**ENVIOUS FEAT** 

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu tops the list of most popular female stars of India, according to a study



#### PAK VAX DRIVE UNDER LENS

Pakistan's vaccination prog is under scrutiny after the detection of poliovirus in sewage samples in London

INTERNATIONAL P10



#### **MP IN COMMAND**

Madhya Pradesh in control of Ranji Trophy final against Mumbai courtesy centuries by Yash Dayal and Shubham Sharma

SPORTS P12

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#### BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, JUNE 25 | 2022

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### **States can now ban** abortion, says US SC

Washington: The Supreme Court has ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. Friday's outcome is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states. The decision, unthinkable just a few years ago, was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump. The ruling gave American women an absolute right to an abortion in the first three months (trimester) of pregnancy, but allowed for restrictions in the second trimester and for prohibitions in the third. **MORE P10** 

#### Minor, guard killed as school gate caves in

ROURKELA: At least two persons, including a minor boy, were killed after the gate of a private school fell on them at Sector-9 here late Thursday night. The deceased were identified as Gandhiram Rout, 58, a security guard at the school and Suresh Choudhury, 16, son of another security guard Tribeni Choudhury Gandhiram, who was on duty Thursday night, sought Suresh's help in closing the gate at around 11pm as the latter's father had gone to fetch water. However, the gate collapsed on them when they were trying to close it.

#### **Parameswaran Iyer** new Niti Aayog CEO

**NEW DELHI:** Former Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer was Friday appointed the new CEO of Niti Aayog, according to a government order. He had resigned from the post in July last year. Iyer, a 1981-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre and a well-known sanitation specialist, has been appointed the chief executive officer of Niti Aayog, after Amitabh Kant retires June 30, for two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the order stated. Iyer had taken voluntary retirement from the Indian Administrative Service in 2009.

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Their financial management is amazing They bought so many MLAs without increasing a single paisa in fuel prices

SENSEX **52727.98** 👚 462.26

15699.30

82.85

₹50,615

DOLLAR **78.88** 

SILVER **₹59,107** 

EURO

GOLD

**VARIATION** 

142.60

**1** ₹0.14

**1** ₹21

₹397

**MARKET WATCH** 

**INDEX** 

### TREMOR AFTERMATH



A Taliban helicopter takes off after delivering aid at the site of an earthquake in Gayan, Afghanistan

## Raimohan found dead

*Neighbours* say the veteran actor was under mental stress over family-related issues, especially since his elder daughter's marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 24: Veteran Odia film and theatre artiste Raimohan Parida was found hanging in his residence at Prachi Vihar here Friday, police said. He was 58. Parida originally hails from Udaypur under Patana police limits in Keonjhar district. The veteran actor is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Sources claimed that Parida's nephew first found him hanging from the ceiling of his room. The actor had reportedly called his nephew to meet him for some reasons. Later, his driver Ashok reached his residence after dropping his younger daughter at the college and brought down the body. He informed his family members and Mancheswar police who reached the spot and sent the body to Capital hospital where the doctors declared him dead. An unnatural death case (60/22) was registered.

Prima facie, it seems to be a sui-



cide case but further investigation is underway, a police officer said. "The actor was unhappy for the past couple of days. He might be under severe mental stress over some fam-

ily related issues since his elder

daughter's marriage. Whenever I

enquired, he used to evade my queries

with a smile. There was lack of understanding among the family members," revealed a neigbour of the veteran actor. Parida's elder daughter and wife had reportedly gone outside when

the actor took the extreme step. The actor reportedly sent 'bye' messages to his wife and two daughters before his death. Known for essaying negative

roles, Parida has acted in over 100 Odia films and 15 Bengali movies. He was also a popular theatre personality. Parida's neighbours said they met him Thursday and he appeared his usual self, and that he had a good relationship with Contd...P4

# DGP told to probe Zakia's plea devoid self-immolation of merit, says SC

■ *The rights panel takes* the matter and asks the DGP to submit the probe report by July 25

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 24: Taking suo motu cognisance of the death of a man in self-immolation at Kishannagar police station in Salipur area of Cuttack district Thursday, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Friday asked the Director General Police (DGP) to conduct a probe and submit the report by the next hearing scheduled for July 25.

The deceased, identified as Gunanidhi Bisoi, 52, was a resident of Isanibrahmapur Sai Paru village under the police limits. The nephew of Gunanidhi, Sagar, had



head injuries after being assaulted by his nephew around five days back over a land dispute

reportedly assaulted him around five days back following a land dispute between the two families. Gunanidhi sustained severe head

He lodged a complaint with

HORROR AT KISHANNAGAR PS Kishannagar police seeking action against the accused nephew. He had also lodged a complaint with the Cuttack Rural SPB Jugal Kishore Kumar. The police registered a case (103/22) but no action

was initiated. However, police sat silent despite lapse of four days. Feeling helpless due to the alleged inaction by police, Gunanidhdi set himself on fire after pouring petrol. Locals and police rescued him and rushed him to a hospital in Cuttack

where he succumbed later. Soon, the local people gathered at the police station and started raising slogans against the cops. The IIC of Kishannagar police station, Sasmita Rana, left the police station fearing violent backlash from the villagers

The rights panel took note of apathy of Kishannagar police and directed the DGP to probe the

**GUJARAT RIOTS** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Supreme Court Friday upheld the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) clean chit to then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the 2002 riots in the state and dismissed a plea by slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri's wife Zakia who had alleged a

larger conspiracy. Bringing the curtains down on the bid to reopen the probe, a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said the material collected during the investigation does not "give rise to strong or grave suspicion regarding hatching of larger criminal conspiracy at the highest level" for causing mass violence against Muslims.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar, termed Zakia Jafri's plea devoid of merit. It spoke of the devious stratagem to keep the



pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design" and said all those involved in "such abuse of process need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law"

Zakia had challenged the SIT's clean chit to 64 people, including Modi who was the Gujarat CM at the time, and alleged a larger conspiracy.

The apex court appreciated the SIT for its "indefatigable work" in challenging circumstances and said it has come out with "flying colours unscathed".

portunities, especially for women."

laboration is helping to drive

Odisha's progress towards achiev-

ing zero hunger and the other UN

Recognizing and appreciating

the transformational work of the

Odisha government in the fields of

disaster management, food pro-

duction, and food security, Beasley

said the success story of Odisha can

provide learning insights for other

similarly placed countries.

"It's exciting to see how our col-

#### Murmu files papers for Presidential poll

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 24: The BJPled NDA's nominee Droupadi\_\_ Murmu Friday filed her nomination papers for the July 18 presidential election, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi handing over the set of papers to Returning Officer PC Mody.

Murmu was also accompanied by Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Piyush Goyal, BJP president JP Nadda and several chief ministers including Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Manohar Lal Khattar, BS Bommai, Bhupendra Patel, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Pushkar Singh Dhami,

Pramod Sawant and N Biren Singh. Besides the NDA leaders, YSR Congress' V Vijaysai Reddy and BJD leader Sasmit Patra, who are not part of the alliance, were also in Parliament to back her nomi



AIADMK leader O Paneerselvam and M Thambidurai, JD-U's Rajiv Ranjan Singh also reached Parliament early.

Every set of nomination has to have 50 proposers and 50 seconders among elected representa-

Murmu, if elected, will be the first tribal president and the second woman in the post. She will also be the youngest president ever, second only to N Sanjeeva Reddy, who was a few days elder to her when

he became the President. Meanwhile, Murmu spoke to Congress interim national president Sonia Gandhi, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, and sought their support.

According to sources, before filing her nomination, Murmu spoke to Sonia Gandhi, Sharad Pawar and Mamata Baneriee besides leaders of several opposition parties and sought their support.

## WFP lauds Odisha's food security initiatives

■ WFP executive director David Beasley says the success story of Odisha can provide learning *insights for other similarly* placed countries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 24: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took to the stage at the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) headquarters in Rome to share the transformational progress made by the state in strengthening livelihoods and food security with special focus on marginalised communities and

The Chief Minister is currently in Rome at the invitation of the WFP to visit its headquarters and share the state's transformational

He delivered an address in the presence of WFP executive director David Beasley and the leadership team of WFP. He also held interactions on existing partnerships and programmes that the Odisha government and WFP in India are collaborating on, to deliver the common agenda of zero hunger.

Speaking at the WFP, Patnaik said, "Over the last two decades, Odisha has been through a transformational journey in the field of food production, food security, livelihoods, disaster management,

By attaining food sufficiency, initiating large-scale development programmes designed around creating climate resilient livelihoods and nutrition, and focusing on partnerships, the state is moving consistently towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in-

clusive development, he added. "It would be our pleasure to



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik along with WFP delegates in Rome

share our experience across the world through WFP and its partner agencies," he added.

Welcoming the Chief Minister, WFP executive director David Beasley said, "It is a pleasure to welcome the Chief Minister of Odisha and share our impressions on the

innovative work the state is doing in partnership with WFP in India. Our joint goal of strengthening livelihoods and food security across Odisha is being translated into action with a series of ambitious projects to support inclusive development and new economic op-

"We have discussed, today, that

SDGs," he said.

the government of Odisha and WFP will collaborate to take forward this learning experience and provide a global training platform," he added. WFP and the state government had signed four agreements and initiated six new projects in 2021. Some of the ongoing work includes the transformation of the PDS and paddy procurement, Grain ATM and others.



Ganesha is very impressed with you today for the way

you handle your relationships. You will indulge in some furtive activity today. Ganesha warns you to be cautious about getting caught up in a fix

#### **TAURUS**

You might wake up yawning and keep yawning through out today as lethargy gets the better of you. You may end up spend ing your day with loved ones, relaxing, while your wallet stresses out. New projects will wait in the shadow of your pro crastination, predicts Ganesha.

**GEMINI** 

You will be bound by the bonds of love with your friends today. Deep introspection will provide the muchneeded balm to your fragile state of mind. You need to keep your temper in check, says Ganesha

CANCER

Today, you will put your long-standing plan of buying a new house into action, or refurbishing the current house. You will have enough liquidity to be able to meet these expenses, and still be able to spare a substantial amount of money for investment in a business.

**LEO** 

Ganesha looks at the stars and foresees that you are at the receiving end of a lot of advice and suggestions from elders today. The best part is that you are likely to get influenced by them as well. Your workplace may look like a battlefield as there are chances that you get into open confrontation with peers.

VIRGO

In the sea of relationships, you may just chance upon the one port you were looking to dock. But weigh your options carefully before forging a bond of love, warns Ganesha. Later in the day, you may think twice about continuing your current job.

Settle in soon, because you have a long day ahead. There is every possibility that you shall remain very busy for most part of the day, predicts Ganesha. Don't be surprised if you can't seem to find the time or the appetite even for a sluggish lunch - it is one of the drawbacks of a hectic schedule. But rest assured, your craving and hankering shall be back in time for a fine and scrumptious dinner.

SCORPIO

In all likeliness, you shall be unreasonably tentative and curious. Professionally, seek out tougher challenges. You shall shower love and affection on your loved ones today. Those awaiting for wedding bells to toll might hear some good news, predicts Ganesha

**SAGITTARIUS** 

Money matters stand to be at the forefront today. Lady Luck will smile on you, as you may see monetary gains from your business. But fickle as fortune is - and not that you would mind - evening might be spent in buying the most exquisite jewellery for your sweetheart.

CAPRICORN Quite unlike you, but you

will not be impulsive in mak ing decisions today. Reason? Shaking off clouds of imagination, you will be more realistic in your approach to everyday dealings, says Ganesha. Your moves will be guided by

common sense and practicality, and you will be optimistic about your future.

AQUARIUS

It's absolutely alright to attend a social do where you don't know anyone. Just be your charming self and everything will fall in place. Minor problems may nag. Know how to play a musical instrument? It's perfect for relaxation, says Ganesha.

•••••

able, says Ganesha.

**I PISCES** In spite of the pressure and stress you will be labouring under at the workplace today, you can expect to excel in all the activities that you choose to pursue. On the

domestic front, the support that your family members extend will prove to be invalu-



fans of the vears and we star. Though worked media tried to exgether plore sevin multieral angles ple movies. that could be He was doing the reason behind well in his life and the actor's 'suicide', was in good health. Odia film fraternity refused to accept that He was doing great in all sectors including the actor really ended life by hanging. movies, TV and Jatra but it's hard He has managed to survive at the most difficult times and can manage himself to believe that such a man can end life in for a month with a few hundred rupees. So. such a fashion.' how can be commit suicide due to financial problems, asked **Akhila Pattnaik**, summing

RAIMOHAN PARIDA NOT ONLY MANAGED TO FILL THE BIG

SWAIN AND HARA PATTNAIK. HE TOOK THE PORTRAYAL

**OF NEGATIVE CHARACTERS TO ANOTHER LEVEL** 

FILM SCENE IS SET TO HAUNT THE INDUSTRY

cover from the loss of legends like

Bijay Mohanty, Ajit Das, Mihir

Das and a few others, the sudden exit of

**FOR A LONG PERIOD** 

Raimohan Parida, yet an-

other legend, has

rocked the Odia

film industry

as well as

millions of

ALTOGETHER. HIS SUDDEN EXIT FROM THE ODIA

SHOES OF LEGENDARY ON-SCREEN VILLAINS LIKE DUKHIRAM

hen the film industry was yet to reup the mood of the industry while condoling the death.

Top star and his co-actor in many movies, Sidhant Mohapatra said, "I had known him

for more

than 30

"Rai Bhai was strong from outside but very tender at heart. It is difficult to accept

Goodbye

Ralmohan July 10, 1963 - June 24, 2022

> that he has gone that to by committing suicide. He can never

do this," said the late actor's former

co-star Usasi Mishra with disbelief.

Senior actor and producer Pradyumna **Lenka** said he was crestfallen when he came to know about it.

"I don't think he had any financial issue. Though it is difficult to gauge one's mind, knowing him personally from the starting of his career, I can't believe that he has committed suicide," added Lenka.

Echoing similar sentiment, actor Sritam Das said, "He became zero to hero through his hard work and saw even tougher times than this. How can such a man end his life? There should be a thorough probe to

know the real reason behind his death.'

Raimohan's former mate at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalay and actor Ashrumochan Mohanty said, "I had a talk with him last evening and didn't sense he was in distress. He was also preparing to work again in Jatra. So, I was dumbfounded to learn that he committed suicide. This is unacceptable.'

Co-actor Snigdha Bose Mohanty said, "I am at a loss of words to say anything. It is difficult for me to understand the reason behind his suicide, as reported by the media." Senior comedian Jayeeram

Samal said, "We talked for long hours a few days ago. He was talking about the scarcity of work in the industry but it can't be the reason behind his taking such an extreme step.' "His works in movies, stage, TV and

Jatra are an example for all. He was like a big brother to me and kind. But he was a strong person. This isn't done Rai Bhai," condoles Sabyasachi Mishra.

## Samantha tops chart



The top 10 female stars list has 5 Telugu, 3 Hindi and 2 Tamil stars sharing the honours. Samantha tops the list

> Incidentally, Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone and Bollywood names on the list.

While Alia ranks second. Deepika figures at the fifth spot and Katrina coming in at seventh spot.

The other stars from South industry include Navantara at third place, Kajal Aggarwal at fifth, Keerthy Suresh at sixth. Rashmika. Pooja Hegde, and Anushka Shetty at eight, nine, and ten positions re-

Thanks to her diverse roles and acting chops, Samantha Prabhu's talent as an actor is well known. And now, she has also emerged as the most popular female star of India.

As per a recent research report conducted in India by Ormax beginning April, Samantha Prabhu has topped this list which includes other big names of the film world as well from across India. Every

month,

more than

10,000 peo-

**INDIA'S POPULAR FEMALE STARS** 

> polled in the exercise. The target group is chosen from metros, mini metros and small towns, in proportion of their contribution to theatrical footfalls over the last two years.

> Samantha Ruth Prabhu is one of India's biggest actresses today who has captured the entire audience with her charm, uniqueness and talent. Two of her recent performances, the antagonist Raji in The Family Man 2 and the sensuous number from Pushpa, Oo Antava have been the talk of the town.

> > FUN

### Mandakini makes comeback in music video Maa O Maa



Mumbai: Yesteryear actress Mandakini, who is known for her work in Ram Teri Ganga Maili, is all set to make a comeback after over two decades with her up-

The poster of the upcoming music video has taken over social media and has

video Maa O Maa.

gone viral. Taking Instagram, she unveiled the firstlook poster of the song Thursday. "Comment your feedback on the poster! I would love to know,' she captioned her

Mandakini got her first movie in the Hindi film industry in 1985 with Ram Teri Ganga Maili. She caused a stir after she was seen par-

sequences of the film. She then acted in a

few more movies such as Dance Dance, Kahan Hai Kanoon and Pyaar Karke Dekho. Her last film was Zordaar in 1996. IANS

#### **PEANUTS**



#### CALVIN AND HOBBES



#### BREVITY



**CROSSWORD** 

Across

 Music genre 3 Ideal future

husband (2,5)

8 It could be

Roman 9 Evil spirit

10 Skillfully con-

structed (4-4)

11 Egyptian cobra

13 Cheerless

15 Jeweller's tools

18 Plunder

**Down** 

subscription

19 Comics hero

24 Conservationist's

23 Sharpened

mantra

26 Upside-down

sleepers

25 Glowing

2 Caravan beast 3 Illness

4 Angry display

1 Extended, like a

order

21 Burn slightly

5 Matures (5,2)

6 Kind of tale

7 Linguist's

concern

12 Strength

14 Passed out

to see

17 Tank part

20 Coffee shop

16 What a photo-

grapher likes

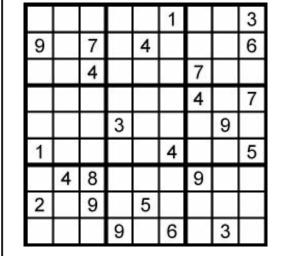
22 Icelandic epic

post.

tially nude in two

#### 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

OOLONGECLAIR CROSSWOR

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

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## downtown



#### SPOILT FOR CHOICE

A girl trying a dupatta at a stall of Handloom and Handicrafts Expo at the **Exhibition Ground in** Bhubaneswar, Friday

	COVID-19 TRACKER			
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	54,76,46,318	52,28,56,076	63,48,035
	India	4,33,62,294	4,27,49,056	5,24,954
	Odisha	12,89,129	12,79,602	9,126
	111111111	: 	: 	: 



Dignitaries, including Works minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik and Rural Development minister Pritiranjan Gharai, unveil a booklet during the 53rd conference and biennial general body meeting of Odisha Engineers' Service Association at the Institution of Engineers in Bhubaneswar, Friday ор РНОТО

## **State sets 9-month deadline for** completion of heritage corridor

Bhubaneswar June 24: The state government has asked workers and engineers to complete construction of the contentious Puri Heritage Corridor in the next nine months, a senior official said Friday.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, after reviewing the ongoing work at the site Thursday set deadlines for all small and big tasks that have to be undertaken to complete the project, which had faced protests earlier in the year over

alleged violation of certain norms. The project, close to the 12th century Srimandir in Puri, had run into trouble after objections were raised over the excavation work carried out for the con-

struction of the corridor. The issue was settled after the Supreme Court rejected a plea opposing the work being undertaken

for the project. "Maĥapatra has asked evervone involved to complete all con-



Corridor will have five principal zones—the buffer no-entry zone, inner 'pradakshina' (making rounds) path, landscape zone, outer 'nradakshina' path and public convenience zone

struction work in the coming nine months. The corridor, once constructed, will ensure smooth management of festivals. Devotees, servitors and visitors will benefit from it," the official, who did not

wish to be named, said. Shedding light on the layout of the project, he said the corridor will have five principal zones—the buffer no-entry zone, inner 'pradakshina' (making rounds) path, landscape zone, outer 'pradakshina'

path and public convenience zone.

"The inner pradakshina path will be principally used for ceremonial procession of the deities. The convenience zone will have amenities such as a drinking water fountain, a rest pavilion, donation kiosks, information centre, toilets, security control room, first-aid and a mini cloak room," he ex-

plained. Puri Collector Samarth Verma among others was present during the review by Mahapatra, the official

### City AIIMS gets new

executive director

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, June 24: Ashutosh Biswas, professor and unit head of the department of Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, has been ap-

pointed as Executive Director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Biswas, who was posted as Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Patna, has done his MBBS from

SCB Medical College and Hospital, He has completed his Masters Degree in General Medicine from MKCG Medical College, Berhampur. Biswas has done his senior resident

#### Utkal students' demo

(SR) in AIIMS, New Delhi.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 24: Students of Utkal University staged a protest near University gate against the attack by outsiders Friday.

Students alleged that some outsiders entered the university premises at 5pm Friday and attacked some students including girls.

They alleged that previously they had attacked the students and were also caught for stealing. The students demanded arrest of the cul-

After assurance from Saheed Nagar police IIC, the students called off their protest.

### Focus on tribals as NDA picks Murmu PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 24: With the BJP-led NDA nominating Droupadi Murmu, hailing from the Santhal community—the third largest ethnic tribal group in India—as its presidential candidate, the focus is now on the tribals who constitute 8.67 per cent of the country's population.

Once Murmu who hails from Odisha becomes the President, political parties cannot ignore the tribal people especially when a member of the community holds the highest office of the land, while the BJP will get the dividend in the Assembly elections in states having a good percentage of tribal population, particularly Santhals,

Her selection can also be seen as part of the BJP's game plan for the Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly poll in Odisha, where tribals constitute over 22 per cent of the total population, in 2024, they said.

Born in the Santhal community, Murmu was a councillor in Odisha's Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat in 1997. She rose through the ranks and became a minister in the BJD-BJP alliance government in 2000 and later the governor of Jharkhand in 2015 when the saffron party was in power in that state.

In 2017, she had returned bills proposing an amendment to the Santhal Pragana Tenancy Act, 1976, which sought to give rights to tribals to make commercial use of their lands

urmu's selection can also be seen as part of the BJP's game plan for the Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly poll in Odisha, where tribals constitute over 22 per cent of the total population, in 2024

Of Odisha's 147 Assembly constituencies and 21 Lok Sabha seats, tribals represent 33 and five respectively. Of those five Lok Sabha seats, two each are held by the BJD and the BJP while the Congress has won the Koraput seat

while ensuring that the land ownership is not changed.

The Act prohibits sale of tribal land to non-tribals in the region along Jharkhand's border with West Bengal. "It proves that Murmu can work

as per the Constitution withstanding pressure even from the BJP. Generally, women leaders in the BJP get positions and are empowered. I think Murmu will also get the freedom to work," Smita Nayak, professor of Political Science at Utkal University, told PTI.

Nayak said that no political party an directly oppose a woman and a tribal. "(If she is elected as the President), no political party can ignore the tribals when a member of the community is heading the topmost post of the country," Nayak said.

Since Murmu hails from Odisha and she was a governor in Jharkhand, the impact is obvious

in both the states where the saffron party has been trying to get more influence. Of Odisha's 147 Assembly constituencies and 21 Lok Sabha seats, tribals represent 33 and five respectively. Of those five Lok Sabha seats, two each are held by the BJD and the BJP while the Congress has won the Koraput seat.

While Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik urged all members of the state Assembly to extend unanimous support to Murmu as is the 'daughter of Odisha', state BJP satte president Samir Mohanty claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promoted many Odias at the national level and nomination of Murmu is the biggest gift to the state.

Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim claimed that the BJD and the BJP are now in a race to take credit for Murmu's nomination.

"Naveen Babu is afraid that the

BJP may eat into his party's woman and tribal vote banks," he said.

Senior BJP leader Manmohan Samal asserted that though Patnaik is trying to project that the PM had informed him about the NDA nominee's name before the announcement, it is not true.

Modi and BJP chief JP Nadda have highlighted tribal icons such as Bhagwan Birsa Munda during their programmes in various states.

The BJP's target is the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and Murmu's selection can be seen as a part of the party's strategy for that, said senior journalist BK Mishra.

'You can see how the parties are on their own coming forward to support Murmu because of her tribal and woman identities. The BJD has gone overdrive to campaign for her on the pretext of her being a daughter of the soil," a political science professor, who does not want to be quoted, said.

The Ravenshaw University teacher said that Murmu's elevation will have impact on Odisha, Jharkhand and several other states.

Congress leader Ganeswar Behera, who belongs to the SC community, however claimed that making a tribal the country's President will not have much impact on electoral politics. "Has the BJP got all the SC votes

after making Ram Nath Kovind the president? Did the Congress get all Dalit votes after KR Narayan from the SC community became the president?" Behera asked.

### Govt seeks clarification from colleges on SFCs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 24: The Higher Education (HE) department Friday sought clarification from state-run degree and teacher education colleges on receipt of additional financial benefit by teaching and non-teaching staff of their institution for self-financing courses (SFCs).

In a letter, HE department Principal Secretary Saswat Mishra informed the principals of the government degree and teacher education colleges in the state that the department has observed a few teaching and non-teaching staff associated with imparting SFCs in their institutions have been receiving additional financial benefits towards the SFCs which is over and above their regular salary.

'This isn't a good practice. As all

activities related to imparting SFCs should be a part of their [teaching and non-teaching staff] usual duty, they should not be given additional financial benefit for the same,' said Mishra.

The HE department Principal Secretary made it candid that regular teaching and non-teaching staff of colleges can perform duty related to SFCs of their institution, "However, they won't be entitled to receive any additional financial benefit for the same over and above their regular salary," Mishra said, directing the principals to initiate stringent action against the staffers, if necessary.

The HE department had earlier directed the state-run colleges to furnish details, including government permission, affiliation letter and copy of MoU, regarding SFCs being imparted in their institutions.

#### Climate change may cause shortage of essential omega-3 fatty acids

life. We found that

the composition of

lipids in the ocean

is going to change

as the ocean

warms. That is a

cause for concern.

We need those

lipids that are in

the ocean because

they influence the

quality of the food

Thile the effects of global climate change are already resulting in the loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise. and longer and more intense heat waves, a first-ever survey of planktonic lipids in the global ocean predicts a temperature-linked decrease in the production of essential omega-3 fatty acids.

This means as global warming proceeds, there will be fewer and fewer omega-3 fatty acids produced by plankton at the base of the food web, which will mean less omega-3 fatty acids available for fish and for people, according to the study published in the journal Science.

Omega-3 fatty acid is an essential fat that the human body cannot produce on its own, and is widely re-

garded as a "good" fat that links seafood consumption to heart health

The research "is another example of how human activities are perturbing the oceans in ways that we never expected, and of the uncertainty of how the ocean is going to respond to warming", said Benjamin Van Mooy, senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), a US-based non-profit organisation. The team conducted a sur-

vey that analysed 930 lipid

samples across 146 locations

collected during seven oceanographic research cruises from 2013-2018, using a uniform high-resolution ac-The lipids in the curate mass specocean affect your trometry analyti-

cal workflow.

"Focusing on ten molecularly diverse glycerolipid classes we identified 1,151 distinct lipid species, finding that fatty acid unsaturation (that is, number of carbon to carbon double bonds) is fundamentally constrained by

sential fatty acid

that the ocean produces for temperature. We humanity predict significant declines in the es-

BENJAMIN VAN MOOY

eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) over the next century, which are likely to have serious deleterious effects on economically critical fisheries," states the paper.

EPA, one of the most nutritious omega-3 fatty acids, has been linked to numerous health benefits, and is widely available as a dietary supplement. IANS



## **DRDO successfully flight-tests** short range surface-to-air missile

WERE MONITORED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM DRDO AND THE NAVY USING A NUMBER OF TRACKING INSTRUMENTS DEPLOYED BY ITR, CHANDIPUR



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Balasore, June 24: A Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully flight-tested by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy from a naval ship at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha Friday

The VL-SRSAM is a ship-borne weapon system which works for neutralising various aerial threats at close range including sea-skimming targets.

The launch was conducted against a high-speed aerial target

mimicking an aircraft, which was successfully engaged, said the Ministry of Defence in a statement. The flight path of the vehicle along with health parameters were monitored using a number of tracking instruments deployed by ITR, Chandipur.

The flight path of the vehicle along with the health parameters were monitored by senior officials from DRDO and the Navy using a number of tracking instruments deployed by ITR, Chandipur, according to an official statement.

The launch was conducted against a high speed aerial target mimicking aircraft, which was successfully engaged, it said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, the Navy and Industry for the successful test and stated that it will further enhance the defence capability of the Indian navy ships against aerial threats.

'Congratulations to DRDO, Indian Navy & the industry for the successful flight test of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha. This success will further enhance the defence capability of Indian Naval Ships against the aerial threats," he tweeted.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar appreciated the Indian Navy and DRDO for the successful flight test of the VL-SRSAM and said that the development of this indigenous missile system will further strengthen the defensive capabilities of the Navy

G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and DRDO Chairman, complimented the teams and said that the test has proved the integration of indigenous weapons systems onboard the Indian naval ships. Another milestone towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the VL-SRSAM will prove to be a force multiplier for the Navy, he added.



Members of Bhubaneswar Bar Association staged a sit-in at the District Court premises in the Capital city, Friday, demanding shifting of Orissa High Court to the city

### Chariot pulling to begin 4pm: SJTA 🍍

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 24: The pulling of chariots of Lord Jagannath and His siblings-Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra—will begin at 4pm on Rath Yatra, July 1, an official of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said Friday.

According to the temple administration, the Mangal Alati will be done at 6am, Mailam at 6:10am. Tadap Lagi and Rosha Homa at 6:30am and Abakash ritual will be performed at 7am. Likewise, after completion of Surva Puja and Dwarpala Puja at 7:10am and 7:30am respectively, the Gopal Ballav and Sakala Dhupa will be performed between 8am and 9am.

After performance of a few rituals, the pahandi of the deities will begin at 9:30am and conclude

## State SKM joins Agnipath protests in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 24: The state wing of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) joined the nationwide agitation against the Central government's Agnipath recruitment scheme by observing a peaceful protest at Master Canteen square in City, Friday.

SKM Odisha Convenor Narendra Mohanty said, "When the Central government is bent upon destroying the spirit of the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', it is the duty of the farmers to stand shoulder to shoulder with the jawans in this struggle. We will continue to protest until the scheme is withdrawn.



scheme, the government is playing with the future of the country. "It is playing with not only the national security and dreams of unemployed youth but also the farmers' families in the country.

Earlier members of the All India Students Federation (AISF), Odisha State Council, demanded withdrawal of the Centre's Agnipath scheme at a press conference here, Thursday.

Addressing the press confer-

ence, state president of AISF Sanghamitra Jena said that many youths, who had given the examination for recruitment in the army in 2018-19 prior to the pandemic, still await the result. Instead of declaring the result of the same, the Union government launched the Agnipath scheme which is unfortunate. It is demoralising for youngsters who have the passion of serving the country for a longer tenure. 'We demand withdrawal of the scheme and immediate recruitment of the youths who cleared the examination conducted for the army recruitment before Covid pandemic in 2018-19," she said

#### Active Cov cases at 391

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha recorded 61 new Covid-19 cases Friday, taking the tally to 12,89,129, the state Health department said in a bulletin. The toll remained at 9,126 as there were no fresh deaths. There are 391 active cases in the state at present. In the last 24 hours, 24 more people recovered from the disease, taking the total recoveries to 12,79,559. The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.46 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing

#### **CLASSIFIED**

#### **AFFIDAVIT**

I Smt. Sanghamitra Das, D.O.B. 2nd April 1972, W/o. Prabhat Ranjan Barik of Qtr. No. D-82. PTS, Deepshika, Dist.: Angul, NTPC, Kaniha declare that Passport is issued in my favour by Passport issuing authority. Inadvertently my name in the said passport is written as "Sanghmitra" instead of "Sanghamitra". To this effect I have sworn anaffidavit vide N.R. No. 3790 Dt.21.06.2022 before Notary, Talcher for correction of my name in the passport vide No. H9426951 from "Sanghmitra" to "Sanghamitra".

#### LOST

I, M.Manmadha Rao, 35years; S/o. Late Mallesu Rao, R/o. 2054, Kalpana Labour Colony, BJB Nagar, PS-Badagada, Bhubaneswar hereby declare vide Affidavit sworn before Notary, Bhubaneswar dated 23.06.22 that I have lost my original Patta (ROR) of Mouza-Laxmisagar, BDA Plot No.EP-83, Khata No.715/48, Plot No.652/1865 which is not traceable. This is required to be produced before the concerned PS for necessary action.



A preparatory meet over dengue menace in the Silver City was held under the chairmanship of Cuttack Mayor Subhash Singh at the CMC conference hall, Friday

### Actor Raimohan Parida found dead in City home

#### **Continued from P1**

The family members, meanwhile, donated the eyes of the deceased actor. A native of Keonjhar district, Parida had acted in several superhit movies, including 'Rama Laxman', 'Aasibu Kebe Saji Mo Rani', 'Naga Panchami', 'Udandi Sita', 'Tu Thile Mo Dara Kahaku', 'Rana Bhumi', 'Singha Bahini', 'Kulanandan' and 'Kandhei Aakhire Luha'.

"I know my brother well: he was not so impatient to commit suicide. We are failing to believe that my brother has committed suicide. He had gone through many hardships and overcame those with determination. How could such a person commit suicide at the age of 60 years? We suspect that he might be hanged after murder or he



an independent probe which can only unravel the reason behind his death,"said Parida's sister Sashmita. CM Naveen Patnaik also expressed grief over his demise. "I am saddened to learn about the un-

timely demise of Raimohan Parida. His absence will always be felt in various fields of art, from drama to Jatra and film. He will be remembered for his impeccable acting. My sincere condolences to the bereaved families," he tweeted.

## Damage due to tourist influx in Himalayan states alarming

*Apart from the worries* about water and air quality management often discussed and written about issues the report also

highlights that solid waste management has come up as a major problem for the Indian Himalayan Region

he barely 10 sq km Leh town saw a total of 20,918 quintals waste, both biodegradable and nonbiodegradable, generated in just 11 months from June 2021 till April 2022. However, of that, only 1,387 quintal waste - plastic bottles, multi-layer plastics, cardboards, tin, etc - were sold for reuse while 19,531 quintal waste was deposited at the municipal processing site.

The reason was the increasing tourist inflow in the fragile trans-Himalayan landscape. Due to improving and affordable connectivity, particularly air travel, the tourism sector is booming in India and there has been an immense growth in infrastructure. However, not all growth has been sustainable and the tourists' have not exactly helped in economic prosperity, rather caused trouble for local landscape and biodiversity.

These are the findings of a damning report 'Environmental Assessment of Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region', submitted to the Environment Ministry in compliance with a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order. The report, submitted earlier this month, was prepared by Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora.

After assessing every single state/UT - UT of Ladakh, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal Hills & Darjeeling, Assam Hills, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalava - for tourist numbers. municipal facilities for waste treatment, air and water quality and biodiversity listing etc, the report came up with some common actions/suggestions for the entire Indian

Himalayan Region (IHR). The pointers included estimation of tourist carrying capacity, promotion of green tourism, green-premium tax on tourists, accelerate the



de-carbonisation of tourism operations, carbon taxes, bio-fuel subsidies, vehicle purchase subsidies, planning and zoning restrictions, restriction on use of vehicles in eco-sensitive areas, feed-in tariffs for renewable energy, establishment of proper waste segregation and management systems in tourist spots, establishment of eco-friendly bio-digester toilets in high altitude trek routes, etc.

Apart from the worries about water and air quality management - often discussed and written about issues - the report also highlighted that solid waste management has come up as a major problem for the IHR.

For instance, in Uttarakhand, currently there are 91 urban local bodies targeting the population of 34,40,814 generating 1,551.76 MTPD solid waste. There are a total 90 ULBs and 9 Cantonment Boards responsible for implementation of the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 (SWM, 2016) but most of the ULBs in the Uttarakhand do not comply with the prescribed guidelines, the report said.

Almost all states had more or less the same story. The state/UT specific suggestion here for solid waste management included water ATMs as an alternative to packaged water; promoting clean water springs for drinking water purposes on the routes; waste recycling units for the segregated wastes instead of transporting it kilometres away to other states; and applying appropriate technologies for direct use, such as use of shredded plastic chips in road constructions.

One of the greatest threats to tourism is the risk of disasters, the report pointed out in the case of Darjeeling, where it has in-

creased with time. "Earthquakes and landslides are an annual phenomenon here especially during the rainy season which has intensified in the past decades. (But) the lack of technology and irregular monitoring of climate risks results in devastating effects on the tourist destination therefore it is necessary to equip the State with such technology which shall also assure optimal use of resources by preventing damages to infrastructures," the report said.

In the case of Manipur, the main hurdle of achieving sustainable tourism is the lack of research and knowledge, it said, and suggested, therefore, there is a need not only to study the intricacies of sustainable tourism but also its link-

age with climate change. In several states, the threat to the biodiversity of that state has been reported: however, data on the impact of tourism on the biodiversity is lacking.

Unavailability of separate data sets on tourist influx in protected areas of the state, especially through online portals of the state, is another issue highlighted.

The report also highlighted some of the positive steps taken. In Arunachal Pradesh, for instance, in 2021, the state adopted 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh' that aims to promote development that is climate-resilient in the state. The report termed it as a positive move by the state in the direction of sustainable development of all sectors including tourism in the state.

"In some of the over-crowded and mass tourism circuits within Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, some pockets might have gained economic prosperity due to tourism but this could not be true in every state of the IHR particularly the northeastern states. It is, therefore, recommended to conduct more focused studies in terms of economic growth, environmental cost, and tourist carrying capacity to fill up these gaps in the north-eastern states in particular and other remaining states/UTs in general," the report concluded.

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#### SHORT **TAKES**

**OrissaPOST** 

SATURDAY | JUNE 25 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAF

#### 488 villages free of child marriage

Boudh: After years of awareness campaign drives, the district administration has managed to stop child marriages in 488 villages in Boudh district and 17 wards in Boudh NAC. This was announced by District Collector Lalatendu Mishra here Friday. However, there are still scores of remote and inaccessible villages in the district where child marriage continues as a tradition. The collector has underscored the need for eliminating social evils like child marriage and child labourers through awareness campaigns across the district. The district administration in association with various social organisations has been continuously carrying out awareness campaigns against child marriage in Boudh, Kantamal and Harbhanga blocks and Boudh NAC.

#### Head clerk in Vigilance net

Kalampur: Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested the head clerk of block education officer (BEO), Kalampur in Kalahandi district on charges of demanding and accepting bribe. The arrested person has been identified as Yudhisthir Harijan. Sleuths said Harijan had demanded bribe of ₹13,000 from a retired headmaster in order to process and help release retirement benefits. Acting on a complaint by the headmasters, vigilance officials laid a trap to catch Harijan red-handed. Accordingly, a trap was laid Friday and the accused was caught red-handed by the officers of Vigilance. "The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the accused. In this connection a case has been registered and the accused will be forwarded to court," an official said.

#### **Driver killed in** road mishap

Berhampur: A driver of a pickup truck was killed while the helper was seriously injured after a speeding vehicle rammed into it when it was parked on the side of the road near Indanapur village under Gangapur police limits in Ganjam district Friday. The deceased has been identified as Rajkishore Digal while the critically injured is Jason Digal. According to sources, Rajkishore and Jason were transporting plates made from sal leaves from Kandhamal to this town loaded on the pickup truck. Both the driver and helper were taking a break and had parked their vehicle on the roadside when the accident occurred. Locals rescued the driver and helper and rushed them to Bhanjanagar sub-divisional hospital. While the driver succumbed to his injuries, the helper was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here after his condition deteriorated. Police have initiated an investigation into

the matter.

government's Tourist de-

partment will spend over

₹30 lakh for the infrastruc-

tural development of his-

torical and legendary site

Sitabinji in Keonjhar dis-

trict. This will be done to

make the historical site more

accessible and attractive to

The funds will be spent

on development of parking

yards, palla mandap (main

stage), compound walls and

drinking water facilities.

The matter came to the fore

after the Tourist department

in a letter no-5157, dated-

07.06.22 revealed the plans.

₹13.12.514 on construction

of parking spaces, ₹3,98,365

on building the palla mandap,

₹7,41,675 for construction of

a compound wall around

Maa Sita Devi's temple and

₹2,00,000 on drinking water

facilities. Moreover, addi-

tional spending will be done

The department will spend

tourists



Tribal women selling mangoes, lemon and other fruits on the side of a road in Nabarangpur Town, Friday

## Dam areas to be developed as picnic spots

#### STATE GOVT HAS ALLOCATED ₹50CR FOR UTILISATION IN THREE YEARS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 24: The Odisha government has prepared a blueprint to boost tourism potential of various dams, water reservoirs and major water bodies in the state. These places will be developed as major picnic spots with necessary infrastructure development and beautification to attract more tourists.

Notably, tourism is one of the sectors that generate substantial revenues for the Odisha government.

Reports said, district-level standard operating procedure committees, chaired by Collectors have been formed for the purpose.

In fiscal 2021-22 and 2022-23, ₹50 crore has been earmarked for spending. The funds will be utilised in three years. The Water Resources department has drawn up a set of guidelines and asked Collectors June 21 to take steps to make the ambitious projects feasible.



However, the Odisha government has taken some policy decisions regarding the protection, conservation and utilisatisaton of lands falling under the category of water bodies. Various outfits have expressed doubts about execution of the latest projects as the policy decisions have not been put

As per information available from the Water Resources department, there are 205 major dams in the state. Under this programme, the government will develop the peripheral areas around these dams for entertainment activities.

Besides, facilities like boating and camping will be set up at these places while safety and protection of the dams will be of topmost priority while implementing these projects.

As per pan, no permanent structures of any kind will be allowed on the upper end of these water bodies. Development activities will be taken up only within the 200-metre perimeter of the water bodies.

Another major decision taken to

maintain security was that the

dam embankments will not be al-

lowed for communication purposes

after these projects are executed. High decibel sound and music has also been banned near the dams to ensure peaceful atmosphere to the aquatic creatures and birds.

Pollution control measures in these areas will also be given top priority.

Guidelines have also been prepared to ensure safety during water sports and to prevent mishaps.

However, the projects stand in contrast with the government's decision to protect the lands belonging to water bodies. Following an order of the Orissa High Court, a committee has been formed in 2018 with RDC as its chairperson to identify the water bodies. Four years have passed since the formation of the committee, but lands for many water bodies have not

### Murmu's nomination brings back memories § of ex-President Giri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Jun 24: NDA presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu has brought back the memories of Varahagiri Venkata Giri, the fourth president of the country who also had an Odisha connection. Popularly known as VV Giri, he was born and brought up in Berhampur city in Ganjam district. He died on this day in 1980.

Giri served as the president from August 24, 1969, to August 24, 1974. After the end of his term, he was awarded 'Bharat Ratna' in 1975.

Giri defeated Congress nominee Neelam Sanjiva Reddy to become the president. He served as the third vice-president of India from 1967-69. Following President Zakir Hussain's death, Giri served as acting President from May 3 to July 20, 1969.

After completing his graduation from the Khallikote College, which is now a university, Giri went to Ireland to study law at the

University College Dublin.

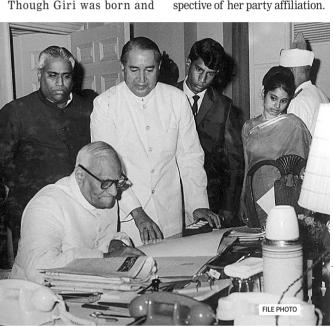
brought up in Berhampur, his political activities started in what was then Madras and he eventually became the Union Labour Minister, said JK Barala, former Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University

Giri's parents hailed from East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh and settled in Berhampur to practice as lawyers and take part in political activities, the professor of political science said.

The house where Giri was born is now a girls' high school named after him. The civic body has also named a road here and an old market area after him

'We're very much delighted as an Odia and a tribal woman from Mayurbhanj district is likely to be the president of the country," said Javant Mohapatra, a former Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University.

Politicians and scientists also thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for extending his support to Murmu's candidature irrespective of her party affiliation.



## Toll-free helpline to check jumbo attacks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 24: Similipal National Park authorities have launched a toll-free helpline for villagers near the elephant corridors to tip them off about the movement of pachyderms in their areas, a report said.

The move comes follow meeting between the field director T Ashok Kumar of Similipal sanctuary, regional chief conservator of forests (RCCF), deputy director (south) of Similipal tiger conservation project Samrat Gouda and Baripada DFO Santosh Joshi. The RCCF presided over the meeting.

As per the decision, forest officials will collect the mobile numbers of over 150 villagers living close to the elephant corridors and inform them in advance about the movement of the elephants in their areas.

On the other hand, the villagers

can also inform the forest officials on the toll-free number 8763378400 if they learn about the movement of elephants in their respective areas. The forest officials with the help of this toll-free number will deploy five youths from the village as volunteers and the local gramsathi to keep a watch on the elephant movement and provide them with torch and crackers to drive away the animals.

Forest officials believe that the man-animal conflict could reduce a lot if local people are taken into confidence and made aware about the presence and location of the animals. Observers believe that the pachyderms will never leave the jungles and move towards the villages if sufficient food could be made available for them in their natural habitats. Locals suggested solar fencing near forests and routine patrolling by forest officials to ward off the animals.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, June 24: Following the nod from National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Nayagarh district administration swung into action and has constructed a threekilometre road from Balabhadrapur to Dhipamal in just three days.

The construction work passing through Gudupali village forest began June 21 and was completed June 23. Fearing any untoward in cident, the district administration has clamped Sec 144 in the locality since June 16. The construction was completed in the presence of three magistrates and seven police platoons. Also present were Nayagarh sub-collector Lagnajit Rout, Nuagaon tehsildar and BDO, Nayagarh additional SP Umakant Mallick and Bidyut Panda, Nayagarh SDPO Suvendhu Singh, 3 DSPs and Sadar police IIC Deepak

## Row-hit Nayagarh road built in 3 days **NGT GIVES GO-AHEAD**

Khandayatroy.

However, at least 500 small and big trees had to be chopped off to make space for the road which has not gone down well with the resi-



dents of Gudupali village.

According to the case diary, a rift broke out between residents of Gudupali village with those of 17 other villages over the road construction five years back and had been continuing since then. The residents of Gudupali objected to the construction of road passing through the forest which is home to a number of valuable trees. On the other hand residents of the 17 other villages demanded for proper road connectivity.

Despite repeated intervention by the administration to settle the dispute, the villagers were at loggerheads over the construction of the road through the jungle.

Gudupali village president Dilip Nayak said, "At least 500 trees have been cut off for the construction work. While we are trying to save the trees, is the deforestation justified?"

On the other hand, residents of other villages said the road within the forest will help people commute easily. "We had requested the

district administration to construct a proper road. However, villagers of Gudupali had intentionally planted trees to prevent construction work. Fortunately, the administration and NGT intervened and cleared\_ the path for construction of the road," a villager said.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender No. PCEECoR2223TP03 The following modification has been made in the Tender Notice which may lease be noted.

Particulars: Tender Closing date has een postponed from 16.06.2022 to 18.07.2022. For other details vi ebsite www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer / TP

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender No. e-tender-Estate-KUR-85-2022, Dtd.: 14.06.2022 85-2022, Dtd.: 14.06.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED

EXTERIOR PAINTING, INTERIOR
DISTEMPERING, PLASTIC EMULSION
PAINTING, ENAMEL PAINTING AND
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS
LIKE REPAIRING OF EXPANSION
JOINTS & ROOF TREATMENT OF EAST
COAST RAILWAY HEAD QUARTER
BUILDING (RAIL SADAN) AT
C H A N D R A S E K H A R P U R,
B H U B A N E S W A R A N D
MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS WORKS
SUCH AS FLOOR, WALL, SANITARY
FITTING, DOOR & WINDOW, ROOF
G R A D IN G A N D O T H E R
MISCELLANEOUS WORKS OF
OFFICERS REST HOUSE AT RAIL
VIHAR. CHANDRASEKHARPUR. VIHAR, CHANDRASEKHARPUR

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹123.89 Period: 04 (Four) Months.

(2) Tender No. e-tender-Estate-KUR86-2022, Dtd.: 14.06.2022

DESCRIPTION : CONSULTANCY
SERVICE FOR CONCEPTUALIZATION,
DESIGNING, DEVELOPING AND
PLANNING OF TOTAL FIRE FIGHTING
SYSTEM FOR EAST COAST RAILWAY
HEAD CHAPTER BILLINDING (PALI HEAD QUARTER BUILDING (RAII SADAN) AND CENTRAL HOSPITAL AT BHUBANESWAR.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹3.5 Lakhs

EMD: ₹7,000/-, Completion Period: 03 (Three) Months. Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500

Hrs. of 06.07.2022 (for both Tenders). No manual offers sent by Post / Courier Fax or in person shall be accepted agains

rax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. complete information including e-tender

locuments of the above e-Tender vailable in website https://www.ireps.gov.in

https://www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are
advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten)
days before the date of closing of tender to
note any changes / corrigenda issued for
this tender. The tenderers/bidders must
have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate
and must be registered on IREPS Portal.
Only registered tenderer/bidder can
participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)

#### Sitabinji all set for major facelift TOURIST DEPT TO SPEND ₹30 LAKH FOR BEAUTIFICATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT POST NEWS NETWORK HIS PICTURESOUE SITE IS LOCATED IN A SMALL TRIBAL VILLAGE SITUATED ON THE Keonjhar, June 24: Odisha BANKS OF THE SITA RIVER AMIDST DENSE

T IS BELIEVED THAT IF ONE PRAYS TO GODDESS SITA THEN THE PERSON IS BLESSED WITH A CHILD, IT IS ALSO BELIEVED, THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE 'DASYU RATNAKAR' BECAME 'VALMIKI

the place

FORESTS AND HILLS. A LARGE NUMBER OF

ROCK INSCRIPTIONS DATING BACK TO

SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF YEARS CAN BE

FOUND AT THE SITE

on some other works for the benefit of the visitors, tourist officer Ramesh Chandra Navak informed

Reports said this picturesque site is located in a small tribal village situated on the banks of the Sita river amidst dense forests and hills. A large number of rock inscriptions dating back to several hundreds of years can be found at the site. Tourists flock to see the fresco paintings and rock inscriptions. The site is located at

under

Danguapasi

Ghatagaon block around 32km from the district headquarters of Keonihar

Mystery surrounds the formation of the rock inscriptions. Mythology and locals say that it was the place where Sita lived in exile after being abandoned by husband Lord Rama. It is here she gave birth to her two sons, Luv and Kush. The place is also famous for its 'Chaturmukha Lingam' which is indicative of the presence of the Shiva cult

from the Gupta period

The major attraction of the area is a half-opened umbrella shaped rock, an archeological relic shelter of 'Ravanchhaya'. Locals believe that one can feel the presence of Goddess Sita at

The ceiling showcases Tempra paintings which is the only kind available in entire north-eastern and eastern region. A major tourist attraction of Sitabinji is a shrine inside a cave formed with two boulders which are believed to be that of Luv and Kush by the local tribal populations.

The shrine is held together by mud and bricks containing the carved idols of Sita and her twin sons and innumerable terracotta horses near it. The horses have been donated by devotees in various sizes and colours. Here one can find the ashram of 'Maharshi Valmiki', the cradle of Luv and Kush and the storehouse 'Dasyu Ratnakar.' People also come here for sightseeing and enjoying feasts.

It is believed that if one prays to Goddess Sita then the person is blessed with a child. It is also believed, this is the place where 'Dasyu Ratnakar' became 'Valmiki'. The place is protected by the district administration

with help of locals. A large fair is held here for five to seven days during Raia festival when a large number of people flock to

#### Government of Odisha **Procurement Notice** Bid Identification No.TENDER ONLINE SBPR-03 of 22-23

No.O-538: No.2693, Dated:23.06.22 e-mail ID:rw\_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in, Phone No.0663-2401850 Office Order No......Dated...

1. Name of the Work: Building Works as per DTCN available in the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. 2. Total No. of Works: 01 (One) No

3. Estimated Cost: Varies from Rs.28.12 Lakhs

4. Period of Completion: 02 (Two) Calendar Months

5. Period and Time of availability of bid document in the portal

for bidding: 28.06.2022 at 11.00 AM to 16.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM. 6. Date and Time of Opening of Tender: 18.07.2022 at 11.00 AM 7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : S.E.R.W. Divn Sambalpur.

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur OIPR-25076/11/0003/2223

Trident Academy of National Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar & Technology, Rourkela WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A Walk-in-Interview will be conducted for the temporary position of a Junior Research Fellow (Fellowship at Rs.31,000/- per month) in the Dept. of Comp. Sc. & Engg., Trident Academy of Technology for a collaborative research project of TAT with NITR, DGMS and MOIL Limited, funded by Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India for three years. The required qualification for JRF is M. Tech. Degree in Electronics/ETC/CSE. Candidates with NET/GATE qualification and/or with exposure of working in mining domain will be preferred.

Interested candidates are required to send their application with full Bio-data to tabhaya1@gmail.com on or before 27.06.2022. The interview will be conducted on tabhaya1@gmail.com on or before 27.06.2022. The interview will be conducted on tabhaya1@gmail.com on or before 27.06.2022. The interview will be conducted on Stone & Engineering, Trident Academy of Technology, Bhubaneswar - 751024, Odisha. Shortlisted candidates will be intimated before the interview.

Trincipal Investigators

Tr. Abhaya Kumar Samal (Sd.J-)

Trofessor (CSE), Dean (P&C),

TAT, Bhubaneswar

Tr. Singam Jayanthu (Sd.J-)

Trofessor (Mining), NIT, Rourkela

Khurda Road

PR-223/N/22-23





Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the



## Shortage of Officers

The Uttarakhand government has been struggling to work with only 76 IAS officers in the state, even though it has an allocated cadre strength of 120 IAS officers. Of these, seven are on Central deputation. They include Ashish Joshi, Sridhar Babu Addanki, Jyoti Yadav, Raghav Langar, Mangesh Ghildiyal, and Amit Singh Negi.

Last week, the state Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami got his partial wish-fulfillment when the Centre agreed to increase the state's IAS cadre strength from 120 to 126 officers. Partial, because the state government had been demanding the IAS cadre be increased to 139, which the Centre has firmly rejected. It has its own mounting problem of a shortage of officers.

Uttarakhand's plight is shared by several other states. But sources have told DKB that the current babu deficit is of the state's own making. The All India Services cadre structure is reviewed every 10 years. The last time it was done was in 2010, when the state had the opportunity to ask for an increase in the cadre posts from 120, but it chose not to. Now it is feeling the pinch. And even the six new cadre posts will not make much difference on

#### IAS officers feeling left out in UT admin

The Haryana government has long claimed that it is getting a raw deal from the Chandigarh administration with UT cadre IAS officers cornering the key posts at the expense of Haryana cadre officers. The issue has reportedly been raised on several occasions, including by the state's Additional Chief Secretary Rajeev Arora, with the UT Administrator and Punjab Governor Banwari Lal Purohit.

Now Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has escalated the issue by writing a letter to Purohit expressing "unhappiness" at the "uneven distribution of departments to Haryana cadre IAS and IPS officers" in the UT.

Those in the know have informed DKB that Khattar has claimed undue dominance of UT cadre officers, whether from the IAS or DANICS cadres, in the administration at the cost of officers from Haryana and Punjab. Apparently, most of the important posts have been grabbed by officers from

the UT cadre. Further, Khattar has claimed that the repatriation of two HCS officers earlier in February has made matters worse. He has also pointed out that the posts of UT Home Secretary and Deputy Commissioner, held by IAS offi-

**BABUDOM BYTES** Dilip Cherian cers deputed by Haryana, have had their powers and responsibilities reduced

Khattar has also pointed out that in the recent reshuffle of IPS officers, the

SSP (Traffic) Manisha Choudhary, a Haryana cadre IPS officer, was divested of the charge of security, which was given to an AGMUT cadre officer. The list of Haryana's grievances is long, and Khattar is now hoping that

the UT Administrator is open to discussing the issue at the earliest.

#### Babu gets a dressing down for 'wrong' attire in court

Unlike IPS or defence personnel who are expected to appear in uniform while on duty, there is no "official" dress code for IAS officers, though during training they are urged to dress "appropriately."

Leaving the issue open-ended and vague has sometimes landed babus in trouble. Most recently, the Patna High Court pulled up Bihar IAS officer Anand Kishor, who is chairman of the state School Examination Board and principal secretary for Housing and Urban Development. Kishor appeared for a court hearing wearing a crisp formal white shirt with trousers. So, what was wrong with the attire? The babu had not buttoned his collar and was

However, not everyone agrees with the judge, including some from the legal fraternity as well. While some said that the judge's remarks were unwarranted and caused "unnecessary humiliation and anger." others insist that any government official must be correctly dressed in court for dignity and decorum. If so, perhaps it is time to codify how government officials are to appear in public.

Is it a feudal vestige or a progressive mindset? Reader, you decide.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

#### WISDOM CORNER

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

Every man has his own destiny: the only imperative is to follow it, to accept it, no matter where it leads him. HENRY MILLER

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the DESMOND TUTU

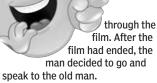
#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### ■ Tom

om, the usual short form for the given name Thomas, has since late Middle English been a generic name for a male, as in tomfool, tomboy (a girl who behaves more like a boy), peeping tom, and Tom, Dick, and Harry. The clue to how it became connected with a woman may lie in an old bit of Australian slang, tom-tart, recorded since 1882. This had no implication of vice at the time, being merely one of the many mildly dismissive male terms that have been around at various times for a girl friend or sweetheart, like donah, sheila or dinah. It looks as though it was formed from Tom's tart, a generic name for a female companion. Though tart is now an insulting term for a promiscuous woman, it was to start with a short form of sweetheart and was a compliment. John Camden Hotten defined it in his 1864 slang dictionary as "a term of approval applied by the London lower orders to a young woman for whom some affection is felt. The expression is not generally employed by the young men, unless the female is in 'her best'." Hence the subsidiary meaning today of tart as being an overdressed woman; it also accounts for the British verb to tart up, to dress or make oneself up in order to look attractive or evecatching, or more generally to decorate or improve the look of something. Though the only recorded examples of tom-tart are Australian, our best guess is that it was taken there by emigrants who had learned it in England. In time, tom-tart was abbreviated to just tom, both in Australia and in Britain, and went seriously downhill to become a deeply derogatory description. Incidentally, Louis E Jackson and C R Hellyer, in A Vocabulary of Criminal Slang of 1914, said that a tommy was a prostitute; this is often cited in support of a derivation from the male name. This may have been a temporary form, based on tom or tom-tart. But it is much more likely that it has no bearing at all on the evolution of the English slang term, since the book was compiled in the US (Hellyer was a detective in Portland, Oregon).

#### A SMART DOG

man went to the cinema the other Aday and in the front row was an old man and with him was his dog. It was a sad funny kind of film, you know the type. In the sad part, the dog cried his eves out, and in the funny part, the dog laughed its head off. This happened all the way



"That's the most amazing thing I've seen," the man said. "That dog really seemed to enjoy the film. The old man replied: "Yeah, it is. He hated the book."

#### **FOCUS FOREIGN POLICY**

## **OUR NATIONAL INTEREST**



DK Giri

**INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS** SUFFERED FROM **A MISMATCH BETWEEN ECONOMICS AND POLITICS** FROM THE **BEGINNING** 

🕝 n a recent webinar, a German scholar, who has worked in India, commented that India's national interest is complicated. It is unclear and ambiguous. India is becoming a hybrid ally, cooperating with countries in some areas, disengaging on others. He was perhaps hinting at India's cooperation with other three countries in Quad, but not on Ukraine war. Likewise, India is a member of SCO, but is having border conflict with China. Does this charge of India's 'ambiguity' in foreign policy hold water? Addressing this question prompts the exercise in this piece to identify India's national interest pursued by the current foreign policy regime in New Delhi.

The premise here is India needs friends and allies to defend its national security and build its economv. The target is 5 trillion USD in the immediate future and more in the longer term to fulfil India's aspiration of becoming a world power. In the past, until a few years ago, as the countries' strengths were measured by their defence capacity, India's foreign policy was driven by her security imperatives. New Delhi relied on its friendship with the Soviet Union marked by the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty of 1971. The day New Delhi signed that treaty, India's avowed policy of non-alignment was dead, although later, another political regime in New Delhi talked about genuine non-alignment.

A decade ago, when the economy became the measure of a country's capacity, and foreign policies were driven by trade and investment, India needed new friends. It did build some, but not quite. India's foreign policy has suffered from a mismatch between economics and politics from the beginning. One could concede that lapse in the past as security was a greater need than economy. However, with international institutions maturing, and the world powers collectively addressing sovereignty and integrity of countries, security took a back seat as the economy became a front-runner.

China epitomised the above trend by rapidly building its economy despite a contrarian political





Is India's current friendship with Russia helpful in present scheme of things? Many observers have argued that the friendship with Soviet Union has hardly helped us in material terms except supply of arms and a veto in the Security **Council on Kashmir** 

approach at home and abroad. The dubious credit goes to the West for propping up the Chinese economy by exploiting its captive work force. As China uses its economic might to pose security threats to other countries, the need for blending economy and security became the new foreign policy approach. Where does India figure in this new trend in pursuing its national interest?

Clearly, the interface between politics and economy is still missing if we survey India's friends and partners. New Delhi seems to be ignoring the commonplace maxim of William Clay, "This is quite a game, politics (read foreign policy). There are no permanent enemies and no permanent friends, only permanent interests (read national interests)." From this point of view, has our friendship with Soviet Union, historically pretty long, being beneficial to us? Is India's current friendship with Russia helpful in present scheme of things? Many observers have argued that the friendship with Soviet Union has hardly helped us in material terms except supply of arms and a veto in the Security Council on Kashmir.

India's friendship with Soviet Union was a product of our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's monumental follies. Continuing that friendship with the Soviet successor, Russia, reflects the present government's inability to undo those mistakes. Although the current regime is overtly critical of Nehru and his policies, it has not been able to correct the fault lines in our foreign policy created by Nehru. To recall a few, Nehru made the mistake of taking the Kashmir dispute to the United Nations ignoring the advice of the army which was clearing the entire Kashmir of Pakistan-backed tribal infiltrators. Second, Nehru, having studied in the West, became averse to western politics. He dismissed in 1960s the budding European Union as a 'club of capitalists', singled out the Anglo-French attack on SuezCanal in 1956, while keeping mum on Soviet invasion of Hungary the same year. Nehru gave away the offer of a permanent membership of UNSC to India in favour of China, thanks to his fascination for the Chinese.

Noticing Nehru's tilt towards the Soviet Union, American and Western powers sauntered towards Pakistan and China. India then had to depend upon the Russian veto. If Nehru had maintained equidistance from both super powers, as Indira Gandhi tried to do through the so-called non-alignment, again a figment of Nehru's policy imagination, our dependence on Soviet Union would have reduced.

In the war with China in 1962, India received military support from then pariah state Israel. It took

us decades to decouple Israel and Palestine and to make independent relations with the former, thanks to the boldness and sagacity of the present regime. Admittedly, India-Israel relations will remain controversial vis-àvis Palestine, but the relations with both countries must remain independent of each other.

India is making some changes to its foreign policy strategy. From non-alignment it has switched to multi-alignment in the hope of building a multi-polar world. The Foreign Minister reiterated this strategy recently in a talk organised by a media house. Thus, India is a member of Quad as well as of SCO. But a multi-polar world is not supported by historical evidence and multi-alignment does not inspire confidence among partners. When the world is being divided into two fiercely antagonist blocs, I have been maintaining that, India has to choose its side. It cannot stand on two stools at the same time.

On economic front, all major economies except China belong to the bloc led by USA. India does not have solid partners or friends in these blocs as it has perhaps not yet got rid of her lackadaisical approach to economic imperatives both at home and abroad. Look at New Delhi's FTA negotiations running over 15 years with the European Union, a major economic collective of 27 countries. New Delhi is dragging it so long for whatever reasons. India needs EU, not so much the other way round, although it can change in the wake of EU's 'systemic confrontation' with China. EU countries may invest in India but it is not automatic.

At any rate, bridging the gap between foreign trade and investment policy with security policy will redefine India's national interests. We have to carefully choose our friends who will help us build the synergy between economy and security. This simple existential reality in international politics could not escape the attention of the ingenuous minds in the South Block!

> The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC. ©INFA

#### SPECTRUM PROTECTIONISM

## Threat to developing world's green shift



Miriam González Durántez and Calli Obern

IT'S NOT EASY OR **CHEAP TO DECARBONISE ENERGY-INTENSIVE** GOODS **LIKE CEMENT AND STEEL** 

Commission did something that no other major governing body had ever attempted: It tied trade policy to climate policy. Reaching the European Union's goal of cutting net greenhouse-gas emissions by 55% by 2030 will require the EU to reduce emissions both at home and beyond its borders. To this end, the Commission's Fit for 55 initiative, a package of proposals aimed at meeting the bloc's emissions-reduction target, includes a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) - an import tax designed to corral other countries into tackling climate change.

The CBAM would tax imported goods sold in EU markets on the basis of their carbon content, which depends on their material and energy inputs. The proposed levy is intended to address so-called carbon leakage, which occurs when businesses in the EU move production to non-member countries with less stringent emissions rules.

In other words, Europe would no longer ignore the climate effects of foreign goods. But while the measure could help to reduce emissions and level the competitive playing field for EU-based firms, the trade protectionism that it entails

The CBAM will initially apply to

the highest-emitting industries most at risk of leakage – iron and steel, cement, fertilizers, aluminum, and electricity generation – and will likely be expanded to other sectors in coming years. Currently, EUmade products in these industries are taxed under the domestic carbon price, but those from outside the bloc are not. If a country already has a domestic carbon price, the border tax will be lowered or waived; this is meant to encourage countries to tax carbon in their own markets. Those that cannot or will not institute a carbon tax will have to pay the full levy. The EU tax will be phased in over the next four years. By 2023, importers will be required to report emissions embedded in the goods they import, though the tax on those emissions will not be imposed until 2026. The €1 billion (\$1.1 billion) of annual revenue expected from the CBAM, as well as the €9 billion in annual revenue expected from the EU Emissions Trading System from 2023-2030 and taxes on multinational corporations, will support the Union's €750 billion pandemic recovery fund. These new sources of revenue will embed EU priorities – including

▼n July 2021, the European risks hurting developing countries, the green transition – in the bloc's often depend on manufactured budget for the first time.

> Though not yet approved, the proposed tax is already influencing the decisions of policymakers and companies in the EU's trading partners. For example, Turkey and Indonesia plan to introduce carbon taxes to mitigate the CBAM's effects on their economies. Turkey is highly exposed, because the EU accounts for 41% of its exports. Indonesia exports billions of euros' worth of palm oil and chemicals to the EU-goods that could fall under a broader border tax. Adopting a domestic carbon price will allow them to avoid some or all of the CBAM and keep the tax revenues instead of transferring them to the EU.

> Meanwhile, some EU-based companies in industries such as computer hardware are looking to reshore manufacturing operations ahead of the CBAM's introduction. Their main motive does not reflect the cost of the tax so much as the likely complexity, bureaucracy, and unpredictability of the system. It is easier and cheaper for companies to relocate production to the EU and avoid the administrative hurdles that the CBAM could create.

Developing economies, which

products, will likely experience an outflow of activity as firms relocate to the EU. Rather than addressing only carbon leakage and leaving developing countries to adapt as best they can, the EU should allocate part of the revenue from the proposed CBAM to help foster a just green

transition for poorer countries. It is not easy or cheap to decarbonise energy-intensive goods like cement and steel. But the EU could prevent negative knock-on effects for developing economies - not only by waiting for lower-income countries to introduce their own carbon taxes, but also by supporting those that need the most help to reduce their emissions.

The EU should also dedicate part of the CBAM revenue to help developing countries adopt cleaner technologies. Europe sees itself as a global leader in the race to netzero emissions. By helping to finance the developing world's green transition, the EU could mitigate the protectionist threat in its own climate agenda.

Miriam González Durántez is an international trade lawyer. Calli Obern is a research fellow at Ecospherics.

## etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

### OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Assam's people betrayed

Sir, Assam's flood situation remained grim with all major rivers in spate, affecting over 47 lakh people and the death toll has reached 54, according to Assam State Disaster Management Authority. The north-eastern state has been reeling under devastating floods over the last one week, affecting people in 32 of its 36 districts. It is pertinent to mention here that during the election rallies, the Union Home Minister had urged the people of Assam to give the BJP another five years of service. "We will build a flood-free Assam in 8 years." So far, no scientific step has been taken to make Assam flood free. The Huang He in China was once called the sorrow of China. But now it is said to be the happiness of China. Over the years, the Chinese have embarked on major public works projects to control and irrigate the water from the Huang He, including hydroelectric dams in modern times. We could not learn from China. In fact, the current government and the previous governments have betrayed the people of Assam. The people of Assam should put pressure on the government to keep its promises.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

#### Help quake-hit Afghanistan

Sir, The powerful earthquake that struck Afghanistan poses a huge logistical challenge for the new Taliban government, which has isolated itself from much of the world by introducing hard-line Islamist rule that enslaves women and girls. The aid-dependent nation saw the bulk of its foreign assistance cut off in the wake of the Taliban takeover last August. In fact, long before this earthquake, which is the deadliest in the last two decades in Afghanistan, the United Nations warned of a foreseeing humanitarian crisis in the country that could threaten the whole population. The current disaster has only compounded the miseries of Afghanistan, which has already plunged to new depths after the Taliban takeover. Sadly, Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, adjoined by the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. Meanwhile, to put it succinctly, yet mournfully, those who lost their lives in the current disaster were not buried because they died, but died because the earth got buried by itself in a matter of seconds. The quake-hit nation needs everyone's help.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## national



Media and our BJP people should keep in mind that Droupadi Murmu, the candidate selected for post of the President by the NDA, will be the Constitutional head of the country. Such a person does not come under the domination of castes (and cultural identities). Therefore, no opinion should be made with the desire to take political mileage out of it UMA BHARTI VETERAN BJP LEADER

#### **COVOVAX FOR KIDS**

An expert panel of India's central drug authority Friday recommended granting emergency use authorisation to Serum Institute's Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years, official sources said



Strongly condemn the attack against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's office at Wayanad. Everyone has the freedom of speech and right to protest in a democratic manner. But it's a wrong tendency that such protests turn violent. The government will taken stern action against the culprits

PINARAYI VIJAYAN KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

At the Delhi Sports University, players will be provided degrees in their respective sports such as BA in Kabbadi, BA in Wrestling and BA in Cricket among others. This will help them get jobs in case they want to work

ARVIND KEIRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER



back in Mumbai to meet the Governor, followed by a head count

and the trust vote

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Three held for honey-trapping

New Delhi: Three men were arrested for allegedly honeytrapping a person by posing themselves as policemen, officials said Thursday. The accused have been identified as Pawan (37), Manieet (33) and Deepak (29), all residents of Haryana. The woman gang member Honey Preet is absconding, police said. On May 1, a 55-year-old man had complained that Preet had befriended him on social media and invited him over to her flat in Paschim Vihar here. As he was spending time with her, the three men entered the flat in the guise of policemen.

#### **Ruckus in Punjab Assembly**

Chandigarh: Noisy scenes Assembly on Friday as the opposition Congress moved an adjournment motion seeking a discussion on law and order, a demand which was rejected. The Congress members rushed to the well of the House and raised slogans. Senior Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa said the opposition's adjournment motion was rejected on the grounds that the "matter is sub-judice".

#### **Cong makes new** appointments

New Delhi: The Congress Friday made new appointments in its communications wing, making Vineet Punia AICC secretary in-charge of internal communications and Vaibhav Walia secretary in the department. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has approved appointments in the new Communications Department naming Punia, Secretary AICC, Incharge of Internal Communications; Vaibhav Walia, Secretary in the Communications Department attached to General Secretary Incharge of Communications; and Amitabh Dubey, Incharge of Research and Monitoring in the Communications Department, according to a party statement.

#### **Wanted criminal** arrested in Delhi

New Delhi: The police Friday arrested a 38-year-old wanted criminal after a brief exchange of fire in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area, officials said. The accused has been identified as Mohmmed Azmal alias Pahadi, a native of Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, they said. Azmal was wanted in a case of extortion in UP's Nazibabad.



Mumbai, June 24: Digging in his heels, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Friday expressed determination to fight the political crisis gripping his government and took on cabinet minister Eknath Shinde, saying the rebel leader's son is a Lok Sabha MP and should his son Aaditya Thackeray not also grow politically as both sides showed no signs of backing down to break the four-day-old impasse.

Thackeray said Shinde was given the key department of urban development which is usually headed by the Chief Minister of the day and publicly blamed the opposition BJP for the rebellion in the Shiv Sena which has threatened the stability of his Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition

#### **Sharad meets Uddhav**

Mumbai: NCP president Sharad Pawar Friday evening met Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's residence amid the political crisis caused by Sena leader Eknath Shinde's rebellion. State NCP president Jayant Patil and Deputy chief minister Aiit Pawar accompanied Pawar as he arrived at 'Matoshree', Thackeray's private residence in Bandra area. A day before, Ajit Pawar had said the NCP will do all it can to save the ruling alliance of the Sena, NCP



government which also consists of the NCP and the Congress.

In a virtual address to party functionaries, the Shiv Sena president said he was not worried over the defection by MLAs as he considers them "fruits and flowers of a tree which have been blighted by disease". "You make take the fruits and flowers of tree. But till the roots (rank and file) are strong. I need not worry. The roots can never be uprooted.'

"Every season, new leaves and fruits blossom. Leaves blighted by disease need to be removed and thrown. Consider the present situation in this context." Thackeray told the party rank and file. He said he may have moved out of the official residence of the chief minister, but his determination to fight the crisis remains intact. "I have given up the temptation by moving out the Chief Minister's official bungalow (Varsha) but not my determination to fight back," he asserted and made it clear he is not after power. Thackeray said Shinde told him sometime back that Sena

MLAs feel the party should go back with former ally BJP. "What kind of Shiv Sainiks are you? Don't you feel agitated by the BJP's use and throw policy and when baseless charges are made against Matoshree (the private residence of the Thackerays in suburban Bandra)," he said.

'The department of urban development, which is currently with Shinde, had been always with the Chief Minister: Your son (Shrikant Shinde) can be an MP, but should not Aaditya also grow politically," he asked. Shrikant Shinde is the Lok Sabha MP from Kalyan, while the Chief Minister's son, Aaditya Thackeray, is a state cabinet minister holding the environment and tourism portfolios. Hitting out at Shinde, who is camping in Assam with rebel MLAs, Thackeray said, "He was made a minister twice after Balasaheb Thackeray's death (in 2012). Twice we were in power (after 2012). He was given the departments which are normally kept by the Chief Minister himself. You should keep Thackeray name

#### Police on alert

Mumbai: Police authorities in Maharashtra have issued an alert across the state as Shiv Sena supporters are likely to stage angry protests following senior leader and minister Eknath Shinde's rebellion, an official said Friday. A couple of incidents of Sena workers targeting the hoardings or boards featuring rebel MLAs who are with Shinde have been reported in the state. A general alert has been issued to all district unit commanders like superintendents of police and police commissioners, asking them to take steps to prevent any untoward incident, said an official here.

out of your politics and see if you can survive. One can never detach the Thackerays from the Shiv Sena," he said. The party has suffered electoral reverses several times, but vctory or defeat depends on one's state of mind, he said, adding "Let's consider we have no one with us. We have to create a new Shiv Sena." "Consider we are starting from the scratch. If you feel you have better prospects going with the rebels you can leave. I will not stop you. The (rebel) MLAs (camping) in Guwahati are prisoners. We have to see how we can bring them back," the Chief Minister said. Thackeray offered to quit as the Sena president if Shiv Sainiks feel he is incabale of running the



Villagers shift their cows to a safer place from a flood-affected area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, June 24: Ten more people died in Assam's devastating floods that affected 33.03 lakh people in 28 districts Friday, while Silchar town in Cachar district remained submerged for the fifth consecutive day, official sources said.

On Thursday, a population of 45.34 lakh in 30 districts had been affected by the deluge, according to the bulletin of the Assam State Management Disaster Authority (ASDMA). The rivers are showing a receding trend though the Brahmaputra at Dhubri and the Kopili in Nagaon are still flowing above the danger mark. After the death of 10 more people - two each from Barpeta, Dhubri, Karimganj and Udalguri districts and one death each from Cachar and Morigaon, the toll due to floods and landslides reached 118 since mid-May. The state government announced that it has engaged additional resources to the severely affected districts, especially Cachar and the two other districts in Barak Valley Two drones have been deployed in Silchar for carrying out the flood inundation mapping as well as to provide relief materials to the affected people. Eight NDRF teams from Itanagar and Bhubaneswar along with a team of the Army from Dimapur in Nagaland have been deployed in Silchar. In addition, 10 personnel of the CRPF and four of the SDRF with boats have been airlifted to Cachar to rescue the stranded people, an ASDMA official said. After making an aerial survey of Silchar town Thursday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that additional columns of the Army will be sent to Silchar to evacuate marooned people.

The state government also launched helpline numbers 0361-2237219, 9401044617 and 1079 (tollfree) for the affected people of Cachar district.

#### **MSCB SCAM**

### ED attaches assets of sugar mill linked to ex-Sena MLA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: The ED Friday attached over 200 acres of land and other assets worth a total Rs 78.38 crore of a Jalna-based sugar mill linked to Shiv Sena leader and former party MLA Arjun Khotkar in connection with the alleged Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) scamlinked money laundering probe.

Apart from the land, plant, machinery and building belonging to the Jalna Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana (SSK) Ltd.

Located at Sawargaon Hadap village in the said district have been attached after the agency issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Enforcement

Directorate said in a statement. The assets of Jalna SSK are "currently held in the name of Arjun Sugar Industries Pvt. Ltd., a company incorporated by Arjun Khotkar and others May 8, 2012 only with a view to purchase the Jalna SSK Ltd.", the federal probe agency said. Sixty-year-old Khotkar has been a Shiv Sena party MLA from Jalna and has also served as a minister in the Maharashtra government. He is considered close to party supremo and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray who is currently battling a political crisis caused by rebellious MLAs of his party which is in power in the state along with the NCP and Congress.

The ED last year had similarly in the case

The MSCB money laundering case stems from a August, 2019 FIR of the Mumbai police economic offences (EOW) wing.

The police complaint came after the Bombay High Court issued an orderAugust 22 that year to investigate the allegations of selling sugar factories in the Maharashtra cooperative sector through alleged fraudulent means and also that they were sold at throw-away prices.

MSCB indicates sale of SSK".



attached assets worth Rs 65 crore of a Satara-based sugar mill in the MSCB scam case and had said that a company linked to state deputy chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar and his wife were involved

The ED probe found that the "fraudulent mode and manner in which the bidding process was followed for sale of SSK and subsequent distribution of assets of SSK among family-based business entities of the members of the



Project Affected People (PAP) protest against City and Industrial Developement Corporation (CIDCO) for their demand to name the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport after DB Patil, in Navi Mumbai

### Blaze in school: Over 500 kids rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 24: Over 500 children were evacuated safely after a fire broke out due to short circuit, enveloping a multi-storey school building in thick smoke in Gujarat's Vadodara city Friday, an

official said. The blaze erupted at Phoenix School in Makarpura area of the city in the morning, when secondary and higher secondary students were in their classrooms, said Jaydeep Gadhvi, sub-fire of-

ficer of Makarpura fire station. The school was a ground-plus four storey structure and each floor had four air-conditioned classrooms, said Gadhvi, who rushed to the spot with his men around 9.30 am.

'We quickly realised that a short circuit in the MCB switchboard on third floor has caused the fire. Though the blaze was

minor, thick smoke had covered the entire third floor. While students of first and second floor managed to come out in time. students on third and fourth floors were stuck, as there was zero visibility," the official said.

Using breathing apparatus sets, two firemen entered the building and doused the blaze on the third floor and then opened the windows to clear the smoke, he said.

#### SC awards death to man for rape & murder of minor girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: The Supreme Court Friday sent to gallows a man for kidnapping, raping, and killing a seven-and-half-year-old mentally and physically challenged girl in 2013, saying the crime was of the nature of "extreme depravity which shocks the conscience" and left "no other option but to confirm the

death sentence" Condemned convict Manoj Pratap Singh, then 28 years of age, had kidnapped the physically and mentally challenged minor girl in front of her parents from their fruit and vegetable vending cart January 17, 2013, brutally raped her at a secluded place before killing her by smashing the head in Rajsamand district, Rajasthan.

'We may sum up thus: In the case of the present nature, the crime had been of extreme depravity, which shocks the conscience, particularly looking to the target (a seven-and-a-halfyear old mentally and physically challenged girl) and then, looking to the manner of committing murder, where the hapless victim's head was literally smashed, resulting in multiple injuries including a fracture of frontal bone...," said a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar while upholding the Rajasthan-High Court' verdict confirming the death penalty.

## Explained: What's driving Covid surge in India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 24: Newer Omicron strains, waning immunity, and breakthrough infections among vaccinated are the major reasons for the current Covid peak seen in India, including the national capital, said doctors Friday.

According to the Union Health Ministry data update Friday, India recorded 17,336 new Covid-19 infections and 13 new deaths in the last 24 hours. The active caseload stands at 88,284.

States like Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Gujarat are reporting more than

1,000 cases daily. However, in some states including Delhi, and Maharashtra, there has been a marginal increase in

Covid-related hospitalisation. According to Dr Ankita Baidya, Consultant - Infectious Diseases, HCMCT Manipal Hospitals,



infection numbers in national capital Delhi doubled in the last 24 hours

Maharashtra accounted for the and one death jumping by 60 per cent

Dwarka, "a smaller number of Covid patients are coming with lung" conditions. However, Dr Neha Gupta, Consultant, Infectious Disease, Fortis Memorial Research

highest number of Covid-19 cases at 5,218, with daily cases compared to the previous day

toms than during the earlier Omicron wave in January "During this wave, we have seen

Institute, Gurugram, said patients

are presenting more severe symp-

patients having moderate-severe Covid-19 which is a little more in severity as compared to the Omicron variant," Gupta told IANS.

An analysis by the country's Covid genome sequencing facility Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) reports that Omicron BA.2 sub-variant was detected in over 83 per cent of the samples sequenced in May and June, media reports said.

While the percentage of BA.1, BA.3, BA.4 and BA.5 has been found in less than 10 per cent samples, Omicron and its sub-lineages have been the dominant circulating variant in India from January 2022. In May, the proportion of Omicron sublineages BA.2.12.2, BA.1.1.529, BA.3, BA.4, BA.5 increased, the report said. When asked, so can we say that a fourth wave of Covid has hit India? This is not a fourth wave, said Budhraja, "but Covid spikes which may differ in timing in different parts of India. Fourth wave can

only occur if there is presence of a new variant altogether, not just a different subvariant". Meanwhile, the Health Ministry has directed officials to continue to focus on surveillance and whole genome sequencing to scan any possible mutations while stressing on adequate testing and effective monitoring to assess the spread of Covid-19 in a timely manner.

"Sequencing is a highly resourceheavy and time-consuming process. That being said, sequencing is essential to understand the direction in which the virus evolves. However, sequencing is not essential to diagnose or treat Covid 19. Hence resource allocation is better made towards vaccination, awareness and prevention and treatment,' Dr Pavithra Venkatagopalan, Director, Covid Task Force, Awareness, Rotary Club of Madras Next Gen, told IANS. She emphasised the need for "aggressive vaccination for everyone".



## TWO STATES





SATURDAY | JUNE 25 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

## **Traders, transport bodies** oppose ban on heavy vehicles

New Delhi, June 24: Opposing the Delhi government's decision to ban entry of medium and heavy goods vehicles in the city, traders and transport organisations said it would "grossly and adversely affect" businesses in the national capital.

The decision to ban the entry of medium and heavy goods vehicles to the national capital from October 1 to February 28 was aimed at curbing vehicular pollution. However, vehicles carrying raw vegetables, fruit, grains, milk and essential commodities will be al lowed to enter the city, they said.

According to an official, vehicular pollution leads to deterioration in the air quality during the winter months. President of all India Motor and Goods Transport Rajender Kapoor demanded the rollback of the ban and asked the government to consider some other way to resolve the pollution problem.

"Transportation quantity (of various essential commodities) is in hundreds of tons, which can be done only by heavy motor vehicles, not by light motor vehicles. Heavy machinery and building materials are also brought from various states and



of medium and heavy goods from October 1 to February 28 is aimed at curbing vehicular

ccording to an official, ehicular pollution leads to deterioration in the air quality

that cannot be done by light motor vehicles." he said.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has convened a meeting of leading business associations of Delhi on June 29 to decide the future course of action over the issue. Condemning

the Arvind Keiriwal government's decision, CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said the move will ruin the trade in Delhi to a larger extent.

He claimed the traders in Delhi are "anguished and will oppose the arbitrary and obnoxious order". The decision under question reflects the "anti-trade attitude" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Khandelwal said.

"It is noteworthy that Delhi is the largest distribution centre in the country and the revenue of the Delhi Government is largely dependent on business activities."If this order is implemented, then there will be a big hurdle goods movement," he said.

## TN govt schools face infrastructure woes

While parents are happy that they don't have to run around for the hefty fee that the private schools were squeezing from them, the high enrolment in government schools has taken its toll on the infrastructure as well as

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 24: The Government schools of Tamil Nadu are facing a major infrastructure and teacher shortage following huge enrolment of students after Covid-19 pandemic.

the teachers' strength

Government schools of the state that were staring at an imminent closure due to student shortage were in for a pleasant surprise after the pandemic as students shifted from private schools to government. Sources in the Tamil Nadu school education department said that the number of students have increased by 6 lakh in government schools for students of Classes 2 to 12.

While parents are happy that they don't have to run around for the hefty fee that the private schools were squeezing from them, the high enrolment in government schools has taken its toll on the infrastructure as well as the teachers' strength

R.K. Ravishankar, a small-time businessman at Chennai said, "My son is studying in Class 6 and I shifted him from a private happening school where I had to shell out huge fee. While there is no fee now, I am worried as to whether the education being given to him is at par with what he was receiving at the private school. Government is government and we don't know how far the teachers are motivated to give their best.

With the enrolments increasing, each school has more than 300 to 400 students leading to an increase of around 30 per cent students in each class. With the increase in the number of students, teachers find it difficult to teach more than 60 students in a class which earlier had only 40.

In a government school in Tamil

launch of the EV

policy in August

2020, electric

account for

per cent of

total vehicle

sales in Delhi

more than 12

vehicles

Nadu, students were taught under a tree due to lack of space in the classes. M. Muthupillai, President, TN High School and Higher Secondary School Headmaster/ Headmistress association said, "You know, only 60 per cent of government schools in Tamil Nadu have proper infrastructure. Moreover, teachers are overloaded and all administrative work is being done by the teach-

Teachers' union leaders also suggested that the government must improve the teacher, student ratio from the present 30:1 at the primary level to 18:1. There is, however, a major gap between the teaching of private schools and government schools.

ers." He also said that each school

should have a non-teaching staff

for conducting clerical work.

In English for Class 10, private school students on an average

scored 57 per cent while the gov ernment school students could touch only 35 per cent. Private school managements are unfazed at the huge enrollment from private schools into government schools.

A private school owner at Madurai said that the parents had to shift their children to government schools as they did not have any option. However, several parents are now contemplating to bring their children back to private schools. The reason is mainly the lack of infrastructure as well as shortage of staff.

Educationists are of the opinion that students continuing in government schools of Tamil Nadu are to benefit well as the government has now introduced a 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation in professional courses for students from Tamil Nadu government schools. This has helped several students from poor backgrounds get into the medical colleges of the state under the merit quota.

The Tamil School Education Department has received Rs 100 crore in the state budget for improving hygiene in government schools. Rs 7000 crore is allocated to develop the school infrastructure under the Perasiriyar Anbhazhagan School development scheme. The government school teachers are of the opinion that more and more students will join the government schools if the government meets the immediate infrastructure requirements, including proper seating facilities

### Fresh tussle on cards

OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID THE FILE ON THE CHIEF MINISTER'S SINGAPORE VISIT HAS BEEN PENDING WITH THE L-G OFFICE FOR APPROVAL SINCE JUNE 7



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena ernment's several important files, including one relating to Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal's scheduled visit to Singapore in July to attend World Cities Summit, official sources claimed Friday.

This is likely to trigger a fresh round of tussle between the L-G office and the Arvind Keiriwal dispensation. There was no immediate reaction from the L-G office on Earlier this week, Deputy Chief

Minister Manish Sisodia had accused Saxena of "bulldozing the law" to favour the BJP after the L-G gave his nod to the Anti-Corruption Branch to probe allegations of irregularities in the construction of seven temporary hospitals here during the Covid pandemic.

Official sources said the file on the chief minister's Singapore visit has been pending with the L-G office for approval since June 7."Several important files of the

Delhi government have not yet been cleared by the L-G, including the one about the CM's visit to

L-G since June 7. Kejriwal has to participate in the World Cities Summit in Singapore," official sources said. They claimed that even files on small issues are "stuck" with the L-G office. It may affect governance in Delhi, official sources said. Officials said according to protocol, any minister including the chief minister or his deputy, has to take approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs for official foreign

The file seeking such approval is routed to the MHA through the L-G. Earlier this month, some AAP MLAs including Atishi had accused the newly-appointed L-G of "intruding" in the Delhi government's work

Atishi had accused Saxena of "interfering" with the Delhi government's work and "conspiring" to derail democracy as he visited two Delhi Jal Board facilities and a sewage treatment plant on June 4.

### New initiative to improve EV policy PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 23: The Delhi transport department is hiring research fellows to advise the government on policy interventions to make the national capital more evehicle-friendly, officials said.

Interviews were held June 18 and four candidates shortlisted, they said."Two of the shortlisted research fellows are deputy directors in the EV cell, while the other two are freshers. One of them is likely to join by June 25 and another by the end of this month," an official said.

Another official said the transport department was hiring people to help it improve the city government's EV (electric vehicle) policy."They will help us research various aspects like what technologies are available, how charging infrastructure can be improved and policv interventions that can be suggested on the basis of ongoing managerial changes," he added.

The fellows will also conduct re-



search to find out if it is feasible to have all manufactures use standard batteries and whether batteries can be exchanged at charging stations, the official said.

'Just like the European Union has made rules for a uniform charging cord, we will ascertain whether something similar can be done for electric vehicle batteries. One of the key aspects of research will be whether battery charging stations can serve as battery exchange stations and whether batteries can have similar specifications," he said.

The job profile of the researchers will also involve comparing e-vehicle policies of other states with Delhi, and suggesting policy interventions on the basis of ongoing managerial changes. he added. The official said the government was serious about electric vehicles and this move was a step in that direction.

"The experts will strengthen the

#### EV cell, and their suggestions will help the government in implementing policy changes. Those who were interviewed came from varied states and profiles. Some were electrical engineers, some were pursuing their MTech and

The Delhi government has been pushing for adoption of electric vehicles in the national capital in a big way to reduce pollution levels. Under its EV policy, the government has targeted 25 per cent

BTech, and some others were pur-

suing degrees in environmental

science," he added.

registrations in Delhi by 2024. Since the launch of the EV policy in August 2020, electric vehicles account for more than 12 per cent of total vehicle sales in Delhi

electric vehicles in total vehicle

Between August 7, 2020 (when the EV policy was launched) and May 31, a total of 52,429 electric vehicles have been sold in Delhi, with electric two-wheelers comprising the major chunk at 20,385, according to

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 24: The Tamil

Nadu health department is on a

high alert after the number of fresh

Covid-19 cases has crossed the 1000-

TN health officials on

alert as Covid cases rise

#### Delhi L-G launches drive for pruning old trees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

for children.

New Delhi, June 24: Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V K Saxena Friday launched a drive by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) for pruning of old trees in the city's Connaught Place area.

The move comes in the wake of at least 77 trees being uprooted, some of them decades old, in Lutvens' Delhi in the fierce thunderstorm and heavy rains that lashed the capital on May 30.

"This morning, launched the scientific pruning of overgrown and dead branches of old trees at CP by NDMC. Exercise was undertaken during off hours to avoid inconvenience to people. This will ensure improved tree health leading to lesser uprooting and falling of branches in storms," Saxena

According to data provided by the NDMC, the Lutyens' Delhi area has lost as many as 1.813 trees since 2015. Officials claimed that around 300 heritage trees were also lost between 2015-16 and 2021-22.

### Wooden ramp to be set up on Marina beach

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 24: The famous Marina beach in Chennai will soon have a wooden ramp, much to the delight of People with disabilities (PwD), and also to social activists who were at the forefront in campaigning for the pathway for differently-abled people.

The ramp will come up opposite the Vivekananda house in Marina beach at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore, sources in Greater Chennai corporation said.

The work will be completed in one month period. The Marina beach will have beach-view chairs, better drinking water facilities,



accessible toilets, and other amenities, officials of the Greater Chennai Corporation said.

The Chennai Corporation had earlier finalised to set up a ramp in Marina beach six years before but the clearances to be obtained from various departments led to the delay in implementing the project.

A temporary wooden ramp was installed at the beach leading to the sea to mark the International Day of the PwD

on December 3, 2021.

of new Covid cases was at 771.

touched 4.6 per cent on Thursday, which is also an indication of the rising number of fresh Covid cases

mark in the state. However, the cases are not grave as the number of admissions is much low across the state. On Thursday, 1063 persons tested positive for Covid, and 35 of the 38 districts of the state reported new

Last time the state crossed the 1000-mark was on February 19 when 1,051 fresh cases were reported. The new cases in the state have increased by 37 per cent when compared to the previous day's number. On Wednesday, the count

The Test Positivity Rate (TPR)

in Tamil Nadu. Presently there are 5,174 persons under treatment

in the state for Covid cases. Tamil Nadu health secretary P. Senthilkumar has already directed all the district collectors and district health officers to be on alert and to prepare themselves for any eventuality. While there is an increase in the number of fresh cases, the number of deaths due to Covid has not increased

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian while speaking to IANS said, "The health department has already directed all the district collectors to be on alert as Covid cases are on the rise in the state. There is no need to worry, but we have to be agile and alert.



#### Fish remains an expensive commodity in Chennai Many fishermen who went ten days for the prices to return to normal. Arul Das, a fisherman for fishing on the Andhra from Chennai, said, "The catch is coast said that they got very less this time. Even after 50

only a small catch and this may be due to the dwindling presence of fish in the sea at

around 10 nautical miles from the Chennai coast towards Andhra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 24: Even after the 61-day fishing ban in Tamil Nadu ended on June 14, fish prices remain high in Chennai and fishermen cite dwindling catch and non-availability of fish as the main reasons.

Sources in the fishing industry said that it may take more than

boats went to the sea, we are not able to get a decent catch. There is a dwindling catch of fish and we have to study in detail as to why there is a reduction in catch.' However, thousands of people thronged markets of Kasimedu, Chindarapet, and Vanagram to buy their favourite fish.

Indian Fishermen Association president Dayalan said, "In the past few days, only 50 boats have arrived. There are 2000 trawler and Gillnet boats in Chennai area alone. We are expecting 150-200 boats going to sea for fishing which will lead to the reduction in prices.

Many fishermen who went for fishing on the Andhra coast said that they got only a small catch and this may be due to the dwindling



presence of fish in the sea at around 10 nautical miles from the Chennai coast towards Andhra. Fish sellers at Kasimedu market said that the prices in the market is more than Rs 200 to Rs 250 than the wholesale market

Syed Mushtak Ali, a businessman at Ashok Nagar in Chennai said, "For those who relish fish and non-vegetarian items, pockets are burning. We were expecting the price of fish to fall after the fishing ban concluded on June 14. I don't know why the prices are high even after fishermen have started going to seas in mechanised boats. My information from the Kasimedu market is that the prices will come down only after ten to 15 days as most of the fishing boats have not commenced voyage. Several fishermen also complained that there is dwindling catch.

## national



BJP wants to hijack every state where it is not in power. It is an attitude of tanashahi (dictatorship) TEJASHWI YADAV | RJD LEADER

#### **SNAKE BITES WOMAN, HUSBAND** TAKES REPTILE ALSO TO HOSPITAL

In a rare incident where a woman was bitten by a snake in her house, her husband caught the reptile and put it in a bottle. He took the woman to the hospital, along with the snake in the bottle. The woman has been admitted to the district hospital where she is being treated





the country's on the other is the arrogance and dictatorship of the Prime Minister, In

The educated

youths need

New India, will only friends be heard and not the heroes of the country

state government is trying provide. In several centra government offices. They publish advertisements for recruiting posts. Subsequently, Goan youths apply for it and give interviews. But if we

observe minutely, they don't get jobs SHRIPAD NAIK UNION MINISTER Some people

have come to Assam. They booked hotels. I am happy for that. You also come, it will help Assam's economy. Through this, Assam's tourism is also getting promoted

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

### SHORT **TAKES**

#### 45.30 % voter turnout in Sangrur LS bypolls

Chandigarh: A low turnout of 45.30 per cent was recorded in the bypolls to Punjab's Sangrui Lok Sabha constituency, state Chief Electoral Officer S Karuna Raju said. Voting was held Thursday from 8 am to 6 pm, and until late evening, the provisional figures stood at 37.01 per cent. Polling officials had earlier said that the numbers might increase once the data was compiled.

#### SP to support **Yashwant Sinha**

Lucknow: The Samajwadi Party (SP) has said that it will support former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha in the upcoming Presidential elections. SF president Akhilesh Yadav, Friday, convened a meeting of all party MPs and legislators and got them to sign forms, for the top post. Akhilesh Yadav also warned his party leaders to beware of efforts that could be made to break opposition unity, especially in view of developments in Maharashtra.

#### 7 foetuses found floating in gutter

Belagavi: In a shocking incident, seven foetuses were found floating in a gutter in Mudalgi town of Karnataka's Belagavi district Friday. According to the police, the foetuses were stuffed in five boxes and thrown into the flowing gutter.

#### UP: 5 die as bus collides with truck

**Lakhimpur Kheri:** At least five people died and around 12 were injured when a bus collided head-on with a truck on the national highway at Unchgaon Adlispur crossing under the Isanagar Police Station area Friday afternoon, police said According to the police, the accident occurred when the bus driver while attempting to overtake a pick-up van collided with the truck coming from the opposite direction.

#### **Parties gearing** up for civic polls

Bangalore: With the Karnataka government announcing the list of 243 wards, the stage is set for the upcoming Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections. Preparations for the prestigious battle have already begun in the ruling BJP, the opposition Congress and regional party JD(S) camps. While the ruling BJP considers the polls as a battle of prestige, the Congress has already undertaken a massive people's movement on the Mekedatu project.

## Murmu seeks support from Sonia, Pawar and Mamata

DROUPADI MURMU'S NOMINATION PAPERS HAVE BEEN SIGNED BY OVER **500 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AS PROPOSERS AND SECONDERS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, UNION MINISTERS** RAJNATH SINGH, AMIT SHAH AND BJP PRESIDENT JP NADDA

President Rajiv Ranjan Singh and

Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel, lead-

ers of NDA constituents were also

present during the filing of her

nomination papers. Leaders of

the Biju Janata Dal and YSR

Congress, who had announced

their support to Murmu, were

The last date for filing nomi-

nations is June 29. Polling will be

held July 18 and the counting of

Four sets of her nomination

papers were filed to Rajya Sabha

Secretary General PC Mody, who

has been designated Returning

votes will take place July 21.

also present.

New Delhi, June 24: The NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu spoke to Congress interim national president Sonia Gandhi, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, and sought their sup-

According to sources, before filing her nomination, Murmu spoke to Sonia Gandhi, Sharad Pawar and Mamata Baneriee besides leaders of several opposition parties and sought their support.

However, the Congress, NCP and Trinamool Congress, along with other opposition parties have already announced Yashwant Sinha as their joint candidate for the Presidential election. Sinha is also preparing to file his nomination June 27.

Droupadi Murmu filed her nomination Friday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior BJP and alliance leaders.

By showing its strength during the nomination, the BJP has proved that it has the numbers to make their candidate the President. In spite of this, the BJP has tried to send a bigger political message by seeking support from the leaders of major opposition parties. Apart from JD(U) National

In the first set, Prime Minister Modi is proposer while Singh and Shah are seconders.

Nadda is proposer in the second set, while Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal and his Himachal Pradesh counterpart Jai Ram Thakur are signatories in third, and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel in the fourth.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his Madhya Pradesh counterpart Shivraj Chouhan, Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai, and Goa's Pramod Sawant are also signatories.

NDA constituents JD(U) leader Rajiy Ranjan Singh better known as Lalan Singh, Apna Dal leader Anurpiya Patel, NPP supremo and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma have also signed the nomination

BJD leaders and Ministers in Odisha government Jagannath Saraka and Tukuni Sahu, YSR Congress leaders Vijaysai Reddy and Midhun Reddy, AIADMK leader O Paneerselvam are also among the signatories. Almost all tribal and women elected representatives of the BJP, Union ministers have signed her nomination.

A candidate requires at least 50 elected representatives as propresidential post.

## Tapan Deka is new IB chief, R&AW head Goel gets one year extension



New Delhi, June 24: Tapan Kumar Deka, the "crisis man" who was put in charge of the counter-assaults during the 26/11 Mumbai attack, was Friday appointed the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) while the tenure of Samant Goel who has been heading the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been extended by one more year.

Deka, who has been handling the operations wing of the IB, takes over as the new chief for a tenure of two years, according to an official order issued by the Personnel Ministry. He is a 1988 batch officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre. He takes over from Arvinda Kumar, who will demit his office June 30 after getting a one-year extension last year.

The fate of A S Rajan, a 1987 batch IPS officer, Special Director in IB, whom Deka has superseded was not known vet. He has a serv-

ice tenure till February next year. The other Special Director Swagat Das was shifted Thursday and posted as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry. The tenure of Samant Goel, who has been heading the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been extended by one more year, the ministry said in another order. With this Goel is the third R&AW chief who has got a tenure of more than

## Agnipath scheme: IAF begins selection process

Unveiling the Agnipath scheme June 14, the government had said youth between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year tenure, while 25 per cent of them will be subsequently inducted for regular service

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 24: The recruitment process in the Indian Air Force under the Agnipath scheme got underway Friday with the opening of the registration window, a week after violent protests rocked several states

"Registration window to apply for #Agniveervayu is operational from 10 am today," the IAF said on Twitter. Unveiling the Agnipath scheme June 14, the government had said youth between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year tenure, while 25 per cent of them will be subsequently inducted for regular service. Several parts of the country witnessed violent protests against the scheme. A number of opposition parties and military experts had slammed the scheme. contending it will adversely impact the operational capabilities of the armed forces.

The government had June 16 increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the scheme to 23 years from 21 for the year 2022. Those recruited under the

Agnipath scheme will be called

'Agniveer'. The Army has said the new scheme will ensure a youthful profile of the defence forces and result in reduction of the average age of soldiers from 32 to 26 years over a period of time.

The three service chiefs have strongly backed the scheme, which was unveiled after over two years of deliberations. The monthly salary of an 'Agniveer' in the first year of employment will be ₹30,000.

The in-hand amount will be ₹21,000 while the rest ₹9,000 will go to a corpus with an equal contribution from the government. Subsequently, the monthly salary in the second, third and fourth year will be ₹33,000, ₹36,500 and ₹40,000. Each 'Agniveer' will get ₹11.71 lakh as 'Seva Nidhi Package' on retirement which will be exempt from income tax. The four-year tenure under the new scheme will include around two-and-half months to six months of training



#### Rahul's office in **Wayanad vandalised**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 24: Activists of Kerala's ruling CPI-M's student wing, SFI, vandalised Congress leader and local MP Rahul Gandhi's office in Wayanad Friday, and also assaulted a staffer, even as police stood by the Congress alleged.

A staff member at Rahul Gandhi's office was beaten up, said Congress' Wayanad district President N.D. Appachen.

The protesters were apparently angry as Rahul Gandhi, who is the Wayanad MP, failed to act on the issue of 'buffer zone' of eco-sensi-

They shouted slogans that Wayanad doesn't need a 'visiting' MP. The hilly district of Wayanad has various ecologically fragile places. Reacting to the incident, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said: "Kerala is a place where people can protest in a democratic manner, but under no circumstances, should it (the protest) turn violent and if it does, then it's not acceptable. Strict action will be taken against the wrongdoers.

Appachen said Friday that when he came to know about the SFI's likely protest march, he called up the top district police official and said that adequate security should be provided. "The police were mere onlookers and did nothing. This is the way Chief Minister Vijayan acts, when he failed to do anything on the buffer zone, the students' wing of his party does this. It's deplorable," he said.

Officer for the presidential election posers and the same number of July 18, each having 60 or more proseconders for nomination of the posers and seconders



Bihar Assembly in Patna

### Naidu administers oath to 5 newly-elected RS MPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu Friday administered oath to five newly-elected MPs from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.

The oath was administered in the Rajya Sabha chamber in Parliament House here. Those who took oath are Niranjan Reddy Sirgapoor and Ryaga Krishnaiah

(both of YSRCP) from Andhra Pradesh. Damodar Rao Divakonda and B Parthasaradhi Reddy (both of TRS) from Telangana and Niranjan Bishi (of BJD) from

While Krishnaiah, Divakonda and Reddy took oath in Telugu. Sirgapoor did so in English. Bishi has been elected to the Rajya Sabha in the bypoll to fill the casual vacancy caused in the Rajya Sabha due to resignation of Subhash Chandra Singh. He took oath in Oriya.

Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and External Affairs V Muraleedharan. Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha P C Mody and other senior officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat were present. The MPs were elected unopposed from the respective

### Dual power structure not in force: AIADMK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 24: The AIADMK's dominant Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) faction Friday asserted that the system of dual leadership, that vested powers on Coordinator O Panneerselvam (OPS) and Joint Coordinator EPS ceased to be in force, a day after the General Council stood firm on the single leadership demand.

Amendments -related to top two party posts-made to party by-laws December 1, 2021 were not ratified by the General Council which met 23.2022, senior June leader and EPS loyalist, C Ve Shanmugam said

Last year, by-laws were tweaked to retain and further strengthen the dual system of leadership, favouring OPS and EPS. After the bylaws were amended, OPS and EPS were declared elected unopposed as Coordinator and Co-Coordinator. Such amendments made it manda-

tory that the nominees to the two top posts of Coordinator and Joint Coordinator should be elected by the party's primary members through a single vote, Shanmugam told reporters.

However, since these amendments related to the top two party posts were not recognised and endorsed by the General Council Thursday, these top two positions have now become defunct, he said. Hence, OPS is no longer the Coordinator and EPS ceases to be the Joint-Coordinator.

The duo continue to hold on to their other posts of Treasurer (OPS) and Headquarters Secretary (EPS) only, Shanmugam, a former Law Minister said extensively quoting from the party's rule book.

The assertion makes it clear that the EPS faction is determined to move forward and make EPS the numero uno, supreme leader July 11, when the General Council is scheduled to meet again.



## Covid vax prevented over 42L deaths in India: Lancet

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 24: Vaccines developed to fight Covid-19 helped prevent more than 42 lakh potential deaths in India in 2021, according to a mathematical modelling study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

The estimates based on excess deaths from 185 countries and territories showed that globally 19.8 million out of a potential 31.4 million Covid-19 fatalities were prevented in the first year of the vac-

cination programme. A further 599,300 lives could have been saved if the World Health Organisation's target of vaccinating 40 per cent of the population in each country with two or more doses by the end of 2021 had been met.

Since the first Covid-19 vaccine was administered outside of a clinical trial setting December 8, 2020, almost two thirds of the world's population has received at least one dose of a Covid vaccine (66 per cent).

Despite the incredible speed of the vaccine roll-out worldwide, more than 3.5 million Covid deaths have been reported.

However, the team found that, based on officially recorded Covid deaths, an estimated 18.1 million deaths would have occurred during the study period if vaccinations had not been implemented.

The Covid-19 Vaccine Access initiative (COVAX) has facilitated



**Our findings show** that millions of lives have likely been saved by making vaccines available to people everywhere, regardless of their wealth. However, more could have been done. If the targets set out by the WHO had been achieved, we estimate that roughly 1 in 5 of the estimated lives lost due to Covid-19 in low-income countries could have been prevented

DR OLIVER WATSON I LEAD AUTHOR FROM

access to affordable vaccines for lower income countries to try to reduce inequalities, with an initial

target of giving two vaccine doses to 20 per cent of the population in countries covered by the commitment by the end of 2021.

The WHO expanded this target by setting a global strategy to fully vaccinate 70 per cent of the world's population by mid-2022, with an interim target of vaccinating 40 per cent of the population of all countries by the end of 2021.

"Ensuring fair access to vaccines is crucial, but requires more than just donating vaccines. Improvements in vaccine distribution and infrastructure, as well as coordinated efforts to combat vaccine misinformation and improve vaccine demand, are needed. Only then can we ensure that everyone.

## international



**Our first motive is** to provide relief to the masses and to reduce the burden of inflation on the people and facilitate them. Our second motive is to protect the country from going bankrupt SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PM

#### **UNDER THREAT**

The most iconic landmark of the US state of Utah, the Great Salt Lake is rapidly disappearing and on the verge of becoming an environmental disaster zone, according to experts





multiple famines will be declared in 2022 Harvests across Asia, Americas will take a hit

as farmers around the world struggle to cope with rising fertilizer and energy prices

ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

making in the democratised so that the global challenges can be addressed effectively



week has not been officially decided by the government yet





#### Two killed in China

Beijing: Two people involved in testing for the electric car brand NIO died when one of its vehicles fell three stories from a Shanghai parking structure, the company said Friday. The crash Thursday was under investigation but appeared to be an accident and "not caused by the vehicle," the company said in a statement. It said the employees who died were "digital cabin testers," one from NIO and the other from a partner. The vehicle fell from the third floor of a parking structure adjacent to the company's Shanghai Innovation Port building, the company said.

#### Four dead in plane crash

Moscow: A Russian military cargo plane crashed Friday, killing at least four crewmembers and leaving several others injured, officials said. The heavylift II-76 cargo plane went down in the southwestern Ryazan region. The Russian Defense Ministry said that the plane suffered an engine problem that forced the crew to crashland it on the ground. The regional administration said that four of its crew were killed and a further five were injured when the plane slammed into a field just outside the city of Ryazan. Officials said that those injured were hospitalised in grave condition.

#### Australian PM to meet Macron

Canberra: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese Friday confirmed he will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron in a bid to "reset" relations. Albanese said that he has accepted Macron's invitation to visit France, reports Xinhua news agency. It comes weeks after Albanese announced his new government had agreed to pay French shipbuilder Naval Group around A\$830 million (\$573 million) in compensation for a cancelled submarine contract. The relationship between Australia and France deteriorated when former Prime Minister Scott Morrison scrapped the deal.

#### Wildfire under control: Erdogan

Ankara (Turkey): A windstoked wildfire that has been raging near a popular resort in southwestern Turkey has been largely brought under control, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday. The blaze erupted on Tuesday in the Bordubet region, near Marmaris on the Aegean Sea coast, and spread rapidly, blackening swaths of pine people from their homes.

### **DRAMATIC STEP** US Supreme Court strikes down abortion rights

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 24: The Supreme Court has ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. Friday's outcome is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half

The decision, unthinkable just a few years ago, was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump.

The ruling came more than a  $month\,after\,the\,stunning\,leak\,of\,\,a$ draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step. It puts the court at odds with a maiority of Americans who favored

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

by-elections.

London, June 24: British Prime

Minister Boris Johnson Friday

vowed to "keep going" amid a triple

blow to his leadership after the

Conservative Party chairman and

one of his close allies stepped down

following crushing defeats for the

governing party in two important

more we've got to do and we cer-

tainly will, we will keep going,

addressing the concerns

of people until we get

through this patch,

Johnson, 58, said

on the sidelines of

Commonwealth

Meeting (CHOGM) in

the Rwandan capital

Government

Heads

of Kigali.

'We've got to recognise there is

"It's absolutely true we've had

some tough by-election results...

I think as a government I've got to

listen to what people are saving.

in particular to the difficulties

people are facing over the cost of

living, which I think for most peo-

ple is the number one issue. We're

now facing pressures on the cost

of living, we're seeing spikes in fuel

prices, energy costs, food costs -

His statement came as the

Tories lost Wakefield in the north

of England to the Opposition

Labour Party and Tiverton and

that's hitting people," he said.

preserving Roe, according to opin-

Alito, in the final opinion issued Friday, wrote that Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the 1992 decision that reaffirmed the right to abortion, were wrong the day they were decided and must be over-

"We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision," Alito wrote. Authority to regulate abortion rests with the political branches, not the courts, Alito wrote.

Joining Alito were Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. The latter three justices are Trump appointees. Thomas first voted to overrule Roe 30 years ago. Chief Justice John Roberts would

have stopped short of ending the

Honiton in southern England

went to the Liberal Democrats

Both polls were seen as a de

facto referendum on Johnson's

leadership of the party and as

UK PM in the wake of the party-

gate scandal of COVID law-breach-

ing parties under his watch at

Conservative Party chairman

and one of Johnson's close allies,

the leader.

tressed and disappointed by recent

events, and I share their feel-

ings... Somebody must take re-

sponsibility and I have concluded

that, in these circumstances, it

would not be right for me to re-

Dowden is the first Cabinet

minister to step down amid on-

going Tory backbench discontent

over Boris Johnson's leadership

following scathing findings of

the partygate report last month,

which prompted 148 Tory MPs to

oppose the PM in a vote of no

confidence earlier this month.

main in office," he said.

The poll defeat led to

Oliver Dowden, stepping

down."We cannot carry

on with business as

Dowden in his res-

ignation letter,

which is being in-

terpreted as a

sign for the rest

of the Cabinet to

join him in toppling

"Our supporters are dis-

overnight on Thursday.

Downing Street

**CRUSHING BLOW** 

**British PM Johnson** 

vows to 'keep going'

got to recognise

there is more we've

got to do and we certainly

will, we will keep going,

addressing the concerns of

people until we get

through this patch

have upheld the Mississippi law at the heart of the case, a ban on abortion after 15 weeks, and said no more. Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — the diminished liberal wing of the court — were in dissent.

"With sorrow—for this Court but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection—we dissent," they wrote. The ruling is expected to disproportionately affect minority women who already face limited access to health care, according to statistics analysed by The Associated Press.

Thirteen states, mainly in the South and Midwest, already have laws on the books that ban abortion in the event Roe is overturned. Another half-dozen states have near-total bans or prohibitions after 6 weeks of pregnancy, before many women know they are preg-

In roughly a half-dozen other states, the fight will be over dormant abortion bans that were enacted before Roe was decided in 1973 or new proposals to sharply limit when abortions can be performed, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

More than 90% of abortions take place in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy, and more than half are now done with pills, not surgery, according to data compiled by Guttmacher.

#### **Germany abolishes** Nazi-era abortion law

Berlin, June 24: Germany Friday abolished a Nazi-era law forbidding doctors from providing information about abortions.

The Bundestag lower house of parliament voted to scrap the law, meaning doctors are now allowed to give out additional information about abortions with out fear of prosecution.



Under the law, doctors in Germany had been allowed to say that they offered termination of pregnancies but they were not allowed to give any further details on the procedures involved.

Technically, abortion is illegal altogether in Germany. However, it is allowed under certain circumstances, and the procedure must be performed within 12 weeks of conception.

"For almost a century, doctors have been forbidden and punishable by penalty from providing factual information about methods and possible risks to women who are considering terminating a pregnancy," Justice Minister Marco Buschmann said in a statement. "Today, this time of distrust in women and distrust in doctors is coming to an

Any criminal court sentences handed down based on the law since October 1990 will also be repealed, and any ongoing proceedings will be discontinued. The new government had laid out its plans to eliminate the law in the coalition agreement signed

abortion right, noting that he would

### **SERIES OF MEASURES**

## Senate passes gun safety bill

REUTERS

Washington, June 24: A bipartisan package of modest gun safety measures passed the US Senate late on Thursday even as the Supreme Court broadly expanded gun rights by ruling Americans have a constitutional right to carry handguns in public for self-defense

The landmark court ruling and Senate action on gun safety illustrate the deep divide over firearms in the United States, weeks after mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York, killed more than 30 people, including 19 children.

The Senate bill, approved in a 65-33 vote, is the first significant gun control legislation to pass in three decades, in a country with the highest gun ownership per capita in the world and the highest number of mass shootings an-



nually among wealthy nations. "This bipartisan legislation will help protect Americans. Kids in schools and communities will be safer because of it," President Joe Biden said following the vote. "The House of Representatives should promptly vote on this bipartisan bill

and send it to my desk. The bill, which supporters say will save lives, is modest - its most important restraint on gun ownership would tighten background convicted of domestic violence or significant crimes as juveniles. Republicans refused to com-

promise on more sweeping gun control measures favored by Democrats including Biden, such as a ban on assault-style rifles or high-capacity magazines. This is not a cure-all for the

ways gun violence affects our nation, but it is a long overdue step in the right direction," Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on the floor ahead of the vote. The Supreme Court ruling earlier on Thursday, pushed through by its conservative majority, struck down New York state's limits on carrying concealed handguns outside the home. The court found that the law, en-

acted in 1913, violated a person's right to "keep and bear arms" under the U.S. Constitution's

## Aftershock in Afghanistan; toll rises

#### **MORE MISERY**

Friday, Pakistan's Meteorological Department reported a new, 4.2 magnitude quake that state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported took five more lives in hard-hit Gayan District and injured 11 people

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gavan (Afghanistan), June 24: An aftershock took more lives Friday and threatened to pile even more misery on an area of eastern Afghanistan reeling from a powerful earthquake that state media said killed 1,150 people this week.

Among the dead from Wednesday's magnitude 6 quake are 121 children, but that figure is expected to climb, said Mohamed Ayoya, UNICEF's representative in Afghanistan. He said close to 70 children



An Afghan woman is helped to reach an evacuation helicopter after she lost some of her relatives in an earthquake in Gayan, Afghanistan

That earthquake struck a remote, mountainous region already grappling with staggering poverty at a time when the country as a whole is spiraling deeper into economic crisis after many countries pulled back critical financing and development aid in the wake of the Taliban's takeover. Friday, Pakistan's Meteorological

Department reported a new, 4.2 magnitude quake that state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported took five more lives in hard-hit Gayan District and injured 11 people. International aid had been keeping the country afloat, and its withdrawal left millions unable to afford food and further strained already struggling medical fa-

cilities. Nearly half the population of 38 million cannot meet their basic food needs, while some civil servants, like doctors, nurses and teachers, weren't paid for months because the Taliban government is unable to access frozen foreign reserves. Salary delays continue throughout the public Afghanistan's international

isolation is also complicating relief efforts since fewer aid organizations have a presence in the country, and international sanctions on Afghan banks make it difficult to send cash into the country. Despite waivers from the U.S.

Treasury Department that allow money to be sent to aid groups, banks are hesitant to handle such transactions for fear of running afoul of rules anyway.

Aid groups lament that means they have to pay local staff with bags of cash, physically carried into the country by their staff and then distributed throughout the provinces in person.

The process is expensive, incurring fees along the way for transport and security.

## Pak under scrutiny as UK detects poliovirus after 4 decades

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME NATIONAL COORDINATOR DR SHAHZAD BAIG SAID THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY THE VIRUS HAD TRAVELLED FROM PAKISTAN. AS UK AUTHORITIES WERE YET TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF GENOME SEQUENCING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 24: Pakistan's vaccination programme has come under suspicion after the detection of poliovirus in sewage samples in London for the first time in four decades, according to a media report Friday.

The UK Health Security Agency has noted that the virus detected on Thursday was probably imported from some country, and has asked parents to ensure their children were fully immunised against the crippling disease.

Health authorities in Islamabad claim the "vaccine-derived virus" found in the UK exists in 22 countries and the type found locally

was the wild poliovirus (WPV). Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme National Coordinator Dr Shahzad Baig said that it was too early to say the virus had travelled from Pakistan, as UK authorities were yet to announce the results of genome sequencing.

Genome sequencing helps determine the origin of a virus, as samples detected in different areas have a different ribonucleic acid (RNA). A number of times, cases reported in Pakistan were reported to have originated from neighbouring Afghanistan during genome sequencing.

"We are waiting for the genetic sampling report of the virus. Moreover, there are two types of po-



lioviruses in the world: WPV which

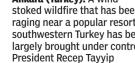
Afghanistan, and the vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV).

"The environmental samples in London were found to be of the VDPV, which exists in 22 countries, so Pakistan should not be blamed for exporting it before getting the report of genetic sequencing," Baig said.

He said the vaccine-derived variety may have travelled from Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan, Central Africa and a number of other countries. An expert from the Ministry of National Health Services, who was not authorised to speak on the record, said there were three types of WPV, the report said.

"Decades ago, a vaccine named 'Trivalent' was used as it contained all the three types. After the eradication of type II in 2016, a 'Bivalent' vaccine was introduced with types I and III of the WPV. "However, in 2020, the type II remerged suddenly due to which it was feared that the virus had the potential to resurface. This second type of the virus is called the VDPV, as it was totally eradicated from the world," he The oral polio vaccine (OPV)

contains an attenuated (weakened) vaccine virus, activating an immune response in the human body. When a child is administered the OPV, the weakened vaccine virus replicates (grows) in the intestine for a limited period, thereby developing immunity by building up antibodies, the expert said.



forest and driving hundreds of

is present in Pakistan and

## business



**Now, Government is saying** it will try to keep the FD at 6.7 per cent, same as the level in 2021-22. High FD, high inflation, huge FPI outflows, depreciating rupee, depletion of forex reserves -- what do they point to? Is the Indian economy in the pink of health P CHIDAMBARAM | FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

#### **ZOMATO TO BUY BLINKIT**

India's Zomato Ltd said Friday it will buy local grocery-delivery startup Blinkit (formerly known as Grofers) for Rs 44.47 billion in an all-stock deal as the food-delivery firm looks to take advantage of the booming quick delivery market



reduction initiatives

optimisation with a stated aim of becoming a net debt-free company

CHAIRMAN & MD, RAYMOND

We've seen considerable demand, especially from metros such as Bangalore and the (Delhi) NCR region

that have a higher percentage of urban population and a larger percentage of the population residing in apartment communities

PAVITHRA RAO CO-FOUNDER, WATERSCIENCE

delighted to partner with AMC Networks and offer our viewers an of popular and

blockbuster English content

CHAITANYA DIVAN | HEAD OF CHANNELS, AMAZON PRIME VIDEO INDIA

#### **SHORT TAKES**

#### Rupee at fresh low

New Delhi: The rupee slips by 1 paisa to close provisionally at a new all-time low of 78.33 against the US dollar. On a volatile trade day, the rupee started Friday with gains but ended at its record low, marking the third day in a row of lifetime-low close. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and finally settled at its all-time low of 78.33, down 1 paisa from its previous close.

#### Ola EV's new feat

New Delhi: Electric twowheeler maker Ola Electric Friday said it has crossed Rs 500 crore revenue in the first two months of FY2022-23. Amid reports that the company's sales have slowed down. Ola Electric asserted that it is on track to cross the \$1 hillion (over Rs. 7,800 crore) revenue by the reports said Ola S1 Pro registration fell to 9,196 units in May this year from 12,683 units in April.

#### OYO's latest offer

New Delhi: Travel and hospitality technology platform, OYO Friday announced up to 60 per cent reduction in charges from June 27 to July 3, 2022 for small businesses on their stay in its member hotels. The scheme, available for small and medium scale businesses, is being offered on the occasion of World MSME Day, the company said in a statement.

#### **New Pulsar variant**

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto Friday announced the launch of an all-black variant of its Pulsar 250 model with dual-channel ABS (anti-lock braking system). Pulsar N250 (Naked Streetfighter) and Pulsar F250 (Semi-Faired Street Racer) are priced at around Rs 1.50 lakh (Ex-showroom Delhi), the company said in a statement. The company also said that it has delivered 10,000 units in less than six months of the bike's launch.

#### \$100mn cyber heist

Washington: US crypto firm Harmony said Friday that thieves stole around \$100 million worth of digital coins from one of its key products, the latest in a string of cyber heists on a sector long targeted by hackers. Harmony develops blockchains for so-called decentralised finance - peerto-peer sites that offer loans and other services without the traditional gatekeepers such as banks - and nonfungible tokens.

#### Forex reserves plummet \$11bn in three weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 24: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$5.87 billion to \$590.588 billion in the week ended June 17, the RBI data showed.

This is the third straight week of fall in forex reserves after a temporary reversal. In the last three weeks, reserves dwindled by \$10.785 billion to \$590.588 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday.

In the previous week ended June 10, the reserves had dropped by \$4.599 billion to \$596.458 billion.

In the reporting week, the forex reserves fell due to a dip in foreign current assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, and also in gold reserves, the data showed. FCA decreased by \$5.362 billion to \$526.882 billion.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves fell by \$258 million to \$40.584 billion.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dropped by \$233 million to \$18.155 billion in the week ended June 17.

The country's reserve position with the IMF also dipped by \$17 million to \$4.968 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

## 'Inflation to breach 6% for 3 quarters'

RBI has already raised the key policy rate by 90 basis points in May and June to 4.9% to tame high inflation, mainly due to supply disruptions on account of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 24: India's retail inflation is likely to breach the mandated inflation target band of 2-6% for three straight quarters but is showing indications of peaking, Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Michael Patra said Friday.

'The RBI Act mandates that in case the inflation target is not met for three consecutive quarters. which is the likely scenario, the RBI shall set out a report to the central government and in that report it will state the reasons for failure to achieve the inflation target." Patra said.

Retail inflation eased marginally in May, after touching an eightyear high of 7.79% in April, but remained above the central bank's tolerance band of 2-6% for a fifth month in a row.

"Against this backdrop, it is our hope that required monetary policy actions in India will be more



Not targeting any Retail inflation eased marginally in May, after level, but RBI will touching an eight-year high of 7.79% in April not allow 'jerky RBI had also raised the inflation projection to 6.7% movements' of for the current FY from 5.7% earlier Rupee: Dy Guv

moderate than elsewhere in the world and that we will be able to bring inflation back to target within a two-year time span. If the monsoon brings with it a more benign outlook on food prices, India would have tamed the inflation crisis even earlier." he said.

Patra, who was speaking at an event organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said core measures of inflation were showing signs of second-round effects which warranted monetary action.

The RBI, however, is hopeful that any further monetary policy steps will be more moderate compared to the global tightenings, he

Patra said internal research has showed that growth is "unambiguously impaired" when inflation exceeds 6%, making it imperative to act on price pressures

GOVERNOR, RBI

**Until December**,

the upper tolerance

6% as per our current

**CPI** is expected to

High inflation has hurt the rupee and pushed it to record lows while bond yields have been rising on expectations of aggressive monetary policy tight ening and a record government borrowing programme.

The deputy governor said the RBI will defend the rupee from extreme volatility and not allow any "ierky or disorderly movements"

While describing the current level of bond yields "uncomfortably high", Patra said the RBI would take necessary measures to ensure yields move in an orderly fashion and the government's borrowing requirement is smoothly completed.

## Govt sets crash 'Star Ratings' for vehicles

Gadkari stressed that Star Ratings of Indian cars based on crash tests is extremely crucial not only to ensure structural and passenger safety, but to also increase the export-worthiness of Indian automobiles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: To boost road safety in India, Union minister Nitin Gadkari Friday said the new car assessment program - Bharat NCAP, proposes a mechanism wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded 'Star Ratings' based upon their performance in crash tests.

In a series of tweets, Gadkari said the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) will serve as a consumercentric platform, allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their Star-Ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in India to manufacture safer vehicles.

"I have now approved the draft GSR notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in crash tests," he said.

The testing protocol of Bharat



NCAP shall be aligned with global crash-test protocols factoring in the existing Indian regulations, allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India's own in-house testing facilities, Gadkari said.

According to him, Bharat NCAP will prove to be a critical instrument in making our automobile industry Aatmanirbhar with the mission of making India the top automobile hub in

Bharat NCAP will encourage manufacturers to participate voluntarily in the safety testing assessment programme and incorporate higher safety levels in new car models. The proposed assessment will allocate Star Ratings from 1 to 5 stars.

The initiative is aimed at making mobility safer amid the country witnessing a total of 3,66,138 road accidents during the calendar year 2020, causing 1,31,714 deaths. Recently, Gadkari had said the government has set a target to reduce 50 per cent road accident deaths by 2024.

### Rlys assets to be e-auctioned for commercial earning, NFR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: In a boost for small entrepreneurs and start-ups, the railways has brought its commercial earning and non-fare revenue contracts online, with no financial turnover requirement for annual contracts of up to Rs 40 lakh.

In line with the prevailing eauction of scrap sale, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched e-auction for commercial earning and non-fare revenue (NFR) contracts Friday. "This policy is in line with the

vision of the prime minister to change the experience of the common man by the use of technology. With this new policy, the tedious process of tendering would get simplified. Also, it would give opportunities to youngsters to join the e-auction process. This policy enhances ease of living, promotes transparency and adds to Digital India initiatives in the railways,' Vaishnaw said.

The earning assets up for auction will be parcel vans, pay-and-use toilets, advertisement rights on station circulating areas and coaches, air-conditioned waiting rooms, cloak rooms, parking lots, plastic bottle crushers, ATMs, station co-branding, video screens for content on demand etc.

These assets will be mapped location-wise on the portal once and the system will remember forever if it is covered for earning or not. This will improve the monitoring of assets on a real-time basis and minimise asset-idling.

In the e-auction process, a bidder from anywhere in the coun-



A pilot for the project was launched in 11 divisions of nine railway zones. A total of 80 deals of a combined value of ₹128 crore were finalised

try needs to self-register once for participating in the auctions of any field unit of the Indian Railways through the portal. Bids can be placed remotely for the management rights of an asset after depositing the earnest money (EMD) electronically.

A successful bidder would be able to receive acceptance online and through e-mail in a very short span of time. Except the requirement of financial turnover, as such all the eligibility criteria have been removed.

"Further, the financial requirement has been relaxed to a great extent. There is no financial turnover requirement for annual contracts of up to Rs 40 lakh," the minister The e-auction will be conducted

online through the "E-Auction Leasing" module of IREPS --

#### **EDIBLE OIL CRUNCH**

## Rice bran becomes hot commodity

**RICE BRAN OIL IS POPULAR AMONG HEALTH-CONSCIOUS CONSUMERS BUT HISTORICALLY MORE EXPENSIVE THAN RIVAL OILS** 

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 24: Rice bran has in India as the world's biggest importer of vegetable oils tries to overcome an edible oil shortage caused by global supply disruptions.

Rice bran oil accounts for a small portion of overall vegoil consumption in India but is one of the fastest-growing among edible oils, industry officials say, and production and imports are set to increase to meet the demand.

The recent rally in global edible oil prices fuelled by Indonesia's restrictions on palm oil exports and disruptions to sunflower oil shipments from Ukraine has wiped out rice bran oil's traditional premium over rival oils. That has triggered a surge in demand for bran oil which has similar taste properties to sunflower oil.

As sunflower oil imports plunged from Ukraine, consumers started replacing it with rice bran oil, said



BV Mehta, secretary general of the International Association of Rice Bran Oil (IARBO). India usually fulfills more than two-thirds of its sunflower oil requirements through imports from Ukraine.

"Because of Covid-19, I was looking for healthier food options. I first used rice bran oil for health benefits six months ago and since

then I've been using it," said Aditi Sharma, a Mumbai-based homemaker, who switched to rice bran oil from sunflower oil. "It tastes good and is good for

health as well," Sharma said, referring to the oil's cholestrollowering and anti-oxidative properties. In India, rice bran oil is now trading at Rs 1,47,000 per tonne compared with sunflower oil at Rs 1,70,000.

Rice bran oil usually commands around a 25% premium over other oils, but in recent months has been cheaper than imported vegetable oils, making it more affordable for the masses, according to data compiled by Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA)

#### JSW UTKAL STEEL TO RELOCATE 200 SAL TREES FOR PIPELINE Bhubaneswar: With environment

conservation as core value, JSW Utkal Steel in association with Keonihar Forest Division has decided to relocate about 200 Sal trees on National Highway-20 for the proposed slurry pipeline. As part of the process, the company will



undertake relocation of grown Sal trees to be felled over the area identified by the Forest Department preferable along the NH-215 (now N11-20). This relocation initiative for grown trees in a scientific manner has been undertaken to contain tree felling from the unavoidable development projects that are underway. It can be mentioned that JSW Utkal Steel Limited (JUSL) has proposed to lay one of the world's largest slurry pipeline system for transportation of iron ore fines from its proposed grinding, de-sliming plants and slurry pumping station at Gobardhanpur, Barbil Tahasil in Keonjhar District to propose Integrated Steel Plant at Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur.

#### **SAVEX BRINGS IN MARKET** LEADERS FOR SMART SOLUTIONS

**Bhubaneswar:** Savex Technologies Private Limited, one of the largest information and communication technology distributor in India Friday brought three market innovators and leaders Zoom, Poly and Freshworks to showcase a

occasion of Collaboration Tech



Day, the three market leaders were brought together to showcase each of their smart collaboration tools. Savex took the opportunity to showcase the use of various solutions to drive innovation. The demo organized Friday include virtual receptionist and workspace reservation, large meeting rooms, medium to small meetings rooms, personal workspace, which is set to open a wide spectrum of Zoom usages in various businesses not known before. Executives from IT & other departments of Odisha were present at the event.

## Toyota, Suzuki take hybrid route in India for local, global markets

**BUILDING THE MODEL IS PART OF A BROADER PARTNERSHIP FORMED BETWEEN** THE TWO JAPANESE **AUTOMAKERS IN 2017** 

New Delhi, June 24: Toyota Motor Corp and Suzuki Motor Corp Friday said they would begin production of hybrid vehicles in India, a category that Toyota has said is currently best suited to such markets.

A Toyota plant in southern India would in August begin building a hybrid sport utility vehicle (SUV) developed by Suzuki, the companies said.

Two power trains would be available, they said: one with a mild hybrid configuration from Suzuki and the other as a strong hybrid from Toyota. In a mild hybrid, the battery only assists the piston engine, without the all-electric mode available in a strong hybrid.

Green investors have criticised Toyota, the world's largest carmaker by sales, for slowness in moving its product line-up to allelectric, battery electric vehicles (BEVs).

But the company has argued that hybrids make more sense in markets where infrastructure is not ready for BEVs and that it needs to offer a variety of choices.

committed in March to investing he new SUV, which

\$1.4 billion in the has not been named, country to produce will be marketed as botl a Toyota and a Suzuki

batteries production hub for EV parts is generated by burning coal or other fossil fuel. Since BEVs rely

We recognise that it is a big milestone toward further deepening our collaboration in the future. We appreciate the support from Toyota, and at the same time, will explore new synergy and business opportunities through continuous collaboration TOSHIHIRO SUZUKI | PRESIDENT, SUZUKI

By leveraging the respective strengths of Toyota and Suzuki to provide Indian customers with a variety of options, we hope to contribute to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and realize a society where no-one is left behind and everyone can move freely

AKIO TOYODA | PRESIDENT, TOYOTA

India wants carmakers to build more electric models but the uptake for such vehicles so far has been slow, and only Tata Motors builds

them locally. Suzuki committed in March to investing \$1.4 billion in the country to produce BEVs and batteries, but its local unit, Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest carmaker, has said it will not launch a fully electric vehicle before 2025.

Toyota is also focused on setting up a supply chain for electric vehicles in India before making BEVs there. It said in May it would invest more than \$600 million to make India a global productionhub for EV parts, including electric drives.



Toyota last year committed to spending \$60 billion by 2030 to electrify its range of vehicle models, but only half of that is for the devel opment of fully electrics ones.

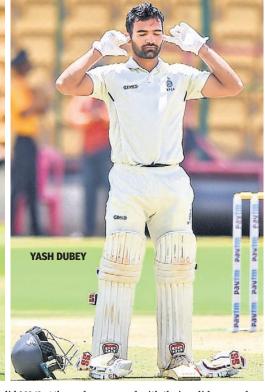
oyota to invest more

than \$600 million to

make India a global

## Twin tons deflate Mumbai





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 24: Unheralded Yash Dubey (133, 336b, 14x4) and Shubham Sharma (116, 215b, 15x4, 1x6) made the biggest stage of Indian domestic cricket their own with well-crafted centuries, that pulled the rug from under heavyweights Mumbai's feet as Madhya Pradesh took a giant leap towards their maiden Ranji Trophy title, here Friday.

Mumbai's first innings score of 374 looked reasonably good on the second day but Dubey and Sharma added 222 runs for the second wicket

of day three.

MP now need only seven more runs to take a decisive first innings lead and unless they suffer a collapse in the fourth innings, the title is theirs for taking. MP had lost to Karnataka when the last time they competed in a Ranji Trophy final in the 1998-99 season.

The duo took the sting out of Mumbai attack with some 'khadoos' (stubborn) batting straight out of Chandrakant Pandit's coaching play book as 245 runs were scored through the whole day but more effectively, they ran Mumbai attack

to take MP to a solid 368/3 at the end

ragged with their solid game plan. Rajat Patidar, one of the heroes of RCB's campaign in the IPL, then used his new-found confidence to

score an unbeaten 67 (106b, 13x4). MP would certainly want to stretch their innings as much as possible so that Mumbai have no chance to make a comeback in the

The Chinnaswamy Stadium track didn't show signs of wear and tear and the bright sunshine only helped the MP batters to settle down easily against a Mumbai attack which was at one level or-

their left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (1/117 in 40 overs), who bowled too many loose deliveries. Veteran Dhawal Kulkarni (21-3-51-0) and the seasoned Tushar Deshpande (24-8-73-1) were also

morning session. Instead of conjuring up maiden overs and building the pressure slowly, within first half an hour, they allowed Dubey and Sharma to easily hit multiple cover drives to get their eve in.

below-par as they consistently gave

drivable length the batters in the

That Dubey (613 runs) and Sharma (578 runs) have been standout performers for MP this season was evident in their on-field communication, where they would tap the ball towards mid-on or mid-off to steal those quick singles.

People remember boundaries but Dubey and Sharma ran 76 singles between them in their double-hundred plus partnership.

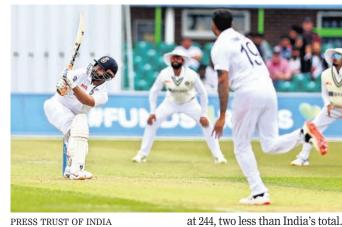
Dubey in fact after scoring his hundred did repeat the 'Sidhu Moosewala' celebration (thigh thump and index finger pointed towards sky) but it was more about driving home a point for Sarfaraz Khan, who was sledging the duo.

By the time, Sharma was caught behind off Avasthi and Dubey gave Mulani something to cheer after another 72-run third wicket stand, some of the Mumbai players were on their hunches. Patidar was smashing them for fun and the writing is clearly on the Wall.

**BRIEF SCORES** Mumbai 374; Madhya Pradesh 368/3 (Yash Dubey 133,

Shubham Sharma 116, Rajat Patidar 67 batting; Mohit Avasthi 1/53). Match to continue.

## Warm-up game: Pant steals show on Day 2



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leicester, June 24: Rishabh Pant decided to rise in the west after his woes in the sub-continent, batting in his signature attacking manner to hog the limelight on the second day of the warm-up match between India and Leicestershire here.

One among four India players to turn out for the English county side in the practice match meant to help the visitors acclimatise with the conditions, Pant knocked his way to an entertaining 76 off 87 balls at Grace Road, During his 154-minute stay in the middle, Pant entertained the crowd with 14 boundaries and a six.

Responding to India's 246/8 declared after a day of multiple rain interruptions, Leicestershire were primed to take a sizable lead over the tourists when Pant was in his element. But the possibility died down with Pant's dismissal, thanks to a good catch by Shreyas Iyer off the bowling of left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeia.

This was after they were reeling at 138/6 at one stage of the innings. Leicestershire's first innings ended

Meanwhile, seamer Mohammad Shami was seen jumping on Cheteshwar Pujara's back to celebrate his wicket, even as the batter walked back to the dressing room smiling. Pujara, who was out for a duck, is part of the Leicestershire XI in the match.

The 24-year-old Pant, who oversaw the Indian team's excellent comeback in the T20I series against South Africa at home but struggled to score runs and got out in identical fashion, played some fine shots here Friday.

Among the Indian bowlers, Shami and Jadeja were the most successful with figures of 3/42 and 3/28 respectively. There were two wickets apiece for Shardul Thakur, who was taken to the task by Pant and Co. and Mohammed Sirai.

Srikar Bharat (31 batting) and Shubman Gill (38) added 62 runs for the first wicket when India batted the second time in the four-day match. Hanuma Vihari (9) was giving Bharat company when the stumps were drawn with India ahead by 82 runs. India were 84/1

## PCB to challenge extended window

Lahore, June 24: Feeling "shortchanged", the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to challenge the proposed two-and-a-half month expanded window for the IPL.

PCB chairman Ramiz Raja said that the issue will be raised at the next ICC conference. "There has been no announcement or decision as yet on the IPL window being increased. I will give my views on this issue at the ICC conference," Raja said during a media conference here Friday.

"My point is clear: if there is any development in world cricket that means we are being shortchanged, we will challenge it in a very forceful manner and put our point across strongly in the ICC," he said.

The PCB's decision to officially challenge the decision comes weeks after BCCI secretary, Jay Shah, in an exclusive interview to this news agency said that the Indian board will be getting an extended window for the IPL in the ICC's next FTP cycle starting from 2024 till 2031.

Raja also said that while Pakistan is keen on playing India, the political equation between the neighbours continues to act as roadblocks.

"I have spoken to Saurav (Ganguly) on the sidelines on this and I told him that presently there are three former cricketers heading their cricket boards and if they can't make a difference who will? Raja said.

"Twice Ganguly has invited me to attend the IPL finals last year and this year and cricketing wise it made sense to go, but then, because of the situation, we had to look at the fallout of accepting the

### BRAZIL DATE SET FOR INDIA IN FIFA WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: India will play Brazil in a FIFA World Cup. Not in the world football governing body's  $\,$ flagship event but in its U-17 tournament for women. Hosts India have been clubbed

alongside the football powerhouse, Morocco and the USA in a tough group for the upcoming U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup, the draw for which took place in Zurich Friday. The country is slated to host the

tournament from October 11 to 30 across three venues Bhubaneswar's iconic Kalinga Stadium, Goa's Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium.

India, being the host nation, are an automatic selection and is placed in Group A. A total of 16 teams



across four groups will be participating in the tournament.

India will begin their campaign against the USA October 11 (Tuesday) at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Their second match will be against Morocco October 14 (Friday) at the same venue. The home team's last group stage match against Brazil will be

October 17 (Monday).

India were scheduled to host the 2020 edition of the World Cup but the tournament was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Defending champions Spain, who beat Mexico in the final of the 2018 edition, are placed in Group Calong with Colombia, China, and

Group B consists of Germany, Nigeria, Chile and New Zealand. Japan, Tanzania, Canada and France constitute Group D.

North Korea are the most successful team in the history of the tournament, having won the trophy in 2008 and 2016, while Japan, South Korea, and France have each won

the title once. This is the second time India is hosting a FIFA tournament after the U-17 men's World Cup in 2017.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, June 24: Indian archers assured themselves of a second medal in the World Cup Stage 3 with ace duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam sailing into the compound mixed team final here Friday.

 $A\,day\,after\,Deepika\,Kumari\,and$ Co. Cruised into the final of recurve women's team event to confirm their first medal of the meet, the compound mixed pair of Verma and Jyothi followed suit, defeating Estonia's Robin Jaatma and Lisell Jaatma 156-151 in a lopsided semifinal. The Indian duo will face fifth seed France in the compound mixed team final Saturday.

Making a comeback after more than seven months. World No.3



Compound archers confirm second medal

Jyothi, who was sidelined in the Asian Games trial, is also in the hunt for an individual medal, having advanced into the semifinal.

A day after Lisell gave Jyothi a tough fight in the individual quarterfinal, the Estonian along with her teammate Robin failed to create much pressure and slipped behind after the Indian pair had a perfect first round

Maintaining their consistency, Verma and Jyothi extended their lead to five points in the third round that proved decisive, even as their rivals levelled it 38-38 in the final set of arrows.

Having got a bye into the prequarters, third seeded India began their mixed team campaign eliminating Puerto Rico by a handsome eight-point margin (158-150).



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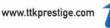
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