

Gujarat ATS detains Teesta Setalvad

AHMEDABAD: Activist Teesta Setalvad was Saturday detained by Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) from Mumbai in connection with an FIR registered against her at the Ahmedabad city crime branch, sources said. “Teesta Setalvad has been picked up by the Gujarat ATS from Mumbai in connection with an FIR registered by the Ahmedabad crime branch,” a source in the Gujarat ATS said. A day earlier the Supreme Court had dismissed a petition challenging the clean chit given by the SIT to then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi and others in the 2002 post-Godhra riots cases.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
MAX	29.3°C	30.8°C	
MIN	24.1°C	24.0°C	
Humidity	95%	88%	Forecast
Rainfall	2mm	2.2mm	Light rain very likely

FATAL FALL



A patient falls off the edge of a cornice on the seventh floor of the Institute of Neuroscience Hospital after sneaking out of his ward, in Kolkata, Saturday. The patient sustained grievous injuries and died in the hospital

Convict flees police custody

■ Mania's hands were cuffed when he managed to escape after shoving the cops escorting him to court a few minutes after getting convicted in an NDPS case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: A drug peddler escaped from police custody in the Additional District Judge (ADJ) court here, Saturday. The convict on the run has been identified as Bijay Kumar Mania of Padmapur village under Balipatna police limits on the outskirts of the Capital city. Mania's hands were cuffed when he managed to escape after shoving the cops escorting him to court just a few minutes after getting



convicted in a Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) case. Cuttack flying squad officials of Excise department, while on their way towards Baliapatna from Bhubaneswar, spotted Mania with a gunny bag near Padmapur market during the wee hours September 11, 2020. Upon seeing the officials, Mania tried to flee the place after closing his betel shop. Suspecting his conduct, the sleuths intercepted Mania and found ganja in the gunny bag. Later, the Excise officials seized

ganja weighing 105 kg and Rs 42,000 in cash during the search at his shop. He was arrested and later produced before the court on the same day. After examining various documents and statements of witnesses, the court of ADJ, Bhubaneswar Saturday declared Mania guilty of possessing and trading ganja. The judge, Shasmitha Padhi, awarded him rigorous imprisonment of 10 years. The court has also asked the convict to pay a fine of Rs 1 lakh. In case of failure to deposit the fine, Mania has to serve additional six months jail term. The trial was conducted by Special Public Prosecutor Rashmi Ranjan Brahma. Badagada police has launched a manhunt to nab the absconding convict. Notably, an accused identified as Satya Sundar Dhala arrested by the Nayapalli police Friday escaped from police custody at the court.

AK-47 seized in Rourkela

Police are investigating whether the criminals have links with any Maoist outfit or Jharkhand-based PLFI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 25: A gunfight broke out between Rourkela Police and two criminals at Mundasahi Square under Chandiposh police limits here Saturday, resulting in seizure of an AK-47 rifle and other firearms from their possession, a senior officer said. One of the dreaded criminals sustained critical injuries while his aide was detained and an AK-47 rifle and other firearms were seized from their possession during the encounter. The injured criminal was identified as Biswajit Sahu, 24, and his detained associ-



ate as Tuchu Enduar, 28, both natives of Basia village in Gumla district of neighbouring Jharkhand. Investigations were on to find out as to why they were carrying the firearms to Rourkela, SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamu said. The seizure of a firearm like AK-47 has given credence to the claims that the criminals in the state are no longer new to the sophisticated weapon which has now made its way to the state. Acting on a tip-off, police followed the two from rear on a car when they tried to escape into Relhatu forest bordering Jharkhand. The police team following them from behind and tried to intercept their car when Biswajit fired indis-

criminally at the former in a bid to escape. The law enforcers retaliated with equal strength, ensuing a 20-minute exchange of fire when a bullet fired by the police team hit the left leg of Biswajit during the melee. As a result, Biswajit collapsed on the spot and was overpowered, the SP said. Meanwhile, the SP, DSP Bikram Keshari Bhoi and other senior police officers also reached the spot and caught the two. Biswajit was rescued in a critical condition and admitted to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) in critical condition. A case has been registered in Chandiposh police station.

Murmu's village gets power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, June 25: The state government Saturday launched electrification work in a portion of Uparbeda, the ancestral village of NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu in Mayurbhanj district, on a war footing after reports on people there remaining in the dark came to the fore. Murmu, however, does not live in that village now. She has shifted to Rairangpur, a municipal town around 20 km away from Uparbeda under Kusum block, decades ago. Officials and workers of the Tata Power North Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) went to Uparbeda with earth digging machines, utility poles and transformers to ensure supply of elec-



A truck carrying utility poles reached Uparbeda village, Saturday OP PHOTO

tricity to the portion where it is yet to reach. “We have issued an order to the Mayurbhanj section of the company to complete electrification work and ensure power supply to the entire Uparbeda village within 24 hours,” a senior official of the TPNODL told PTI.

Contd...P4

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BHUBANESWAR

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BERHAMPUR

Venkatraju Arcade, Sano Bazar

CUTTACK

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JHARSUGUDA

Sarbahal Road, Jharsuguda

ROURKELA

Kesar Bhawan, Main Road

86

TRUST OF INDIA

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ARIES

Now at last you have realised that you have been preoccupied with work at the cost of your family life. Helping up to them now is going to take a lot more effort. Ganesha says be ready to open your purse strings for either eating out, going out for a movie or shopping at the best places.

TAURUS

This day has been earmarked for beautification, a makeover, says Ganesha. You are likely to remain preoccupied with ways to enhance your looks and appearance. A new, stylish hair do, face packs and massages, trendy outfits and accessories could be in store. You will, subconsciously, be doing all that you can do, to get noticed by others.

GEMINI

You will feel lonely and unwanted today. You will feel the need for someone who can calm your troubled mind. Meditation and yoga will help you calm yourself. It is a good day to receive love from that someone special, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will succeed in a new venture and will brim with radiance and energy. Ganesha says this is the best time for get-together and kindle contact with friends and relatives.

LEO

You will look to give your house a new appearance by decorating it or undertaking some renovation projects. You will make the best out of waste and produce some truly marvellous pieces of art for improving the ambience of your nest. You will be able to save up on some money. Laudable, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You will excel remarkably in whatever work you prefer to engage yourself in today. Ganesha says your aspiration to start a business endeavour in a foreign country will bear fruit. To considerably enhance your self-image, it is necessary to make required improvements in your personal appearance.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that on the work front you may be in the midst of meetings or negotiations, which will work out favorably for you. This will help ease your tension and you will feel mentally free. Today you will feel more vibrant and active too and hence will be able to get more done.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, your new business venture is likely to keep you on toes today. You may even neglect your personal life to meet expectations at work. A feeling of disappointment may surround you as things do not go according to planning and your efforts may go in vain. No pains, no gains reminds Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You are in a dilemma today. You may find yourself standing at crossroads, and your decision power does not seem to help you much, says Ganesha. You are likely to become controversy's favourite child; this may add fuel to the fire.

CAPRICORN

God helps those who help themselves, likewise, your sincere efforts will be paid off well, today. If you're dealing with shares and stocks, it may be your day, today. Your life partner will prove to be lucky for your success, so give him/her the credit he/she deserves, suggests Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You always see the larger picture, and desire to channelise all your energies towards making things better. Such positive approach makes you an excellent team player, and enables you to bring novel ideas and effective solutions to the table, says Ganesha.

PISCES

This day promises to be filled with much romance, laughter, and fine dining, says Ganesha. You will seem irresistible to the opposite sex. You might also find yourself falling for someone. A breathe of fresh air could waft into old relationships, or new ones could be formed.



CHRISTIAN BALE HASN'T SEEN PATTINSON'S 'THE BATMAN'

Christian Bale says he hasn't watched 'The Batman' but has called actor Robert Pattinson an absolutely wonderful actor. "I still haven't seen it. I will see it," Bale told during 'Thor: Love and Thunder' premiere.

LADY GAGA HAILED AT 2022 BRITISH LGBT AWARDS

Singer-actress Lady Gaga, diver Tom Daley and the first all-male 'Strictly Come Dancing' couple were among the winners of 2022's British LGBT Awards. Hosted by comedian Sue Perkins, the awards show is the UK's biggest LGBT+ awards event.



30 YEARS OF ROMANCE

King Khan NOW and FOREVER

Mumbai: 30 years ago today, a young Delhi boy set his foot in the film industry. With a boyish charm, unmatched energy, delightful dance moves and a dream to be the best, he began to win the hearts of millions from his first movie.

Three decades down the line, the man is not just ruling B-Town but has fans in every corner of the world. He has rightfully earned the title 'King' or 'Baadshah.'

Yes, you read it right! Superstar Shah Rukh Khan completes 30 years in the film industry Saturday as his film 'Deewana', which marked his debut on celluloid, released on this day in 1992.

On this day, fans looked back at his journey and once again reminded why SRK is not just an actor; but a dream and an inspiration. As the 'Baazigar' completes 3 decades in the industry, fans took to social media to celebrate him and his journey.

Production house Yash Raj Films celebrated this special moment in cinema and his incredible journey by unveiling SRK's guarded look from 'Pathaan' through a motion poster.

Talking about this beautiful celebration of SRK on his special day, director Siddharth Anand explains, "30 years of Shah Rukh Khan is a cinematic moment in itself in the history of Indian cinema and we wanted to celebrate it with his millions and millions of fans globally."

"Today is Shah Rukh Khan day and we need to tell the world that. This is Team Pathaan's way of saying thank you to Shah Rukh for the countless memories and smiles that he has given all of us in his incredible journey in cinema," he added.

AGENCIES

48 and FABULOUS!

Mumbai: 48 and fabulous! Yes, that's how Karisma Kapoor is feeling today as she celebrates her birthday. An actor par excellence, Karisma continues to make millions of hearts beat with her vivacious smile and charming personality.

Although Karisma is currently away from the showbiz, her fan following has not gone even a notch. The diva is still loved by her fans and they continue to revisit her classic movies, to relish the magic of 90s cinema.

As the diva of the 90s celebrates her birthday today, social media is filled with birthday wishes for the gorgeous star. Fans are leaving no stones unturned in making cute edits and collages for her. Amid the love that is pouring in, actress Kareena Kapoor took to her Instagram and shared a lovely birthday wish for Lolo.

Sharing her baby picture, she wrote, "To the pride of our family ... This is my most favourite picture of you Aaj Sab bolo Happy birthday to our LoLo #just the best sister ever"

Similarly, actress Ananya Pandya penned a cute note for the very 'i-conic' Karisma.

Sharing a cute throwback picture, Ananya wrote, "Happiest of birthdays to the most iconic @therealkarismakapoor #LoloFanForLife." AGENCIES



Sara Ali Khan calls Salman Khan 'uncle'!

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan was seen pulling superstar Salman Khan's leg by calling him "uncle" in a promo of IIFA Awards 2022, which will be aired Saturday night.

In a clip shared on Colors channel's Instagram, Sara says that she wants to launch a brand.

She adds: "Salman uncle ke saath (with Salman uncle)". The 'Dabangg' star replies: "Aapki picture gayi (now your film is gone)."

Sara then says, "Meri picture kyun gayi (why so?)"

Salman replies: "Aapne sabke samne mujhe uncle bulaya (you called me uncle in front of everyone)."

To which Sara says: "You told me to call you uncle."

Sara and Salman then dance to 'Tan Tana Tan Tan'.

Held in Abu Dhabi, the star-studded event saw several Bollywood personalities in attendance, including actors Vicky Kaushal, Shahid Kapoor and Ananya Panday.

IANIS

'Dark day for women'

Los Angeles: The decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its historic Roe v. Wade abortion rights decision in its 50th year has been greeted with widespread criticism from American celebrities.

Voicing the majority view in the entertainment industry, pop star Taylor Swift tweeted: "I'm absolutely terrified that this is where we are -- that after so many decades of people fighting for women's rights to their own bodies, today's decision has stripped us of that."

In a detailed response, cookery show host and author Padma Lakshmi said: "People will still get abortions. These procedures won't stop just because Roe v. Wade is over-

turned. This will only prevent safe, legal abortions from taking place."

Thundered multiple award-winning actress Ariana DeBose: "Yeah, ain't NOBODY telling me what I can & can't do with my body. Ain't nobody telling me who I get to love or marry for that matter. America ... you're in for the fight of your life."

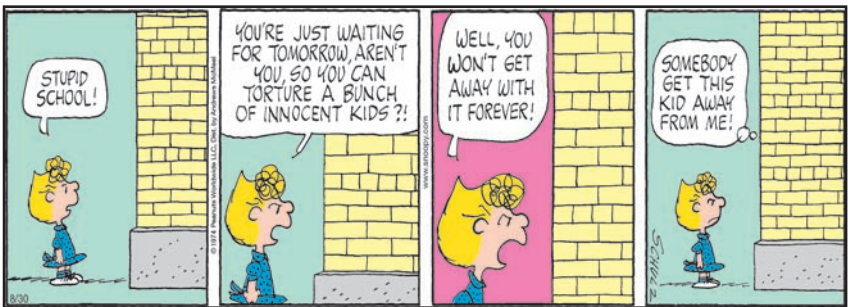
Oscar-winning actress Patricia Arquette was equally unequivocal. She said: "This Supreme Court is an absolute disaster. From giving people the right to carry guns to taking away women's rights of autonomy over their own bodies. We weren't being reactive, we saw it coming."

But the last word certainly belonged to the best-selling author Stephen King. He tweeted: "It's the best Supreme Court the 19th century has yet produced."

IANIS

FUN post

PEANUTS



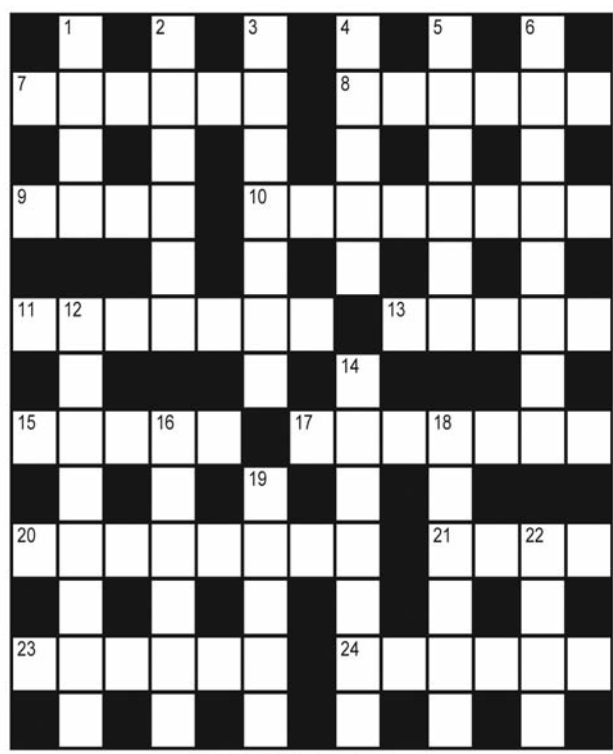
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD

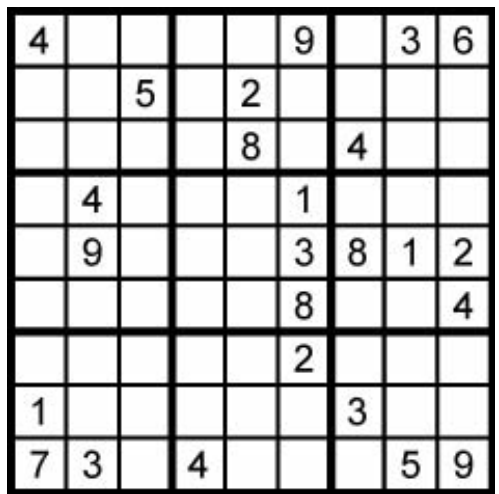


- Across
- 7 Gaming place
 - 8 Terminals
 - 9 Regarded
 - 10 Retaliation
 - 11 Changed
 - 13 Rocket section
 - 15 Wise guys
 - 17 Clad
 - 20 Make lawful
 - 21 Hostilities ender
 - 23 Mediterranean arm
 - 24 Dutch exports
- Down
- 1 Highchair feature
 - 2 Dilly-dally
 - 3 Edicts
 - 4 Proficient
 - 5 Short dash
 - 6 Suffocate
 - 12 Raised, like bread
 - 14 Traffic carriers
 - 16 Rubbed out
 - 18 African antelope
 - 19 Big cats
 - 22 Imitate

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

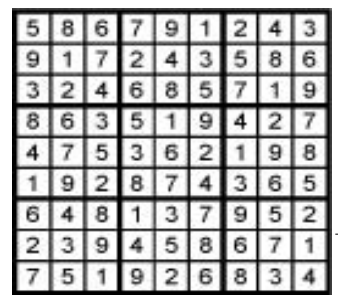
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

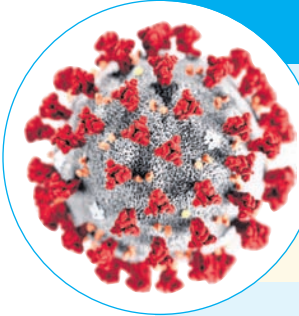
SUDOKU





CAR FEST PREP

Chitrakara servitors paint wooden parrots as part of chariot construction in Puri, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	54,84,68,392	52,33,60,641	63,49,828
India	4,33,78,234	4,27,61,481	5,24,974
Odisha	12,89,191	12,79,649	9,126

CM AT WORK



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik busy working in Rome, Saturday

Pradhan urges people to avoid use of single-use plastics during Rath Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday appealed people to reduce the use of single-use plastics during the upcoming annual Rath Yatra 2022 in Puri.

In a video message, Pradhan said lakhs of people are likely to visit Puri to witness the Rath Yatra this year. The Badanda (Grand Road) will witness a sea of devotees pull the three gigantic chariots to Gundicha Temple.

However, during the festival, people use single-use plastic such as water bottles, glasses and poly-ethene pockets to keep prasad and flowers, which has a negative impact on the environment, water bodies and animals.



The Union Minister also called for a mass movement to reduce plastic usage in Puri during Rath Yatra

"Today, single-use plastic is a huge problem. Nowadays, the country is unanimously agreeing to ban single-use plastic, even if it is not completely banned. There is a need to reduce the use of single-use plastics as well as recycling plastic. We all need to be committed to keeping the environment clean and safe," Pradhan appealed to the public in his message.

The Union Minister also called for a mass movement to reduce plastic usage in Puri during Rath Yatra. He urged social organisations and people to voluntarily start a mass movement to eliminate single-use plastic. This would result in environmental conservation and a better future for the youth, he added.

Odisha-based startup displays AI-powered air vehicle in Paris

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Odisha-based startup, Bon V, Saturday unveiled India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered multi-utility air vehicle at sixth edition of Viva Technology (Vivatch) conference held in Paris.

Backed by IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh and supported by Atal Incubation Centre (AIC), CV Raman and Bhubaneswar Engineering College, Bon V, was selected by NITI Aayog, Invest India, Atal Innovation Mission, Indian Software Products Industry Round Table (iSPRIT) and Embassy of India in France to lead the product innovation story of India at Vivatch.

"Bon V's RM001 is capable of lifting 200 KGs of cargo over 40 KM, which can be used in difficult terrains to support in-demand mobility. RM001's ultra-modern design furnishes it with multi-utility applications. The wonder aerial vehicle has a weight three times lighter than any typical aerial craft while maintaining strength doubles that of a helicopter," Satapathy said.



"The possibility of delivering emergency medical supplies or mapping hilly terrains for logistical operations will be vastly easier and user-friendly. Its auto-pilot capabilities also make it an excellent probe vehicle for reaching remote locations and functioning in challenging terrains. Bon V RM001 is a versatile aerial vehicle that can be utilized in a wide range of areas," he added. The sixth edition of the Vivatch concluded with a reach of about 119 million people from 149 countries. It was India's first official entry to the prestigious conference.

State's revenue collection up 38pc till May

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Odisha has collected Rs 15,950.94 crore revenue from own tax and non-tax sources during April and May of the current financial year 2022-23, registering a growth of 38.76 per cent compared to the same period of last fiscal.

The state had collected Rs 11,495.74 crore till May of last fiscal. The collection during the month of May this year alone stands at Rs 8,793.50 crore, official sources said Saturday.

State's own tax revenue collection during the first two months of 2022-23 fiscal was Rs 6,698.27 crore against the collection of Rs 5,359.46 crore till May of 2021-22. So, the own tax revenue collection has registered a growth of nearly 25 per cent.

The state has recorded 50.70 per cent growth in non-tax revenue till May, 2022 with collection of Rs 9,252.67 crore from this source. The collection has registered such a



The state had collected Rs 11,495.74 crore till May of last fiscal. The collection during the month of May this year alone stands at Rs 8,793.50 crore

high growth due to high collection from mining activities, the sources said.

The collection of revenue from non-ferrous mining & metallurgical industries has been increased by 42.08 per cent till May 2022.

While during 2022-23 budget, estimate for mineral revenue generation was targeted at Rs. 43,444

State's own tax revenue collection during the first two months of 2022-23 fiscal was Rs 6,698.27 crore against the collection of Rs 5,359.46 crore till May of 2021-22

crore, the state government had been able to collect Rs 8,196.18 crore from this sector by May end.

The state has collected Rs 4,438.79 crore from the mining activities during the May month alone. During the 2021-22 financial year, the actual collection from the mining sector was Rs. 48,641.77 crore. In view of Covid-19 pandemic, the

mining revenue collection till May of 2020-21 was only Rs 746.70 crore, which was increased by 672.57 per cent to Rs 5,768.77 crore during the same period in 2021-22. The collection again rose by 42.08 per cent during the current fiscal year.

Land revenue and stamps and registration have been increased by 20 per cent and 101 per cent, respectively.

The excise revenue collection crossed Rs 1,000 crore during the first two months with registering a growth of 46.29 per cent. The excise revenue collection was Rs 692.87 crore during April and May of 2021 while the state has collected Rs 512.98 crore from this source in the month of May alone, this year.

Similarly, commercial tax collection has been increased to Rs 4,259.30 crore till May this year against the collection of Rs 3,657.47 crore during first two months of last fiscal. The commercial tax collection increased by 16.45 per cent till May end.

Student dies in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: A minor student died in a road mishap near Pathargadia under Chandaka police limits Saturday. The student's female friend who was riding pillion sustained severe injuries. The deceased identified as Diganta Das was a resident of Sailashree Vihar under Chandrasekharpur police limits. He was studying in class XI in a private school.

Sources said that Das along with a female friend was returning Chandaka on a motor cycle after the closure of the school in Chandrasekharpur area Saturday afternoon. Das, reportedly, lost his balance after the motorcycle crossed speed breaker at Pathargadia. He rammed into an electric pole along the road and died on the spot.

His body was later taken to the Capital hospital. The critically injured female friend of the deceased is currently undergoing treatment at a private medical college and hospital at Infocity.

S&ME Minister, Balasore MLA fined for flouting traffic norms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, June 25: School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash and Balasore MLA Swaroop Das were fined for violating traffic norms Saturday.

A video of the incident in Balasore has gone viral on social media in which Das could be seen riding the bike with the minister as pillion, both not wearing helmets. The motorcycle owner, who is a friend of Das, received an e-challan through SMS from the traffic police.

"In the morning we were in a hurry to make a surprise visit to some schools. No four-wheelers were available at that time so we went on a motorcycle. Mid-way we realised that we did not wear helmets," said Das.

Soon after the visit, the MLA said he went to the traffic police station and paid Rs 1,000 as fine.

Meanwhile, during the inspection at Mahavir Nodal School in Balasore, the S&ME minister



Balasore MLA and S&ME Minister travel on a bike without wearing helmets

found that the Class III students were unable to recite the table of three.

"When I reached the school, mathematics class was going on. So, I asked the students about tables, but the students failed to re-

cite the table of three," Dash said.

Expressing displeasure, he asked the DEO to issue a show-cause notice to the headmistress and block her salary until the Class III students are able to recite tables up to 15.

12 antique idols unearthed from villager's house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 25: As many as 12 antique idols of Hindu deities were unearthed from the house of a villager at Deopur in Cuttack Sadar area here Saturday.

The idols of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, Lord Maheswar, Goddess Durga and other deities were unearthed from the house of Shambhunath Behera of Cuttack Sadar area

On being informed, a four-member team from the Archaeology department of the state government visited the village and examined the idols, all made of brass

Behera, meanwhile, claimed that a woman appeared in his dream Thursday night and described about the idols buried under the house



Some of the idols unearthed from the house

The idols of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, Lord Maheswar, Goddess Durga and other deities were unearthed from the house of Shambhunath Behera, sources said.

On being informed, a four-member team from the Archaeology department of the state government visited the village and ex-

amined the idols, all made of brass, sources added.

The team reportedly asked Behera to sell the idols to the Archaeological department. However, he refused to do so and urged the team to arrange government assistance for establishment of a temple for the idols in the village.

The officials assured Behera

that they would discuss the issue with their higher-ups, sources said.

Behera, meanwhile, claimed that a woman appeared in his dream Thursday night and described about the idols buried under the house. The idols were found when a portion of Behera's bedroom was excavated Friday morning, said a villager.

Why heart attacks in women are often missed

A specific gene that may be responsible for differences in symptoms and outcomes of heart attack between men and women has been identified by a team of researchers.

According to Jennifer Dungan, Associate Professor at University of Florida's College of Nursing, many of the current symptom profiles and lab tests for heart disease do not accurately reflect known differences in women's heart disease.

This oversight has led to increased gaps in health care equity.

"Because of this disparity, women are more likely than men to report heart disease symptoms that appear out of the norm, experience delayed treatment for



heart disease and even have undiagnosed heart attacks," Dungan said.

"For reasons that remain uncertain, women can experience heart disease differently than men.

This can lead to inequities for women that need to be addressed."

Dungan said cardiac researchers believe that some of these differences in symptoms and outcomes may be due to genetic variation be-

According to Jennifer Dungan, Associate Professor at University of Florida's College of Nursing, many of the current symptom profiles and lab tests for heart disease do not accurately reflect known differences in women's heart disease

Dungan said cardiac researchers believe that some of these differences in symptoms and outcomes may be due to genetic variation between men and women. She has identified a specific gene she believes may be responsible, named RAP1GAP2

tween men and women. She has identified a specific gene she believes may be responsible, named RAP1GAP2.

"RAP1GAP2 is a strong candidate for sex-linked effects on

women's heart disease outcomes," Dungan said.

"Certain DNA markers in this gene are thought to manage the activity of platelets, colourless blood cells that help our blood clot. This also presents a heart attack risk. An overactive gene could cause too many platelets to respond to the clot, which could block the flow of blood and oxygen to the heart muscle and lead to a heart attack," she added.

Since RAP1GAP2 was not linked to poor heart outcomes among men in her team's study, she believes this gene may work differently in women. Their findings were recently published in American Heart Journal Plus.

"Our goal is to find the gene markers most accurately linked to

heart disease for all women," Dungan said.

Dungan and her team aims to analyse health data from 17,000 postmenopausal women. They plan to use statistical genetics methods to study if there is a link between certain DNA markers on RAP1GAP2 and heart disease among women.

"At the end of the study, if RAP1GAP2 gene markers accurately reflect women's heart symptoms and predict their likelihood of a future heart attack, stroke or death, then those gene markers could help us be more confident in their diagnosis and future prognosis," she said. "Having more accurate biomarkers for women would save lives and improve health equity for all women." IANS

BSCL observes 7th anniv of Smart Cities Mission

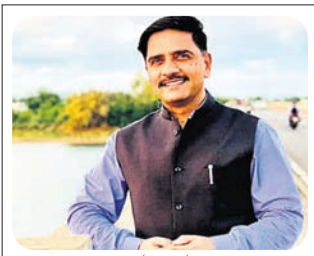


POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: As part of the ongoing ‘Sabka Bharat, Nikharta Bharat’ campaign, the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited Saturday organised a number of events to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the Smart Cities Mission.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is currently running a social media campaign called “Sabka Bharat, Nikharta Bharat” in which smart cities are publishing testimonials about how their initiatives have benefited their inhabitants in various ways.

The anniversary celebration featured a variety of activities organised in support of the Smart Cities Mission, as well as some of the significant efforts being carried out by the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited including a plantation programme in the morning where



“Development of the smart city is progressing quickly and has improved the aesthetics of the city. Today’s citizens use smart solutions on a daily basis since everything is at their fingertips”

VIJAY AMRUTA KULANGE | BMC COMMISSIONER & CEO OF BSCL

corporators from words 67, 12, 14, and 8 and young social activists

were present, and a tour of the Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC) of BSCL for school students where more than 200 students visited and gained knowledge of the benefits and drawbacks of technology throughout the trip and a firsthand experience with how a city is being governed in the ICCC.

The initiatives that have been carried out as part of the Smart Cities Mission and how people are benefiting from it were also the subjects of a radio programme and a brief documentary that were organised by the BSCL. A painting contest on the theme ‘Smart Bhubaneswar’ was also organised by BSCL, and peer leaders were taken on a visit to the State Museum in Capital city to commemorate the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, BMC Commissioner and CEO of BSCL Vijay Amruta Kulange said, “Development of the smart city is progressing quickly and has improved the aesthetics of the city. Today’s citizens use these smart solutions on a daily basis since everything is at their fingertips.”

General Manager of BSCL Kamaljit Das stated that since individuals can now access any citizen service online from the comfort of their homes, smart solutions are improving people’s lifestyles day by day. The Smart Cities Mission’s activities have strengthened and empowered the Capital city.



Rama Devi Women’s University observed its Annual Alumni Meet 2022 at the varsity in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Actress suicide: CP grills boyfriend

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: The Commissionerate Police Friday grilled Santosh Kumar Patra, the boyfriend (BF) of noted TV actress Rashmirekha Ojha who was found dead in her room at Gada Sahi in Nayapalli area June 18.

Patra, an HR manager in a financial company, was interrogated at the Nayapalli police station for more than four hours Friday.

The boyfriend of deceased actress revealed that he had gone



to Bolangir for training when Ojha committed suicide. Patra also claimed that the actress had

attempted suicide earlier too. Patra will be called in future for further interrogation in the matter. Police had Thursday grilled Ojha’s former boyfriend Raja for around two hours.

The family members of Ojha, while speaking to media, have held Patra responsible for the death of their daughter. Notably, the post mortem report of Ojha confirmed the actress committing suicide. She was under mental pressure and police has been investigating to find the reasons behind it.

62 new Covid cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Odisha recorded 62 new Covid-19 cases Saturday, taking the tally to 12,89,191, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The toll remained at 9,126 as there were no fresh deaths. There are 410 active Covid-19 cases in the state at present. In the last 24 hours, 43 more people recovered from the disease, taking the total recoveries to 12,79,602.

The coastal state’s daily Covid-19 test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.47 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing 13,265 samples.

Vig nabs CSO office anti-smuggling guard in DA case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, June 25: The Vigilance Directorate arrested an anti-smuggling guard in the office of Civil Supplies Officer (CSO) of Balasore Saturday for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, an official said.

Raids were conducted at five places in Balasore and Ganjam Friday following the allegations against Janardan Palei, posted at the Rice Receiving Centre (RRC) cum District Storage Centre (DRC) in Jaleswar.

Movable and immovable assets, including 12 plots, worth over ₹1.4 crore were unearthed. Palei was found possessing disproportionate assets (DA) constituting 226 per cent of his known sources of income.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Ajharuddin Shaikh, S/o Riyajuddin, Village- Mustafapur, P.O.- Dobal, P.S.- Dhamnagar, Dist.- Bhadrak, I have changed my name Ajharuddin Shaikh to Sk Ajharuddin for the purpose of passport.

LOST

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Cuttack, I, Prasad Harichandan Behera, son of Pramod Kumar Behera at Police Line, Buxi Bazar, PS- Cantonment, Cuttack-1 do hereby affirm that my ICSE pass certificate of Class-X bearing Unique ID-6713333, passed certificate No.-TF 80125417 was lost while traveling at Puri on 7.06. 2022. So I am swearing this affidavit to produce before the ICSE authority, New Delhi for issuance of duplicate Class-X pass certificate and mark sheet in my favour.



The Odisha Urdu Academy organised a national level Sufi Qawwali programme at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

4 Indian innovators in world’s top ‘50 Next’ gastronomy gamechangers

A LIST RATHER THAN A RANKING, ‘50 NEXT’ CELEBRATES PEOPLE AGED 35 AND UNDER FROM ACROSS THE WIDER FOOD AND DRINK SCENE TO COMPLEMENT THE ANNUAL RANKINGS OF ‘THE WORLD’S 50 BEST RESTAURANTS’

Four young Indian innovators have been named among the world’s top 50 leading gastronomy gamechangers in a prestigious list celebrating the next generation of leaders creating sustainable solutions for the global food and drink industry.

The ‘50 Next Class of 2022’, unveiled at a first-ever live awards ceremony in the Spanish city of Bilbao on Thursday, includes Delhi-based forensic scientist Risha

Jasmine Nathan, Bangalore-based Vinesh Johny and Anusha Murthy, and Mumbai-based Nidhi Pant.

Singapore-born Indian-origin food entrepreneur Travinder Singh also makes the top 50 for his food tech start-up idea that turns food waste into beverages.

They join innovators selected from more than 400 candidates across 30 territories in six continents as the next-gen leaders of gastronomy.

“My research, which I completed in New Zealand in 2020, was about using food and vegetable peels and converting them into beads that could suck up heavy metals from drinking water,” Risha Jasmine Nathan told PTI about the ground-breaking concept that made the ‘50 Next’ cut in the “Science Innovators” category as a sustainable solution to tackle the problem of water contamination in the developing world.

Nathan, who will be taking up a post of Lecturer at the Anglia Ruskin University in the UK later this year, is now researching the topic in more detail, hoping to change the lives of millions who still don’t have access to clean water.

Chef Vinesh Johny, who makes



the 2022 class in the “Empowering Educators” category, is the founder of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science & Pastry Arts in Bangalore – India’s first specialised international baking school.

“The school is primarily trying to make sure that we get world-class pastry education for the students in India,” said Johny, who founded Lavonne 10 years ago.

“I got into the culinary sector because I really wanted to do something that was skill-based and not very

academically oriented and fell in love with the art of pastry making. Nurturing young talent in our industry by giving them practical and hands-on experiences in the area of culinary arts, baking, pastry making, cooking and even sustainable methods of sourcing produce is of paramount importance,” he said.

Also in the same category is Anusha Murthy, who along with co-creator Elizabeth Yorke is behind ‘Edible Issues’ – a food collective that fosters conversation around the

Indian food system via community engagement and workshops.

Aside from the joint venture, Murthy is also building a cooking robot to help consumers eat more healthily. The “Traillblazing Activists” category of ‘50 Next’ includes Nidhi Pant, founder of S4S Technologies – an acronym for Science for Society, which has created an electricity-free solar-powered food dehydrator that helps to alleviate vulnerable communities from hunger and helps farmers preserve crop yields.

Pant’s technology is particularly directed towards women, as S4S trains landless female farmers to use their machines and equips them with marketing and finance strategies.

Indian-origin Travinder Singh, founder and CEO of Crust Group, has been selected in the “Entrepreneurial Creatives” category for his concept of turning food waste into products such as artisan beers and non-alcoholic drinks made from fruit and vegetable waste.

From Singapore, the start-up has already expanded to Japan and Taiwan and is looking at the UK and Europe and eventually India as future markets.

“I’m a Punjabi in Singapore, which is a very small minority. I guess being from that background helped me become a lot more adaptable to different situations and scenarios,” said Singh.

“Why grow and consume more when there is so much surplus around the world which can be used as a substitute for your raw material. It is economically friendly, saves cost and you are also upcycling. Sustainability should not be just a buzz word but more about the value-based concept of maximising our resources,” he said.

“50 Next reflects the variety of profiles that shape the present and the future of the gastronomy sector,” said BCC General Manager Joxe Mari Aizaga.

“50 Next is an inspiring and necessary event at a time when gastronomy and the entire food industry value chain is facing its own revolution. And we want that revolution to happen here,” said Unai Rementeria, President of the regional government of Biscay.

The ‘50 Next’ list is now in its second year and the first to be unveiled at a live in-person event following the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown last year.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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BIO-DIVERSITY AT RISK

Pollution, water lifting threaten Bhitarkanika



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, June 25: Increased industrial pollution and human interference have posed serious threat to the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika National Park in this district.

This has threatened the survival of marine creatures and other wildlife in the sanctuary pushing them towards extinction. This has happened due to a host of reasons like pressure on freshwater supply, industrial pollution as well as climate change.

The growing load of pollution from industries, mining and uncontrolled human activities have stifled the mangrove ecosystem which is critical to sustain wildlife and important to the identity of the state.

Around 86.26 million cubic metre of water is being lifted for industrial and mining activities from Brahmani river every year. This has choked the supply of freshwater to the sanctuary. The Brahmani river flows from Angul district to Bhitarkanika. As a result, the industrial effluent discharged into Brahmani river in Angul then flows into the sanctuary, a report by the Centre said.

Lecturers Devi Prasad Sahu,

Sarat Kumar Sahu and Kshitish Kumar Singh conducting research on the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika and its integrated management said that the environmental condition of Bhitarkanika is quite alarming.

The toxic and polluted water flowing to this wetland everyday has posed serious threat to the marine creatures and other wildlife in Bhitarkanika. The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change conducted an assessment of the water in the river basin of Brahmani and Baitarani in between 2008 to 2018 to study its impact on Bhitarkanika. The study was conducted on the water that flows into Bhitarkanika from these two rivers and the drawing of water by iron, aluminum, cement, ferrochrome, fertilizer plants dependent on these two rivers. Moreover, the effluents discharged by these plants were also taken up for assessment during the study.

The study stated that the Brahmani river is getting increasingly polluted due to the industrial plants. The report stated that water samples collected from Bhitarkanika is 10 times more toxic than the same collected in Angul.

The water of Brahmani, Baitarani and Mahanadi holds

Around 86.26 million cubic metre of water is being lifted for industrial and mining activities from Brahmani river every year

Industrial effluent discharged into Brahmani river in Angul flows into the sanctuary

Central govt report states that water sample collected from Bhitarkanika is 10 times more toxic than the same collected in Angul

importance in protecting the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika. However, the Brahmani supplies more water to Bhitarkanika than these two other rivers.

The number of industrial plants along the Brahmani river is increasing with the rise in population. Water is essential to contain the fly-ash emerging from the industrial plants, for which 86.26 MCM of water is drawn by these plants every year from river Brahmani.

Around 15,800 kilolitre of water is drawn from Brahmani river for as many as 10 mines situated beside the Brahmani river basin. Moreover, use of the river water by mega irrigation projects and by people for various purposes is also affecting the water flow into the sanctuary.

The toxic effluent discharged by the plants is polluting the river while, on the other hand, excessive human and industrial water usage is drying up the river and hindering the water flow to the sanctuary.

The authorities though aware are yet to take up any measure to rid the river of its toxic effluents. The industrial pollution from nearby Paradip and Dhamra ports is also threatening the sanctuary for which observers have demanded sincere and urgent steps to save the sanctuary.

FOR LORD'S JOURNEY



Carpenter servitors busy in the construction of Brahma Taladhawa chariot of Lord Baladevji in Kendrapara, Saturday

₹5cr DPR for Bhimkund makeover

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, June 25: Bhimkund, one of the major tourist sites in Keonjhar district, is going to get a facelift soon. To boost its tourism potential and attract more tourists, a blueprint for its development has been drawn up.

The scenic Bhimkund tourist spot is in Balijodi mouza under Patana block. A detailed project

report of an estimated ₹5 crore will be prepared.

Recently, a high-level committee headed by Collector Ashish Thakare visited the spot so as to prepare the DPR. The Public Works department division of Ghatagaon has been assigned the task to draw up the DPR.

It was learnt that projects taken up for Bhimkund includes a concrete road to Sanakunda,

various beautification works, and construction of platforms, drinking water facility, parking lot and cafeteria.

The proposed facelift has enthused the locals who exuded hope for better earning scope with a rise in tourist footfall.

Bhimkund waterfall lies in a stunningly spectacular natural setting encircled with lush green forests. The majestic Baitarani river creates two waterfalls called Sanakunda and Badakunda for the nature lovers. Both the falls offer a thrilling experience to the visitors due to the deep gorge with almost vertical sides and swift water current, making the environment misty with water vapour.

Roaring sound of the waterfalls makes the place most fascinating for tourists. Locals revere these waterfalls as sacred in a religious point of view. They throng the place during annual celebrations of Makar Sankranti in large numbers. Mythology has it that Pandavas stayed for some time here during their secret exile.



A team led by eminent Odissi danseuse Swapnarani Sinha and her disciples from Angul enthralled the audience with their power-packed performance at a programme in Vienna, Austria from June 20 to June 22 as part of year-long celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The team had earlier performed at Angul Mahotsav to the delight of the audience

OP PHOTO

Ganjam: Complaints filed against 114 'fake' teachers

11 BEOS ASKED TO VERIFY CERTIFICATES AND TAKE LEGAL ACTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 25: Complaints have been lodged with the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department against 114 teachers serving with fake certificates and documents in Ganjam district. Meanwhile, 11 block education officers (BEOs) have been directed to verify the certificates of the teachers concerned and take action against them.

In some cases where teachers have been caught forging certificates, action has been taken while in other cases action has allegedly been delayed.

The verification reports about 85 fake teachers have not been sent to the S&ME department.

As for the 114 teachers who have



allegedly submitted fake education certificates, the joint director of the Directorate of Elementary Education has directed BEOs of Chhatrapur, Kabisuryanagar, Beguniapada, Aska, Jagannathprasad, Shergada, Polasara, Berhampur, Hinjilicut, Buguda and Sorada for certificate verification and action.

Certificates of educational qualification, training, marksheets, caste and migration certificates

of these teachers will be vetted.

In case their certificates are found to be forged, legal action such as dismissal from service, departmental proceedings and FIRs at police stations will be taken against them.

Earlier, 99 teachers were found serving with fake certificates. While seven of them were dismissed from their jobs, one was suspended. FIRs have been lodged against 19 teachers.

Notably, following the allegations of submission of fake education certificates by some teachers during recruitment, the state government in 2020 had asked the authorities to verify certificates and mark sheets of employees and teachers of primary and upper primary schools.

HM's salary held as Class 3 student fails to recite table of 3

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, June 25: School & Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash made a surprise visit to Mahabir Nodal School at Mathasahi in Balasore Town at 9 am Saturday.

However, he was displeased over teaching in the school as a Class 3 student fumbled in reciting table of 3. Then, the minister discussed the matter with headmistress Banalata Das. He wanted to know about the shortcomings in the teaching.

The minister held both the class teacher and the headmistress responsible for not making students learn the minimum of mathematics and sent the headmistress a show-cause notice withholding her salary.

He has directed the district education officer (DEO) to hold the headmistress's salary until the Class 3 students are able to recite the multiplication tables from 2-15. The minister has been inspecting schools after another 'T' (Tour) was added in the 5T model of governance in the state.

Action delayed in ₹1.72 cr rice scam

8 Civil Supply department officials under scanner, cases against 10 millers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, June 25: At least eight supply department officers and 10 mill owners have landed in soup after an audit report revealed the irregularities in the supply of rice worth ₹1.72 crore here in Ganjam district.

Acting on the direction of the MD, Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (OSCSCL), Ganjam civil supply officer (CSO) has framed draft charges against the eight former officers of the department.

Among them are the former CSO, supply inspector (SI) and marketing officer (MO). Interestingly, the former CSO has even retired. The Ganjam district administration is all set to register cases as per the OPDR Act, 1962 against the 10 defaulting millers.

The district collector has directed the tehsildars to prepare a list of both movable and immovable properties of the default millers for



further action. Among them are two millers each from Polasara, Khallikote and Rangelunda blocks and one each from Purushottampur, Aska, Kabisuryanagar and Dharakote blocks.

Unfortunately, one of the rice mill owners has passed away. But, the district collector has directed officials to prepare a list of movable and immovable properties of his kin.

As soon as the list is submitted in the Collectorate, a case will be registered against them as per the OPDR Act, sources said. It is alleged that the 10 rice mill

owners had procured paddy for milling. They were supposed to return rice after milling in the 2021-22 fiscal. However, the 10 millers have not yet returned the rice worth ₹1.72 crore, despite repeated reminders by the OSCSCL.

On the other hand, it is suspected that the Civil department officers are hand in gloves with the mill owners in the scam. But the top officers and other officials are not submitting necessary documents and papers about the irregularities. They have allegedly tried to cover up the matter.

Water level plummets in Balimela reservoir

IRRIGATION AFFECTED; POWER PRODUCTION MAY SUFFER



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, June 25: The water level in Balimela dam in Chittrakonda area of Malkangiri district has plummeted. It may affect power generation and irrigation, a report said.

As per reports, the dam is capable of retaining water up to a height of 1,516 feet. Last year, the water level was over 1,466.30 feet. This year it has di-

minished to 1,445.30 feet. The dam water is used both for irrigation and electricity production. As the water level has reduced by 21 feet, irrigation of farmlands has been affected. Electricity generation is most likely to be badly hit in days to come, it is said.

Even though the monsoons were delayed last year, the dam had enough water for irrigation and power production.

Usually, it is seen that rains in September and October play a crucial role in filling up the dam. There is apprehension that if rains play truant this year, the water level will plummet further. Also one has to keep in mind that 3,000 cusec water is released daily through sluice gates to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Locals said, the situation will worsen without adequate rainfall in coming days. Canals in the locality will fail to deliver water from the dam to acres of farmlands. Farming, the mainstay of the local economy, will be hit, they rued.

Herd rescues stranded jumbo from well

Saraskana: An elephant fell into a well near Kabatashola under Saraskana block in Mayurbhanj district, Friday night. The well belongs to Hari Singh. The villagers tried to lift it out from the well but in vain. Ranger Laxmidhar Behera said that later its herd came back to the well and lifted the jumbo out by dragging it with their trunks. Meanwhile, a herd of elephants unleashed a reign of terror in Morada area. The animals broke a house in Purnadiha village and gobbled up stocked rice and paddy.

EAST COAST RAILWAY			
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF TEACHERS ON CONTRACT BASIS			
Employment Notice No.: ECoR/Pers/02/Engagement/Contract Teacher/22 Dated : 24.06.2022			
It has been decided by the competent authority to conduct a WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for engagement of Teachers in Mixed Higher Secondary School/ Khurda Road on contract basis. The Khurda Road Railway Division invites applications from willing, eligible candidates for engagement as teachers (PGT/TGT) in the Mixed Higher Secondary School, Jatni.			
Grade	No. of Post	Consolidated remuneration per month	Venue, date & time of interview
PGT	03	₹27,500/-	Date-22.07.2022
TGT (English Medium)	02	₹26,250/-	Time-10:00 Hrs Onwards
TGT (Odia Medium)	03	₹26,250/-	Office of the Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Khurda Road
PET	01	₹26,250/-	
Note : Candidates are advised to report to the venue by 9:30 Hrs for registration. No registration of application will be allowed beyond the closing time of 12:00 noon.			
NB : For application format, Educational qualification / Eligibility, Age and other terms & conditions, please refer to website http://www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in About us Division Khurda Road Division			
Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer /			Khurda Road
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Let all circumstances, all happenings in life be occasions, constantly renewed for learning more and ever more.

THE MOTHER

Executive Overreach

One of our Supreme Court judges made an important if startling point when giving a lecture abroad. A legal website reporting his speech gave this headline to the story: “Will result in slippery slope if courts are regarded as only organ to defend citizens’ rights”.

The judge (I am not naming the person because the identity is unimportant, it is the idea that we must try and understand) was quoted as saying that “the growing litigious trend in the country is indicative of the lack of patience in the political discourse. This result is a slippery slope where courts are regarded as the only organ of the State for realization of rights - obviating the need for continuous engagement with the legislature and the executive.”

The words are clear enough and direct enough so what do they mean? The judge is saying that it is important that citizens engage with government and elected representatives for their rights. Courts are also important in this process but they are not the only place where rights can be defended or claimed.

This is actually how many democracies function and the justice system and in particular the Supreme Court is only one part of the edifice the citizen engages with. In the United States, the Supreme Court hears and disposes of only 80 cases a year. In India, the Supreme Court has 70,000 pending matters. This points to a significant difference between the two justice systems though ours is modelled in many ways on the American system.

In 1949, it was decided that India would have a Supreme Court consisting of no more than eight judges (Article 124). The US has nine. India today has over 30. The US court only hears matters together. India’s court has several small benches that hear everything from bail matters to property disputes. In the US such matters are settled by the lower judiciary. In India, for reasons we do not need to get into today, this does not happen and so the justice system has had to evolve into something different from the way it was conceived.

Let us leave this aside and look again at what was said by the judge. Despite the justice system in India being heavily engaged with the citizen, at least according to the numbers, the judge feels that there is a ‘growing’ trend towards more litigation and not enough engagement with the political process. To my mind this is the correct analysis. The question is why this is happening.

The answer appears to be that the State in India is running amok. If the government and the political party controlling it want to destroy the homes of people without trial or conviction, where do those people go? One place they can go is the executive which is the perpetrator of violence. They can also go to the legislature, meaning the Opposition parties to engage with them and make the government see reason. Is this not happening in India today? Certainly it cannot be the case that people who are moving court, including citizens, civil society groups, activists and so on, are not engaging with the government at all. They are. But what is to be done when the motivation of the political party in charge is to persecute? How does one engage meaningfully with one’s oppressor?

This the judge did not speak on. Something else was said in the speech, which justified the widening of spaces where rights must be sought. The judge said: “While the Supreme Court must protect the fundamental rights of the citizens it must not transcend its role by deciding issues requiring the involvement of elected representatives. Doing so would not only be a deviation from the court’s constitutional role but would not serve a democratic society, which at its core, must resolve issues through public deliberation, discourse and the engagement of citizens with their representatives and the constitution.”

There is nothing exceptionable about what is said. Healthy democracies must have citizens able to conduct meaningful and productive engagements with all parts of the State. However, it must be stressed here that the judiciary has a primary function and that is to stop and push back against executive overreach. Especially when such overreach is threatening the Constitution of India.

Today, the situation is that cases involving citizenship and anonymous funding of electoral politics have not been decided by the court. Habeas corpus pleas of Kashmiris also went undecided. This is the source of the pressure that commentators and activists have put on the judiciary; that the judge was presumably responding to. To many of us it seems like India has taken a direction led by the government controlled by a single political party led by an undisputed leader. This direction is not in keeping with either India’s Constitution or traditions or modernity.

Of course the rest of the State apparatus including the legislatures and executive must be places where the citizen can go and claim her rights. But it appears to be indisputable that the primary arena of this battle has to be in the justice system where the judges must stand up for citizens against a rampant and malign State.

WISDOM CORNER

- If it is important to you, you will find a way. If not, you'll find an excuse. RYAN BLAIR
- If people are not laughing at your goals, your goals are too small. AZIM PREMJI
- Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

WORDSWORTH

Tomfoolery

It is sometimes claimed that the original Tom Fool was Thomas Skelton. He was a jester, a fool, for the Pennington family at Muncaster Castle in Cumbria. This was probably about 1600 — he is said to be the model for the jester in Shakespeare’s King Lear of 1606. In legend, he was an unpleasant person. One story tells how he liked to sit under a tree by the road; whenever travellers he didn’t like asked the way to the ford over the River Esk, he would instead direct them to their deaths in the marshes. Another tale links him with the murder of a carpenter who was the lover of Sir William Pennington’s daughter. So much for stories. In truth, Tom Fool is centuries older. He starts appearing in the historical record early in the 1300s in the Latinate form Thomas fatuus. The first part served even then as a generic term for any ordinary person, as it still does in phrases like Tom, Dick or Harry. The second word means stupid or foolish in Latin and has bequeathed us fatuous and infatuate, among other words. By 1356 Thomas fatuus had become Tom Fool. Around the seventeenth century, the character of Tom Fool shifted somewhat from the epitome of a stupid or half-witted person to that of a fool or buffoon. He became a character who accompanied morris-dancers or formed part of the cast of various British mummers’ plays performed at Christmas, Easter or All Souls’ Day. A tom-fool was more emphatically foolish than an unadorned fool. Tomfoolery was similarly worse than foolery, the state of acting foolishly, which had been in English since the sixteenth century. Perhaps oddly, it took until about 1800 for tomfoolery to appear. It had been preceded by the verb to tom-fool, to play the fool.

FOCUS FRANCE

THE NEW POLITICS



In addition to being the youngest French leader since Napoleon and the first president to win re-election since 2002, Macron will now be the first president since 1988 to have only a plurality in parliament



Hugo Drochon

THE “REPUBLICAN FRONT” THAT ONCE KEPT THE FAR RIGHT AT BAY HAS FALLEN

There is an old saying in French politics that people vote with their hearts in the first round of an election, and with their heads in the second. This dictum no longer holds. In this year’s national election, French citizens voted tactically from the start, supporting the candidates from their own bloc who were most likely to win. In the first round of the presidential election in April, this dynamic advanced the candidacies of Jean-Luc Mélenchon on the far left and Marine Le Pen on the far right, with President Emmanuel Macron holding the center. Now, the pattern has been repeated in France’s legislative elections.

In the just-concluded second round, the biggest winner was Le Pen’s National Rally, which increased its parliamentary representation from just eight seats to 89. Never before under the Fifth Republic has the far right’s star risen so high. While the then-National Front won 35 seats in 1986, under the leadership of Le Pen’s father, that outcome could be dismissed as a one-off occurrence. By contrast, this year’s outcome underscores National Rally’s increasing entrenchment in French politics and society.

The shock result — which surprised even the party’s own leaders — can be explained by the French run-off system, wherein the two leaders in the first round face off against each other in the second. Faced with the prospect of having to pick between either the far left or the far right, centrist voters in many districts simply abstained. At the same time, many supporters of the far left or the far right chose to go with the other extreme rather than voting for a centrist. Clearly, the “republican front” that once kept the far right at bay has fallen.

The National Rally will now be able to create a parliamentary group (requiring at least 15 deputies) in the National Assembly, availing itself of additional benefits in terms of funding and access to positions of power. Until now, National Rally deputies have been known more for their absenteeism and incompetence than anything else; but that could perhaps change with the formation of a parliamentary group.

With 142 deputies, the far left can claim to be the main opposition to Macron’s government. It has assembled under the New Popular, Ecological, and Social Union (NUPES), a coalition of left-wing parties, including Mélenchon’s France Unbowed, the Communists, the Socialists, and the Greens. While these parties’ respective shares of the vote remained stable from five years ago, tactical voting by their supporters paid off, more than doubling their final seat count (which is up from 58 in 2017).

Mélenchon, however, fell short in his bid to become prime minister. NUPES did not come anywhere close to the 289 seats (out of 577) needed to command an absolute majority; nor did it succeed in mobilising the youth vote (which remained stubbornly absent). Moreover, because Mélenchon chose not to run for a parliamentary seat, it is an open question as to who will lead the left in parliament. With the different parties retaining their own groupings, there will be no official NUPES parliamentary faction. Will the alliance be able to sustain itself without its charismatic leader?

For his part, Macron can already claim to have reached a number of “firsts” in his brief political career: In addition to being the youngest French leader since Napoleon and the first president to win re-election since Jacques Chirac (in 2002), he will now be the first president since François Mitterrand (in 1988) to have only

a plurality in parliament.

Macron’s Ensemble coalition — comprising his own party, La République en Marche!, François Bayrou’s MoDem party, and Édouard Philippe’s Horizons party — will have 246 seats, 43 short of an absolute majority. The question, then, is how he and his new prime minister, Élisabeth Borne, should go about implementing the government’s agenda. Most immediately, Borne will need to reshuffle the government to account for the fact that three of its previous ministers were not re-elected, including Amélie de Montchalin, the Minister for Ecological Transition — a portfolio representing one of Macron’s top priorities.

To continue the progress he has made, Macron will need to find new allies in the National Assembly. Many Ensemble members are eying the center-right Republicans, whose 61 deputies would give Macron a majority. But a formal pact seems unlikely. Instead, Macron may look to strike ad hoc deals with both the center left and the center right.

Only time will tell whether France can rediscover the spirit of compromise that marked the Third and Fourth Republics, where parliamentary democracy dominated, or face the same problems of inaction and gridlock that led Charles de Gaulle to found the Fifth Republic, with its strong presidency, in 1958. Macron did promise a more horizontal, consensus-based approach to governance as part of his second mandate. One way to interpret the parliamentary election result is that the voters took him at his word.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Political Theory at the University of Nottingham.

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SPECTRUM INDIA

Divergence in wealth across regions



Udaya S Mishra & Balakrushna Padhi

WHILE MORE THAN 50% OF RURAL INDIA REMAINS WITHIN THE BOTTOM TWO QUINTILES OF WEALTH HIERARCHY, TWO-THIRD OF URBAN INDIA OCCUPIES THE UPPER HIERARCHY OF TWO QUINTILES

The well-known development divides in India which resemble the north-south divide often pose a problem in comparing the poor and the rich across its various regions. While it is evident that such a divide offers a clue to reading inequality as well, there is a need to have an understanding of equivalence of rich and poor across regions as well as compare economic hierarchy across regions and characteristic groups of population. Such an understanding is facilitated amply by the wealth quintile distribution of population offered by the most recently conducted national Family Health Survey-5 of 2019-21. This wealth quintile distribution is based on a wealth score derived for each surveyed household based on a range of household assets and amenities that clearly presents an economic hierarchy representing a common axis of stratified reading of various demographic and health outcomes.

Based on this comprehensive wealth score of surveyed households, a quintile distribution is obtained against which the regional pattern is contrasted as well as a few selected characteristic attributes are also contrasted to figure out the kind of discrepancy that exists across regions and characteristics. To begin with, an urban-rural divide in wealth status distribution informs that rural and urban India are disproportionately represented against the all-India quintile structure with distinct urban advantage and rural disadvantage. While more than

50% of rural India remains within the bottom two quintiles of wealth hierarchy, two-third of urban India occupies the upper hierarchy of two quintiles. Such a divide is an indirect reflection of rural-urban inequality in the sense that more than two-thirds of urban population belongs to the upper hierarchy of wealth score structure against more than half of the rural population remaining within the bottom two quintiles. Such as stark divide exhibits urban privilege and rural adversity in clear terms.

Considering regional comparison, one thing that is apparent relates to the poorer states in the east and north-east having a larger share of households in lower hierarchy of national wealth quintile as against states in south with substantial share belonging to the upper hierarchy of the national wealth quintile structure. This forms the basis of caution to be adopted in equalising deprivation/privilege across regions. While reading this distribution, one can identify regions with richest poor vis-à-vis the poorest poor which happens to be Lakshadweep and Jharkhand which have the least and the most share of households in the bottommost hierarchy of the national wealth quintiles. Hence, a poor from Jharkhand can be forty times worse off compared to a poor from Lakshadweep. Besides this extreme comparison, the equivalence of the poorest in the south may well be many times better when compared to the poorest in central or eastern India. Therefore, the

poor of India according to this assessment are hardly comparable across its regions and their count in considering the equivalence elaborated above may well equate one poor of the privileged region with five of them in the disadvantaged region. In a similar tone, the comparison of the rich too can be explicitly divided in the sense that rich most belonging to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh in north and Pondicherry and Kerala in south are hardly comparable with the rich of other regions. Such divide in terms of qualifying to the national wealth quintile structure needs to be noted while counting rich and poor across regions on one hand and reading deprivation/welfare on the other.

Another additional feature of this exposition of economic divide across states relates to the cumulative structure of the conformity of the quintile share distribution against the national pattern. Such a cumulative structure will offer a deviation pattern from the national ideal that would reveal a comparative construct of the entire economic hierarchy advantage/disadvantage of all states/regions. Such a cumulative structure mostly remains below the national ideal indicating the concentration favouring the more affluent vs the less affluent excepting in case of some states wherein the curve will remain above the national ideal indicating the concentration of the less affluent when contrasted against the national ideal. Such an exposition makes poorer states of Madhya

Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha remain above the ideal national pattern as against the richer states with a cumulative structure remaining below the national ideal. The share of the cumulative structure above/below the national ideal line informs the share of departure from the national hierarchy.

This analysis, though simplistic, serves the purpose of contrasting rich poor equivalence across regions in India which is perhaps quite essential in comparison of state of welfare disparity across regions. While such a valuation is undoubtedly average conditioned to a large extent, they do inform on the equivalence of the poor and rich across regions. In fact, carrying out the same across religion and caste attributes reflects the conformity of the religious majority and deviance for minorities. Similarly, it is revealing that scheduled tribes remain quite disadvantaged in relation to national economic hierarchy. On the whole, stark disadvantage among the majority population count vis-à-vis privilege among a minority population count confirms the prevailing inequality at large. Therefore, it would be safe to say that there is an explicit divergence in wealth/assets across regions in India.

Udaya S Mishra works as a Professor in the Department of Bio-Statistics at IIPS, Mumbai. Balakrushna Padhi works as an Assistant Professor at BITS Pilani, Rajasthan Campus. Views are personal.

Maha machination

Sir, This refers to “National party will help us, says Shinde,” **Orissa POST**, June 24. The Uddhav Thackeray government would appear to be coming undone by, on the one end, its own weakness, the inability or unwillingness or both of a family-run party to accommodate the rising ambitions within, and on the other end, by its partner-turned-foe BJP’s aggressive fishing in murky waters. After all, unlikely alliances are not unusual in Indian politics and, time and again, power has proved to be a strong glue followed by bitter divorces. The prospect of a vertical split in the Sena, and the endgame for the Uddhav Thackeray government, will pose a test for the institutions of the Speaker and Governor. The Deputy Speaker could be called upon to assess the claims and counter claims and determine the status of the Sena factions under provisions of the anti-defection law, while the Governor could play a critical role in resolving the political instability. The fate of the Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra will also send signals that resonate beyond the state. With less than two years to go for the general election in 2024, and given that the Opposition is struggling to rally together to put up a fight against a formidable and predatory BJP, the loss of a crucial state will be consequential.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

India’s aid for Afghanistan

Sir, A devastating earthquake in Afghanistan has led to the death of more than 1000 people and injuries to many more. Several people have lost their homes and livelihood in the quake-hit provinces. This earthquake has been regarded as one of the worst-hit quakes in decades for Afghanistan. This calamity has pushed the people of Afghanistan into more turmoil as a lot of sanctions from the international community were already imposed due to the Taliban rule from the last one year. Amid all this the Indian government has sent the first consignment of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan for the earthquake-hit people. India has always stood with Afghanistan during its hard times and the people of Afghanistan are going through one of the most challenging times in their history. India and Afghanistan share historical and cultural linkages which will only strengthen after this humble act from India. India also has a good relationship with the people of Afghanistan. This help will always be remembered by Afghans.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

of the day quote

Delhi's roads will soon be durable and aesthetically appealing as the government's aim is to provide a pleasant and hassle-free commuting experience to everyone

Important development works related to welfare of people shouldn't be held up due to the ongoing political crisis in the state

The presidential contest this time round is not a fight of identity but of ideology

SHORT TAKES

Amarinder Singh undergoes surgery

Chandigarh: Former Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh underwent a successful spinal surgery in a London hospital Saturday. According to his wife Preetneet Kaur, who is with him, the surgery was successful and he was shifted to a private room in the hospital. He will be discharged Monday, she said.

NIA conducts raids

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at five locations in Mizoram's Aizawl, Champa and Kolasib districts in connection with an explosives seizure case. The case relates to the recovery of 2,421.12 kg of explosives, including 1,000 detonators, 4,500 metres of detonating fuse, as well as Indian and Myanmar currency, from a vehicle in Zawngling area, Saiha district.

Hyd youth dies

Hyderabad: A youth was electrocuted after a live wire snapped and fell on him here, sources said Saturday. The incident occurred in Bholakpur area of the city on Friday night. The teenager was riding a motorbike. According to police, the wire got entangled into a DCM van and snapped. The live wire fell on the youth who was riding the two-wheeler behind the van.

Man robbed

New Delhi: A man has been robbed of ₹34 lakh here at the Sarai Rohilla flyover, the police said Friday. Deputy Commissioner of Police Sagar Singh Kalsi said a PCR call was received around 12.50 a.m. on June 23 at Sarai Rohilla police station regarding a loot at Sarai Rohilla flyover. As soon as the police received information, it rushed to the spot. A person -- Vicky Gupta, working for his employer Vijay Rathod, submitted that he was delivering a payment of ₹34 lakh from his shop to a place in Subzi Mandi.

DGCA stops ops at 2 training schools

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has stopped operations of two flying training schools due to serious safety concerns, an official statement said Saturday. The two schools are Chimes Aviation Academy in Madhya Pradesh and NMIMS Academy of Aviation in Maharashtra, it said. Chimes Aviation Academy (CAA) had in February last year inked an agreement with the country's largest airline IndiGo for cadet pilot programme. "In one case (Chimes), it has been stopped till such time the runway is suitable for flying operations.



Women even today are not getting enough opportunities to grow despite having equal status in society

VASUNDHARA RAJE | BJP LEADER

ENHANCED RAINFALL LIKELY

Northwest India, which is again reeling under hot conditions after a brief spell of pre-monsoon showers, is likely to experience an enhanced rainfall from Monday, the IMD said Saturday



26/11 attacks handler jailed for 15 yrs in Pak



THE COUNTER TERRORISM DEPARTMENT OF THE PUNJAB POLICE, WHICH OFTEN ISSUES CONVICTIONS OF THE SUSPECTS IN SUCH CASES TO THE MEDIA, DID NOT NOTIFY MIR'S CONVICTION

PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES HAD IN THE PAST CLAIMED HE HAD DIED, BUT WESTERN COUNTRIES REMAINED UNCONVINCED AND DEMANDED PROOF OF HIS DEATH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Lahore, June 25: Sajid Majeed Mir, one of India's most wanted terrorists and the main handler of the deadly 2008 Mumbai attacks who was earlier declared dead by Pakistan, has been jailed for over 15 years in a terror-financing case by an anti-terrorism court in the country, which is struggling to exit the grey list of the FATF.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab Police, which often issues convictions of the suspects in such cases to the media, did not notify Mir's conviction.

His sentencing comes as Islamabad prepares for an on-site visit by the officials from the Paris-based global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to verify the implementation of Pakistan's relevant anti-money laundering and terrorism-financing reforms. A positive report may facilitate Pakistan's exit from the grey list of the FATF.

"An anti-terrorism court in Lahore early this month had handed down 15 and a half years jail term to Sajid Majeed Mir, an activist of banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in a terror-financing case," a senior lawyer associated with terror financing cases of LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) leaders said Friday.

Besides, since it was an in-camera proceeding at the high-security jail, the media was not allowed. The lawyer further said Mir has

been in the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore since his arrest in April. He said the court also imposed a fine of over ₹400,000 on the convict.

Pakistani authorities had in the past claimed he had died, but Western countries remained unconvinced and demanded proof of his death. This issue became a major sticking point in FATF's assessment of Pakistan's progress on the action plan late last year.

This was where things finally started moving in Mir's case leading to his 'arrest', the Dawn newspaper reported Saturday. His conviction and sentencing were, therefore, major achievements that Pakistani officials showcased in their progress report given to FATF on its action plan during the latest plenary, the paper commented.

It indeed helped in convincing FATF members that Pakistan had finished all the required tasks, it added. Mir, 44, is on the FBI's list of most-wanted terrorists. The US has placed a bounty of USD 5 million for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. Mir is on India's most-wanted list for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks that left 166 people dead, including six Americans.

Before the last meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Pakistan reportedly told the agency that it had arrested and prosecuted Sajid Mir in order to seek its removal from the global anti-laundering body's 'Grey list'.

Mir was called the 'project manager' of the Mumbai attacks.

Gehlot hits out at Shekhawat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 25: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Saturday launched a scathing attack on Union Minister and senior BJP leader Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, alleging that the latter was hand in glove with Sachin Pilot in the conspiracy to topple the state government.

During his visit to Sikar, Gehlot said, "Everyone knows that you (Shekhawat) conspired to topple the government. Now you are taking the name of Sachin Pilot saying he made a mistake. There is strong proof that you were hand in glove with him (Pilot)."

Addressing a gathering in Chomu, Shekhawat had recently said that Pilot lost a "golden chance" in revolting against the Congress and repeating a "Madhya Pradesh-like experiment" in Rajasthan.

Shekhawat also claimed that if Pilot had not failed to topple the Rajasthan government, the state's 13 districts would not have remained thirsty and the work on the Eastern Canal project would have started. Gehlot referred to the above statement of Shekhawat and spoke on the recent matter of phone-tapping during his speech.

The state Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) recently served a notice to Shekhawat for collecting his voice samples in the phone-tapping case that was reported during the political crisis



The CM's remarks have once again triggered discussions in the Congress, as he hinted that Shekhawat was in collusion with Pilot

of 2020, when Pilot had rebelled against the state leadership under Gehlot. Gehlot said, "The law is doing its job and finally the notice has been served to notice to Shekhawat for collecting his voice samples in the phone-tapping case that was reported during the political crisis

"You (Shekhawat) were the main character in the plot to top-

ple the government and everyone knows that you have been exposed. When your voice came, the world knew that the voice was yours. You conspired to topple the government and now you are taking the name of Sachin Pilot, saying that he made a mistake. This becomes an official proof that you were hand in glove with him," Gehlot added.

The Chief Minister's remarks have once again triggered discussions in the Congress, as he hinted that Shekhawat was in collusion with Pilot. Many feel that Gehlot's remarks will intensify the ongoing tussle between the two camps led by the Chief Minister and Pilot.

DAILY GRIND



Tribal women carry dry leaves at a village in Jabalpur

PTI PHOTO

Arrested IAS officer's son dies, cops say suicide

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau had earlier this week arrested IAS officer Sanjay Popli in a graft case for allegedly demanding bribe in exchange of clearing tenders for laying a sewerage pipeline in Nawanshahr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 25: A 27-year-old son of IAS officer Sanjay Popli, currently under arrest in a graft case, died of bullet wounds here Saturday, with police saying he committed suicide but family alleging foul play.

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau had earlier this week arrested IAS

officer Sanjay Popli in a graft case for allegedly demanding bribe in exchange of clearing tenders for laying a sewerage pipeline in Nawanshahr.

Chandigarh's Senior Superintendent of Police Kuldeep Singh Chahal said after verifying things it has come to fore that the 27-year-old "has shot himself". Further investigations are on, the

SSP said, adding a licensed pistol was used in the incident.

In connection with the investigation of the case, a Vigilance team had come to the Popli's house and was present at the time of the incident, a neighbour and family friend said. On June 21, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau had arrested Popli for allegedly demanding one per cent commission as bribe for clearance of tenders for laying a sewerage pipeline in Nawanshahr.

An inconsolable Sanjay Popli's wife told reporters, "The Vigilance officials were pressuring us and they were even torturing my do-



mestic help to give false statements in support of the case they have registered. My 27-year-old son is gone. He was a brilliant lawyer. They have snatched him". "To build a false case, they snatched my son-Kartik Popli is gone," said Sanjay

Popli's wife showing blood spots of his son on her hands.

"I want justice. I will move court," said the wailing woman, repeatedly crying "my son has been killed". "(Punjab Chief Minister) Bhagwant Mann should answer," she said. She said her husband Sanjay was due to appear before the court and a Vigilance team had visited their house.

"The Vigilance people took Kartik upstairs and when I went up they were mentally torturing my son," she said, while adding "even our mobile phones were snatched". "My son has died...", she alleged.

Monsoon variability can lead to food insecurity: Experts

Rainfall due to southwest monsoon -- termed as the real Finance Minister of the country - decides the fate of crop production along with other weather variables

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: The monsoon variability will impact the food grain production, and in turn, food security for the country if the rain dependent farmers are not provided timely weather inputs along with guidance on technical inputs for better farm practices, experts said Friday.

Rainfall due to southwest monsoon -- termed as the real Finance Minister of the country - decides the fate of crop production along with other weather variables.

Factors that impact food production also include unprecedented heat waves such as the one experienced by northwest India earlier in March. Even when the SW monsoon arrived three days early

over Kerala, the progress had been delayed over central India and parts of south peninsular India.

In view of the increasingly erratic nature of the monsoon, farmers have already altered their sowing windows or changed crops, replacing traditional yields with cash crops, or vegetables with shorter crop life, or horticulture with variable gestation period. During a webinar, multi-sectoral experts pointed out the lacunae and suggested some measures.

Abinash Mohanty, programme lead, Risks & Adaptation, Council for Energy Environment & Water said: "A 1 per cent change in monsoon rainfall will result in 0.34 per cent change in India's agriculture-driven GDP that year. A normal monsoon can increase GDP from



the transport, storage, trade and communication sector by 1 per cent and 3 per cent in the agri-dominated states. Our electricity generation can decrease by 13 per cent in case of weakened monsoon. Hydroelectric power constitutes 40 per cent of the power sources that can also be impacted."

Asserting that India needs to

build resilience through systems, technology and financial innovations, Mohanty said: "The approach needs to be changed from relief centric to response centric and that can happen only when farmers are provided granular climate information that can inform about the impact it will have on crops and the steps that need to be taken

in the short, medium and long term."

Availability of granular data has been a common concern flagged by other experts too, be it agriculture related or weather information. Stating that Russia-Ukraine war has given a clear message to each and every country to prioritize food sufficiency, Devinder Sharma, an agriculture expert told a webinar that monsoon deficiency is further going to increase pressure on food prices, which are already high. "We need to build capacity to produce rather than worrying about the food security chains."

Sharma said: "In the name of climate smart agriculture, the focus is on corporatized technology driven rather than making farming climate resilient. Moreover, the Krishi

Vikas Kendras (VKVs) across India have been unable to deliver." Anjal Prakash, research director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business and one of the lead authors for the IPCC working group report II, echoed the sentiment.

"New age skills and new age requirements to combat climate change are just not there (in India)," he said and added, "People, especially in the Himalayan region, are adapting (to climate change) on their own. There is no support whatsoever from the agricultural extension centres regarding climate change. The way in this Ministry is organized, they have no lateral entry to even understand the climate change impact on agriculture."

Chhattisgarh boy leaves hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur, June 25: The 11-year-old boy, who was rescued after being trapped in a borewell for over 100 hours in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa, was discharged from a private hospital here Saturday, an official said.

According to doctors, Rahul Sahu, who sustained multiple injuries and contracted serious infection due to the accident, is now fit and fine and can walk. Officials from the Bilaspur district administration and police were in the hospital when Rahul was discharged this morning, while Janjgir-Champa collector Jitendra Shukla, superintendent of police Vijay Agrawal and other officials were there to take him home.

On June 10, Rahul fell into an unused 80-feet deep borewell in the backyard of his house in Pihrid village of Janjgir-Champa, and got stuck 60-feet below the surface.

Despite facing several challenges, neither the rescuers nor Rahul gave up the fighting spirit for almost five days. He was rescued by a joint team of over 500 personnel from multiple agencies, after a 104-hour-long operation on June 14 night. The rescuers dug a parallel pit and created a tunnel to reach the boy. According to the boy's father Ram Kumar Sahu, Rahul is not mentally sound and could not speak properly. Rahul's mental state prevented the rescuers to easily pull him out using a rope. The boy was admitted to a private hospital in Bilaspur district. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had visited the hospital to take stock of his health, and had directed doctors to take all necessary measures to ensure best medical care.

Media can report FIRs, court cases without attracting libel: HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur, June 25: In a significant judgement, the Bombay High Court has upheld the rights of the media to report registration of first information reports (FIRs) with the police and cases filed in the courts without attracting defamation proceedings.

Stressing the freedom of the press and the importance of the information disseminated by the media, Justice Vinay Joshi, of the court's Nagpur bench, quashed a defamation case filed in 2018 against Lokmat Media Pvt Ltd Charman Vijay Darda and Editor-in-Chief Rajendra Darda, who were represented by lawyer Firdos Mirza.

The ruling came on the libel suit filed by Ravindra G. Gupta of Yavatmal - represented by lawyer Nitin Lambat - who felt aggrieved by a report published in the Lokmat's May 20, 2016 edition, contending it was a false and frivolous news item in connivance with the co-accused with the sole intention of humiliating him and lowering his esteem in society. "There is no material to show that the applicants (Dardas) were somehow concerned with the publication of the defamatory news item," said Justice Joshi in his judgement delivered on June 20.

He noted that whatever was published in the newspaper was based on the FIR registered against Gupta, which cannot be termed as defamation.

HOW NEO-HINDUTVA WORKS

Hijab row dents Karnataka's image, but gives BJP boost

Insiders in the BJP and the RSS confide that the crisis has proved to be a shot in the arm for them ahead of the state Assembly polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 25: The hijab row which made international headlines and pushed Karnataka under the spotlight has been seen as a development detrimental to the image of the state which is considered one of the most progressive and prosperous in the country. However, insiders in the BJP and the RSS confide that the crisis has proved to be a shot in the arm for them ahead of the state assembly polls.

The hijab row played out over months in the state with initially the month-long protests by 6 students of the Udupi Pre-University Girl's College who demanded that they be allowed to wear a hijab while attending classes.

The BJP wanted polarisation among the Hindu masses. The hijab crisis and developments with regard to the resistance to the government order as well as the court order delivered it on a silver platter to the BJP, sources said.

The youth who were not so keen on Hindutva have now become ardent Hindutva followers. They flaunted saffron shawls and this has ensured the formation of future cadres who will cast their votes in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, insiders claimed.

The Congress is the loser in the whole episode as the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) got the sympathy of the minority community in the state. BJP leaders proposed to impose a ban on



SDPI alleging that they have trained the girls to stage a protest for the hijab.

The 6 girls who started the protest praised the SDPI and how it had helped them and clarified that it was they who approached the SDPI for help.

Congress leaders DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah launched a scathing attack on the RSS for creating social unrest.

Chaman Farzana, educationist and national secretary of the All India Mahila Congress, told IANS that a non-issue has been made into an issue which will have a direct bearing on the education of a girl belonging to the minority community.

"The concept of a uniform was brought by the Britishers. Why adopt a British norm here, why is hijab not being allowed? In north Karnataka, none of the women come out of their homes without a cloth around their heads. Small girls seeking an education come out of their houses in veils. They have become sufferers. Is it right for anyone to make them suffer?" Farzana questioned.

"In orthodox Muslim families education is rare among girls. Now, when the hijab is banned the parents are asking them to marry and

settle down. It is a great loss to the nation," she said.

Following the protest by Muslim religious leaders and traders against the dismissal of petitions seeking permission to wear the hijab in classes, a series of communal incidents followed. Hindu activists declared a ban on Muslim traders which again made headlines. It trickled down to the demand for the prohibition on the use of loud-speakers in mosques.

However, the situation came under control after Muslim religious leaders announced that they will follow the court order. The majority of students belonging to the minority community started coming for exams and classes without the hijab. A few of them who resisted were sent back home from their classes.

As the elections are fast approaching it is feared that the hijab row could make a comeback in the state. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Education Minister BC Nagesh have said that they will implement the uniform rule strictly. Educational institutions are asking students to take transfer certificates and join other colleges if they do not want to shun the hijab. Presently, the issue is before the Supreme Court.

Unprecedented security for Amarnath Yatra

THE HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES ALSO COME IN THE BACKDROP OF A RECENT SPURT IN TARGET KILLINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 25: Security forces have made unprecedented security arrangements for Amarnath yatra as they apprehend a higher threat perception to the pilgrims this year, a senior Army official said here Saturday.

The Army officer, who did not wish to be identified, said security personnel three to four times more in strength have been deployed around the yatra as there's a credible intelligence of a likely militant strike.

"There is an increased threat perception to the Amarnath yatra this year. We generally receive inputs about terrorists targeting the yatra every year, but this year, there are more such inputs," the officer said.

He said the administration expects the number of yatrīs to go up this year especially since the pilgrimage is taking place for the first time in four years -- it was cancelled midway in 2019 with the Centre's revocation of J-K special status, and suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic -- and also because of the increased number of tourist arrivals.

The security preparations have also been made keeping these factors in mind, the officer added.

"We are expecting almost two to three times increase in the number of yatrīs. A lot of preparations have been put into place. The number of security forces personnel deployed on the ground for the smooth conduct of the yatra is three or four times more than the previous years," he said.

The heightened security measures also come in the backdrop of a recent spurt in target killings, including those of workers belonging to the minority community.

Despite the administration's efforts to ensure a safe and secure yatra "we cannot say that we have made it 100 per cent foolproof," the officer said.

Apart from the deployment, drone surveillance and RFID chips



Massive searches carried out along IB

JAMMU: Security forces Saturday carried out a massive search operation along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir to detect cross-border tunnels and prevent any infiltration attempts by terrorists during the Amarnath Yatra, officials said.

The search operation was jointly carried out by Police, CRPF, and BSF in the forward villages in Samba, Kathua, and Jammu districts, the officials said. "Various intelligence inputs sug-

gest that terrorists are planning to infiltrate from across the border to disrupt the yatra," Deputy Superintendent of Police (operations), Samba, GR Bhardwaj said.

Bhardwaj, who was leading the joint search operation, said that about 8-km area from Suchetgarh border to Regal was combed by the joint forces with a focus on detecting any possible cross-border tunnel which might have been dug from across the border by terrorists to infiltrate.

He said the forces searched all unattended areas during the operation, which is part of the unprecedented security arrangements made for the upcoming yatra.

"We are alert to the threat and have stepped up area domination patrols, search operations, and night vigils to thwart any attempt by terrorists to disrupt the yatra," Bhardwaj said, adding that additional checkpoints have also been set up to strengthen the border and highway grid.

will also be part of the three-tier security arrangements for the pilgrims.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar had June 14 said that three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, who were killed in

recent encounters, were sent from Pakistan to attack the annual Amarnath Yatra.

Of the three slain terrorists, two were Pakistanis and one was a local, he said.

July 10, 2017, seven people were

killed and 11 others injured when militants attacked a bus carrying Amarnath yatrīs in Botengo on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway. The Yatra is scheduled to start June 30 and will culminate August 11.

Litterateurs urge CM to 'establish peace' in state



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 25: In a setback to the ruling BJP government, litterateurs and thinkers have written an open letter to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai urging him to "establish peace in Karnataka by protecting Muslims."

Chief Minister Bommai should have "assured protection" of Muslims in the state who are being "targeted by communal forces" again and again, the letter stated, adding "the Chief Minister should have stated that Ramzan festival will

be celebrated on lines with the Basavana Jayanthi. Then it would have touched hearts."

The litterateurs maintained that they had tried to meet him and submit the memorandum since over a month, and they were not able to meet him.

"It is demanded that the police should be directed to work as per the objectives of the Constitution. The victims of communal forces should be getting justice, witnesses should be protected and assured of protection," it added.

Going forward, the litterateurs suggested that in case of communal violence, arson, and deaths, there should be action on respective DC, district administration, police officers.

"Online and social media campaign against minorities should be monitored and controlled. The government should be vocal about condemning it and initiate action," they urged.

As many as 75 litterateurs and thinkers including filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli, singer MD Pallavi, writers Vaidehi, B. Suresh, HS. Anupama, Dr Tejaswini Niranjana and Nanjaraj Urs have expressed their concerns in the letter.

'150 militants ready at launchpads across LoC to infiltrate into J&K'

500 to 700 more are undergoing training at 11 camps at Manshera, Kotli and Muzaffarabad across the LoC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 25: There are about 150 militants present at the launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) ready to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir while 500 to 700 more are undergoing training at eleven terror camps there, a senior Army officer said Saturday.

He said security forces have successfully thwarted infiltration attempts by the militants along the LoC in the Valley. "There are about 500 to 700 people at the 11 training camps at Manshera, Kotli and Muzaffarabad across the LoC," the Army officer, who did not wish to be named, said.

As per the intelligence inputs, he said, there are about 150 terrorists at the launchpads in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir ready to infiltrate into J&K.



The officer said there has been no successful infiltration along the LoC in the valley so far this year.

"Till May end, everything has been taken care of. There was a particular group which had come and you are aware that it got eliminated at Bandipora and Sopor," he said, referring to the killing of foreign militants in encounters with the security forces.

The Army officer said militants are now focusing on other infiltration routes other than those that have been identified.

"I am not saying that we have put in place a system that ensures zero

infiltration. Yes, there is a possibility of infiltration taking place here, but in recent years, the way we have made the fence stronger, the way the deployment has been made including the surveillance equipment, the success rate of infiltration has gone down. As a result, what happens is that when there is pressure on one side, they try other sides, the alternate routes. They (militants) are now trying the Rajouri-Poonch routes, the areas of the south of Pir Panjal. The infiltration here (in Kashmir valley) has gone down compared to other routes," he said here.

Mehbooba urges Kashmiri youth to shun militancy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 25: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti Saturday appealed to the youth of Kashmir to shun militancy and save their lives, claiming security forces were getting incentives for killing them.

Mehbooba said Jammu and Kashmir was going through a tumultuous phase and in the times to come, it will need its youth.

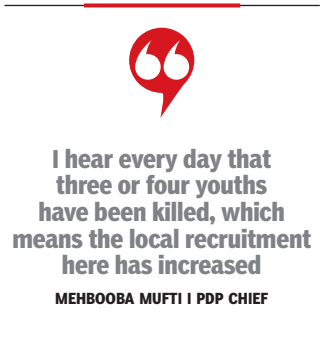
"I hear every day that three or four youths have been killed, which means the local recruitment here has increased," she told reporters here.

"It is my request to the parents and the children to save their lives because killing you is an incentive for them (security forces). They get money and promotions for that," she alleged.



"So, do not pick up arms. They kill four-five (militants) every day.. I appeal to you this is not right and you should leave it," the PDP president said.

Referring to the protests by Kashmiri Pandits over the target killings of the members of the community, she said people, including religious leaders, should em-



phasise on the fact that Pandits were a part of the Kashmiri society and are its asset.

"Kashmiri Pandits are still protesting. When the situation was bad during my tenure (as CM), even then no Pandit was killed. We provided them a salary for 17

months while they were home. I appeal to our people, our maulvis (religious leaders) to announce that they (Kashmiri Pandits) are our assets," she said.

"Whenever something wrong happens here, the BJP uses this community (Kashmiri Pandits) to defame us," she added.

About the unprecedented security arrangements for this year's Amarnath Yatra, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the administration has created such an atmosphere as if some attacker is coming.

"They are yatrīs, our guests. We have been caring for them for centuries. But, (this year), you (administration) have placed so many nakas (security checkpoints) that it seems the yatra is taking place for the first time," she added.



If Agniveers who serve for a short period of time are not entitled to a pension, then why this 'facility' should be for public representatives? If those who protect the country do not have the right to pension then I am also ready to forego mine

VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

The External Affairs Ministry rose to the occasion to meet the increased demand for passport services built up due to two-and-half-years of the Covid pandemic, and recorded an impressive monthly average of 9 lakh

S JAISHANKAR | UNION MINISTER

All the democratic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir have been diluted to fit in the vision of a particular political party. There is fear, anxiety, concern, and insecurity everywhere. Our people, particularly our youth, have been pushed to the margins

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Cop ends life

New Delhi: A 24-year-old Delhi Police constable allegedly died by suicide inside the police barrack in the national capital, an official said on Saturday. "The Constable, identified as Jaimal Singh, committed suicide on Friday," Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said. Jaimal Singh is survived by his wife and a daughter. The official informed that legal proceedings under section 174 CrPC have been initiated. "He has been under treatment for depression for the past three months. This could probably be a cause for committing suicide," Guguloth said.

19 arrested

Ghaziabad: Ghaziabad Police have arrested 19 people during a raid at an illegally run hookah bar in this Uttar Pradesh district, an official said Saturday. According to the official, the said hookah bar was found being operated at Urban Terrace restaurant in Indirapuram. Hookahs and other material were also seized in large numbers, he added. "Around seven hookahs, one packet of coal, seven chilams and several packets of different kinds of flavours used in the hookah were seized," the official added.

Woman injured

Gurugram: A 22-year-old woman was injured when she was shot at by a jilted lover in IMT Manesar area of Gurugram Saturday morning, police said. The woman had a narrow escape as the bullet grazed her shoulder. The victim has been identified as Radhika, 20, a resident of Ghaziabad while the man has also been identified but his name is yet to be disclosed. According to the police, the incident took place at around 9 a.m. in IMT Manesar police station jurisdiction area.

Vandalism case: 19 SFI activists held

Wayanad (Kerala): Nineteen activists of the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the students wing of the ruling CPI(M), have been arrested and remanded so far in connection with the attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's office here, even as opposition Congress-led UDF targeted Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the incident saying the attack was held with his knowledge. The Marxist party's students' cadre attacked the Wayanad MP's office as part of a Sangh Parivar agenda with the knowledge of Modi to please the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, the Congress alleged.



An atmosphere of violence and mistrust is prevailing in the country

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

DIAMOND FOUND

A labourer has found a 3.15 carat diamond during digging work in a mine in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district, an official said Saturday. According to local experts, the precious stone may fetch around ₹10-12 lakh in auction



UDDHAV BERATES REBELS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 25: Shiv Sena President and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Saturday launched a scathing attack on purported attempts by the rebel group to christen itself after the party founder-patriarch, the late Balasaheb Thackeray.

"Don't invoke my Dad's name, use your father's name, to win the elections," said a livid Thackeray, presiding over a meeting of the Shiv Sena's national executive here Saturday afternoon.

His strong reaction came in response to unverified reports that the rebels led by Minister Eknath Sambhaji Shinde - currently camping in Guwahati - had allegedly decided to rename itself as "Shiv Sena-Balasaheb Thackeray Group".

As a row built up with angst among Shiv Sainiks in Maharashtra, the rebels quickly backtracked and claimed that they are the "real Shiv Sena". Thackeray also said that the party will write to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure that the name of Shiv Sena or Balasaheb Thackeray is not misused by unauthorised persons or groups of such "turncoats" for their political interests, failing which they would



Supporters of rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde gather outside his residence in Thane

PTI PHOTO

face legal action.

Meanwhile, the national executive of the Shiv Sena Saturday passed a resolution authorizing Maharashtra Chief Minister and party chief Uddhav Thackeray to take action against "those who have betrayed the party", but refrained from taking immediate action against rebel leader Eknath Shinde. The executive, which met here, also passed a resolution that no other political outfit or faction can use the name Shiv Sena and the name of its founder, late Bal

Thackeray, even as the Shinde faction, which is camping in Guwahati, said it has named itself as 'Shiv Sena (Balasaheb)'.

"The executive decided that Shiv Sena belongs to Bal Thackeray and is committed to taking forward his fierce ideology of Hindutva and Marathi pride. Shiv Sena will never deviate from this path," party MP Sanjay Raut said in Mumbai.

"It passed a resolution, giving all powers to take action against those who have betrayed the party to

TOXIC FOAM



A man searches for recyclable material in the polluted waters of Yamuna, near ITO in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

War veterans' pensions held up in WB

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 25: The Trinamool Congress and its supremo Mamata Banerjee may be fighting the Agnipath scheme tooth and nail, but not all is well with ex-servicemen in West Bengal where the party is in power for over 10 years now.

Several World War-II veterans, as well as some widows, have said how they do not receive their monthly pensions on time. Ex-servicemen (ESM) also complain about how they receive no preference during recruitment to the state police force or other departments. The West Bengal government had earlier announced that 5 per cent of recruitment in the police would be earmarked for ESM.

"It's been over two months now since I received any pension. I have no other means of livelihood. At my age, the best I can do is pluck some vegetables from our garden and

Several World War-II veterans, as well as some widows, have said that they do not receive their monthly pensions on time



sell them outside. That way I manage to earn a few rupees a day that I need to pay for some rice and lentils to stay alive," the widow of a WW-II veteran said.

She is nearly 90-year-old and doesn't want her name made public. "They will stop paying if I complain. I prefer to wait," she added.

Her husband was part of the Burma campaign and the famous Battle of Kohima. He was injured and returned home a paraplegic. She has been making both ends meet since then. Her husband died a few years ago and she is no longer able to work as she used to.

"We are supposed to receive a

pension of ₹3,000 per month, but the payment is irregular. It's a hand-to-mouth existence for most of us who don't have children or other relatives. It's particularly difficult for the widows. We find that there are funds for all kind of schemes in the state, but when it comes to us, there is a shortage of funds," a former soldier of the Gorkha Rifles said.

West Bengal has 376 World War-II pensioners, including 38 widows. An official in the state finance department said that pension couldn't be paid as funds were not allocated. There was no comment from the Rajya Sainik Board that operates under the state government.

Manwhile, an ESM wondered how the state can pay ₹50,000 each to Durga Puja organisers but fail to allocate funds for ESM and their widows. The Uttarakhand government, on the other hand, has increased the pension for WW-II veterans and widows from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000.

Manwhile, an ESM wondered how the state can pay ₹50,000 each to Durga Puja organisers but fail to allocate funds for ESM and their widows. The Uttarakhand government, on the other hand, has increased the pension for WW-II veterans and widows from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000.

BSP extends support to Murmu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 25: The BSP Saturday extended its support to the BJP-led NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu, who is likely to be the first tribal leader and the second woman to occupy the post.

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 P C Mody.

"The BSP has decided to extend support to Droupadi Murmu in the coming presidential elections keeping in mind that the Adivasi samaj is an important part of the party's movement," BSP supremo Mayawati said here.

"This decision was taken neither to support the BJP or NDA nor to go against the opposition UPA. It was done keeping in mind our party and its movement for making a capable and dedicated Adivasi woman the President of the country," she said.



The BSP president while criticising the opposition parties for keeping her out of consultation while deciding on the presidential candidate, stressed that her party is free to decide on the presidential election.

"The Bengal chief minister by unilaterally and arbitrarily inviting only selected parties to the meeting of the opposition on June 15 and then Sharad Pawar (of NCP) not calling the BSP for a similar meeting on June 21 makes their casteist intentions clear," Mayawati alleged.

NCPCR issues draft rules for child artistes



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: To protect child artistes in the entertainment industry, the NCPCR has come up with draft guidelines stating that no minor should work for more than 27 consecutive days and 20 per cent of the child's income has to be deposited in a fixed deposit account.

The draft Regulatory Guidelines for Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry covers television programmes, including reality shows, TV serials, news and informative media, movies, content on OTT platforms and social media, performing arts, advertising or any other kind of involvement of children in commercial entertainment activities.

The draft Guidelines by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) aims to protect child artistes from physical and psychological stress while ensuring a healthy work environment for them.

It requires the producers to obtain permission to involve a child in a shooting from a district magistrate where it is to be held and put a disclaimer of the steps taken to ensure the child has not been subjected to abuse or exploitation.

The draft specifies that no child should be allowed to work for more than 27 consecutive days. The child shall participate in one shift each day with a break after every three hours and not be made to enter into an agreement for rendering any service as a bonded labourer under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

The producer has to ensure that the school education of children engaged in the shooting will not get affected. A child excused from school attendance because of engagement in the entertainment in-

The draft guidelines by the NCPCR aims to protect child artistes from physical and psychological stress while ensuring a healthy work environment for them

dustry shall be taught by a private tutor appointed by the producer; the draft guideline states.

At least 20 per cent of the child's income from the production or event has to be directly deposited in a fixed deposit account in a nationalised bank in the name of the child to be credited on becoming an adult.

The guidelines also bar a child from being cast in a role or situation that is inappropriate or causes distress while stating that age, maturity, emotional or psychological development and sensitivity have to be kept into consideration. Production units have to ensure that the work environment is safe and the children are not exposed to harmful lighting, irritating or contaminated cosmetics.

It has to be ensured that facilities are appropriate to the age and needs of each child and they should not be made to share dressing spaces or rooms with adults, especially of the opposite sex.

The children should not be exposed to ridicule or behaviour that could affect their emotional health. Children should not be shown imbibing alcohol, smoking or indulging in any anti-social activity and delinquent behaviour, the draft guidelines stated. According to it, no child should be engaged in any situation involving nudity and programmes based on victims of child abuse should be sensitively handled.

PM to discuss several issues at G7 summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Ahead of his visit to Germany for the G7 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said he will exchange views with the leaders of the bloc and its partners on issues such as energy, food security, counter-terrorism, environment and democracy.

Modi is visiting Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 for the summit of the G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations. The G7 leaders are expected to focus on the Ukraine crisis that has triggered geopolitical turmoil besides fuelling a global food and energy crisis.

Modi is attending the G7 summit following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7. "In an effort to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit," Modi said in a statement ahead of his visit.

"During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 counties, G7 partner countries and guest International Organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," he added. Modi said he was looking forward to meeting leaders of some of the participating G7 and guest countries on the sidelines of the summit. The Prime Minister said he was also looking forward to meeting Chancellor Scholz again after the "productive" India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations last month.

Online classes triggered headache in kids: Study

For the study, the team analysed 851 adolescents aged between 10 and 18, with 756 (89 per cent) of children reporting headaches over the study period

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: Over one-third of school children who received online lessons during the Covid-19 pandemic reported worsening headache symptoms or new-onset headaches, says a new study.

The study, presented at the European Academy of Neurology

(EAN) Congress 2022, indicated that prolonged exposure to computer screens, a lack of suitable conditions for online learning from home, school exams and anxieties about Covid-19 were all found to be risk factors for the worsening of headache symptoms or triggering new-onset headaches.

"Although earlier studies reported that young people were having lesser headaches due to the closure of schools in the early weeks and months of Covid-19, this longer-term study has found that stresses and pressures of the pandemic eventually took their toll," said lead researcher Ayse Nur Ozdag Acarli from Ermenek State Hospital in Karaman, Turkey.

For the study, the team analysed 851 adolescents aged between 10



and 18, with 756 (89 per cent) of children reporting headaches over the study period. Among these chil-

dren, 10 per cent reported new-onset headaches over the pandemic home-schooling period. Over a

quarter (27 per cent) of children said their headaches had worsened, 61 per cent said their headaches had remained stable and 3 per cent said their headaches had improved.

Those who reported worsened or new-onset headaches suffered from headaches an average of 8-9 times per month.

Over half of children within this group (43 per cent) used painkillers at least once a month compared to a third (33 per cent) in the stable group.

The study found that headaches had a big impact on mental health and school achievements. Depression and anxiety scores, including anxiety about catching Covid-19, were significantly higher in the worsened and new-onset headache groups.

international

of the day quote

This year's food access issues could become next year's global food shortage. No country will be immune to the social and economic repercussions of such a catastrophe

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

Too many countries are saying this is a European war that is unnecessary ... and so the pressure will grow to encourage - coerce, maybe - the Ukrainians to a bad peace

BORIS JOHNSON | PM, UK

It is necessary to take immediate action on energy prices because of inflation, which is being caused substantially because of energy. These increases are spreading and causing price increases for other items

MARIO DRAGHI | PM, ITALY

SHORT TAKES

EU chief in Tehran

Dubai: European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell met Iran's top diplomat Saturday, Iranian state TV reported, as the bloc seeks to break an impasse between Tehran and Washington over reinstating a nuclear pact. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian last week called on Washington, which exited the deal and then imposed crippling sanctions on Tehran during the Trump administration in 2018, to "be realistic".

Strike snarls UK trains for 3rd day

London: Train stations were all but deserted across Britain Saturday, as the third day of a national strike snarled the weekend plans of millions. Train companies said only a fifth of passenger services would run, as about 40,000 cleaners, signallers, maintenance workers and station staff walked off the job in Britain's biggest and most disruptive railway strike for 30 years. The Rail, Maritime and Transport Union is seeking a substantial pay raise as workers face a cost-of-living squeeze amid four decade-high inflation rates.

China to give Af \$7.5mn as aid

Shanghai: China will provide humanitarian aid worth 50 million yuan (\$7.5 million) to Afghanistan after it was hit by an earthquake that killed more than 1,000 people this week, the Chinese foreign ministry said Saturday. The aid will include tents, towels, beds and other materials, the ministry said in a statement on its website. The 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan early Wednesday near the Pakistani border, about 160 km (100 miles) southeast of Kabul.

Stampede in Africa kills 18

Rabat: At least 18 people were killed in a stampede as more than 2,000 sub-Saharan migrants tried to breach the border between Morocco and Melilla, a Spanish enclave city in Africa, state media reported. An earlier report said five migrants were killed and 76 others injured, and 140 Moroccan security officers were wounded, including five in critical condition, reports Xinhua news agency citing state media. A total of 13 of the injured migrants later died in hospital, raising the death toll to 18, the state media said.



When WWII broke out, Hitler united a significant number, if not most, of the European countries under his banner for a war against the Soviet Union. Today, the EU and NATO are acting in a similar way, building a modern coalition of the same kind for a fight and pretty much a war against Russia

SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

EVACUATION ULTIMATUM

West African country Burkina Faso's army has given civilians two weeks to evacuate vast areas in its northern and southeastern regions ahead of military operations against Islamist insurgents



US abortion ruling sparks global debate

US WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO GRANT A NATIONWIDE RIGHT TO ABORTION WITH THE 1973 ROE V. WADE DECISION THAT WAS OVERTURNED FRIDAY AFTER YEARS OF MOBILISATION BY OPPONENTS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nairobi, June 25: The end of constitutional protections for abortions in the United States Friday emboldened abortion opponents around the world, while advocates for abortion rights worried it could threaten recent moves toward legalization in their countries.

The US Supreme Court's overturning of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision "shows that these types of rights are always at risk of being steamrolled," said Ruth Zurbruggen, an Argentinian activist and member of the Companion Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, a group favoring abortion rights.

But in El Salvador, anti-abortion campaigner Sara Larin expressed hope the ruling will bolster campaigns against the procedure around the globe.

"I trust that with this ruling it will be possible to abolish abortion in the United States and throughout the world," said Larin,

American women today have less freedom than their mothers... This cruel ruling is outrageous and heart-wrenching. But make no mistake: the rights of women and all Americans are on the ballot this November

NANCY PELOSI | DEMOCRATIC SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

president of Fundaci3n Vida SV.

The decision, which leaves it up to lawmakers in individual US state to decide whether to allow or ban abortions, lit up social media across Argentina, where a law that legalized elective abortion up to the 14th week of gestation took effect in January 2021 after years of debate.

Anti-abortion activists cheered the ruling, with legislator Amalia Granata tweeting: "There is justice again in the world. We are going to achieve this in Argentina too!"

In more conservative countries like El Salvador, where abortions

SC has made the US an outlier among developed nations in the world: Biden

Over 50 nations with previously restrictive laws have liberalized their abortion legislation over the past 25 years: UN

US firms including Walt Disney and Meta said they will cover employees' expenses if they have to travel for abortion services

About half of states are expected to introduce new curbs, out of which 13 have outlawed abortion effective immediately

are illegal no matter the circumstance and where some 180 women with obstetric emergencies have been criminally prosecuted in the last two decades, Larin warned that the ruling could inspire yet more efforts to loosen abortion restrictions outside the US.

In Mexico, lawyer and activist Ver3nica Cruz said the ruling could give a boost to anti-abortion groups, but added it likely won't have any impact in Mexico where 10 of the country's 32 states have legalized abortion up to 12 weeks gestation in recent years.

She noted the ruling could lead to an increase in calls for help from US women seeking to have abortions in Mexico or to buy pills to interrupt pregnancies at Mexican pharmacies.

Ricardo Cano, with the anti-abortion group National Front for Life, also doubts the ruling would have any impact in Mexico or elsewhere in Latin America, given the advance of leftist ideologies in the region.

Colombia, which became in February the latest Latin American country to expand access to abortion, also will not be affected by the ruling, said Catalina Mart3nez Coral, director for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Vatican lauds decision



Pope Francis has compared having an abortion to "hiring a hit man" to eliminate a problematic person

Roman Catholic Church teaches that abortion is murder because life begins at the moment of conception and ends with natural death

Vatican City: The Vatican's Academy for Life Friday praised the US Supreme Court's decision on abortion, saying it challenged the world to reflect on life issues, but also called for social changes to help women keep their children.

The Vatican department said the defence of human life could not be confined to individual rights because life is a matter of "broad social significance".

"The fact that a large country with a long democratic tradition has changed its position on this issue also challenges the whole world," the academy said in a statement.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia,

who heads the Pontifical Academy for Life, said the court's decision was a "powerful invitation to reflect" on the issue at a time when Western society "is losing passion for life".

"By choosing life, our responsibility for the future of humanity is at stake," he said.

The academy statement also called for changes in social conditions to make it easier to defend life in all its stages. "This also means ensuring adequate sexual education, guaranteeing health care accessible to all and preparing legislative measures to protect the family and motherhood, overcoming existing inequalities," it said.

US DRAWS FLAK FROM ALLIES

I think it's a big step backwards. I've always believed in a woman's right to choose and I stick to that view, and that's why the UK has the laws that it does

BORIS JOHNSON | PM, UK

No government, politician, or man should tell a woman what she can and cannot do with her body. I can't imagine the fear and anger

JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

I voice my solidarity with women whose freedoms are today challenged

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

Watching the removal of a woman's fundamental right to make decisions over their own body is incredibly upsetting

JACINDA ARDERN | PM, NZ

Depriving women of their individual rights is a backlash against decades of hard-fought work

ANN LINDE | FOREIGN MINISTER, SWEDEN

PRIDE PARADE DAY

Gunman opens fire at gay bar

Authorities said that the attack was also being investigated as a possible act of terrorism

REUTERS

Oslo, June 25: Terrified revellers at a gay bar in Oslo hid in a basement and desperately called loved ones as a gunman went on the rampage, killing two people and injuring more than 20 on the day the city was due to celebrate its annual Pride parade.

The attack took place in the early hours of Saturday, with victims shot inside and outside the London Pub, a longstanding hub of Oslo's LGBTQ scene, as well as in the surrounding streets and at one other bar in the centre of the Norwegian capital.

A suspect, a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen of Iranian origin, was detained minutes after



GUNMAN KILLS TWO, INJURES MORE THAN 20

PRIDE PARADE CANCELLED AFTER TRAGEDY

NORWAY POLICE TO CARRY GUNS AS PRECAUTION

embarking on the shooting spree, according to police who said they believed he acted alone. Two weapons, including a fully automatic gun, were retrieved from the crime scene, they added.

"There is reason to think that this may be a hate crime," police said. "We are investigating whether the Pride was a target in itself or whether there are other motives."

"Many people were crying and screaming, the injured were screaming, people were distressed and scared - very, very scared," said

Marcus Nybakken. "My first thought was that Pride was the target, so that's frightening."

Norwegian police, who are not normally armed, will now carry guns until further notice as a precaution, national chief Benedicte Bjoernland said.

The shooting took place just months after Norway marked 50 years since the abolition of a law that criminalised gay sex. The suspect was known to authorities, including for violence of a less severe nature, police said.

BRIDGE OF DREAMS

B'desh PM flags off its longest rail-road bridge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, June 25: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday inaugurated the long-awaited Padma bridge, the country's longest and entirely built with domestic funding.

The 6.15-km-long road-rail four-lane bridge is built over the Padma river connecting southwestern Bangladesh with the capital and other parts. The multipurpose road-rail bridge, which is fully funded by



the government, has been constructed at a cost of \$3.6 billion.

Hasina expressed deep gratitude to the people involved with the construction of the Padma bridge.

"I have no complaints against anyone, but I reckon those who opposed the Padma Bridge construction plan and called it a 'pipe dream', lack self-confidence. I hope this bridge will boost their confidence," the PM said.

"This bridge is not just bricks, cement, iron, and concrete... This bridge is our pride, a symbol of our capacity, our strength, and our dignity. This bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh," she said.

The project was initially expected to be funded by a consortium led by the World Bank. In 2012, it cancelled the proposed credit saying it had "credible evidence" of high-level corruption among Bangladeshi officials.

KOREAN WAR ANNIV

Seoul vows stern response to Pyongyang's provocations



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The Korean War began June 25, 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea following clashes along the border and rebellions in the latter nation

Seoul, June 25: South Korea Saturday vowed a stern response to any North Korean provocation as the nation observed the 72nd anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War:

In his speech during a ceremony marking the anniversary, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said the North's recent missile launches and nuclear preparations have escalated tensions beyond the Korean Peninsula and are posing a threat to international peace, reports

Yonhap News Agency.

"The government will strengthen its defensive posture based on the firm alliance between South Korea and the US, and respond swiftly and sternly using all means necessary," he said.

"The government will never forget peace can be achieved on the basis of strong defence and security," Han said.

South Korea will also seek diplomatic efforts to gain cooperation from the international community to achieve peace on the peninsula, and to provide humanitarian assistance to the North, he added.

Han expressed gratitude to the veterans of the Korean War and pledged to protect the Korean Peninsula in its path toward peace and prosperity just like the veterans fought for the freedom of the country.

Sievierodonetsk falls to Russia after one of war's bloodiest fights

REUTERS

Kyiv, June 25: Russian forces have fully occupied Sievierodonetsk, the mayor of the eastern Ukrainian city said Saturday, confirming Kyiv's biggest battlefield setback for more than a month, after weeks of some of the war's bloodiest fighting.

Ukraine called its retreat from the city a "tactical withdrawal" to fight from higher ground in Lysychansk on the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets river. Pro-Russian separatists said Moscow's forces were now attacking Lysychansk.

The fall of Sievierodonetsk - once home to more than 100,000 people, now a wasteland - was Russia's biggest victory since capturing the port of Mariupol last month. It transforms the battlefield in the east after weeks in which Moscow's huge advantage in firepower had yielded only slow gains.

Russia will now be hoping to press on and seize more ground on the opposite bank, while Ukraine will hope that the price Moscow paid to capture the ruins of the small city will leave Russia's forces vulnerable to a counterattack in coming weeks.

"The city is now under the full occupation of Russia. They are trying to establish their own order, as far as I know they have appointed some kind of commandant," Mayor Oleksandr Stryuk said.

Kyrylo Budanov, Ukraine's military intelligence chief, told Reuters that Ukraine was carrying out "a tactical regrouping" by pulling its forces out of Sievierodonetsk to higher ground across the river.

"Russia is using the tactic ... it used in Mariupol: wiping the city from the face of the earth," he said. "Given the conditions, holding the defence in the ruins and open fields is no longer possible. So the Ukrainian forces are leaving for higher ground to continue the defence operations."



Indigenous demonstrators drive past burning road blockades while heading towards the capital Quito after a week of protests against the economic and social policies of President Guillermo Lasso, in Machachi, Ecuador. The president charged that the Indigenous leader is seeking to stage a coup and warned he will use all legal tools to contain the violence unleashed by the demonstrations

REUTERS

Biden signs landmark US gun control law

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, June 25: President Joe Biden Saturday signed into law the first significant federal bill on gun safety in decades, saying that while it falls short of what's really needed it will "save lives."

The gun legislation includes enhanced background checks for younger buyers and federal cash for states introducing "red flag" laws that allow courts to temporarily remove weapons from those considered a threat.

Billions of dollars have been allocated to crack down on "straw purchasers" who buy firearms for people not allowed to own them, and to curb gun trafficking.

However, much tougher measures wanted by Biden and other Democrats did not make it in, including a ban on military style rifles often used by the lone gunmen who typically carrying out mass shootings. Also absent is a longtime push for mandatory background checks on all gun purchases.

of the day quote

The inauguration of Intel's new state-of-the-art design facility in Bangalore is a testament of its commitment to contribute towards bolstering India's technology leadership

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | UNION MINISTER

The company has announced a total dividend of approx. Rs 13,000 crore for FY22. Along with the share buyback of over Rs 11,000 crore completed in September, the total capital return in FY22 is over Rs 24,100 crore

NANDAN NILEKANI | CO-FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, INFOSYS

There has never been a better time for the BIS performance standards for EV batteries to be implemented. I am confident that these standards will ensure that only the best and most secure batteries reach Indian consumers in the long run

AKSHAY SINGHAL | CEO & CO-FOUNDER, LOG9 MATERIALS

SHORT TAKES

Bharat NCAP scheme from April next yr

New Delhi: The new car safety assessment programme, Bharat NCAP, which proposes a mechanism of awarding 'Star Ratings' to automobiles based upon their performance in crash tests, will be rolled out from April 1, 2023, an official statement said Saturday. According to the statement, Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is applicable on type approved motor vehicles of category M1 (motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising eight seats, in addition to driver's seat) with gross vehicle weight less than 3.5 tonnes, manufactured or imported in the country.

Future defaults on ₹4.10cr payment

New Delhi: Debt-ridden Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) has defaulted on interest payment of Rs 4.10 crore for its non-convertible debentures. The due date for payment was June 24, 2022, FEL said in a regulatory filing. "The Company is unable to service its obligations in respect of the interest on Non-Convertible Debentures was due on June 24, 2022," it said. This is the fourth default in June by the Kishore Biyani-led Future group firm. Earlier this week, FEL defaulted twice on interest payments of Rs 85.71 lakh and Rs 6.07 crore for its non-convertible debentures.

Net profits of mfg cos surge 50.2%

Mumbai: Net profits of manufacturing companies surged by 50.2 per cent during 2021-22, the input cost pressures notwithstanding, the Reserve Bank of India said. Net profit also increased for the information technology (IT) companies, whereas the non-IT services sector continued to record losses at the aggregate level, it said.

NTC unveils two new businesses

Chennai: Diversified business conglomerate NTC Group under its flagship company NTC Logistics has unveiled two new verticals -- Boxory Logistics Pvt Ltd and Cargonix Xpress Pvt Ltd -- as part of consolidating its operations in the country, an official said Saturday. Boxory Logistics would focus on freight services like air freight, multi-city transportation, warehousing, while Cargonix Xpress would be focused on same day delivery, milk run among others.



There is a need for NBFCs to take a diversified approach across sectors and geographies and also be mindful about the risk matrix former

RAJINISH KUMAR | FORMER CHAIRMAN, SBI

INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PROJECT

Tata Power Solar Systems Saturday said it has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project of 101.6 Megawatt Peak (MWp) in Kerala backwaters. The project is installed on a 350-acre water body in Kayamkulam, Kerala, a company statement said



IMF sees 'narrowing path' to avoid US recession

US inflation by the Fed's preferred measure is running at more than three times the US central bank's 2% target

REUTERS

Washington, June 25: The International Monetary Fund Friday slashed its US economic growth forecast as aggressive Federal Reserve interest rate hikes

cool demand but predicted that the United States would "narrowly" avoid a recession.

In an annual assessment of US economic policies, the IMF said it now expects US Gross Domestic Product to grow 2.9% in 2022, less than its most recent forecast of 3.7% in April.

Last October, the IMF predicted 5.2% US growth this year, but since then, new Covid-19 variants and stubborn supply chain disruptions have slowed recovery, while a sharp spike in fuel and food prices



prompted by Russia's war in Ukraine further stoked inflation to 40-year highs.

"We are conscious that there is a narrowing path to avoiding a re-

For 2023, the IMF cut its US growth forecast to 1.7% from 2.3% and it now expects growth to trough at 0.8% in 2024

cession in the US," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva told a news conference, noting that the outlook had a high degree of uncertainty. "The economy continues to recover from the pandemic

and important shocks are buffeting the economy from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and from lockdowns in China," she said. "Further negative shocks would inevitably make the situation more difficult."

If large enough, a shock could push the United States into a recession, but it would likely be short and shallow with a modest rise in unemployment, akin to the US recession in 2001, said IMF Deputy Western Hemisphere Director Nigel Chalk. Strong US savings would help support demand, he added.

Crypto fears now materialising: BIS



The BIS, the global umbrella body for central banks, sounded the warning in an upcoming annual report, in which it also urged more effort in developing appealing central bank digital currencies

REUTERS

Washington, June 25: Recent implosions in the cryptocurrency markets indicate that long-warned-about dangers of decentralised digital money are now materialising, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has said.

The BIS, the global umbrella body for central banks, sounded the warning in an upcoming annual report, in which it also urged more effort in developing appealing central bank digital currencies.

BIS general manager Agustín Carstens pointed to recent collapses of the TerraUSD and Luna 'stablecoins', and a 70 per cent slump in bitcoin, the bellwether for the crypto market, as indicators that a structural problem exists.

"Without a government-backed authority that can use reserves funded by taxes, any form of money ultimately lacks credibility," Carstens told Reuters.

The overall value of the crypto market has slumped more than \$2 trillion since November

Recent collapses of the TerraUSD and Luna 'stablecoins', and a 70% slump in bitcoin shows the grim situation amid worst crypto winter

Roughly 90% of monetary authorities are now exploring CBDCs as they are known. Many hope it will equip them for the online world and fend off cryptocurrencies

Carstens said the meltdown was not expected to cause a systemic crisis in the way that bad loans triggered the global financial crash. But he stressed losses would be sizeable and that the opaque nature of the crypto universe fed uncertainty.

"Based on what we know, it should be quite manageable," Carstens said. "But, there are a lot of things that we don't know."

Bitcoin heading to zero: China warns investors

Beijing: As cryptocurrencies reel under the global downturn, Chinese state-run newspaper Economic Daily has warned investors that the price of leading cryptocurrency Bitcoin is "heading to zero". The warning came as the cryptocurrency market continued to face meltdown with Bitcoin hovering around \$21,000 per digital coin Saturday -- a substantial drop from its record high of \$68,000 in November last year. "Bitcoin is nothing more than a string of digital codes, and its returns mainly come from buying low and selling high," the newspaper said. "In the future, once investors' confidence collapses or when sovereign countries declare bitcoin illegal, it will return to its original value, which is utterly worthless," it added, reports South China Morning Post. The Chinese government banned Bitcoin mining in July last year. It has plans to launch its central bank digital currency (CBDC) called the digital Chinese yuan (e-CNY).

BIZ BUZZ

TPWODL signs MoU with Innodust

Bhubaneswar: Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), Saturday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Innodust Techsolution Private Limited to facilitate technical competency enhancement of its business associates workforce at its corporate office in Burla, Sambalpur. Innodust Techsolution Private Limited is a leading service provider of skill development for industrial, summer training, workshop, research and development activities in Odisha. Under the scheme titled 'Udaan' TPWODL's business associate workforce who could not avail opportunities of formal structured technical education will undergo comprehensive, theoretical and practical training which will help them become more competent technically. Along with the technical course, TPWODL will also provide trainings on safety, ethics and customer centricity to its business associate workforce to help them provide the highest quality services to its customers. On this occasion TPWODL CEO, Gajanan Kale said, "TPWODL is concerned and committed for helping our business associate workforce to learn advanced technical requirements to serve our customers well and grow along with the company."



Ola winds up used car, quick-commerce platforms

THE COMPANY SHUT OLA CARS WITHIN ONE YEARS OF ITS LAUNCH, AS IT FOCUSES ON ITS ELECTRIC TWO-WHEELER AND CAR VERTICALS. OLA HAS SO FAR SHUT DOWN OLA CAFE, FOOD PANDA, OLA FOODS, AND NOW OLA DASH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: Ride-hailing platform Ola has shut down its used vehicle business Ola Cars as well as Ola Dash, its quick-commerce business, at a time when Indian companies are pouring

money into the 10-15 minute grocery delivery market.

"Ola has reassessed its priorities and decided to shut down Ola Dash - its quick commerce business. Ola will also be reorienting its Ola Cars business to focus more on strengthening the go-to-mar-



ket strategy for Ola Electric," the company said in a statement. It

added that Ola Cars' infra, technology and capabilities will be

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: The government has extended the time for levy of GST compensation cess by nearly 4 years till March 31, 2026.

As per the Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022, notified by the finance ministry, the compensation cess will continue to be levied from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026.

The levy of cess was to end June 30 but the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state FMs, decided to extend it till March 2026 to repay the loans taken in the last two fiscal years to make up for the shortfall in their revenue collection.

After the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow in September last year, Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to states for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST, will end in June 2022.

However, the compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

In order to meet the resource gap of states due to short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loan to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.

The Centre has repaid Rs 7,500



The Centre has released the entire amount of GST compensation payable to states up to May 31, 2022

crore as interest cost for the borrowing in 2021-22 and Rs 14,000 crore is to be paid this fiscal year. From 2023-24, the repayment of principal amount will start which will continue till March 2026.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in the country with effect from July 1, 2017 and states were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising on account of implementation of GST for a period of five years.

Though states' protected revenue has been growing at 14 per cent compounded growth rate, the cess collection did not increase in the same proportion and Covid-19 further increased the gap between protected revenue and the actual revenue receipt including reduction in cess collection.

DWINDLING FOREX RESERVES

SL limits foreign money holding

SRI LANKA IS FACING ITS WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS WHICH HAS FORCED THE GOVT TO CUT THE FOREIGN CURRENCY POSSESSION FROM \$15,000 TO \$10,000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 25: Sri Lanka has reduced the limit of foreign currency possession by an individual from \$15,000 to \$10,000, in a desperate move to shore up its fast-depleting forex reserve required to fund the import of essentials, including food and fuel.

Sri Lanka is facing a severe forex crisis which forced the island nation to declare a default of its international debt in April, becoming the first Asia-Pacific country in decades to default on foreign debt.

With the intention of attracting foreign currency in the hands of the public into the formal banking system, Minister of Finance Ranil



Wickremesinghe issued the order under the Foreign Exchange Act.

"Reducing the amount of foreign currency retained in possession by a person in, or resident in, Sri Lanka from \$15,000 to \$10,000 or its equivalent in other foreign currencies," an official statement said. An amnesty period of 14 work-

FASTag VIRAL FAKE VIDEO

No person-to-person transactions: NPCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Dispelling rumours doing the rounds on social media that one should be cautious while driving on highways as those pretending to clean the glass of cars can defraud the owner by wiping on FASTag, the NPCI Saturday clarified that the payment infrastructure does not allow person-to-person transactions.

These videos circulating on social media are baseless and false, the National Payments Council of India (NPCI) said in a clarification issued on Twitter.

"NETC FASTag operates only for person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. No person-to-person (P2P) transactions are facilitated through NETC FASTag network. This means an individual cannot receive the money in NETC FASTag ecosystem from fraudulent transactions. Only authorised system integrators (SI) on behalf of concessionaires are allowed to participate for specific plazas and initiate payment transactions," NPCI said.

Thus, no transactions can be executed through open internet connectivity and no financial transactions can be initiated without the enlisted prerequisites, NPCI said.

EU plans to issue \$52bn in bonds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Brussels, June 25: The European Commission Friday announced plans to issue 50 billion euros (\$52 billion) of EU-Bonds to finance the NextGenerationEU recovery program between July and December.

The funds for the temporary recovery instrument were aimed at supporting member states' economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and helping build a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe, reports said.

To finance NextGenerationEU, the European Commission aims to raise around 800 billion euros from capital markets between mid-2021 and the end of 2026. Up to 9 billion euros in loans to support Ukraine may also be issued by the Commission, under a new exceptional Macro-Financial Assistance MFA programme, as well as up to 6.6 billion euros in loans under the SURE programme for mitigation of temporary unemployment risks.

ing days from June 16, 2022 has been granted to deposit the excess foreign currency or sell to an authorised dealer.

The move came over a month after Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Nandalal Weerasinghe said that the apex bank was looking towards bringing the limit of holding foreign currency down to \$10,000 from \$15,000.

The Governor had said that even with \$10,000, proof of possession must be presented.

Sri Lanka is facing the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948 which has led to an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and fuel across the country.

India eves seal series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dambulla, June 25: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (31 n o, 32b, 2x4; 1/12 in 3 overs) contributed with both bat and ball to steer the Indian women's cricket team to a series sealing five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second T20I here Saturday.

Vice captain Smriti Mandhana's (39, 34b, 8x4) experience complemented by the exuberance of both Shafali Verma (17) and Sabbhineni Meghana (17) helped India chase down the 126-run target in 19.1 overs.

India stuttered in what should have been a comfortable run chase before Harmanpreet took India home. Sri Lanka squandered a fine start to post a below par 125/7. The third and final T20I will be played here Monday.

It was a day to remember for Mandhana who became the second fastest Indian woman to reach 2,000 runs T20 runs. Mandhana reached the feat in her 84th innings, becoming the third Indian woman after the legendary Mithali Raj (70 innings) and current skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (88 innings) to cross the mark.

Opting to bat first and with the series on line, it was the duo of captain Chamari Athapaththu (43, 41b, 7x4, 1x6) and Vishmi Gunaratne (45, 50b, 6x4) provided an ideal start for the Lankans by taking the Indian bowlers to the cleaners.

The duo also put up Sri Lanka's best opening stand (87) in T20s to leave the Indians frantically rum-maging for breakthroughs. However, as both Athapaththu and Gunaratne departed, it was a sorry state of affairs for Sri Lanka as they lost a slew of wickets, only managing an underwhelming total.

Deepthi Sharma (2/34 in 4 overs) was certainly the best bowler on view while the likes of Radha Yadav and Pooja Vastrakar also helped India claw back with the ball.

Mandhana lauds bowlers India opener Smriti Mandhana hailed her side's bowling unit for getting the job done as they clinched the three-match Women's T20I se-



LEADING FROM FRONT: India Women skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (without helmet) walks off the field along with Deepti Sharma after helping her side win the second T20I, Saturday

ries. "They (bowlers) did a really good job today and also in the last match to defend 139," Mandhana said at the post-match press conference.

The Indian bowlers struggled to get a breakthrough early on as the Sri Lankan opening duo of skipper Chamari Athapaththu (43) and Vishmi Gunaratne (45) gave them a solid start.

"We didn't have to tell them much. It was just about following our game plan as a bowling unit and sticking to it. We knew one or two wickets here and there will get us back in the game.

"Our bowlers were really patient with it. Definitely, we leaked a few runs with some misfields here and there but I'm sure we will

come back stronger."

The Romesh Powar-coached team has fielded the likes of Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Singh, Simran Bahadur and Meghna Singh. The Indian spin attack, on the other hand, had the likes of Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Radha Yadav.

Mandhana and her opening partner Shafali Verma got off to a flier and the left-hander said it was about backing their strengths. "Me and Shafali had a game plan going today. We knew which bowlers to target, we know each other's strengths and weaknesses, it was about our strengths," she said.

"Later on after the power-play, it was more about singles and doubles and not whom to attack as we had

only 126 to get. It was about rotating strike and dealing in one and twos."

Mandhana said the wicket was difficult to bat on. "It was keeping a bit low, and of course it was on the slower side. So it wasn't an easy pitch to bat on. You had to really work hard on your runs but once you get used to the pace and bounce of the wicket, runs came in," she concluded.

BRIEF SCORES

Sri Lanka Women 125/7 (Vishmi Gunaratne 45, Chamari Athapaththu 43; Deepti Sharma 2/34, Harmanpreet Kaur 1/12) lost to India Women 127/5 (Smriti Mandhana 39, Harmanpreet Kaur 31 n o; Inoka Ranaweera 2/18, Oshadi Ranasinghe 2/32) by 5 wickets.

Rajat broadens MP's title chance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 25: Rajat Patidar (122, 219b, 20x4) stamped his class with an authoritative century to put Madhya Pradesh on the cusp of their historic Ranji Trophy triumph against 41-time champions Mumbai on a rain-hit fourth day of the summit clash here Saturday.

Havens opened up minutes before the tea break, and Madhya Pradesh finished their first innings at 536 soon after re-sumption with a game-changing lead of 162 runs, courtesy Patidar's superb knock.

Four hundreds have been scored by batters from either side but none oozed more class and competence than Patidar's, who was in a league of his own when it came to regal drives on both sides of the wicket.

At stumps, Mumbai erased some of the deficit, reaching 113/2 with Prithvi Shaw (44, 51b, 3x4, 2x6) and Hardik Tamore (25), promoted up the order, showing some positive intent but throwing away their wickets in desperation for quick runs.

Shaw was dismissed with a classic plan of bowling wide outside the off-stump and he finally chased one from Gourav Yadav (1/23) straight into cover's hands.

With 95 overs left on the final day, there is very little chance of Mumbai winning this match unless they score around 320-plus runs in 50 overs (including Saturday's overs) and set a target of 150-odd for MP with at least 45 to 50 overs to get the 10 wickets.

The wicket isn't showing any signs of crumbling and hence a chance of an MP collapse in the fourth innings doesn't look imminent at the moment. Especially knowing that they have a first innings lead, MP will like to down the shutters from here on as ends will prove the

means.

When the fourth day started, MP needed seven more runs to get the first innings lead but what



was more important was for Patidar to play at least one session and he did that with minimum fuss which could now prove to be decisive in the context of the game.

By the time Patidar was out, MP's lead had gone over 100 runs and the sullen faces of the Mumbai players said it all. A poker-faced Chandrakant Pandit, who had throughout the four days, sat in one corner of the dressing room, can now afford a wide grin as even a miracle can't turn things around for his "home state".

The IPL might have been a white ball competition but the kind of confidence that Patidar gained from his century against Lucknow Super Giants May 25 IPL Eliminator came in handy. He put that to best use exactly one month later - June 25 - when he got his eighth and most important hundred of his first-class career.

The cornerstone of MP's success this season has been their batting and No.2, 3 and 4 scoring runs consistently. While Patidar has so far scored 628 runs and is second behind Sarfaraz Khan (937) in the run-getter's list, Yash Dubey (613) and Shubham Sharma (578) have also earned their stripes with match-winning performances.

If Dubey and Sharma provided solidity, Patidar added flamboyance with his adventurous stroke-play but at the same time was judicious enough to know when he needed to defend.

Shams Mulani was disappointing early on. His final figures on the day 63.2-11-173-5 might not make a pretty reading but the rotund left-arm spinner gave it his all. He got an able ally in Avasthi (32-7-93-2) while Tushar Deshpande (36-10-116-3) was sharp in couple of his spells.

BRIEF SCORES

Mumbai 374 & 113/2 (Prithvi Shaw 44); Madhya Pradesh 536 (Rajat Patidar 122, Saransh Jain 57; Shams Mulani 5/173, Tushar Deshpande 3/116). Match to continue.

Captaincy brings out best in Hardik Pandya



Hardik Pandya carefully listens to stand-in head coach VVS Laxman's words during India's practice session ahead of first T20I against Ireland

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malahide (Ireland), June 25: He struck gold in his debut season as captain in the IPL, and Hardik Pandya admits that responsibility brings out the best in him on a cricket field. Hardik, who led the Gujarat Titans to the IPL title in the side's and his debut season earlier this year, has been named as captain of the Indian team for the two-match T20 International series against Ireland, starting here Sunday. And the dashing all-rounder said he believes in taking ownership on the field.

"Earlier also, I liked taking up responsibility and now also it is the same but it is a bit more responsibility now. I always believed that I did better when I took responsibility," Hardik said during a virtual press conference on the eve of the first T20I. "If I can take ownership of my own things and take my own decisions, they tend to be strong. Cricket is such a game, staying strong during situations is very important.

"Always responsibility was given to me and I took it and that's why I became better. While captaining I will see how I can give the same responsibility to every player and give them the ability to fight with situations," he added.

Playing under two talismanic skippers in MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli has taught Hardik a lot about leadership qualities, but he said every captain has their own style.

"Obviously I have taken a lot of things from them (Dhoni and Kohli)

but at the same time I also want to be myself, obviously my understanding of the game is different but I have taken a lot of good vibes from them. "I am not instinctive but I see more situation than go with my gut (feeling). At what point of time, what decision the team requires, I focus on that rather than going on my gut. Gut always goes 50-50," he said.

"I have got an opportunity to lead India. It's in itself a big thing. I don't play the sport to show anyone anything, if I am good enough. I was always the same."

India has bench strength now India is fielding its reserve players in the series against Ireland and Hardik said the bench strength India possess now is a good sign for the game in the country.

"If such a situation arises that we have to send two teams, we are very lucky that we have the bench strength where we can allow the players to go and express and a lot of people will get opportunities.

"There are so much talent in India that people don't get opportunities. Playing for India is always a dream and for them to achieve that dream will be really fantastic," he said.

"The way talent has come up and the character the players have shown and the way we played, it indicates India's bench strength. There are plenty of options right now in Indian team. Four people are still fighting for places in the team. They are knocking the doors, so it can be better than that."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leicester, June 25: Virat Kohli showed his class, hitting an impressive 67 off 98 balls while Shreyas Iyer (62) and Ravindra Jadeja (56 n o) also got ample batting practice as India finished their second innings on 364/7 against Leicestershire on day three of their four-day warm-up match here Saturday.

Kohli, who has been enduring a prolonged lean patch, decorated his innings with five boundaries and two sixes. He was ably supported by Iyer, who scored his runs off 89 balls with the help of 11 boundaries, and Jadeja who struck 10 fours during his unbeaten knock.

But Chesteshwar Pujara could only manage 22 of 53 balls with the help of three fours. Pujara batted for both sides. He was out for a duck in Leicestershire's first innings Friday.

Jadeja was also out for a duck off Navdeep Saini early in the Indian second innings but came back later to bat again as it is just a practice match. At stumps, Mohammed Siraj (1 n o) was giving Jadeja company.



Virat Kohli successfully defends during his innings in the warm-up match, Saturday

Pacer Navdeep Saini (3/55), one among the four Indian players to turn out for Leicestershire, shone

bright with three wickets for the county side. Another Indian player Kamlesh Nagarkoti (2/48) also

MAIDEN COMPOUND MIXED TEAM GOLD FOR INDIA IN ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Abhishek-Jyothi pair secures gold medal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, June 25: India won its maiden World Cup gold in compound mixed team archery event after the duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam out-classed their experienced French opponents at the Stage 3 edition here Saturday.

Riding on a spectacular start, the Indians withered late resistance from the French pair of Jean Bouchal and 48-year-old Olympic medalist Sophie Dodemont to seal the contest 152-149, a first-ever World Cup gold for India in the compound mixed team event.

The gold also opened the account of Indian archers, who have assured a second medal in the women's recurve team event where the trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Simranjeet Kaur will fight for the yellow metal Sunday.

Later, World No.3 Jyothi se-



cured a second medal for India after settling for a silver in the individual section, going down to Ella Gibson in an intense shoot-off 148-149 (10-10*) that was decided on the arrow that landed

closer to the centre.

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 another medal as she

chipped in with two wickets, while R Sai Kishore (1/55) and Will Davis (1/400) accounted for a wicket each. The visiting Indians still lead Leicestershire by 366 runs at stumps with a day's play remaining in the match.

Earlier, Saini, who picked up Shubman Gill's wicket on the second day, dismissed well-set Srikar Bharat (43) and Jadeja (0) in a span of three deliveries to reduce India to 118/4. But it was Hanuma Vihari (20) who was the first to depart, after adding just 11 runs to his overnight score, off the bowling of Will Davis.

Seventeen runs later, Saini struck twin blows in an over in the form of Bharat and Jadeja. Nagakoti then accounted for Iyer and Shardul Thakur (28) in a span of seven overs.

But before being dismissed, Shardul shared 39 runs in the company of Kohli, who came out to bat at an unusual No.7 position. Pujara didn't help his cause as he was stumped by Sam Bates off Sai Kishore. Kohli was dismissed by Jasprit Bumrah (1/30), while Iyer was the last batter to be dismissed by Nagarkoti.

Strong field awaits Neeraj in Diamond League tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: A strong field awaits Olympic javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra in the prestigious Diamond League Meet in Stockholm June 30, which will be his biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month.

The 24-year-old Chopra will come into the Swedish capital with confidence after clinching his first win of the season at the Kuortane Games in Finland June 18, beating reigning World Champion Anderson Peters of Grenada for the second time this month.

The Indian superstar had won a silver in his first competition of the season at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland June 14 with a national record throw of 89.30m.

Chopra had a nasty fall during his third attempt at the Kuortane Games but luckily he did not sustain any injury. The conditions were treacherous there for javelin throw as the run-up was slippery due to rains. His first round throw of 86.64m was, however, enough to hand him a gold.

Peters' name is in the list of participants in Stockholm but he did not complete all his throws in an event at Oritatila in Finland Wednesday, recording a best throw of 71.94m.

The athlete from Grenada has seen a dip in form after winning the Doha Diamond League Meet with a season-leading throw of 93.07m. After that, he had thrown 86.60m at Paavo Nurmi Games for a third place and 84.75m in Kuortane Games for another third position.

Olympic silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic and compatriot Tokyo Games bronze winner Vitezslav Vesely will also be in action. This will be the first time all the Tokyo Olympics medal winners will be in action together this season.

Vadlejch, who was sixth at Paavo Nurmi Games with a best throw of 83.91m, returns after skipping the Kuortane Games. The same is the case for Germany's Julian Weber, who returns after finishing fifth at Paavo Nurmi Games with 84.02m.

Finland's Oliver Helander, who surprisingly won gold at the Paavo Nurmi Games with a big throw of 89.83m, also returns after skipping Kuortane Games.