



## ENVIOUS FEAT

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

LEISURE P2



## 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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## 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

## TREMOR AFTERMATH



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

REUTERS PHOTO

## 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 family 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 neighbour 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 everyone. **Contd...P4**

OBITUARY P2

## DGP told to probe self-immolation

The rights panel takes suo motu cognisance of 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

### HORROR AT KISHANNAGAR PS



Gunanadhi had sustained 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 injuries.

He lodged a complaint with

Kishannagar police seeking action against the accused nephew. He had also lodged a complaint with the Cuttack Rural SP B 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, Gunanidhi 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 matter.

## GUJARAT RIOTS

## Zakia's plea devoid of merit, says SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 24: The 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".

## Murmu files papers for Presidential poll

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 24: The BJP-led 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 nomination.



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 representatives.

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 Banerjee besides leaders of several opposition parties and sought their support. **P9**

## 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 women.

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

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, and so on."

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 inclusive 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-

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	52727.98	↑ 462.26
NIFTY	15699.30	↑ 142.60
DOLLAR	78.88	↑ ₹0.25
EURO	82.85	↑ ₹0.14
GOLD	₹50,615	↑ ₹21
SILVER	₹59,107	↓ ₹397

### WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	31.2°C	30.8°C
MIN	25.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	87%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light to Moderate Rain

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Ganesh is very impressed with you today for the way you handle your relationships. You will indulge in some furtive activity today. Ganesh warns you to be cautious about getting caught up in a fix where you have to shell out money.

**TAURUS**  
You might wake up yawning and keep yawning throughout today as lethargy gets the better of you. You may end up spending your day with loved ones, relaxing, while your wallet stresses out. New projects will wait in the shadow of your procrastination, predicts Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will be bound by the bonds of love with your friends today. Deep introspection will provide the much-needed balm to your fragile state of mind. You need to keep your temper in check, says Ganesh.

**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**  
Ganesh 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 Ganesh. Later in the day, you may think twice about continuing your current job.

**LIBRA**  
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 Ganesh. 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 likelihood, 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 Ganesh.

**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 making decisions today. Reason? Shaking off clouds of imagination, you will be more realistic in your approach to everyday dealings, says Ganesh. 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 Ganesh.

**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 invaluable, says Ganesh.

**RAIMOHAN PARIDA NOT ONLY MANAGED TO FILL THE BIG SHOES OF LEGENDARY ON-SCREEN VILLAINS LIKE DUKHIRAM SWAIN AND HARA PATNAIK, HE TOOK THE PORTRAYAL OF NEGATIVE CHARACTERS TO ANOTHER LEVEL ALTOGETHER. HIS SUDDEN EXIT FROM THE ODIA FILM SCENE IS SET TO HAUNT THE INDUSTRY FOR A LONG PERIOD**

When the film industry was yet to recover from the loss of legends like Bijay Mohanty, Ajit Das, Mihir Das and a few others, the sudden exit of Raimohan Parida, yet another legend, has rocked the Odia film industry as well as millions of fans of the star. Though media tried to explore several angles that could be the reason behind the actor's 'suicide', Odia film fraternity refused to accept that the actor really ended life by hanging. He has managed to survive at the most difficult times and can manage himself for a month with a few hundred rupees. So, how can he commit suicide due to financial problems, asked Akhila Pattnaik, summing

up 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 years and we worked together in multiple movies. He was doing well in his life and was in good health. He was doing great in all sectors including movies, TV and Jatra but it's hard to believe that such a man can end life in such a fashion." "Rai Bhai was strong from outside but very tender at heart. It is difficult to accept



# Goodbye Raimohan

July 10, 1963 - June 24, 2022

Senior actor and producer Pradyumna Lenka said he was crestfallen when he came to know about it. Co-actor Usasi Mishra with disbelief.

"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 Jayearam 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

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



Mumbai: South stars continue to dominate in the popularity stakes if the results of the Ormax Stars India Loves study are any indication. The top 10 female stars list has 5 Telugu, 3 Hindi and 2 Tamil stars sharing the honours. Samantha tops the list followed by Alia Bhatt. Incidentally, Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone and Katrina Kaif are the three 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 Nayantara at third place, Kajal Aggarwal at fifth, Keerthy Suresh at sixth, Rashmika, Pooja Hegde, and Anushka Shetty at eight, nine, and ten positions respectively.

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 people are 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.

### INDIA'S POPULAR FEMALE STARS

## Mandakini makes comeback in music video Maa O Maa

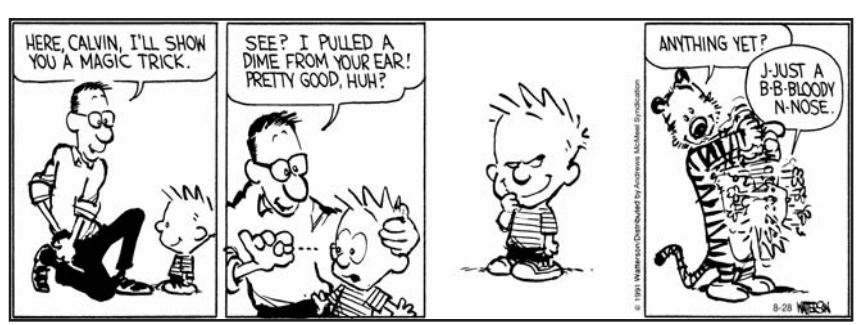


Mumbai: Yesteryear actress Mandakini, who is known for her work in *Ram Teri Ganga Maaili*, is all set to make a comeback after over two decades with her upcoming music video *Maa O Maa*. The poster of the upcoming music video has taken over social media and has gone viral. Taking to Instagram, she unveiled the first-look poster of the song Thursday. "Comment your feedback on the poster! I would love to know," she captioned her post. Mandakini got her first movie in the Hindi film industry in 1985 with *Ram Teri Ganga Maaili*. She caused a stir after she was seen partially nude in two 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.

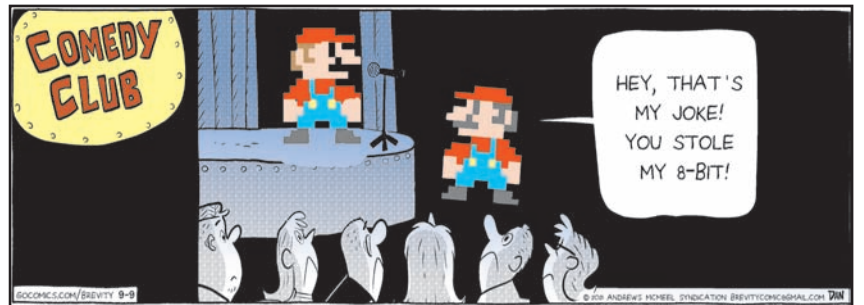
### PEANUTS



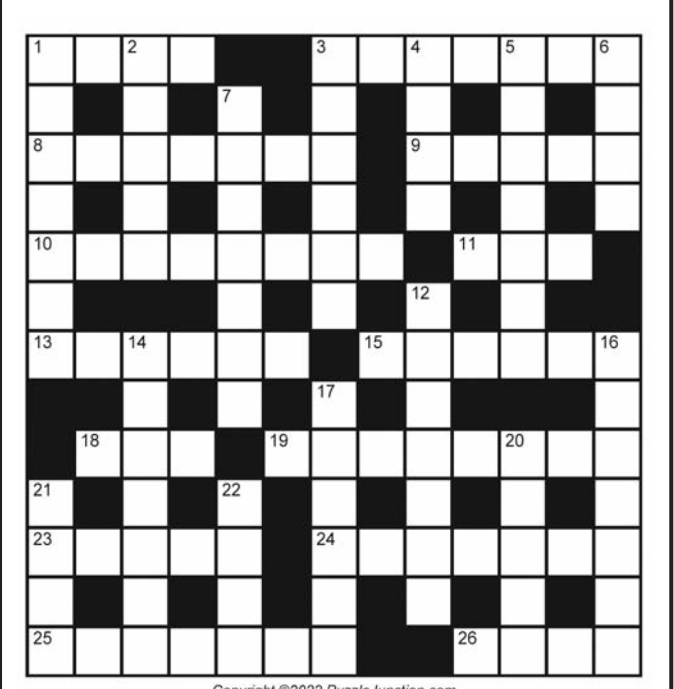
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



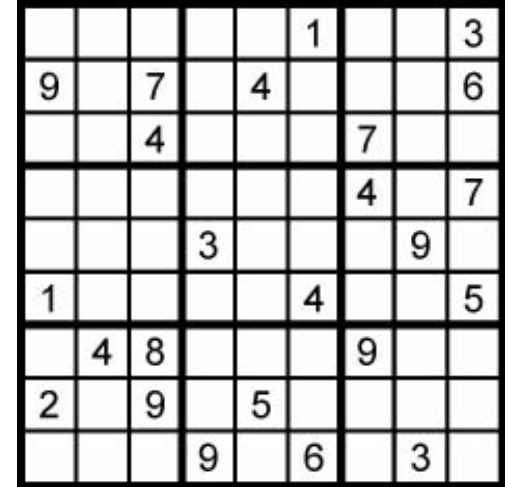
### FUN post CROSSWORD



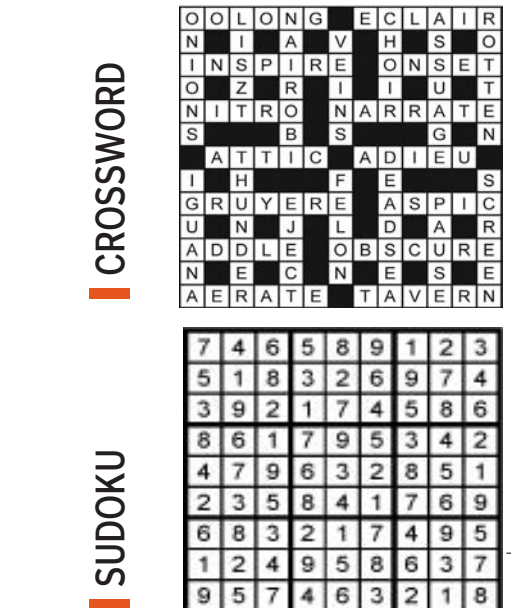
- Across**
- 1 Music genre
  - 3 Ideal future husband (2,5)
  - 8 It could be Roman
  - 9 Evil spirit
  - 10 Skillfully constructed (4-4)
  - 11 Egyptian cobra
  - 13 Cheerless
  - 15 Jeweller's tools
  - 18 Plunder
  - 19 Comics hero
  - 23 Sharpened
  - 24 Conservationist's mantra
  - 25 Glowing
  - 26 Upside-down sleepers
  - 5 Matures (5,2)
  - 6 Kind of tale
  - 7 Linguist's concern
  - 12 Strength
  - 14 Passed out
  - 16 What a photographer likes to see
  - 17 Tank part
  - 20 Coffee shop order
  - 21 Burn slightly
  - 22 Icelandic epic
- Down**
- 1 Extended, like a subscription
  - 2 Caravan beast
  - 3 Illness
  - 4 Angry display

### 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

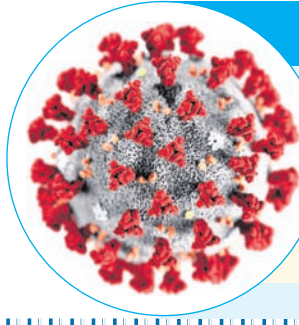


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## 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

## ENGINEERS' MEET



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. OP PHOTO

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

**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 construction of the corridor.

The issue was settled after the Supreme Court rejected a plea opposing the work being undertaken for the project.

"Mahapatra has asked every-one involved to complete all con-



The Puri Heritage 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

struction work in the coming nine months. The corridor, once constructed, will ensure smooth management of festivals. Devotees, servants 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 explained.

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

## 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 appointed 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, Cuttack.

He has completed his Masters Degree in General Medicine from MKCG Medical College, Berhampur. Biswas has done his senior resident (SR) in AIIMS, New Delhi.

# 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, observers feel.

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 Praganza Tenancy Act, 1976, which sought to give rights to tribals to make commercial use of their lands

Murmu'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 B.J.P. 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 can 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.

Congress MLA Mohammed Moqim 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

While 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 regarded 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 warm-

ing", said Benjamin Van Mooy, senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), a US-based non-profit organisation.

The team conducted a survey that analysed 930 lipid samples across 146 locations collected during seven oceanographic research cruises from 2013-2018, using a uniform high-resolution accurate mass spectrometry analytical 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 temperature. We predict significant declines in the essential fatty acid 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. "As



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**Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Deptt., Govt. of Odisha**

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

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



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 through 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 Sathesh 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 on-board 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.

## DEMAND FOR A SHIFT



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

# 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.”



Mohanty said that through the 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-

## 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 Roshna Homa at 6:30am and Abakash ritual will be performed at 7am. Likewise, after completion of Surya Puja and Dwarpa 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 by 12:30pm.

## 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 13,234 samples.

## 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 affidavit 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.

## DISCUSSION OVER DENGUE



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

# 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*

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 Meghalaya - 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 increased 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 linkage with climate change.

In several states, the threat to the biodiversity of that state has been reported; however, data on the im-

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

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

**Kalpapur:** Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested the head clerk of block education officer (BEO), Kalpapur 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 pick-up truck was killed while the helper was seriously injured after a speeding vehicle rammied 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 Digaal while the critically injured is Jason Digaal. According to sources, Rajkishore and Jason were transporting plates made from sal leaves from Kandhamal to this town loaded on the pick-up 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.



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

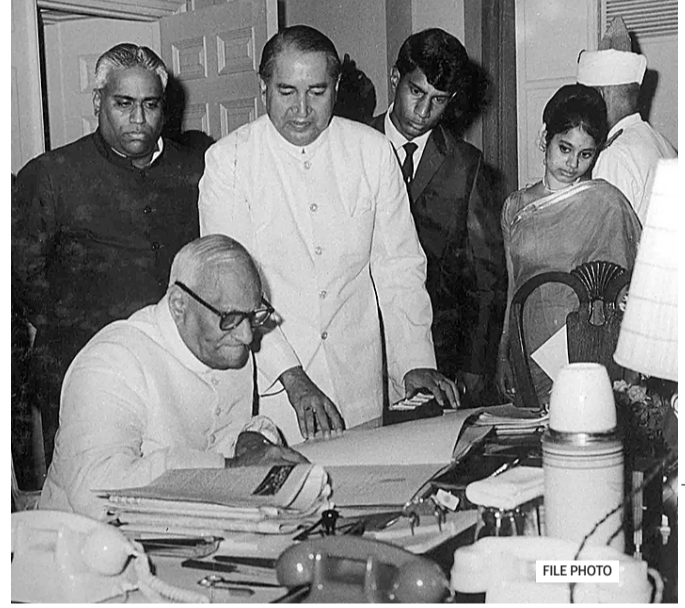
Dam areas to be developed as picnic spots

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 utilisation 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 in place. 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 plan, 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 allowed 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 been identified.

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. Though Giri was born and brought up in Berhampur, his political activities started in what was then Madras and he eventually became the Union Labour Minister, said JK Baral, 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 Jayant 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.



FILE PHOTO

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 following a 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 gramstathi 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.

Row-hit Nayagarh road built in 3 days

**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 three-kilometre 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 incident, 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 Suvendu Singh, 3 DSPs and Sadar police IIC Deepak Khandayatray. 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 residents 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 the construction work. Fortunately, the administration and NGT intervened and cleared the path for construction of the road," a villager said.



NGT GIVES GO-AHEAD

Sitabinji all set for major facelift

TOURIST DEPT TO SPEND ₹30 LAKH FOR BEAUTIFICATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Keonjhar, June 24:** Odisha government's Tourist department will spend over ₹30 lakh for the infrastructural development of historical and legendary site Sitabinji in Keonjhar district. This will be done to make the historical site more accessible and attractive to tourists. 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. The department will spend ₹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, additional spending will be done on some other works for the benefit of the visitors, tourist officer Ramesh Chandra Nayak 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 Danguapasi under



Ghatagaon block around 32km from the district headquarters of Keonjhar. 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.

**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**

**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'**

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 feel the ashrum 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 Raja festival when a large number of people flock to the site.

**Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice**  
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- Name of the Work : Building Works as per DTCN available in the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
- Total No. of Works : 01 (One) No.
- Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.28.12 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar Months
- 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.
- Date and Time of Opening of Tender : 18.07.2022 at 11.00 AM
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : S.E.R.W. Divn. Sambalpur.

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**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/CE. 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 kabhaya1@gmail.com on or before 27.06.2022. The interview will be conducted on 28.06.2022 at 10.30 A.M. in the Room No. 4214 of Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Trident Academy of Technology, Bhubaneswar - 751024, Odisha. Shortlisted candidates will be intimated before the interview.

<b>Principal Investigators</b>	<b>Co-Principal Investigators</b>
Dr. Abhaya Kumar Samal (Sd./) Professor (CSE), Dean (P&C), TAT, Bhubaneswar	Dr. I. Satyanarayana, DGMS
Dr. Singam Jayanthu (Sd./) Professor (Mining), NIT, Rourkela	Dy. Director as Technical Support Agency Mr. R. Bhattacharya, MOIL Ltd., Jt. GM (MP) as Implementation Support Agency

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**CORRIGENDUM TO**  
E-Tender No. PCEECoR2223TP03  
The following modification has been made in the Tender Notice which may please be noted.  
**Particulars:** Tender Closing date has been postponed from 16.06.2022 to 18.07.2022. For other details visit website www.ireps.gov.in  
**Dy. Chief Engineer / TP / PR-218/N/22-23 Bhubaneswar**

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/E-Tender/35 Dt. 21.06.2022

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

**DESCRIPTION :** PROPOSED EXTERIOR PAINTING, INTERIOR DISTEMPERING, PLASTIC EMULSION PAINTING, ENAMEL PAINTING AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS LIKE REPAIRING OF EXPANSION JOINTS & ROOF TREATMENT OF EAST COAST RAILWAY HEAD QUARTER BUILDING (RAIL SADDAN) AT CHANDRASEKHARPUR, Bhubaneswar AND MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS WORKS SUCH AS FLOOR, WALL, SANITARY FITTING, DOOR & WINDOW, ROOF GRADING AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS OF OFFICERS REST HOUSE AT RAIL VIHAR, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹123.89 Lakhs, EMD : ₹2,12,000/-, Completion Period : 04 (Four) Months.

(2) Tender No. e-tender-Estate-KUR-86-2022, Dtd.: 14.06.2022

**DESCRIPTION :** CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR CONCEPTRUALIZATION, DESIGNING, DEVELOPING AND PLANNING OF TOTAL FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM FOR EAST COAST RAILWAY HEAD QUARTER BUILDING (RAIL SADDAN) 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 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 documents of the above e-Tender is available in the website: https://www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit 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) / PR-223/N/22-23 Kurda Road**

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



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.

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.

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.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

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.

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.

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.

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. THOMAS A. EDISON
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 darkness. DESMOND TUTU

WORDSWORTH

Tom

Tom, the usual short form for the given name Thomas, has since late Middle English been a generic name for a male, as in tomfowl, tomboy (a girl who behaves more like a boy), peeping tom, and Tom, Dick, and Harry.

LOL

A SMART DOG

A man went to the cinema the other day 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 eyes out, and in the funny part, the dog laughed its head off.



through the film. After the film had ended, the man decided to go and speak to the old man. "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

In 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.

The premise here is India needs friends and allies to defend its national security and build its economy. 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.

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.

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.

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)."

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 pres-

ent 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.

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-à-vis 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.

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.

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 ingenious minds in the South Block!

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC. @INFA

SPECTRUM PROTECTIONISM

Threat to developing world's green shift

In July 2021, the European 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.



Miriam González Durántez and Calli Obern

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

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

risks hurting developing countries. 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, EU-made 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

the green transition - in the bloc's 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

often depend on manufactured 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 net-zero 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. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

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

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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



## Traders, transport bodies oppose ban on heavy vehicles

## TN govt schools face infrastructure woes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 allowed 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



The decision to ban the entry of medium and heavy goods vehicles to the national capital from October 1 to February 28 is aimed at curbing vehicular pollution

According to an official, vehicular pollution leads to deterioration in the air quality during winter

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 Kejriwal 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.

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

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.

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

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 teachers." He also said that each school should have a non-teaching staff for conducting clerical work.

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.

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

scored 57 per cent while the government 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.

Educationalists 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 Anbzhazhagan 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 for children.

## 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 has not yet cleared the Delhi government's several important files, including one relating to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal'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 Kejriwal dispensation. There was no immediate reaction from the L-G office on the matter.

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 Singapore.

The file has been lying with the 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 travels.

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

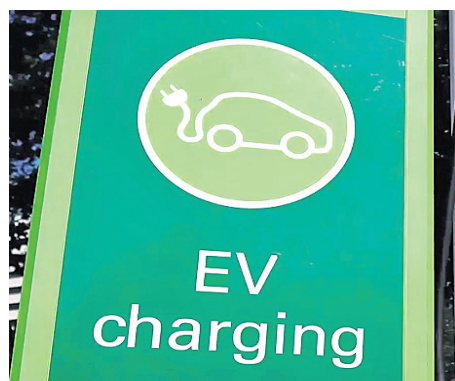
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 e-vehicle-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 policy interventions that can be suggested on the basis of ongoing managerial changes," he added.

The fellows will also conduct re-



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

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 sta-

tions 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 BTech, and some others were pursuing degrees in environmental science," he added.

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 electric vehicles in total vehicle 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.

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 official data.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Lutyens' 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 tweeted.

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,



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

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

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.

## TN health officials on alert as Covid cases rise

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-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 cases.

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 of new Covid cases was at 771.

The Test Positivity Rate (TPR)

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

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

ten days for the prices to return to normal. Arul Das, a fisherman from Chennai, said, "The catch is very less this time. Even after 50 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, Chindrapet, 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."







# 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



## of the day quote

There is a real risk that multiple famines will be declared in 2022. Harvests across Asia, Africa and the Americas will take a hit as farmers around the world struggle to cope with rising fertilizer and energy prices

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Decision-making in the United Nations needs to be democratized so that the global challenges can be addressed effectively

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT

A revision to the 52-hour legal work week has not been officially decided by the government yet

YOON SUK-YEOL | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

# 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 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 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 majority of Americans who favored

preserving Roe, according to opinion polls.

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 overturned.

"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



REUTERS

abortion right, noting that he would 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 pregnant.

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

REUTERS

**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 without 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 end."

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 in November.

## CRUSHING BLOW

# British PM Johnson vows to 'keep going'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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 by-elections.

"We've 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," Johnson, 58, said on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

"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 saying, in particular to the difficulties people are facing over the cost of living, which I think for most people 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—that's hitting people," he said.

His statement came as the Tories lost Wakefield in the north of England to the Opposition Labour Party and Tiverton and

Honiton in southern England went to the Liberal Democrats overnight on Thursday.

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 partygate scandal of COVID law-breaching parties under his watch at Downing Street.

The poll defeat led to Conservative Party chairman Oliver Dowden, stepping down. "We cannot carry on with business as usual," said Dowden in his resignation letter, which is being interpreted as a sign for the rest of the Cabinet to join him in toppling the leader.

"Our supporters are distressed and disappointed by recent events, and I share their feelings... Somebody must take responsibility and I have concluded that, in these circumstances, it would not be right for me to remain in office," he said.

Dowden is the first Cabinet minister to step down amid ongoing 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.



# 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 is present in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV).

## 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-defence.

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 annually 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 checks for would-be gun purchasers



REUTERS

convicted of domestic violence or significant crimes as juveniles. Republicans refused to compromise 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, enacted in 1913, violated a person's right to "keep and bear arms" under the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment.

# 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

**Gayan (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 were injured.



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 sector.

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.

## SHORT TAKES

### 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 heavy-lift Il-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 crash-land 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 wind-stoked 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 forest and driving hundreds of people from their homes.



CENTURIES BY DUBEY, SHUBHAM TAKE MP CLOSER TO MAIDEN RANJI TROPHY TITLE
Twin tons deflate Mumbai

Warm-up game: Pant steals show on Day 2

PCB to challenge IPL's proposed extended window

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, June 24: Feeling "short-changed", 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 short-changed, we will challenge it in a very forceful manner and put our point across strongly in the ICC," he said.

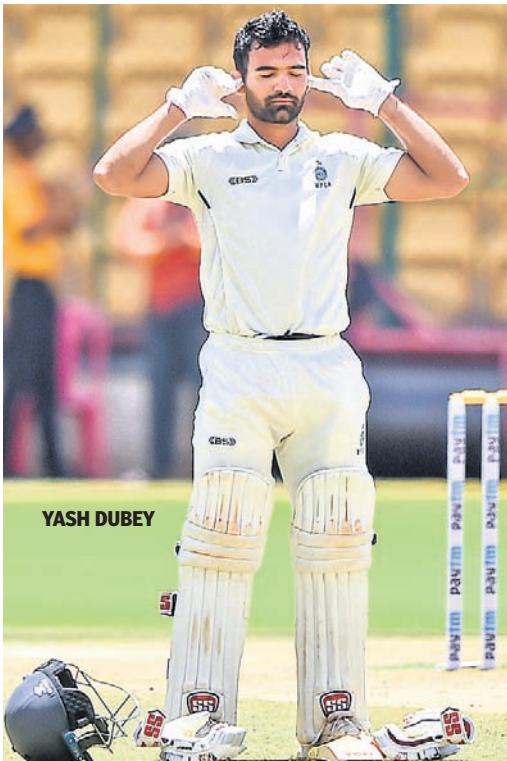
The PCB's decision to officially challenge the decision comes weeks after BCCI secretary, Jay Shah, in an exclusive interview to this news agency said that the Indian board will be getting an extended window for the IPL in the ICC's next FTP cycle starting from 2024 till 2031.

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 invitations," he added.



SHUBHAM SHARMA



YASH DUBEY

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

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

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 game.

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 ordinary.

The biggest disappointment was 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 below-par as they consistently gave drivable length the batters in the 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 eye in.

That Dubey (613 runs) and Sharma (578 runs) have been stand-out 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.



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 Jadeja.

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

at 244, two less than India's total.

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 over-saw 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 Siraj.

Srikanth 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 at the close of play.

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 C along with Colombia, China, and Mexico.

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.

Compound archers confirm second medal

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



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 quarter-final, 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 pre-quarters, third seeded India began their mixed team campaign eliminating Puerto Rico by a handsome eight-point margin (158-150).



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