

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Do something to kill this fire! Find out where the monsoon is

Naveen reviews Rath Yatra prep

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday reviewed the preparedness made for annual Rath Yatra and sought cooperation for all for smooth conduct of the festival scheduled for July 1. Chairing the review meeting through videoconferencing, he expressed happiness that devotees will also participate in the Rath Yatra after two years. Attending the meeting, Law Minister Jagannath Saraka briefed about the preparation made for the car festival and its implementation. Arrangements have been made keeping in view the turnout of over 10 lakh devotees. Special information centres will be set up for devotees from outside the state, said Saraka. **P3**

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	36.4°C 34.2°C
TEMP MIN	26.8°C 26.0°C
Humidity	70% 75%
Rainfall	TRACE 13.4mm
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky

Stir on despite quota balm

■ Centre decides to reserve 10% vacancies for recruitment of Agniveers in CAPFs and Assam Rifles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi / Thiruvananthapuram / Patna, June 18: The Centre Saturday announced several incentives including 10 per cent reservation in its paramilitary and defence ministry for Agnipath retirees and said it will look into any grievance about the new military recruitment scheme "with an open mind", even as violent protests raged on in many states and opposition parties stepped up pressure for a rollback.

FURORE OVER AGNIPATH



A vehicle after it was set afire by protesters during the Bihar Bandh, called to oppose Centre's Agnipath scheme **PTI PHOTO**

In Bihar, where a bandh had been called, a railway station and a police vehicle were torched, an ambulance attacked and security personnel injured in stone-pelting in-

cidents on the fourth consecutive day of the agitation, while protesters vandalised Ludhiana railway station in Punjab and blocked roads and rail tracks in West Bengal,

Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

Railways cancelled 369 trains Saturday and passengers faced a harrowing time. Over 200 trains

Centre cautions states

KOLKATA: In the wake of growing tension over Agnipath, the Centre Saturday sent a note of caution to all states and UTs regarding tackling the continued agitations on this count. The letter signed by Deputy Secretary to Union government, Archana Varma, has been addressed to all Chief Secretaries, Advisors to Administrators of all states and UTs, state and UT Director Generals of Police and Police Commissioners of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

were cancelled a day earlier after the railways faced the brunt of the protests. **Continued on P4**

Vig glare on BDO with ₹5cr assets

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 18: The Odisha Vigilance has detected properties over ₹5 crore including 24 plots, two palatial buildings of ₹1 crore each and four 4-wheelers from a block development officer (BDO), officials said Saturday.

Acting on an allegation of possession of disproportionate assets, six Vigilance teams conducted simultaneous raids on the properties of Ashwini Kumar Das, BDO, Jaleswar in Balasore district.

During the raid at six places in Cuttack, Balasore and Kendrapara, the Vigilance sleuths found movable and immovable assets worth over ₹5.07 crore, the officials said. The Vigilance said it has detected 24 plots in prime area of Cuttack and Kendrapara districts, whose registered sale deed value comes to about ₹76.4 lakh. **P3**

Tirtol MLA booked

PNN/AGENCIES

Jagatsinghpur, June 18: A case was filed against BJD MLA Bijaya Shankar Das Saturday after he failed to turn up for his own wedding, police said.

The case was filed against Das, the legislator of Tirtol, at the Jagatsinghpur Sadar police station based on the complaint of a woman who alleged that he cheated her as he did not turn up at the marriage registrar's office Friday, she said. The case was filed under IPC sections 420 (cheating), 195A (threatening any person to give false evidence), 294 (obscene acts and songs), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 341 (punishment for

wrongful restraint), 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), among others, inspector-in-charge Pravass Sahu said.

The couple applied at the marriage registrar's office May 17. Though the woman along with her family reached there for the wedding formalities on Friday after the stipulated 30 days, the MLA failed to turn up, as per the FIR.

Das, 30, said he has not denied getting married to her.

"Another 60 days are there for the registration of the marriage. Therefore, I did not turn up. I was not informed by her or anyone else to go to the marriage registrar's office," he told reporters.

CM leaves for Rome tomorrow

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday left for New Delhi, from where he will begin his 11-day trip to Italy and Dubai Monday.

Leading a high-level delegation, Patnaik will visit World Food Programme (WFP) headquarters in Rome. He will meet the executive director of WFP, David Beasley and the senior leadership of WFP.

The Chief Minister will have detailed discussions on Odisha's partnership with WFP and future projects which will further help the state in ensuring food security in a sustainable manner.

In response to an invitation by



the WFP, the Chief Minister left Odisha to visit its headquarters in Rome and share the transformative initiatives of Odisha in the field of food security and disaster management.

"From being dependent on others for its food security, Odisha

has transformed itself into a food surplus state adding to the country's public distribution system. From the severe loss faced during the 1999 Super Cyclone, Odisha is now a model state in disaster management, acknowledged by the United Nations," CMO said.

During his stay in Rome, the Chief Minister will meet His Holiness Pope Francis in The Holy See, Vatican. He will also meet the Odia diaspora from various parts of Europe. He will discuss the possible ways to engage with the diaspora in promoting the art and culture of Odisha and also enabling them to partner in the state's transformational journey.

Continued on P4

2 killed in Kabul gurdwara blasts

KABUL/NEW DELHI: Several blasts ripped through a Sikh gurdwara in Afghanistan's capital Kabul Saturday, killing two persons and injuring seven others, while security personnel thwarted a bigger tragedy by stopping an explosive-laden vehicle from reaching the place of worship of the minority community in the war-torn country. In the latest targeted assault on a place of worship of the Sikh community in Afghanistan, Karte Parwan Gurdwara was attacked early Saturday morning and a gun battle between the terrorists and Taliban fighters ensued, said Abdul Nafi Takor, a Taliban-appointed spokesperson for the Interior Ministry. **P10**

Drop jaws.
And some beats with your dad.

— A little extra —

BAHAGHARA

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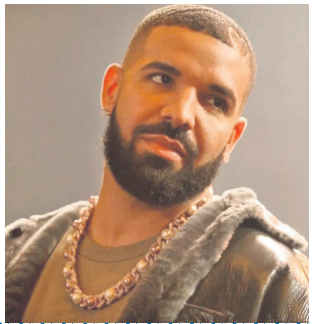
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DRAKE PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIDHU MOOSEWALA
Canadian singer-rapper Drake, who recently released his album 'Honestly, Nevermind', paid a tribute to the slain Punjabi rapper Sidhu Moosewala during the first episode of his radio show 'Table for One' as he played the latter's hit numbers on the show.

NICK JONAS, GLEN POWELL TO REUNITE FOR 'FOREIGN RELATIONS'
Nick Jonas is teaming up with 'Topgun: Maverick' star Glen Powell for a buddy comedy film 'Foreign Relations', which will be directed by Kat Coiro. Glen Powell was recently seen as a hotshot pilot in the Tom Cruise-starrer wherein his character saves the day for both Cruise and Miles Teller.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today you will be perplexed by some inexplicable and fantastic event. Either that, or you may experience an unforeseen but favourable incident. It may not be earth-shaking, but it will definitely make you assess things. Besides, you could have difficulties meeting deadlines. However, Ganesha advises you to tell people about the importance of your work.

TAURUS

You have an easy carefree day ahead. There will be no woes or worries, says Ganesha. But to will be inclined to take up too many things at one time, more than you can handle. This may, in turn, get you stressed and uptight. You are advised to be practical and not to overdo things. If you do get into a fix, a moment's reflection will show you that you alone are to be blamed. Try to be realistic and reasonable.

GEMINI

You will ponder over religious and cultural values and issues today. You will indulge in a fair amount of discussion with your family members over the issue and present your thoughts and feelings on the subject. These discussions could end up covering topics like law, education, societal concerns, manners and etiquette etc., says Ganesha.

CANCER

The day looks set to be an ordinary day, for both work and play, says Ganesha. Yet, if you are planning to participate in an event or a competition today, march ahead, by all means. There will, practically, be no one who'll be able to compete with you. On other fronts, expect things to be rather calm and mundane, with no significant ups and downs.

LEO

You will need to keep from being agitated today. Let your spouse or business partner take critical decisions if you aren't in the right frame of mind. Decisions you take today may have to be rethought of later. Important meetings will proceed smoothly, but you will not be able to commit to any final conclusions or contracts. Since it is not an auspicious day for you, postpone all important events, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Appreciate the things that people do and try your best to inspire them to achieve greater success, says Ganesha. Put on your thinking cap and contemplate seriously. Simply criticising others will only hurt you. Be as level-headed as you can and keep pegging on towards your targets.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will try to gain in-depth knowledge about new technological inventions in your spare time today. Some of you may have queries regarding higher education that you may be able to take up today and reach a conclusion about.

SCORPIO

Till now you have experienced all the highs. Today you may come across the lows of the professional world. The equation between your boss, colleagues and you may get slightly disturbed. However, you will make it up by evening. Freshers may look for some career opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS

According to Ganesha, money is likely to slip-off your hand easily today. Try to wave off unnecessary expenditure. The entire day is spent managing funds, while the evening brings a lot of positive energy with it. You prefer to sit back and relax.

CAPRICORN

Today, you will not be in the right mood to work or produce expected results. Mounting work pressure may further dampen your self-confidence, foretells Ganesha. The dullness will vanish in the air by the evening and you will be back to your happy self. Are you wondering who will be responsible for this change? The answer is your friends and family members.

AQUARIUS

You spend a lot of time planning for a better future. Sure, it does minimize the chances of errors as you know possible obstacles in advance. But, the time you spend for calculations takes you away from the reality and you don't fully concentrate on what you have now. Learn to balance, advises Ganesha.

PISCES

You know how important money is and you will think about it all day. You will think less about expenses today and more about prosperity and fame today. Worry about family might increase and in return they will support you, says Ganesha.

Ranbir's 'Shamshera' LOOK GETS LEAKED



MUMBAI: The first poster of epic period film 'Shamshera', which will see Ranbir Kapoor returning to the big screen four years after 'Sanju', recently got leaked after a fan activation event. The makers were set to kick-start the film campaign next week as activities were meticulously planned by Yash Raj Films leading up to the trailer launch. However, all those plans seem to

be dashed with the first poster getting leaked on Twitter. Fans went into a frenzy as Ranbir's heavily guarded look drove the internet wild. Fans and audiences have given two thumbs up to Ranbir's look as Shamshera, calling this to be one of the hottest looks sported by an actor on screen. Directed by Karan Malhotra, this action extravaganza has been produced by Aditya Chopra and is set to release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu July 24. **IANS**

Katappa's daughter is too HOT TO HANDLE



CHENNAI: Veteran actor Sathyaraj gained nationwide popularity post Baahubali for his role as Katappa, so much so that till Baahubali 2 released, there was only one question on an entire country's lips (if you don't know which one, then you've been living under a rock). Well, now meet Sathyaraj's daughter, Divya Sathyaraj, who is mighty active on social media with a verified account on Instagram, and enjoys a massive fan following. The gorgeous beauty has been grabbing eyeballs by posting lovely pictures on the social media platform. Recently, she posted a picture that has gone viral. Sharing the picture Divya Sathyaraj wrote: "This is a body positiv-

ity post. I always gain weight during summer holidays coz I luv eating mangoes. My weight has gone up from 52 kilos to 56 kilos, but I am not going to get stressed about it. I will eat healthy, exercise regularly, accept my chubby cheeks and be happy coz happiness is not size specific. Do not let your mind bully your body. As a nutritionist, I always tell my patients that a weighing scale can never measure your worth." Yes, the sizzling beauty has chosen a different career path to that of her father. In 2020, she started the movement Mahilmadhi Iyakkam, an initiative to provide healthy and nutritious meals to the malnourished and underprivileged communities free of cost. **AGENCIES**

Has Kangana ceased to be a bankable star?



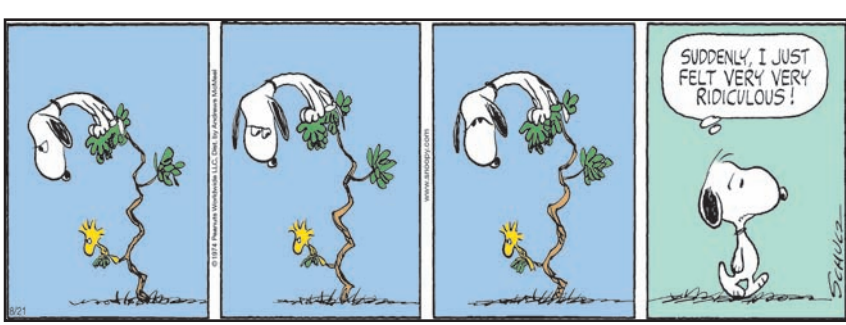
MUMBAI: Hindi films may not be witnessing the best of times at the box-office but the real shocker comes from Kangana Ranaut's 'Dhaakad' which earned an embarrassing figure of just ₹2.58 crore against its monumental budget of ₹85 crore. But, there's a more worrying trend that's forming the undercurrent and it's definitely not a good news for Kangana. The actress' stardom seems to be fading, as Independent film trade analyst Sumit Kadel says, "Kangana's box-office pull is going downwards with each passing year." He however is quick to point an exception, "Manikarnika' (Kangana's directorial debut) was an exception which was an average grosser." Come to think of it, "her last clean hit was 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns' way back in 2015." Sumit furnishes the reason supporting his analysis. **IANS**



KIARA doesn't feel pressured for marriage

MUMBAI: The gorgeous Kiara Advani has been creating a massive buzz on the professional front these days. After basking in the success of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, which also featured Kartik Aaryan and Tabu, Kiara is now gearing up for the release of Jugjugg Jeeyo with Varun Dhawan. Clearly, Kiara is at the top of her game now. Amid this, her personal life tends to make the headlines every now and then. Though Kiara is yet to make her relationship with Sidharth Malhotra official, fans have been quite curious about her wedding. And now, in her recent interaction, Kiara has opened up about her wedding plans. For the unaware, Kiara Advani has been rumoured to be in a relationship with Sidharth Malhotra for the longest time now. Since the grapevine is abuzz with her relationship rumours, the actress was asked regarding her plans to settle down and get married. To which, she said, "Without marriage, I can be well settled, right? I am well settled. I am doing work. I am earning and I am happy." "There is no pressure right now to get married. I don't think single people should take any pressure," Kiara was quoted saying. **AGENCIES**

PEANUTS



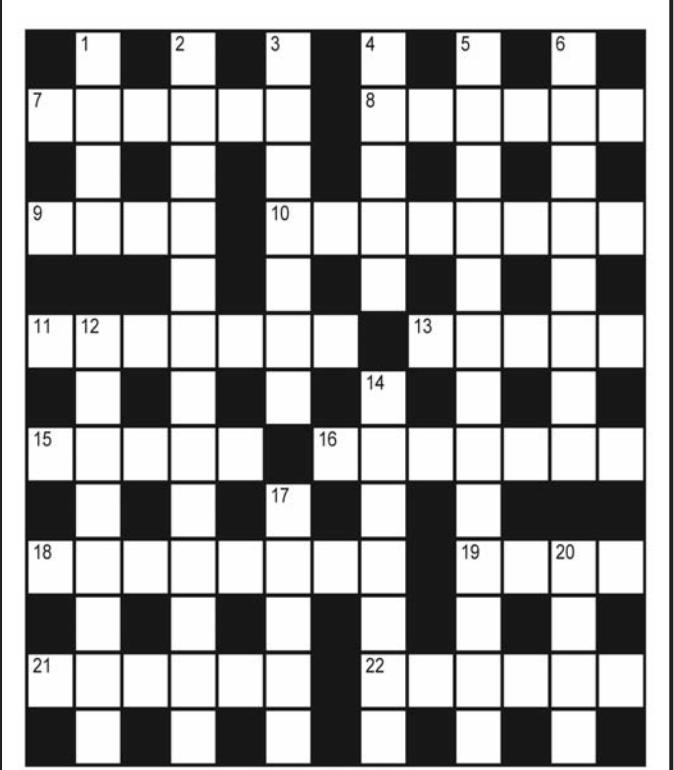
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Cocked hat
 - 8 Cave in
 - 9 Beach feature
 - 10 Counseling
 - 11 Largest city of Venezuela
 - 13 Romeo's rival
 - 15 Tipper truck
 - 16 Creamer
 - 18 Kind of relationship
 - 19 Part of a rose
 - 21 Reveal, as a secret
 - 22 Goof-offs
- Down**
- 1 Stead
 - 2 Wildfire
 - 3 Riddles
 - 4 Elliptical path
 - 5 Shopper's delight (9,4)
 - 6 Chemically inert
 - 12 Cerebrovascular accident
 - 14 Dog treat
 - 17 Wrath
 - 20 Deserve

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

R	E	S	O	N	D	C	O	A	C	H
I	T	S	A	A	T	A				
D	E	A	T	H	T	R	A	P	T	A
E	T	E	E	T	A	S				
S	Q	A	R	E	T		T			
S	Q	A	R	E	T		T			
B	L	E	A	C	H					
E	O	L	I	T	H					
L	I	A	L	O	V					
I	N	N	D	R	A	F	T	B	E	E
N	K	E	L	I	U	S				
E	A	S	E	L	R	I	S	O	T	T

SUDOKU

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

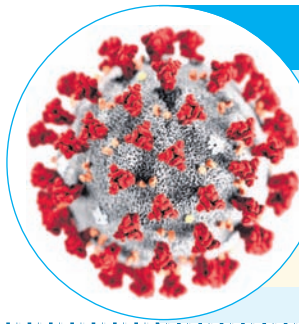
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



A STITCH IN TIME...

A man repairs an umbrella at Kacheri Road in Cuttack, Saturday, as monsoon arrived in the state a few days ago



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	54,38,60,643	51,89,50,890	63,39,820
India	4,32,83,793	4,26,90,845	5,24,840
Odisha	12,88,800	12,79,419	9,126

CM seeks cooperation for smooth car fest

CHAIRING THE REVIEW MEETING THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE, PATNAIK EXPRESSED HAPPINESS THAT DEVOTEES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE RATH YATRA IN PURI AFTER TWO YEARS



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presiding over the review meeting through videoconference, Saturday. 5T Secretary VK Pandian is also seen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday reviewed the preparedness for annual Rath Yatra and sought cooperation of all for smooth conduct of the festival scheduled for July 1.

Chairing the review meeting through videoconference, Patnaik expressed happiness that devotees would participate in the Rath Yatra in Puri after two years of gap.

Notably, the devotees were not allowed to participate in the car festival during the last two years due to Covid-19 pandemic.

As lakhs of devotees are expected to visit Puri to witness the festival this year, Patnaik asked officials concerned to make advance arrangements so that the pilgrims would return home with pleasant memories

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The Chief Minister thanked the

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The Chief Minister thanked the servitors for their cooperation in conducting the Rath Yatra without the participation of devotees during the pandemic.

The Chief Minister thanked the servitors for their cooperation in conducting the Rath Yatra without the participation of devotees during the pandemic. The servitors of the 12th century shrine alone pulled the chariots during the mega festival in 2020 and 2021.

Participating in the review

meeting, Law Minister Jagannath Saraka briefed about the arrangements made for this year's Rath Yatra.

"The arrangements have been made for congregation of over 10 lakh devotees during the mega event. Special information centres will be set up for devotees from outside the state," Saraka said.

Development Commissioner PK Jena made a detailed presentation on the preparations for the festival. "As people were forbidden from participating in the festival for last two years, it is expected that a large number devotees would throng Puri during this year's Rath Yatra. We have already witnessed huge congregation during the recently concluded Snana Yatra," Jena said.

The Chief Minister has directed the officials to make necessary arrangements and put emphasis on crowd control and measures to regulate the traffic.

Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Bansal informed the meeting regarding measures to maintain law and order during the mega festival.

Ministers of several departments including Information and Public Relations, Culture, Health, Food and Civil Supplies, Housing and Urban Development, and Commerce and Transport also attended the meeting.



A Rupakar servitor paints idols of subsidiary deities ahead of this year's Rath Yatra in Puri, Saturday

OPSC recommended 2,277 for Group A, B services in '21-22

OPSC CHAIRMAN SATYAJIT MOHANTY PRESENTS THE COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021-22 TO GOVERNOR GANESHI LAL AT RAJ BHAWAN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) has recommended 2,277 candidates for appointment in Group A and B services and concurred 1,563 promotions for 22 government departments in 2021-22, an official said Saturday.

OPSC chairman Satyajit Mohanty Saturday presented the commission's annual report for 2021-22 to Governor Ganeshi Lal at Raj Bhawan here.

For OPSC, 2021-22 will be regarded as path-breaking as the commission published the recruitment calendar for the first time, said the official, adding that it completed all the recruitment commitments as notified in the calendar in spite of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the period, 2,277 candidates have been recommended for appointment to Group A and B posts, 1,563 promotions have been concurred for 22 departments and 224 disciplinary proceedings have been disposed of, they said.

This has not only boosted the confidence of the commission, but has also enhanced its credentials among the candidates, the official pointed out, adding it encouraged the OPSC to come out with a recruitment calendar for



In a bid to ensure faster publication of results, OPSC will introduce on-screen evaluation of descriptive papers for the current year. The commission will focus upgrading the existing online portal to make it more user-friendly, conducting more CBRE and masking the identity of the candidates during evaluation of papers and interviews.

2022-23 for over 5,000 posts in 26 departments.

One of the key focus areas of the commission will be to ensure improved transparency in the recruitment process and faster publication of results. OPSC will con-

tinue to leverage technology for maintaining integrity of the system and adopt objective criteria in every step of the selection process, said the official.

Upgrading the existing online portal to make it more user-friendly, conducting more Computer-Based Recruitment Examinations (CBRE), and masking the identity of the candidates during evaluation of papers and interviews will be the commission's focus.

As part of faster publication of results, the OPSC will introduce 'on-screen' evaluation of descriptive papers for the current year. The commission aims at recommending the highest number of candidates in the recruitment year 2022-23, added the official.

MINOR'S DEATH

Autopsy report rules out assault

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: The Commissionerate Police Saturday received the postmortem report of the minor boy whose body was recovered under mysterious circumstances from a pit near Panda Park Basti in Niladri Vihar area here Thursday afternoon.

DCP Prateek Singh said the autopsy report of Daityraj Nayak was received by the investigating officers and it did not mention any injury mark on the body. The report ruled out any sort of assault on the minor before death. However, the police are investigating all possible angles into the boy's death. The deceased's viscera will be sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory for examination.

Drug peddler couple evicted from Salia Sahi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: The Commissionerate Police with the help of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday evicted a couple from Salia Sahi slum here for their involvement in illegal drug trade.

The couple was Friday arrested on the charges of selling brown sugar in the locality. The police have also seized brown sugar worth around Rs 70,000, a car and a mobile phone from their possession, sources said.

Accused Dillip Kumar Barala, 53, and his wife Purnima Barala, 45, are the natives of Bhagabanpur village in Kendrapara district. The couple was operating a tea and snacks stall at their house at Salia Sahi for last several days. However,



The couple was evicted in the presence of police and civic body officials

the couple was allegedly involved in the illegal trade of narcotics, sources added. The police had earlier arrested the couple for peddling brown sugar in Salia Sahi. The couple had encroached upon government land to build their house-shop at the slum, sources said.

The couple's house was demolished in the presence of senior officials of the Commissionerate Police and BMC Saturday morning, said an official.

"The Commissionerate Police is committed to take stern action against habitual drug peddlers in the city," said Deputy Commissioner of Police Prateek Singh.

AGNIPATH ROW



Activists of AIDSO and AIDYO hold a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, to protest against the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme

Agnipath protests: ECoR cancels several trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has cancelled and short terminated several trains passing through Odisha due to nationwide protests against the 'Agnipath' scheme.

No train will be operated at Visakhapatnam station from 6 am to 2 pm Saturday in view of the agitation, the ECoR said in a release.

The cancelled trains include the Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Intercity Express and Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad Visakha Express.

At least six other trains, including passing-through ones, have been cancelled for agitation at sev-

eral places. These include the Puri-Patna Express Saturday and the Puri-Ajmer Express Monday.

The ECoR partially cancelled at least 10 trains, including the Godavari Express from Hyderabad that will end its journey at Duvvada near Visakhapatnam. At least eight passing-through train will bypass Visakhapatnam and run via Simhachalam North and Duvvada.

A man was shot dead in police firing in Telangana's Secunderabad, trains went up in flames, and public and private vehicles attacked, railway stations and highways turned into battlegrounds amid burgeoning protests in many states against the Agnipath scheme.

Hybrid sensor to help diagnose cancer developed

A team of researchers has developed a nanophotonic-microfluidic sensor whose potential applications include cancer detection, monitoring, and treatment response assessment.

The study, published in the journal Optics Letters, indicates that the device can identify gases and liquids dissolved at low concentrations with a high degree of accuracy.

A 'lab-on-a-chip' is a miniature sensor device capable of performing complex biochemical analysis which is considered one of the most promising approaches to early cancer detection.

Russian researchers have developed a new hybrid nanophotonic-microfluidic sensor for highly

sensitive analysis of liquids and gases at very low concentrations in solutions.

"Our study is an important step towards creating a compact lab-on-a-chip device capable of not only performing a whole set of blood tests but detecting cancer biomarkers at an early stage using a very small amount of the patient's blood," said researcher Gregory Goltsman from HSE University in Moscow.

The current device consists of nanophotonic optical sensors on a chip in combination with microfluidic channels above the sensor surface.

Fluids or gases pumped through the channels affect the propagation of optical radiation



in the highly sensitive nanophotonic devices, changing the output's spectral characteristics. By examining these changes, researchers can determine the sam-

ple's composition. A special feature of the device is the tiny size of the microfluidic channels that deliver specimens to the sensors. This makes it pos-

Our study is an important step towards creating a compact lab-on-a-chip device capable of not only performing a whole set of blood tests but detecting cancer biomarkers at an early stage using a very small amount of the patient's blood

GREGORY GOLTSMAN | HSE UNIVERSITY IN MOSCOW

sible to obtain results even from very small samples, something that can be critical when an on-site analysis is not feasible and specimens must be transported elsewhere for examination.

CONTINUED FROM P1
Stir on despite quota balm

The agitation also spread to southern states including Karnataka and Kerala, with aspirants doing push-ups on roads at some places to register their protest.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi termed the scheme as "directionless" and said her party will work for its withdrawal while appealing to the youths protesting against the scheme to adopt peaceful and non-violent means to fight for their demands.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann demanded a rollback of the scheme and said those who cleared physical tests in the last two years must get a chance to appear in written exams for joining the Army.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader claimed that the Agnipath scheme will "dilute" the fighting ability of soldiers and render the youth jobless without any security for the future.

With the protesting youths alleging that they will be left in the lurch with no retirement benefits after the end of the four-year contract under the scheme, the ministries of Home Affairs and Defence announced concessions and incentives that will assist retirees in their further employment.

The Union government indicated that other departments too were working in the direction after several BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Assam announced various measures to encourage the youth to apply under the Agnipath scheme and assured them reservation.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur appealed to the youths protesting against the Agnipath scheme to shun violence and come forward for talks, asserting that the central government is ready to look into their grievances with "an open mind" and make changes, "if required".

"Violence has no place in a democracy," the minister said replying to questions at a conclave.

He said the government's approach on the issue is that it is ready to think with an open mind and make amendments in the scheme, if required, in the interest of the youth and the country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said it has decided to reserve 10 per cent vacancies for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles for Agniveers. "The MHA also decides to give 3 years age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in CAPFs & Assam Rifles," the ministry tweeted.

Further, for the first batch of Agniveers, the age relaxation will be for five years beyond the prescribed upper age limit, it said.

CM leaves for Rome tomorrow

On his way back, Patnaik will meet investors from the Middle East and adjoining regions in Dubai. He will extend an invitation to the potential investors to come and invest in Odisha and assure them of all support and facilitation by the state government.

He will also have one-on-one meetings with some big investors from the region. A high-level industrial delegation from Odisha will also be present during the investors' meet for possible partnerships with the foreign investors.

The Chief Minister will meet the Odia diaspora from the Middle East in Dubai and discuss with them Odisha's transformational journey over the last two decades and invite them to partner with the state government.

The delegation comprises Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian, principal secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, VV Yadav, principal secretary, Industries, Hemant Sharma and resident commissioner in New Delhi, Ravi Kant.

Patnaik is scheduled to return to Odisha June 30 evening. This will be the second official foreign trip of the CM during his 22-year-long tenure. Earlier, he had visited United Kingdom in May 2012.

Pradhan asks Reddy to direct ASI to take over Barpali site

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday urged Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy to direct the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to take over the excavation and preservation of a recently discovered 2,000-year-old post-Mauryan site at Barpali in the Bargharh district.

Pradhan has written a letter to his Cabinet colleague after receiving a petition from Aswini Kumar Sarangi, Bargharh about the monumental discovery made by the History department of Gangadhar Meher University (GMU), Sambalpur.

Around 60 students, research scholars and faculty of the History department started the excavation on May 31, 2022. The site, which is spread over 17 hectares, has yielded numerous priceless artefacts and antiquities dating

back to the post-Mauryan period, which was about 2,000 years ago, he mentioned in the letter.

"The findings indicate that the site was a well-established early trade centre and further digging could perhaps reveal even more startling revelations," Pradhan added.

Stating that such grand archaeological finding is rare and extremely vulnerable, Pradhan sought personal intervention of Reddy in directing officials of the ASI to take over the Barpali excavation site for better exploration, examination, analysis and security of the priceless antiquities and historical wealth.

The students of GMU have recently discovered stone tools, rare coins, pottery, weapons, artefacts, ancient bricks and ceramics. The tools discovered were designed to hunt large wild animals. The discovery will help in understanding migration and subsequent colonisation of this part of India.

AWARD CEREMONY



Governor Ganeshi Lal distributes prizes at the Rajya Puraskar Utsav organised by Odisha State Bharat Scouts & Guides at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Call for inclusion of independent expert in SIT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: A few days after the state government constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the death and recovery of skeletal remains of elephants from the Athagarh forest division in Cuttack, Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO) and Animal Welfare Trust Ekamra (AWTE) have urged the Forest department to include an independent expert in the SIT, an official said Saturday.

While thanking the state government for constituting the SIT, WSO secretary Biswajit Mohanty and AWTE secretary Purabi Patra, in their letter, urged the

JUMBO DEATH



WSO secretary Biswajit Mohanty and AWTE secretary Purabi Patra urged Forest department to include an independent expert in the SIT as it would "help ensure transparency" in the probe

Forest, Environment and Climate Change department to include an independent expert in the SIT as, according to them, it would help ensure transparency in the probe process.

"We thank you for setting up a

three-member SIT to probe the death and recovery of skeletal remains of elephants from the Athagarh forest division in Cuttack. As the SIT comprises only government officials, we request you to include an independent expert in the

team to rule out possible partiality in the probe," said Mohanty.

On choosing the expert, Patra said the state government should pick a person with substantial expertise in wildlife crime detection for the purpose. The person should have not received any state government funds in the past as grant or aid either in his personal capacity or through his affiliated organisation.

"If you agree, we're happy to suggest a suitable name for your kind consideration to ensure a fair probe," added Patra.

According to sources, the SIT, led by the chief conservator of forests, will submit its probe report within a month.

WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY

Experts urge state to intensify awareness

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 18: Sickle cell disease (SCD), an inherited blood disorder, continues to remain a public health challenge in India. Characterised by repeated episodes of debilitating pain, it can lead to serious health complications including pneumonia, blood-stream infections, stroke, and acute and chronic pain.

India is estimated to have the second-highest burden of SCD after Nigeria. It is estimated that there may be 18 million SCT and 1.4 million SCD patients among the tribal population. Moreover, before reaching the age of two, 20 per cent of tribal children with sickle cell disease die, and 30 per cent of children die before reaching adulthood.

Odisha is one of the hubs for the disease with an average frequency of SCD being 9.1 per cent in the state while the average in India remains 4.3 per cent. The state government, being aware of the large disease burden, has been running a Sickle Cell Project in the state. The project, which was launched in 2018, ran on a pilot basis in four districts in its first year of implementation and 15 more districts the following year. As per the detailed roadmap, school students from Class 8 onwards were screened and those detected with the disease were provided treatment. Simultaneously, awareness campaigns were intensified in the districts to increase timely diagnosis and treatment.

Despite the high disease burden in the state, people still believe the disease impacts a certain social stratum. HOD Hematology at SCB Medical College Rabindra Kumar Jena, while sharing his views on SCD, said, "People associate this disease with certain sections of society. But, due to the current initiatives



Odisha is one of the hubs for the disease with an average frequency of SCD at 9.1 per cent, much higher than the national average of 4.3

being taken by the state, we see a difference. More people are coming in seeking screening and treatment. I believe we are on the right path but there is need for more awareness as people still come in at a much later stage."

Vaso-occlusive crises (VOC) are a common complication of sickle cell disease and occur when blood vessels in a part of the body become blocked by sickled red blood cells. VOC may lead to excruciating pain that might last up to a week, anaemia, organ damage, and early mortality, Jena said. "It is difficult to predict the frequency of these pain episodes as it varies from patient to patient. SCD also has a significant impact on pregnant women who often suffer from anaemia."

Gautam Dongre, Secretary, National Alliance, Sickle Cell Organizations (NASCO) said that timely detection, screening, and appropriate treatment are the biggest challenges in tackling SCD. India drafted a national-level policy in 2018 that outlines guidelines on the prevention and control of haemoglobinopathies that include sickle cell disease along with hemophilia and thalassemia. The policy is yet to be implemented. Once it is implemented at the national level, it will gradually be adopted at the state level, he added.



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar visits a photo exhibition on the 1866 Great Odisha Famine jointly organised by Cuttack Club and INTACH, Saturday

REVISITING ROUGH DAYS

Psychosocial stress, anxiety can be reduced by virtual training

Although designed for entertainment, IVR has attracted interest from the academic community because of its potential use for clinical purposes, since it allows the user to experience a virtual world through a virtual body

Virtual training among several people may reduce psychosocial stress and anxiety, a new study suggests.

The study indicates that physical exercise benefits our overall well-being. But for some - such as neurological patients, people suffering from cardiovascular disease, and hospitalised patients -

physical exercise is not feasible, or even too dangerous. However, similar effects may be brought about using Immersive Virtual Reality (IVR).

"While a moderate amount of exposure to stress might be beneficial, repeated and increased exposure can be detrimental to our health," said researcher Dalila Burin

Despite initially designed for entertainment, IVR has attracted interest from the academic community because of its potential use for clinical purposes, since it allows the user to experience a virtual world through a virtual body.

In a previous study, the team found that looking at a moving virtual body displayed in first-person perspective induces physiological changes. Heart rates increased/decreased coherently



with the virtual movements, even though the young participants remained still. Consequently, acute cognitive and neural benefits occurred, just like after real physical activity.

In a follow-up study, the same

benefits were also found on healthy elderly subjects after 20-minute sessions occurring twice a week for six weeks.

In the current study, published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public

Health, the researchers explored the effect on stress, adding another

level to the beneficial effects of virtual training. Young healthy subjects, while sitting still, experienced a virtual training displayed from the first-person perspective, creating the illusion of ownership over movements

The results showed a decreased psychosocial stress response and lower levels of anxiety after the virtual training, comparable to what happens after real exercise

level to the beneficial effects of virtual training.

Young healthy subjects, while sitting still, experienced a virtual training displayed from the first-person perspective, creating the illusion of ownership over movements.

The avatar ran at 6.4 km/h for 30 minutes. Before and after the virtual training, the researchers induced and assessed the psychosocial stress response by measuring the salivary alpha-amylase - a crucial biomarker indicating the levels of neuroendocrine stress. Similarly, they distributed a subjective questionnaire for anxiety.

The results showed a decreased psychosocial stress response as well as lower levels of anxiety after the virtual training, comparable to what happens after real exercise.

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Man awarded 10-yr RI for raping minor

Baripada, June 18: Adjudicating a case of rape committed in June 2015, additional district session-cum-POCSO judge Sumita Jena of Baripada, sentenced 10 years of rigorous imprisonment to an accused, Saturday. The convict was identified as Sukura Singh (40). Besides, the court has imposed a penalty of ₹13,000 on the convict with a ruling that if he fails to realise the penalty, he would undergo an additional four months of imprisonment. The judge also directed the district legal services authority to provide a compensation of ₹4 lakh to the victim. According to the case diary, the minor girl of Jharpokharia area in Mayurbhanj was abducted by the accused June 27, 2015. He took her to a desolate place, forcibly made her drink liquor and raped her. As the victim raised an alarm, locals rushed to her rescue. She was admitted to a nearby hospital. On June 30, she lodged a complaint at the police station.

MOCK DRILL



Fire personnel participated in a mock drill as part of preparations for natural disasters in Boipariguda of Koraput district, Saturday

Man hacked to death, neighbour critical

Simulia, June 18: Miscrants brutally hacked a man to death while another youth was rescued in critical condition around 20-feet from the murder site near Ria village under Simulia tehsil in Balasore district, Friday night. The deceased was identified as Pradip Kumar Nayak alias Balia, 35, a driver by profession and the critically injured youth as his neighbour Prabhas Kumar Jena, 28. The miscrants hacked the neck and head of Pradip with sharp-edged weapons and also broke his limbs. Locals suspect that Pradip returned from duty at around 2 am and the killing might have taken place within 3 am. Police along with a scientific team and sniffer dogs launched an investigation. Pradip's slipper and motorbike were also recovered from the site. His family members claimed that Pradip would usually spend some time in open ground near their home after returning from duty due to the blistering heat and then retire to home. The other youth Prabhas Kumar Jena was rescued in critical condition from a creek around 20 feet from the crime scene. Prabhas is the neighbour of the deceased. Prabhas, working in Bangalore had returned home for Raja festival. He was found lying unconscious and admitted to private hospital in Cuttack after his rescue. His bike was found overturned and lying broken near the murder site. Police failed to get any clue from Prabhas as he was found unconscious when rescued. Police is trying to ascertain whether Prabhas met with an accident after noticing the body of Pradip in a pool of blood or the miscrants also attacked him. Police said that the actual reason and connection behind these two incidents could be ascertained after the probe gets completed.

Anti-Agnipath stir fans out in state

Berhampur, June 18: An aspirant for an Armed Forces job ran 60 km in Nabarangpur as a mark of his opposition to 'Agnipath' Friday and a large number of agitators sat in dharna near the Revenue Divisional Commissioner's office in Berhampur in Ganjam district as protests against the scheme spread in state. The agitators at Berhampur, including many who cleared the physical tests held earlier, raised slogans demanding withdrawal of the 'Agnipath' initiative and demanded at least 15 years of service in the Armed Forces instead of four after selection. The demonstration was completely peaceful as the administration had made elaborate security arrangement keeping in view the violent agitation in different states. An agitator Dilip Kumar Nahaka



said, "I have already spent three years in NCC and got its A, B and C certificates. Many like me have also spent two years preparing for the defence service. Now the government is saying that our tenure will be for only four years." Besides many of the agitators have already crossed the present upper age limit of 23 years as de-

KIN BEGGING TO CONDUCT MAN'S FUNERAL RITES

NHRC directs admin, SP for re-investigation

Kendrapara, June 18: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) directed the district administration and SP for a re-probe in the matter of family members of a man resorting to begging to perform his post death rituals following his suicide, Thursday. Rejecting the reports submitted by the Collector and SP, the rights body directed for a re-probe in the case and to submit the report before it within a period of four weeks. It is alleged that family members of Rabindra

jail. He however, failed in his bid following which he committed suicide in Bangalore, his widow Geetanjali said. The family being poor, failed to arrange money to conduct his post-death rituals and allegedly resorted to begging to perform the obsequies. On being informed, a rights activist Pratap Mohanty of Talasanga village under Marshaghai block filed a petition before the National Human Rights Commission demanding its intervention. The district administration rejected the claim of family being poor and stated that they had sufficient money to conduct the rituals. During hearing, Mohanty opposed the report submitted by the district administration, following which the rights body directed to conduct a re-probe and submit a fresh report before it.



Mallick of Achyutpur village under Rajkanika block in Kendrapara allegedly resorted to begging following his suicide. Reports said that a massive agitation was launched in this block protesting lifting of water from Kharasrota river for supply as drinking water to neighbouring Bhadrak district in 2021. Rabindra's two siblings were arrested during the agitation for which the former who was working in Bangalore left for home to get his brothers released from

Man slits wife's throat suspecting infidelity

Belpada, June 18: A woman sustained critical injuries after her husband allegedly slit her throat with a blade in a murder bid suspecting her fidelity at Bahabal village under Belpada police limits in Bolangir district, Saturday. The injured was identified as Hemalata Bag, wife of Sudhir Bag of Kanut under Tushra block. The incident occurred when Sudhir reached Bahabal village and sneaked into his brother-in-law's house where Hemalata was staying. He slit Hemalata's throat when she was fast asleep. The woman was rescued by her brother's family members and admitted to Bolangir DHH. However, no complaint was lodged till the last report came in. Locals said Hemalata, a native of Sibatala, had married Sudhir of Kanut village 10 years ago. The relationship between the couple turned sour after Sudhir started suspecting her fidelity. Later, the couple reconciled. Soon Sudhir learnt that his wife is in love with a youth of his village with whom she had eloped for some days. Enraged, Sudhir beat up his wife following which his family members dropped Hemalata at her brother's house.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION-I, SAMBALPUR
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No. SE/R&B/SBP/14/2022-23
E-mail: exeengsbp@rediffmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0663-2548013
No. 4240 Dated: 16.06.2022
1. The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.-I, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Road & Building Works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No. of Works : 06 (Six)
3. Tender Cost : Rs. 6,000/-, Rs. 4000/- & Rs. 2000/- (Online)
4. Class of Contractor : "C" & "B" and "D" & "C" Class Contractor
5. Date and time of available in Website & receipt of Bids : 17.00 hrs. of 24.06.2022 to 11.00 hrs. of 02.07.2022
6. Date of Opening of Tender : 02.07.2022 at 11.30 hrs.
7. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website.
8. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.-I
OIPR-34112/11/0005/2223

Aspirant runs 60 kilometre in protest

Umerkote: Naresh Biswas, a youth from Nabarangpur district, who has cleared the physical test and is waiting for the written examination to enter the defence services, ran 60 km from Nabarangpur town to the Biju Patnaik Stadium at Umerkote in the district during the day. "I request the aspirants not to indulge in violence. There are other ways of registering protest"

I request the aspirants not to indulge in violence. There are other ways of registering protest
NARESH BISWAS | DEFENCE JOB ASPIRANT

Lukewarm response to govt schemes on poultry, goat rearing

Khaira, June 18: Schemes and programmes aimed at reducing unemployment and boost income generation for farmers have remained non-starter and failed to gain traction among the youths and women due to lack of proper awareness and publicity as well as stringent conditions governing their implementation. Two schemes for poultry and goat farming by the Animal Husbandry department in Khaira block of Balasore are cases in this point. The two schemes were launched in this block in 2021-22. However, the authorities have failed to implement them successfully. The unemployed youths and women except filing their applications are yet to receive any assistance under the two schemes. Reports said that the poultry scheme has provision of sanctioning loans to raise broiler and layer varieties of chickens. A farm having 500 broiler chickens is sanctioned ₹1.80 lakh. The beneficiaries get ₹72,000 as subsidies. They have to spend ₹28,000 on construction of the farm and the rest of the money for buying the chicks. Similarly, ₹7.59 lakh is sanctioned by the government for a farm capable to rear 1,000 layer birds. Funds worth ₹3.3 lakh is disbursed in three phases to the ben-

LACK OF AWARENESS



eficiary. Out of the sanctioned funds, ₹90,000 has to be spent on construction of the farm and the rest amount for buying chicks. The response has been lukewarm as only 28 applicants applied for broiler farms while only three applied for layer farms. The scheme has ample provision to make members of women self-help groups (SHGs) self-reliant. The loan amount is ₹3.60,000 for establishment of farm having 1000 layer chicks. The beneficiaries get subsidies of ₹1.44 lakh. The scheme on goat farming is also alluring. Loan to the tune of ₹2.30 lakh is sanctioned for establishing a farm to rear 32 goats. The beneficiary is provided ₹1.15 lakh as subsidy. The scheme has been launched since 2021-22 but only 14 groups have applied for loans so far. Farmer leader Biswanath Sindhya of Dungura area attributed the lukewarm response to the schemes to lack of proper awareness and publicity.

Officials, villagers confront over mega drinking water proj

Bhograi, June 18: The people of Abhaymahal under Bhograi block in Balasore have strongly opposed a mega drinking water project and demanded its shifting elsewhere, Saturday. The villagers and officials of the administration almost came to a confrontation. They villagers have resolved not to spare their land for the project. Locals have grabbed land in the areas and set up various farms. Reports said, the administration had tried to evict the encroachers from the area October 29, 2021 to make space for the ₹212 crore drinking water project. The villagers had then opposed it. Later, the villagers intensified their agitation and since then, they have been demanding shifting of the project. Given the aggressive attitude of the villagers, the administration could not dare to carry out the eviction. After a hiatus of 8 months, the Bhograi tehsildar, officials of a construction farm accompanied by a platoon of police tried to evict people Friday evening. The eviction bid was opposed by locals. There were confrontation between the livid villagers and the officials. Police had tried to lathicharge the mob, but had to cringe back on seeing the tense situation. The administration could not carry out the eviction. The villagers again started their agitation from Saturday.



Indian Bank ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR, 2ND FLOOR, SHYAM ARCADE, KHETRAJAPUR, SAMBALPUR - 768003, e-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property /ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)
Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)
Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.
BOLANGIR BRANCH - 1.
Mob.: 9437065861 / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagees
Description of the Immovable Properties
Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Outstanding dues (As per 13(2) notice)
Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
Date & Time of E-Auction
Borrowers/Mortgagees: 1) M/s. Transformational Biotics Pvt Ltd., Registered Office at Plot No.: 824/1830, Sampur, Ghatikia, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, PIN -751003, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, 2) Mr. Santanu Kumar Chakra (Executive Director), S/o: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Chakra, Plot No.: N-2/119, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-751015, 3) Mr. Subrat Kumar Chakra (Director), S/o: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Chakra, At/P.O.: Dukura, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha-757075 / Guarantor / Mortgagee: Mr. Lokanath Nayak, S/o: Late Rajkishor Nayak, Plot No.: 824/1830, Sampur, Ghatikia, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751003, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha
Property - 1 : All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of M/s. Transformational Biotics Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar, at Mouza-Sulekela, Tahasil: Belpada having Plot No.: 1914/3176, Admeasuring Area: Ac.1.53Dec., Plot No.: 1915/3174, Admeasuring Area: Ac.0.50 Dec., Plot No.: 1916/3175, Admeasuring Area: Ac.0.20 Dec. and Plot No.: 1917/3177, Admeasuring Area: Ac.2.40 Dec., All the four plots are under Khatian No.: 344/388, Bounded by East: Prasanna Mallick, West: Road, North: Gopal Barge, South: Prasanna Mallick.
Property - 2 : All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mr. Lokanath Nayak, Drawing Plot No.: 623, Drawing No.: B-372, Revenue Plot No.: 42/1694(pt), Admeasuring Area: 3750 Sq.ft. under Khata No.: 443 (Anabadi), Mouza: Ghatikia, P.S.: Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Sub-Registrar: Khandagiri, Registration District: Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 622, West: Plot No.: 624, North: Road and South: Plot No.: 614.
DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 20.07.2022 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 19.07.2022 upto 05.30 PM by online
Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 08.07.2022 between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses
TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and <https://ibapi.in>. prospective bidders may also contact the Authorized Officers / Branch no. as mentioned in above list. 2) This is a 30 days' notice to the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date. 3) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/ conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 4) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 5) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.
Borrower/Mortgagee are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.
Place: Sambalpur Date: 18.06.2022 Sd./-Authorised Officer Indian Bank

FOCUS WELFARE

WHAT REALLY MATTERS



In India, 71 per cent of the population cannot afford a nutritious diet, while the government and the World Bank's official poverty estimates range from 13 per cent to 22 per cent

These need to be conducted on a regular basis everywhere, with the requisite financial and technical resources provided to countries that need them.

Gender-based analysis of time-use data is critical for understanding people's social and material conditions. It shows the extent to which people experience time poverty, which is far more prevalent among women and the poor. Time-use indicators also reveal the extent to which people provide unpaid labour for society, especially care services that are otherwise unrecognised and unvalued.

A fourth crucial indicator, vital in dealing with ongoing climate change and its implications, is per capita carbon dioxide emissions. While this metric does not capture all of the environmental effects of human activity, the carbon footprint (measured in terms of total consumption, not production) may closely track other environmental indicators, including those measuring pollution and depletion of nature.

Here, policymakers must also pay attention to distributive fairness. The ratio of the top 10 per cent of the population's per capita CO2 emissions to those of the bottom half has increased in most countries. Even more strikingly, the per capita CO2 emissions of the richest 1 per cent of the global population have increased dramatically and are now set to be 30 times greater than the level compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius by 2030.

If all countries tracked these four indicators regularly, we would have a very different view of comparative economic performance from the one that emerges from simplistic measures of per capita or aggregate GDP. And public awareness of this revised view of reality could well mobilise support for fundamental different policies at the national and international level.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
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Despite the well-known problems with using gross domestic product as an indicator of human development, policymakers around the world still seem to be obsessed with it. Governments seek to promote GDP growth through all possible means, often regardless of the wider consequences for the planet and the distribution of rewards. The current focus on quarterly growth reflects a particularly unhealthy short-term perspective. And yet the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral organisations refer to GDP in all assessments of economic performance and make it the sole focus of their forecasts.

But the concept of GDP is deeply flawed. Aggregate or per capita figures are obviously blind to the distribution of income, and GDP is increasingly unable to measure either quality of life or the sustainability of any particular system of production, distribution, and consumption.

Moreover, because GDP in most countries captures only market transactions, it excludes a significant amount of goods and services produced for personal or household consumption. By making market pricing the chief determinant of value, irrespective of any activity's social value, GDP massively undervalues what many now recognise (especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic) as essential services relating to the care economy.

GDP correspondingly overvalues activities, goods, and services that are priced higher because of the oligopolistic structure of markets—financial services being a particularly telling example. The obsession with economic growth, independent of other indicators of well-being, leads to problematic assessments of the actual performance of economies and to poor policy decisions and outcomes.

That is why there is now much more discussion within the United Nations and its Statistical Commission about moving beyond GDP. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has repeatedly stressed that GDP is no longer the

correct way to measure "richness," and argues that it is "time to collectively commit to complementary measurements."

This challenge was taken up by the UN's High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs (I am a member), which recently issued a compendium that considers six big questions relevant to achieving a just and sustainable recovery. One important recommendation involves suggesting alternatives to GDP that national policymakers and international organisations should track on a regular basis. The idea is to provide a dashboard that captures some of the key socioeconomic variables that policymakers should monitor and that should be used to judge their performance.

What are these alternative measures? One is a labour-market indicator: the median wage multiplied by the employment rate. The median wage is a better indicator of the conditions faced by most workers than the average (mean) wage, which can be overly influenced by high remuneration at the top. And the employment rate is a useful indicator not only of the state of demand in the labour market, but also of the extent of unpaid labour typically performed mostly by women (since the greater their involvement in such work, the less likely they are to be able to en-

gage in paid employment).

In the United States and the United Kingdom, for example, my estimates suggest that per capita GDP dramatically outperformed the labour-market indicator in the period from 2009 to 2020, with a widening gap between the two. In India, the two measures actually moved in different directions, with the labour-market indicator declining even as per capita GDP increased.

Another alternative metric is the proportion of the population that can afford a nutritious diet (according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation's definition). This indicator is likely to become even more important as the global food crisis worsens, and it does not necessarily move in line with income poverty. In India, for example, 71 per cent of the population cannot afford a nutritious diet, while the government and the World Bank's official poverty estimates range from 13 per cent to 22 per cent.

The third measure is a time-use indicator, disaggregated by gender. This is particularly useful for capturing the incidence of unpaid care work, which is still largely performed by women. This measure shows the distribution of time between paid work, unpaid work, and personal leisure and relational time. Many countries now undertake time-use surveys.



Jayati Ghosh

THE OBSESSION WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH, INDEPENDENT OF OTHER INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, LEADS TO PROBLEMATIC ASSESSMENTS OF THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE OF ECONOMIES AND TO POOR POLICY DECISIONS AND OUTCOMES



Aakar Patel

One sign that the government knew that there was going to be a problem was that the prime minister did not announce or inaugurate the scheme

The fly that touches honey cannot use its wings; so too the soul that clings to spiritual sweetness ruins its freedom and hinders contemplation.

SRI AUROBINDO



At It Again

On the Agniveer issue, the government has again acted first and contemplated the consequences later. What was meant to be an experiment and affecting only a small portion of the recruitment suddenly replaced the existing process entirely. The tweaking of the scheme on the fly first allowing those over 21 to apply this year and then announcing a reservation scheme for jobless Agniveers in the paramilitaries tells us that those who thought up the scheme had not thought it through.

The violence was almost predictable. Earlier this year, similar incidents broke out in the same areas when the process for recruitment for railways was messed up. This time those training to appear for recruitment in the armed forces and made to wait for two years (at the risk of their becoming too old to qualify) because of the pandemic were now told that the scheme they trained for was over. They would not be hired as their fathers and ancestors had been in the army, with the dignity of retirement and being referred to forever as a fauji. They would be on contract and most of them sent home in four years. This is not what they had trained for. The government is blaming the Opposition for the episodes of violence but there is no credibility in this accusation.

One sign that the government knew that there was going to be a problem was that the prime minister did not announce or inaugurate the scheme. It was the defence minister and the service chiefs who were sent out to sell it. Narendra Modi's faithful will say there is nothing wrong with it and in fact that is the way it ought to be announced. Yes, but that is not the way things have been happening since 2014. On anything of import, it is one individual who comes before the cameras to say that great and new things are in the offing. To undo a tradition of recruitment that is 225 years old and replace it overnight is the kind of masterstroke that only Modi gets to announce.

And so Agniveer joins the farm laws and the CAA and demonetisation and the lockdown on the list of things that the government announces first and then thinks about later. The question is will it end up as the farm laws and CAA which were either pulled back or shelved because of resistance. In my opinion, the Agniveer scheme will go through and that is essentially because this sort of violent protest does not last long and the young men currently expressing their anger will eventually be spent and return home. We have seen violence on the issue of jobs before, for example during the Patidar Andolan in 2015. What seemed to be initially a mass movement in a few days petered out and in fact none of their demands for reservation or jobs was fully met. It has been only the peaceful, long-term mass-mobilisations such as in the case of the CAA and the farm laws that have seen victory. It would have been better for the young men angry at being short-changed by the Agniveer scheme to have approached this peacefully and with the long term in view. But they did not have organised leadership and as such are not a formal group.

The thing is that unemployment and joblessness are a personally felt shame. It is not easy to mobilise a set of people who identify with others as a group that cannot get work. Even if they do come together, as they have twice this year, it tends to be to express their extreme emotion and distress at being let down instead of gritting their teeth and organising a peaceful agitation. For this reason, I think that quite soon this particular episode will be behind us and the government will be able to push the Agniveer scheme through. Others, more knowledgeable than me, have written about the pros and cons of the scheme, but for the person willing to listen to both arguments it is clear that the cons are catastrophic in nature while the pros are purely about spending less money.

The last thing to note here is that while mobilisation on unemployment is not easy, the problem is deep and will not go away. Data that the government released this month from the Periodic Labour Force Survey shows that India is shedding jobs instead of adding them. A full 17 per cent of those who are 'employed' today are in the unpaid household worker category, meaning that they are housewives. For the first time in history, India has seen people move away from manufacturing and services and into agriculture. Economists believe that this increase is a proxy for joblessness. Meaning that those who have returned back to the village from jobs in the city are claiming to be farming because they are too embarrassed to say that they are not working at all (again, the shame of joblessness).

In all, there is no difference between the government's data and that of the private firm CMIE, which says that the number of Indians over 15 who are working or looking for work is around 40 crore people. The rate of participation is the lowest in South Asia and among the lowest in the world. There are no jobs in New India and the anger over army recruitment is emblematic of a much larger problem.

WISDOM CORNER

The real question is not whether life exists after death. The real question is whether you are alive before death.

OSHO

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

NELSON MANDELA

There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

WORDSWORTH

Thwart

Thwart is strictly speaking Middle English. However, an equivalent word did exist in Old English, thweorh, transverse, perverse, angry or cross. It seems to have died out and the adverb thwart was reintroduced from the related Old Norse thvert. It's from an ancient Indo-European root that's shared by Latin torquere, to twist. In English an early sense was of something transverse or crosswise. The early evidence is pretty sparse — it doesn't seem to have been especially common — so the way it developed isn't altogether clear. Early on, though, the idea developed of something that lay or was put across the way, so hindering or obstructing one's progress. Another early sense, recorded around 1250, was one borrowed from Germanic languages of a person who was figuratively obstructive or cross-grained — awkward, obstinate or stubborn. The verb, which appeared about the same time, first meant to oppose or hinder. Our modern sense, to successfully oppose another person's intentions, appeared near the end of the sixteenth century. The story of the boat thwart is curious. The basic idea is clear enough: that the seat was across the boat, placed from side to side or transversely. But the sense only appeared in the early eighteenth century. Before that, the seat was a thwart (from an ancient root meaning to squat), which changed in the seventeenth century into a form that was spelled as thought, thought or thwart. By the eighteenth century it seems this word had become unfamiliar enough that speakers assumed the "correct" form was thwart.

SPECTRUM MULTILATERALISM

Today's crises are different

Just as one generation gives way to the next, global challenges are superseded by a new cohort. The once-in-a-century pandemic — and the risk that other dangerous new viruses may emerge at any time — is far from the only example. Extreme weather events resulting from climate change are having catastrophic consequences. Information technology and data are sometimes used maliciously or for cyberwarfare. Even today's surging food prices and rising global hunger can be traced to a failure to disseminate open-source technologies.

We seemingly live in a permanent state of danger. Crises are no longer isolated tail-risk events that affect a few. They are much more frequent, multidimensional, and interdependent, and — because they transcend national borders — have the potential to affect everyone simultaneously. Solutions to these problems depend on the availability of global public goods, but the current international system is unable to provide a sufficient supply. We need major coordinated investments in pandemic preparedness and response, for example, or to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, because no individual country's actions will resolve today's crises, much less prevent new ones.

A rethink of the way multilateralism works is imperative. The postwar international financial architecture was designed to support national governments so that they could provide national public goods. The priority now is to think about the new institutions required to provide public goods that transcend national borders.

The overlapping nature of current crises makes an even stronger case for a new framework. Greater frequency of extreme weather events, such as flooding and droughts, heighten the risk of infectious and water-borne diseases. Rising average temperatures and altered rainfall patterns are reducing the potential yield of staple crops that are crucial for food security — an essential component of good health. In 2010-19, the proportion of the global land surface suffering extreme drought in any month reached 22%, up from 13% in 1950-99.

Previous emergencies, like the global financial crisis of 2008-09 or the Asian and Latin American financial crisis of the late 1990s, were essentially economic in nature, resulting from the excessive accumulation of financial risks. The solutions were in the hands of central bankers and finance ministers. They included new financial regulations and fiscal and monetary policies to restore

lost employment and output.

Today's crises, in contrast, are interdependent and truly global in scope, with a potentially much greater impact. What is distinctive is that solutions no longer depend exclusively on the competence of national economic authorities. Addressing them effectively requires leadership and action between governments around the world. One example of this approach is the proposed Global Health Threats Council. The early detection of pandemic threats and the development of herd immunity against known pathogens is a classic case of a non-rival and non-excludable global public good.

But taxpayers in individual countries lack the incentives to provide goods whose benefits are enjoyed globally. Moreover, we cannot expect official development assistance (ODA) or philanthropy to do the job. The numbers simply don't add up. ODA totaled \$180 billion last year; with private donors adding a few billion more. But global public goods require trillions of dollars. Moreover, aid budgets are too cyclical, and priorities shift. But what seems urgent and politically appealing does not always coincide with what is important, which should be the focus of global public goods.

That is why we need to intro-

duce a new multilateral system. Ideally, its main elements should mirror the tools used to provide national public goods: taxation, incentives, and accountability. Since global public goods require significant and stable financing, we should focus on building global fiscal capacity, universally funded on an ability-to-pay basis. Leadership at the national level is of course also required to ensure an adequate cross-government and cross-sectoral response.

The world is unprepared to cope with the new generation of crises. Rather than focusing only on deficiencies in one particular area when a crisis hits, we need to understand why we are systematically bad at producing the global public goods that all these new crises require. Unless we address this issue, specific gaps will continue to appear. If another pandemic threat were to emerge tomorrow, for example, we would be no better prepared than we were for COVID-19.

The current climate, health, and food crises should trigger the global collaboration needed to tackle such threats. If they don't, it is fair to ask what would.

The writer is a former finance minister of Colombia.
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Mauricio Cárdenas

THE CURRENT CLIMATE, HEALTH, AND FOOD CRISES SHOULD TRIGGER THE GLOBAL COLLABORATION NEEDED TO TACKLE SUCH THREATS

Recurring problem

Sir, The flood problem in Assam is aggravating with each passing year. It has seen new heights of destruction and havoc. It seems that the people in power want something to discuss every year about the flood problem and they actually do not want to solve it as it would mean that they would not have the flood as an agenda in their elections. The state government's proposal to the Centre to declare the flood problem in Assam a national problem has gathered dust over the years. Discussions and solution searching over the years have only muddied the waters. It is time to work on some of those solutions, like dredging which can increase the water retention capacity. The Centre in 2017 announced a ₹400 crore package to work on the dredging of the Brahmaputra but this has not yet seen the light of the day. There was also a plan to create a 725-km expressway using the dredged up soil, a ₹40,000 crore project which sounds too good to be true. River linking is another solution that can be worked out but this too has implications as water disputes among states will be inevitable. I urge all the states to come up and help Assam solve this problem once and for all.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR (ASSAM)

Opportunity for Opposition

Sir, This refers to 'Gopalkrishna, Farooq lack personality for Prez. Sena', Orissa POST, June 18. The Presidential election is an important opportunity for the Opposition to galvanise itself ahead of the big political battle in 2024. The Presidential election is not merely about victory and defeat. It creates an opportunity for the Opposition to talk about the government's performance during the campaign. The Congress and other Opposition parties badly need this opportunity because of the shrinking media space for their voice in the Narendra Modi regime. A contest also bolsters the impression that the government faces opposition and its supremacy is not unchallenged. In this election, though the BJP has a clear edge, the victory is not fully assured without the support of friendly parties. The shortfall of a 1 per cent vote can enable the Opposition to put up a credible challenge. What is perhaps more critical is the Opposition unity. Even a joint Opposition is not enough; only an expanded Opposition with the inclusion of parties like SP, TRS, Shiv Sena, YSRCP and BJD can challenge the BJP.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Those who are responsible for introducing gangster culture in the state are today making hue and cry over it
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

NEW ROLE

The All India Congress Committee Saturday appointed Senior Congress leader Pawan Khera as the Chairman of Media and Publicity in the new communication department. He has been appointed with immediate effect



of the day quote

Modi Ji's suit-boot friends are now hiding more wealth in foreign accounts than ever before



MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS LEADER

Projects with investments of ₹92,000 crore are at various stages of implementation in public and private sectors in the state



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Officials must expedite work on the water scheme and ensure that there are no roadblocks



UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

US currency seized in Chennai

Chennai: US dollars, amounting ₹34.76 lakh, was seized from three women bound for Colombo from Chennai International Airport, Customs officials said Friday. The three woman passengers were intercepted by the Air Intelligence Unit officials and on being searched, the US dollars in the \$100 denominations were found concealed on their person, the Commissioner of Customs, Chennai International Airport, said in a statement. The foreign currency was seized under the Customs Act, 1962.

Illegal firearms syndicate busted

New Delhi: The Crime Branch of Delhi Police has busted an interstate illegal firearms and ammunition syndicate and also recovered a huge cache of firearms, an official said Saturday. Sharing details, DCP (crime branch) Amit Goel, said information was received regarding movements and activities of arms supplier Nitin alias Bagadi alias Kalu and his associate Mustaq having illegal arms and being used by gangsters to commit crime in Delhi-NCR. "Nitin and Mustaq are arms facilitators of shooters of Deepak Boxer Gang," Goel said.

5 dead, 36 injured in road accident

Bhopal: At least five people were killed and 36 injured after a mini-truck carrying a marriage party overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district. Driver of the speedily driven mini-truck, carrying around 50 people, lost control over the vehicle at a u-turn, due to which it overturned late Friday night, police said. "Four people died on the spot while one succumbed to his injuries during treatment at a hospital. However, the driver of the vehicle and the groom are safe," the police added.

Explosive device defused in J&K

Srinagar: Security forces Saturday detected and defused an explosive device in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. Sources said an explosive device was detected by the troops of 30 Rashtriya Rifles on Baramulla-Handwara road in the morning.

Maoist surrenders

Lohardaga: A Maoist, who had a bounty of ₹1 lakh on him, surrendered before the security forces in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district Saturday, police said. Jatru Kherwar alias Tana Kherwar, an 'area commander' of the banned CPI(Maoist), surrendered in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Waghmare Prasad Krishna, Superintendent of Police R Ramkumar and Commandant of 158th Battalion of CRPF Prabhat Kumar Sandwar.

Focus on genome sequencing: Centre to states on Covid surge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 18: States and Union territories have been asked to submit "larger number" of samples for whole genome sequencing from districts and areas which have seen a surge in COVID-19 cases over a period of seven days, official sources said Saturday.

The direction was issued during Friday's meeting by the INSACOG which reviewed the COVID-19 data to check the possibility of any new emerging variant or sub-variant and ascertain the reasons behind the breakthrough infections.

"The idea behind asking states and Union territories to send larger number of samples is to keep a closer watch over the current circulating sublineages of Omicron and its correlation to the current epidemiological picture," an official said. "Also, we want to see if we are missing out any important clues regarding newer sub-variants during routine sequencing through the sentinel surveillance," the official added.

As on date, 10 states and Union territories - Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat have over 1,000 cases.

"The last review meeting that there is no variant of concern in the country as of now. India now has BA.4 and BA.5 in addition to BA.2 which have slightly higher transmissibility as compared to other Omicron sub lineages," the official said.

The INSACOG is a joint initiative of the Department of Biotechnology under the ministries of science and technology, and health to carry out genome se-



The complacency among people towards following Covid-appropriate behaviour in addition to people not being enthusiastic about taking precaution doses possibly has increased the pool of susceptible population

Thirty-two districts in India including 11 from Kerala and five from Maharashtra are reporting a weekly Covid positivity rate of more than 10 per cent while in 35 districts including 9 from Delhi, the weekly positivity is between 5 and 10 per cent, sources said

quencing of the virus to understand how it spreads and evolves.

Thirty-two districts in India including 11 from Kerala and five from Maharashtra are reporting a weekly Covid positivity rate of more than 10 per cent while in 35 districts including 9 from Delhi, the weekly positivity is between 5 and 10 per cent, sources said.

India logged a single day rise

of 13,216 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,32,83,793, while the active cases have increased to 68,108, according to health ministry data updated on Saturday morning.

The death toll has climbed to 5,24,840 with 23 new fatalities. According to health experts although there is a rise in cases, there is no associated increase in hospitalisation or deaths.

Also, the increase is limited to a few districts. The complacency among people towards following Covid-appropriate behaviour in addition to people not being enthusiastic about taking precaution doses possibly has increased the pool of susceptible population.

In addition, there is an increased mobility due to summer holidays, easing of travel restrictions - both nationally and internationally - and full-fledged opening up of economic activities, because of which there is spread of infection among vulnerable individuals.

Jain denied bail

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 18: A court here Saturday rejected the bail application of Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who is under the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) since May 31, in an alleged money laundering case.

Special judge Geetanjali Goel rejected the bail plea. On June 14, the special CBI court in the national capital had reserved its order on the bail application after hearing the arguments of the ED and defence counsel.

A day earlier, the Minister's custody to the ED had been extended by two weeks. On May 31, a day after Jain's arrest, the same bench had sent him to the agency's custody till June 9 which was further extended to five days.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital after he complained of uneasiness while leaving the Rouse Avenue Court, just after the court hearing on June 9. The Minister was taken to the ED headquarters when he felt uneasy outside the court and was eventually hospitalised.



The CBI has accused Jain, his wife, and others of commission of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. On March 31, the ED provisionally attached immovable properties worth ₹4.81 crore belonging to companies beneficially owned and controlled by the Minister. The ED June 6 conducted raids at multiple locations belonging to Jain, his wife, and accomplices, who had either directly or indirectly assisted him or participated in the processes of money laundering.

Assam reels under floods, PM dials CM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 18: Assam reeled under devastating floods caused by incessant rain affecting nearly 31 lakh people in 32 districts, while eight more people lost their lives Saturday taking the toll to 63, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to take stock of the situation. The CM also visited a few relief camps sheltering affected people in Kamrup and Darrang districts. A total of 18.94 lakh people were affected in 28 districts of the state Friday.

The toll in the current second wave of floods and landslides in the state has increased to 63 as two deaths each were reported from Barpeta and Karimganj while one each died in Darrang, Hailakandi, Nalbari and Sonitpur districts. Eight people, including three children, were reported missing after a boat capsized in Hojai district Friday night. They are from the districts of Hojai, Bajali, West Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar and Tamulpur. Altogether 21 people were rescued there.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rang up the Chief Minister to enquire about the current flood sit-

uation in the state and assured him of all help from the Centre. Sarma visited the inundated Rangia town in Kamrup district, with state BJP president and local MLA Bhabesh Kalita. He also visited relief camps at Fatima Convent School and Kolajal where affected people have taken shelter.

Speaking to media persons, Sarma said that the district administration is ready to face any exigency and to help the flood-affected people. "The administration has been directed to ensure relief supplies and evacuate people from vulnerable areas to relief camps. The Army is ready to provide assistance and the deputy commissioners have been asked to take their help when required. NDRF and SDRF personnel are evacuating affected people to safer places," he said.

Polio immunisation drive begins today



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 18: The first Sub-National Immunisation Day for 2022 for administering Polio vaccine drops will be conducted from June 19 in 11 states and UTs, Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The states and UTs for Polio vaccine campaign will include Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

During the campaign, around 3.9 crore children less than 5 years of age are targeted to be given polio

drops through booth, house-to-house, mobile and transit teams.

To provide additional protection to children, the Union Government has also introduced the injectable Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine into its routine immunisation programme.

While India is making efforts to protect its children from more and more Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs) by introducing additional vaccines under the Universal Immunisation Program (UIP), it is important that all vaccines also reach every last child in the country, health ministry said.

The lessons learned and systems created under the National Polio Programme are being used to strengthen routine immunisation and achieve more than 90 per cent full immunisation coverage. State Governments and organisations have played a significant role not only in polio eradication but also in improving routine immunisation initiatives, the Ministry said.

Nearly 5mn in India internally displaced in 2021: UN

By the end of 2021, those displaced by war, violence, persecution, and human rights abuses stood at 89.3 million, up eight per cent on a year earlier and well over double the figure of 10 years ago, the report said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, June 18: Nearly five million people in India were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021, the United Nations has said in a report.

The annual Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) highlighted that globally 100 million people were forced to flee their homes last year due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine and other emergencies from Africa to Afghanistan.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

(IDMC), in 2021, there were 23.7 million new internal displacements globally due to disasters (these are in addition to those internally displaced due to conflict and violence). This represented a decrease of seven million, or 23 per cent, compared to the previous year, the report said.

"The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in China (6.0 million), the Philippines (5.7 million) and India (4.9 million). Most disaster displacements during the year were temporary," it said. The majority of the internally displaced persons returned to their home areas, but 5.9 million people worldwide remained displaced at the end of the year due to disasters, the report added.

The UN agency said that the number of people forced to flee their homes has increased every year over the past decade and stands at the highest level since records began, a trend that can be only reversed by a new, concerted push towards peacemaking.

By the end of 2021, those displaced by war, violence, persecution, and human rights abuses stood at



89.3 million, up eight per cent on a year earlier and well over double the figure of 10 years ago, the report said.

While the latest global trends report reflects the period of January 2021 to December 2021, the UN agency said it is impossible to ignore the developments that have happened in early 2022, including the Russian war against Ukraine.

"Since then, the Russian invasion of Ukraine - causing the fastest and one of the largest forced displacement crises since World War II - and other emergencies, from

Africa to Afghanistan and beyond, pushed the figure over the dramatic milestone of 100 million," the report said.

The report said that at the end of 2021, 89.3 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, including 27.1 million refugees, 21.3 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, 5.8 million Palestine refugees under United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's (UNRWA) mandate, 53.2 million internally displaced people, 4.6 million asylum seekers

and 4.4 million Venezuelans displaced abroad.

Asylum seekers submitted 1.4 million new claims. The United States of America was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications (188,900), followed by Germany (148,200), Mexico (132,700), Costa Rica (108,500) and France (90,200).

By May 2022, more than 100 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide by persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. "Every year of the last decade, the numbers have climbed," said United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. "Either the international community comes together to take action to address this human tragedy, resolve conflicts and find lasting solutions, or this terrible trend will continue."

Last year was notable for the number of conflicts that escalated and new ones that flared; 23 countries, with a combined population of 850 million, faced medium- or high-intensity conflicts, according to the World Bank.

CLEANING DRIVE



NCC cadets from all states clean Dal Lake amid rain, during Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat special national integration camp of NCC in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

Pragya Thakur threatened



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, June 18: BJP MP from Bhopal, Pragya Thakur has claimed to have received assassination threat over a phone call from unidentified caller posing as an aide of Dawood Ibrahim's brother - Iqbal Kaskar.

An audio clip has surfaced on social media where Thakur can be heard having a telephonic conversation with an unidentified caller. During the conversation, the caller warned Thakur that she would be assassinated for allegedly targeting Muslims.

In the viral audio clip in which Thakur talked with the unidentified caller (as claimed) for one-and-half minutes, she kept asking him why she should be assassinated. "Ok, you want to kill me, but let me know why you want to kill me?" Thakur is heard saying in the audio.

Modi to visit Bangalore and Mysore June 20, 21



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Karnataka during which he will be participating at various events in state capital Bangalore and Mysore, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said Saturday.

Among the key highlights of his upcoming visit are laying the foundation stone for Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project; inaugurating Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE); participating in the Yoga Day event; and visiting Chamundi hills and Suttur Mutt, a prominent Lingayat seminary.

"On June 20 and 21, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Bangalore and Mysore. We have got his programme schedule. All arrangements have been done for the smooth conduct of the programmes and all our leaders, legislators, ministers, officials and also police are working in coordination with the SPG," Bommai said.

SPG refers to the Special Protection Group which is a government agency responsible for the safety and protection of the Prime Minister.

Speaking to reporters after reviewing preparations at Kammaghatta where the Prime Minister will be addressing a public function, Bommai said PM Modi will be landing in Bangalore's



Yelahanka Airforce Station at 11.55 am June 20 and from there he will take a chopper to Air Force Command and further proceed to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), where he will be attending two events.

At IISc, PM Modi will be inaugurating the Brain Cell Development Centre, for which IT major Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan and family have donated ₹450 crore.

Also, the Prime Minister will be laying foundation for a 850-bed research hospital which is being set up by IT company Mindtree.

After IISc, the PM will be heading to Kammaghatta to lay the foundation stone for Bengaluru

Suburban Railway Project and inauguration or foundation stone for railway, road projects, and multi-modal logistic parks.

Stating that suburban railway is needed for Bangalore to connect the city to the outskirts, the CM said talks were going on for long regarding the ₹15,000 crore-worth project and a firm decision has been taken to start the work with the BJP government coming to power.

"It will be a big gift from Modiji to the people of Bangalore in areas where there is no metro connectivity on the outskirts," he said, adding that about six railway projects will be launched along with National Highway projects, and foundation will be

Among the key highlights of his upcoming visit are laying the foundation stone for Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project; inaugurating Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE); participating in the Yoga Day event; and visiting Chamundi hills and Suttur Mutt, a prominent Lingayat seminary

laid for Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) from Dobuspet to Hoskote.

Noting that the Prime Minister will subsequently be heading to Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE), where he will unveil the statue of Ambedkar and inaugurate BASE, Bommai said, he will be then traveling to Mysore to participate in several events.

He will also be visiting Chamundi hills to offer prayers to goddess Chamundeshwari, the reigning deity of Mysore and its royals, and will also pay a visit to Suttur Mutt, a prominent Lingayat seminary in the state.

On June 21, Modi will be participating in the Yoga Day event at the Palace premises in Mysore, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai added.

Centre to move SC on issue of ESZ around protected forests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 18: The Centre Saturday said it would be approaching the Supreme Court in connection with its order to create a one-kilometre eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around all wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in the wake of rising protests in the high ranges of Kerala against the apex court direction.

Responding to a query on the ongoing protest in Kerala over the apex court order, Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubeey said any verdict of the Supreme Court has to be accepted.

"We will be holding discussions with the Kerala government and we will file an affidavit in the Supreme Court. Whatever disquiet is there among people, that will be taken care of," the Union Minister told reporters here.

Expressing their anguish over the implications of the Supreme Court order, farmers in high range areas of the state had been holding various forms of protests including hartals for the past two weeks.

They were also urging the Centre and state governments to seek legal remedies to exclude human habitations from the one-km eco-sensitive zone around protected forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the southern state.

The state government has also said it would explore the legal options to take care of the livelihood options of the people living in such areas.

The apex court has recently issued a direction that each protected forest, including national

We will be holding discussions with the Kerala government and we will file an affidavit in the Supreme Court. Whatever disquiet is there among people. That will be taken care of

ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY | UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

parks and wildlife sanctuaries, must have an ESZ of one kilometre and banned mining activities within such parks across the nation.

The high range areas of the southern state, particularly areas in Idukki, Wayanad, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts, had been witnessing hartals by various political and farmers' groups against the order delivered June 3.

Issuing a slew of directions, a bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao had June 3 ordered that no permanent structure will be allowed within such ESZs and said if the local law or other rules provide for an ESZ of more than one kilometre then the earlier provision would continue to apply.

The SC order came on a batch of applications filed on a pending PIL of 1995 and they raised two sets of issues with the first one related to mining activities in and around Jamua Ramgarh, a wildlife sanctuary in Rajasthan.

The second set of issues was related to prescribing ESZs surrounding the wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

Yediyurappa gets bail in de-notification case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 18: A special court Saturday granted bail to former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in the Bellandur de-notification case.

Yediyurappa had appeared before the court here Friday regarding the case. His counsel had moved a petition seeking bail for the BJP strongman. The court had directed the prosecution to submit objections.

The petition against Yediyurappa was filed by Vasudeva Reddy, a resident of Bangalore, in 2013. He had alleged that Yediyurappa during his tenure as the Deputy Chief Minister had de-notified 4.30 acres of land which was acquired for IT Park by the Karnataka Area Industrial Development Board (KIADB).

Earlier, the Special Court in Bangalore had ordered the registration of a criminal case against the BJP strongman in March. The Special Judge B Jayantha Kumar had issued summons regarding the case lodged against him in 2013.

The judge had stated that there was sufficient material to register a special criminal case against the accused.

The court observed that the complainant had made a prima facie case against the accused. The notification has been done despite the opinion of Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) CEO, the law department, the Advocate General and the Additional Secretary (Mines) not to de-notify the land, the court had observed.

"It can't be said that Yediyurappa has done the de-notification in exercise of his lawful powers," the court said.

His bail comes as a big relief in the wake of the 2023 Assembly elections. Yediyurappa is throwing his weight behind his son Vijayendra and trying hard to secure a position in the party.

After the denial of ticket to Vijayendra for the MLC elections, Yediyurappa had announced that his son would contest elections.

A SHOT TEARING THROUGH



A policeman fires a tear gas shell to disperse Youth Congress activists protesting outside the Kerala Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram demanding the resignation of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the Kerala gold smuggling case, Saturday

ED issues notice to Swapna Suresh to appear June 22

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 18: The Kochi unit of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sent a notice to gold smuggling case main accused Swapna Suresh, to appear before it June 22.

Swapna had deposed before the magistrate court under Section 164 of the CrPC and had come out in the media that the Chief Minister and his family including his wife and daughter were involved in the smuggling racket.

She had given a secret statement before the court under Section 164 which was accessed by the Enforcement Directorate. The ED has now served notice to Swapna Suresh on the basis of this 27-page statement. The ED studied the statement in detail and directed the Kochi unit to conduct further investigation on her deposition.

The ED has also petitioned the District Court for the two statements Swapna had given to the Customs department in two other cases.

In the statement under 164, Swapna Suresh had submitted before the magistrate that the Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan, his wife Kamala, his daughter Veena, his Private secretary C M Raveendran, his former Principal Secretary, Shivshankar IAS, and his former Principal Secretary, Nalini Netto IAS (rtd) were involved in the gold smuggling racket that had rocked Kerala.

The opposition Congress and the BJP are on the streets demanding the CM's resignation.

Vellore cooperative bank. The CPI-M Payyannur area committee has 21 members and 16 of these came out in support of Kunhikrishnan during the discussion on fund misappropriation while five members reserved their comments. Social media and CPI-M handles are abuzz with support for Kunhikrishnan after he was removed from the post and T V Rajesh was given the charge.

The party local workers and cadres are pointing out how Kunhikrishnan who had brought out the fund misappropriation allegations against the MLA and other leaders, could be subjected to party action.

CPI-M Kannur district secretary M V Jayarajan, however, did not comment about the action taken against the CPI-M leaders including T I Madhusoodanan.

In Kannur, the CPI-M is in embarrassing situation with party leaders not in a position to explain how ₹42 lakh collected as funds for the family of Dhanraj, a party cadre who was killed by political opponents, was misappropriated.

Sources in Kannur CPI-M told IANS that the party has already started patch-up talks with Kunhikrishnan but he has categorically stated that he would not have any parleys with the CPI-M again.

With the CPI-M in a spot in its strong district, it has to be seen how the party would come out of the imbroglio in Kannur.

CPI-M in a fix in Kannur as support grows for axed secy



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 18: Kannur is the stronghold of the CPI-M in Kerala as the party has the maximum number of members, sympathisers and followers in this district.

It is also the home district of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, party state secretary Kodyeri Balakrishnan, LDF convener and senior CPI-M leader E P Jayarajan, and a horde of other leaders.

The Kannur lobby is considered the most powerful in the state for CPI-M which does not have any opposition within the party.

However, the party has been left red-faced in its most powerful district after Payyannur area secretary of the party C V Kunhikrishnan was removed from the post. Kunhikrishnan had given a detailed complaint to the party district committee over allegations of misappropriation of funds that

was collected for the construction of the party building. He had also alleged misappropriation of election funds and swindling of funds collected for party martyr Dhanraj.

The allegation was pointed against CPI-M Kannur district secretary member T I Madhusoodanan who is also presently the Payyannur MLA of the party. Payyannur is one of the strongest CPI-M constituencies and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan got elected from the seat in 1996 and went on to become the state minister for electricity in the then E K Nayanar cabinet.

The allegations had rocked the Payyannur area committee of the party with a large section of the area committee members supporting Kunhikrishnan who is considered an upright party leader. While CPI-M did not bring out an official communication on the action taken against the party leaders, Kunhikrishnan resigned from the director board membership of

LOUDSPEAKER ROW

K'taka govt submits report to HC, says license valid for 2 yrs

A petition, submitted by P Rakesh and others regarding noise pollution due to use of loudspeakers in mosques, was taken up for inquiry by the division bench of the Karnataka HC headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Ashok S Kinagi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Bangalore, June 18: As per directions of the Karnataka High Court, the state government has submitted a report, saying that no permanent license - allowing use of loudspeakers in religious or other places - has been given, and it is valid for only two years, sources said Saturday.

The state government said that the use of loudspeakers is not allowed between 10 pm and 6 am except for special occasions.

The government told the court that the provision of the use of loudspeakers is given as per Rule 5 (1) of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control), 2000, and Section 37 of the Karnataka Police Act, 1963.

On special religious and cul-

tural occasions, the permission is given for using loudspeakers between 10 pm to 12 am for up to 15 days.

It has also been brought to the notice of the High Court that since unauthorised use of loudspeakers was rampant, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

A committee has been formed at the local level comprising a police officer, executive engineer of a civic agency and a member of the Pollution Control Board to deal with the issue. Once the submission is made seeking permission for using loudspeakers, this committee will look into the matter and take a decision.

The state government and the

police department are preparing to conduct a survey to check whether the use of loudspeakers is in accordance with law in the state following the direction by the High Court.

The court had also asked for a report on adherence to rules set for allowing use of loudspeakers. A petition was submitted to the High Court by P Rakesh and others regarding noise pollution due to use of loudspeakers in mosques.

The petition was taken up for inquiry by the division bench of the Karnataka HC headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Ashok S Kinagi. The court had directed the state government to submit a report on use of loudspeakers.

of the day quote

People have every right to protest but there is no place for violence in a democracy

The unnecessary pressure of the Government of India, the political pressure that is on the central agencies is visible to all. The way the ED has decided to torture Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in a malicious spirit... We all Congress people oppose it

The face and destiny of Jammu and Kashmir is changing at a very fast pace and the time is not far when it will become an example not only for the country but whole of Asia

SHORT TAKES

Man kills wife New Delhi: A 47-year-old man killed his wife after she slapped him during an argument at their house in the national capital, an official said Saturday.

Cop shot dead Srinagar: A 50-year-old police sub-inspector was shot dead in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, authorities said Saturday.

Tiger kills man Lakhimpur Kheri (UP): An adult tiger, which has strayed away from Manjhra Purab forests, attacked a priest of a nearby temple and killed him, a forest official said Saturday.

Two arrested New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly smuggling illegal arms to the members of Deepak Boxer gang, the Delhi Police said Saturday.

Man killed Jammu: A 40-year-old unidentified man was killed after being hit by a train on the outskirts of Jammu on Saturday, an official of the Government Railway Police said.



It is imperative to combat land degradation in rural areas along with the fight against air pollution in cities

SONIA RECOVERING

Congress president Sonia Gandhi is stable and recovering well, sources at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said Saturday, nearly a week after she was admitted to the facility owing to post-Covid issues



ANGER GROWS



People block Jalandhar-Delhi National Highway to protest against Agnipath scheme in Jalandhar



Security personnel patrol during Bihar bandh, called to protest against Agnipath scheme in Patna



Police detain people protesting against the Agnipath scheme in Chennai

Prez polls: Farooq declines offer to contest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 18: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah Saturday withdrew his name as the potential joint opposition candidate for the upcoming presidential elections, saying he has a "lot more active politics" ahead of him, and that he wanted to contribute in navigating the Union Territory through the current "critical juncture".



The 84-year-old Abdullah is the second political person after NCP chief Sharad Pawar to have withdrawn their names as probable opposition nominees for the July elections

THE PROCESS TO ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT BEGAN JUNE 15. THE LAST DATE OF FILING OF NOMINATIONS IS JUNE 29. THE POLLS, IF NECESSARY, WILL BE HELD JULY 18

The 84-year-old Abdullah is the second political person after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar to have withdrawn their names as probable opposition nominees for the July elections.

Abdullah's statement comes ahead of a scheduled meeting of opposition parties in Mumbai to discuss their joint candidate for the presidential elections. In a statement, Abdullah, who heads the National Conference and is at present a Lok Sabha member, however, thanked the opposition leaders for proposing his name. He said he was honoured that his name was proposed

by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to run for the office of the President of India.

"Subsequent to Mamata didi proposing my name, I have received a number of calls from opposition leaders offering their support for my candidature," Abdullah said in the statement, adding he had

discussions with senior colleagues of his party and family about this "unexpected" development.

"I am deeply touched by the support that I've received and honoured to have been considered for the highest office in the country. I believe that Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a critical juncture and my efforts are required to help navigate these uncertain times," he said.

The former Union minister said he believed he has a "lot more active politics ahead of me and look forward to making a positive contribution in the service of JK and the country".

"Therefore, I would like to respectfully withdraw my name from consideration and I look forward to supporting the joint opposition consensus candidate," the NC statement said, conveying his gratitude to Banerjee and all the senior leaders who offered their support.

Abdullah's name was proposed by Banerjee during a meeting earlier this week of 17 opposition parties, including the Congress, DMK, NCP and the Samajwadi Party. Banerjee had suggested the names of Abdullah and former West Bengal governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi after Pawar had declined the offer.

The process to elect a new president began on June 15. The last date of filing of nominations is June 29. The polls, if necessary, will be held July 18.

AGNIPATH VIOLENCE

10 Bihar BJP leaders get VIP security cover

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 18: The Union Home Ministry has accorded a VIP security cover of the CRPF to 10 Bihar BJP legislators in view of threats posed to them by those protesting against the recently launched Agnipath military recruitment scheme, officials said Saturday.

Those provided the Y category cover comprise Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi, state BJP president and Paschim Champaran MP Sanjay Jaiswal, Bisfi MLA Haribhushan Thakur, Darbhanga MLA Sanjay Saraogi and six others, including some MLCs.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) took the decision on the basis of a report received from central intelligence agencies that said these legislators faced threat

of physical harm, the officials said.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has been asked to quickly deploy armed commandos of its VIP security unit with these BJP legislators who the officials said face threat in view of the violence that took place against the recently launched Agnipath scheme of recruitment into the armed forces.

The Y category security cover will entail two-three commandos with the protectee, they said. According to the officials, more BJP leaders of the state could be extended a similar security cover, if required.

Large-scale incidents of violence and arson were reported in Bihar and some other states on Friday, and BJP offices and houses of its leaders were also targeted during the protests against the scheme.

Woman pushed off terrace by in-laws

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 18: A 30-year-old woman was pushed from the terrace of her building in Delhi by her in-laws, an official said Saturday.

The incident took place around 3.00 a.m. at the city's Mayur Vihar area. In a video that was shared by the victim woman's brother with Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal, the woman said she was pushed when she was standing on the terrace. The woman fell down on the street. Soon after this, she was rushed to a local hospital, where her condition was said to be critical.

Maliwal said that she will be issuing a notice to the Delhi Police asking them to register an FIR in the case and arrest the accused as soon as possible.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (east district) Priyanka Kashyap said based on the statement of the victim, medico-legal case (MLC) and enquiries conducted in the matter so far, the police have registered an FIR under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

FASCINATING EXPERIENCE



People bathe at Kempty waterfall in Mussoorie

PTI PHOTO

HC asks judicial officers to celebrate Yoga Day

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 18: The Madras High Court registry has directed the judicial officers across Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry to celebrate International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21.

The Principal District Judges (PDJs) have been instructed to ensure the participation of judicial officers, court staff, and lawyers in a 40-minute demonstration of yoga. The yoga demonstration will be preceded by a 20-minute speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The registrar general of Madras High Court in an official mail to the Principal District Judges said that the Union Ministry of Law and Justice had sent a mail stating that the Ministry of Ayush was celebrating IDY 2022 as part of the Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav at 75 iconic locations throughout the country.

The Ministry of Law also said that the International Day of Yoga will be celebrated at the Supreme Court and all the High courts of the country.

MLC polls: Cong, NCP claim threats

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 18: Barely 48 hours ahead of the biennial MLC polls, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi allies in Maharashtra, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party, claimed that their legislators are allegedly being "threatened" by the central probe agencies.

"The BJP government at the Centre is abusing the investigation machinery to harass and browbeat the Opposition parties across the country. Now, our MLAs are being called directly and warned that 'they have all information which will be revealed at the appropriate time to trap them,'" said Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole. NCP minister Chhagan Bhujbal also said that central agencies have again become active before the polls, but said that all the six MVA candidates shall easily win the MLC elections on Monday (June 20).

Patole added that they have "recorded" the alleged phone-calls



Nana Patole

by the central agencies and would make them public at the opportune moment. State BJP President Chandrakant Patil scoffed at the MVA allegations, terming them as virtually admitting defeat before the June 20 elections.

"Patole has prepared a wrong script... After Monday's elections, everything will be clear," said Patil. Speaking to mediapersons, Patole hit out at the BJP for "crossing all limits in its greed for power" and using weapons like the Enforcement Directorate or the Central Bureau of Investigation to intimidate the Opposition parties and their leaders.

Single leadership issue rocks AIADMK

THE PARTY HAS BEEN UNDER A DUAL LEADERSHIP AND SEVERAL LEADERS HAVE CRITICISED THIS ARRANGEMENT STATING THAT AIADMK HAS LOST ITS FIGHTING SPIRIT DUE TO THIS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 18: The impasse in the main Tamil Nadu's opposition party the AIADMK, is continuing ahead of the party general council meeting scheduled for June 23. O. Panneerselvam and K. Palaniswami factions are keen that their leader emerge as the single



leader of the party.

While the post of opposition leader was granted to K. Palaniswami, the party Chief Co-ordinator's post was given to O. Panneerselvam. However the party has been under a dual leadership and several leaders have criticized this arrangement stating that AIADMK has lost its fighting spirit due to this.



Following widespread criticism at all party forums it was decided to call the general council meeting of the party on June 23 and to take a decision on the same. There are reports that a majority of party functionaries are supporting the candidature of Palaniswami as the single leader of the party and that under him party would func-

tion unitedly. This suggestion was however not welcomed by those owing allegiance to Panneerselvam, feeling that he may be sidelined.

The AIADMK has been in the throes of conflict between the second rung leaders close to both OPS and EPS and two power centres have already emerged in the party. Meanwhile, former Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha and senior leader of the party, S. Thambidurai has taken an initiative and met both OPS and EPS to break the stalemate and sources said that this may work out for the party.

Panneerselvam will be meeting his supporters at Chennai on Saturday ahead of the general council meeting and to garner support for him to emerge as the single leader of the party. Another suggestion that has come up is to postpone the general council meeting and find an alternate date to end the friction between the two sections.



We are living through a global mental health crisis. Unfortunately, in most countries, mental health remains the most neglected area of health policy
ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

HOT WEEKEND FOR EUROPE

People flocked to parks and pools across Western Europe on Saturday for a bit of respite from an early heat wave that saw the mercury rise above 40 C in France and Spain, and highs of 38 C in Germany. Officials warned of wildfires across the western Mediterranean region as high temperatures and a long dry spell made for combustible conditions



of the day quote

If you look at the world today, the situation of women, if you look at the gender inequality indicators, they show that the inequality has increased

GEETA RAO GUPTA | NOMINEE FOR AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

It is absolutely necessary to speak to Putin, and I will continue to do so — as the French president will also. There are some countries needed, and some leaders needed, that speak to him — and it is necessary that they are clear

OLAF SCHOLZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

We are living in times of extreme challenges as well as opportunities and I am hoping to promote the role of heritage as an important resource, one that enhances our cultural identity as well and contributes to a carbon neutral society

NAIRITA CHAKRABORTY | COMMISSIONER OF HISTORIC ENGLAND

SHORT TAKES

US drone sale to Ukraine hits snag

St Louis: The Biden administration's plan to sell four large, armable drones to Ukraine has been paused on the fear its sophisticated surveillance equipment might fall into enemy hands, according to two people familiar with the matter. The technical objection to the sale was raised during a deeper review by the Pentagon's Defense Technology Security Administration charged with keeping high value technology safe from enemy hands.

Egypt removes all Covid entry curbs

Cairo: Egypt has lifted all Covid-19-related entry restrictions for all travellers — Egyptian nationals and foreigners. The decision was made by the Supreme Committee for the Management of the Epidemiology and Health Pandemic Crisis according to the pandemic conditions in Egypt and abroad, Xinhua news agency quoted Nader Saad, a spokesperson of the cabinet, as saying. Nearly 86.6 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, as well as 4.5 million booster shots, have been provided for the people, he said.

2 Netflix actors killed in mishap

Mexico City: Two actors on the Netflix series The Chosen One were killed and six other cast or crew members were injured after the van they were riding in crashed near Mulege on the Baja California Sur peninsula. Local media reported the crash occurred Thursday, and said the van flipped after running off the road in a desert area. The crew had apparently been working in the nearby Santa Rosalia area at the time. The Baja California Department of Culture said Friday that Raymundo Garduño Cruz and Juan Francisco González Aguilar died.

4 labourers killed in militant attack

Karachi: At least four labourers were killed and an equal number injured when unidentified militants attacked a labour camp and opened indiscriminate fire on them in Harnai district in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, officials said Saturday. The attack, which happened on late Friday, came just three days after armed men kidnapped four employees including two engineers of a private coal company in Quetta's Hanna Urak area.

Putin slams 'mad, thoughtless' sanctions

Regarding Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, Putin claimed that the legal side of the invasion, which Moscow calls "special military operation", fully complies with international law

AGENCIES

Moscow, June 18: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country was not threatening the world with nuclear weapons, but warned that Moscow "will use such weapons to defend its sovereignty". Addressing the St Petersburg International Economic Forum, a showcase event being held this year with almost no Western participation, he returned time and again to the theme of Russia's sovereignty in a new global order. "We are strong people and can cope with any challenge. Like our ancestors, we will solve any problem, the entire thousand-year history of our country speaks of this."

Speaking about the numerous sanctions imposed on Russia by the West in the wake of the war, the President leader they were "mad and thoughtless". He asserted Russia's strength and resilience against a Western world that he accused of colonial arrogance and trying to crush his country with an economic "blitzkrieg" of sanctions. "The economic blitzkrieg against Russia had no chance of succeeding from the very beginning," the BBC quoted Putin as saying. While saying that the restrictions were "more harmful" to those



Vladimir PUTIN
PRESIDENT ACCUSES WEST OF DENYING RUSSIA ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS
SPEECH RESTATES DETERMINATION TO TAKE DONBAS OUT OF UKRAINE
PUTIN SAYS RUSSIA IS STRONG, AND WESTERN SANCTIONS WILL REBOUND

who imposed them, he claimed that the European Union could lose more than \$400 billion because of its sanctions against Russia. He said inflation was increasing across the 27-member bloc and the "real interests" of people in Europe were being sidelined.

When asked to comment on the West's allegations about the threat of a nuclear war and a Third World War, the President said: "Where does it come from? From their own statements. Now and then irre-

sponsible politicians would blurt out something like that, even high-ranking politicians... "Are we supposed to stay silent? We are responding correspondingly. As soon as we respond, they would pick on our words and say: look, Russia is threatening us. We are not threatening anyone, but everyone should know what we have and what we will use to defend our sovereignty. These are obvious things."

"When a territory is separated

Against a backdrop of increasing risks for us and threats, Russia's decision to conduct a special military operation was forced - difficult, of course, but forced and necessary
VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

from a state, it is not necessary to ask permission from the central authorities," Ukrayinska Pravda quoted the President as saying as he recalled the ruling of the UN International Court of Justice on Kosovo.

He said the main aim was to defend "our" people in the largely Russian-speaking Donbas region of eastern Ukraine - a justification

'NEW WORLD ORDER'
A recorded video address by Chinese President Xi Jinping praising Chinese-Russian cooperation underlined Putin's contention that an era of American domination is at an end. Putin said the United States considered itself "God's emissary on Earth", and that Russia was taking its place in a new world order whose rules would be set by "strong and sovereign states".

that Kyiv and the West dismiss as a baseless pretext for a campaign that has already cost thousands of lives and led to the occupation of parts of Ukraine far beyond the Donbas.

UK PM warns against 'Ukraine fatigue'

Kyiv: With a fresh blessing for its European Union ambitions and a promise of continued strong support from Britain, Ukraine kept fighting Saturday, with Kyiv's troops holding out against Russian assault on a pivotal eastern city and communities pounded by more heavy shelling. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who made a surprise visit to Kyiv Friday and offered training for Ukrainian forces, Saturday stressed the need to keep supporting the country and avoid "Ukraine fatigue" after nearly four months of war. "The Russians are grinding forward inch by inch and it is vital for us to show what we know to be true which is that Ukraine can win and will win," Johnson told reporters on his arrival back in Britain from Kyiv. "When Ukraine fatigue is setting in, it is very important to show that we are with them for the long haul," he said.

B'desh floods: 6mn marooned; 19 dead

Floods are a regular menace to millions of people in low-lying Bangladesh, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency, ferocity and unpredictability

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dhaka, June 18: Incessant rains and gushing waters have marooned at least six million people in Bangladesh, prompting authorities to call in the Army to assist in the rescue and relief operations. Officials estimate that six million people were marooned at their nearly inundated homes or were forced to take makeshift refuge elsewhere as water level in rivers in northeastern and northern regions continued to rise.

"Water now continued to sur-

pass much above the danger lines in two of the country's four major river basins... the situation appears to be nearly as bad as that of the 2004 flooding, a Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) spokesman said.

Many people were forced to initially take refuge on their rooftops amid gushing rising waters until rescue boats came in Sunamganj. No official data was available on the death toll but unofficial reports suggest that the flood has killed at least 19 people in the country.

The incessant downpours aggravated the miseries while the deluge severed the road links of northeastern Sunamganj district from the rest of the country and forced authorities to close a major international airport in neighbouring Sylhet after water submerged its runway.

Flood water engulfed several power stations, forcing authorities to shut down the facilities, subsequently affecting internet and mobile phone communications.

Earlier, Bangladesh called in the Army to aid in the civil administration in evacuating people or reaching succours to marooned people while the Navy and the Air Force units subsequently joined them in northeastern Sylhet region.

Bangladesh saw four major prolonged deluges since 1987 with the last one being in 2004. Experts, however, said that unlike their previous major floods since 1987, the water level in all four basins might not surpass the danger levels simultaneously.



DANCING DEVILS



A participant of the "Diablos Danzantes" (Dancing Devils) of Yare holds up a devil mask during a pause in their dancing outside a church to mark the Feast of Corpus Christi in San Francisco de Yare, Venezuela

Remains of UK journo found in Amazon

REUTERS

Sao Paulo, June 18: A forensic exam carried out on human remains found in the Amazon rainforest confirmed Friday that they belonged to British journalist Dom Phillips, Brazil's federal police said, adding that a search was underway for a man suspected of involvement in his killing.

Work is proceeding to determine the cause of death, police said. Pereira and Phillips vanished June 5 in the remote Javari Valley bordering Peru and Colombia. Earlier this week, police recovered human remains from a grave in the jungle



where they were led by a fisherman, Amarildo da Costa Oliveira, who confessed to killing the two men. The remains of a second person, believed to be that of indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, were still under analysis, a report by CNN Brasil said earlier Friday.

Phillips, a freelance reporter who had written for the Guardian and the Washington Post, was doing research for a book on the trip with Pereira, a former head of isolated and recently contacted tribes at federal indigenous affairs agency Funai.

US State Department spokesman Ned Price Friday called for "accountability and justice," saying that Phillips and Pereira were murdered for supporting conservation of the rainforest and native peoples.

"Our condolences to the families of Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira... We must collectively strengthen efforts to protect environmental defenders and journalists," Price said.

ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

SL Army to cultivate barren land to ramp up food production

The nearly bankrupt country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, declared in April that it is suspending \$7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about \$25 billion due through 2026

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 18: The Sri Lanka Army will take part in a farming drive aimed at cultivating over 1,500 acres of barren or abandoned state land to multiply food production and avert any shortage in the future, according to a media report.

The economic crisis has led to an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas, fuel and toilet paper, with Sri Lankans being forced to wait in lines for hours outside stores to buy fuel and cooking gas. The army established its Green

Agriculture Steering Committee (GASC) Thursday to supplement and promote the food security programme in Sri Lanka which is facing its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948.

The emergency project to be kicked off by early July as a supportive mechanism to the government's cultivation drive is spearheaded by Lieutenant General Vikum Liyanage, Commander of the Army. Major General Jagath Kodithuwakku, the Chief of Staff, is set to supervise the entire project. The troops will first prepare



PM Wickremesinghe said recently in Parliament that Sri Lanka will need \$5 billion to ensure that the people's daily lives are not disrupted for the next six months. Lanka's total foreign debt stands at \$51 billion

the ground by weeding, tilling and preparing beds for the cultivation of selected seed varieties in con-

sultation with agricultural experts, newstr.lk reported Friday. All Security Force Headquarters

and formations across the country are currently screening possibilities for adding their weight to the task at a regional level.

The identification of state lands at regional level will be done in close consultation with respective governors, district and divisional secretariats, land officials and Grama Seva officials before the commencement of preliminary

ground-preparing work in selected lands, the report said.

Sri Lanka has decided to import 50,000 metric tonne of rice under the Indian credit line to curb an abnormal rise in rice prices, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said Thursday, as the island nation is grappling with an impending food shortage.

Govt offices, schools shut from Monday

Colombo: Crisis-hit Sri Lankan government has announced a shut-down of public sector offices from next week, beginning Monday, due to severe fuel shortages as the island nation continues to reel under its worst economic crisis. The Sri Lankan Education Ministry has also asked teachers in all government and government approved private schools in the Colombo city limits to conduct online classes from next week due to prolonged power cuts, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported. "Taking into consideration the severe limits on fuel supply, the weak public transport system and the difficulty in using private vehicles this circular allows minimal staff to report to work from Monday," the Public Administration and Home Affairs Ministry said in a circular issued Friday. However, those employed in the healthcare sector will have to continue reporting to work, the circular stated.

business

of the day **QUOTE**

I can say with confidence that 5G deployment will start in at least 20-25 cities and towns by year end. We are already the lowest in the world, at least by a factor of 10X...10X we are cheaper than the world, that same trend will be in other areas too

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | TELECOM MINISTER

We have our teams in place... FTA between the EU and India will further strengthen our relations. There is a significant untapped potential which we will hope to unleash with the execution of these three agreements -- trade, investment and GIs

PYUSH GOVAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

I admire the foresight behind Agnipath and am confident that it is in the interest of our nation. For a young country like ours, having access to a larger pool of disciplined and educated young individuals-Agniveers available for recruitment by organizations is a boon

SAJIAN JINDAL | INDUSTRIALIST

SHORT TAKES

Adani Wilmar cuts edible oil prices

Mumbai: FMCG firm Adani Wilmar Saturday slashed the prices of its edible oils by Rs 10 following the government's move to reduce import duties on the commodity. Adani Wilmar has reduced the maximum retail price (MRP) of Fortune refined Sunflower oil's 1-litre pack to Rs 210 from Rs 220, the company said in a statement. The MRP of Fortune Soyabean and Fortune Kachi Ghani (mustard oil) 1-litre packs has been reduced to Rs 195 from Rs 205. The stocks with new prices will reach the market soon, it added. This reduction in oil prices comes in the wake of the central government reducing the import duties on edible oils, making them cheaper, the company said.

Gems, jewellery exports zoom 20%

Mumbai: India's gems and jewellery exports during May witnessed a year-on-year growth of 20 per cent to Rs 25,365.35 crore (\$3.28 billion), amid strong demand from key markets, including the US, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said Saturday. The overall gems and jewellery exports stood at Rs 21,156.10 crore (\$2.89 billion) in May 2021, GJEPC said in a statement. Gross exports of gems and jewellery for the period of April-May 2022 grew 10.08 per cent to Rs 51,050.53 crore (\$6.65 billion), compared to Rs 46,376.57 crore (\$6.28 billion) during April-May 2021.

Moody's upgrades BCAs of ICICI, Axis

New Delhi: Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the baseline credit assessments of ICICI Bank and Axis Bank, reflecting improvements in credit fundamentals, particularly asset quality. The global rating agency has upgraded the baseline credit assessments (BCAs) to ba3 from ba1. The upgrade of the BCAs does not result in any change in the deposit ratings because these are already at the same level as the India sovereign rating (Baa3 stable), Moody's said in a statement Friday. "The upgrade of the two banks' BCAs is driven by improvements in asset quality, capital, and profitability. Their asset quality has seen a significant improvement, with both the gross and net non-performing loans (NPL) ratios declining."



The government has moved ahead swiftly on the Aatmanirbhar Bharat policy and received a very good response on it and we are not going to compromise on that in any way. Tesla, Elon Musk are welcome to India but only according to the country's policies

MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY | UNION MINISTER

WARREN BUFFETT CHARITY LUNCH FETCHES WINNING BID OF \$19MN

A lucky, and likely wealthy, person bid more than \$19 million to dine with Warren Buffett, in the 21st and final time that the billionaire businessman auctioned a private lunch to benefit a San Francisco charity. The winning bid far surpassed the previous record of \$4.57 million, paid in 2019 by cryptocurrency entrepreneur Justin Sun



How cryptocurrencies work?

Fundamentally, cryptocurrencies are digital money. The blockchain is a database for recording transactions of said digital money. This digital money isn't backed by any government or institution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, June 18: The first and most popular cryptocurrency, bitcoin, launched more than a decade ago. Yet for all the relentless buzz, relatively few are well versed in cryptocurrencies or the blockchain, the technology on which they're built. Despite the evangelizing by and rising profile of some investors, a 2021 poll by Pew Research Center found that just 16% of Americans said they have ever invested in cryptocurrencies. That broadened to 31% between the ages of 18 and 29 and to 43% of men in that age range. If you're not among those percentages, you might view these currencies with skepticism and may have avoided trying to understand the lingo or the technology. But as cryptocurrencies and related technologies reach into politics, intertwine with the larger economy and impact the environment, everyone could use a sense of what they are, how they work and their pitfalls and potential. It depends on usage. "Blockchain technology" is acceptable to refer to the computer code that records cryptocurrency transactions. Standing alone, just call it the blockchain—even though there are actually multiple.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRYPTOS AND THE BLOCKCHAIN?

Blockchains record cryptocurrency transactions in encrypted, digital records that live on servers all around the world. Some blockchains allow developers to build in applications and program contracts. Also of note: Different cryptocurrencies are built on different blockchains. Bitcoin is built on the, well, bitcoin blockchain; ether is built on the ethereum blockchain. There now are some cryptocurrencies or tokens that are essentially built on top of other cryptocurrencies—but at the most basic



level, all cryptocurrencies refer back to a blockchain. Blockchains also can be used to record other types of information—like property records or the origins of a food item.

HOW ARE CRYPTOCURRENCIES MADE?

Different cryptocurrencies have different digital architectures (code) so how they work varies. As an example, let's use bitcoin, which is "mined." In the physical world, here's how mining works: A specialized computer processor runs on electricity and produces an astonishing amount of noise and heat. In the digital world, that processor is competing to solve a mathematical puzzle. The computer that solves the puzzle first wins newly minted bitcoin. This design is part of the open source code created by the anonymous entity that launched bitcoin in 2009. Mining has another purpose: In the course of solving the puzzle, the most recent bitcoin transactions—the sending and receiving of the currency—are recorded on the blockchain.

HOW SECURE IS THE BLOCKCHAIN?

Cryptocurrency buffs consider it pretty hard to hack—that's part of its appeal. Again though, it de-

pends which platform you're talking about.

The bitcoin blockchain has not been compromised to date, but the second largest blockchain and cryptocurrency, ethereum, faced a major crisis in 2016 stemming from a software vulnerability. While the ethereum blockchain itself was not hacked, some \$50 million in ether was stolen.

Many cryptocurrency-related services and technologies have been hacked or simply exploited by their designers to deceive and steal from participants.

Cryptocurrency exchanges—where people can trade cryptocurrencies—have been compromised multiple times, with digital bank robbers clearing out the accounts. Memorably, in 2018, the CEO of a cryptocurrency exchange died without relaying a crucial passcode, effectively locking customers out of millions of dollars' worth of cryptocurrencies.

Consumers have few recovery options, whether they're a victim of a scam or security breach or have simply forgotten their digital wallet's password. There is no password reset or insurance in the preprogrammed, decentralized system.

A final thought: Cryptocurrencies remain criminals' payment of

choice. Illegal drugs or other barred commodities are often exchanged for cryptocurrency, which can be transferred across distances more easily than cash and can be harder for prosecutors to trace.

WHERE DOES THE "VALUE" OF CRYPTOCURRENCIES COME FROM?

This age-old question—who decides what a buck is worth?—is further complicated with cryptocurrencies. Unlike traditional currencies, no government, central bank or physical asset backs cryptocurrencies. Their values are based on people's faith in them, as determined by the market. Backers hope that more and more people will want a digital currency that is relatively free from government oversight—and that, as people sink resources into cryptocurrencies, their value will increase over time.

Also unlike traditional currencies, some cryptocurrencies function both as an investment and a potential unit of exchange. Some buy it hoping they can eventually sell it for a profit. Others might use a fraction of a bitcoin to, say, get a firecracker pork burrito at New Hampshire's Taco Beyondo.

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS?

Cryptocurrency mining consumes a great deal of energy. One peer-reviewed study calculated that, as of November 2018, bitcoin's annual electricity consumption was 45.8 terawatt hours, comparable to Hong Kong's net electricity consumption in 2019, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

That doesn't even take into account energy consumed by other cryptocurrencies. And bitcoin's energy consumption has increased annually: The Bitcoin Mining Council estimated the cryptocurrency consumed 220 terawatt hours of energy in 2021.

END OF THE CRYPTO CRAZE?

Bitcoin dips below \$20,000 to lowest since December '20



Treasury is monitoring activity in the crypto market. We believe the recent turmoil only underscores the urgent need for regulatory frameworks that mitigate the risks that digital assets pose

US TREASURY OFFICIAL

WASHINGTON: The price of bitcoin fell below \$20,000 for the first time since late 2020 Saturday, in a fresh sign that the selloff in cryptocurrencies is deepening.

Bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency, fell below the psychologically important threshold, dropping as much as 9% to less than \$19,000, according to CoinDesk.

The last time bitcoin was at this level was November 2020, when it was on its way up to its all-time high of nearly \$69,000. Bitcoin has now lost more than 70 percent of its value since reaching that peak.

Ethereum, another widely followed cryptocurrency that's been sliding in recent weeks, took a similar tumble Saturday. It's the latest sign of turmoil in the cryptocurrency industry amid wider turbulence in financial markets.

Investors are selling off riskier assets because central banks are raising interest rates to combat quickening inflation.

A spate of crypto meltdowns have erased tens of billions of dollars of investors' assets and sparked urgent calls to regulate the free-wheeling industry.

US-based Cryptocurrency lending platform Celsius Network said

Freezing of crypto withdrawals rising

Hong Kong-based Babel Finance temporarily suspended the withdrawals and redemption of crypto assets on Friday, as the crypto lender scrambles to pay its clients after the recent slump in the digital currency market. Crypto lenders gather crypto deposits from retail customers and re-invest them, proclaiming double-digit returns and attracting tens of billions of dollars in assets. However, the recent meltdown has lenders unable to redeem their clients' assets. Babel, which has 500 clients and limits its crypto to bitcoin, ethereum and stablecoins, raised \$80 million in a funding round last month, valuing it at \$2 billion. It had ended last year with \$3 billion of loan balances on its balance sheet.

this month it was pausing all withdrawals and transfers, with no sign of when it would give its 1.7 million customers access to their funds. Stablecoin Terra imploded last month, erasing tens of billions of dollars in a matter of hours.

BIZ BUZZ

Khimji launches 'Buy 1 Get 2' offer on Divine Solitaires jewellery

Bhubaneswar: Khimji Jewellers, in association with Divine Solitaires, Saturday launched 'Buy 1 Get 2' offer at the solitaire jewellery exhibition at its store in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. With this offer, customers of one carat divine solitaires diamond will get a 0.18 carat divine solitaires diamond of similar colour, cut and clarity for absolutely free. On purchase of lower sizes, exciting offer equivalent to the weight of purchased diamond is applicable on the 0.18 carat diamond. This exhibition and the offer are up until June 26. On this occasion, Jignesh Mehta, Founder and MD, Divine Solitaires said, "We are proud of our association with Khimji Jewellers. We share very similar values, and this makes our association successful. We are pleased that we can bring high-quality solitaire jewellery closer to the people of this city through this solitaire exhibition. We hope to make the best of this brilliant opportunity with the help of Khimji Jewellers."



Indian coal purchases from Russia spike despite sanctions

Russia, facing severe Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine, warned the European Union in April against sweeping sanctions on coal, saying they would backfire as the fuel would be redirected to other markets



- India's Russian coal buying May 27-June 15 up 6-fold
- India's Russian oil buying May 27-June 15 up 31-fold
- June Russia coal imports seen at multi-year high - Refinitiv
- Bulk shipments of Russian thermal coal began third week of May

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 18: India's purchases of Russian coal have spiked in recent weeks despite global sanctions on Moscow, as traders offer discounts of up to 30%, according to two trade sources and data reviewed by Reuters.

India has refrained from condemning Russia, with which it has longstanding political and security ties, while calling for an end to violence in Ukraine. New Delhi defends its purchases of Russian goods as part of an effort to diversify supplies and argues a sudden halt would

jack up world prices and hurt its consumers. US officials have told India there is no ban on energy imports from Russia but they do not want to see a "rapid acceleration".

Yet as European importers shun trade with Moscow, Indian buyers are lapping up huge quantities of Russian coal despite high freight costs.

Its purchases of coal and related products jumped more than six-fold in the 20 days through Wednesday from the same period a year earlier to \$31.17 million, according to unpublished Indian government data reviewed by Reuters.

Indian refiners similarly have snapped up cheap Russian oil shunned by Western countries.

The value of India's oil trade with Russia in the 20 days through Wednesday jumped more than 31-fold to \$2.22 billion, the data showed.

"The Russian traders have been liberal with payment routes and are accepting payments in Indian rupee and United Arab Emirates dirham," one source said. "The discounts are attractive, and this trend of higher Russian coal purchases will continue."

India bought an average \$16.55 million of Russian coal a day in the three weeks through Wednesday more than double the \$7.71 million it bought in the three months after Russia's Feb 24 invasion, according to Reuters calculations.

ICICI, HDFC, NPCI's IT resources named as critical info infra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 18: The government has declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI as 'critical information infrastructure', implying any harm to them can have an impact on national security and any unauthorised person accessing these resources may be jailed for up to 10 years, according to an official notification.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), in the notification dated June 16, declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank as critical infrastructure under Section 70 of the IT Act, 2000.

"The central government hereby declares the computer resources relating to the Core Banking Solution, Real Time Gross Settlement and National Electronic Fund Transfer comprising Structured Financial Messaging Server, being critical information infrastructure of the ICICI Bank, and the computer resources of its associated dependencies to be protected systems for the purpose of the said Act," the notification said.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST Stocks that have sailed against the market tide

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 18: It's a perfect storm in global capital markets in 2022 as all global major indices have been seeing strong headwinds, emanating from high inflation, and subsequent downside risks to economic growth.

The World Bank cut its forecast for global economic expansion in 2022 further to 2.9 per cent from 3.2 per cent and warned that above-average inflation and below-average growth lie ahead with potentially destabilising consequences for low- and middle-income economies.

Domestic benchmark equity index Sensex declined 13 per cent since the start of 2022, thereby giving a hint about the proportion

of losses the market participants witnessed.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out over \$42 billion or Rs 3.26 lakh crore from the Indian markets in the last eight months. They have been net-sellers in the Indian markets during these eight straight months. FPIs have been selling across the board, though with some sectors seeing more pressure and some others less.

However, there were some stocks who sailed through the troubled waters and went on to accumulate hefty returns for their respective investors.

Among the BSE 500 companies, Adani Power, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL), Bharat Dynamics, GMDC, CreditAccess

RIISING DESPITE THE SLIDE

Top gainers among the BSE500 in 2022

COMPANY	% RISE
ADANI POWER	156
MANGALORE REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS (MRPL)	117
BHARAT DYNAMICS	99
GUJARAT MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (GMDC)	72
CREDIT ACCESS GRAMEEN	59
GUJARAT HEAVY CHEMICALS LIMITED (GHCL)	63
MAHINDRA MAHINDRA LIFESPACES LIFE	49
DEEPAK FERTILIZERS	46
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED (HAL)	48

Grameen, GHCL, Mahindra Life, Deepak Fertiliser, Hind Aeronautics and JK Paper were the top runners, rallying 156 per cent, 117 per

SENSEX DECLINED 13 PER CENT SINCE THE START OF 2022

FOREIGN INVESTORS HAVE PULLED OUT OVER RS 3.26 TRILLION IN THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS

Damania, Chief Investment Officer at MarketsMojo showed.

Among the recently listed companies, shares of Adani Wilmar, since its exchange debut, have never looked back, albeit a minor slump in the past few days. The shares are currently 161 per cent above its issue price. The Adani group company is known for its wide range of offerings in edible oils besides wheat flour, rice, pulses, sugar among others.

Shares of automobile maker Hindustan Motors too steered past the current market volatility and its shares have doubled in the past 1 month period.

In a high inflation regime coupled with declining household income, it's best to invest in B2B

Retail investors have supported the markets since the beginning of Covid, but now on a rolling 12 months basis, Nifty is in the negative. Hence retail investors will refrain from making large new commitments in the markets except to average their holdings or to top up their equity portion in some favoured stocks

DEEPAK JASANI | HEAD OF RETAIL RESEARCH, HDFC SECURITIES

product companies, Suman Bannerjee, CIO at Hedonova, a US-based hedge fund that has a large interest in alternative investments.

Pant & Co aim for series

In search of perfect climax, pacers and middle-order make India favourites in series-deciding fifth T20I against South Africa



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 18: A lot of grey areas are yet to be addressed but a young Indian team, with an admirable collective temperament, will start as favourites in the series-deciding fifth T20I against South Africa here Sunday.

In a space of eight days, this Indian team have played four games. They fielded an identical XI, which is in sync with Rahul Dravid's 'school of continuity', seen the nadir in the first two games, only to break their own record of highest margin of victories over the Proteas – by 47 runs in the third game and by 82 runs in the fourth. With Dinesh Karthik doing exactly what is expected of him and, Harshal Patel and Avesh Khan also hitting the straps, the Indian fans would want to see Yuzvendra Chahal perform a trick or two at his IPL home ground in a match that matters the most.

Therefore, when the teams step out on the M Chinnaswamy Stadium turf, the side that looked

jaded and overcooked in the first two games will start as overwhelming favourites as the South Africans have already lost the plot.

If Temba Bavuma is unable to recover, they will miss a leader more than the batter. And suddenly in the last two games, the batting has looked iffy on tracks that have variable bounce, which has made this Indian attack look way more lethal.

Call it strangely pleasant, but it remains a fact that in this series a lot of things haven't exactly gone as per plan but yet India have managed to level the series after being 0-2 down.

A young captain, who, perhaps, would have liked a few days in his hometown in Rourkee, had there not been a pressure from one of the stakeholders to have at least a few stars in the absence of safe 'box-office' bets like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma or Jasprit Bumrah.

Neither has Pant's captaincy been exceptional nor has his similar pattern of dismissals inspired confidence but India have somehow managed to pull through.

If they finally win the series the young man would be in that leadership mix alongside Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul when the next transition in Indian cricket happens after the 2023 ODI World Cup.

If coach Dravid wanted to check out whether there is a possibility to tinker with the existing top three, the troika of Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shreyas Iyer haven't exactly fitted into the jigsaw puzzle.

Gaikwad, with his current technique, would be nine out of 10 times found wanting against quality attack on better pitches, with sporadic performances here and there. In top flight cricket, he won't get those couple of uncapped domestic bowlers whom he can bully. On the contrary, he could get bullied by express pace.

Ishan Kishan has a limited range of strokes and one shouldn't go by the volume of runs scored in this series as the extra bounce and pace on Australian wickets will be a difficult proposition.

Shreyas Iyer got a full series but he should be the first one to admit

that he has blown it with both hands and when India next play against Ireland at Malahide, his place will go to Suryakumar Yadav, considered a way better T20I proponent.

There is something about big ICC event years and Karthik revving up his performances. He is already going to don the big gloves in Ireland and the manner in which he is proving to be an asset at the back-end, no one should be raising eye-brows if he becomes the designated keeper-batter by the time India play Pakistan at MCG in the last week of October.

Among the bowlers, Bhuvneshwar Kumar is once again swinging the new ball and Avesh, having developed a well-disguised bouncer along with an ability to bowl more fuller and hit the hard lengths, is also a contender among the five pacers that India might carry Down Under.

The spinners in this series, despite an improved effort, have been below-par: Axar Patel has blown hot and cold, but more important, looked unidimensional while Chahal, in his bid to be quicker through the air, has proved to be profligate.

The series hasn't been one of India's best but somehow, just like top teams do, the 'Men In Blue' have found their way out to win matches under pressure. That augurs well as Pant and his men aim to wrap up the series at the 'Garden City'.

Hardik hails Karthik after Rajkot heroics



Hardik Pandya (L) and Dinesh Karthik having a conversation after their win in the fourth T20I in Rajkot, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, June 18: India's star all-rounder Hardik Pandya has expressed his admiration for Dinesh Karthik, saying his resurrection from obscurity is an inspiration for many in and outside the team.

The veteran wicketkeeper smashed his maiden T20I fifty to help the hosts secure an 82-run victory over South Africa in the fourth T20I here Friday.

During a chat with Karthik, the video of which has been uploaded by the BCCI on its website, Hardik recalled his past conversations with the seasoned campaigner, who is going through a dream run with the bat.

"I need to tell you this, genuinely I want to tell you this, you have given a lot of inspiration to many guys in their life."

"I remember the conversation

you were having when you were not in the scheme of things, a lot of people counted you out," Hardik told Karthik during the chat.

India were struggling at 81/4 in the 13th over when stand-in skipper Pant was dismissed for 17. It brought Karthik and Hardik together and the pair revived the Indian innings with a brisk partnership of 65 runs.

"I remember those conversations. You told me then that my goal is to play for India again and the goal is to play this World Cup, I am going to give it my everything, and seeing you achieve that is very inspirational. A lot of people are going to learn new things. Well done my brother, very proud of you," Hardik added.

Karthik smashed nine fours and two sixes in his entertaining 55-run knock, Hardik made 46 off 31 balls to prop up the India innings.

Avesh credits Dravid for his memorable spell

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, June 18: India pacer Avesh Khan felt the pressure after going wicket-less in the first three games but said head coach Rahul Dravid's faith in him pushed him to come up with a match-winning performance in the fourth T20I.

Avesh relied on the hard lengths to end up with career-best figures of four for 18 in his young international career. Despite losses in the first two games, India did not change the playing eleven.

"The team hasn't changed over four games, so credit to Rahul (Dravid) sir. He gives chances to everybody and intends to give them a long enough run," Avesh said at the media interaction Friday night.

"He doesn't drop a player after one or two bad performances because you cannot judge a player on the basis of one or two games.



Everyone is getting enough matches to prove themselves.

"Yes, there was pressure on me. I had zero wickets in three games but Rahul sir and the team management gave me another opportunity today and I ended up picking four wickets. It's also my papa's birthday, so it's a gift for him too."

The 25-year-old decided on his game plan to bowl on what was a tricky pitch after a chat with opener Ishan Kishan. "Whenever we are batting first, I always end up asking the batters how the wicket played, whether it was two-paced or not."

"I spoke to Ishan (Kishan) today and he said that hard length balls

aren't easy to play; some are bouncing, some are stopping and the others are keeping low. Then I planned to attack the stumps and bowl the hard lengths consistently. It's in my hands to bowl well, not pick wickets.

"The slower ball wasn't very effective on today's wicket, so I tried to bowl hard lengths with the occasional bouncer to change things up."

"Today's wicket wasn't easy for batters, it was two-paced although DK bhai, Hardik and Rishabh all played well. 170 was a very good total on this wicket and all we wanted to ensure was pick a couple of wickets in the powerplay," Avesh added.

Asked about his chances to make the T20 World Cup squad, he said: "Selection is not in my control. I just want to give my 100 per cent every game I get to play for India. I don't want to have any regrets over the effort I put in my performances."

SHORT TAKES

Neeraj bags gold

New Delhi: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra clinched his first top podium finish of the season by winning the javelin throw event at the Kuortane Games in Finland, beating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada for the second time in four days, Saturday. The 24-year-old Chopra's opening throw of 86.69m turned out to be the winning distance. Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 Olympics champion Keshorn Walcott was second with a first round throw of 86.64m. Peters was third with a best throw of 84.75m, which also came in the opening round.

India cyclists shine

NEW DELHI: Hosts India made a bright start to their campaign at the Asian Track Cycling Championships by bagging 10 medals, including a gold, on the opening day of competitions here Saturday. The opening day of the 41st Senior, 28th Junior Asian Track and 10th Para Track Cycling Championships witnessed 12 finals out of which four were for Para Championships. The Indians clinched one silver and six bronze medals in the senior and junior events, while one gold, one silver and one bronze were won in the Para events. In the para women C1-C5 500m time trial event, India's Jyoti Gaderaya clocked 58.283s to win the gold ahead of teammate Geeta Rao.

Prannoy loses in semis

Jakarta: Indian shuttler HS Prannoy signed off with yet another semifinal finish at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament after going down in straight games to China's Zhao Jun Peng here Saturday. World number 23 Prannoy couldn't find his rhythm and lacked precision and control to lose 16-21 15-21 to Jun Peng, a two-time bronze medalist at the World Junior Championships, in a 40-minute last four clash. It was their first meeting in international badminton.

AGENCIES

FIH PRO LEAGUE TITLE RACE

India lose to Netherlands in shoot-out

India are still placed third with 30 points from 15 games with just one match remaining



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rotterdam, June 18: The Indian men's hockey team produced a lion hearted performance before going down 1-4 to leaders the Netherlands in the shoot-out after both the sides were locked 2-2 at regulation time

to virtually crash out of the title race of the FIH Pro League here Saturday.

The Netherlands are leading the table with 33 points from 13 games with three matches in hand, while Olympic champions Belgium are placed second with 31 points

from 14 games with two matches remaining. Breathtaking hockey was on display between two world-class teams as both India and the Netherlands fought each other in every department of the game in the entire 60 minutes.

While the Indians had the better share of ball possession, at least in the first two quarters, and went for the offensive from the onset, the Dutchmen relied more on counter-attacks to create goal-scoring opportunities.

There was also a battle of supremacy between two best goalkeepers of the world in PR Sreejesh and Pirmim Blaak.

Both Sreejesh and Blaak produced brilliant saves on numerous occasions in the first two quarters to keep their side afloat.

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GIVE BACK TO CHESS: ANAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 18: It's time to give back to the sport, says the legendary Viswanathan Anand, who is seeking to enter global chess administration with an aim to make it professionally more enticing for the youth.

Anand, whose moves on the board still leave opponents grasping at straws, wants to fully commit himself as "someone" who can work towards the betterment of the sport.

In an exclusive interview with this agency, the five-time World Champion charted out his future plans, days after the All India Chess Federation (AICF) unanimously decided to endorse his candidature for the deputy president's post in the forthcoming FIDE election.

"Compared to three or four years back, I have cut down on my time

as a active chess player. I have long aspired to come into the chess administration and this opportunity as the deputy president will be a huge learning curve for me," Anand remarked.

"The game of chess helped me become what I am today. It's time for me to give back. The idea is to encourage more youth to take up the sport seriously and make it a profession. I will communicate my ideas and vision once I am elected to the new panel," he added.

While Anand will be part of incumbent Arkady Dvorkovich's panel, among other candidates is the seasoned administrator and former deputy president of the international chess federation, Bachar Kouatly.

However, Anand believes the Dvorkovich administration will have a clear advantage over the others because of the work done by



them to make the sport immensely popular, especially at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The current administration has done some outstanding work to give the game a facelift especially when every sport was sidelined because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, I readily agreed to be a

part this panel when I was nominated for the position," Anand said, speaking about his decision to take part in the elections.

The year was 1987 when India got its first Grandmaster in Anand. As many as 35 years down the line, India has 74 of them, with the latest being the 19-year-old Rahul

"I will go on as long as I can. I have informed my team as well that I want to continue playing even if I win the FIDE elections. The goal is to not stop playing chess anytime soon"

VISWANATHAN ANAND

Srivatshav Peddi from Hyderabad.

"I always had a firm belief that we deserve to have many Grandmasters in Chess. During the first time 10 years of my career, there were only Pravin Thipsey, Dibyendu Barua, and I. But the current figures make me immensely happy because of the fact that we have progressed so much in chess by leaps and bounds," Anand said.

It is unbeknownst to many that there is a serious cost factor involved when it comes to making a child an

age-group World Champion or a Grandmaster. Unlike other sports like cricket, football, badminton, or even hockey, where talented athletes are offered scholarships, chess doesn't seem to have many.

Anand, however, mentions that once he gets into administration, his prime focus would be to help those athletes who are talented enough to make the country proud.

Following his spectacular show at the recently-concluded Norway Chess event, where he beat his arch-rival and current World Champion Magnus Carlsen, the 52-year-old Anand is back in the top 10 of the world chess rankings after a long hiatus of 32 months.

During the discussion, Anand also brushed aside retirement plans said that even if he makes a foray as an active administrator, he will not bid adieu to the sport as a player anytime soon.