



SPIRITUAL INQUIRY

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu asks Sadhguru if unfairness in one's life can be due to one's past karma

LEISURE P2



17 CROPS UNDER PMFBY: CS

Govt decides to cover eight crops for Kharif season 2022 and nine for Rabi season 2022-23 under PMFBY

DOWNTOWN P3



DRAVID BACKS PANT

Rishabh Pant, despite his failures with the bat, has the support of Rahul Dravid who is not ready to criticise the player

SPORTS P12

Monsoon spreads over entire state

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The Southwest monsoon covered the entire state Monday as heavy rain pummelled several districts, the Met office said.

It also issued a 'yellow warning' for heavy downpour in many districts over the next four days.

"Southwest monsoon has further advanced into remaining parts of Odisha today and, thus, it covered the entire state," Bhubaneswar



Meteorological Centre head HR Biswas said in a statement. The monsoon had entered the southern parts of the state last week.

Karanja in Mayurbhanj district received 170 mm of rain over a 24-hour period till 8.30 am, followed by Banki in Cuttack with 165 mm of precipitation. There were heavy showers in Balasore, Boudh, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Khurda and Sambalpur districts during the period.

Boudh recorded 109 mm of rain from morning till 5.30 pm, while there was also heavy downpour in Paradip and Subarnapur. There was light to moderate rain in many places, including 10.9 mm in Bhubaneswar, it added.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'll hire Agniveers ...for a full four more years

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	51597.84 ↑ 237.42
NIFTY	15350.20 ↑ 56.70
DOLLAR	78.64 ↓ ₹0.19
EURO	82.06 ↑ ₹0.24
GOLD	₹50,753 ↓ ₹81
SILVER	₹60,810 ↓ ₹127

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.2°C	33.2°C
TEMP MIN	24.3°C	24.3°C
Humidity	91%	83%
Rainfall	10.9mm	4.2mm
Forecast	Light to Moderate Rain	



Naveen in Rome; meets Indian Ambassador

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday met India's Ambassador to Italy, Neena Malhotra, after reaching Rome as part of his 11-day foreign trip, CMO officials said. Patnaik left Delhi early in the morning and reached the Eternal City later in the day. He wore spotless white kurta pyjama and slippers while meeting the Indian ambassador. During his second official foreign tour in his 22-year-reign, the Chief Minister will also visit Vatican City and Dubai. In Rome, Patnaik will attend a function of the World Food Programme (WFP) and share transformative initiatives of Odisha in the field of food security and disaster management.



ED summons Rahul for fifth day today

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to join investigation for the fifth day June 21 and record his statement in the National Herald money laundering case, officials said Monday. Gandhi appeared for the fourth day of questioning Monday, a day after he turned 52, and the session would continue. Officials said he has been asked to join the probe again on Tuesday and continue recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The Congress MP has spent as many as 38 hours at the ED headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road in the national capital over four sittings since his first appearance June 13. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has also been summoned by the agency.

STANDSTILL



Heavy traffic jam occurred on Delhi-Gurugram expressway as Delhi Police began checking of vehicles ahead of the Congress protest against the Centre's Agnipath scheme and alleged vendetta politics in targeting Rahul Gandhi, in Gurugram, Monday

Maha shocker: 9 of family found dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sangli, June 20: In a chilling incident, at least nine members of two brothers' families allegedly consumed poison and ended their lives in Mhaisal village near Miraj, police said here Monday.

Among the victims are a veterinarian and his brother, a school teacher, their spouses and children, whose 9 bodies were recovered from their respective homes.

The motives behind the drastic step, whether it was planned or spontaneous or the kind of toxic substances they have consumed are not known immediately, and more details are awaited.

The news of the alleged mass-suicide spread like wildfire with scores of shocked people rushing to the homes in Ambika Nagar area of the village. Top police officials, including Sangli Superintendent of Police Dikshitkumar Gedam, Mhaisal Police Inspector Chandrakant Bendre and others, rushed there to investigate and calm the locals. The work of recording the panchnamas, taking photographs of the bodies before autopsy is underway, said an official.

Bring Vig under RTI ambit: HC

State I&PR department had issued a notification Aug 11, 2016 to keep the entire Vigilance wing outside the purview of the RTI Act

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The Orissa High Court Monday asked the state government to bring the Vigilance Directorate under the purview of Right to Information (RTI) Act. The court has asked the government to come up with a notification within four weeks.

On August 11, 2016, the state Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department had issued a notification to keep the entire vigilance wing outside the purview of the RTI Act.

While hearing three petitions filed in the HC against the government's decision, a High Court bench comprising of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Judge RK Pattanaik said, "The impugned notification insofar as it seeks to exempt the entire vigilance department of the government from



the view of the RTI Act would run counter to the first proviso to Section 24 (4) of the RTI Act."

"In other words, the notification insofar as it prevents disclosure of information concerning the General Administration (Vigilance) department even when it pertains to allegations of corruption and human rights violations would be contrary to the first proviso to Section 24 (4) of the RTI Act and, by that yardstick, would be unsustainable in law," the court observed.

If under the RTI Act disclosure is the norm, and non-disclosure the exception, then the impugned notification seeks to take away what is provided by the RTI Act and is therefore ultra vires the RTI Act, it said.

By virtue of this decision of the court, the GA (Vigilance) department cannot refuse to divulge information pertaining to corruption and human rights violations, which information is expressly not protected from disclosure by virtue of the first proviso to Section 24 (4) of the Act.

Also, information that does not touch upon any of the sensitive and confidential activities undertaken by the vigilance department cannot be withheld, the court said.

A further clarificatory notification to the above effect must be issued by the government of Odisha within four weeks, ordered the HC.

Agnipath bandh partial, Army issues notification

A plea has also been filed in the Supreme Court against the Agnipath scheme

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Patna, June 20: Road and rail traffic was partially affected in some regions Monday during a 'Bharat bandh' called against the Agnipath military recruitment scheme, while protests appeared to taper off in many states, with authorities stepping up security and imposing curbs after days of unrest.

The Army issued a notification for compulsory online registration of all Agnipath job aspirants from July, as the Centre appeared firm on implementing the scheme despite the Congress and other opposition parties upping the ante against the Modi government and the BJP.

A plea has also been filed in the Supreme Court against the Agnipath scheme alleging that the government has contravened constitutional provisions and acted without having parliamentary approval. The plea, filed by advocate ML Sharma, referred to the protests as it sought quashing of the relevant notification.

The Railways cancelled more



than 600 trains Monday while 10 others were affected, with operations again disrupted by protests.

The worst-affected zone was the East Central Railway, which is headquartered at Hajipur, as over 350 trains were cancelled.

Authorities said that the bandh call was given on social media and did not name the organisations behind it.

Contd... P4

Athagarh tusker death: 3 farmers held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Athagarh, June 20: Three persons were arrested Monday in connection with the death of a tusker that was earlier rescued with multiple gunshot injuries in Narasinghpur range under the Athagarh forest division of Cuttack district.

A special team of the Forest department swung into action and made the arrests. The accused have been identified as Surjyamani Nayak, Gangadhar Nayak and Dibakar Sahoo, all residents of Narasinghpur area.

The team also seized a country-made rifle from their possession. During preliminary investigation it was learnt that they are farmers and had shot the tusker as it was



destroying their cashew cultivation. They had no intention of smuggling its tusk, revealed Athagarh Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sudarsan Gopinath Yadav. It may be recalled that the tusker was found battling for life in Jayapur forest under Narasinghpur (West) forest range of Athagarh forest division June 7. Bullet injuries were

found on its front left leg and trunk. The tusker was found trudging near the forest beat house at Jayapur. According to report, the 8/10-year-old tusker had been seen roaming in Jayapur forest for over one month. However, neither the wildlife experts of Nandankanan Zoological Park nor the veterinary team of the OUAH had rescued it.

All 11 onboard stuck cable car rescued

AGENCIES

Shimla, June 20: Eleven people, including five women, were stranded for hours after a cable car was stuck mid-air at Parwanoo Timber Trail in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district, officials said Monday.

All of them were rescued after a six-hour-long operation, they said. Later, a team from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) also reached the spot, the officials said, adding the incident was reported around 11 am.

Parwanoo Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Pranav Chauhan told PTI that the cable car carrying the eleven tourists had got stuck at a height of around 200-250 feet near a mountain peak.



"That is why much difficulty was not faced in rescuing the passengers by sending them to the ground, one at a time, after tying a rope around each of them. A rescue cable car was deployed to get the people out," he added.

Popularly known as timber trail, the Parwanoo ropeway is situated about 35 km from Chandigarh city on Chandigarh-Shimla road and it takes about eight minutes one way for the cable car to reach from one hill to another.

Chauhan said an FIR is being registered against the owner of the cable car run by timber trail resorts. One of the rescued persons told the media that all 11 tourists were from Delhi.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur,

who reached the spot after getting information about the incident, talked to the rescued tourists.

Meanwhile, a video clip apparently taken by one of the trapped tourists surfaced on social media in which an aged tourist can be heard saying that he is a diabetes and kidney patient and cannot be rescued by a rope. In the video, some other people were also saying that they were not fit to be taken out like this.

Nearly two months ago, 15 tourists were trapped mid-air on a ropeway at Trikutt hills in Jharkhand's Deogarh district for around 40 hours. Twelve of them were rescued by Indian Air Force helicopters, while three people had died in the incident that took place April 11.

leisure



CARRE SUTTON ALLEGES SEXUAL ASSAULT BY MODELLING BOSS

Carre Sutton claims she was sexually assaulted sometimes several times a week by former modelling agency boss Gerald Marie. Sutton is one of at least 11 women to have come forward to accuse the former European head of Elite modelling agency of sexual misconduct.

KIDMAN TO STAR, PRODUCE THRILLER HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman is re-teaming with Amazon Studios for the Mimi Cave directed thriller *Holland, Michigan*. The feature, based on Andrew Sodroski's (*Manhunt*) script, topped the 2013 Black List, and involves secrets that lurk beneath a Midwestern town with a Hitchcock bent.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today even if you are alone, you may not really feel lonely. You will desire to listen to your inner self, so that you can express yourself more imaginatively. Ganesha says spend the evening with your beloved who can listen to your voice in your silence also.

TAURUS
This all matters are likely to revolve around the opposite sex. Women are going to feature prominently and significantly in everything that you do. So says Ganesha. That is good. But you will be inclined to be lazy and laid back and may thus reduce the effect and impact of efforts.

GEMINI
An extremely profitable and progressive day awaits you. You may come into a handsome inheritance. Your responsibilities will increase along with a possible promotion at work. However, do not let your success go to your head, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Ganesha says that you will carve out your path for progress. You will get respect and recognition from people. Business rivals and illness may bother you. Beware of enemies' actions. Your alertness will thwart their designs.

LEO
You will be in a light-hearted mood today. Be it at the office or at the home, you will be full of joy and will be looking to pass your time leisurely. You will spend time with family and friends. You will be unable to implement your plans for tackling work today in your current mood, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You may relieve all the tension and pressure inside you today, a day which will be full of light and relaxing moments. Ganesha foretells a beneficial and progressive day for you. You will receive many invitations to social gatherings and parties.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that to gain future opportunities you may have to rely on past experience. You will tend to become possessive about things close to you. You will also have to deal with unpleasant situations where your integrity is questioned. All said and done your day will go good except for minor issues and your understanding attitude will be praise worth today.

SCORPIO
Today, Ganesha is in the mood to give you health tips. Cultivate healthy eating habits and exercise regularly to stay away from disorders like obesity. Irregular eating habits and unhealthy lifestyle may lead to many other troubles. Eat healthy, stay happy.

SAGITTARIUS
You are on a high today and a feeling of ecstasy surrounds you. You are performance driven and shall give you best in anything you take up. Listen to your inner voice, it will guide you to the correct path. Ganesha showers His benevolent blessings on you. Make the most of this day.

CAPRICORN
You have meticulously planned every aspect of your plan and prepared the check list. The only thing left now to do is execution of that plan. Delays and obstacles, however, will block your path and will leave you disheartened. Don't doubt your abilities though.

AQUARIUS
Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport in the important decisions of your life. The tendency to be sentimental when you need to be rational will become an obstacle in your path. Learn to curb this habit otherwise you may have to pay a heavy price, advises Ganesha.

PISCES
Take one cautious step at a time today, says Ganesha. You will discuss intimate matters at home and official matters at work but be careful about whom you trust and deception from someone close might lead to worry and stress in the future.

Kiara talks about work-life balance

Mumbai: Kiara Advani is currently busy promoting her upcoming film, *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*. The film also stars Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor. The team was recently promoting the film in Delhi where Kiara spoke about her understanding of marriage.

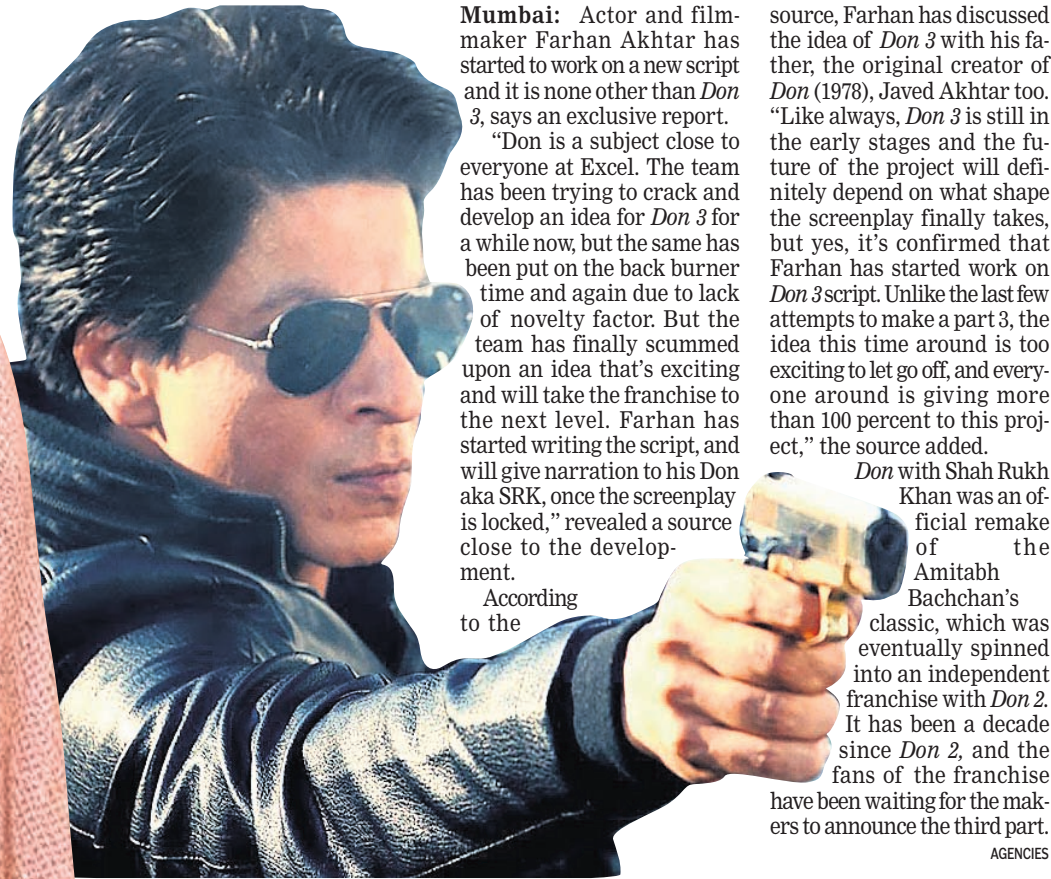
Kiara is rumoured to be dating Sidharth Malhotra. The duo has remained tight-lipped about their alleged romance but their social media PDA speaks volumes. During the press conference in Delhi, Kiara talked about marriage plans.

On being asked about the idea of getting married, Kiara replied, *Sabko karni chahiye*. The movie is about relationships and I think everyone over here endorses that

(marriage) is the most beautiful institution. As the one who's not married, I'm so lucky to be seeing such beautiful marriages in the team, especially Varun who recently got married."

She further added that Varun did not believe that he would get married, even though everyone around him did. She said, "I feel marriage is a wonderful institution. And, *shaadi bhi karni chahiye, kaam bhi karna chahiye*. There is so much to life." AGENCIES

SRK back as 'Don' after a decade!



Mumbai: Actor and filmmaker Farhan Akhtar has started to work on a new script and it is none other than *Don 3*, says an exclusive report.

"Don is a subject close to everyone at Excel. The team has been trying to crack and develop an idea for *Don 3* for a while now, but the same has been put on the back burner time and again due to lack of novelty factor. But the team has finally scummed upon an idea that's exciting and will take the franchise to the next level. Farhan has started writing the script, and will give narration to his Don aka SRK, once the screenplay is locked," revealed a source close to the development. According to the

source, Farhan has discussed the idea of *Don 3* with his father, the original creator of *Don* (1978), Javed Akhtar too. "Like always, *Don 3* is still in the early stages and the future of the project will definitely depend on what shape the screenplay finally takes, but yes, it's confirmed that Farhan has started work on *Don 3* script. Unlike the last few attempts to make a part 3, the idea this time around is too exciting to let go off, and everyone around is giving more than 100 percent to this project," the source added.

Don with Shah Rukh Khan was an official remake of the classic, which was eventually spun into an independent franchise with *Don 2*. It has been a decade since *Don 2*, and the fans of the franchise have been waiting for the makers to announce the third part.



Aada on challenges of working in audio show

New Delhi: Actress Aada Khan, who started her career with modelling and later rose to fame with

Naagin and *Khatron Ke Khiladi*, recently did an audio show titled, *Hello Jaanu*. She shared her experience of doing the project and how she prepared for it.

Hello Jaanu is an audio show about four married women who are secretly working at the call centre, which is called *Hello Jaanu* and it is run by Gurbpreet Aunty, played by actress Supriya Shukla.

"This is the first time I am doing an Audible show. I've never done something like this. I was also expressing myself while I was giving my voice and I was also acting and which was fun. For me, it was very different. But I had a great time and definitely learnt a lot," says Aada.

On how she prepared herself for this audio show, she replies: "We had our creatives around us while we were giving voiceovers and while we were in the studio, and had to do a lot of voice modulation. When you're enacting something that people can't see, you have to do it through your voice. So, even the smallest of expressions or smallest of just a breath or a sigh, it has to be expressed through your voice, which is very important." IANS

Samantha speaks about Karma & unfairness in life

Chennai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu recently hosted an environment event, *Save Soil*, an initiative by Sadhguru. While the pics of her in saree took the internet on fire, she also asked some interesting questions to Sadhguru about life and Karma. During their interaction, she asked if unfairness in one's life can be due to one's 'past karma'. Responding to her, Sadhguru said, "I want the world to be fair to me is a schoolgirl question."

The actress asked a question that has been on her mind, "How much of one's life is a result of their

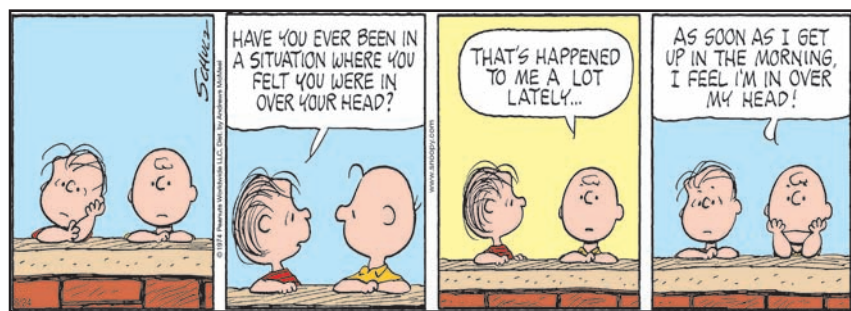
past karma? Are the injustices and unfairness that one faces in one's life a result of their past karma, and if so, do you accept these injustices and find solace in the fact that the karma is being cleared, even though it might seem detrimental to our lives in so many ways...?" In return, Sadhguru asked Samantha if she still expects the world to be fair to her. He further said, "By now, you should know the world is not fair. It will not be fair."

Samantha and Naga Chaitanya announced their separation in October 2021, leaving millions of fans heartbroken. Although no reason for their divorce was stated, Samantha accused the

actor of having extra-marital affairs and abortions, promising not to be crushed by the personal insults and attacks. AGENCIES



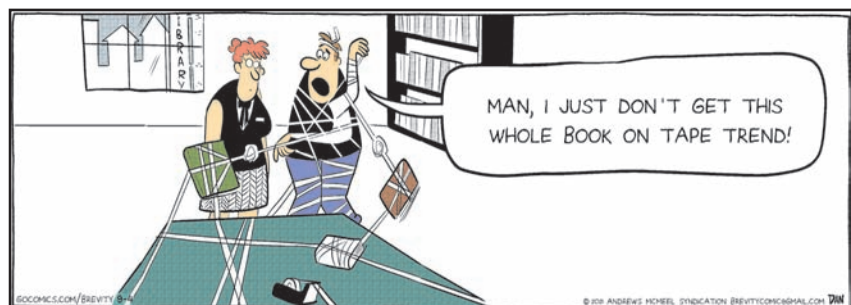
PEANUTS



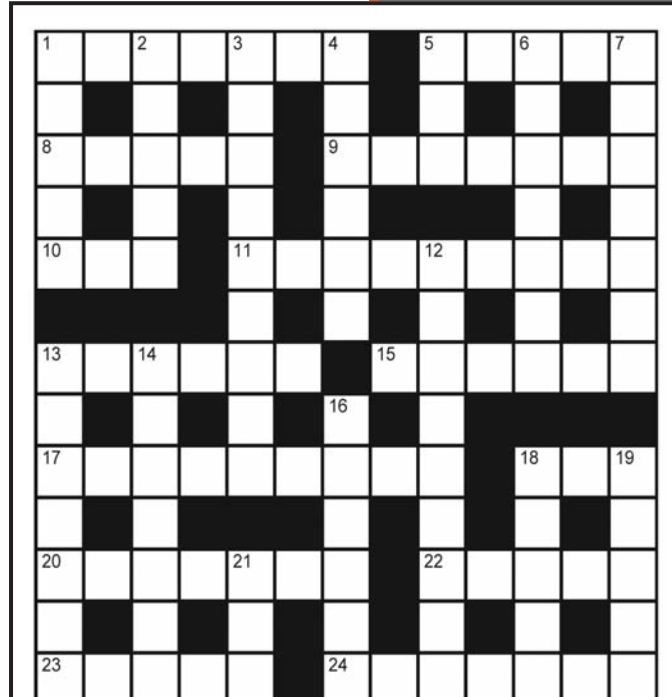
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



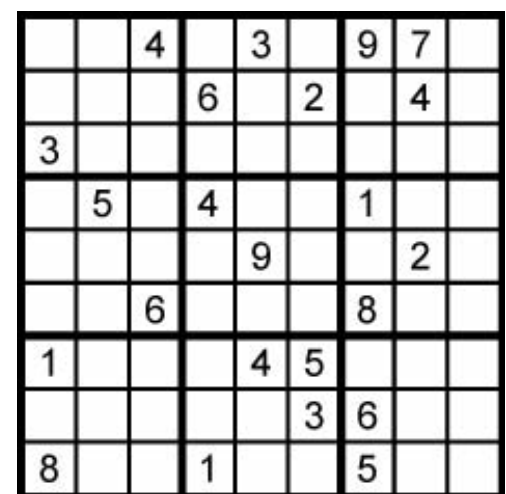
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Sturdy canine
 - 5 Designer's concern
 - 8 Building addition
 - 9 Looks up to
 - 10 Lady lobster
 - 11 Etching
 - 13 Attack
 - 15 Responds
 - 17 Like some machinery (5-4)
 - 18 Plunge
 - 20 Witty saying
 - 22 Praise
 - 23 Cast out
 - 24 Stephen King's *Things*
 - 5 Hydroelectric project
 - 6 Type of arrest
 - 7 Abdicates
 - 12 Kind of torch
 - 13 Lacrosse player, e.g.
 - 14 Bantoid language
 - 16 Torpedo, maybe
 - 18 Overshadow
 - 19 Floral leaf
 - 21 Future fish
- Down**
- 1 Cheeky
 - 2 Kind of closet
 - 3 Adroitness
 - 4 Farm

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

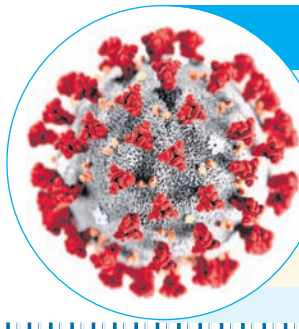


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



WARM GREETINGS

City Mayor Sulochana Das greets Vijay Amruta Kulange as he assumes office as the BMC Commissioner in the Capital city, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	54,44,33,589	51,97,99,912	63,41,131
India	4,33,09,473	4,27,07,900	5,24,873
Odisha	12,88,897	12,79,479	9,126

WELCOME RELIEF



School children caught in rain near Rasulgarh Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

8 Kharif, 9 Rabi crops under PMFBY: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The state government Monday decided to cover eight crops for Kharif season 2022 and nine for Rabi season 2022-23 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), officials said.

This was decided at the State-level Crop Insurance Coordination Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra.

While reviewing the performance under crop insurance, the Chief Secretary directed insurance companies to ensure cent per cent disbursement of all settled amount directly to bank account of the farmers within a couple of weeks.

He emphasised, "Farmers' issues cannot be delayed and all their genuine claims must be paid on priority."

Mahapatra made it clear to the companies that any delay in this matter would be seriously viewed by the government.

Mahapatra also directed the departments of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare and Odisha Space Application Centre to prepare the plan for crop wise area and yield assessment through space technology.

Development Commissioner PK Jena asked officials to choose from among the proven technologies and customise those as per state's agro-climatic zones. He also said that the satellite imagery would be quite helpful in data sanitisation, evidence-based plan-



Farmers' welfare

The Chief Secretary directed the departments of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare and Odisha Space Application Centre to prepare the plan for crop-wise area and yield assessment through space technology

The Development Commissioner said that the satellite imagery would be quite helpful in data sanitisation, evidence-based planning and wider coverage of crop insurance

Crop insurance in the state is being done under PMFBY with funding from both the state and Union governments

ning and wider coverage of crop insurance.

The meeting also resolved that satellite verification of 'crop area and yield' would be done for all croplands from the coming year.

The eight crops - paddy, groundnut, maize, arhar, ragi, cotton, ginger, and turmeric would be insured during the Kharif season 2022, and nine crops - paddy,

groundnut, black-gram, green-gram, mustard, sunflower, sugarcane, potato, and onion would be insured for the Rabi season.

Generally, gram panchayat and urban local body would be the insurance unit for paddy, and block would be the insurance unit for non-paddy crops. July 31 would be the cut-off date for enrolment of Kharif insurance, said Special Secretary Agriculture SK Chadha.

Director Agriculture Muthu Kumar said, "Crop insurance in the state is being done under PMFBY with funding support from both the state and central government. Around 98 per cent of the premium amount against each crop is provided by the central and state government on an equal basis, and about 2 per cent is contributed by the concerned farmer".

About 12.30 lakh farmers with 10.50 lakh hectares cropland were enrolled during Kharif season of 2021 while the enrolment in Rabi season of 2021-22 was around 0.34 lakh farmers and 0.41 hectares of cropland.

OSRTC unveils smart toilet at Malatipatpur bus stand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Puri, June 20: The Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) Monday launched Artificial Intelligence-based smart toilet-cum-integrated commercial facility at Malatipatpur bus stand in Puri.

Claimed to be the first-of-its-kind in eastern India, the ultramodern facility has been developed by OSRTC in association with Freshrooms Hospitality Services Private Limited, a Madhya Pradesh-based startup. It will operate on 'pay, use and redeem' concept with refreshments, eat and lounge facility.

With better ambient lighting and proper aesthetic design, the toilet with rooms for refreshment



AI-based tech

Claimed to be the first-of-its-kind in eastern India, the ultramodern facility has been developed by OSRTC in association with Freshrooms Hospitality Services Private Limited, a Madhya Pradesh-based startup

The facility with toilet and rooms for refreshment would serve as a relaxation centre for tourists

It will operate on 'pay, use and redeem' concept with refreshments, eat and lounge facility

would serve as a relaxation centre for tourists. The Artificial Intelligence-based facility with UV lights has been designed to ensure

no virus and bacteria remain on the toilet seats. According to OSRTC chairman-cum-managing director Diptesh Kumar Pattanayak, OSRTC

The high-end sanitation facility would benefit passengers and tourists coming from various states by offering best-in-class hygiene & public service. We're planning to introduce such concepts in more places soon

DIPTESH KUMAR PATTANAYAK | OSRTC CHAIRMAN-CUM-MD

is committed to offering best-in-class passenger amenities.

"The high-end sanitation facility would benefit passengers and tourists coming from various states by offering best-in-class hygiene and public service. We're planning to introduce such concepts in more places soon," said Pattanayak.

Craft Bazar inaugurated at City's Ekamra Haat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts (HT&H) department commissioner-cum-secretary Shubha Sarma inaugurated 'Craft Bazar', a national-level handicrafts exhibition, at Ekamra Haat here Monday.

Organised by Utkalika, the exhibition which will see participation of 100 artisans is expected to draw one lakh visitors.

The fair will conclude June 29, said an official.

Actress found dead; father smells foul play

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Odia television actress Rashmirekha Ojha was found hanging at her rented accommodation in Nayapalli area here, with her father alleging that her live-in partner, Santosh Patra, had a role to play in her death, an official said Monday.

According to a senior police officer, a case of unnatural death has been registered in the matter.

"The 23-year-old actress was found hanging from the ceiling of her rented home on the night of June 18. The police are waiting for her post-mortem report to arrive. Prima facie, it seems to be a case of suicide as she left behind a note stating that no one was responsible for her death," Bhubaneswar DCP

Prateek Singh said.

Ojha's father told media persons that he was informed about her death by Patra.

"Our calls to her Saturday went unanswered. Later, Santosh broke the news to us. We came to know from the landlord of the house that Santosh and Rashmi lived as husband-wife. We had no idea about that," he said.

Ojha, who hailed from Jagatsinghpur district, shot to fame in the Odia television industry with her role in daily soap 'Kemiti Kahibi Kaha'.

Sources said Nayapalli police will soon interrogate Patra in connection with the incident. Meanwhile, an audio clip of 'argument' between Patra and Ojha over another man was found doing the rounds on social media.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA TODAY

Integrate yoga into community based well-being initiatives: WHO

On the eve of the International Day of Yoga (IDY), the World Health Organisation (WHO) Monday said policymakers should consider integrating yoga into community-based mental health and well-being initiatives while increasing efforts to leverage the potential of safe and effective traditional medicine.

The UN agency's Regional Director for South-East Asia Poonam Khetrapal Singh said regular yoga practice can help people of all ages and incomes achieve adequate physical activity, making it a high-impact, cost-effective way to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) - one of South-East Asia Region's eight flagship priorities.

It has been shown to have immediate psychological effects, decreasing anxiety and stress, and increasing feelings of emotional and social well-being.

Throughout the Covid-19 response, yoga has helped hundreds of millions of people from all countries and cultures stay healthy and well, highlighting that yoga is for all of humanity - the theme of this year's IDY event, Singh said in a statement.

"Consistent with the region-wide push to reorient health systems towards strong primary health care (PHC), policymakers should consider integrating yoga into community-based mental health and well-being initiatives, while also increasing efforts to leverage the power and potential of safe and effective traditional medicine," she said.

The region continues to intensify action to increase physical activity and enhance mental health, in line with its flagship



Consistent with the region-wide push to reorient health systems towards strong primary health care (PHC), policymakers should consider integrating yoga into community-based mental health and well-being initiatives, while also increasing efforts to leverage the power and potential of safe and effective traditional medicine

POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA, WHO

priorities - the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (GAPPA) 2018-2030, Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals, Khetrapal Singh said.

Last year, the WHO launched a Regional Roadmap on implementing the GAPPA, which will help member states identify and implement policies to achieve a 15 per cent relative reduction in the prevalence of insufficient physical activity by 2030.

Ministers of health and education from across the region issued a call to action to scale up the implementation of comprehensive health programmes in schools, including by facilitating physical activity.

"Amid the ongoing Covid-19 response and recovery, policymakers should explore integrating yoga into preventive and promotive health strategies, especially for mental health - a core priority

in the months and years ahead," the regional director said.

In March, WHO and the Indian government signed an agreement to establish the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, India.

The GCTM - which is supported by an investment of USD 250 million from the Centre - has a strategic focus on evidence and learning, data and analytics, sustainability and equity, and innovation and technology, with the overall aim of optimising the contribution of TRM to global health and sustainable development.

The mission of the GCTM aligned with the region's long-standing focus on strengthening traditional medicine (TRM) system performance monitoring, increasing safety monitoring for such products, enhancing research capacity and integrating safe and effective TRM into health service delivery, especially at the PHC level, the WHO said.

Our endeavour is that our youth should be flexible and can adopt the fast-changing nature of job. Today, Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling is the greatest need of the hour.

- Narendra Modi

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NO LET-UP IN SOCIAL EVIL

Differently-abled teacher ostracised in Ganjam dist



Meanwhile, the Ganjam and Rambha police visited the concerned villages during last three days and held talks with the panchayati raj representatives and village committee members on lifting the boycott order

SP Brijesh Kumar Rai tweeted Sunday that boycott order has been lifted on 31 families in five villages under Ganjam and Rambha police limits

lice left the village, the committee members asked Sethi to pay the money they had spent on boycotting him from the funds of village deity. Sethi expressed his inability and the village committee members refused to lift the boycott order on him till he pays the penalty.

When contacted, the ASP said that the social boycott issue on Sethi has been resolved and if someone is asking for money then the complainant has been advised to file an FIR in the police station.

In his petition, Sethi alleged that the incident had its origin after the president of the village committee brought sand in a tractor and dumped it in front of his house January 1 this year. He met the president as the sand remained there for five days straight.

The village committee president refused to listen to him. Later, he visited the Rambha police station and lodged a complaint. Police intervened and the sand was shifted elsewhere. This infuriated the president and he ordered to boycott his family in the village, March 6. He has been boycotted by the villagers and the village shops have stopped serving him goods, Sethi said in a choked voice.

On the other hand, directed by Ganjam SP, Rambha police convened a meeting in the village to lift the boycott order on Sethi and his family. The boycott order was lifted on his family in the presence of police. However, as soon as the po-

There is no let up in social ostracisation of residents in Ganjam district. Such incidents have been reported more from Chhatrapur, Ganjam, Rambha and Chamakhandi police limits where police officials are finding it hard to resolve the issues.

The village committee members are lifting the boycott order in the presence of police but are slapping penalty on the victim once the police officials leave the village. A family is ostracised again if he fails to clear the penalty.

Meanwhile, the Ganjam and Rambha police visited the concerned villages during last three days and held talks with the panchayati raj representatives and village committee members on lifting the boycott order. Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Rai tweeted Sunday that boycott order has been lifted on 31 families in five villages under Ganjam and Rambha police limits.

A NEW BEGINNING



Newly-appointed Information & Public Relations (I&PR) Principal Secretary Sanjay Singh (R) being welcomed as he assumes charge at the department office in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Gopalpur beach soon to be differently-abled friendly

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 20: The Gopalpur Beach, off the Ganjam coast, is all set to turn differently-abled friendly as the administration is building walkways, a proposal that was long pending. The administration is leaving no stones unturned to make beaches more inclusive for the differently-abled and equip with wheelchair-friendly infrastructure.

This was confirmed by the official Twitter handle of Ganjam District Collector. The tweet read, "Very soon Gopalpur beach will be a Dibrangjan-friendly beach. Facilities will be available for dif-

ferently-abled persons and they will enjoy the beauty of beach."

One of the biggest impediments of differently-abled population is lack of infrastructure in public places. They are left with no option but to depend on someone for help.

This noble initiative of turning Gopalpur Beach differently-abled friendly by the administration has been receiving praises from all quarters. The wheelchair-accessible Gopalpur Beach will be open for differently-abled persons very soon. The main idea is to leave no room for the need of dependency for the differently-abled.

As per the proposal, the ramps and railings will lead up from the park-



ing area to the beach. Everything from washrooms to food court will be accessible for those who use wheelchairs. Moreover, the food counters will be at a lower height

Sriya Lenka feted by Vedanta Ltd

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: On the eve of World Music Day, India's first K-POP star and Odisha's pride Sriya Lenka was felicitated by Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda.

Vedanta Jharsuguda CEO Sunil Gupta felicitated the young sensation at a function held at Vedanta premises. Gupta said in his address, "Odisha is a land of immense talent and Sriya is a testament to the vast pool of young artists nurtured across the state. Her noteworthy achievement has put Jharsuguda in the world map that will further encourage youth in this region to stride forward in pursuit of their dreams. At Vedanta, we have always endeavoured to promote such talents and as partners in progress of this state, we strive to ensure that more such success stories emerge from this region."

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 20: Another case of social ostracisation rocked Ganjam district yet again where a differently-abled teacher was found knocking at the doors of the authorities to get justice.

The victim was identified as Rabindra Kumar Sethi, a native of Tarinipali village under Rambha police limits in the district. Sethi and his family have been socially boycotted in the village for the last three months over a trivial issue and personal tiff with the village committee president.

The matter came to fore after Sethi visited the office of Ganjam SP pleading for justice, Sunday. Sethi accompanied by his family members visited the SP of office and handed over his complaint to the ASP in the absence of the SP. He prayed for justice and demanded punishment for the culprits as per law.

Agnipath bandh partial, Army issues notification

Continued from P1

Massive traffic jams were witnessed on Delhi roads as restrictions were in place due to the bandh and the Satyagrah protest by Congress over the Centre's Agnipath scheme and the questioning of Rahul Gandhi by the ED. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, party's leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury senior leaders Sachin Pilot, Salman Khurshid, Mallikarjun Kharge and KC Venugopal took part in the protest at the Jantar Mantar.

Indian Youth Congress workers stopped a train at the Shivaji Bridge railway station near Connaught Place. Sixteen protesters were detained and the track was cleared by security personnel after about half an hour, sources said.

Commuters from Noida and Gurugram were left hauled as they battled traffic snarls while driving into the city whereas inside the capital, Lutyens' Delhi, which was the epicentre of protests, remained chock-a-block.

While the strike call choked traffic on several arterial roads, no impact was seen in the city's markets where it was business as usual. In view of the bandh call, the Delhi Police had tightened security across the national capital and its bordering areas and warned of strict action against those trying to disrupt the law and order situation.

Other states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Assam and Rajasthan had also heightened security and imposed prohibitory orders in some districts to thwart possible protests and violence during the strike.

DAMPENING DEFIANCE



Cops dispersing the congregation of youths opposing Centre's Agnipath scheme near Master Canteen square in Bhubaneswar, Monday

HE dept asks state MPs to focus on RUSA 3.0 in Monsoon session

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Ahead of the Monsoon session of the Parliament, the Higher Education department wrote to MPs of the state asking them to focus on NAAC accreditations and inclusion of new components in the forthcoming introduction of RUSA 3.0.

The Higher Education department Joint Secretary Snigdha Champatiray wrote to the state MPs that NAAC accreditation is the basis for educational institutions' eligibility for RUSA grants.

The NAAC accreditation grade should be lower in future i.e. in RUSA 3.0 regarding up-gradation of general degree colleges to Model Degree colleges and existing government autonomous colleges to universities, so that more non government aided colleges/government autonomous colleges would get an opportunity to apply for RUSA grant.

Further, new components, which would focus on add-on courses for skill development of

the students to enhance their employability, should be added.

These issues should be taken into consideration while framing the guidelines for RUSA 3.0, she wrote.

The department also urged the MPs to pose questions in the parliament as to whether there is any official notification issued for launching of RUSA 3.0, and if not, then when it will be notified, what will be the selection criteria for the institutions to be selected under RUSA 3.0, will the request of Odisha to lower the NAAC accreditation grade be considered by MHRD while framing such guideline, can the institutions who have completed Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (A) registration in NAAC website participate for RUSA 3.0, is there any possibility of addition of any new component in RUSA 3.0 which would focus on imparting skill development or job oriented courses to the students in their higher education as this would perhaps enhance their skills for seeking jobs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wine shop burgled

Bhubaneswar: A miscreant decamped with Rs 5.50 lakh in cash and more than 20 liquor bottles worth around Rs 2 to 3 lakh from a wine shop at Jayadev Vihar under Nayapalli police limits here late Sunday night. Police started a probe into the incident on the basis of the complaint lodged by the owner of the shop, Hemant Kumar Jena.

DA: Vig raid on CSO

Berhampur: Vigilance sleuths raided the residence of Anadi Charn Sethi, a civil supplies officer (CSO) attached to the state headquarters of Food and Civil Supplies department, on charge of accumulating disproportionate assets (DA), Monday. Five teams carried out simultaneous searches on the house and properties of Sethi at five places. Sethi was also the former CSO in Paralakhemundi of Gajapati district.

Drug peddler held

Bhubaneswar: The special task force (STF) of Crime Branch has arrested an interstate drug peddler absconding since the seizure of huge quantity of ganja near Tamando June 3. The accused was identified as Rana Muna Dora of Dharmapur under Patpur police limits in Ganjam district.

A glucose meter could soon detect antibodies against Covid

The new readily available glucose meter, described in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, is easy to use and can be integrated with remote clinical services

A team of US researchers have developed a simple, glucose-meter-based test that can be used to accurately monitor our own antibody levels to fight SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19.

Over-the-counter Covid tests can quickly show whether a person is infected with SARS-CoV-2. But if you have a positive result, there's no equivalent at-home test to assess how long you're protected against reinfection, said researchers from Johns Hopkins University, MIT and Harvard University.

It is because vaccines against Covid infection can guard against future infections for a while, but it's unclear exactly how long that pro-

tection lasts. A good indication of immune protection is a person's level of antibodies, but the gold standard measurement - the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) - requires expensive equipment and specialised technicians.

The new readily available glucose meter, described in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, is easy to use and can be integrated with remote clinical services.

In the study the team wanted to see whether producing a fusion protein consisting of both invertase and a detection antibody would work in an assay that would allow SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels to be



read with a glucose meter.

The researchers designed and produced a novel fusion protein containing both invertase and a mouse antibody that binds to human immunoglobulin (IgG) antibodies. They showed that the fu-

sion protein bound to human IgGs and successfully produced glucose from sucrose.

Next, the team made test strips with the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein on them. When dipped in Covid-19 patient samples, the pa-

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The researchers designed and produced a novel fusion protein containing both invertase and a mouse antibody that binds to human immunoglobulin (IgG) antibodies

They showed that the fusion protein bound to human IgGs and successfully produced glucose from sucrose

Next, the team made test strips with the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein on them and when dipped in Covid-19 patient samples, the patients' SARS-CoV-2 antibodies bound to the spike protein

They validated the test by performing the analysis with glucose meters on a variety of patient samples, and found that the new assay worked as well as four different ELISAs

tients' SARS-CoV-2 antibodies bound to the spike protein.

Adding the invertase/IgG fusion protein, then sucrose, led to the production of glucose, which could be detected by a glucose meter. They validated the test by performing the analysis with glu-

ucose meters on a variety of patient samples, and found that the new assay worked as well as four different ELISAs.

The researchers said that the method can also be adapted to test for SARS-CoV-2 variants and other infectious diseases.

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SHORT TAKES

3 held for killing tribal woman

Baripada: Three persons were arrested Monday for allegedly killing a 75-year-old tribal woman in Mayurbhanj district last week on the suspicion of practising witchcraft, police said Monday. Champabati Hembram was thrashed to death with a stone when she was asleep in her house at Podagarh village in Jashipur block Thursday night. Those arrested were identified as Jagannath Tudu, 23, Mangal Hansda, 26, and Samai Hembram, 30, Superintendent of Police Rishikesh Khilari told reporters. Samai had suspected the septuagenarian was practising witchcraft, due



to which his father and mother died, and his son fell ill. He paid ₹20,000 to the two others to commit the crime, the SP said. Police have seized the stone with blood stain and ₹15,000 in cash.

Families of dead lovebirds detained



POST NEWS NETWORK

Saintala, June 20: Saintala police Monday detained the family members of two lovebirds whose bodies were found hanging from a banyan tree in a forest at Dangarmunda village in Bolangir district Saturday.

A case was registered and the cops have detained the family members after sending the bodies for post-mortem.

According to sources, Chandra Bhoi of Dangarmunda was in love with his cousin sister, a resident of Nuapada village under Tushra police limits. However, their parents were against the relationship.

With no options left, Chandra and the girl eloped and got married. However, Chandra's family did not

let them in when they returned after marriage. Frustrated over the issue, the newly-wed couple left the house Friday. However, their bodies were found hanging from a banyan tree in a nearby forest, Saturday. In bid to evade police action, their family members were trying to set the bodies on fire without informing police.

Now, the mystery behind the death of the two lovebirds has deepened as there have been rumours that Chandra and his wife's family members might have killed them because they belonged to the same community.

Police have started investigation to ascertain whether the lovebirds had committed suicide or they were killed in a pre-planned manner.

RAIN PAIN



Motorists and pedestrians negotiate a waterlogged road at Dharmanagar in Berhampur after a downpour, Monday

OP PHOTO

Newborn rescued from nullah

Sukinda: A newborn boy, abandoned by his 'parents', got a new lease of life after he was rescued safely by Udaipur villagers under this block in Jaipur district Monday. As per reports, a few locals spotted the baby floating in the nullah in a basket and rushed to his rescue. The health condition of the infant is said to be normal.

Youth kills dad on Father's Day

Nandapur: In an unfortunate incident, a youth bludgeoned his father to death with an iron rod over a petty issue at Pedadhaba under Nandapur police limits in Koraput district Sunday evening. The deceased was identified as Damu Khara, father of the accused Trinath Khara. According to sources, a verbal duel ensued between Trinath and his father over some issue which later escalated into a heated argument. Trinath picked up an iron rod and attacked his father leading to his death at the spot. On being informed, police reached the spot and started a probe.

Status report on double murder

Salipur/Nisichintakolli: After being pulled up by court, Salipur SDPO Monday submitted the status report of two accused and five witnesses in Mahanga double murder case. The SDPO appeared in JMFC court and submitted the case diary in the probe. The 11-page status report contains the statements of all seven persons including the statements of Bapi Biswal and former block chairperson Sarat Nayak, the two associates of former minister and local MLA Pratap Jena.

2 trampled to death by jumbos

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saraskana, June 20: A herd of 70 elephants from Jharkhand has unleashed a reign of terror in Sirsa forest section under this block in Bangiriposhi forest range of Mayurbhanj district trampling two persons to death, Sunday night.

The deceased were identified as Budhia Munda, 38, and Phulamani Munda, 60, in Digarishola village under the block. In the first case, Budhia came face-to-face with the herd when he was returning home after purchasing provisions from the village haat, Sunday evening. A tusker in the herd picked him on its tusk and trampled him to death.

In the second case, Phulamani of the same village was asleep at home after dinner when a tusker of the herd pulled down her house. She was crushed to death under the rubble of her house. Later, family members with the help of fire personnel rushed her to Sirsa community health centre where the doctors pronounced her dead. Jharpokharia police registered



The deceased were identified as Budhia Munda, 38, and Phulamani Munda, 60, in Digarishola under Saraskana block

Villagers deplored the forest officials for their inability in driving away the elephants

two cases of unnatural deaths and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

The twin deaths sparked tension in the village. As a result, the villagers were incensed by non-arrival of Bangiriposhi ranger (in-charge)

Lakshmidhar Behera and forester Gurubari Marandi at the village following the tragic deaths despite being informed.

Later, ranger Lakshmidhar Behera, local MLA Budhan

2 killed, 3 critical in road mishaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar/Balasure, June 20: At least two persons were killed while three others were critically injured in separate road mishaps in Ganjam and Balasure districts Monday.

In the first incident, a youth was killed after his motorbike was hit by a speeding vehicle near Khanduru under Polasara police limits in Ganjam district. The deceased has been identified as Kalia Jena of Ghodhapalana village.

According to sources, Kalia was on his way to Polasara when an unidentified vehicle hit his bike.

He was rushed to Polasara hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Informed, local police reached the spot and recovered the body.

Similarly, a person died while three others were critically injured after the car they were travelling in crashed into a roadside barricade on National Highway-60 in Balasure.

Reportedly, the car (WB 16 BH 5303) was en route to Bhubaneswar from Kolkata when the driver lost control over the vehicle. As a result, one person died on the spot. The injured persons were admitted to Balasure district headquarters hospital.



5-yr-old drowns in hotel swimming pool

Udala: A 5-year-old boy drowned in a swimming pool at a hotel here in Mayurbhanj district when he had been there with his father to attend a marriage feast, police said Monday. The deceased was identified as Ritesh Patra, son of Sarat Patra, under Udala police limits. Ritesh was moving with his father clutching his hands when he slipped away and fell in the swimming pool. Locals and hotel authorities fished him out and rushed him to Udala hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Sarat brought back the body and again checked it at Dureka hospital where the doctors also declared him dead. Later, he took the body to his native Jambani village under Kaptipada police limits and buried it. On being informed, Udala police reached Jambani village and exhumed the body for post-mortem.

Half-burnt body of man recovered

Binika: Half-burnt body of a man was recovered from Dugumali forest near Baunsuni under Binika police limits of Subarnapur district Monday. Circumstantial evidence suggests that it is a clear case of murder, reports said. Locals spotted the partially charred body in the forest and informed the police who sent the body for post-mortem. The identity of the deceased is yet to be established. It's suspected that someone might have killed him and tried to burn the body to destroy the evidence.

BERHAMPUR CIRCLE JAIL

6 UTPs languish in jail despite bail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 20: At least six undertrial prisoners (UTPs) lodged in Berhampur Circle Jail have been granted bail for their crimes but they are yet to be released as they are unable to arrange bailers and security deposits, a report said.

Established in 1863, Berhampur Circle Jail is the oldest prison in south Odisha. However, the jail is overcrowded as 1,027 prisoners have been lodged here against the capacity of 841 – 26 per cent more than its strength.

According to conditions of the court, these UTPs from poor financial backgrounds have failed to arrange bailers and money required for security deposits for which they could not be released despite getting bail.

According to Jailor Satya Narayan Behera, "The jail has 1,027 prisoners by June 18 of which 858

are UTPs while 169 are prisoners serving sentences in various offences.

Similarly, out of the total number of prisoners 21 are women and among them 16 are UTPs while the remaining five are serving sentences in various crimes."

Observers said overcrowding has become a cause of concern which makes monitoring of prisoners a Herculean task for the jail authorities. This also leads to a surge in criminal activities inside the jails. The security of jail suffers is also at stake, they added.

Moreover, overcrowding also leads health issues and spread of contagious diseases inside the jail despite the inmates having the rights to basic amenities.

Overcrowding deteriorates the mental health condition of inmates and spoils efforts to reform them to lead a productive life after they complete their jail term.



Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority
(A Statutory body created by an Act of Parliament)
(Ministry of Agri. & Farmers Welfare Govt. of India)
NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur, New Delhi-12

Notice for the Extension of Last Date

In continuation to the advertisement for Plant Genome Saviour Award, Reward and Recognitions for the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 which was published in different leading newspapers of the country in March, 27, 2022 for inviting applications for Reward and Recognition from the Community and Individual Farmers. The last date for receiving the applications was 27th June, 2022. The Competent Authority of PPVRA is pleased to extend the last date of receiving applications on or before 31st August, 2022.

(Umakant Dubey)
Deputy Registrar
davn 01146/12/0004/2223

Plan afoot to empower women of Swabhiman Anchal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, June 20: The administration is preparing a special plan to boost women empowerment in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district. Zilla Parishad (ZP) chairperson Samari Tangulu held a special meeting on progress of Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) and other activities undertaken by self-help groups (SHGs) under Mission Shakti.

The ZP members took stock of the activities of the SHGs have become successful. They underscored the need for introducing new income generating avenues for women SHGs so that they will be self-sufficient.

In its endeavor to empower women in Swabhiman Anchal and make them self-reliant through entrepreneurship, Mission Shakti has been showing the path to SHGs here. Mission Shakti has transformed the lives of SHG members by helping them become agripreneurs.

With help from Mission Shakti, many SHGs have set up turmeric pulverisation units. The entrepreneur-turned-SHG members purchase raw



turmeric from the local markets and subsequently sell the processed turmeric powder.

Negating the challenges of remoteness and being from the hilly areas, these industrious women have set a bright example of successful entrepreneurship. Furthermore, many women farmers have taken up this farming and earn about ₹40,000 on an average annually. Organic turmeric

farming has widely spread in forested and hilly pockets like Jodamba, Panasput, Andirapalli, Jantri and Gajulumamudi panchayats.

Moreover, the horticulture department, the ITDA, OLM and Mission Shakti also promote this farming in the large interests of people, who have been suffering for lack of livelihood sources. Similarly, many other programmes are being launched in the

With help from Mission Shakti, many self-help groups have set up turmeric pulverisation units in Swabhiman Anchal

The entrepreneur-turned-SHG members purchase raw turmeric from the local markets and subsequently sell the processed turmeric powder

Negating the challenges of remoteness and being from the hilly areas, these industrious women have set a bright example of successful entrepreneurship

Swabhiman Anchal to empower tribal women in the area. The ZP chairperson reiterated that the Chief Minister has always given priority to women empowerment. Government and local administration is trying to address their problems through simple and effective approach.

Worth mentioning, with a population of around 32,000, the Swabhiman Anchal got cut off from the district's mainland in the 1960s following the construction of Machhkund reservoir and turned into a Maoist den.

But things started changing in 2018 following the inauguration of the Gurupriya bridge.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR
No. 1981/RWDBN/J/2022-2023 T.O. LETTER NO. 1642 DATED 17.05.2022
2nd CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE
IDENTIFICATION NO. 01/RWDBN/J/2022-2023 T.O. LETTER NO. 1642 DATED 17.05.2022
No. O-497: The following modifications to the Online Tender/01/SERWBN/J/2022-2023 are made under unavoidable circumstances.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date of Opening of Tender	
1	2	3	4	5	
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhanjanagar	Online Tender/01/RWDBN/J/2022-2023	As per 1 st Corrigendum	03.06.2022 10.00 AM	20.06.2022 to 3.00 PM	19.06.2022 upto 3.00 PM
		As per 2 nd Corrigendum	24.06.2022 10.00 AM	05.07.2022 to 3.00 PM	04.07.2022 upto 3.00 PM

All other terms and conditions of the said tender call notice shall remain unchanged.
Sd./ Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhanjanagar
OIPR-25174/11/0009/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, MOHANA
e-mail: rwdmohana@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. Online Tender 02/MOHANA/2022-23
No. O-493: 1. Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total No. Work : 11 (Eleven) Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: Varies from Rs.6.19 lakhs to Rs.31.86 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: As per Annexure. 5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure. 6. Other Details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender Online for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Mohana	Online Tender/02/MOHANA/2022-23	11 (Eleven) Nos.	24.06.2022 10.00 AM	05.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM	04.06.2022 upto 5.00 PM

Further details can be seen from the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in.
Sd./ Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Mohana
OIPR-25148/11/0003/2223



Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom.

SRI AUROBINDO



China & LeT

India has cried foul over China's decision to put on hold UN listing of Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) second-in-command Abdul Rehman Makki. India and the US, June 1, jointly proposed to list Makki, the brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba head and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed, under the UN Security Council's Al-Qaeda (Dae'sh) and ISIL Sanctions Committee. Both the countries had already listed Makki as a terrorist under their domestic laws. India seems helpless in stopping China from tormenting it diplomatically, militarily and in strategic manoeuvring. The development is especially humiliating for India as it has happened only a week before China presides over the five-nation 14th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit to be held virtually June 23. Ironically, China's President Xi Jinping will host the high-level dialogue under the theme of "Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." One wonders how partnerships can be made in a climate of suspicion, animosity and mistrust, especially when India seems to be on the losing wicket every single instance.

India has termed China's action as contrary to the latter's claims of combating terrorism. It is only natural that China, which is Pakistan's all-weather friend, would defend its decision citing technical reasons that would be diplomatically correct and serve Pakistan's interests as well. For, the 'technical hold' on the proposal, effectively blocking the listing till the hold is withdrawn, can last up to 6 months at a time. However, this is not the first time that China has placed obstacles to the listing of known terrorists. In the past, it had repeatedly blocked proposals to designate Maulana Masood Azhar, chief of Pakistan-based and UN-proscribed terrorist outfit, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki has played various leadership roles within LeT, a US-designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO). Makki has a reward of \$2 million on him placed by the US government. He has been involved in raising funds, recruiting and radicalising youth to unleash violence and plan attacks in India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. It was under Makki's leadership that the LeT engineered terrorist attacks in India such as the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, Red Fort attack 22 December 2000, Rampur CRPF Camp attack 1 January 2008, Karan Nagar (Srinagar) attack 12-13 February 2018, Khanpora (Baramulla) attack 30 May 2018, Srinagar attack 14 June 2018 and Gurez/Bandipora attack 7 August 2018. This is the reason why India claimed there is 'overwhelming' evidence to prove Makki's terrorist activities.

Pakistan has all along been playing the role of a patron of these terror outfits while maintaining a facade that it is fighting terrorism and taking legal action against terrorists. Makki was reportedly arrested by the Pakistan government May 15, 2019 and kept under house arrest in Lahore. In 2020, he was convicted of terror financing and sentenced to prison by a Pakistani court. However, he was acquitted later for the failure of the prosecution to prove the charges with evidence.

The United States continues to seek information on Makki because the Pakistani judicial system has released convicted LeT leaders and operatives in the past. Accordingly, it jointly proposed along with India the listing of Makki. The proposal to list Makki under the UN Security Council sanctions regime was circulated to all the 15 members of the council's Al-Qaeda and ISIL Sanctions Committee, also known as the 1267 Committee, under a "no-objection procedure." But China put a "technical hold" June 16 on the proposal. Beijing has thus put a spanner in the Indo-US efforts to help its ally, Pakistan, and also plague and punish India for tying up with the US to frustrate its designs in the Indo-Pacific region by forming the Quad grouping comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia. The more aggressive is the tone of the Quad countries to close ranks and prevent China's domination in the region, the more China is trying to harass India and encroach on its soil in eastern Ladakh where it has begun afresh infrastructure building activities on its soil close to the Indo-China border. This has been done when military and diplomatic level talks between the two countries on resolving the conflict following the border standoff are progressing at a snail's pace.

This time around, Beijing has more reasons to back Pakistan-based transborder terrorists operating to harm India. It had to lift the technical hold on Azhar's case in May, 2019 and allow the listing of the JeM chief by the 1267 Committee for his terrorist activities and his links with al-Qaeda. Beijing relented in the face of mounting international pressure then.

But, now, China finds itself cornered in the wake of the economic and strategic groupings of Quad in which India has direct participation and the nuclear-powered AUKUS (Australia, UK, US strategic partnership). Hence, it has no qualms in defending its decision against the listing of Makki. Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Wang Wenbin insisted with diplomatic verbiage that its action was perfectly in order and on the basis of relevant procedures and rules stipulated by the UN's 1267 Committee.

Only a few days back, the BRICS NSA meeting hosted by Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi said it was committed to closer cooperation on combating terrorism. India specifically raised the need to cooperate on fighting terrorism "without reservations." It was the height of audacity that China's MFA spokesperson could say he would "not go back" to the question whether there is contradiction between China's action on the listing of Makki and its stand on fighting terrorism explained at the BRICS NSA meeting. India's foreign services establishment seems to have no answer to China's brazen show of solidarity with Pakistan-based terrorists.

WISDOM CORNER

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting. **RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself. **RUDYARD KIPLING**

The happiness of a man in this life does not consist in the absence but in the mastery of his passions. **ALFRED LORD TENNYSON**

WORDSWORTH

Tintamarre

It's a pleasant word for an unlovely experience, unless you are a lover of loud noises, since a tintamarre is an uproar, hubbub or confused noise. It was borrowed from French in the sixteenth century. The Dictionnaire Historique de la Langue Française says it was derived (about 1470) from the older French word tinter (to ring a bell) by adding an obscure ending. It says it originally meant a noise made by hitting something but that it especially referred to a way of hunting wood pigeons in the middle of the night by confusing the birds with the sound of drums and pans. It adds that the modern sense of a loud noise accompanied by confusion and disorder is attributed to François Rabelais in 1546. Tinter is from Latin tinnire, to ring or jingle, a close relative of tintinnābulum, a bell, from which English gets tintinnabulation. At one time, tintamarre was fairly common in English but it almost died out in the nineteenth century. J Redding Ware noted in his Passing English of the Victorian Era in 1909 that it was confined to Devon. Since then it has become even rarer, though it has been resurrected, hopefully teasingly, for an annual music festival in Lincolnshire. The French connection survives in the Acadian regions of eastern Canada. A tintamarre is a colourful parade in which participants see how much din they can create using any noisemaker to hand, such as pots, pans, whistles or drums, usually in celebration of National Acadian Day. This event is only about 30 years old (one website calls it a modern tradition) but may reflect the old French custom of charivari.

FOCUS AGNIPATH

ON THE PATH OF FIRE



Jagdish Rattanan

AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT OUR ECONOMY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CREATE JOBS

In the story of the blind men and the elephant, each touching a different part of the animal and quarrelling over what it is they have just "seen", the message is that partial knowledge is never good enough to describe the full picture. But Charles West Churchman (1913-2004), the American philosopher and academic who advanced the field of Systems Thinking, wrote once that the story was interesting for a different reason. This was so not as much because of the inaccuracies of the blind men but the role the storyteller gave himself – namely, the ability to see the full picture. "The story is in fact a piece of arrogance. It assumes that a very logically astute wise man can always get on top of a situation, so to speak, and look at the foolishness of people who are incapable of seeing the whole," Churchman wrote. This arrogance is at the heart of political decision making at the highest level in the India of today, one or more in a chosen set of "wise" men convinced that they see the full picture and are ready to drive monumental change sans any discussion or dialogue. In doing so, they have willy-nilly dismissed the rest of India as blind, incapable or unworthy of consultation. Political parties get to be treated as irrelevant in the political sweepstakes and street battles show up as India burns again and again.

This is how and why India is on the boil, with COVID not yet gone and inflation raging, as protests spread across eight states, as trains and buses are burnt and the Indian State turns out in riot gear to stand against the youth. In this battle, the merits or otherwise of the scheme called 'Agnipath' are irrelevant in the present time. Even if the scheme was carefully crafted, well studied and meticulously planned, which is suspected if not known to be not the case, the government will now have to fork out concessions after concession – which it has already begun doing so that the scheme keeps and does not meet



A brute majority in Parliament may be good to have and can enable a government to push through a lot but it cannot be taken as a license to upturn laws, change systems and uproot traditions at whim and will

the fate of the farm laws which had to be abrogated. Quelling the anger and protests now will take top priority. What is worse, and even outright dangerous, is that the defence services have been asked to promote and defend the scheme, and to ask the youth not to be among the protesters if they are to be considered for the short-term recruitment on offer. This has the colour of uniformed officers speaking on what essentially is a political problem caused by the political leg of the government.

The protests do not look good. Consider how much of the burning of India could be avoided if the scheme, dramatic as it is in its sweep, were discussed openly, over a period of time with a variety of stakeholders. Needless to say, India can be run best only with consultative politics and some amount of give and take. A brute majority in Parliament may be good to have and can enable a government to push through a lot but it cannot be taken as a license to upturn laws, change systems and uproot traditions at whim and will.

The reality is that the army remains a dream job for millions of

Indians because of its image, its system of working, the pride its members take in their uniform and equally significantly, the cover it gives for life. It carries risks but remains a career unmatched by any other organisation. When that potential for a life-long relationship is reduced to a short-term appointment, unknown, unseen and understood consequences can follow.

None of this means we do not need reforms or that the pension bill and the average age of the defence forces must go on rising. But it does mean that changes cannot be forced, with motives that are politically suspect and a narrow shop-keeping agenda that thinks it can fight a potential war on the borders on the cheap. There are other unanswered questions on how six months of training as envisaged under the Agnipath programme can prepare soldiers to operate sophisticated systems that the defence services operate, with sophistication only deemed to be growing over time. And how does the discipline, pride and honour sit once the soldier is discharged honourably and is forced to take

up less than honourable jobs, like a security durwan for the BJP establishment, as a particularly idiotic and inadvertently frank-talking BJP functionary has offered.

At the heart of the problem is that our economy has been unable to create jobs. There is no real respect, it appears, or even demand across vast swathes of interior India, for private sector employment in the face of the promise of a government job. There are important issues to address on just how much jobs – with sustainable living wage and decent terms and benefits – the private sector has been able to generate. This raises questions on just how much of the private sector is professional in its operation and mature in its capability. This columnist argued earlier that one important aspect of the farm protests was that the nation's farmers had no trust in the private sector that was being empowered to take over mandis and intervene in the agri system. The same can be said here. This remains one of the biggest failures of all governments. This failing is now sought to be covered with an offer of jobs that are less than jobs – so that youth will have jobs but not keep them. It has the effect of dreams being snatched away from our youth. The offer to absorb 25% of the short-term recruits may breed unhealthy competition. The rest need to look for jobs and will probably begin applying while they are in the short-term commission role, again hindering single-minded devotion to services in their limited time.

The government has said it will push ahead with the Agnipath scheme. This means that tensions will continue to brew for some more time, and the one institution that was above it all will get entangled in a fractious debate and worse at exactly the wrong time.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Climate-impact disclosure is common sense

I spend most days advocating for action that could be considered radical. But today, I am advocating for plain common sense. In March, the US Securities and Exchange Commission proposed a new rule that would require publicly traded companies to disclose their climate-related risks and greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. Now that the public comment period has ended, the SEC should adopt the new disclosure rule in its entirety.

As written, the proposed rule would require companies to disclose GHG emissions data for their own operations, as well as for the goods they buy and sell. It would apply to all companies publicly traded in the US, and thus to the \$82 trillion worth of trading that the SEC oversees each year.

The rule may sound sweeping, but it is really just about information. Businesses should be required to share with investors how climate change could affect their returns. Information is the bread and butter of financial regulators, CEOs, investors, and markets generally. Each trade is connected to an investor making decisions based on the best available information. There is nothing radical about wanting more.

The SEC's action comes at just the right time. Businesses bore a stiff share of the \$145 billion in weather- and climate-related costs incurred in the US in 2021. Climate risks

are already substantial and can be expected to grow. That's why a bipartisan, business-heavy committee (which included the World Resources Institute) recommended new disclosure rules in a 2020 report to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

How climate change affects business is exactly the sort of information that CEOs need to manage risks and take advantage of new opportunities. Investors and governments around the world are increasingly pushing for greater information transparency. The G20-backed Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) issued its recommendations back in 2017, garnering the support of more than 3,000 companies and 92 countries around the world since then.

Moreover, the International Sustainability Standards Board expects to issue new climate-related rules by the end of the year. China is testing a mandatory disclosure policy. The UK is phasing in TCFD-style mandatory disclosure rules over the next three years. And the European Union is working out its Sustainable Finance Taxonomy, which goes further than climate-risk disclosure by categorising economic activity according to clear sustainability criteria. All these initiatives will require corporate GHG-emissions

reporting.

For many business leaders, there's nothing new here. Leading companies such as Apple, Best Buy, Coca-Cola, Cargill, Ford, Gap, Hilton, and Starbucks are already disclosing climate-related risks, including those associated with their supply chains. Far from fringe, these companies represent mainstream America. Even the oil and gas giants Shell, TotalEnergies, and Equinor have a long track record of reporting on emissions across their value chains.

Savvy CEOs are already using climate-related risk disclosures to identify and pursue new business opportunities. As General Electric Chairman and CEO Lawrence Culp put it in 2020, "We are particularly aware of the engineering challenges still to be solved to make the ambition of net zero a reality. ... However, we believe those challenges are also key strategic opportunities for GE." CEOs and investors increasingly understand that the twenty-first-century economy will have to be green, efficient, and resilient. The flow of capital into sustainable-labeled investments surged to a record \$649 billion in 2021.

But the availability and quality of the data remain very uneven. Businesses follow wildly divergent approaches to disclosing their climate risks. Some count their emis-

sions one way, others another way. Some don't report the "scope 3" emissions associated with the use of their products (a problem the SEC rule would rectify). And some are completely opaque, not reporting or managing their emissions at all. As a result, many companies – and their investors – are unaware of the climate risks and opportunities they face. Instead of clarity, we have confusion.

If companies were required to adhere to a uniform set of disclosures, investors would be much more capable of discerning where money should flow. Once investors can see disclosures from all companies, they can make better decisions for their clients, and firms will be on a level playing field, enabling virtuous competition.

The global shift toward mandatory disclosure is well underway. By acting now, the SEC can provide a much stronger foundation for markets to stand on, and the US can remain a global rule-maker, rather than becoming a rule-taker. All financial actors – businesses, investors, governments, and citizens with 401Ks – must face up to the risks of climate change, some of which have already materialised. Requiring companies to disclose these risks is not radical; it is prudent.

The writer is President and CEO of the World Resources Institute.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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Be sensitive to national security

Sir, This refers to "At It Again," Orissa POST, June 19. As on date it is difficult to predict when the Agniveer issue will fizzle out and come to an end, like the Patidar Andolan in Gujarat in 2015 which was short-lived. Students and youth by nature can be kind and rebellious too; they cannot remain disciplined as in the cases of elders who participated in anti-CAA movement or the peaceful farmers who agitated for repeal of farm laws gracefully. Coming to the government side, this masterly stroke of ending more than two-century-old defence entrance policy is primarily to save public finances in the form of pensions and other privileges. Marketing strategies are not apt for defence. So unlike other areas, the government must be cautious and sensitive to national security. It appears that the decision has been taken in haste without careful scrutiny. Joblessness is rampant now and, most affected are from the homes of farmers, educated lower middle class families. The 'New India' in the making cannot remain peaceful and socially quiet. One has to read minds of our heroic delivery boys to know their agony and pain. It is for the government to take a calculated and pragmatic step whether to retract or not. The lure of money assured to our youngsters will peter out in no time, leaving them later without reasonable income.

Parthasarathy Sen, DELHI

Yoga for mind, body

Sir, every year 21 June we celebrate International Yoga Day to honour the traditional practice of yoga that emerged in ancient India. Yoga helps us to reduce stress and anxiety. The practice which was once called unscientific and unproven in Western countries has now been accepted by most countries. Nowadays, doctors, scientists, and health experts suggest yoga as a natural process to keep the human body and mind healthy and active. Since the United Nations has recognised 21 June as the International Yoga Day, the practice of yoga has been spreading its roots to many countries. Yoga has the power to relate the mind with nature in the best possible way. India is continuously trying to emphasise its relevance worldwide and to give yoga a global acceptance. This is no secret how many people adopted yoga during the time when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak. Doing yoga daily can really boost mental and physical health.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

national

of the day quote

Discussion, debate are crucial parts of a parliamentary democracy. Sarcasm, taking digs at each other are also acceptable during debates. But unnecessary aggression, shouting and interrupting each other should be avoided by MPs in parliament

OM BIRLA | LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Agencies like the ED, the CBI and the Income Tax department are meant to serve the people, but they are serving the Bharatiya Janata Party

HARISH RAWAT | UTTARAKHAND CM

Agnipath is a novel scheme. The system of inducting youth for military training is prevalent all over the world. If the youth get into military training at 17-21 years, they would get many opportunities after their stint in the service

BASAVRAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

SHORT TAKES

Jain hospitalised

New Delhi: Delhi minister Satyendar Jain, who is currently in judicial custody in a money laundering case being probed by the ED, was on Monday admitted to the LNJP Hospital here, and his condition is stable, sources said. Jain, 57, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on May 30 under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). "He was brought from Tihar Jail to GB Pant Hospital first, and then shifted to the LNJP Hospital. His condition is stable," a source said.

Flight diverted

Mumbai: SpiceJet's Dubai flight carrying over 130 passengers and three infants from Madurai was diverted to Goa Airport Monday due to a medical emergency but later proceeded to its destination after deplaning the ailing person, the airline said. SpiceJet flight SG 23 took off from Madurai airport at 9.20 am but was diverted to Goa airport, where it landed at 10:57 am, SpiceJet said in a statement. The aircraft, SpiceJet said, departed from Goa at 12.40 pm and landed in Dubai at 3.56 pm (IST).

Man kills wife

Mumbai: A 40-year-old man and his associate were arrested for allegedly killing the former's wife on suspicion over her character, a Mumbai police official said Monday. Satish Zaavle and his associate Swapnil Pawar were held on Sunday night for the killing that took place in Chembur's MG Road area, the Tiliaknagar police station official said.

Youth arrested

Panaji: The Goa police Monday seized ganja weighing 6 kgs, worth Rs 6 lakhs and arrested one person for allegedly possessing it. Nidhin Valsan, Superintendent of Police (crime branch) said that one Om Prakash (29) from Rajasthan has been arrested for the alleged illegal possession of ganja. He said that seized ganja was worth Rs 6 lakhs in the international market.

Drop in Covid cases

New Delhi: Delhi Monday reported a significant decline in Covid cases in last 24 hours, at 1,060, against 1,530 on the previous day, while there are as many as six new deaths, as per the government health bulletin. Meanwhile, the Covid positivity rate has jumped to 10.09 per cent, while the number of active cases has slightly declined to 5,375.



BJP always ignored Azamgarh and defamed it. The BJP is still betraying people. Its leaders including UP CM start and end their talks with a lie

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

ENCOURAGING OFFER

At a time when parents are worried over hefty fees for admission of their children into private schools, a government-run school in Telangana is offering Rs 5,000 for parents admitting their children



MOOSEWALA KILLING

2 shooters held, arms recovered



Security personnel with three persons including two main shooters arrested by Delhi Police Special Cell in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case, at police headquarters in New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested three persons, including two shooters, in connection with the killing of popular Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, officials said Monday.

The accused have been identified as Priyavrat alias Fauji (26), a resident of Sonapat in Haryana, Kashish (24), also from the state's Jhajjar district, and Keshav Kumar (29), a resident of Bhatinda in Punjab, they said.

The trio were arrested on June 19 from Kutch in Gujarat, police said. HGS Dhaliwal, special commissioner of police, special cell said the accused had conducted multiple reces before executing the murder. The officer said they carried out raids at multiple locations to nab the accused. Eight grenades, nine electric detonators, three pistols and one assault rifle have been recovered from arrested accused, Dhaliwal said at a media briefing here. The officer said the accused had kept the grenades as a backup plan in case the weapons did not work but they were not used.

Shubdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district May 29. The police said Priyavrat led a team of shooters and was in direct touch with Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar at the time of the incident.

He is the main shooter and executioner of the murder, police said. Brar has claimed responsibility for the killing of the popular singer. According to Dhaliwal, there were two active modules in

Eight grenades, nine electric detonators, three pistols and one assault rifle have been recovered

The officer said the accused had kept the grenades as a backup plan in case the weapons did not work but they were not used

Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district May 29

carrying out the killing.

One of the cars, a Bolero, was driven by Priyavrat while another car -- a Corolla -- was driven by shooters, the official said. The Corolla overtook Moosewala's car and six shooters came out of both the vehicles and opened fire at the singer, he said, adding that they left only after confirming that Moosewala had been killed.

Priyavrat could be seen in CCTV footage of a petrol pump prior to the incident. He was previously involved in two murder cases and was arrested in 2015 in one of them in Sonapat and also wanted in another murder case in Sonapat in 2021, police said.

Kashish was also one of the shooters and was also seen in the CCTV footage. He is wanted in a 2021 murder case in Haryana's Jhajjar, they said. Kumar was the facilitator and received the shooters just after the shootout in an Alto car. He accompanied the shooters till Mansa on the day of incident, police said, adding that he was previously arrested in a murder case in Bathinda in 2020 and suspected to be involved in other cases of extortion in Punjab.

Gopalkrishna refuses to be Oppn Prez nominee

The development complicates the road ahead for the Opposition to put up a joint consensus candidate in the presidential polls to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance nominee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi Monday declined the opposition leaders' request to contest the upcoming presidential election, the third person to do so after NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah also gave the offer a pass.

The development complicates the road ahead for the Opposition to put up a joint consensus candidate in the presidential polls to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance nominee. The next meeting of major opposition parties to deliberate on a consensus candidate for the presidential election is likely to be held on Tuesday here.

In a statement, Gopalkrishna Gandhi said several esteemed leaders of the Opposition have done



him the honour of thinking of him for the opposition's candidature in the upcoming elections for the presidency. "I am most grateful to them. But having considered the matter deeply I see that the Opposition's candidate should be one who will generate a national consensus and a national atmosphere besides Opposition unity. I feel there will be others who will do this far better than I," he said. "And so I have requested the leaders to give the opportunity to such a person. May India get a President worthy of the office presaged by Rajaji as the last Governor General and inaugurated by Dr Rajendra Prasad as our first President," Gopalkrishna Gandhi said.

The 77-year-old former bureaucrat had also served as India's High Commissioner to South Africa and Sri Lanka. He is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and C Rajagopalachari. Gandhi was the

consensus opposition candidate for the post of Vice President of India in 2017 but had lost to M Venkaiah Naidu in the election.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi's statement came two days after former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference leader Abdullah 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".

Leaders of several opposition parties last Wednesday urged NCP supremo Sharad Pawar to be the joint opposition candidate for the presidential elections, but the veteran leader had declined the offer at the meeting convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee here.

After Pawar had declined the offer, Banerjee later suggested the names of Abdullah and Gandhi as possible opposition candidates. As many as 17 opposition parties had attended the opposition meeting to build a consensus on fielding a joint candidate against the BJP-led NDA. The process to elect a new President began June 15. The last date for filing nominations is June 29. The polls, if necessary, will be held July 18 and the counting July 21.

Sonia discharged, advised rest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Congress president Sonia Gandhi was discharged from the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here Monday evening and was advised rest at home, the party said.

She was admitted to the hospital on June 12, days after she tested positive for COVID-19 on June 2. "Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi has been discharged from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital this evening and advised rest at home," party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said.



Ramesh had said earlier that Gandhi was admitted to the hospital after profuse bleeding from the nose following a recent Covid infection. She was immediately put under treatment and underwent a follow-up procedure on June 15, he said. "A fungal infection in her lower respiratory tract was also detected upon admission. She is currently being treated for it, along with other post-Covid symptoms," he had said Friday.

ECI DELISTS 111 RUPPs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 20: The Election Commission Monday delisted 111 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) for failing to fulfil mandatory requirements.

It said it has evidence of serious financial impropriety, wilful attempts for tax evasion, and other illegal financial activities against them amounting to fraudulent use of privileges and public trust available to them.

"These 111 RUPPs, whose address of communication was statutorily required as registration requirement under section 29A (4), and any change in address was required to be communicated to the ECI under section 29A (9), which they have not complied with," the poll panel said.

The EC also said that these parties have been either found to be non-existent on verification or the letters issued by them, in pursuance to the Commission's order, dated May 25, have returned undelivered by the Post Department.

It said any party aggrieved from this, may approach the Chief Electoral Officer concerned or the Election Commission within 30 days of the issue of this order along with all evidences of existence, and other legal and regulatory compliances.

The segregated list of such RUPPs shall be sent to respective CEOs and the CBDT for requisite action under an extant legal framework, it added.

Earlier, the EC sought action against 2,174 parties for failing to submit their list of donors.

It has been reported that income tax exemptions have been taken to the tune of Rs 445 crore in 2018-19 by 199 RUPPs and Rs 608 crore in 2019-20 by 219 RUPPs.

RAIN FURY



Residents of a flood-affected village shift to a safer place after incessant rainfall on the outskirts of Agartala

Cong leaders meet Prez; allege 'mistreatment'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: A delegation of senior Congress leaders Monday met President Ram Nath Kovind and raised the issue of alleged ill-treatment of party MPs by police during their protest against the ED questioning of former party chief Rahul Gandhi.

The leaders also raised the issue of the Agnipath scheme and said that it should be rolled back. The Congress delegation comprised Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Rajasthan

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, senior leaders P Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal.

Over 50 party MPs earlier held a meeting at Parliament House and took out a solidarity march from Parliament to Vijay Chowk, where they were stopped by the Delhi Police. Kharge, after the meeting, said they raised the issue of harassment of senior Congress leaders and MPs staging peaceful protests against Gandhi's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a "false case". "Our leaders were harassed



and detained in police stations at far away places for 10 to 12 hours without any offence or case against them. Police have to in-

form the Lok Sabha speaker and Rajya Sabha chairman if MPs are detained for long hours," he noted.

"Our rights have also been violated during our protests against ED action. Our MPs were beaten up, especially women MPs, and we brought this to the notice of the president and urged him to take action against the police personnel involved," Kharge said.

Kharge said they also raised the issue of Agnipath scheme for recruitment in armed forces and the "wrong manner" in which it has been formulated as it will not benefit the country. "The youth will not gain from this and they will not get any employment after four years of being in the armed forces," he said.

4 cr Indians had long Covid symptoms in last 2 yrs: Study

LONG COVID IS DEFINED AS HAVING NEW OR ONGOING SYMPTOMS FOUR WEEKS OR MORE AFTER THE START OF DISEASE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 20: About four crore Indians suffered long Covid symptoms during the last two years of pandemic, according to a study, not peer-reviewed yet.

Long Covid is defined as having new or ongoing symptoms four weeks or more after the start of disease. Symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, loss of concentration and joint pain. The symptoms can adversely affect day-to-day activities, and in some cases can be severely limiting.

In the study, a team of international researchers jointly analysed countries for the occurrence of three major symptom

clusters of long Covid - fatigue, cognitive problems, and shortness of breath. They pooled data from more than 44 global studies and medical record databases and also from the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) study, from 204 countries.

The findings, posted on a preprint site, showed that globally, in 2020 and 2021, 144.7 million people suffered from at least one of the three symptoms. Respiratory symptoms like cough, wheezing and shortness of breath were the highest and experienced by 60.4 per cent people. More than 50 per cent suffered from fatigue - having body pain, being tired always and getting easily upset. Cognitive problems like loss in



memory, confusion, feeling disoriented were experienced by 35.4 per cent people.

Those with milder acute Covid-19 cases had a quicker estimated recovery 3.99 months than those admitted for the acute infection 8.84 months. At 12 months, 15.1 per cent continued to experience long Covid symptoms.

The risk of long Covid was found to be greater among females between 20 and 29 years and in those with more severe initial infection. "This pattern by age and sex is distinct from that of severe acute infection, which affected more males and increased with age," the researchers said. Further, the researchers also

found that long Covid also affected "a lower but substantial number of children", while severe acute infection has been very uncommon at younger ages. These differences suggest that the underlying mechanism of long Covid may be different from that of the severity of acute infection, the researchers said.

"The occurrence of debilitating ongoing symptoms of Covid-19 is common. Knowing how many people are affected, and for how long, is important to plan for rehabilitative services and support to return to social activities, places of learning, and the workplace when symptoms start to wane," they added.

After Swapna, now Anita may spell trouble for Kerala CM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 20: Even before the furore over Kerala gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh's allegation against him could end, fresh trouble seems to be brewing up for Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after another 'controversial' woman Anita Pullayil was spotted at the LKS meeting here.

Anita was in the news a few years ago when she was seen with Vijayan, the then State Industries Minister EP Jayarajan and the then State Police chief Loknath Behra in important events.

For the past couple of days, Anita, who is settled in Italy has been the cynosure of all eyes when she was spotted at the Loka Kerala Sabha (LKS) a meeting of the Kerala diaspora, here. LKS is a global meet of Keralite diaspora settled outside Kerala and was first in-



roduced by the Vijayan government in 2018.

She made news ever since 54-year-old Kochi resident Monson Mavunkal was arrested by the Crime Branch police from his home-cum-museum last year after victims approached Vijayan with their complaints that they were

Anita is based out of Italy and took the LKS route to get acquainted with not just Behra, but also to Mavunkal and numerous other bigwigs. After Mavunkal was arrested last year, the Crime Branch police took her statement too and hence she was treated as a persona-non-grata, but when TV channels spotted her last week, it became big news. Soon after vice-chairman of the organiser of the LKS P Sreeramakrishnan - a former speaker of the Assembly and a top CPI-M leader - said that she was not an invitee and perhaps she would have come to take part in the open forum.

But the Congress which had boycotted the LKS in wake of attacks of its party headquarters and other party offices allegedly by the CPI-M workers, expressed surprise as to how such a person could walk into the high security Kerala Assembly where the LKS was un-

derway where even MPs could enter only with a pass.

Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker MB Rajesh, the main host of the two-day event, has ordered a probe into the incident.

The organisers, however, are yet to release the full list of invitees.

Vijayan, who is under fire after Swapna accused him and his family of being involved in smuggling gold and currency, is presently moving in a high security cordon.

He participated in the LKS only once in the online mode citing ill health. Meanwhile, the Opposition is now waiting for the Speaker's report on how Anita could dodge the security personnel and enter the venue where a fresh Assembly session is scheduled to begin June 27.

All eyes are on Swapna who is slated to appear before the Enforcement Directorate officials Wednesday.

Polluted rivers, tricky regulations put Gujarat fishermen in trouble



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 20: Even as Gujarat ranks third amongst Indian states for fish production across marine and inland fishing, its fishermen get a raw deal because of polluted rivers and problematic regulations, as per a think tank's report.

The main problem is the pollution in rivers, especially industrial effluents that flow untreated and result in food and oxygen scarcity in the water, leading to the depletion of fish and deterioration of water quality.

Another issue is the restriction on the size of nets which hurts small fishermen. The Gujarat Fisheries Act, 2003 mandates that the size for square mesh cod should be 40 mm. The think tank, Centre for Civil Society (CCS) in its report 'Saving the Blue Economy' also gave suggestions to improve the living conditions of fishermen in Gujarat, including by changing certain regulations.

In 2019-20, the total marine fish production was 37.27 lakh tonnes, with Gujarat contributing the most at 7.01 lakh tonnes (19 per cent) of the total production.

"These numbers, however, pale in comparison to the total inland

fishing catch. Inland fish production was 104.37 lakh tonnes in the same period, with Gujarat contributing only 1.58 lakh tonnes. Gujarat ranks third amongst Indian states for fish production across marine and inland fishing," the report pointed out.

No new licences have been issued as there is a shortage of berths at the harbours but no efforts are being made to address this problem, it said. Gujarat has also put restrictions on displacement/migration and discouraged state-to-state interoperability for fishermen, boat owners etc., because of which boats once registered outside Gujarat are not allowed to enter its territorial waters, the authors of the report, Arjun Krishnan and Prashant Narang said.

Among the report's recommendations, the top one is for the Gujarat Pollution Control Board to strictly enforce restrictions and quality standards on industrial effluents.

Reconsidering the restrictions on the size of nets, a single combined licensing and registration system for boats to simplify the process for fishermen and timelines for approvals for ensuring there is no delay would help in the long run to improve the lives of the fishermen, the CCS report recommended.

Revisiting Champaran Satyagraha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 20: A book capturing the voice of peasants of the 'Champaran Satyagraha' through their statements was launched here Monday by Union Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal.

The Thumb Print-Champaran Indigo Peasants Speak to Gandhi, Volume-1 introduces testimonies of peasants and provides rich insights into the condition of the indigo peasants and the making of Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha.

It has been printed by the Ahmedabad-based Navajivan Press, with archival documents for the volume being provided by the National Archives of India.

The minister also launched a handbook titled 'Repair and Preservation of Records', which

provides solutions to problems of preservation and longevity, as well mobile app 'Abhilekh Patal' and its web portal covering advanced search for online access to 3.3 million pages of digitised records.

Addressing the launch event, Meghwal said Champaran became the first laboratory of Mahatma Gandhi after his return from South Africa. It was at Champaran that Gandhi took up the task of cleanliness, he said, adding that the Mahatma tapped the body, mind, intellect and soul of farmers to bring them together to oppose indigo farming imposed by the British.

"National Archives of India and Navajivan Trust launched a book and an Abhilekh Patal mobile app. The book is important for those who are interested in



archives, research fellows who are interested in history," he said.

Tridip Suhrod, one of the editors of the book, said, if all eight volumes of the book are published, then this will become the biggest peasant archive document. The Navajivan Trust and National

"It contains the story of torture of 7,000 farmers. Because I have been associated with historical writing, I know if we are able to establish these eight volumes, then this will become the biggest peasant archive document. The Navajivan Trust and National

Archives are much more committed to publish it," Suhrod said.

"Nowhere else has the statement of 7,000 farmers on an issue appeared through their own testimony, neither in Europe, India, Latin America, nor Africa," he said, adding the volume could not have been possible but for an institution like the National Archives.

"Seven thousand documents entrusted to scholars with the hope that we will not misuse it, that we will be ethical about its uses, that's something National Archives has been doing for 125 years," he said. Chandan Sinha, National Archives Director General, said the institution has undertaken digitisation on a massive scale, and the portal Abhilekh Patal contains half of all catalogues so far.

In dry Guj, liquor flows at BJP MLA's b'day party



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lunavada (Guj), June 20: The BJP in Gujarat came under flak after a video clip showing some youth enjoying a liquor party is circulating on social media. The incident has also put BJP MLA from Lunavada Jignesh Sevak on the backfoot as he had attended the party.

This has given opposition the ammunition to attack the ruling party for its commitment to implementation of prohibition in the state.

According to local sources, a meeting of BJP party workers was held at Sundarvan in the district. The site owned by the forest department also has a swimming pool. The meeting was addressed by BJP sitting MLA from Lunavada, Jignesh Sevak.

In the video clip, some youths are seen holding glasses of liquor and dancing to the tune of music, some are seen sitting on chairs cheering others. Even some teenagers are there. When Sevak was questioned about it, he flatly denied and said he is not aware of any such party. However, he did say that he had attended a BJP worker's birthday party at the said venue, and had left in five or seven minutes. He alleged, "This is a political conspiracy to tarnish my and party's image." But he refused to name persons behind the circulation of the video clip.

"Such parties have become routine affairs in the BJP rule," alleges Suresh Patel, President of Mahisagar District Congress Committee. He also said that the ruling party is not at all ashamed at violating laws in the state.

Patel has also said that the state government should ensure that prohibition is strictly implemented in the state and at least, its own party workers shouldn't indulge in such illegal activities.

YOGA FOR WELLNESS



Students participate in a yoga class, on the eve of the International Day of Yoga, at a school in Kozhikode, Monday.

PTI PHOTO

After 4 yrs, 20 Guj fishermen released by Pak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Porbandar, June 20: After languishing in a jail in Karachi for four years, 20 Gujarati fishermen will finally reunite with their families Monday, a day after they were released. Although the community has welcomed Pakistan's decision, they still felt that it was too little too late.

After their release from Karachi's Malir District Jail, the fishermen were sent to Lahore by bus from where they will be handed over to the Indian authorities through the Wagah border Monday.

Of the 20, 13 fishermen are from Gujarat's Gir Somnath district, six from Devbhumi Dwarka and one from Jamnagar, according to Balubhai Sosa, president of the Samudra Shramik Suraksha Sangh.

After over a year of talks, the Pakistan government was going to release 200 fishermen, but now only 20 are returning

While alleging that the Pakistani Marines Security Agency had illegally captured them in 2018, he expressed concerns about the 600 other Indian fishermen held in Pakistani jails and if the New Delhi government would be able to secure their release.

After over a year of talks, the Pakistan government was going to release 200 fishermen, but now only 20 are returning, Manish Lodhari, Chairman of Marine Fishermen Cooperative Society, said, adding that this was why the community and the affected family members feel it is too little too late.

Lodhari claimed that on an average, 60 to 90 Indian fishermen are arrested by Pakistan every year, while only around 70 to 80 Pakistani fishermen are in the Indian jails. The government should work on some formula for the exchange of these 70 to 80 Pakistani fishermen against the 600 Indians, he said. Pakistan has also seized 1,164 fishing boats that are currently anchored at the Karachi port, which should be brought, as its total market value touches thousands of crores of rupees, Lodhari added.

Wayanad turns to bamboo for flood prevention

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Wayanad, June 20: "Not an inch of land that was covered with bamboo caved into the river," said Kelu, pointing at the lush green bamboo stretch on the banks of the Chalipuzha river, a tributary of the Kabinu flowing through Kottathara panchayat in Kerala's Wayanad district.

Along this same stretch, other patches of land, including some farmland, were washed away by the river during the floods.

"Greedy farmers here had encroached upon the riverbank and cut down the bamboo shoots. They paid the price for their deeds when the floodwaters washed away a good portion of their farmland," Kelu added, watering the bamboo saplings he had planted recently on the riverbank.

A district of numerous streams and natural water channels, Wayanad is known for its bamboo

species which plays a powerful role in protecting the banks of rivers. In fact, the environmental damage to riverbanks and their erosion were among the major causes of the devastating 2018 and 2019 floods.

In Wayanad, Kottathara is one of the most vulnerable panchayats. It's a floodplain that gets inundated in various magnitudes every year.

"Bamboo can mitigate the impact of floods, landslides and drought. It reduces the velocity of gushing water, prevents the erosion of surface soil in sloped terrain, acts as a protective shield on riverbanks, reduces chances of drought and improves biodiversity," said retired district soil conservation officer PU Das.

Kelu, a member of the Kuruchiya tribe, has been planting bamboo saplings on riverbanks since he was a child. Now 56-year-old, he's single-handedly responsible for planting a few thousand bamboo



shoots on riverbanks and waysides, all of this with no particular motive in mind, but a habit inculcated from the elders of his community. But today, Kelu is an exception, as not many others from the indigenous Kuruchiya tribe appear to be interested in continuing with this tradition.

Bamboo was once an integral part of the culture of several tribal communities of Wayanad. From a source of food, to raw material to build houses and to be fashioned into fishing or hunting tools, the species held an integral place in their lives because of which they planted and protected it. But the tribals having given up their traditional lifestyle; they no longer find a reason to act in the interest of the bamboo.

However, taking lessons from the floods of 2018 and 2019, the Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) took on the task of planting bamboo saplings in the dis-

trict. They planted around 30,000 bamboo saplings on the banks of the Kabinu and its various tributaries flowing through the Thirunelli and Kottathara panchayats. Titled 'Community Lead Disaster Resilience Project', it was part of the relief measures carried out in response to the 2018 floods, which went on until 2020-2021.

"It's common knowledge among people here that bamboo can prevent soil erosion because of its large, fibrous root system. We chose it for its lifespan, apart from other annual vegetation like colocasia," explained Asha Kiran, Project officer, Community Lead Disaster Resilient Project, IGSSS for Wayanad district.

Kiran shared that the riverside communities here were "in exact need of this kind of support, as they are the ones who are worst-affected by flooding and understand well the causes and remedies required."

of the day quote

Though this is a by-election, it is important and special for the people (of Azamgarh), as they can hit two targets with one arrow -- firstly teaching the BJP a lesson by defeating it for its anti-people schemes like the Agnipath and also for its arrogant working style of using bulldozers. Secondly, the people can also punish the Samajwadi Party for its internal collusion with the ruling party

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

I met some youths preparing for Army (recruitment) and they said that they have lost hope. They said they had been preparing to join the Army and were now going to sell sugarcane

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

India's annual per capita emissions are only a third of the global average but its climate targets are ambitious and reflect its commitment to the global good

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Bhim Sena chief gets bail

New Delhi: A Delhi Court has granted bail to Bhim Sena chief Nawab Satpal Tanwar, who was arrested for his remarks against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma. A video of Tanwar had gone viral on social media in which he had announced a reward of ₹1 crore for any person who severed her tongue for her alleged comments on Prophet Muhammad. Duty Metropolitan Magistrate Dev Saroha of Patiala House Courts in an order passed on Sunday, granted bail to Tanwar subject to conditions, including not to leave the country without seeking prior permission of the court and furnishing a bail bond of ₹50,000 with one 'sound surety' in the like amount.

3 Maoists killed

Bhopal: Three armed Maoists, including a woman, were gunned down during an encounter in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, police said Monday. According to the police, the victims, aged between 35 to 40 years, were associated with Platoon 56 of the Vistar Dalam and Darekasa Dalam. The encounter was carried out by the Balaghat Police Hawk Force in Kadla village under the Bahela police station limits.

Man attacked

Pilibhit (UP): A 40-year-old man was fatally attacked for protecting his two teenage daughters from alleged eve-teasing by some young men in their locality. The victim, a small-time farmer, succumbed to his injuries after three days during treatment. According to reports, the incident took place at Madhavpur village in Pilibhit district on June 16. The police said that six of the victim's neighbours, including five aged between 18 and 25 years, have been booked under IPC sections 147 (rioting) and 302 (murder).

Seven booked

Shahjahanpur (UP): An FIR has been lodged against seven people for allegedly marrying a woman to an impotent man. The woman's husband, along with others, has been named in the FIR. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjeev Bajpayee said that as per reports, the family married off the girl with great pomp, but when she reached her in-laws' house, she got to know that her husband was impotent. The woman's family had given the husband ₹10 lakh in cash besides other household items as gifts.

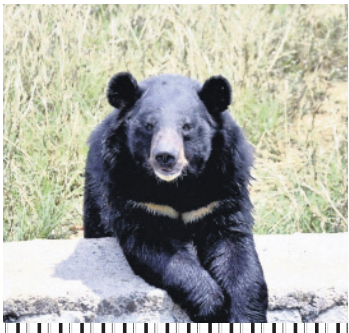


We must remember who the people who go for armed forces jobs are. It is primarily families of farmers, those from rural areas and children with humble backgrounds. Scores of young people have not just aspirations to get a job, but to don the olive green uniform of the armed forces

SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

8 HURT IN BEAR ATTACK

Eight farmers were injured when a bear attacked them in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district Monday. The incident occurred near Vajrapukotturu town of the district. The condition of six of the injured is stated to be critical



Monsoon covers half of India

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 20: India's annual monsoon rainfall has covered more than half of the country and conditions are favourable for it to advance into central, northern and western regions this week, the weather department said Monday. The monsoon's progress will help farmers accelerate sowing of summer-sown crops, which has been lagging due to below-normal rainfall in the first half of June, especially in central India. The monsoon has covered all of southern and eastern India and most of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a statement.

"Monsoon has revived. This week many regions in southern and central India would get heavy rainfall," an IMD official said.

Conditions are favourable for the monsoon to advance further into Madhya Pradesh and Uttar



The monsoon's progress will help farmers accelerate sowing of summer-sown crops, which has been lagging due to below-normal rainfall in the first half of June, especially in central India

The monsoon has covered all of southern and eastern India and most of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, the IMD said in a statement

week, a government official said

Pradesh, said the official, who was not authorised to speak with media so declined to be identified.

India received 8% less rainfall over June 1 - when the monsoon season began - through June 19 compared with a historical average, IMD data showed. For June 1-14, the rainfall deficit was 36%.

The monsoon - which accounts for nearly 70% of India's annual rainfall and is the lifeblood of its \$2.7 trillion agriculture-dependent economy - arrived on the coast of southern Kerala state on May 29, two days ahead of usual. Its progress later stalled for over a week.

Sowing of cotton, soybean, corn and paddy has lagged in key producing states, but could accelerate from this week, a senior government official said. "Sowing window is still open. Farmers have completed land preparation operations. They will plant crops as soon as they get enough rainfall," the official said, declining to be identified.

Millions of people in the north-east and neighbouring Bangladesh have been marooned because of heavy rainfall, but rainfall intensity in the region could moderate this week, the IMD official said.

Birbhum violence: 2 charge sheets filed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The CBI has filed two separate charge sheets in the killing of TMC leader Bhadu Sheikh and the arson allegedly triggered by it in which nine people were burnt to death in Bogtui village of West Bengal's Birbhum district on March 21, officials said on Monday. The CBI has named four persons as accused in its charge sheet filed in the murder of Sheikh whereas 18 people, including TMC leader Anarul Hussain, have been named in the arson case, they said.

Nine people, including women and children, were burnt to death on the night of March 21 when their houses in Bogtui village were fire-bombed by a mob in retaliation to the killing of TMC leader Sheikh in a crude bomb attack that evening. "On March 21, 2022, while the complainant was having tea at a shop in Bogtui 'More' around 8.30 pm, his brother Bhadu Sheikh (a deputy pradhan of the Barsal Gram Panchayat) was speaking over the phone sitting on a motorcycle.

"It was alleged that the accused threw bomb targeting the head of his brother (Bhadu Sheikh) and on being hit on his head, his brother fell on the ground," CBI spokesperson R C Joshi said.

It was also alleged that they kept throwing more bombs aiming at

The CBI had taken over the investigation of the case, following an order of the Calcutta HC

Bhadu Sheikh, he said. The probe agency collected digital and scientific evidence from the crime scene, he said.

The CBI had taken over the investigation of the case, following an order of the Calcutta High Court. In its charge sheet related to Bogtui violence and arson, the federal probe agency has alleged that it was "direct fallout" of the killing of Bhadu Sheikh.

The agency has named Palash Khan alias Faizul Khan, Sanju Sheikh alias Nur Islam Seikh, Safi Seikh alias Safizul Seikh and Mahi Seikh alias Mahirul Seikh in the charge sheet related to the murder. It has alleged that after Sheikh was killed, his loyalists and group members went on a rampage burning the houses of rivals in the village.

The CBI has alleged that rivalry was among groups of Bhadu Sheikh and Palash Sheikh and Sona Sheikh for dominance in the area and control over income from illegal collection of money from commercial vehicles and other unlawful activities had existed for a long time.

Joint Drugs Controller nabbed taking bribe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The CBI Monday apprehended Joint Drugs Controller S Eswara Reddy for allegedly receiving a Rs 4-lakh bribe to waive phase-three clinical trial of Insulin Aspart injection, an underdevelopment product of Biocon Biologics, officials said.

After getting inputs about an exchange of bribe, the CBI registered a case of criminal conspiracy and corruption against Reddy, posted at CDSCO headquarters, and Dinesh Dua, Director at Synergy Network India Private Limited, among others.

The CBI, which was working on the input for over a month, carried out a raid and Dua was caught giving Rs 4-lakh bribe to Reddy of the total promised amount of Rs 9 lakh on behalf of Biocon Biologics, a subsidiary of Kiran Majumder Shaw-led Biocon, officials said.

"Phase 3 clinical trial is an important regulatory mechanism to assess the safety of a pharma product. Any attempt to waive them off can have serious public health safety repercussions," an official said.

The CBI has alleged that the regulatory work of Biocon Biologics was looked after by Guljit Sethi of Bioinnovat Research Services Private Ltd.

Bioinnovat and Synergy Network have business dealings hence Dua agreed to make the bribe payment, the probe agency has alleged. The others named in the FIR include Guljit Sethi alias Guljit Chaudhary, Director, Bioinnovat Research Services Private Limited, Delhi; L Praveen Kumar, Associate Vice President and Head-National Regulatory Affairs (NRA), Biocon Biologics Limited, Bangalore; and Animesh Kumar, Assistant Drug Inspector (ADI), CDSCO, New Delhi. Biocon spokesperson did not immediately reply to messages and phone calls made for comments.

The CBI has alleged that executives of Biocon Biologics were trying to exert undue influence on officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to waive the phase 3 trial of 'Insulin Aspart Injection', officials said.

CLOSE WATCH



Security personnel stand guard at Bhagwati Nagar base camp for Amarnath pilgrims in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

Over 150 Sikhs desperate to return to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Over 150 Sikhs who were staying in a gurdwara in Kabul that was struck by terrorists Saturday have been desperately waiting for visas to move to India ever since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, according to a top shrine official.

Gurnam Singh, the president of Gurdwara Kartar-E-Parwan who spoke over phone from the Afghan capital, also urged the Indian government to step up evacuation efforts for Hindus and Sikhs. India has given e-visas 'on priority' to over 100 Sikhs and Hindus living in Afghanistan following the deadly terror strike on the gurdwara in Kabul on June 18, government sources said Sunday.

Several blasts were reported near the Sikh shrine, in the latest targeting of a place of worship of a minority community in the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. India has slammed the "cowardly attack". "There are over 150 Afghan Sikhs who have desperately been wanting to come to India ever since the Taliban returned. They even had valid Indian visas but those were suspended after the takeover." They are will-



Taliban fighters stand guard at the site of an explosion in front of a Sikh temple in Kabul, Afghanistan, on June 18

PHOTO: AP

ing to sell their shops in Kabul leaving their livelihoods behind and move permanently. They have been spending sleepless nights and counting days," Gurnam Singh said.

He said Afghanistan's ministry of interior affairs (MOI) officials met them Sunday and offered support for the repair of the damaged gurdwara. "But it is time the (Indian) government steps up too. The evacuation process that the

Indian government started is not yet over. There are still many who are willing to come to India and have been waiting for several months for their visas," he added.

Asked about the government's move to grant over 100 visas, Singh said, "Still there is a lot to be done. We urge the government to step up the evacuation efforts, help with flights and also explore ways so the livelihoods of these people aren't

affected." He requested the Indian government to come up with a plan to ensure temples and gurdwaras will remain safe in Afghanistan and "will not be damaged".

The gurdwara was home to at least 150 Sikhs since the fall of the Ashraf Ghani government last August. Several blasts tore through Gurdwara Kartar Parwan in Kabul's Bagh-e Bala neighbourhood on Saturday, while Afghan security personnel thwarted a bigger tragedy by stopping an explosive-laden vehicle from reaching the shrine.

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly terror attack calling it "an act of support" for the Prophet. A day after the attack, India approved e-visas for over 100 Sikhs and Hindus living in Afghanistan.

Sawinder Singh, whose family lives in Delhi, was among the two people who were killed. Puneet Singh Chandhok, president of the India World Forum who has been coordinating with the Indian government to evacuate Sikhs from the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, said he has been appealing to the government to grant visas to over 150 Sikhs staying there since the fall of the Ghani government.

Seven terrorists killed in Kashmir

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the Army have neutralised seven terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals in three anti-terror operations in Kupwara, Kulgam and Pulwama districts in less than 24 hours, officials said Monday.

One terrorist was killed in an ongoing gunfight with the security forces in the Chaptora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday. The Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the Army have neutralised four terrorists during a gunfight that started on Sunday at Lolab in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

"Two more terrorists including terrorist Showkat got neutralised (total 04). Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition recovered. Search going on," police said in a tweet.

Earlier, police said the Kupwara Police along with Army launched a joint anti-terrorist operation on Sunday on the disclosure of an arrested terrorist Showkat Ahmad Sheikh in the forests of Chandigam Lolab area of Kupwara.

ELECTIONS EXCITE AND INCITE

The election to the 57 vacancies in the Rajya Sabha has just ended after a political 'kabaddi' of sorts and the field is warming up for another - the December draw of the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh state Assembly contest. But first the future.

Whenever elections come close, the to and fro traffic between political entities picks up. Whether induced or on its own, in Gujarat it is largely one-sided from the ranks of the Opposition to the ruling BJP. The Congress has lost its young, one-agitation-old state working president Hardik Patel and veteran three-election old legislator Ashwin Kotwal, to name a few.

The AAP plagued by similar desertions, moved into damage

control, broomed its state unit, retaining only the president, Gopal Italia after an internal assessment, and has appointed a fresh set-up. "So far the stress was on mass reach-out now it is on winning the elections," says Italia. Moving fast, AAP put a more elaborate and cohesive party structure in place appointing 850 office-bearers including heads of all its frontal organisations while moving in others who were instrumental in nurturing the infant set-up to national positions. Former journalist Isudan Gadhvi has been made the national joint general secretary and Indranil Rajguru, the national joint secretary. AAP has already covered all the 182 Assembly constituencies through its 'parivartan yatra'

and 10,000 villages through its 'gram baithak' programme, said Sandeep Pathak, the party's Gujarat in-charge. The main fight in Gujarat is between the BJP and AAP, he says confidently.

While this may not be entirely true, there is a growing perception that though AAP's urban gains will be at the cost of the BJP, any success in the rural areas will cut into the Congress tally. The BJP has, in a much planned manner, skimmed AAP of its cream leadership in Himachal Pradesh where its state president and other key office-bearers

switched to the BJP. Like-wise in Uttarakhand, state chief Deepak Bali and chief ministerial nominee Col. Ajay Kothiyal joined the BJP recently.

In Gujarat, AAP's atmospheric is aimed at projecting itself as the main challenger of the BJP but the fact is that it is working to replace the Congress as the main Opposition in the state. In the 2017 elections it drew a blank but its lone claim to fame is having won 27 seats in the 120-member Surat Municipal Corporation to the BJP's 93, re-

placing the Congress which drew a blank, as the Opposition.

Two key industrialist-cum-philanthropic figures of the state who moved towards Congress and AAP respectively had second thoughts and changed their mind. Surat businessman Mahesh Savani who had joined AAP with great fanfare announced seven months later that politics was not his cup of tea. Similarly, Naresh Patel, head of the powerful Khodaldham Trust, a rock-solid organisation of Patidars, finally decided against joining the Congress. Patel had over months, been involved in elaborate discussions with the national Congress leadership and his joining the party had been cleared at the highest level. Even the state Congress leaders

including all the big-wigs had conveyed to him that they were alright with him being projected as the party's chief ministerial face. Besides other community leaders had also given their assent. Nevertheless, he remained confused, by his own admission and finally decided against joining for now.

The BJP is alright with AAP gaining a modicum of heft in Gujarat because it believes that it will only divide Opposition votes. Nevertheless, the BJP is not taking any chances and with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah visiting their home state with an increased frequency of public engagements, the build-up for the elections has begun in right earnest.



international



Tehran is ready to reach a good deal with world powers
SAEED KHATIBZADEH | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

BORIS UNDERGOES SINUS OPERATION

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson Monday underwent a 'minor' sinus operation and has returned to his Downing Street office-residence to recuperate, his official spokesperson said. Johnson went into a hospital in London around 6 am local time Monday for a routine procedure on the National Health Service related to his sinuses and was briefly under general anaesthesia



of the day quote

I see that some people are worried or anxious about the #Bitcoin market price. My advice: stop looking at the graph and enjoy life. If you invested in #BTC your investment is safe and its value will immensely grow after the bear market. Patience is the key
NAVIB BUKELE | EL SALVADOR'S PRESIDENT

Ukraine will continue fighting against Russia even if it has no weapons whatsoever, so the West should speed up its shipments of arms or be responsible for the deaths of its troops
DMYTRIO KULEBA | MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE

We are currently witnessing Iranian attempts to attack Israelis in various overseas locations
NAFTALI BENNETT | ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Saudi lifts Covid curbs

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has lifted Covid-19 travel restrictions on its citizens, the Ministry of Interior announced Monday. Travel curbs were lifted on the following destinations: Turkey, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and India, Al Arabiya reported. The move comes a week after the Kingdom dropped some precautionary Covid measures, including wearing face masks indoors and providing proof of vaccination in order to enter most public places.

Jihadi rebels kill 40 in central Mali

Bamako: Attacks by suspected jihadi rebels in central Mali have killed at least 40 civilians, a local official said Monday. "We recorded attacks by armed men against three villages: Diallassougou, Segue and Lesago, investigators are on the spot today to find out exactly what happened," Moulaye Guindo, the mayor of Bankass, the biggest town near the attacked villages, told The Associated Press.

Harlem: 1 dead, 8 hurt in shooting

New York: An early-morning shooting Monday at a gathering in Harlem left a man dead and eight other people wounded, New York City police said. Officers responded about 12:40 am to reports of a shooting on a footpath along the FDR Drive and found five people shot, police said, citing preliminary information. They were taken to hospitals for treatment. Four other people who were shot also arrived at hospitals for treatment, police said.

UK gears up for biggest rail strike

London: The UK is gearing up for its biggest rail strike over pay in 30 years after last-ditch talks between railway unions and transport bosses failed Monday. A walkout by an estimated 40,000 workers Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday is set to impact all train services after the RMT Union blamed the "dead hand" of government for the misery in store for passengers this week.

Colombia picks first Leftist Prez

Bogota (Colombia): Colombia will be governed by a Leftist president for the first time after former rebel Gustavo Petro narrowly defeated a real estate millionaire in a runoff election that underscored people's disgust with the country's traditional politicians.

Prince William sold magazines on streets

PRINCE WILLIAM, SECOND IN LINE TO THE BRITISH THRONE, WAS SPOTTED IN EARLY JUNE STANDING ON A WESTMINSTER STREET AS A VENDOR FOR THE 'BIG ISSUE', WHICH IS SOLD BY HOMELESS PEOPLE IN BRITAIN AS A WAY OF EARNING MONEY

REUTERS

London, June 20: Prince William evoked his late mother Princess Diana's work for charity, as he described as "eye-opening" selling copies on a London street of a magazine that helps to combat homelessness, saying he was committed to highlighting the problem.

William, second in line to the British throne, was spotted in early June standing on a Westminster Street as a vendor for the "Big Issue", which is sold by homeless

people in Britain as a way of earning money.

"I was 11 when I first visited a homeless shelter with my mother, who in her own inimitable style was determined to shine a light on an overlooked, misunderstood problem," William wrote in the magazine's latest issue dated Monday.

Princess Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997, promoted and worked for scores of charities, raising awareness about homelessness, AIDS, leprosy and land mines, among other causes.

Charity Crisis estimated that 227,000 British households experienced homelessness during 2021.

"While I may seem like one of the most unlikely advocates for this cause, I have always believed in using my platform to help tell those stories and to bring attention and action to those who are struggling," William wrote.

"I commit to continue doing what I can to shine a spotlight on this solvable issue not just today, but in the months and years to come."

Russia still pounds eastern Ukraine



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, June 20: Russia's military machine persevered in its ferocious effort to grind down Ukraine's defenses Monday, as the war's consequences for food and fuel supplies increasingly weighed on minds around the globe after warnings that the fighting could go on for years.

In Ukraine's eastern Luhansk region, which in recent weeks has become the focal point of Moscow's attempt to impose its will on its neighbour, battles raged for the control of multiple villages, the local governor said.

The villages are around Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk, two cities in the Luhansk region yet to be captured by the Russians, according to Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai. Russian shelling and airstrikes on the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk have intensified, he said. Haidai told The Associated Press on Monday that the situation in Sievierodonetsk was "very difficult," with the

Ukrainian forces maintaining control over just one area — the Azot chemical plant, where a number of Ukrainian fighters, along with about 500 civilians, are taking shelter. The Russians keep deploying additional troops and equipment in the area, he said.

"It's just hell there. Everything is engulfed in fire, the shelling doesn't stop even for an hour," Haidai said in written comments. Only a fraction of 100,000 people who used to live in Sievierodonetsk before the war remain in the city, with no electricity, communications, food or medicine.

Even so, Haidai said, the staunch Ukrainian resistance is preventing Moscow from deploying its resources to other parts of the country. The British defence ministry noted that the war is not going all Russia's way despite its superior military assets.

EUROPEAN UNION TO DECIDE ON UKRAINE MEMBERSHIP BID
ZELENSKIY SAYS BATTLE FOR DONBAS TO INTENSIFY
SEPARATISTS CLAIM 'LIBERATION' OF TOSHKIVKA
KYIV PARLIAMENT VOTES TO BAN BOOKS, MUSIC BY RUSSIANS

Macron's camp seeks allies



MACRON'S CAMP FAILS TO WIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT



WILL NOW SEEK ALLIANCES WITH OTHER PARTIES
RISK OF POLITICAL PARALYSIS IF NO DEALS

AGENCIES

Paris, June 20: President Emmanuel Macron's centrist camp scrambled Monday to secure support from rivals to salvage some of its reform agenda after weekend elections delivered a fragmented parliament that leaves France at risk of political paralysis.

The loss of his Ensemble alliance's absolute majority is a bitter setback for Macron, himself elected for a second term in April. French governments have long been used to having a lower house of parliament that shares their political line and largely rubber-stamps proposals.

Sunday's second-round vote left Ensemble as the biggest party, with a fledgling leftwing alliance determined to make its voice heard

in second place, the far-right stronger than ever and the conservatives as potential kingmakers.

Losing control of parliament means Macron will need to shed his top-down approach to politics, which he himself called "Jupiterian" for a much more consensual stance.

WHAT NEXT?

It is unclear whether the broad leftwing Nupes alliance of Jean-Luc Melancon can stay united and what influence Marine Le Pen's strong far-right contingent will wield. One key question is whether Macron will try to strike a coalition deal with the conservative Les Republicains (LR) - who have for now rejected that option - or enter into messy negotiations with lawmakers on a bill-by-bill basis.

Huge gains in Parl a 'seismic event': Le Pen

Paris: Far-right leader Marine Le Pen said Monday that her party's extraordinary surge in the country's parliamentary election is a "historic victory" and a "seismic event" in French politics. Many voters in Sunday's poll opted for far-right or far-left candidates, denying President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance a straight majority in the National Assembly. Le Pen's National Rally got 89 seats in the 577-member parliament, up from a previous total of eight.

A few lone voices aside, lawmakers from LR who gathered on Monday to discuss the election fallout, have so far rejected a coalition pact - but the door may be open to deals on a case by case basis. Les Republicains chief Christian Jacob said again on Monday he opposed striking any deal with Macron.

FIRST TESTS

If no agreement with the opposition can be found, the euro zone's second biggest economy faces political deadlock and possible snap elections down the line. A first major test will be a cost-of-living bill which Gregoire said the government will put to lawmakers in eight days, when the new parliament sits for the first time.

PROTEST TURNS UGLY



A policeman baton charges a student activist during a protest against price hike in petroleum products in Kathmandu, Nepal. Students were blocking roads in Nepal's capital to protest hike in prices of gasoline, diesel and cooking oil

Israeli PM to dissolve Parl; fresh elections on the cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, June 20: Israel could be headed towards its fifth parliamentary elections in less than three-and-a-half years with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and his ally Alternat Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid announcing Monday to introduce a bill to dissolve the Knesset (parliament) next week.

Bennett and Lapid, in a joint statement, said that they had "exhausted options to stabilise" their coalition which has recently come under severe strain over unruly members threatening to dump it.

The move, if passed, will trigger snap polls - Israel's fifth in just about three years. Lapid will assume the role of interim Prime Minister

The move, if passed, will trigger snap polls - Israel's fifth in just about 3 years

until the elections as per the power-sharing arrangement of the governing coalition.

The crisis-ridden government, an amalgamation of ideologically disparate political formations drawn from the left, centre, right and even an Arab party (for the first time in Israel's history), finally looked tottering under the pressure of disperse beliefs. Local media reported that Bennett is considering retiring from politics altogether as per sources close to him.

SL Cabinet passes 21st Amendment aimed at empowering Parl

THE 21ST AMENDMENT IS EXPECTED TO ANNUL THE 20A TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH GIVES UNFETTERED POWERS TO PRESIDENT GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA AFTER ABOLISHING THE 19TH AMENDMENT THAT WILL STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENT

AGENCIES

Colombo, June 20: Sri Lankan Cabinet Monday approved the 21st Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president and it will now be tabled in Parliament soon, two senior ministers have said.

"The 21 amendment was tabled and passed in cabinet today and will be tabled in @ParliamentLK soon. Like to thank @RW_UNP and @wijerajapakse for pushing it through," Minister of Tourism and Lands Harin Fernando tweeted.

The 21A aims, among other reforms, at barring dual citizens from contesting elections to hold public office. "Today the cabinet approved the 21A - this was the draft

that I had discussed with all political parties and other organisations. This will now be sent to the legal draftsman," Constitutional Affairs Minister Wijedasa Rajapakse told PTI.

He said he was keen to make sure that the draft would not incorporate any provision which would be deemed as required to be approved at a national referendum by the Supreme Court.

The law requires that any bill be referred to the Supreme Court for a determination on its constitutionality.

A section of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party (SLPP) was opposed to bringing in 21A without addressing the current economic crisis. The Cabinet nod came amidst much opposition to it



Sri Lankan student Buddhist monks shout slogans as they march demanding President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resign over the economic crisis in Colombo, Sri Lanka

within the ruling party. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe had battled for the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, saying it will curb

the president's unlimited powers while enhancing the role of Parliament in governing the debt-ridden country which is also facing an unprecedented political tur-

moil. The powerful Rajapaksa family tightened their grip on power after their massive victory in the general elections in August 2020, which allowed them to amend the Constitution to restore presidential powers and install close family members in key positions.

Wickremesinghe was the main sponsor of the 19th Amendment in 2015 which empowered Parliament over the executive president. The constitutional reform was a major plank of the agreement between Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe when he took over the job of Prime Minister May 12.

Sri Lanka has been grappling with unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948.

Floods continue to batter B'desh

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dhaka, June 20: Floods in Bangladesh continued to wreak havoc Monday with authorities struggling to ferry drinking water and dry food to flood shelters across the country's vast northern and northeastern regions, officials and local media said.

More than a dozen people died across the country since the monsoon began last week, authorities said. The government called in soldiers Friday to help evacuate people. Ekattor TV station said millions remained without electricity.



Enamur Rahman, junior minister for disaster and relief, said that up to 100,000 people have been evacuated in the worst-hit Sunamganj and Sylhet districts, and about 4 million people have been marooned in the area, the United News of Bangladesh agency said.

In the latest statement Sunday from the country's Flood Forecasting and Warning Center in the nation's capital, Dhaka, said that flooding in the north-eastern districts of Sunamganj and Sylhet could worsen further in next 24 hours.

It said the Teesta, a major river in the northern Bangladesh, may flow above danger. The situation could also deteriorate in the country's northern districts of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur and Sirajganj, it said.

China carries out land-based missile interception test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 20: China has said that it successfully carried out a land-based mid-course anti-ballistic missile (ABM) technical test Sunday with Chinese experts claiming that the tests, stated to be the sixth of its kind, validated the reliability of the country's anti-ballistic missile umbrella.

The test is defensive in nature and not targeted against any country, the Chinese Defence Ministry's official English website said in a brief statement Sunday.

According to the statement, China conducted a land-based midcourse missile interception test within its territory June 19 and achieved the desired test objective.

State-run Global Times reported that the mid-course ABM test marks the consecutive year China has conducted this kind of test.

A similar test was carried out in February 2021. The latest test brings the tally of publicly announced Chinese land-based ABM technical tests to six. China has carried out the ABM tests in 2010, 2013, 2014, 2018 and 2021, the report said.

business

of the day quote

It is not easy for an airline to turn a profit in India and a lot of issues such as fare caps and high taxes on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) have to be resolved

PHILIP GOH | REGIONAL VP (ASIA PACIFIC), INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

We hope that China is really waking up. (We hope) that they find a way to get out of this zero-tolerance Covid strategy because it causes huge uncertainty and this is for sure not good for investment

BETTINA SCHOEN-BEHANZIN | VP, EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN CHINA

Over the long-term, premiumisation of vehicles, focus on localisation, improved exports potential and EV opportunities, resulting in higher content per vehicle, would translate to healthy growth for auto component suppliers

VINUTAA S | VP & SECTOR HEAD, ICRA

SHORT TAKES

LIC HFL hikes lending rate

Mumbai: Mortgage player LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL) Monday said it has raised its prime lending rate (LHPLR) by 60 basis points. With this increase, the new interest rates, effective from June 20, on home loans will now start from 7.50 per cent, the company said in a release. "The interest rate hike is in line with the market scenario. If compared historically, the rates are still at a very competitive level. Therefore, we will see sustenance in demand for home loans," its MD and CEO Y Viswanatha Gowd said.

Vedanta puts on sale its TN plant

New Delhi: Vedanta has put on sale its Sterlite copper smelting plant at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu after facing a lot of hurdles in reopening the unit and has invited an expression for interest from the potential buyers. The plant got closed in 2018 following the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board's order over environment concerns. In an advertisement, Vedanta in conjunction with Axis Capital invited an Expression of Interest (EOI) for "sale of the state-of-art smelter and refining complex situated at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu." The last day to submit the EOI is July 4.

DBS Bank buys 9.9% in Svakarma

Mumbai: Singaporean lender DBS Bank's local unit Monday said it has acquired a 9.9 per cent stake in the micro businesses-focused non-bank finance company Svakarma Finance for an undisclosed sum. DBS Bank India said the stake buy in Svakarma will help in delivering relevant financial solutions to the micro-enterprises through a combination of direct lending and co-lending. Earlier, DBS Bank had taken over domestic private sector lender Lakshmi Vilas Bank in 2020 at the request of the RBI to add heft to its network.

Sebi slaps ₹30L fine on RIL, 2 others

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi Monday imposed a penalty totalling Rs 30 lakh on Reliance Industries (RIL) and two individuals for not making prompt clarification to the stock exchange pertaining to the Jio-Facebook deal, which was disclosed through the newspaper. The other two individuals penalised by Sebi are -- Savithri Parekh and K Sethuraman.



The knee jerk action of imposing 15 per cent export duty came as a shock to domestic steel industry, which was charting new capex plans to meet government's ambitious target of doubling steel capacity to 300MT by 2030

KK PAHUA | PRESIDENT, INDIAN STAINLESS STEEL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

BOOKINGS START FOR NEW BREZZA

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Monday announced opening of bookings for the upcoming new version of its compact SUV Brezza. The new Brezza, to be launched at the end of the month, will come with features such as electric sunroof along with an array of sophisticated new-age tech, comfort, convenience and connected features



Air India preps for largest deals in aviation history

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: Air India Ltd is considering ordering as many as 300 narrowbody jets, according to people familiar with the proceeding, in what could be one of the largest orders in commercial aviation history as the formerly state-run airline looks to overhaul its fleet under new ownership.

The carrier may order Airbus SE's A320neo family jets or Boeing Co's 737 Max models, or a mix of both, the people said, asking not to be identified because the discussions are confidential. A deal for 300 737

Max-10 jets could be worth \$40.5 billion at sticker prices.

Currently Air India's fleet is a mix of Boeing (777-200LR, 777-300ER and 787-800 Dreamliner) and Airbus (319, 320, 320Neo and 321) aircraft numbering 113 operating flights. It will be interesting to see how the Tata finances the fleet expansion.

It is also said that Air India has asked its pilots if they want to get trained in flying A350, which means the airline plans to induct the same in its fleet for long haul flights.

The Tata Group acquired Air India from the Indian government last year. The group already has



Vistara and Air Asia under its fold. Earlier in the day, Airbus chief

commercial officer Christian Scherer said that the airline is "re-

organising itself" under the Tata Group and will look at refurbishing its fleet with new aircraft.

Winning a narrowbody order in India would be a coup for Boeing, as rival Airbus dominates the skies in the country, the world's fastest-growing aviation market before the Covid pandemic. IndiGo, operated by InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, is the world's largest customer for the European manufacturer's best-selling narrowbodies, ordering more than 700, and others including Vistara, Go Airlines India Ltd and AirAsia India Ltd fly planes from the same family.

Tata Steel buys Russian coal after vowing to cut ties

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 20: India's top steelmaker Tata Steel imported about 75,000 tonne of coal from Russia in the second half of May, two trade sources and one government source said, weeks after pledging to stop doing business with Russia.

Tata Steel had said in April all its manufacturing sites in India, the UK and the Netherlands had sourced alternative supplies of raw materials to end its dependence on Russia, adding it was taking "a conscious decision to stop doing business with Russia."

Still, in May, Tata Steel shipped about 75,000 tonne of PCI coal, used in steelmaking, from Russia's Vanino port, out of which 42,000 tonne were offloaded in a port in Paradip May 18 and 32,500 tonne in Haldia, said the two trade sources who wished to remain anonymous as they were not authorized to speak on the matter.

A spokesman for Tata Steel said the deal to import coal from Russia was made before the company's announcement to cut business ties with Russia, without providing further details.

"There has been no other PCI Coal purchase by Tata Steel from Russia after the announcement," the spokesman said in an emailed statement to Reuters.

Tata Steel was the only major steelmaker to announce it would stop doing business with Russia.

Bank of India to re-launch 'Branch Adalat' campaign

Bhubaneswar: Observing success of earlier edition of "Branch Adalat" campaign that was held between May 21 to 26, the Bank of India (BoI) decided to re-launch the campaign between the same period this month at pan India level. The concept behind Branch Adalat was to provide relief to the borrowers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic or any other reason especially the borrowers having outstanding loans up to ₹5 crore under agriculture, MSME, retail and personal loan segment. In view of encouraging response of borrowers, the Bank of India has decided to provide another opportunity to the bank's borrowers through the Branch Adalat campaign being organized between June 21 to June 28, 2022.

GLOBAL UNREST

RBI flags \$100bn FPI outflow risk

With the spate of emerging market crises since the 1990s and the experience with the global financial crisis and its aftermath, attention has turned from the benefits associated with capital flows to their consequences such as accentuating financial vulnerabilities, aggravating macroeconomic instability and spreading contagion, the article noted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 20: Portfolio flows in India are the most sensitive to shifts in risk sentiment globally and in an adverse scenario, potential portfolio outflows can average up to 3.2 per cent of GDP or \$100 billion (Rs 7.8 lakh crore) in a year, an RBI article said.

The article, titled 'Capital Flows at Risk: India's Experience' published in the RBI's latest bulletin, further said in a 'black swan' event comprising a combination of shocks, potential portfolio outflows can rise to 7.7 per cent of GDP, highlighting the need for maintaining liquid reserves to quell such potential bouts of instability.

"For India, portfolio flows are the most sensitive to shifts in risk sentiment globally and spillovers," it said. "In response to shocks to each of the determinants of a size that is at least equal to what has been observed in the historical experience, potential portfolio outflows can be in the range of 2.6 to 3.6 per cent of GDP, averaging to 3.2 per cent of GDP (or \$100.6 billion in a year)," the article said.

It further said there is a 5 per cent chance of portfolio outflows from India of the order of 3.2 per cent of GDP or \$100.6 billion in a year in response to a Covid-type contraction in real GDP growth, or a GFC (global financial crisis) type decline in interest rate differentials vis-a-vis the US. Aggressive rate hike by the US Federal Reserve, coupled with elevated inflation and high valuation of equities continued to keep foreign investors at bay from the Indian stock market as they pulled out ₹ 31,430 crore in this month so far.

With this, net outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from equities reached ₹1.98 lakh crore so far in 2022, data with depositories showed.



RBI warns of 'black swan' event triggered by a combination of all adverse shocks experienced in Indian market history coming together, leading to a perfect storm

Applying a capital flows at risk approach, it is observed that in an adverse scenario, potential portfolio outflows can average up to 3.2 per cent of GDP

MICHAEL DEBARATA PATRA | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

Near-term threats loom large: FinMin

New Delhi: India is facing near-term challenges in managing its fiscal deficit, sustaining economic growth, reining in inflation and containing the current account deficit but the country is relatively better placed to weather these headwinds compared to other nations, the finance ministry said in its monthly economic report. Near-term challenges need to be managed carefully without sacrificing the hard-earned macroeconomic stability, the Monthly Economic Review said. "Many countries around the world, especially developed countries, face similar challenges. India is relatively better placed to weather these challenges because of its financial sector stability and its vaccination success in enabling the economy to open up," it added. Observing that the capex budget for 2022-23 is expected to underpin growth, the report said an upside risk to the budgeted level of gross fiscal deficit has emerged following cuts in excise duties on diesel and petrol. An increase in the fiscal deficit may cause the current account deficit to widen, compounding the effect of costlier imports, and weaken the value of the rupee thereby, further aggravating external imbalances, creating the risk (admittedly low at this time) of a cycle of wider deficits and a weaker currency, it said.

CRYPTO INDUSTRY ON EDGE

Bitcoin holds near \$20K as investors fear domino effect

WORLD'S BIGGEST CRYPTOCURRENCY, BITCOIN, HAS LOST ALMOST 60% OF ITS VALUE THIS YEAR AND 37% THIS MONTH ALONE IN THE CRYPTO SECTOR'S LATEST MELTDOWN

REUTERS

London, June 20: The cryptocurrency industry was on edge Monday as bitcoin struggled to stay above a key level, with investors fearing that problems at major crypto players could unleash a wider market shakeout.

Bitcoin, the world's biggest cryptocurrency, was trading just under the symbolic level of \$20,000 in early London trading hours - roughly the peak of its charge to its previous record in 2017.

Bitcoin had dropped Saturday to as low as \$17,592.78, falling below \$20,000 for the first time since December 2020. Its fall follows problems at several major industry players. Further declines, market players said, could have a knock-on effect as other crypto investors



The overall crypto market capitalisation is roughly \$877 billion, down from a peak of \$2.9 trillion in Nov 2021

are forced to sell their holdings to meet margin calls and cover losses.

Smaller tokens, which usually move in tandem with bitcoin, were also hurt. No 2 token Ether was at \$1,075.2, having dipped below its own symbolic level of \$1,000 over the weekend.

The fall in crypto markets has coincided with a slide for equities, as US stocks suffered their biggest weekly percentage decline in two years on fears of rising interest rates and the growing likelihood of recession.

A fall in stablecoins - a type of crypto designed to hold a steady value - is also suggesting investors are pulling money from the sector as a whole.

AFTER AGNIPATH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Industry leaders, including Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra, RPG Enterprises Chairman Harsh Goenka and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran Monday came out in support of the Agnipath scheme, saying it has large potential for employment of youth in the corporate sector.

Mahindra also expressed dismay over the violence against the scheme while asserting that the firm equipment to aerospace conglomerate welcomes the opportunity to recruit trained, capable and

'Corporate jobs potential huge'



young people under the programme.

When asked by a Twitter user on what post will be given by the Mahindra Group to Agniveers, he responded, "Large potential for employment of Agniveers in the Corporate Sector. With leadership, teamwork & physical training, Agniveers provide market-ready professional solutions to industry,

covering the full spectrum from operations to administration & supply chain management."

Responding to Mahindra's tweet, Goenka said, "The RPG group too welcomes the opportunity to employ the Agniveers. I do hope other corporates will also join us to take this pledge and assure our youths of a future."

N Chandrasekaran, Tata Sons Chairman, backed the Centre's Agnipath scheme, saying apart from the opportunity for the youth to serve the defence forces, it will also make available a very disciplined and trained workforce for the industry, including the Tata group.

Europe may shift back to coal as Russia curbs gas

The crisis and sky-high gas prices add to the headache facing policymakers already fretting about surging inflation and a dimming economic outlook

REUTERS

Frankfurt, June 20: Europe's biggest Russian gas buyers were racing to find alternative fuel supplies Monday and even looking at burning more coal to cope with reduced gas flows from Russia that threaten an energy crisis in winter if stores are not refilled.

Italy's Eni said it had been informed by Russia's Gazprom that it would receive only part of its request for gas supplies Monday, pushing the country closer to de-

claring a state of alert that will spark gas saving measures.

Germany, which has also faced lower Russian flows, announced Sunday its latest plan to boost gas storage levels and said it could restart coal-fired power plants that it had aimed to phase out.

"That is painful, but it is a sheer necessity in this situation to reduce gas consumption," said Economy Minister Robert Habeck, a member of the Green party that has pushed for a faster exit from coal.

Russia repeated Monday that Europe only had itself to blame for the gas crisis, after the West imposed sanctions in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, a gas transit route to Europe, as well as a major wheat exporter.

Dutch front-month gas contract, the European benchmark, was trading around 124 euros (\$130) Monday, down from this year's peak of 335 euros but still up more than 300% on its level a year ago, before prices



Germany may take 'painful' move to fire up coal power

Italy, Austria also looking at burning more coal

Surging gas prices add to already rising inflation

We have gas, it is ready to be delivered, but the Europeans must give back the equipment, which should be repaired under their obligations

DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESMAN, KREMLIN

started rocketing higher.

The CEO of Germany's largest power producer RWE, Markus Krebber, said power prices could take three to five years to fall back

to lower levels.

Russian gas flows to Germany through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, the main route supplying Europe's biggest economy, were still running

Russia biggest supplier of oil to China

London: Russia has become China's biggest supplier of oil as the country sold discounted crude to Beijing amid sanctions over the Ukraine war, media reports said. Imports of Russian oil rose by 55 per cent from a year earlier to a record level in May, displacing Saudi Arabia as China's biggest provider, BBC reported. China has ramped up purchases of Russian oil despite demand dampened by Covid curbs and a slowing economy. Chinese companies, including state refining giant Sinopec and state-run Zhenhua Oil, have increased their purchases of Russian crude in recent months after being offered heavy discounts as buyers in Europe and the US shunned Russian energy in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine, BBC reported. Last week, a report said Russia earned almost \$100 billion in revenue from fossil fuel exports in the first 100 days of the country's invasion of Ukraine, despite a fall in exports in May, BBC reported.

at about 40% of capacity Monday, even though they had edged up from the start of last week.

Austria's government agreed with utility Verbund Sunday to convert a gas-fired power plant to use coal should restricted gas supplies lead to an energy emergency.

Italy, whose technical committee for gas is due to meet Tuesday, has said it could declare

a heightened state of alert on gas this week if Russia continues to curb supplies.

The move would trigger measures to reduced consumption, including rationing gas for selected industrial users, ramping up the production at coal power plants and also asking for more gas imports from other suppliers under existing contracts.

ROHIDAS ONLY PLAYER FROM ODISHA IN HOCKEY TEAM AS BIRENDRA LAKRA MISSES OUT

THE SQUAD

(GOALKEEPERS): PR Sreejesh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak
(DEFENDERS): Varun Kumar, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh
(MIDFIELDERS): Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma
(FORWARDS): Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Abhishek.

MANPREET SINGH



Full-strength squad for Birmingham CWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: India named Monday a full-strength 18-member senior men's hockey squad for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham starting July 28. Mindfielder Manpreet Singh has been named the captain of the squad and dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh as his deputy. Hockey India (HI) had initially decided to send a second-string team to the CWG due to the short turnaround time between the Birmingham event and the Hangzhou Asian Games, which is a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics. However, with the Asian Games now postponed to next year owing to the Covid-19 situation in China,

HI decided to pick a strong team for the prestigious event. The Indian team have been grouped in pool B along with England, Canada, Wales and Ghana. The two-time former CWG silver medalists will begin their campaign July 31 against Ghana. Manpreet had led the Indian team to a historic bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Tokyo last year. He will take over the reins from Amit Rohidas, who was the captain for the FIH Pro League tour of Belgium and the Netherlands. Rohidas is the only player from Odisha to have found a place in the squad. "We have gone with a tried-and-tested team for the Commonwealth Games. These players have the experience of playing top teams in high pressure games in the FIH Pro League which was a good exposure for us ahead of the presti-

gious quadrennial event," chief coach Graham Reid said in a release. "After a brief break when we return home from the Netherlands, we will resume camp in SAI, Bangalore where we will analyse our performance against Belgium and the Netherlands. There are surely a few areas that we can improve upon ahead of the Commonwealth Games. Our aim is to win the CWG title," Reid added. Goalkeeper Suraj Karkera and forwards Shilanand Lakra and Sukhjeet Singh, who were part of the FIH Pro League, are missing from the squad. India had finished fourth at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast. So they will certainly like to improve on their performance. Australia are expected to be the team that have the capability to trouble India the most. However, hosts England can also be tough.

EVES LOOK TO END ON A HIGH

Team management keen to address weaker areas ahead of World Cup



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rotterdam, June 20: With the World Cup just over 10 days away, the Indian women's hockey team would look to utilise their last FIH Pro League double-header tie against lowly USA, starting here Tuesday. The team management is planning to address the weak areas ahead of the marquee event to be co-hosted by the Netherlands and Spain. The Indian women have produced a remarkable performance in their debut FIH Pro League season. Currently they are occupying the third spot in the standings with 24 points from 14 games behind the Netherlands (32 points from 14 matches) and Argentina, who have already clinched the title with 42 points from 16 games. The Savita Punia-led Indian side would be eyeing to sign off the campaign with wins over the Americans to finish a creditable third. The second match of the double-header will be played Wednesday.

The two matches against the USA will provide the Indians a perfect platform to measure their strength ahead of the World Cup beginning July 1. "For us, the most important thing is that we could execute our plans and put up an improved performance over the weekend against Argentina. However, we could have done better, but I feel these matches are a confidence-booster for us ahead of the World Cup," Savita said. "There is still room for improvement for us and we look forward to plugging the loopholes in the matches against the USA. We've gained good momentum and hopefully, we will finish our debut Pro League campaign with good results," Savita added. With the World Cup just around the corner, Savita said the team are shaping up really well for the quadrennial tournament. "We are glad that we have got a good opportunity of playing in Europe just a few days ahead of the World Cup, so the build-up towards the big event has been really great. We are shaping up really well for the World Cup," Savita pointed out. India vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka said they are confident of outclassing USA, who lie at the bottom of the FIH Pro League standings with just five points from 12 games. "The matches were really tough against Argentina, but we are glad that we stuck to the plans and did really well against a strong team. We are looking forward to the last set of matches of our memorable Pro League campaign. We are confident of getting positive results against the USA," Deep said. In the World Cup, the Indian women's hockey team are in Pool B along with England, China and New Zealand. India will kick off their campaign against England July 3 in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

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We are happy that we had the chance to play in Europe before the World Cup. So the preparations have been really good
SAVITA PUNIA

NEWS IN BRIEF

ATKMB bag Ashique, lose Prabir to BFC

Kolkata: It was a mixed day for ATK Mohun Bagan (ATK) as they recruited India midfielder Ashique Kuruniyan, but lost defender Prabir Das who joined Bengaluru FC (BFC). Kuruniyan, one of the stars of the country's Asian Cup qualification campaign joined ATKMB on a five-year deal. The 25-year-old Kuruniyan impressed with his speed and creativity in the recent Asian Cup Qualifiers. "Any footballer's dream is to play in Kolkata so when I got the offer to play for ATKMB, I did not hesitate in taking the decision," Kuruniyan said in a release. "This is one association I am looking forward to," the player added. Meanwhile Das joined BFC on a three-year deal, the club said in a release. Das is a product of the Pailan Arrows Youth Academy.

Cyclists shine

New Delhi: India enjoyed a successful outing at the Asian Track Cycling Championship with two bronze medals here Monday. Ronaldo Singh bagged the country's first-ever international medal in the 1km time trial event. After three days, India has 20 medals in the kitty. Another bronze was added by Birjit Yumnam who pulled away from Ilya Karabutov (Kazakhstan) and Amir Ali (Iran) after 35 laps to claim the third position in the 40-lap race of 10km in the men's junior category. "I came here for the gold but had to be satisfied with bronze as I failed to perform my best. I certainly could have done better," world junior champion Ronaldo said.

Ban avoided

London: Women's doubles player Natela Dzalamidze, who was born in Moscow, will be able to get around the ban on Russians at Wimbledon this year, because she now represents Georgia. The 29-year-old, who is currently 44th in the doubles rankings, is listed as being from Georgia on the WTA Tour website — and in Wimbledon's entry list for the tournament, which begins June 27. Dzalamidze will play with partner Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia. The All England Club said in April it would not allow players from Russia or Belarus to compete at the grass court Grand Slam tournament because of the war in Ukraine. However, because of her adopted country, Dzalamidze has been able to avoid the ban.

No one-night stands

Doha: The local organising committee of the 2022 World Cup football tournament here has warned all visitors that they should not indulge in 'casual sex' or one night stands. If caught, the rule breakers can face prison terms for seven years and fines also. "Ours is a conservative country and all tourists will have to follow rules implemented by us. So no one night stands are allowed," the committee said in a release. "Couples will be allowed to stay in same hotel rooms only if they have a proper marriage certificate. We do not permit casual sex," the release added. The body also said that all visitors will have to strictly abide by the law.

Max maximises pole advantage

RED BULL DRIVER WINS 6TH TITLE OF SEASON, CONSOLIDATES LEAD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal, June 20: Max Verstappen maintained his hold on the Formula One (F1) championship fight by holding off a late challenge from Carlos Sainz (Jr) to earn his sixth win of the season in a fairly easy drive in the Canadian Grand Prix here Sunday. Verstappen won from the pole at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve to extend his lead in the standings to 46 points over Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez, who retired early with a gearbox issue. "It's still a very long way to go and I know the gap of course is quite big, but I also know that can switch around very quickly," Verstappen said of his points lead. He noted he trailed Charles Leclerc by 46 points following the third race of the season. The Dutchman had no trouble clearing Fernando Alonso, who earned his first front-row start in

a decade then joked he'd attack Verstappen in the first turn to steal the victory. But there was no challenge and by the time Sainz cleared Alonso for second on Lap 2,

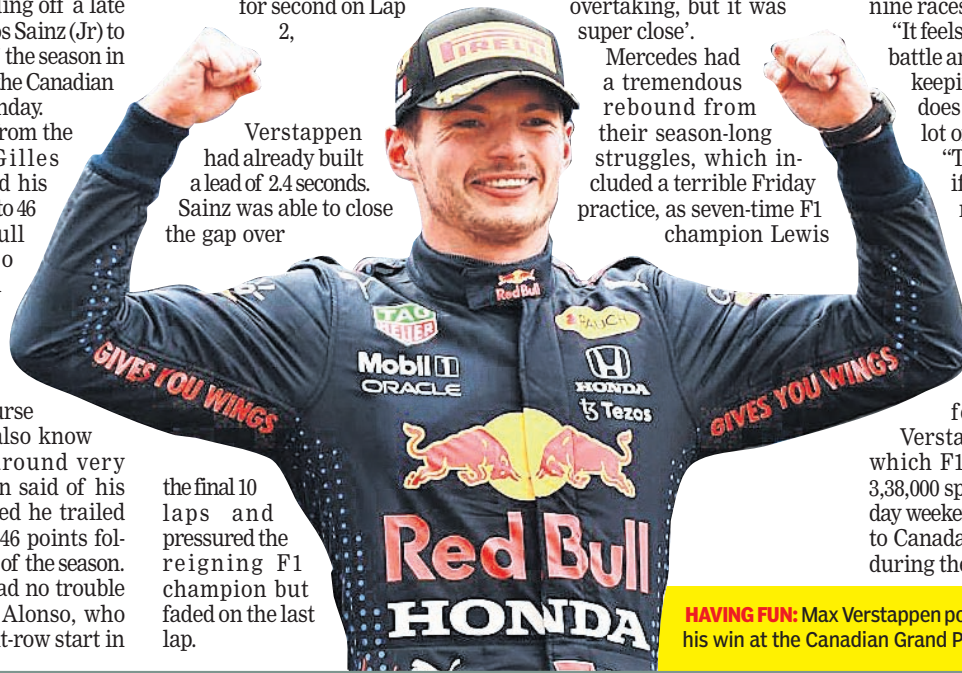
Verstappen had already built a lead of 2.4 seconds. Sainz was able to close the gap over the final 10 laps and pressured the reigning F1 champion but faded on the last lap.

"It was good racing, it is always more enjoyable to be able to really push rather than just save your tires," said Verstappen, who added Sainz didn't have 'a go in terms of overtaking, but it was super close'.

Mercedes had a tremendous rebound from their season-long struggles, which included a terrible Friday practice, as seven-time F1 champion Lewis

Hamilton scored his first podium since the season-opening race in March. George Russell was fourth as Hamilton beat his new teammate for just the second time in nine races this season.

"It feels great to be amongst the battle and at the end there I was keeping up with these guys. It does give me and the team a lot of hope," Hamilton said. "The potential is truly there if we can get the setup right and I think that's been the most difficult thing this year," he added. Verstappen, meanwhile, has now won six of the first nine races in his title defence season. It was Verstappen's first win here, which F1 said hosted a record 3,38,000 spectators over the three-day weekend as the series returned to Canada after a two-year pause during the pandemic.



HAVING FUN: Max Verstappen poses for shutterbugs after his win at the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal, Sunday

Tough for Serena to win at Wimbledon: Pliskova

Former World No.1 points out lack of match practice will hurt the American

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 20: Former World No. 1 Karolina Pliskova has said that it would be very difficult for the 23-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams to win Wimbledon again after being absent from the WTA tour for nearly 12 months. The 40-year-old Serena announced her intention to play the third major of the year and at this week's Rotherham International at Eastbourne. Serena suffered an injury to her right leg at Wimbledon in 2021 and was forced to retire in the first round but has accepted a wild card to return to the All England Club, where she has won the title on seven occasions. "I think it will be difficult, super difficult for her no matter which kind of player she is because this is a thing where you still need some time to regain form," Pliskova was quoted as saying by 'Sky Sports'. "She (Serena) is an amazing player, she achieved so much and still a number of players will be

Serena is not getting younger and also she has not played competitive tennis for a long time which will act as a hindrance
KAROLINA PLISKOVA

super scared to play her: This is her advantage but let's see the level," added Pliskova. The 30-year-old Pliskova, who reached two Grand Slam singles finals at the 2016 US Open and the 2021 Wimbledon Championships, doesn't believe the American could be a contender this year. "I don't know how long it has been since she has played. Has it been a year? It is a long time and she is not the youngest anymore. So I suppose the body also takes some time to get back into shape. Playing matches at tournaments is still very much different from just practising and from what I understand, she is not playing (singles), she is just playing doubles," Pliskova pointed out.

Dravid banking on new 'enforcers'

HEAD COACH REFUSES TO CRITICISE PANT DESPITE POOR SERIES WITH BAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 20: Dinesh Karthik as an 'enforcer' has opened up a lot of options going into the T20 World Cup, according to India head coach Rahul Dravid. The former India skipper also said Sunday that he wants to identify a core group of 18-20 players by the end of England series for the T20 World Cup. "It was really nice to see Karthik come off and do what he has been picked to do. That was good and it opens up a lot more options for us, going forward," Dravid said after the five-match series against South Africa ended in a 2-2 draw here. The last game was abandoned due to rain. "He (Karthik) was picked for what he has been doing exceptionally well for the last two or three years (in IPL) and kind of indicated in the sense that it almost came together in the game at Rajkot," Dravid spoke about the Tamil Nadu dasher's 27-ball-55 that was crucial in India restoring parity in the series. For Dravid, Karthik and Hardik Pandya are the two 'enforcers' in the death overs. "We needed that big performance in last five overs to make a par score. Karthik and Hardik batted beautifully. Both of them are enforcers for us at the end overs," Dravid spelt out the role the team management has in mind for Karthik. The coach had no hesitation in admitting that Karthik has made a good case for himself going into the T20 World Cup. "I was telling guys that you have to start banging the door down and not just knocking on the door and innings like that (Rajkot fifty) means he is banging



Dinesh Karthik has justified the faith of the team management on him PTI/PHOTO

You just can't knock on the door to get into the Indian team, you have to bang hard to open the door
RAHUL DRAVID

very hard," Dravid said. Dravid also backed the under-fire Rishabh Pant and said that the wicketkeeper-batter is a 'big' and 'integral' part of the set-up heading into the World Cup. It was a disappointing series with the bat for Pant as he could just manage 58 runs from the five innings he played. "Personally, he (Pant) would have liked to score a few more runs, but it is not concerning him. Certainly, he is a very big part of our plans going ahead in next few months," Dravid asserted. "I just don't want to be critical. In the middle overs, you need people to play slightly attacking brand of cricket, to take the game on a little more. Sometimes it's very hard to judge form based on two or three games," the head coach said.

Jabeur triumphs after injured Bencic retires

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, June 20: Ons Jabeur won the Berlin Open tennis tournament here Sunday evening. In the moment, it didn't matter to her at all. Jabeur was leading 6-3, 2-1 when Belinda Bencic signalled she couldn't continue in the final after hurting her left ankle in a fall in the first set. Jabeur gave Bencic words of comfort at the net, then hurriedly prepared a cooler with ice for the Swiss player to rest her injured

HURKACZ STUNS MEDVEDEV IN HALLE

Halle: Hubert Hurkacz upset top-ranked Daniil Medvedev to win the Halle Open tennis tournament here Sunday. The big-serving Polish player needed just 64 minutes to beat Medvedev 6-1, 6-4 and win his first grass court title. Hurkacz was a semifinalist at Wimbledon last year and seems on form again. Medvedev has now lost back-to-back finals on grass after being stunned by then-205th-ranked Tim van Rijthoven last week in 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands.

deuce with Jabeur leading 5-3 in the first set. It was in a hard-fought game with four breakpoints for Bencic. Jabeur served out the first set before Bencic, last year's Olympic gold medalist, tried to play on in the second. She was in clear discomfort when serving and retired after Jabeur broke in the third game. "You deserve this title and I really don't want to take this moment away from you," Bencic told Jabeur during the prize distribution ceremony.

