said.

The SIT probing the murder case of Moosewala is making steady progress, Additional Director General of Punjab Police Pramod Ban had said Tuesday.

On Tuesday, the state police had arrested two active members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang who were working on the directions of Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar.

These two are also being questioned at length, the sources said.

The Bhagwant Mann-led government in Punjab is not leaving any stone unturned to extradite Canada-based Brar, who was the first to take responsibility for the murder, the statement had said.

Moosewala, the singer-politician who had joined the Congress months before the 2022 state Assembly polls, was shot dead May 29 in Punjab's Mansa district.

Earlier, the Punjab Police had said the killing of Moosewala seemed to be the result of an inter-gang rivalry and the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was involved in it.

The Punjab Police has arrested nine people for providing logistic support, conducting recce and harbouring the shooters of Moosewala, Tuesday's statement had said.

Kerala includes 9 more communities in OBC list

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: The Kerala government Wednesday decided to include nine more communities in the state Other Backward Classes (OBC) list.

A cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan decided to include Kurukkal/ Gurukal, Chettiar, Hindu Chetti, Pappada Chetti, Kumara Kshatriya, Puluva Gounder, Vettuva Gounder, Padayachi Gounder and Kavilia Gounder in the state OBC list, an official release said here.

In February this year, the state government had included the Christian Nadar community in the state, except people belonging to South Indian United Church (SIUC), in the state OBC list.

The decisions were taken after the states regained the power to include backward communities in the OBC list following the passage of the 127th Amendment to the Constitution by Parliament.

The govt also decided to declare Malabar **Cancer Centre as the Post Graduate Institute** of Oncology Sciences and Research

The cabinet meet held here Wednesday also decided to set up State Special Branch Detachments in Kollam, Thrissur and Kannur Rural Police Districts. For this, three posts of Deputy

Superintendent of Police (DySP) will be created, the release said. The government also decided

to declare the Malabar Cancer Centre as the Post Graduate Institute of Oncology Sciences and Research.

The Centre will be renamed as Malabar Cancer Centre (Post Graduate Institute of Oncology Sciences and Research).

Scribes abroad must act as ambassadors: CM Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Wednesday

said expatriates and journalists living abroad should act as ambassadors of Kerala. Vijayan was speaking at the inauguration of the Loka Kerala Media Council organised as part of the third Loka Kerala Sabha here in Thiruvananthapuram. "The expatriate community is passionate about the development of the state. Kerala has initiated a number of development projects to create a knowledge community similar to that of developed and developing countries," Vijayan said. "It is not something that can be implemented in two or three years. Instead, plans are to implement it in at least 25 years," the Chief Minister said. He also presented the Indian Media Person Award of the Kerala Media Academy to journalist Barkha Dutt.

Mann govt 'fiercely honest': Kejriwal



Jalandhar, June 15: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal Wednesday described the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government in Punjab as "fiercely honest" which has not hesitated to take "hard decisions", including steps to reinin corruption, during its three month tenure so far.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener launched a scathing attack on previous regimes, saving various kinds of mafia, including the transport mafia, flourished under them.

government is a fiercely honest government which does not hesitate in taking hard decisions,

Several steps have been taken to

rein in graft, including starting an anti-corruption helpline, said Kejriwal in his address after launching the luxury bus service from Jalandhar to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in Delhi.

All promises made to the people will be fulfilled and we will once again make Punjab 'rangla' (vibrant), said the Delhi CM.

He also attacked the previous governments, saying they were questioning the Mann government on law and order issue, but the truth is that gangsters used to get political patronage when previous regimes ruled the state.

He said during just three 130 gangsters have been caught in

"Under previous governments." they (gangsters) used to get political patronage," he said.

Cong's Uma Thomas takes oath as UDF MLA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: Congress' Uma Thomas, who won the Thrikkakara Assembly bypoll recently by a historic margin of 25,016 votes, Wednesday, took oath as an MLA of United Democratic Front (UDF).

Uma Thomas, widow of late Congress MLA from Thrikkakara PT Thomas, took oath in the chamber of Speaker MB Rajesh as the Assembly is not in session presently.

The death of PT Thomas in December last year had necessitated the byelection for the vacant assembly seat in May. The oath was taken in the pres-

ence of senior Congress leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the state assembly VD Satheesan, former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala.

Uma Thomas' massive victory in the byelection was a morale booster for the Congress-led UDF and a huge setback for the CPI(M)-led LDF.



Workers plant paddy saplings in a field on the outskirts of Amritsar, Wednesday

Over 99 per cent clear SSLC exam in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: More than 99 per cent of the students, who appeared for the Class X board exams in the academic year 2021-22 have cleared it, according to the SSLC results announced by the Kerala government Wednesday.

A total of 4,23,303 students cleared the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exam with an overall pass percentage of 99.26 per cent, state Education Minister V Sivankutty said here.

A total of 4,26,469 students (regular) appeared for the exam, he said

Last year, the overall pass percentage was 99.47 per cent and that was the first time it had crossed the 99 per cent mark in the state.

While there was only a slight decline in the pass percentage compared to last year, the number of students who scored A plus in all subjects saw a very sharp fall compared to the previous academic year. This year 44,363 students scored A plus in all subjects as compared 1,25,509 last year,

Sivankutty said.

While Kannur district, like last year, had the highest pass percentage with 99.76 per cent, Wayanad again had the lowest with 98.07 per cent. The most number of students

who scored A plus in all subjects were from Malappuram with 3,024 having achieved that distinction, the minister noted. A total of 2,134 schools achieved

100 per cent pass percentage out of a total 3.059 schools from where students took up the exam.

Last year, 2,214 schools had achieved a pass percentage of 100 per cent, he said.

Sivankutty congratulated the students who achieved success in their exams and the teachers who supported them despite the Covid-19 crisis which prevented holding of physical classes in schools.



Ker CMO releases old video to counter Swapna's claim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: Seeking to counter gold smuggling case prime accused Swapna Suresh's latest claim about her once-close connections with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family, the CMO Wednesday released a two-year-old video in which he was seen saying that she had visited his official residence here several times along with the then UAE Consulate General for official purpose.

The short video, released by the CMO in its social media handle, has two parts - Suresh's Tuesday's threat to expose Vijayan's 'lie' that he did not know her and the CM's old statement admitting that he knew her as a Consulate staff. The Marxist veteran had given the statement as a reply to a question during a press meet October 13, 2020 at a time when the gold smuggling case had cropped up as a political controversy for the first time during the time of his previous government. In the video clip, a scribe could be heard asking him whether Suresh had visited Cliff House, his official residence here, several times and Vijayan was seen replying without any hesitation that she had come many times along with the Consulate General for various official purposes including to invite him for the programmes of the UAE Consulate, located in the



IN THE VIDEO CLIP, A SCRIBE COULD BE HEARD **ASKING HIM WHETHER** SURESH HAD VISITED CLIFF HOUSE, HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE HERE. SEVERAL TIMES

VIJAYAN WAS SEEN REPLYING WITHOUT ANY HESITATION THAT SHE HAD COME MANY TIMES ALONG WITH THE CONSULATE INCLUDING TO INVITE HIM FOR THE PROGRAMMES OF THE UAE CONSULATE,

state capital. "Whenever the Consulate General had made a visit at the Cliff House, she had accompanied him as his secretary. There is nothing unnatural for a Chief Minister to meet a Consulate General," he had said.

When the reporter again asked whether he had introduced senior IAS officer M Sivasaknar, who was then his principal secretary, as the point of contact for the matters related to the Consulate, Vijayan

GENERAL FOR VARIOUS OFFICIAL PURPOSES LOCATED IN THE STATE CAPITAL

said he did not remember clearly but there was nothing amusing about it even if he had said so as he was his secretary. The CMO came up with the old video, a day after Swapna Suresh told the media that when she was in jail, Vijayan had said that he did not know this "controversial woman". Alleging

that the Chief Minister had "lied",

Suresh said she had met Vijayan

and his family members several

times at the Cliff House and dis-

cussed several matters on which actions were taken. She also said if Vijayan had forgotten all that, she would remind him through the

media when it was necessary.

The sensational gold smuggling case that had rocked Kerala before the Assembly polls last year, has returned to haunt the ruling LDF with prime accused in the case, Swapna Suresh recently levelling certain serious allegations against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his family members and some top bureaucrats. Suresh was released from jail in November last year, 16 months after her arrest in the sensational gold smuggling case.

A former employee of the UAE Consulate here, she was taken into custody by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) along with another accused Sandeep Nair from Bengaluru July 11, 2020. The NIA, Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Customs conducted a separate probe into the racket that was busted with the seizure of gold worth ₹15 crore from the diplomatic baggage of the

Consulate Thiruvananthapuram airport on July 5, 2020. Several people, including M Sivasankar, the former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister and another ex-employee of the UAE Consulate here, Sarith PS, were arrested in connection with the case.

SGPC condemns Bedi's remarks 'hurting' Sikhs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, June 15: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Wednesday condemned former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi for her remarks that "hurt" the sentiments of the Sikh community.

Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the opposition Congress also criticised Bedi for her remarks made at a book launch event in Chennai Monday.

A controversy has erupted after a video of the former IPS officer purportedly cracking a "12'o clock" joke on Sikhs at the launch of her book, 'Fearless Governance', went viral on social media. Bedi had later expressed regret.

SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhami said, "Kiran Bedi's remarks on Sikhs are shocking and shameful and have hurt the sentiments

of the entire community.' He said the SGPC is sending a legal notice to Bedi.

He said Bedi hails from Punjab and therefore, she should have understanding of the history of Sikhs. Earlier, the AAP's Punjab incharge Jarnail Singh had condemned Bedi's remarks.

"When the Mughals were looting India and abducting women, the Sikhs fought them and protected sisters and daughters.... Shame on the BJP's leaders who have a cheap mentality and make fun of Sikhs instead of giving them respect," Singh had said in a tweet in Hindi.

In a party statement, Jarnail Singh accused Bedi of "disrespecting and hurting the sentiments" of the Sikh community.



national



The Indian Army will recruit 25,000 **Agniveers in the next 180** days and the process for recruitment of the remaining 15,000 will begin a month after that

B S RAJU VICE CHIEF OF ARMY

455 BOOKED FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING

Over 450 people were booked in a day for drunken driving across Noida and Greater Noida in Gautam Buddh Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, police said. The action was taken Tuesday evening during an inspection in all three police zones - Noida, central Noida and Greater Noida - of the district, they said





BJP's efforts to suppress the truth through untruth, injustice and immorality will never succeed. Truth is on Rahul Gandhi and the

Congress'side that will neither bow down nor be afraid of any atrocities SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

UP Govt will give priority to the (recruitment of) state police and related services after they serve Maa Bharti (country)



YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

Even as concerns are growing over the steadily rising Covid numbers in Chennai, the good news is that most of

the patients are being treated at home as the symptoms are very mild MA SUBRAMANIAN TN HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Uma throws cow dung at liquor shop

Bhopal: Continuing her agitation against the liquor shops in Madhya Pradesh, former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Uma Bharti threw cow dung at a liquor shop in Orchha town in Niwari district. Bharti has been demanding total prohibition in the state for quite some time. Earlier, she threw stones at a liquor shop in Bhopal and recently she also sat in protest in front of a liquor shop in the state capital. However, this is the first time she has expressed her anger outside Bhopal.

4 held for link with 1984 riots

Kanpur (UP): A Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed to investigate the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi, has arrested four accused from Ghatampur area Kanpur Nagar district. DIG Balendu Bhushan, who heads the SIT, informed that more arrests will soon be made in the case. According to him, the arrested accused have been identified as Saifullah Khan, 64, Vijay Narain Singh, 62, Yogendra Singh, 65, and Abdul Rahman, 65.

CET 2022 exam in K'taka from June 16

Bangalore: The Common Entrance Test (CET 2022) gateway to becoming eligible for seeking entry into professional courses in Karnataka -- will be held from June 16-18 as scheduled. The exam will pave the way to seek admission in Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary, Pharmacy, etc courses. CN Ashwath Naravan, Minister for Higher Education, said Wednesday, that this year video coverage of the examination centres will be carried out.

3 boys drown at Juhu Beach

Mumbai: The maximum city recorded its first monsoon tragedy when three young boys drowned at the famed Juhu Beach and one was rescued by the Mumbai Fire Brigade, the BMC Disaster Control said here Wednesday. The incident happened around 5 p.m.

Jammu: Explosives recovered from bus

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police recovered explosives in the form of gelatin sticks from a bus carrying an unidentified number of passengers on the outskirts of the city Wednesday, officials said. The explosives were detected during a routine check at Jajjar Kotli along Jammu-Srinagar national highway, a police spokesperson said. He said that experts from Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) were immediately rushed to the scene and the explosive substance was later detonated through a controlled mechanism.

800 Cong leaders, workers detained in 3 days PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, June 15: Around 800 senior Congress leaders and workers have been detained since Monday for protesting the ques. RAHUL'S ED GRILLING Delhi cops reject allegations New Delhi: The Delhi Police Wednesday rejected as "totally Wednes

tioning of Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate in violation of prohibitory orders and despite being denied permission, officials said.

Congress leaders and workers were also detained Wednesday after they staged protests outside the ED office and the party headquarters here

After being grilled by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for three consecutive days in connection with the National Herald case, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will not be questioned by the agency Thursday. An ED source said the agency will question Rahul Gandhi again Friday.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order zone-II) Sagar Preet Hooda said that the protesters did not have permission. 'We have detained around 800 Congress supporters and leaders since Monday. They did not have permission to protest and we conveyed it to them." "Despite that they staged protests. We have made adequate security arrangements," Hooda said.

The police had Monday detained 459 Congress workers and

Al-enabled portal

for pensioners soon

New Delhi, June 15: The

Department of Pension and

Pensioners' Welfare will launch

an artificial intelligence-enabled

common portal soon for the bene-

fit of pensioners, Union Minister

Jitendra Singh said Wednesday.

of 'Bhavishya', a portal for pen-

sion payment and tracking, here,

he said that in keeping with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's motto of

ensuring 'ease of living' for all, the

AI-supported portal will send au-

Personnel, said the proposed por-

tal will not only enable constant con-

tact with pensioners and their as-

sociations across the country but

will also regularly receive their

inputs, suggestions as well as griev-

Most of the superannuated sen-

ior citizens, including retired para-

military personnel, and those about

to get superannuated lauded the

prompt pension processing through

the 'Bhavishya' platform and thanked the minister for such seam-

less service, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Some of the hiccups from the

ances for prompt response.

Singh, the Minister of State for

tomatic alerts to pensioners.

Interacting with beneficiaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Congress workers burn tyres and shout slogans as they stage a protest

senior leaders on and 217 Tuesday. A police statement had said CrPC Section 144 is already in force with effect from May 24 this year in the area, thereby prohibiting holding of any public meeting, processions and demonstration.

Vehicular movement was affected in central Delhi Wednesday after the police blocked several roads and diverted traffic as Gandhi appeared before the Enforcement Directorate. A senior police officer said around 400 traffic personnel were deputed in the New Delhi district.

"No call has been received about any congestion in the New

Delhi district. The traffic is being managed smoothly. The diversions have been made on roads which have been closed," the officer said. Gandhi (51) arrived at the ED headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road in central Delhi around 11.35 am with his "Z+" category CRPF security escort. He was accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The questioning began

On Tuesday, the three-member team recording his statements questioned Rahul Gandhi till past 10 p.m. following which

false" the allegations that its personnel forcibly entered the Congress headquarters and beat up party workers and leaders on a day the party staged protests against the questioning of Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate. The Delhi Police said despite its suggestion to hold the protest at Jantar Mantar, Congress leaders with "utter disregard of Supreme Court guidelines" tried to create public disturbances in the area. "The allegations are totally false and we denied them strongly," a senior police officer said. The party, however, shared purported video clips on social media showing police personnel entering its office

the Congress leader left the ED headquarters at around 11:45 p.m. On Monday, his questioning had ended at about 9 p.m. However, since he reportedly wanted to correct a few parts of his statements, he had to wait for a few more hours at the ED headquarters here.

Sonia Gandhi, who is presently admitted to the hospital for Covid related health issues, has also been summoned June 23 in the same case.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar welcomes Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares in New Delhi

In their wide-ranging talks, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his visiting Spanish counterpart Jose Manuel Albares Bueno

reiterated their commitment to closely work in

countering common challenges of terrorism, violent extremism and cyber crime

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: Spain Wednesday evinced interest in participating in India's defence manufacturing sector even as the two countries expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Jaishankar and Albares committed to "add new depth and content to the relationship" and emphasised on the need to retain strategic focus on the Indo-Pacific and to promote collaborative efforts among like-minded nations. Albares is on a day-long visit to India.

The MEA said there were detailed discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in the key priority areas of trade and investment, defence and security. climate change, green energy and science and technology.

"The two leaders welcom signing of the defence contract as part of which Airbus Spain will supply 56 C295 aircraft, 40 of which would be Made in India, and agreed to further deepen defence and security cooperation,"the MEA said in a statement.

It said India welcomed Spain's interest in participating in its national defence manufacturing programme through 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initia-

In September last year, India sealed a nearly Rs 21,000 crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C-295 transport aircraft to replace the ageing Avro-748 planes of the IAF under a project that entails manufacturing of military aircraft in India for the first time by a private company.

"Warm and productive discussions with Foreign Minister @jmalbares of Spain. Discussed our growing engagements in political, defense, economic and cultural domains. Envisage enhanced collaboration to support self reliance and resilient supply chains,' Jaishankar tweeted. On his part, Albares described India as a global power and an important partner of Spain.

In a tweet in Spanish, he said the meeting with Jaishankar was excellent and that both sides will continue to work to deepen the bilateral relations and signed a declaration for cultural and academic cooperation. The MEA said Jaishankar and Albares welcomed the growing bilateral trade and investment linkages and agreed to expand them in new areas of com-

mon interest.

BRAVING THE ODDS



Students carry their luggage to safer places after their hostels and accommodations were flooded due to rains, in Guwahati, Assam. Fresh landslides were reported from various parts of Guwahati for the second consecutive day Wednesday amid incessant rainfall, which also led to heavy waterlogging in most parts of the

'Covaxin booster effective against Omicron, Delta'

New Delhi, June 15: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has found in a study that a Covaxin booster dose enhances the vaccine effectiveness against the Delta variant infection and gives protection against the Omicron variants BA.1.1 and BA.2.

banking side were brought to the notice of the minister, which he said The protective efficacy of would be taken care of automati-Covaxin following the second and cally in the AI-enabled portal with third dose immunisations were fixed responsibility. Singh said compared against the Delta variant 'Bhavishya' has ensured end-toand also studied the efficacy of end digitisation of the pension Covaxin against Omicron variants in a Syrian hamster model in the processing and payment in tune with the Modi government's obstudy. The ICMR scientists also jective of transparency, digitisastudied the antibody response, clinical observations, viral load retion and service delivery.

duction and lung disease severity after virus challenge.

"Protective response in terms of the reduction in lung viral load and lung lesions were observed in both the 2 doses as well as 3 doses Covaxin immunised group when compared to placebo group following the Delta variant challenge,' the ICMR study said.

The study said that in spite of the comparable neutralising antibody response against the homologous vaccine strain in both second dose and third dose immunised groups, considerable reduction in the lung disease severity was observed in the third dose immunised group post Delta variant challenge indicating the involvement of cell mediated im-



mune response also in protection. "In the vaccine efficacy study against the Omicron variants i.e., BA.1 and BA.2, lesser virus shedding, lung viral load and lung disease severity were observed in the immunised groups in comparison to the placebo groups," the study underlined.

It said that the present study shows that administering of Covaxin booster dose will enhance

Uptick in **Cov cases** ndia reported 8,822 fresh Covid cases

in last 24 hours, a steep rise against 6,594 infections on previous day, the Union Health Ministry said Wednesday. During the same period, 15 Covid deaths were recorded taking the nationwide toll to 5,24,792. Meanwhile, the active caseload has risen to 53,637 cases, accounting for 0.12 per cent of the total positive cases.

the vaccine effectiveness against the Delta variant infection and give protection against the Omicron variants BA.1.1 and BA.2. However, the findings of the study are a preprint and have not been certified by peer review.

4K resident docs go on strike in Guj

Ahmedabad: Nearly 4,000 resident doctors from five government-run medical colleges in Gujarat went on an indefinite strike from Wednesday to put pressure on the state government to consider 12 months of their senior residency as mandatory bond service. While hospital authorities have made alternate arrangements to cope up with the impact of the strike, Gujarat Health Minister Rushikesh Patel said the resident doctors cannot shy away from serving people in rural areas, as per their bond condition (about service). Out of the state's six government medical colleges -Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot,

Jamnagar and Bhavnagar, resident doctors in Surat refrained from joining the strike and they gave one more day to the government to resolve the issue.

MATTER OF CONCERN

Killer borewells: Recent cases of kids falling into deadly holes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 15: The dangers posed by abandoned borewells have come to the fore again after the rescue of 11-year-old Rahul Sahu, who was pulled out from a borewell in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir Champa district after a 104-hourlong operation.

Here are some other prominent borewell mishaps over the last few years: In 2006, a massive operation to rescue five-year-old Prince Kumar Kashyap, who had fallen into a 55-feet deep borewell in a village in Haryana's Kurukshetra, garnered national spotlight. Prince was pulled out safely nearly 48 hours later as the entire country watched with bated breath, hooked on to their TV screens. Over the next few weeks,



Rahul Sahu after he was successfully rescued, Tuesday night.

Prince garnered celebrity status and often made appearances at yagnas and events around villages

in Kurukshetra district. On June 9 this year, a two-yearold boy fell into a borewell at a farm in Gujarat's Surendranagar district, following which a team of the Army, fire brigade, police and health officials rushed to the spot and rescued him. On May 22 this year, a six-year-old boy, who fell into a 100-feet-deep borewell in a village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district died after a 9-hour-long rescue operation.

In 2009, the top court had issued guidelines for preventing fatal accidents of children falling into abandoned borewells

The revised guidelines issued by the court in 2010 included setting up barbed wire fencing around the well during construction, using a steel plate covers fixed with bolts over the well assembly and filling up of borewells from the bottom to the ground level

Ritesh Jawasingh Solanki, a sixyear-old boy fell into a 200-feet deep borewell in Maharashtra's Nashik district on November 15 last year. It took 16 hours for the police team to rescue him. Two-year-old Fatehveer Singh fell into a 120-feet deep borewell in June 2019 while playing at Bhagwanpura village and despite rescue operations spanning 109 hours, he could not be saved. Officials managed to supply oxygen but no food or water could be provided to him.

In May 2019, Seema, a four-yearold girl slipped into a 440-feet deep borewell in Jodhpur's Melana village. Seema was stuck at a depth of 260-feet inside the borewell and her body was pulled out after a 14hour operation.

The tubewell at the farm had broken down and the girl's father had taken the pump out for re-

pairing, leaving the borewell open. A one-and-half-year old boy, Nadeem, fell into a ten-inch wide and 55-feet deep borewell in Balsamand village of Hisar district in March 2019

The NDRF and the Army were pressed into service and the toddler was finally rescued after a 48hour long operation. Almost 40 JCB machines were pressed into service for digging a parallel pit and about 100 men from the Army and the NDRF participated in the operation apart from 150 policemen. In June 2012, five-year-old Mahi fell to her death in a 60-foot abandoned borewell while play ing with her friends.

The girl could not be saved, despite a massive effort by Army and district administration for five days. A huge rock was a major hurdle that the rescuers had been struggling to break for three days. The slab was located in the horizontal tunnel between the borewell and the pit dug up to rescue the child. A six-year-old boy fell into a 200-feet deep borewell















international



The Taiwan Strait is an international waterway, meaning that the Taiwan Strait is an area where high seas freedoms, including freedom of navigation and overflight, are guaranteed under international law

NED PRICE | STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, US

FRESH ESCALATION BY IRAN

Iran acknowledged Wednesday it plans two tests for its new solid-fuelled rocket after satellite photos showed preparations at a desert launch pad previously used in the programme, even as tensions remain high over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme



EU sues UK after

plan to override

post-Brexit deal

London, June 15: The European

Union (EU) Wednesday set the UK

a two-month deadline to respond to

legal action as it challenged British

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's

plan to override parts of the Brexit

agreement relating to Northern

two months, we may take them to

the court of justice," said Maros

Sefcovic, Vice-President of the

no legal nor political justification

whatsoever for unilaterally chang-

ing an international agreement.

This is illegal. The UK bill is ex-

tremely damaging to mutual trust

and respect between the EU and the

UK. It has created deep uncertainty

and casts a shadow over our in-

ternational cooperation," he said.

Brussels will also resume legal

proceedings against the UK, which

it suspended in September last

The Commission confirmed that

"Let there be no doubt: there is

European Commission.

The UK government had tabled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ireland.



strongly welcome decision. It will strengthen them, it will strengthen us

JENS STOLTENBERG | SECRETARY-GENERAL, NATO

The fact that the president's going to fly directly from here to Saudi Arabia is probably signifying that there is a linkage between the visit and the ability to improve relations

YAIR LAPID FOREIGN MINISTER, ISRAEL



the Ukrainian people

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

SHORT **TAKES**

Japan, Oz vow to boost defence ties

Tokyo: Japan and Australia's defense ministers Wednesday vowed to step up their ties to support democratic values in the Indo-Pacific region and agreed to work more closely with Southeast Asia and the Pacific island nations where China is seeking to expand its influence. Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles and his Japanese counterpart, Nobuo Kishi, said that regionwide cooperation is necessary to maintain and strengthen the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, where there is growing fear that Russia's invasion of Ukraine may embolden China to increase its assertiveness.

US okays \$120mn new loan to Lanka

Colombo: The US Wednesday announced \$120 million in new loans to Sri Lanka to grow and support small and mediumsized businesses in the debtridden island nation. According to the US Embassy here, the US **International Development** Finance Corporation (DFC) **Board of Directors has** approved the loan in new investments that will reach small and medium-sized businesses and help to provide equity, jobs, and futures.

WHO to share Monkeypox vax

London: The World Health Organisation said it's creating a new vaccine-sharing mechanism to stop the outbreak of monkeypox in more than 30 countries beyond Africa. The move could result in the UN health agency distributing scarce vaccine doses to rich countries that can otherwise afford them. To some health experts, the initiative potentially misses the opportunity to control monkeypox virus in the African countries where it's infected people for decades, serving as another example of the inequity in vaccine distribution that was seen during the coronavirus pandemic.

7 quakes strike off Iranian coast

Dubai: Seven earthquakes struck off Iran's southern Kish Island Wednesday, rattling Dubai and other areas across the Persian Gulf. The US Geological Survey said six magnitude 4 temblors struck, as well as one magnitude 5.3 off the island near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, Iranian state television reported that authorities deployed rescue teams to the town of Jenah in Hormozgan province, though no damage and casualties were initially reported.

India, Israel, UAE & US EU signs gas deal form new I2U2 alliance with Egypt, Israel

In October 2021, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries took place when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was visiting Israel. At that time, it was called the International Forum for Economic Cooperation'. This time. the meeting will take place at the level of heads of government/state — an upgrade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 15: The new I2U2 grouping of India, Israel, the UAE and the US will hold its first virtual summit next month as part of the Biden administration's efforts to re-energise and revitalise American alliances across the world, according to the White House

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Neftali Bennett and UAE President Mohammed bin Zaved Al Nahvan would attend the first-of-its-kind virtual summit of the I2U2 grouping next month for discussions of the food security crisis and other areas of cooperation, it said Tuesday.

The virtual summit of the four countries would take place during Biden's trip to the Middle East region from July 13 to 16, a senior administration official told reporters during a conference call. President Biden looks forward

to this unique engagement with Prime Minister Bennett, Prime Minister Modi and President Mohammed bin Zayed, the official said.

State Department spokesperson



producer of high-tech and highly sought-after goods as well. So, there are a number of areas where these countries can work together, whether its technology, trade, climate, Covid-19, and potentially even security as well

NED PRICE | US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

Ned Price, during his daily news conference Tuesday, told reporters that each of these countries are technological hubs.

"Part of our approach from the start is not only to revitalise and re-energise our system of alliances and partnerships around the world, but also to stitch together partnerships that did not exist previ ously or were not utilised to their full extent," Price said.

"Biotechnology is also prominent. Deepening trade and economic ties between these countries is in our interest when it comes to the relationship between Israel and the UAE. That is something we have sought to deepen. These two countries have deepened their relationship in recent vears, including in the economic realm," he said.

Biden will visit the Middle East region from July 13 to July 16 with stops in Israel, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia, and engagements with nearly a dozen counterparts from across the region and beyond.

'The first stop is Israel. This will be President Biden's first visit to the country as President, and it comes nearly 50 years after his first visit to Israel as a young sen-

ator," said the official. During the trip, Biden will engage with nearly a dozen of his counterparts in three stops -- Israel, the West Bank, and Saudi Arabia.

It is part of this clear sequence of global engagements at an important moment, the official said. "It demonstrates, we believe, the return of American leadership to

bring countries together to address common threats and challenges, something the US can uniquely do. "And with new frameworks that aim to harness unique American

capabilities to enable partners to work more closely together, which is essential to a more secure, prosperous and stable Middle East region over the long term," the official said. Biden's visit will also focus on

Israel's increasing integration into the region, both through the Abraham Accords with the UAE. Morocco and Bahrain: through deepening ties between Israel, Jordan and Egypt; and also entirely new groupings of partners, including Israel, India, the UAE, and the United States -- what they call I2U2, said the official.

Last year, the EU imported roughly 40% of its gas from Russia, and due to that has had difficulty imposing sanctions on Russia over its ongoing invasion of Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, June 15: Egypt, Israel, and the European Union Wednesday signed a deal to increase liquified natural gas sales to EU countries, who aim to reduce dependence on supply from Russia as the war in Ukraine drags on.

The deal, will see Israel sending more gas via Egypt, which has facilities to liquify it for export via sea, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

"What a special moment," von der Leyen said in a joint news conference alongside Egyptian and Israel energy ministers. "I very warmly welcome the signing of this historic agreement.

The Israeli gas will be brought via a pipeline to Egypt's LNG terminal on the Mediterranean before being transported on tankers to the European shores.

Israel has two operational gas fields off its Mediterranean coast containing an estimated 690 billion cubic meters of natural gas combined, and a third offshore rig is in the works. It has already signed gas export agreements with neighboring Egypt and Jordan.

Egypt's extensive natural gas facilities on the Mediterranean have stood largely inactive since the country's 2011 uprising that toppled

STRAWBERRY SUPERMOON

GERMANY SLAMS RUSSIA'S MOVE TO CUT SUPPLY

Gazprom's decision to cut supplies of natural gas to Europe via the Nord Stream pipeline was "political", Germany's economy minister said Wednesday. Gazprom announced Tuesday it would be cutting deliveries via the pipeline by around 40 percent due to the "repair" of compressor units by German company Siemens. Gazprom's move was "a political decision and not a technically justifiable decision", **Economy Minister Robert Habeck** said at a press conference. Habeck said Germany was aware of the need to service the pipeline but added that "the first set of maintenance works where this would have become relevant will not take place until autumn.'

longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak. In recent years, the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi rehabilitated and modernized the facilities. In 2018, Egypt signed a \$15 billion deal with Israeli company Delek Drilling and its US Partner, Noble Energy to transport natu-

a new Northern Ireland Protocol Bill in Parliament earlier this week which Britain insists is aimed at Berlin: Russian energy giant fixing parts of the Northern Ireland Protocol and denies any potential breach of international law. If the UK doesn't reply within

year, for breaching the EU withdrawal treaty agreed in 2020. A spokesperson for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said London was disappointed by the EU's legal moves. ral gas there. Egypt aims to create a regional energy hub.

"The EU's proposed approach, which doesn't differ from what they've said previously, would increase burdens on businesses and citizens and take us backwards from where we are currently," he said, referring to EU proposals to ease post-Brexit trade problems with Northern Ireland.

Japan to attend NATO meet for first time

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Brussels, June 15: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday he will attend this month's NATO summit in Madrid, becoming the country's first leader to join a top meeting of the transatlantic alliance.

The June 28-30 gathering is seen as a crunch moment for the 30 North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, four months into Russia's war in Ukraine.

Sweden and Finland, which have applied to join NATO, are sending delegations to the summit, and South Korea's new President Yoon Suk-yeol will also be the first leader from his country to attend.

Japan, a key US ally and not a NATO member, has delivered defensive supplies to Ukraine and imposed tough sanctions on Russia in tandem with the other Group of Seven countries.

"As the only Asian country in the G7, Japan's diplomatic capabilities are being tested," Kishida told reporters. His attendance at the NATO summit will be "the first time for a Japanese prime minister", he said, adding that he intends to highlight the link between security concerns in Europe and Asia.

CUTTING CHAI

Pak min urges citizens to drink less tea

RECENTLY. FINANCE MINISTER MIFTAH ISMAIL WARNED THAT PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY COULD BE IN A SIMILAR POSITION AS THAT OF SRI LANKA IF TOUGH DECISIONS WERE NOT TAKEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 15: Cash-strapped Pakistan has urged its countrymen to cut down the consumption of tea to help reduce the import bill eating into the country's depleting foreign exchange reserves.

The appeal from Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal came after it emerged that Pakistan consumed tea worth Rs 83.88 billion (\$400 million) in the fiscal year 2021-22, The News International newspaper reported.

He said that Pakistan, one of the biggest importers of tea in the world, has to borrow money to import it. "I appeal to the nation to cut down the consumption of tea by 1-2 cups because we import tea



Pakistan govt restricted the import of dozens of non-essential luxury items as part of its bid to save foreign exchange

Last month,

on loan, Iqbal said while speaking to reporters here Tuesday.

The federal budget document for the outgoing fiscal year showed that Pakistan imported Rs 13 billion (\$60 million) worth of more tea than the last fiscal year. In the fiscal year 2020-21, Rs 70.82 billion (\$340 million) was spent on the import of tea, the

News Network International news

agency reported.

Ighal's appeal to cut down the consumption of tea by one to two cups did not go down well with people as they started criticising him on Twitter.

'Did Ahsan Iqbal really ask the nation to cut down on chai Did he honestly really ask us for that Do they really think we're that stupid," a Twitter user said.

"Ahsan Iqbal urging the nation to cut down on chai.. I'm sorry but I cannot be a part of this," another user named Zoha said in a tweet. The planning minister said the traders' community has also been asked to close markets by 830 PM to conserve energy. Iqbal said this will help the country cut the import bill of petroleum products.

Ukraine fights for Severodonetsk despite ultimatum

Kyiv, Ukraine, June 15: Ukraine ignored a Russian ultimatum to surrender the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk Wednesday as NATO defence ministers gathered in Brussels to discuss sending more heavy weapons to replenish Kyiv's dwindling stocks Russia had told Ukrainian forces

holed up in a chemical plant in the shattered city to stop "senseless resistance and lay down arms' from Wednesday morning, pressing its advantage in the battle for control of eastern Ukraine.

Plans announced by Moscow to open a humanitarian corridor for civilians stuck in the plant were disrupted by Ukrainian shelling, Russian-backed separatists were quoted by RIA news agency as saying. The separatists had planned to take the civilians to territory under their own control.

Ukraine says more than 500 civilians, including 40 children, are trapped alongside soldiers inside the Azot chemical factory. where its forces have resisted

Ukraine President said the country does not have enough anti-missile systems and

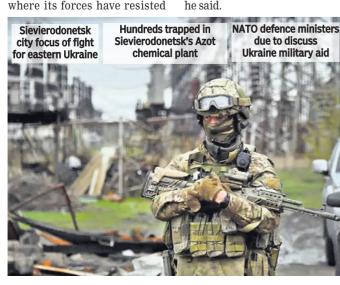
there was no justification for delays from Western countries

weeks of Russian bombardment that has reduced much of Sievierodonetsk to ruins.

The mayor of Sievierodonetsk. Oleksandr Stryuk, said after the early morning deadline passed that Russian forces were trying to storm the city from several directions but Ukrainian forces continued to defend it and were not

completely cut off. 'We are trying to push the enemy towards the city centre," he said on television, without referring to the ultimatum. "This is an ongoing situation with partial successes and tactical retreats."

"The escape routes are dangerous, but there are some,'



Sculptures of angels fixed at the St Isaak's Cathedral are silhouetted on the full moon in St Petersburg, Russia AP PHOTO

business

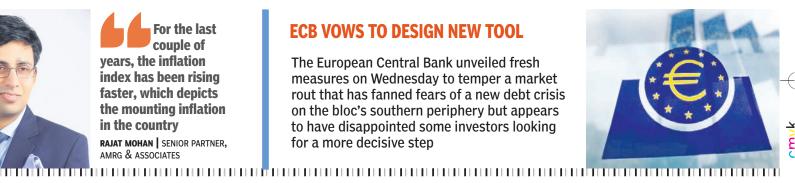


For the last couple of years, the inflation index has been rising faster, which depicts the mounting inflation in the country

RAJAT MOHAN | SENIOR PARTNER, AMRG & ASSOCIATES

ECB VOWS TO DESIGN NEW TOOL

The European Central Bank unveiled fresh measures on Wednesday to temper a market rout that has fanned fears of a new debt crisis on the bloc's southern periphery but appears to have disappointed some investors looking for a more decisive step





delighted to partner with work towards improving female representation and

professional diversity across the region's workforce by investing in the upskilling and economic empowerment of women

ASHUTOSH GUPTA INDIA COUNTRY MANAGER, LINKEDIN

We are excited to have Pickrr as part of the Shiprocket family, combining the two largest platforms enabling direct commerce. Together, we will define the future of e-commerce enablement in India

SAAHIL GOEL | CO-FOUNDER & CEO SHIPROCKET

Bounce Infinity strategically partnering with prominent players to revolutionise battery swapping and after-

sales experience for consumers. Our partnership with Crayon reiterates our commitment towards a cleaner

ANIL G COO & CO-FOUNDER, BOUNCE

SHORT **TAKES**

Fitch revises rating outlook on 9 banks

New Delhi: Fitch Ratings Wednesday revised the rating outlook to stable from negative for nine India-based banks, including SBI, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank. The other lenders are Bank of Baroda (BOB), Bank of Baroda (New Zealand) Ltd. Bank of India. Canara Bank, Puniah National Bank (PNB) and Union Bank of India. "Fitch Ratings has revised the Outlook to Stable from Negative on the Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDR) of 9 India-based banks. while affirming their IDRs. Fitch said in a statement.

Ikea puts Russian factories up for sale

Stockholm: Ikea said Wednesday that it is seeking new owners for its four factories in Russia and to liquidate its product inventory there because of the war in Ukraine. The world's biggest furniture brand already had suspended operations at its 17 Russian stores and paused exports and imports involving the country. It also paused operations in Belarus, which is a Russian ally.

Petrol and diesel sales jump in June

New Delhi: India's petrol consumption jumped by 54 per cent and that of diesel soared by 48 per cent in the first fortnight of June from a year earlier with continuing demand recovery from a relatively low base in 2021 when the world's third-biggest oil user was in the grip of the second wave of Covid-19. Petrol sales by stateowned fuel retailers, which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, at 1.28 million tonnes between June 1 and 14 was 54.2 per cent higher than the same period last year when a devastating second Covid-19 wave wreaked havoc on the economy.

Jio-bp to power **Zomato's EV road**

New Delhi: Jio-bp -- the fuel and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries Ltd and supermajor bp --Wednesday said it will provide battery swapping facility to Electric Vehicles (EVs) of food delivery app Zomato. Jio-bp said it has entered into an agreement with the food delivery firm "to support Zomato's commitment towards The Climate Group's EV100 initiative of 100 per cent EV fleet by 2030.



5G auction gets govt nod

The India market is gearing up 5G services, that will usher in ultra high speeds and spawn new-age services and business models, and the mega-auctions will pave the way for roll out of next generation services by telcos, in 2022-23

New Delhi, June 15: The Union Cabinet has approved the auction of airwaves capable of offering fifth-generation or 5G telecom services including ultra high-speed internet, and gave its nod for setting up of captive 5G networks by the big tech firms.

The auction of over 72 GHz of the spectrum will be held by July-end, said an official statement detailing the decision taken by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at its meeting held June 14. The spectrum auction will commence July 26, 2022.

Sources told PTI that the Cabinet has approved 5G auctions at reserve prices recommended by the sector regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI had earlier recommended about a 39 per cent reduction in the reserve or floor price for the sale of 5G spectrum for mobile services.

While the 5G spectrum in nine frequency bands will be auctioned to telecom operators like Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio, the Notice Inviting Applications -- bid-related document issued by DoT -- said big tech firms for the time being will be allowed to take the 5G spectrum for their captive non-public network, on lease from the telecom

The Notice Inviting Offer said direct allocation to the big tech companies will follow a demand study and sector regulator TRAI's recom-

mendation on aspects such as pricing and modalities of such allocation.

Big tech companies like Google have been seeking direct allocation of spectrum for applications such as machine-to-machine communications, IoT and AI, while telecom companies have been opposing direct allocation of 5G spectrum to them saving it will distort the level playing field and rob the government of revenues.

As per the document, the government from time to time will publish required provisions and guidelines and licensing terms and conditions for enabling the setting up of Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN).

The auction will be held for spectrum in various Low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), Mid (3300 MHz) and High (26 GHz) frequency bands. Overall, the payment terms have

been eased for bidders in the upcoming auction

Continuing the pace of telecom

sector reforms, the Cabinet announced various progressive options with regard to the spectrum auction, for facilitating ease of doing business

"For the first time ever, there is no mandatory requirement to make upfront payment by the successful bidders. Payments for spectrum can be made in 20 equal annual instalments to be paid in advance at the beginning of each year," it said, adding this is expected to significantly ease cash flow requirements and lower the cost of doing business in this sector.

The bidders would be given an option to surrender the spectrum after 10 years with no future liabilities with respect to balance instalments. No SUC (spectrum usage charges) will be charged for spectrum acquired in this auction.

The availability of sufficient backhaul spectrum is also necessary to enable the roll-out of 5G services. To meet the backhaul demand. the Cabinet has decided to provi

HIGHLIGHTS

- Govt would auction a total of 72097.85 MHz spectrum with 20 years of validity by July end to reduce the cost of doing business for Telecom Service
- It would hold the 5G spectrum auction by the end of July
- The auction is expected to participate in the country's three main carriers - Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel Ltd and Reliance Industries Ltd's Jio
- The cabinet decided to set up private captive networks to enable development and spur innovations
- The govt said the 5G services to be rolled out soon would be about '10 times faster than the current offering under 4G'
- The bidders would be given an option to surrender the spectrum after 10 years with no future liabilities with respect to balance installments

sionally allot 2 carriers of 250 MHz each in E-band to the Telecom Service Providers," the official statement said

The Cabinet also decided to double the number of traditional Microwave backhaul carriers in the existing frequency bands of 13. 15, 18 and 21 GHz bands, the re-

Exports surge 20.55%; trade deficit at record \$24.29 billion in May

Based on the performance in April-May 2022, experts foresee the current account deficit to widen to \$26 billion in O1 FY23, from \$23 billion in O3 FY22 and an expected \$16

billion in Q4 FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: India's merchandise exports in May rose by 20.55 per cent to \$38.94 billion, while the trade deficit ballooned to a record \$24.29 billion, according to the government data released Wednesday.

Imports during May 2022 grew by 62.83 per cent to \$63.22 billion, the data showed. The trade deficit stood at \$6.53 billion in the same month last year.

Cumulative exports in April-May 2022-23 rose by about 25 per cent to \$78.72 billion. Imports in April-May 2022-23 increased 45.42 per cent to \$123.41 billion.

The trade deficit during the first two months of this fiscal widened to \$44.69 billion against \$21.82 billion in the year-ago period. Petroleum and crude oil imports

during May 2022 surged 102.72 per cent to \$19.2 billion. Coal, coke and briquettes imports jumped to \$5.5 billion against \$2 billion in May 2021. Gold imports increased to \$6 bil-

UAE halts Indian wheat export

The move follows India banning the export of wheat last month to check the surge in

lion during the month under review from \$677 million in May 2021.



Engineering goods exports in May increased by 12.65 per cent to \$9.7 billion, while petroleum products exports grew by 60.87 per cent to \$8.54 billion.

Gems and jewellery exports stood at \$3.22 billion in May compared to \$2.96 billion in the same month last year. Exports of chemicals rose 17.35 per cent to \$2.5 billion in May. Similarly, shipments of pharma

and ready-made garments of all textiles grew by 10.28 per cent and 27.85 per cent to \$2 billion and \$1.41 billion, respectively.

Export sectors that recorded negative growth in May included iron ore, cashew, handicrafts, plastics, carpet and spices

The commerce ministry said the estimated value of services import for May is \$14.43 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 45.01 per cent compared to \$9.95 billion in the same month last year.

"The estimated value of services imports for April-May 2022 is \$28.48 billion exhibiting a positive growth of 45.52 per cent vis-a-vis April-May 2021 (\$19.57 billion)," it added.

DENMARK TOPS CHART

India moves up 6 spots in **World Competitive Index**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development, largely due to gains in economic performance. Denmark has moved to the top

New Delhi, June 15: India has

of the 63-nation list from the third position last year, while Switzerland slipped from the top ranking to the second position and Singapore regained the third spot from fifth, a global study showed Wednesday.

Others in the top 10 include Sweden at the fourth position, followed by Hong Kong SAR (fifth), the Netherlands (sixth), Taiwan (seventh), Finland (eighth), Norway (ninth) and the USA (10th).

Meanwhile, the top-performing Asian economies are Singapore (third), Hong Kong (fifth), Taiwan (seventh), China (17th) and Australia (19th).

After a stable but stagnant five

vears, 2022 witnessed significant improvement in the competitiveness of the Indian economy, IMD said, adding that this is largely due to gains in economic performance (from 37th to 28th)

The domestic economy has experienced a stratospheric rise from 30th to ninth position in a year, Institute for Management Development (IMD) noted.

The labour market, a key sub-factor in the business efficiency parameter, moved up from 15th to 6th, while management practices and business attitudes and values also made major leaps.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi having made major improvements in the context of retrospective taxes in 2021, India appears to have restored the trust of the business community. Its re-regulation of a number of sectors, including drones, space and geo-spatial mapping, also likely played a role in the country's stellar performance in the 2022 WCR," economists at IMD World Competitiveness

CRYPTO MELTDOWN

Bitcoin collapses to fresh 18-month low

London, June 15: Bitcoin tumbled Wednesday to a new 18-month low, dragging smaller tokens down with it and deepening a market meltdown sparked by crypto lender Celsius this week freezing customer withdrawals.

The world's largest cryptocurrency fell as much as 7.8% to \$20,289, its lowest since December 2020. It has lost around 28% since Friday and more than half of its value this year. It has slumped about 70% from its record high of \$69,000 in November.

The value of the global crypto market has tumbled 70% to under \$900 billion from a peak of \$2.97 trillion in November, CoinMarketCap data shows. Smaller cryptocurrencies, which tend to move in tandem with bitcoin, also fell. Ether, the second largest token, fell as much as 12% to \$1,045, a new 15-month low. The chaos in the crypto market has spread to other companies, with a number of exchanges slashing workforces.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, June 15: The UAE has ordered a suspension of exports and re-exports of wheat and wheat flour originating from India for four months, the Gulf nation's ministry of economy said Wednesday.

The ban, which the ministry alled as 'moratorium', has been imposed effective from May 13 "in view of the international developments that have affected trade flows"

India had May 14 banned wheat exports except for those backed by already issued letters of credit (LCs) and to countries seeking to ensure food security.

Since then, it has allowed shipments of 469,202 tonne of wheat. The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy said the ban "applies to all wheat varieties namely hard, ordinary and soft wheat and wheat flour.'

local prices. With this, Indian wheat cannot be rooted to third countries via the UAE

In a statement said a moratorium has been imposed "on the export and re-export of wheat and wheat flour originating from the Republic of India, including free zones, for a period of four months starting from May 13, 2022.

This "decision comes in view of the international developments that have affected trade flows, and in appreciation of the solid and strategic relations that bind the UAE and India, especially after the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries and the Indian government's approval to export

wheat to the UAE for domestic consumption.' India and UAE had in February

signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Trade Agreement (CEPA) to cut all tariffs on each other's goods and aims to increase their annual trade to 4100 billion within five years. The pact took effect May 1.

"However, companies wishing to export/re-export wheat and wheat flour varieties of Indian origin, which were imported into the country before May 13, 2022, must submit a request to the Ministry to obtain permission to export outside of the UAE," the ministry said.

Month long girl empowerment workshop concluded at NTPC

Bhubaneswar: The month-long Girl Empowerment Mission residential workshop organised by NTPC Darlipali concluded Wednesday where 40 girl students from nearby schools participated in the program. During the concluding function, Kusum Tete, MLA (Sundargarh) graced the event as Chief Guest in presence of AK Tandon, HOP (Darlipali) and

senior officials of NTPC Darlipali. The chief guest interacted with the young girl stu-

dents and encouraged them to further excel in every field. While addressing the gathering the MLA also emphasised upon the different fields where girls and women



have made a mark and motivated the girl students to prosper and keep leading everywhere in life. Further, the chief guest appreciated the efforts of NTPC Darlipali in taking the initiative for the empowerment of workshop. On the concluding day, the GEM students displayed different skills in form of skit, cultural dance and chorus. Speaking on the ceremony, HOP (Darlipali) thanked the stakeholders, students for their active participation in the workshop. The work-

shop was highly appreciated by nearby villagers and stakeholders. The concluding ceremony was attended by Sarpanch (Raidihi), parents of the GEM students and senior officials/ employees of NTPC Darlipali.

Adani Group fastest in valuation growth at 88%, RIL up 13.4%

Among the firms led by the Ahmedabad-based Gautam Adani, the valuation for Adani Green *Energy rose the fastest at* 139 per cent to ₹ 4.50 lakh crore, which catapulted it to the sixth spot from 16th just six months ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 15: The Adani Group has gained the most in terms of value in the six months to April 2022, with a 88.1 per cent jump to Rs 17.6 lakh



crore, a report said Wednesday.

In comparison, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries -- which houses nearly all its ventures -- saw a 13.4 per

cent rise in value to Rs 18.87 lakh crore, which helped it retain the top rankings in Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 rankings

Tata Consultancy Services came

The minimum valuation to make it into the top-500 valuation list was ₹ 5,800 crore and firms in the list came from 15 states led by Maharashtra. Mumbai alone is home to 159 of the firms, followed by Bangalore at 59 and **Gurugram at 38**

second at Rs 12.97 lakh crore despite a 0.9 per cent decline in value, and was followed by HDFC Bank. Infosys and ICICI Bank.



Indian companies have weathered the storm and performed better than their global peers. It shows the inherent strength and depth of the Indian

ANAS RAHMAN JUNAID | MD AND CHIEF RESEARCHER, HURUN INDIA

Adani Wilmar grew by nearly 190 per cent to Rs 66,427 crore and Adani Power reported a 157.8 per cent growth to Rs 66,185 crore, the report said, adding that the nine companies in the Adani group combined together saw a 88.1 per cent surge in their value to Rs 17.6 lakh crore and account for 7.6 per cent of the top 500 companies now.

'The Adani Group companies in the review period increased their value by 88.1 per cent, as against an increase of just 2 per cent by the top 500 companies," the report said. Value of the top 500 companies in India increased marginally by 2 per cent to Rs 232 lakh crore from Rs 221 lakh crore as October 30, 2021, it said.

Despite the marginal growth, companies in the list, which is a compilation of non-state owned companies, performed better than those in the 30-share BSE Sensex (down 4 per cent) or the Nasdaq

(down 17 per cent), it said.



England slump to historic 0-4 loss to Hungary in Nations League, less than a year after reaching Euro 2020 final on home soil

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wolverhampton, June 15: England suffered their worst home defeat since 1928 with a 0-4 loss to Hungary in the Nations League.

Less than a year after reaching the European Championship final on home soil to raucous celebrations, England were booed by their own fans after a heavy loss to an unheralded Hungary team that completed a double after upsetting England last week. European champion Italy had it little better as it was beaten 5-2 by Germany.

England's last game of the long 2021-22 season will ensure plenty of reflection before the World Cup in Qatar in five months' time. Manager Gareth Southgate, a national hero during Euro 2020, had to endure chants of "you don't know what you're doing."

There was tension before the game kicked off as England fans drowned out the Hungarian anthem with a chant referencing Hungary's history of racist abuse of players by fans. Hungary was punished by UEFA and FIFA for racist incidents in games last year. including one in which England players were abused.

Hungary had been clinging on to a 1-0 lead from Roland Sallai's early goal for much of the match, before England fell apart in the latter stages. Sallai made it 2-0 in the 70th minute before Zsolt Nagy fired in a shot from the edge of the box for 3-0. England defender John Stones was sent off for a second booking after what seemed like slight contact with an opponent and Daniel Gazdag added a fourth

for Hungary.

Plenty of England's players showed signs of being physically and perhaps mentally tired after a long season, with little creativity in the face of a densely packed Hungarian formation and midfielder Kalvin Phillips in particular giving away possession cheaply ahead of the second goal. It was England's biggest home

loss since being beaten 1-5 by Scotland 94 years ago. Other losses to Hungary loom large in English soccer history. A 3-6 home loss in 1953 and 1-7 defeat away the following year played crucial roles in shaking England's view of itself as a pre-eminent soccer nation of

After no wins and just one goal in four Nations League games, Southgate defended his choice to rotate the lineup and give fringe players game time.

În League A, Belgium's 1-0 win over Poland in Group 4 was more restrained than its 6-1 thrashing of the same opposition last week. The Netherlands stayed atop the group by beating Wales 3-2 thanks to Memphis Depay's stoppage-time winner after Gareth Bale had leveled the score for Wales from the penalty spot. Tuesday's Nations League games

marked the end of a long, draining season of European club and international games. For some players, the next season is already looming.

Two of Andorra's starting lineup for a 1-2 loss to Moldova are set to kick off the 2022-23 Champions League in seven days' time when national champion Inter Club d'Escaldes plays in the preliminary round of qualifying.

In the second-tier League B, Scotland came back from 1-0 down to beat nine-man Armenia 4-1, Montenegro won 3-0 against Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina edged past Finland 3-2, and Ukraine and Ireland drew 1-1, with Ukraine playing its home game in Poland because of the Russian invasion.

NIGHT TO FORGET FOR ITALY

MUNICH: Italy, still trying to recover from failing to qualify for the World Cup three months ago, was swept aside by Germany and were 0-5 down before scoring two late consolation goals at the Borussia-Park in Monchengladbach. Joshua Kimmich's 10th-minute goal got Germany started, before Ilkay Gundogan scored a penalty with the last kick of the first half, and Thomas Müller scored in the 51st before two goals in two minutes from Timo Werner. The heavy defeat has only intensified the pressure and the Italian press did not hold back in their criticism of the national side Wednesday morning. The headline on the front page of 'La Gazzetta dello Sport' read: 'Italy, how embarrassing,' followed by 'nightmare evening with the Germans'. While 'Corriere dello Sport's splash read: 'Test crash' as Italian fans continued to come to terms with the big loss.



INDIAN SKIPPER ADMITS THAT TEAM WOULD LOVE TO PLAY AFC ASIAN CUP ON HOME SOIL

Sunil confesses to § 'hitting peak' at 37

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 15: Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri says the side would love to play the AFC Asian Cup on home soil with the star forward confessing to "hitting my peak" at 37.

A near-capacity crowd at the iconic Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata witnessed the Indian national football team qualify for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup finals in style, beating Hong Kong 4-0 Tuesday night.

Impressed by the huge turnout for their last qualifying game despite heavy rains, Chhetri expressed his desire to play the finals in India.

"The kind of form we are in, we would have loved to play at home. The way the fans are coming up and supporting us in numbers, it would be great to play here," said Chhetri

"So yes, a lot of youngsters coming up, and also Ishan (Pandita) has been outstanding in training too, and look what he did today. Ishan and Sahal (Abdul Samad) are two players who deserve nights like this," said Chhetri, who scored the second goal of the night while Anwar Ali, Manvir Singh, and Ishan Pandita got their names on the scoresheet.

Chhetri is set to play in his third Asian Cup tournament finals after previous appearances in 2011 and 2019. Despite being 37 years old, the striker feels he is at his peak now.

"Now I am hitting my peak. The last Asian Cup is already past. We really want to work hard. It does not matter in the next big tournaments I am there or anyone else gets the nod. India should be there at the



Sunil Chhetri (in blue) in action during India's match against Hong Kong

after India secured a second straight qualification to the Asian Cup for the first time in history.

China, where the Asian Cup finals were scheduled next year, had withdrawn as hosts keeping the fluid COVID-19 situation in the

Chhetri praised the rise of youngsters in the national team over the course of the three-match campaign. "The kids are just amazing, They'll probably kill me for calling kids, the boys are fantastic. We have the right mix of senior and junior players in the dressing room.

You've also got Liston (Colaco) and Suresh (Wangiam) along with Akash (Mishra) and Roshan (Singh)

RAHUL SET TO MISS ENGLAND SERIES FOLLOWING HIS GROIN INJURY

Hardik named captain for Ireland T20Is

Asian Cup, I have already said this. "It is paramount for us as a nation to keep being at the Asian Cup so that we can rub our shoulders with the best in India, which is

not very often. This gives us a chance to play friendlies with better-ranked opponents leading up to the tournament," said the talismanic striker. Having scored his 84th goal in national colours against Hong Kong,

Chhetri levelled with Hungary legend Ferenc Puskas in the list of all-time international goal scorers, where he currently sits jointfifth, However, the Bengaluru FC man reiterated that he does not pay too much heed to records.

Stimac hits out at AIFF's messy state of affaires

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 15: Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac has lashed out at the messy state of affairs grappling the national federation (AIFF), a day after his side qualified for AFC Asian Cup for the second consecutive time.

The AIFF is currently run by the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) after the Praful Patel-led federation was found to have violated the National Sports Code.

Stimac questioned the timing of the issue, which has cast a shadow on India's qualification for a prestigious tournament like the AFC Asian Cup. "For such an important tournament, was this the time to do this? Was anybody thinking how that could affect the dressing room and the players?" Stimac asked, referring to AIFF's current state of affairs.

"I am not getting into who is right and who is wrong. It is not my job. I am just talking about timing. At such an important time, such a thing is happening, is anyone normal? Nothing would have happened if they were waiting for three more weeks after having waited so many years," he said.

The 54-year-old, whose contract has been extended till September, also minced no words when asked about his future. "We had no time to talk about contracts. We don't even have a board. Nobody thought about how that drama could affect the players," the Croatian said.

India's qualification was sealed ahead of their final league match against Hong Kong Tuesday when Palestine beat Philippines 40. Stimac's side celebrated its qualification with an emphatic 40 win over Hong Kong as it finished with three wins to top group D-their best ever campaign.

Prannoy ends Lakshya run at Indonesia Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 15: World No.8 Lakshya Sen crashed out of the Indonesia Open badminton tournament after losing to compatriot HS Prannoy in an all-India second round clash here Wednesday.

Sen was comprehensively beaten 10-21, 9-21 by Prannoy in a men's singles match that lasted a little more than half an hour. Interestingly, this was Prannoy's first-ever win against Sen out of their three headto-head meetings so far. In the doubles action, the duo of

MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila opened their account with a win, getting the better of higher ranked Japanese pair of Kelichiro Matsui and Yoshinori Takeuchi 27-25, 18-

However, it was curtains for the women's duo of Ashwini Bhat and



Shikha Gautam as it lost 9-21, 10-21 to China's Zhang Shu Xian and Zheng Yu in just 28 minutes.



The campaign also ended for another women's pairing of Haritha M Harinarayan and Ashna Noy as the duo also suffered straightgame defeat against South Korea's Jeong Na Eun and Kim Hye Jeong.



Rajasthan Royals to the IPL final. Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been

named vice-captain for the series. The designated wicketkeeper will be 36-year-old Dinesh Karthik if one goes by the squad list, while both Ishan Kishan and Samson can keep wickets if need be.

In the other development, senior opener KL Rahul is all set to miss the 'fifth' Test against England in Birmingham next



month as he is unlikely to recover from a groin injury that forced him out of the ongoing T20I series against South Africa.

"Rahul has not recovered from his groin injury. The Test squad members are assembling in Mumbai today and will fly out midnight. Rahul is not travelling with the team. He will take some more time to recover although he might appear in a fitness test during weekend.

Chances of recovery aren't looking bright," a BCCI official privy to development told this agency on the condition of anonymity. All the players, except Pant, are

for the July 1-5 contest, notable being skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami. It is understood that since there

leaving for England early Thursday

is only one Test match, which is a spill-over from the 2021 series, the selectors are still not thinking about KL Rahul's replacement as of now.

T20I SQUAD: Hardik Pandya (C), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (vc), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh & Umran Malik.

With a record 6 teams, Asia resets goals for FIFA World Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 15: Australia's win over Peru in the intercontinental playoffs this week guaranteed an unprecedented six teams from the Asian confederation at the World Cup, giving the continent an opportunity to repeat the success of 2002 when it first staged soccer's

marquee event. South Korea reached the semifinals and Japan made it to the Round of 16 when they co-hosted the tournament in 2002, but Asia has under-performed in every edi-

In the first World Cup in the Middle East, Europe, with 13, will be the only continent with more

teams represented. Qatar's hosting of the November 21-December 18 tournament has added to Asia's usual automatic four qualification spots filled by Saudi Arabia, Japan, Iran and South Korea.

'This is indeed Asia's time and there is no better way to underline this celebration than with the qualification of a record six teams at the FIFA World Cup for the first time in our history," Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa said. He's hoping 2022 will show a marked improvement from Asia's performance in 2018.

With just over five months to go, signs are mixed. Japan was shaping up as the best hope. A nar-



deputy in the current T20I series

against South Africa, was elevated

to the leadership role and will join

the Test squad in England after

the completion of the home series.

has been well documented over

the years, gets another shot at re-

demption, as he made a comeback

for the series, having guided

Sanju Samson, whose profligacy

June 6 was sandwiched between 4-1 victories over Paraguay and Ghana. On Tuesday, however, Hajime Moriyasu's men lost 3-0 at home to Tunisia.

Japan start and end Group E against Germany and Spain with the middle game against Costa Rica, which edged New Zealand

Tuesday for the last of the 32 spots in the draw for Qatar.

Saudi Arabia finished above Japan and Australia in qualifying but lost earlier this month to Colombia and Venezuela, two teams that did not qualify from South America. It leaves Saudi Arabia's opening Group C game against Argentina looking ominous.

Iran has to face England, the United States and Wales in Group B, but the team's only game since securing qualification was Algeria in Doha on Monday and ended in a 2-1 defeat. The team from Qatar, which has never appeared at the World Cup before, has not seen much international action at all.

The Australians have been up and down. After winning 11 straight qualifying games in the second round and start of the third round of Asian qualifying, the Socceroos registered just one victory in seven

games to finish third in their group. The Socceroos beat United Arab Emirates 2-1 in an Asian playoff last week. Six days later at the same sta-

dium in Qatar Monday, the

Socceroos qualified for a fifth straight World Cup after edging Peru, the fifth-place team in South America, 5-4 on penalties. The reward is a place in Group D and games against defending champion France, Tunisia and Denmark.

South Korea, appearing at a 10th successive World Cup, started its buildup with a heavy 1-5 loss to Brazil in Seoul June 2. Results improved as the Taeguk Warriors beat Chile 2-0, drew 2-2 with Paraguay and then defeated Egypt 4-1.

The South Koreans, who beat Poland, Portugal, Italy and Spain on a remarkable run to the semifinals at home in 2002, will be playing in Group H against Uruguay,— Portugal and Ghana in Qatar.

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