

70 killed in triple train crash

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasure/Bhubaneswar, June 2: At least 70 people were killed and more than 350 injured in a horrific triple train crash on Friday in Odisha involving the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train, officials and hospital doctors said.

Local villagers, however, claimed that the number of dead could be nearer 100.

Officials said several coaches of the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah train travelling to Howrah derailed at Bahanaga Bazaar in Balasure district and fell on adjacent tracks.

"These derailed coaches collided with 12841 Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and its coaches capsized too," a senior official said.

A goods train was also involved in the accident as the coaches of the Coromandel Express hit its wagons after getting derailed, the official said. The accident happened around 7 pm, he said.

Railway spokesman Amitabh Sharma, however, told PTI Video that the Coromandel express derailed first, and its 10-12 coaches fell on the path of the Bengaluru-Howrah express, which then jumped off the tracks.

The two differing versions could not be immediately reconciled.

Over 350 people have been admitted to different hospitals across the district, officials said, adding that all private and government hospitals have been put on alert in nearby districts, including state capital Bhubaneswar.



350
INJURED

THREE-WAY ACCIDENT INVOLVING BENGALURU-HOWRAH SUPERFAST EXPRESS, COROMANDEL EXPRESS AND A GOODS TRAIN ON THREE SEPARATE TRACKS OCCURRED AT BAHANAGA IN BALASURE DISTRICT

So far, 50 bodies could be brought out from under the overturned coaches, they said. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said he was rushing to the accident site. He also announced ex-gratia

of ₹10 lakh for the deceased, ₹2 lakh for those grievously injured and ₹ 50,000 for those who got minor injuries. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said he has reviewed the situation, and will be travelling to the accident site early Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was distressed by the accident, and spoke with Vaishnav to take stock of the situation.

"Distressed by the train accident in Odisha. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. Spoke to Railway Minister @AshwiniVaishnav and took

stock of the situation. Rescue ops are underway at the site of the mishap and all possible assistance is being given to those affected," he tweeted.

MORE P5

OJEE: Ranks allotted to 48,783 candidates

Bhubaneswar: As many as 48,783 candidates have been allotted ranks in their corresponding courses as per their performance in the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination, results of which were published Friday. The entrance examination was held for various technical/professional courses. This year, a total of 55,979 candidates registered for the examination, while 48,815 candidates (87%) appeared in the test.

All-women gang of looters busted

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police arrested nine members of an all-women gang of robbers from a mall in Nayapalli here, Friday. The robbers' gang hails from Halishar under Bixpur police limits in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. "The gang members used to visit different places of Odisha during festivities and stay in hotels and rental accommodations near malls and commercial establishments. They followed a unique modus operandi to steal expensive products worth lakhs in specially made bags inside their clothes," said Sanjeev Satpathy, ACP Zone V.

'Psammophile'

Dallas: Indian-origin Dev Shah won the prestigious 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee, taking away a \$50,000 cash prize by correctly spelling the 11-letter word 'psammophile'. The 14-year-old carried home the trophy and the \$50,000 prize at the finals held Thursday night in National Harbor, Maryland, after he spelt the word for an animal or plant that thrives in sandy soil. From the 231 national contestants, the 11 finalists left standing in three days of gruelling competition, 10 were of Indian origin.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



A govt that protects molesters, scamsters and murderers can always protect you better

ARREST WFI CHIEF BY JUNE 9: FARMERS

AGENCIES

Kurukshetra, June 2: A 'khap mahapanchayat' held here Friday demanded the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and said if the demand is not met, farmers will take the protesting wrestlers to Delhi's Jantar Mantar on June 9. The 'khap mahapanchayat' deliberated on the next steps to be taken in the agitation pertaining to the wrestlers' issue and set the deadline of June 9 for the government to act on its demand.

Talking to reporters, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said WFI chief Singh, who has been accused of sexually harassing some women wrestlers, should be arrested and the cases against the wrestlers registered recently should be withdrawn.

He said if the government does not act on the demands, the agitation will be intensified by holding panchayats across the country. "Arrest (of WFI chief) and with-

No permission for Brij Bhushan's Ayodhya rally

AYODHYA: The Ayodhya district administration has denied permission to BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh to hold a rally here June 5, an official said Friday. Circle Officer (Ayodhya) SP Gautam said in view of other programmes scheduled on the World Environment Day June 5, the permission sought by BJP councillor Chamela Devi on behalf of Singh has been denied. Singh is MP from Kaiserganj in Uttar Pradesh.

drawal of cases (against the wrestlers) will be first priority," he said. "They (govt) should resolve this matter by way of talks. He (WFI chief) must be arrested, otherwise we shall take these children (wrestlers) to Jantar Mantar June 9. That is the decision that we have taken (in the mahapanchayat)... Otherwise, we shall hold panchayats across the country," he said.



MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VIATION
SENSEX	62547.11	↑ 118.57
NIFTY	18534.10	↑ 46.35
DOLLAR	82.41	↓ ₹0.27
EURO	88.34	↓ ₹0.19
GOLD	₹59,800	↓ ₹119
SILVER	₹ 72,251	↓ ₹343

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	41.6°C	40.1°C
MIN	28.9°C	25.5°C
Humidity	71%	82%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

1983 WC champs support protesting wrestlers

NEW DELHI: The members of the 1983 Cricket World Cup team have come out in support of the ongoing protest by wrestlers against the Wrestling Federation of India's sidelined chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The 1983 team, which includes Kapil Dev, Mohinder Amarnath, and Kris Srikkanth among others, said that they were "distressed and disturbed" by the "unseemly visuals" of the wrestlers being manhandled. "We are distressed and disturbed at the unseemly visuals of our champion wrestlers being manhandled. We are also most concerned that they are thinking of dumping their hard-earned medals into the river Ganga. Those medals have involved years of effort, sacrifice, determination and grit and are not only their own but the nation's pride and joy," the statement read.

Audi chaiwalas give a taste of luxury

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 2: While most people associate a high-end car like Audi with luxury and comfort, for Mannu Sharma and Amit Kashyap, it proved to be an inspiration to set up their own tea stall.

Sharma and Kashyap have been selling tea for ₹20 from the trunk of the luxury car, worth ₹70 lakh, in the plush neighbourhood of Lokhandwala in the western suburb of Andheri for the last six months and they recently went viral on social media. The cutting chai is a staple on the streets of Mumbai and is available at humble establishments called 'tapris' (stalls) throughout the city. "We were just taking a stroll at night and craving a cup of tea, but we could not



find a place at the time. That's when we thought of opening our own stall here," said Sharma, who hails from Haryana. It is not just the duo's unique idea of selling 'OD Tea', short for on drive tea, from their Audi that has gone viral on social media, but it is also the taste of their product that has drawn customers. "I have been coming here to have tea for the last two months because it tastes amazing. Every time I pass by this area, I have to have their

tea," one of the customers said. Before starting their tea venture, Sharma who hails from Hisar, Haryana was a working professional in Africa, while Kashyap, a native of Punjab, is now a stock market trader by morning and a tea seller by evening. "By selling tea in our Audi, I think we have proved wrong the thinking that only people who are financially not very well off take to selling tea. A person who rides a cycle also consumes tea and a person who drives a Jaguar can also enjoy our tea," Sharma said. The two friends are now basking in the love that they have received on social media and from their customers, and plan to open 'OD tea' franchises in the future, starting in Mumbai.

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8th BHUBANESWAR
INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

21st May - 4th JUNE-2023
Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar
Time -2.30PM -9.30PM

13 A/C PAVILION
35000 National & International Products
20 STATES & 13 COUNTRIES

Odisha PROPERTY BRANDS Expo
COMPARE | DISCUSS | DECIDE

GLOBAL BUSINESS CARNIVAL 2023
13 MAY - 19 MAY
JANTA MAIDAN
BHUBANESWAR

leisure



KANYE SUED BY PAPARAZZO AFTER THROWING HER PHONE

Rapper Kanye West has been sued by a woman photographer for throwing her phone into the street. Nichol Lechmanik, at a presser said, "He grabbed my phone and then angrily threw it. He has no right to assault me, batter me or cause me to be afraid to pursue my profession."

I FEAR I'LL NEVER FEEL SATISFIED: SWEENEY

American actress Sydney Sweeney is worried that she'll never be satisfied with her career success. The 25-year-old has enjoyed huge success in recent years, starring in shows such as *Euphoria* and *The White Lotus* - but Sydney wonders if she'll ever be entirely happy with what she achieves.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh advises you to look before you leap. One hasty decision may undo a lot of hard work accomplished over a long period of time. After a tense morning, you may simply want an evening with kids, helping them grow the Dahlias.

TAURUS
Impulsive action kicks in as you work and interact today. Do not let the pressure and strain cloud your thoughts, and instead focus on acting on the things at hand. If you find things spiralling out of control, take a break and listen to some music that soothes your heart, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you will decide to become a bit more conscious about your health. You may or may not join a gym or measure your calories, but you will definitely sit up and take notice of your lifestyle and unhealthy food habits, predicts Ganesh. A new job is also likely, which will pen a completely new chapter in your life.

CANCER
Today, you will be extremely impulsive and spontaneous, feels Ganesh. You better get rid of your negative thoughts and beliefs and start taking charge of things at hand. Also, stop focussing so much on the pitfalls, and start working. Listen to music that speaks to your heart and you will be at peace with yourself.

LEO
Always dependable, that is what you are. And today, you will just underline this fact in bold strokes through your fine display of commitment to work, and your dedication to your family, says Ganesh. Your company may never find a better person for the job that you are assigned to do. Even at home, your credentials as the perfect family man will shoot right off the charts.

VIRGO
Ganesh sees you keeping away from a joint venture. You are capable enough to handle big projects yourself. You are most likely to lead and coordinate large teams and extract work from them as you will.

LIBRA
Expect some annoyance from the 'man in the chair', or people in charge who may be looking towards throwing a wench in your way. But know that it is just a blip on the radar. Your fortune is too powerful for anyone to affect it negatively. Stick to your task and dig into your imagination to find a way around the blips. Your ability to think out-of-the-box will perplex your perpetrator, chuckles Ganesh.

SCORPIO
The crown jewel of your character will be your supreme confidence today. Try to pick up tasks that require herculean efforts, and you shall come close to achieving them, predicts Ganesh. Your nerves and buoyant nature will be infective and also leave people awestruck.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business may bring you faster growth rates than bacteria today. Moreover, banking transactions will fetch returns exceeding your expectation. Management institutes will value your expertise and experience, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Creativity is your innate trait. But how creative can you get when dealing with day-to-day issues? You will not only answer this question with utmost modesty, but will make a great display of your creative skills by cleverly sorting out problems with your siblings, says Ganesh. You will derive pleasure by delving into knotty problems and solving them with ease.

AQUARIUS
Money is on your mind today! If you want to sort out financial matters, today is the day. You may have a good time with friends in the evening. You will also realise how much your friends value you and the respect you command in your wider social circle.

PISCES
Today, you will find yourself partitioning your time equally, and more importantly, excelling, at work as well as at home. So, while you will prove to be the right man for the job assigned to you at the office, at home you will establish yourself as the perfect family man, says Ganesh.

When Nora feels empowered

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi recently recalled the times when she has gotten panic calls from producers who wanted to cast her for dance numbers in order to save their film. According to the actor, that gave her a sense of empowerment.

Nora has some noteworthy dance numbers in films like *Bharat*, *Street*, *Baita House*, *Roar*, and *Satyameva Jayate* to her credit.

In an interview with an international news portal, Nora talked about getting panic calls from producers who wanted her to save their films with a dance number. However, the actress is cautious about choosing the right ones but when she does, she leaves no stone unturned to deliver her best. Elaborating further, she added that it definitely gives her a certain sense of empowerment, and responsibility. And the actress also said that when she is in front of the camera, she delivers. Nora went on to share that in a year, if 10 songs are offered to her, she says yes to one, or two. According to her, she doesn't want to bore the audience. The actress also added that she also doesn't want to get stereotyped by doing too many dance numbers.



Wonder World's 3-day Grand Raja Carnival from June 14

Bhubaneswar: Wonder World, a water park and resort near Puri, is all set to celebrate the Raja festival in a big way. Titled Grand Raja Carnival, the event will take place from June 14 to 16 in the resort at Malatipatapur near the Holy City, informed the organisers at a press meet held here at the Press Club of Odisha, Friday.

Visitors of all ages can have an amazing trip with the program's thrilling rides, gravity-defying roller coasters, and crowd-pleasing favourites. The carnival also features captivating performances from top singers and live music while a DJ will provide the ultimate dance party experience, they claimed. Besides, women are invited to capture moments with water and stand a chance to win three free tickets for each day. They added that tourists could also spoil



their palates with delectable food, including authentic Peetha and Pana.

Wonder World offers more than 10 varieties of Peetha from around Odisha, guaranteeing a diverse culinary experience, it was learnt.

Among others, the presser was addressed by Wonder World's MD Narayan Patra, Director Niranjan Patra, Director, Vice-President Bibhutendra, GM Radha Raman Nayak, GM, and Associate PR Pradyumna Mishra.

NATYADHARA : DAY II

Artistes of Satabdira Kalakar (SK) presented Odia play *Biplabee Krutibas* on the second evening of Natyadhara at Bhanjakala Mandap, Friday. Written by Parshuram Harichandan, the drama was directed by SK's founder Dhira Mallick. The play depicted the bravery of freedom fighter Krutibas Pattasani who was engaged in a deadly combat with British police responding to the calls of Buxi Jagabandhu, one of the key figures of The Great Paika Rebellion in 1817. Playwright Panchanan Dash and Odisha Natya Sangh(ONS) president Haren Sahoo were among the guests on the occasion. Prakash Moharana, the PRO, ONS coordinated the event.



Al Pacino asked for paternity test from girlfriend

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Al Pacino reportedly demanded a paternity test from his 29-year-old girlfriend Noor Alfallah as he doubted her pregnancy.

According to TMZ, the 83-year-old didn't believe he could get Noor pregnant because of 'a medical issue that typically causes infertility.'

Noor already went through with the test, and it's proven that

the Hollywood star is indeed the father of her child, reports aceshowbiz.com. News about Noor's pregnancy emerged in late May.

She is reportedly eight months along and Al's representative revealed that the twosome will be welcoming their first child together in a month.

The *House of Gucci* star, however, was actually not planning to have baby No. 4. It is also noted that it may be too soon for them as they have only been dating for a year.

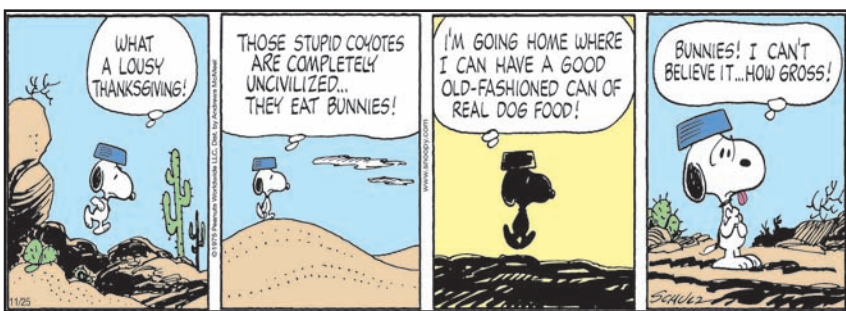


Al and Noor were first rumoured to be dating in April 2022 when they were

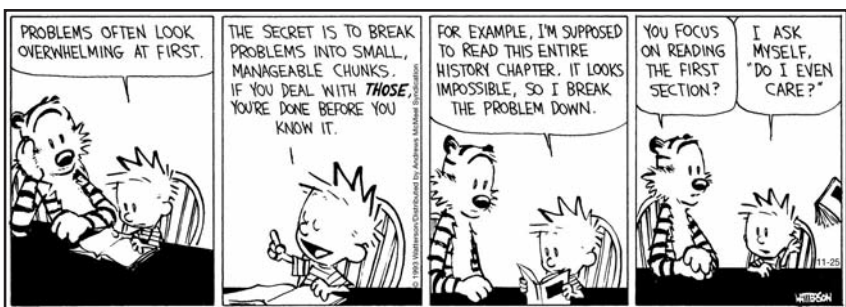
snapped grabbing dinner together. The insider further said that Al and Noor aren't bothered by their age difference of decades. "She has been with Al for some time, and they get on very well," the source went on noting.

Additionally, dating an older man isn't something new for Noor: "She mostly dates very rich older men, she was with Mick Jagger for a while, and then she dated Nicholas Berggruen," the source shared.

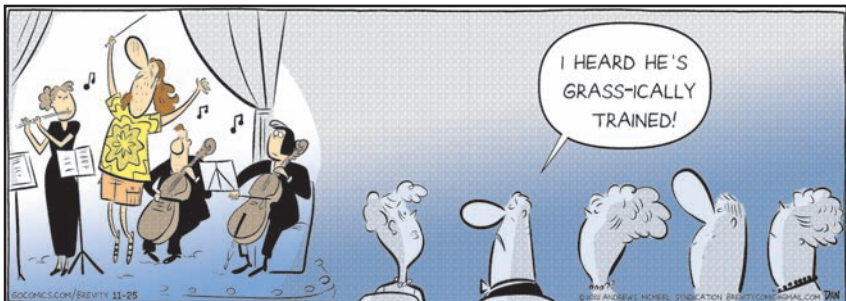
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

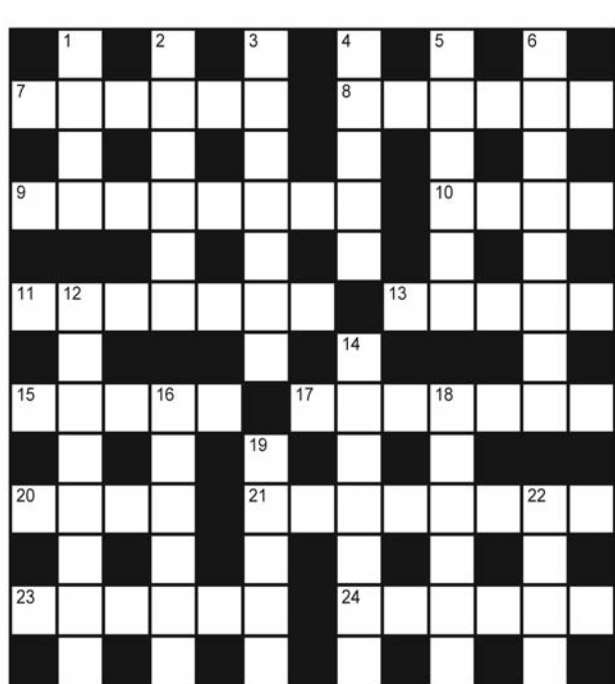


BREVITY



FUN post

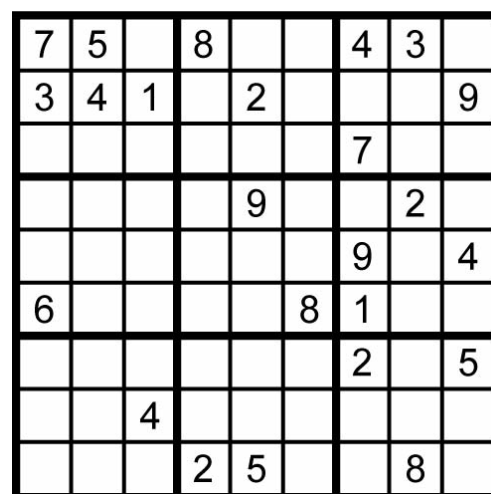
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Old clunker
 - 8 Close at hand
 - 9 High-pitched voice
 - 10 Heated competition?
 - 11 Fall asleep (4,3)
 - 13 Courageous
 - 15 Enthusiastic approval
 - 17 Albatross, e.g.
 - 20 Exclude
 - 21 Left, on board
 - 23 Plant disease (3-3)
 - 24 Former raider
- Down**
- 1 Volcanologist's study
 - 2 Puddinglike dessert
 - 3 Befuddle
 - 4 Buttinisky
 - 5 Weather prediction
 - 6 Spectator
 - 12 Encore! (4,4)
 - 14 Take away
 - 16 Duds
 - 18 Small streams
 - 19 Roofing material
 - 22 Monthly expense

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



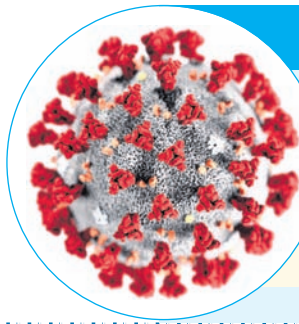
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DANCE FEST

An artiste performs during Sanjukta Panigrahi Award of Excellence 2023 at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,97,90,003	66,21,25,586	68,85,724
India	4,49,91,143	4,44,55,533	5,31,874
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

₹11,600 crore KALIA money disbursed since 2018: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The state government has disbursed more than ₹11,600 crore to farmers under Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme since 2018.

This was revealed by Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain after a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Friday.

Swain informed the media that KALIA scheme was introduced in 2018 to provide support to cultivators for cultivation for small and marginal farmers and livelihood support for landless agricultural households for taking non-farm activities.

Till now, 43.04 lakh small and marginal farmers, 18.72 lakh landless agricultural households and 1,624 students have been assisted under the scheme. Financial assistance of more than ₹11,600 crore has been extended for the purpose, he said.

Odisha has been transformed from a net food grain deficit state into a surplus state. Now, Odisha is the fourth largest contributor to the paddy procurement pool of Food Corporation of India (FCI), he said.

The minister said that food grain production in the state reached 136.07 lakh tonne in 2022-23, a two-fold rise as compared to 55.35 lakh tonne in 2000-01.

Similar progress has also been achieved with regard to vegetable production in the state that touched a high of 98.52 lakh tonne during FY 2022-23 which is almost thrice that of 33.37 lakh tonne vegetables produced during 2000-01, Swain pointed out.



Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain addresses media in presence of department's Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee in Bhubaneswar

TILL NOW, 43.04 LAKH SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS, 18.72 LAKH LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS AND 1,624 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ASSISTED UNDER THE SCHEME

ODISHA HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM A NET FOOD GRAIN DEFICIT STATE INTO A SURPLUS STATE

FOOD GRAIN PRODUCTION IN ODISHA REACHED 136.07 LAKH TONNE IN 2022-23, A TWO-FOLD RISE AS COMPARED TO 55.35 LAKH TONNE IN 2000-01

of millets has greatly contributed to the income stability of the millet growers, he said.

NITI Aayog has recognised Odisha Millets Mission as one of the best models and has asked other states to adopt such a model. Odisha became the first state to dedicate a particular day (November 10) to celebrate as Mandia Divas (Millet Day) to glorify the importance of the healthy cereal.

Similarly, Ama Krushi, a two-way interactive voice response (IVR) service (a cellphone-based extension system) was introduced in the state. More than 54.47 lakh farmers have so far been on board and more than 65.31 crore crop advisories have been sent to farmers.

He pointed out that the state has bagged 'Krishi Karman Award' five times for higher food grain production.

Besides, the state has been conferred with 'Best Millet Promoting State' under 'Poshak Anaj Award' by ICAR-IIMR and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) during 2020-21 and 2021-22.

FISH PRODUCTION UP 40%: SWAIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: State's fish production, which was 7.59 lakh tonne in 2018-19, stood at 10.52 lakh tonne in 2022-23, marking a remarkable 40 per cent growth, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said here, Friday.

Addressing media after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewed the department's performance for the past five years, the F&ARD minister said Odisha has recorded a 40 per cent rise in production—from 7.59 tonne in 2018-19 to 10.52 tonne in 2022-23.

"Odisha's per capita fish consumption of 17.73 kg per year is much higher than the national average of 6.31 kg per year. Odisha, which was eighth in fish production in 2001, now stands at the fourth position," Swain said, adding that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommends consumption of 12 kg fish

ODISHA REGISTERED A 4.7-TIME GROWTH IN EGG PRODUCTION—FROM 730 MILLION IN 2000-01 TO 3,475 MILLION IN 2022-23

POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTION SAW A 21 PER CENT RISE—FROM 102 THOUSAND TONNE IN 2019-20 TO 123 THOUSAND TONNE IN 2022-23

BUDGETARY PROVISION FOR PLANNED EXPENDITURE IN F&ARD SECTOR GREW 167 PER CENT—FROM ₹477.41 CRORE IN 2018-19 TO ₹1,274 CRORE IN 2023-24

per person a year. Swain attributed the significant rise in production to state government's initiatives.

"Early breeding programme was introduced for fish seed availability. Biofloc Technology (BFT) was introduced to enhance fish production up to 30 times more than pond aquaculture. Until now, 12,035 biofloc tanks have been established. Reservoir Cage Culture Policy has been introduced to lease out reservoirs to entrepreneurs for cage culture," the F&ARD minister said.

Odisha has become self-sufficient in poultry meat production. The state has recorded a 21 per

cent rise in poultry meat production—from 102 thousand tonne in 2019-20 to 123 thousand tonne in 2022-23, Swain said.

Swain attributed the growth in production to introduction of multiple poultry development schemes by state government. At least 4,000 women self-help groups (SHGs) have established broiler farms in the last three years.

"Easing out of application process has been made for establishment of poultry units through GO-SUGAM. Odisha Poultry Policy 2015 has been implemented to provide support to poultry farmers. Poultry has been declared agriculture by the

state government for reduction of electricity tariff for poultry farmers. In the last two years, 50,000 rural families have been supported for backyard poultry farming," the F&ARD minister said.

Similarly, Odisha has registered a 4.7-time rise in egg production—from 730 million in 2000-01 to 3,475 million in 2022-23. Egg production, which was 64 lakh per day in 2018-19, reached 96.58 lakh a day in 2022-23, Swain said, adding that subsidy has been enhanced from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore. The state government aims at establishing 60,000 rural backyard poultry units in the current year.

There has been a 167 per cent rise in budgetary provision for planned expenditure in F&ARD sector in the last four years—from ₹477.41 crore in 2018-19 to ₹1,274 crore in 2023-24.

During the last four years, seafood exports to foreign countries rose by 53 per cent—from ₹2,969 crore to ₹4,807 crore and fish seed production grew 194.16 per cent—from 94.72 crore to 278.63 crore.

Naveen's wish for Haj pilgrims

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The State Haj Committee, Odisha and ST&SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department have organised a felicitation programme for Haj Pilgrims for 2023 at Convention Centre of Lok Seva Bhawan here Friday.

During the programme, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has conveyed his good wishes for their safe and successful Haj pilgrimage through a video message.

This year, 888 Haj pilgrims from Odisha are going to perform their Haj through the State Haj Committee. Out of these, there are 511 male and 377 female pilgrims.

Start Bargarh-Nuapada rly line work, Centre told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: The state government has urged the Ministry of Railways to take up the construction of a new railway line from Bargarh Road to Nuapada Road via Padampur in western Odisha.

Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena has recently written a letter to Railway Board chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti in this regard.

State-run Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (ORIDL) has already prepared the detailed project report (DPR) and submitted it to the Ministry of Railways.

To make the project financially viable, the state government has made a commitment to provide land free of cost for the project

and ₹300 crore as grant, he said.

Considering these financial assistance from the government of Odisha, the project is financially viable with a rate of return (RoR) of 12.44 per cent, as shown in the DPR. The need for a railway line between Bargarh Road and Nuapada Road via Padampur has been felt for a long time. The government of Odisha has been highlighting this issue for more than a decade, Jena said in his letter.

The Ministry of Railways had conducted a survey of this line but later shelved the project citing lack of guaranteed traffic and non-participation of state government in the project, he said.

Later, ORIDL was later asked to evaluate the project and the DPR based on the in-principle approval of the ministry, has been prepared

and shared with the state government.

"Since state government has come forward to participate in this project by way of providing land free of cost and financial grant of ₹300 crore making the project financially viable, the DPR is forwarded to Ministry of Railways with a request to sanction the project and take up the construction work at their end at the earliest," he added.

Notably, the Ministry of Railways has notified construction of the new railway line project.

In December 2022, during Padampur bypoll, Bargarh-Nuapada railway line via Padampur took center stage as both BJP and BJD indulged in blame game over delay in commissioning of the project.

RATH YATRA

Daitas take charge of sibling deities

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, June 2: Countdown for the June 20 Rath Yatra (car festival) began with Daitas - a servitor community which conducts rituals beginning from Snana Purnima till the end of the grand event on Niladri Bijie - entering the Srimandir here, Friday.

They took charge of the deities from regular servitors late Friday evening. They will retain charge for about a month, it was learnt.

The grand annual event will begin June 20. Daitas will prepare deities for the Snana Yatra by fixing body armours to deities for Pahandi. The process will begin Monday noon and darshan of deities will be closed.

This apart, another set of servitors will set Charamala (ladders) to the Ratnasimhasan (bejewelled throne) in the sanctum sanctorum to facilitate Pahandi of the deities.

On Sunday, the Snana Yatra

(bathing ceremony) of Lord Jagannath and His siblings is to be observed.

According to Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), since Daitas will be preparing the deities for Pahandi, public darshan will be closed from 10pm Friday till 2pm Saturday.

Expecting a large number of devotees to throng Puri to witness the ritual and Hati Beshha of the sibling deities, the authorities have extended the length of barricades along the Grand Road upto to Market Square.

Puri district Collector Samarth Verma and SP K Vishal Singh Friday visited the Srimandir and took stock of the final arrangements for security of devotees, darshan in queue system and regulation of traffic for the ritual.

Over 70 platoons of police personnel and experienced officers will be deployed, the Puri SP said.



Chitrakar servitors, Friday, draw 'Patti Dian' to be worshipped during the anasar (sickness) period after the grand bath of deities on Snana Purnima in Puri OP PHOTO

Shah to visit state June 17, Nadda 22

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: BJP national president JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are scheduled to visit Odisha to take part in the Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan this month, party's state president Manmohan Samal said Friday.

Speaking to reporters here, Samal said that Shah is scheduled to visit the state June 17 while Nadda will arrive in the state June 22.

Both Shah and Nadda will address two public meetings in the state. However, the venue has not been finalised yet, Samal said.

The state BJP will finalise the venues where the two top brass leaders will address the people, he added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may also visit the state soon. However, the PM's tour programme has not been finalised, Samal said.

The BJP May 31 launched the month-long Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan across the country to reach the voters ahead of the 2024 general elections. Odisha BJP has set an ambitious target to reach out 1 crore families through the drive.

A total 51 mega rallies are scheduled to be organised in the country out of which four would be held in Odisha. Top leaders of the party would participate in the rallies.

WORLD BICYCLE DAY

Investment in cycling infra need of the hour

From kids to the elderly, cycling offers fun and health benefits to all. The simple yet efficient machine goes a long way in reducing carbon footprint, paving way for a liveable tomorrow. As humanity celebrates World Bicycle Day, Saturday, with the theme 'Riding together for a sustainable future', to acknowledge bicycle's importance as a means of transport, Arindam Ganguly of OrissaPOST talks to people from all walks of life to learn the cycling scenario in Bhubaneswar.

Urban planner and 'Bicycle Mayor' of Bhubaneswar Piyush Ranjan Rout said the Covid-19 pandemic has helped all realise the beauty of the Capital City as roads were virtually without fossil-fuel driven vehicles, leading to a 17 per cent fall in emission levels.

"Using a bicycle for commuting



in City will not only help reduce carbon footprints, but also improve health of all irrespective of age," Rout said, adding that there are some risks attached to cycling in Bhubaneswar.

"The biggest flipside is probably

the risk of accidents as many streets are not cycle-friendly. Although mobility by cycling is very safe, sharing a road with cars and other vehicles can lead to mishaps. Besides, there is a lack of cycling awareness, leading to confusion,"

he pointed out. Lack of cycling infrastructure in Bhubaneswar such as dedicated bicycle lanes, traffic lights, signage, and parking spaces also deters people from choosing bicycle as a mode of transport, Rout added.

About Mo Cycle failure, he said, "Although public bicycle sharing model has been successful across the globe, it's a failure in Odisha. Defunct Mo Cycles lying at kiosks are testaments to it."

Asrujit Mohanty, an avid cyclist and a resident of Bhubaneswar, said investing in cycling infrastructure would enhance accessibility and connectivity within the City.

"Dedicated bicycle lanes, well-maintained paths, and secure parking facilities would encourage more people to choose cycling as a viable mode of transport. This, in

turn, can lead to reduced dependence on private vehicles, resulting in less fuel consumption and lower carbon emissions," Mohanty pointed out.

Another cycling enthusiast Jayajit Jena is also of the similar view.

"The government is focusing more on EV and road construction than improving the cycle infra. It's high-time for the state to focus on cycle infra as well," Jena pointed out.

According to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulunge, the civic body was repairing the Mo Cycles.

"Mo Cycles couldn't be used during Covid for restrictions. We will explore how citizens can use those these days. Efforts are on to ensure no Mo Cycle is left unused," Kulunge added.

PRISONER FLEES SCB IN WOMAN'S GUISE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 2: An undertrial prisoner admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here managed to flee the healthcare facility Thursday in the guise of a woman, said a source Friday.

The absconded prisoner has been identified as Sajjan Das hailing from Jagatsinghpur district.

According to the source, Sajjan was apprehended by Naugaon police while attempting to rob a man in Niali area.

After his bail request was denied, he was taken to court and sent to judicial custody. He was originally imprisoned in Alipingal jail and subsequently transferred

Sajjan Das of Jagatsinghpur district was apprehended by Naugaon police while attempting to rob a man in Niali area

to Choudwar:

The source further said that Sajjan was brought to SCBMCH May 29 as he fell sick.

He has been receiving treatment since then.

The source said that Sajjan went to the toilet Thursday on the pretext of answering nature's call but changed his clothes and escaped from the restroom wearing a saree.

Police have started a manhunt to nab the absconder.

Govt funds to DRSCs for less road fatalities

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Concerned over the rising number of road accidents in Odisha, the state government is going to provide funds to the District Road Safety Committees (DRSCs) to make small interventions for reductions of accident-related fatalities in the state.

In a letter Commerce and Transport principal secretary Usha Padhee requested all Collectors, SPs and DCPs to submit their proposals suggesting their requirement of funds by June 20. In view of the importance of the issue, it has been decided to provide funds to the DRSCs to take up initiatives for reduction of accidents and fatalities, she said.

Small interventions like painting of medians, pasting of reflective tapes, holding awareness programmes, and installing CCTV cameras for deterrence may have



Small interventions like painting of medians, pasting of reflective tapes, holding awareness programmes, and installing CCTV cameras may have significant effect on improving road safety in all the districts

significant effect in improving road safety in all the districts, she said. These initiatives are important

for the districts having major state, national highways and urban centres. As per official reports 5,467 per-

sons were killed in road accidents in 2022. It was 7.6 per cent higher than the deaths recorded in road accidents the previous year. Surprisingly, in January and February, 2023, the fatalities grew by 24.91 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

It has been observed that, there is growth in fatalities by more than 50 per cent in districts including Deogarh, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Khurda, Malkangiri and Nuapada, Padhee said in the letter.

"All the districts are being impressed upon from time to time to initiate education, engineering, enforcement and emergency care measures for reduction of road accidents and fatalities in the districts," she said adding that all districts have been requested to hold meeting of district road safety committees once in every month to review the road safety scenario.

₹3 crore corpus fund to 3 major medical colleges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: For engagement of super specialists, Rs 3 crore of corpus fund, one crore each, has been placed with superintendents of 3 major medical colleges to enable them to negotiate on case to case basis as per requirement. The initiative will strengthen the patient-centric clinical services in super specialist blocks of the three medical colleges namely SCB MCH, Cuttack, VIMSAR, Burla, and MKCG MCH Berhampur.

In a notification, Health and Family Welfare department said that it has come to the notice of government that there is a shortage of super specialist doctors in government medical colleges and hospitals of the state, despite a series of recruitment drives. In order to overcome this situation, government is providing corpus fund to be placed with the superintendents of three medical college and hospitals.

SOA scientists' formulations to ease patients' plight

The formulations are designed to treat dry eye, throat infections and mitigate long-term adverse effects associated with cancer treatment, leader of the research team professor Goutam Rath informed



and the user would not have to use the drop frequently during the day.

Generally, the ocular drops used get wasted as hardly ten per cent of a drop is retained. But the new formulation would create a film which would prevent any such loss, he said.

Pointing out that the gargle medicines being prescribed for throat infections had limited impact for about 15 to 30 minutes requiring multiple use to alleviate discomfort, Rath said the team has developed a mucoadhesive extended release gargle spray which offer long term effect of about four hours upon a single use. The research team has also developed artificial saliva which can be of great help to cancer patients who are on chemotherapy.

The members of the research team include Goutam Ghosh, professor, Biswakanth Kar, associate professor, Debasmita Dubey, research scientist, Vineet Kumar Rai, project scientist, Deepak Pradhan, senior project associate, Priyanka Dash, assistant professor, Chandan Das, assistant professor, Jitu Haldar and Tushar Kanti Rajewar, both Junior research fellows, Ivy Saha and Ritu Mohanti, both PhD scholars.

SOA vice-chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda congratulated Rath and his team for developing these technologies which could ultimately serve the society.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Researchers at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here have developed simple and economical pharmaceutical formulations to treat various chronic medical conditions, with the institution recently signing technology licensing agreement with the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) of the Science and Technology Ministry for development of the formulations.

The formulations are designed to treat dry eye, throat infections and mitigate long-term adverse effects associated with cancer treatment, leader of the research team and SOA'S School of Pharmaceutical Sciences' professor Goutam Rath informed.

"The preservatives used in formulations used to treat eye conditions actually lead to ocular discomfort or at times permanent visual deformities following prolonged use," Rath said. "Our innovation offers a preservative free long lasting artificial tear produce which would reduce the dose and toxic adverse effects of preservatives for long term use," he said adding it would remain effective for longer period

National conference for chartered accountants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: A two-day national conference for chartered accountants was inaugurated here Friday by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Cuttack, at the conference hall of Pal Heights Mantra.

The former Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra inaugurated the event joining the event as the chief guest. Nalco finance director Ramesh Chandra Joshi, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India vice president Ranjit Kumar Agarwal, eastern council president Debayan Patra, Cuttack branch president Rabindra Kumar Goenka, organising committee president Shyam Agarwal, Cuttack branch secretary Bijan Sahoo also joined the programme as guests.

"Many chartered accountants from across the country joined the conference. This programme will continue for two days. The topics to be discussed at the conference include: Goods and Services Tax Act, Company Act, REERA act," said a participant.



ENABLING DELIBERATIONS: Former Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra, among other dignitaries, light the inaugural lamp for two-day national conference of chartered accountants organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Cuttack, at a hotel in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Panda for Odisha-Japan research collaboration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Collaboration with Japanese research facilities will be of immense help for growth of the bio-medicals field in Odisha in terms of

innovations, business exchange and human resources development, said state Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda while visiting the Kobe Bio-Medical Innovation Cluster in Japan recently.

He informed to have made a proposal to initiate collaboration between the Kobe Bio-Medical Innovation Cluster, Japan, and the Odisha government through the union External Affairs Ministry.

Suggesting that the Consulate General Office in Osaka will facilitate the collaboration, Panda stressed the joint collaboration to



be taken up with reputed institutes in City like Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) and ICMR-RMRC.

As the Science and Technology department has signed a MoU with Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Centre (BKIC) to co-

ordinate such innovation activities with organisations of national and international repute, the collaboration can easily become a reality, he further added.

Panda along with Rajya Sabha member Sujit Kumar, MLA Debi Prasad Mishra, Science and Technology joint secretary Puja Mishra visited the Kobe Bio-Medical Innovation Cluster recently.

The KBIC director made a presentation before the delegates highlighting its major achievements in the fields of retinal regenerative medicines and treatment of Alzheimer's disease etc.

Visakhapatnam Patients' Facilitation Centre to remain open for a year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: To ensure for the poor tribal people of Malkangiri continued access to healthcare, the Odisha government has decided to keep operational for another year (2023-24) the Patients' Facilitation Centre at Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday approved a proposal in this regard, sanctioning from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) a sum of Rs 10 lakh for this purpose.

The state government had opened a Facilitation Centre in Visakhapatnam to provide quality healthcare to tribal people of Malkangiri

The state government had opened a Patients' Facilitation Centre in Visakhapatnam in 2016 to provide quality healthcare to people of Malkangiri, who mostly

go to Vishakhapatnam to get treatment for health problems as good healthcare in unavailable in their vicinity in the remote district and Visakhapatnam is closer to their homes.

Notably at the facilitation centre, free boarding and food is provided for the people of Malkangiri. As per official record, between 2016 and 2022, an assistance of approximately Rs 55 lakh has been provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to this medical centre.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

I Rajashree Nayak purchased a property in Mouza- Pandara, I have recorded my name in mutation RoR in respect of Khata No.1330/539. It has been lost somewhere.

AFFIDAVIT

Affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Chatrapur, Ganjam, I, Sri Amari Chinese, S/o. Mari Appana, resident of P.Laxmipur, PO- Badaputti, PS- Chamakhandi, Dist- Ganjam, Pin-761002 declare by this Affidavit No.333 that now onwards I shall be known as Mari Chineya for all future purposes.

I, Mohanty Dibyarchana Sushanta Kumar, At- Gopalpur, PO: Radhaballavpur, Balasore, Odisha, Pin-756045, declare by this Affidavit No. 787 that now on words I shall be known as Dibyarchana Mohanty for all future purposes.

Odisha to bear uneven cost of climate transition: Study

The estimated costs and benefits of climate transition in India are very unevenly distributed across regions, according to a study which calls for urgent policy instruments to compensate for this disparity.

The study shows that the negative effects are heavily concentrated in already poorer states in eastern India that are highly involved in coal-mining, including Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Bihar.

Jobs would be lost, the burden on poorer households would increase, and energy-intensive industries would come under pressure in this region, the researchers said.

The researchers noted that India is taking the first steps towards a climate transition with volume targets for the upscaling of renewable energies, a modest turnaround in coal-fired power generation, and plans for carbon pricing in the form of emissions trading.

"This huge country with its 29 federal states and seven union terri-

tories already has large regional wealth disparities," said Jose Ordonez, who led the study as part of his doctoral thesis at Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) in Germany.

"We determine the scenario of an ambitious climate transition for the individual geographical units, and examine the combined effect on income distribution, employment and industrial competitiveness," said Ordonez, who is currently working at the EU Commission's Joint Research Centre in Spain.

This yields an important finding for central government: without compensatory measures, the gap between poor and wealthy regions threatens to widen significantly, the researchers said.

The study, published in the journal Energy Policy, used an input-output model fed with empirical data to map the direct distributional effects of policy measures. The researchers assume there



will be an extensive effort towards climate protection, including a complete coal phase-out, the massive expansion of power generation from solar and wind, a national carbon price of USD 40 per tonne for private households and companies, and the abolition of energy subsidies.

The overall effect of this package on the individual regions, on a qualitative scale from "very disadvantageous" to "very favourable" is key, according to the researchers.

On the other hand, the comparatively richer states would be the biggest winners from an ambitious climate policy, they said.

The model does not take into account the fact that negatively affected private households and companies can adapt to measures and thus improve their situation.

However, the researchers noted, among other things, that experience shows short-term effects to be decisive for the enforceability of energy and climate policy measures.

The researchers examined the combined effect of transition on income distribution, employment and industrial competitiveness

Without compensatory measures, the gap between poor and wealthy regions threatens to widen significantly, the researchers said

Climate transition would have to be accompanied by new social and industrial policies to make it enforceable in the struggle between competing interest groups, and to overcome regional resistance

"From the political economic perspective our work provides an important starting point for the further development of climate transition in India," said Jan Steckel, head of the MCC working group Climate and Development and one of the co-authors.

"It helps us understand how winners and losers of climate policies

are distributed in India. A strong regional concentration of short-term losers can lead to major problems in the political process of implementing climate protection. This has already been shown, for example, in the struggle to phase out coal in Germany," Steckel said. The researchers emphasise that the climate transition would have to be accompanied by new social and industrial policies in order to make it enforceable in the struggle between competing interest groups, and in order to overcome regional resistance.

This can be done, for example, using carbon price revenues, by careful siting of fossil-free energy production, or through compensation payments for the coal phase-out, they said.

It can also provide orientation for coal phase-out in return for financial aid from western industrialised countries, following the example of South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam, the researchers added.

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BALASORE TRAIN TRAGEDY: SCENES OF DISTRESS



1- Passengers being rescued from the train, 2- Locals search for injured in the mangled coaches, 3- Injured passengers after receiving primary treatment and 4- Rush at Balasore medical as injured passengers are brought

OP PHOTOS

NOR'WESTER DEATHS

Naveen announces ₹4 lakh ex gratia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday announced compassionate assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the next of kin of each of the four people who died in two separate incidents after nor'wester-induced thunderstorm and hailstorm hit Malkangiri district, Thursday.

Patnaik expressed profound grief over the deaths and expressed his sympathies to the bereaved family members.

As per the report, while two people died after a boat hit by strong wind capsized in Satiguda reservoir in the district, two labourers died after the perimeter walls of Malkangiri Airstrip collapsed after being hit by nor'wester rains.

Three labourers were also injured in the incident. The Chief Minister also directed the officials to provide free quality medicare to the injured.



Similarly, Patnaik also expressed his grief over the death of two girls while bathing in sea near Aryapalli under Chhatrapur block of Ganjam district Thursday and announced an assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the family members of each of the deceased.

In a 1st, 'Amrapalli' mango of Dhenkanal exported to Dubai



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, June 2: Owing to abundant mango harvest in Dhenkanal this year, the district has bagged the top spot in state with production of 50,000 metric tonne mangoes. While this seasonal fruit usually has high demand in India's metro cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi, this year, a direct consignment of 2.5 tonne Amrapalli mangoes was exported to Dubai from Dhenkanal for the first time ever. The Agricultural and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry played the mediator for this trade.

Mango farmer Subrata Kumar Das at his 'Nature Eco Farm' along Kalapani-Banasingh road under Dhenkanal Sadar cultivates mango and cashew on a 30-acre land.

On the 30 acre land, Amrapalli, Mallika, Daseri, Keshar varieties

of mangoes are being cultivated in 6 acre area. Fruits are cultivated here through organic method and supplied to different states in India as well as foreign countries every year. But each time there was a mediator who coordinated the trade.

This year, however, mango export was done through an agency under the Government of India. The officers of APEDA, district Horticulture department, Paaf global private limited who purchased these mangoes from Subrat first visited "Nature Eco Farm" and examined the quality of the Amrapalli mangoes ahead of export.

The mango consignment will be transported from Dhenkanal to Kolkata in an air-conditioned truck.

From there Paaf global private limited will send the consignment of mangoes to Dubai in a flight. The market price of Amrapalli mango is Rs 90 per kg, while in foreign countries, it will be sold approxi-

mately at Rs 200 per kg. Packets of these mangoes to be exported have been labeled with stickers mentioning 'Nature Farm Dhenkanal'. "Dhenkanal mangoes will surely get a special identity in Dubai," said Subrat Kumar Dash, owner of the farm.

District Collector Saroj Kumar Sethi flagged off the consignment for export in the presence of district Horticulture department assistant director Geetashree Padhi, eastern zonal head of APEDA Sitakanta Mandal, all India member and eastern region board member Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi, Paaf global private limited managing director Subrat Ghosh, and mango farmer Subrat Das were present.

Mayurbhanj district has the record in mango cultivation in terms of land area but Dhenkanal district is on top in terms of mango production, said Padhi. Around 200 farmers are cultivating over 10,000 hectare area in Dhenkanal district. Various workshops on mango farming will be organised for creating awareness among the farmers for mango cultivation in the coming days.

"It is a matter of great pride for us to export Dhenkanal mango directly to foreign countries. Our farmers will get training about mango production and packaging by their own to get more benefit in future," said Collector Sethi.

Trains cancelled post Balasore triple crash

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 2: Many trains stand cancelled in the aftermath of a major railway accident Friday involving Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, Coromandel Express and a goods train on three separate tracks at Bahanaga in Balasore district.

The trains which have been totally cancelled for June 2 are 12838 Puri-Howrah Express from Puri, 18410 Puri-Shalimar Shri Jagannath Express from Puri, and 08012 Puri-Bhanjapur Special from Puri.

Many trains have also been partially cancelled. While 18022 Khurda Road-Kharagpur Express from Khurda Road June 2 will run up to Baitarani Road and will remain cancelled from Baitarani Road to Kharagpur, 18021 Kharagpur-Khurda Road Express from Kharagpur June 3 will originate from Baitarani Road to Khurda Road and remain cancelled from Kharagpur to Baitarani Road.

Similarly, 12892 Bhubaneswar-Bangiriposi Express from Bhubaneswar June 2 will run up to Jajpur Keonjhar Road and will remain cancelled from Jajpur Keonjhar Road to Bangiriposi. 08412 Bhubaneswar-Balasore MEMU from Bhubaneswar June 2 will run up to Jenapur and will remain cancelled from Jenapur to Balasore. 18411 Balasore-Bhubaneswar MEMU June 3 will run from Jenapur to Bhubaneswar

instead of Balasore to Bhubaneswar.

Furthermore, many trains have also been diverted. 03229 Puri-Patna Special from Puri will run via Jakhapura-Jaroli route, 12840 Chennai-Howrah Mail will run via Jakhapura and Jaroli route, 18048 Vasco da Gama-Howrah Amaravati Express will run via Jakhapura-Jaroli route, 22850 Secunderabad-Shalimar Express from run via Jakhapura and Jaroli route, 18477 Puri-Rishikesh Kalinga Utkal Express will run via Angul-Sambalpur City-Jharsuguda Road-Ib route, 22804 Sambalpur-Shalimar Express will run via Sambalpur City-Jharsuguda Route, and 15929 Bangalore-Guwahati Express will run via Vizianagaram-Titilagarh-Jharsuguda-Tata route, and 15929 Tambaram-New Tinsukia Express will run via Ranital-Jaroli route.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/ E-Tender/31, Dt.: 23.05.2023
(1) Tender No. eTender-East-KUR-91-2023, Dt.: 23.05.2023
Description: PROVISION OF 03 NOS. OF TYPE-III QUARTERS FOR JUNIOR ENGINEER/SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (PWAY) AT CHARBATIA (CBT), KAPILAS ROAD (KIS) & HARIDASPUR (HDS) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹ 62.71 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 1,25,400/-
(2) Tender No. eTender-East-KUR-92-2023, Dt.: 23.05.2023
Description: EXTENSION OF EXISTING GATE GOOMTIES IN CONNECTION WITH AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALLING SYSTEM IN CUTTACK-PARADEEP SECTION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approx cost of the work: ₹ 248.42 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,74,200/-
Completion period: 08 months (for SI. No. 1), 10 months (for SI. No. 2).
Tender closing date & time at 1500 hrs. of 16.06.2023 (for both tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-2310/O/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION FOR CATERING STALLS UNDER GMUs & SMUs AT VARIOUS STATIONS UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

No. G.129/Catg/E-auction/3/2023, Date: 22.05.2023
STATIONS NAME: (1) JAJPUR-KEONJHAR ROAD (2) MANCHESWAR (3) RAHAMA (4) GORAKHANATH (5) HARICHANDANPUR (6) DELANG (7) KANAS ROAD (8) SUKINDA ROAD (9) RAGHUNATHPUR (10) BARANG (11) KAPILASH ROAD (12) KANDARPUR (13) PATIA (14) SHYAMACHARANPUR (15) CHILIKA (16) KHALIKOT (17) RAJATHAGARH (18) BADABANDHA (19) NARANPUR (20) RETANGA.
Category of Stations: A(NSG-3) (for SI. No. 1) & E (for SI. No. 2 to 20), Type of Unit: Catering Stall (for all SI. Nos.), Size of Unit: 8'x6' (for SI. No. 1) & 10'x6' (For SI. No. 2 to 20), Details of Reservation: Scheduled Caste (for SI No. 1, 12 & 16), Freedom Fighters, War Widow, Widow of Railway Employees (for SI No.2), General (Ladies) (for SI No.3), General (for SI No.4, 6, 7, 9, 17 & 18), Other Backward Class (for SI No.5, 13, 15 & 20), Minority (for SI No.8), Scheduled Tribe (for SI No.10, 14 & 19) and Minority (Women) (for SI No.11).
Date & Time of Auction: 06.06.2023 from 1100 hrs. onwards (for all SI. Nos.).
Note: Complete information is available in website www.ireps.gov.in .
PR-2310/O/23-24 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Khurda Road

Satabhaya rehab committee for inclusion of 235 left out families

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapada, June 2: The Satabhaya Rehabilitation Committee (SRC) has demanded inclusion of 235 left out families in Satabhaya Rehabilitation Colony at Bagapatia village under Rajnagar tehsil in this district.

In a memorandum to the District Collector, the SRC members demanded land and other benefits be provided to the left out families on par with what 571 families were getting. The SRC also submitted a list of 235 families, who are yet to be resettled at Bagapatia-Satabhaya Resettlement Colony to the District Collector.

The state government has resettled as many as 571 sea erosion prone Satabhaya families at Bagapatia based Satabhaya Resettlement Colony.

Six months back, the district administration also included 148 left out families of Satabhaya and 99 families of Charigharia in Satabhaya Rehabilitation Colony. Still, 235 more left out families are waiting to be included in the



Satabhaya rehabilitation project for resettlement.

Rajnagar MLA Dhruva Sahu, Satabhaya sarpanch Prasanna Kumar Parida, and the members of SRC met the District Collector at Kendrapada and demanded to include the left out 235 families in the Bagapatia Resettlement Colony project. The MLA also demanded before the Collector to initiate steps for completing the developmental and beautification projects of Satabhaya, in a war footing. The state government has provided Rs 23 crore for the purpose.

During the discussion, District Collector Amrit Raturaj said Rajnagar tehsildar would be asked to carry out a survey for including the left out families in the rehabilitation project.

RPDAC meet for Utkal-C coal block held successfully

Sambalpur: The Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC) meeting for Utkal-C coal block of Jindal Steel & Power has been conducted successfully under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner of northern division Dr Suresh Chandra Dalai, IAS in Angul district. Collector Sidharth Shankar Swain, MLA Sushant Kumar Behera, representative of Sambalpur MP Agasti Behra, representatives of project displaced and project affected families, civil society members, NGO/SHG representatives and company officials were present in the RPDAC meeting. The committee discussed in details about the multiple facets of rehabilitation and resettlement of land losers and project affected people. After a detailed discussion, the committee accepted the recommendation of the Project Level Rehabilitation and Resettlement Committee (PLRRC) meeting held last week regarding the package for displaced families. Accordingly, each displaced family in Utkal-C Coal Block project will get ₹35 lakh for resettlement and rehabilitation.

Denizens fume over night closure of MKCG main gate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 2: The closure of the main gate of MKCG Medical College and Hospital here at night has sparked furore among the denizens as well as the patients and their attendants, a report said Friday.

People alleged that the hospital's main gate is being closed at night to fulfil the interest of the authorities and have warned to take to the streets if the order is not withdrawn at the earliest.

Reports said that the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Silk City has two gates for entry and exit of patients and their attendants. Earlier in 2013, the authorities had shut one of the gates opposite the new bus stand on the alibi of unauthorised plying of heavy vehicles and people using it as a route.

The recent order has been issued to close the main gate during night time on the pretext of se-

curity in the hospital campus.

In the past, the main gate was remaining open round the clock. However, the private security personnel deployed in the hospital have been closing the main gate after 11pm for the last one week. Security personnel said that the gate is being closed on the order of the Principal-cum-Dean of the MKCG Medical College.

When contacted, Principal-cum-Dean of the MKCG Medical College Professor Dr Santosh Kumar Mishra said that some anti-social youths had strayed into the hospital campus at night and attacked the medical students last month.

Later, a meeting was held between the medical students and the authorities, where a decision was taken to shut the gate from 11pm till 5am following the demand of the students. The gate will remain closed for others during the period except for the patients and their attendants, he added.

Sincerity is the key of the divine doors

THE MOTHER



Void in Doha

For nearly two months, the position of Indian ambassador in Doha has remained unoccupied, leaving a big void in the diplomatic representation of India in Qatar. After the previous ambassador Dipak Mittal returned to India and joined the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the appointment of his successor has been eagerly awaited. While speculation points to Vipul, the Joint Secretary (Gulf) as a likely replacement, no formal announcement has been made by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) yet.

However, the absence of an Indian ambassador in Doha is not merely a bureaucratic matter. It has real and significant consequences for the individuals directly affected by it. Specifically, the families of eight naval veterans who have been held in solitary confinement in Doha since August last year, are feeling an overwhelming sense of helplessness. The lack of an Indian ambassador has made it difficult for them to access information about the well-being and legal status of their loved ones.

With charges already framed and the trial underway against these veterans under Qatari law, their families are increasingly anxious about their situation. Without a designated point of contact, they find themselves lacking a go-to person who can provide them with clarity and guidance regarding the path ahead.

In this time of uncertainty, the MEA needs to recognize the urgency of the matter and promptly appoint a competent and capable ambassador to Doha. The presence of a dedicated ambassador will not only provide a channel of communication for the families of the detained veterans but also enable effective engagement with Qatari authorities to ensure fair treatment and due process for the accused individuals.

Women dominate UPSC civil services exams

A seismic shift is occurring within the realm of Indian bureaucracy. There is a change in the air. The recent UPSC Civil Services exam results have unveiled a groundbreaking development – the top four positions have been claimed by women. Ishita Kishore secured the first rank, followed by Garima Lohia, Uma Harathi and Smriti Mishra.

Among the top 25 successful candidates, 14 are women, marking the second consecutive year in which women have dominated the highest ranks.

This transformative trend underscores the remarkable progress made by women in civil services, with their representation increasing significantly over time. The ascent of women has been an arduous journey. Women have overcome formidable challenges, from Anna George Malhotra, the first woman to join the IAS in 1951 to the current wave of trailblazing candidates. The remarkable statistics speak for themselves, as over one-third of the 933 recommended candidates this year are women, a substantial increase compared to the mere 20 per cent from two decades ago.

By securing leadership positions in the civil services, these accomplished young women bring with them fresh perspectives, empathy and a nuanced understanding of the diverse challenges that governance entails. This surge in women's presence signifies a major shift in the traditionally male-dominated bureaucratic landscape. Their contributions will likely pave the way for a more inclusive and comprehensive governance framework.

A boozy conundrum

In a move that could spare police personnel of the Prohibition Enforcement Unit (PEW) of Tamil Nadu Police from unexpected dance-offs, the Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu has sent a memo to police personnel to resist the temptation of being deployed on any other duties. The directive has been communicated to all commissioners and superintendents of police across the state.

The PEW officers have apparently been pulled in every other direction, assigned tasks that have absolutely nothing to do with their original purpose. Sources have informed DKB that PEW unit officers have been caught in bandobast duties and whatnot, and sometimes compelled to undertake additional work instead of trying to combat the sale of bootleg booze in Tamil Nadu.

The DGP has come to their rescue and instructed the PEW department to focus on their real task and the real troublemakers, of which there are quite a few, we learn.

It turns out that there have been some truly unfortunate incidents involving illicit liquor. Villupuram and Chengalpattu districts have experienced a series of tragedies, with 24 persons meeting their demise from consuming methanol-laced hooch. Most recently, there was a case in the Thanjavur district, where forensic analysis revealed that two deaths believed to be due to alcohol poisoning, were caused by the ingestion of alcohol laced with cyanide. In the spirit of sobriety and safety, it is hoped that the DGP's directive brings much-needed focus to the PEW officers towards their primary duty.

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WISDOM CORNER

- The constant assertion of belief is an indication of fear. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**
- If you're lonely when you're alone, you're in bad company. **JEAN-PAUL SARTRE**
- Life is just one small piece of light between two eternal darknesses. **VLADIMIR NABOKOV**

WORDSWORTH

Vape

Oxford Dictionaries announced today (18 November) that they have made vape their international Word of the Year 2014. This odd little word, with its compounds, has risen from almost total obscurity to high fashion in less than half a decade. The award has been made because its use has more than doubled in the past year alone. It's now widely known that if you vape, you inhale and exhale the vapour produced by electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or e-cigs). These contain a solution of water and glycerin plus nicotine and flavourings. This mixture is passed over a hot filament to deliver it as a vapour. Using an e-cigarette makes you a vaper. The action is vaping, and a single inhalation and exhalation is a vape. The first e-cigarettes were put on sale by a Chinese company in 2003. They were initially marketed as ways for smokers to cut down their tobacco consumption or kick the habit altogether. Instead, they came to be widely used by smokers and non-smokers alike because they seemed to be a cleaner and more healthy alternative to traditional cigarettes. This is denied by many health experts and their advertising and use are being restricted in some jurisdictions. It seemed inappropriate to describe using them as smoking and so these new terms were created, obviously enough from vaporise or vaporiser. One reason for the increasing popularity of vaper is that e-cigarette smokers are banding together, using it as a self-identifying term, to campaign against proposed EU rules banning many e-cigarettes because their nicotine levels are too high.

ANTI-SEMITISM & INTERSECTIONALITY

FOCUS SOCIETY

On May 14, 2023, the European Jewish Association (EJA) held its annual conference in Porto, Portugal, where it adopted a resolution calling for anti-Semitism to be "treated separately from other forms of hate and discrimination." The EJA is urging "other Jewish organizations to reject 'intersectionality,'" a conceptual framework that tends to categorize groups as being either "privileged" or "oppressed." According to the EJA, "anti-Semitism is unique and must be treated as such," on the grounds that it is "state-sanctioned in many countries," "given cover by the United Nations," and not always regarded as a form of racism by other groups affected by hate.



Slavoj Žižek

THE UPSHOT OF INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS IS THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCE UNIQUE FORMS OF OPPRESSION OR PRIVILEGE BY DINT OF THE MAKEUP OF THEIR IDENTITIES

But why are intersectionality and the demarcation between the privileged and the oppressed problematic from a Jewish standpoint? Generally speaking, intersectionality is a useful concept in social theory and practical analysis. When we consider particular individuals or groups, we discover that their experiences of oppression or privilege reflect a wide array of diverse factors.

Let us shamelessly quote Wikipedia's definition: "Intersectionality is an analytical framework for understanding how a person's various social and political identities combine to create different modes of discrimination and privilege. Intersectionality identifies multiple factors of advantage and disadvantage. Examples of these factors include gender, caste, sex, race, ethnicity, class, religion, education, wealth, disability, weight, age, and physical appearance. These intersecting and overlapping social identities may be both empowering and oppressing."

The point, Anne Sisson Runyan of the University of Cincinnati explains, is "that forms of oppression are not just additive, as if they were wholly separate layers of domination. Rather, women of color actually experience a different form of racism from men of color, just as they experience a different form of sexism from white women."

By the same token, the anti-



The oppression faced by Jews in developed Western countries nowadays is somewhat more ambiguous, because Jews also tend to occupy positions of privilege, and the association of the Jews with wealth and culture in the public imagination is itself a source of classic anti-Semitic tropes

Semitic idea of the "Jew" combines features of religion, ethnicity, sexuality, education, wealth, and physical appearance. To be stigmatized as a Jew entails the ascription of various other features, such as uncleanness, dogmatic adherence to religious rules, nefarious financial speculation, and hidden global influence – all of which featured prominently in Nazi propaganda. The upshot of intersectional analysis is that all individuals experience unique forms of oppression or privilege by dint of the makeup of their identities. Consider a low-income Black lesbian; she is at a quadruple disadvantage almost anywhere in the world.

Why, then, do those who insist on the uniqueness of anti-Semitism reject intersectionality? The oppression faced by Jews in developed Western countries nowadays is somewhat more ambiguous, because Jews also tend to occupy positions of privilege (economically, culturally, and so forth), and the association of the Jews with wealth and culture ("Hollywood" as Jewish) in the public imagination is itself a source of classic anti-Semitic tropes. The EJA worries that this combination of oppression and privilege makes anti-Semitism just another form of racial hatred, not only compara-

ble to others but even milder when set alongside other modes of oppression. When we apply an intersectional lens, hatred for "the Jew," the EJA fears, becomes a minor case in the broader taxonomy of hatreds.

Is this fear justified? The EJA is right to insist that there is something exceptional about anti-Semitism. It is not like other racisms: its aim is not to subordinate the Jews but to exterminate them. The anti-Semite perceives them not as lower foreigners but as secret masters. The Holocaust is not the same as the destruction of civilizations in the history of colonialism; it is a unique phenomenon of industrially-organized annihilation.

But it is the very coupling of "oppressed" and "privileged" which provides the key to understanding anti-Semitism, at least in its modern form. Under fascism, "the Jew" served as the external intruder who could be blamed for corruption, disorder, and exploitation. Projecting the conflict between the "oppressed" and the "privileged" onto a scapegoat can distract people's attention from the fact that such struggles are, in fact, intrinsic to their own political and economic order. The fact that many Jews are "privileged" (in the sense of their wealth,

education, and political influence) is thus the very resource of anti-Semitism: being perceived as privileged makes Jews a target of social hatred.

Problems arise when one tries to use the exceptional status of anti-Semitism to support a double standard, or to prohibit any critical analysis of the privileges that Jews, on average, enjoy. In a 2020 Der Spiegel dialogue on anti-Semitism and the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, one finds the dictum that, "The Jew, and not the potential anti-Semite, determines who is an anti-Semite" ("Wer Antisemitist, bestimmt der Jude und nicht der potenzielle Antisemit"). But if that is the case, should we not apply the same principle to Palestinians in the West Bank? Solely by dint of being Palestinian, they are being deprived of their land and basic rights.

But, more than that, the EJA's stance relies on its own intersectional framework. Any analysis of the privileged positions held by some Jews is immediately denounced as anti-Semitic, and even critiques of capitalism are rejected on the same grounds, owing to the association between "Jewishness" and "rich capitalists." The Marxist thesis that anti-Semitism is a primitive, distorted version of anti-capitalism is thus inverted: anti-capitalism is a mask of anti-Semitism.

If the implication is that Jewishness is both exceptional and inextricably bound up with capitalism, aren't we just left with an age-old anti-Semitic trope? Do we not directly provoke the poor and oppressed to blame the Jews for their misfortunes? Other Jewish organizations should reject the EJA stance, not because of some obscene need for "balance" between different forms of racism, but to advance the very struggle against anti-Semitism.

The writer, a Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, is International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London.

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SPECTRUM SPORTS

The don of cricket captains

Five captains stand tallest in the pantheon of cricket; Frank Worrell, Richie Benaud, Ian Chappell, Imran Khan and MS Dhoni. Worrell was the first black who captained the warring islands of the West Indies, with prodigious talent. When he toured Australia in 1960-61, with Weeks, Walcott, Hall, Griffith and Sobers, everybody thought they would wallop Australia. Little realising, how doughty the Australians can be under the captaincy of Riche Benaud. This series marked the first tied test in Brisbane and Benaud won the series 2-1. But the high point of the series was when Richie asked Worrell to loft the trophy with him and travel in an open motorcade with him in the streets of Australia. Richie said: We won the series; Worrell won the hearts.



Satya Narayan Misra

HUMILITY RATHER THAN HUBRIS, HAS BEEN THE LEITMOTIF OF MS DHONI'S UNIQUE JOURNEY AS A CAPTAIN, WICKETKEEPER AND FINISHER PAR EXCELLENCE

Imran as Pakistan's captain in the 80s was charisma personified. When his prowess waned in bowling, he won his country the World Cup in 1992 through astute captaincy & doughty batting. But he was also hubris personified when he failed to acknowledge the stellar role played by other team members like Miandad, Akram and Inzby.

But MS Dhoni is a different kettle of fish and humility personified.

When India won the World Cup in 2011, despite his spectacular innings and finish through a helicopter six, he allowed Sachin to hog all the limelight, though he had fared badly in the finals. His humility after winning the IPL final for the fifth time is a template of magnanimity. Instead of standing behind the cup and holding it, he sidestepped and asked Rayudu to stand behind and hold it. He knew it was Rayudu's last IPL match and he wanted him to savour the delight, for more than a decade's solid performance as a batsman against pace and spin. He showed his vintage touch in the final with lofted sixes and fours. Dhoni has this uncanny ability to get the best out of everybody, irrespective of their age and experience. The way he mentored the young rookies like Pathirana, who reminded me of Malinga, and Deshpande with a mix of admonishment and encouragement was most heart-warming. In the absence of Ben Stokes, the charismatic all-rounder and Deepak Chahar who was injured initially, Dhoni was hugely handicapped, yet not disheartened. He proved how crisis can be an opportunity and from Daddy's Army as CSK was ini-

tially called, he transformed them into the team on its wings with callow cubs on the rampage! The CSK team also has an incredible duo of openers, Rituraj, who was losing in confidence and David Conway, who could turn any match on its head. Ajinkya was a revelation in this format, given the way Dhoni reposed confidence in him. The finals also unfolded a rare side of Dhoni as a doting family man. The way he held Santner's daughter, and mingled with the family members, including Mrs. Jadeja, one could clearly sense his middle-class moorings and value system. It was also an eye-opener to see how he lofted Jadeja after he hit the winning four: Dhoni is like Bjorn Borg, an iceberg to the core. Possibly the overwhelming win in the face of a massive 214 to chase, the uncertainty of rain, and the tight bowling of Mohit Sharma, opened Dhoni's sluice gate of emotion the way Jadeja turned around the match.

It's a pity that he couldn't repeat the magic with the bat in the final. In this, he has a legendary predecessor to give the company, Don Bradman. In his last test in 1948, Don needed a four to have a batting average of 100 in test

matches. As he descended the steps, his eyes were moist. And Eric Hollies bowled him for a blob. Bill Bowes writes that possibly his teary eyes could not pick up the googly. Dhoni in the post-match conversation also confessed that he was overwhelmed by the reception that he received and possibly his eyes were wet. Like Ulysses, the mind was willing but the body (eye) was weak for both Bradman and Dhoni!

Unlike Imran's pedigreed indifference to his teammates after winning WC-1992, the small-town boy from Ranchi has always valued friendship, loyalty and discipline as the sine qua non of excellence in a team game. Dhoni has given space to each of his teammates to perform at their best. Most importantly, humility rather than hubris, has been the leitmotif of his unique journey as a captain, wicketkeeper and finisher par excellence. No wonder his appeal transcends Chennai and swathes all cricket grounds in India with a veil of yellow. He is the Don of Cricket Captains and his swan song could not have been more apocalyptic.

The writer is a cricket aficionado.

Economy moving forward

Sir, The report that India's GDP grew at 6.1 per cent during the January-March quarter of the financial time 2022-23 is yet another index that the country's frugality is healthy and headed in the right direction. This will push the overall growth rate to 7.2 per cent for the full time, April 2022 to March 2023. But this growth index isn't a megalith; several factors also show we are doing many a thing right. During the quarter in discussion, husbandry growth accelerated to 5.4 per cent from 4 per cent. Electricity, gas, water force and other mileage services member also grew 6.7 per cent during the fourth quarter. The GVA growth in the services sector, comprising trade, hostel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting, was 9 per cent in the fourth quarter, against a growth of only 5 per cent a time ago, according to data from the ministry of statistics and programme implementation. This robust performance, along with overall sanguinity and compelling macroeconomic pointers, illustrates the promising line of the Indian frugality and the tenacity of its people.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

Positive signs

Sir, It is encouraging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda have agreed to resolve the boundary dispute out of a spirit of goodwill during their negotiations in Delhi. Both parties also agreed to some significant agreements, including India importing up to 10,000 MW of power within the next decade. India's approval of the first trilateral power trade should boost regional collaboration. Relations between the two countries had nose-dived after Nepal released a new map, including three regions as part of their territory.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Save water

Sir, Water scarcity is a pressing issue today that demands immediate attention. By adopting efficient water conservation practices, we can make a significant difference. Emphasising the importance of responsible water usage, promoting rainwater harvesting and implementing modern irrigation techniques can conserve this vital resource. Public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives should highlight the significance of water conservation, encouraging citizens to adopt simple yet impactful habits like fixing leakages and reducing excessive water usage.

Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national

of the day quote

News reports of exploitation, harassment and forcefully silencing voices of dissent are being published at the international level and are bringing a bad name to India before the world community. The BJP basically nurtures a feudal mindset where neither women are respected nor the common man. BJP has embarrassed democracy

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

Since we have come together in Bihar and formed the government, they (BJP) are in a deep scare. They are frightened about what will happen in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and this fear is not leaving their hearts. I don't know if their fear would go or not but one thing is sure that they would be thrown out from power through people's mandate

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

The fresh notification from the Union Ministry of Rural Development sanctioning the inclusion of "new eligible beneficiaries" under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) will open up another floodgate of corruption in West Bengal

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN BENGAL ASSEMBLY

SHORT TAKES

Six injured

Hazaribag: Six police personnel were injured in an attack by a mob Friday when they went to a village in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district to help a BSF jawan take possession of land allotted to him by the government, officials said. Prakash Sharma, the jawan, was provided 10 decimal (4,355 sq.ft) land in Romi village in Padma police station area as per the government's rehabilitation policy, Deputy Commissioner Nancy Sahay said.

Man kills daughter

Pilibhit (UP): A 37-year-old man allegedly hurled his two-day-old girl child on the floor at a private maternity clinic. The baby died instantly. The man was reportedly upset as he wanted a son after two daughters. His wife, Shabbo Begum, filed an oral police complaint, in which she claimed that her husband used to curse her for giving birth to two daughters earlier and subjected her to cruelty.

Minor gangraped

Patna: A 15-year-old girl was gangraped by five men in Bihar's Vaishali district, police said Friday. According to the police, the incident took place late Thursday night when the victim, who lives with her grandmother, stepped out of the house to go to the toilet.



Today Rajasthan is performing much better than states like Gujarat without offering any freebies to people. Several ambitious ground schemes have been launched in the state. If you want to see how freebies are distributed, please visit Madhya Pradesh

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

J&K DGP REVIEWS SECURITY

J&K DGP Dilbag Singh chaired a meeting of senior police officers of the Kashmir zone to review the security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra that will begin July 1 and culminate August 31



Cong, BJP trade barbs over Rahul's remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Rahul Gandhi's remark that IJML is a "completely secular party" triggered a political slugfest Friday with the BJP alleging that the Kerala-based party is guided by the same mindset which was behind the Muslim League and the Congress reminding the saffron party about its veteran leader L K Advani's praise for Mohammad Ali Jinnah during his 2005 Pakistan visit.

Rahul Gandhi, during a media interaction at the National Press Club in Washington, US, was asked about his party being in alliance with the Indian Union Muslim League (IJML) in Kerala while talking about secularism, to which he answered "Muslim League is a completely secular party. There is nothing non-secular about the Muslim League."

Rahul Gandhi's remark drew a sharp response from the BJP as its leaders alleged that the IJML is guided by the same mindset which was behind Jinnah's All India Muslim League.

Launching a scathing attack against Rahul Gandhi, Union minister Anurag Thakur said, "These are the same people who had stayed back after partition. They formed the Muslim League hereafter partition and became MPs. They advocated for Sharia law and wanted separate seats reserved for Muslims. They are the same people who are part of the same Muslim League. It is Rahul Gandhi and the Congress that sees Hindu terrorism but feels Muslim League is secular."

In a counter-attack, the Congress said the party Rahul Gandhi re-

ferred to was different from the Muslim League, for which the BJP has "more love" and whose leader Jinnah was hailed by Advani.

In a tweet, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Syama Prasad Mookerjee was in league with the Muslim League in the government in Bengal when (Mahatma) Gandhiji launched Quit India movement. SPM was singularly responsible for the partition of Bengal."

He also tagged a tweet by Congress leader Amitabh Dubey who had slammed BJP IT department head Amit Malviya for his criticism of Gandhi, saying "You're confusing the Kerala-based IJML he is talking about with Jinnah's Muslim League that took Savarkar's two-nation theory to its logical conclusion."

"The same Muslim League with whom BJP founder SP Mookerjee and Hindu Mahasabha formed coalition governments in Bengal, Sind, NWFP (North-West Frontier Province)," Dubey said.

Congress' media department head Pawan Khara hit out at the BJP over its criticism and said the BJP-RSS have more knowledge of Pakistan's politics and Jinnah's Muslim League as they share a historical 'jugalbandi'.

He said the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee had sent IJML leader E Ahamed to Geneva to represent India.

"IJML established the largest Sanskrit University in Kerala. The BJP also made an alliance with IJML for Nagpur Municipal Corporation. The omniscient Vishwaguru of WhatsApp nursery please enrich your knowledge," Khara claimed in a tweet in Hindi.



Mysterious sounds trouble Kerala village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kottayam (Kerala), June 2: Mysterious underground sounds caused concern among local people residing in a tiny hamlet in Kottayam district of Kerala.

The deafening sounds were heard twice in the early hours of Friday, the people of Chenappady village here said. Similar sounds were reported in the area and some neighbouring places earlier this week also, they said.

The villagers said there was no visible change in the surrounding environment and only a scientific study could ascertain the exact cause of the continuing underground sounds.



Officials of the Kerala Department of Mining and Geology said their expert team would soon inspect the area.

A department source said they had already examined the site when the sounds were first heard earlier this week. "Based on the re-

ports that similar huge sounds were heard today again, our experts will soon examine the place," the source said.

However, she said only a detailed scientific study carried out by the Centre for Earth Sciences (CES) could ascertain the actual cause of the recurring seismic sounds.

"We have our own limitations in analysing such phenomenon. So, we have already submitted a request to the CES to conduct an examination and study in the area," the source added. The geology department experts, however, would inspect the area again and try to analyse the details in this regard, the source added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The Law Commission has proposed retaining the penal provision for the offence of sedition, saying repealing it altogether can have serious adverse ramifications for the security and integrity of the country, prompting a push back by the Congress amid government assertion that the recommendations were "persuasive" and "not binding".

The Commission, chaired by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (retd), also suggested increase in the minimum jail term for sedition offences from the present three years to seven years, seeking to bring it in consonance with the scheme of punishment provided for other offences under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which deals with offences against the state.

Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code dealing with sedition is at present under abeyance following directions of the Supreme Court issued in May, 2022. Amid allega-

The Commission argued that the existence of anti-terror legislation such as the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act does not obviate the need for the law of sedition



Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code dealing with sedition is at present under abeyance following directions of the Supreme Court issued in May, 2022

to the government recently, the panel said cognizant of the views on the misuse of Section 124A, it recommends that model guidelines curbing them be issued by the Centre.

"In this context, it is also alternatively suggested that a provision analogous to Section 196(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) may be incorporated as a proviso to Section 154 of CrPC, which would provide the requisite procedural safeguard before filing of a FIR with respect to an offence under Section 124A of IPC," the Commission chairman said in his covering letter to Meghwal.

The Commission also suggested changes to the phrasing of Section 124A and added words "a tendency to incite violence or cause public disorder". It said the qualifying words "tendency to incite violence" would mean "mere inclination to incite violence or cause public disorder rather than proof of actual violence or imminent threat to violence".

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India
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Airports Economic Regulatory Authority, invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up posts of, **Director (Policy & Statistics) - Pay Level 13 (01 No.), Under Secretary (Policy & Statistics) - Pay Level 11 (03 No.), Under Secretary (Information Technology) - Pay level 11 (01 No.), Bench Officer (Legal) - Pay level 11 (01 No.), Pro Private Secretary - Pay level 11 (01 No.), Technical Manager (Information Technology) - Pay Level 10 (01 No.), Private Secretary - Pay Level 8 (02 No.), Personal Assistant - Pay Level 7 (02 No.), Junior Hindi Translator- Pay Level 6 (01 No.), Receptionist-cum-telephone operator- Pay Level 2 (01 No.) in New Delhi on deputation basis. Details are available on AERA's website <http://aera.gov.in>. Last date for receipt of applications through proper channel is 28.06.2023 till 5:30 PM. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, in this regard would be published only on AERA's Website.
Note:- The vacancies are liable to change without notice.
CBC 03112/12/0004/2324 Sd./- Deputy Chief, AERA**

Ozone layer recovery delayed, surface UV radiation rising

THE STUDY, PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL ADVANCES IN ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES, ANALYSED SATELLITE DATA AND MODEL SIMULATIONS TO ASSESS LONG-TERM CHANGES IN OZONE AND SURFACE UV LEVELS AROUND THE GLOBE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The ozone layer is not healing as quickly as expected, leading to higher levels of surface ultraviolet (UV) radiation in recent years, according to a study.

Despite projections that the ozone layer would fully recover by mid-century, researchers found rising UV radiation levels in the tropics and northern mid-latitudes after 2010, posing risks to human health and the environment.

"Our analysis shows disturbed ozone levels and enhanced surface UV radiation for more than a decade after 2010," said study lead author Yan Xia of Beijing Normal University, China. "The slower recovery of stratospheric ozone is largely unexpected," Xia said in a statement.

The study, published in the journal Advances in Atmospheric Sciences, analysed satellite data and model simulations to assess long-term changes in ozone and surface UV levels around the globe.



"We observed a decrease in ozone levels and an increase in UV radiation over latitudes between 30 degrees South-60 degrees North after 2010," Xia said.

"Especially in the Northern Hemisphere, the rising magnitude of surface UV radiation

from 2011 to 2020 reached 0.5-1.4 per cent per year—this should not be neglected," he added.

The researchers noted that continuous monitoring of ozone and UV radiation levels is important to better understand why ozone recovery is delayed

and whether this trend will continue.

Policymakers and the public should be aware of and prepare for the harmful effects of enhanced surface UV radiation on the environment, agriculture, and public health, they said.

The findings are a sobering reminder that ozone layer restoration is a complex process affected by factors like global warming—and full recovery remains uncertain.

Continued research and implementation of policies like the Montreal Protocol—a treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for its depletion—are critical to reverse this worsening trend, reducing UV exposure, and protecting life on Earth in the coming decades.

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-Procurement Notice
No.C-482: e-Mail:ee2@bmc.gov.in
1. Bid Reference No. : BMC-DIV-II-06/2023-24, Dt.01.6.23
2. Tender Call Notice No. : 26767, Dtd.01.06.23
3. No. of Work : 1 No.
4. Bid Value : Rs.7858196.00
5. Period of Completion : 90 Days
Critical Dates:

Sl. No.	Description	Critical Cases
(i)	Period of availability of tenders online for bidding	From Dt.3.6.23 from 11.00 AM to Dt.19.6.23 upto 5.00 PM
(ii)	Last date & time of seeking clarifications (if any)	Dt.12.6.23 upto 5.00 PM
(iii)	Last date & time of bidding online	Dt.19.6.23 upto 5.00 PM
(iv)	Date & Time of Opening of the Technical Bids received online	Dt.21.6.23 (11.30 A.M. onwards)
(v)	Date & time of opening of Price Bid/Financial Bid/DTCN Part-II	To be intimated later to the bidder(s) found qualified after checking and evaluation of Technical Bids received online

6. Tender details can be seen for the e-Procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> & BMC Website <https://www.bmc.gov.in>.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, II
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
OIPR-13002/11/0047/2324

Delhi to organise theatre festival for kids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jun 2: Children will get a chance to learn acting and other theatre skills from the professionals of the National School of Drama (NSD) during a festival organised by the Delhi government from June 15, officials said Friday.

The 10-day theatre festival is aimed at introducing the young generation to the world of acting during summer vacation.

The festival will be organised by Delhi Tourism Department in collaboration with the National School of Drama (NSD) from June 15 to 25 at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti near Rajhat.



Children between the age of 8-16 years from Delhi and outside can enrol themselves for the workshop free of cost

Children between the age of 8-16 years from Delhi and outside can enrol themselves for the workshop free of cost. "The festival is aimed at helping children grow by teaching them new skills besides promoting tourism in the national capital. Students will learn about the theatre from NSD professionals," the official added.

"We have already started the registration for the theatre workshop. 150 students have already applied for it. We will take registration of 250 students from which 150 will be selected for the workshop," a tourism department official informed. Selection of the applicants will be made on June 12 and the final list of selected candidates will be released June 13. Six children's plays will be staged from June 19 to 24 as a part of the festival. "We will organise the performance of six children's plays. There would be no charge and children can come from anywhere. This will help in the promotion of tourism," the official said.

Who are 'Kashmir Freedom Fighters'?



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 2: The recent killing of a circus artist in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag town was owned by an otherwise unknown terror outfit calling itself the 'Kashmir Freedom Fighters and Anti-Fascist Front'.

Deepu Kumar, the slain circus artist, belonged to Udhampur district of Jammu division.

The terror front owned the killing of the civilian and also threatened all non-locals and Kashmiri Pandits asking them not to visit Kashmir or else face similar consequences as that of Deepu Kumar.

Security forces and Intelligence officers of both the union territory and the Central government believe that the so-called Kashmir Freedom Fighters and the Anti-Fascist Front is merely a name used by the Lashkar-e-Taliba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) terror groups to claim responsibility for civilian killings whether those are killings of Kashmiri Pandits or non-local Hindus and Muslims.

"After their effectiveness and prowess to fight the security forces has been completely compromised, Pakistan-sponsored terror groups are now working in tandem to

carry out civilian killings so that their presence is somehow felt."

"The closest these terror outfits can come to the security forces is by planting an odd improvised explosive device (IED) etc on roads and highways likely to be used by the security forces," a senior Intelligence official said.

The official added that the security forces and the local police are close on the heels of these terror groups and in most cases those involved in Kashmir Pandit and other civilian killings have been eliminated.

As to the total number of terrorists still operative in the Kashmir Valley, the intelligence agencies hold that these have drastically come down and reduced to less than 30 including their underground workers. Security forces also suggest that an innocent civilian killing often invokes public anger and that is another reason the main players in LeT and JeM do not directly claim such killings and give names of fake terror groups.

"The main terror players also believe that the responsibility of a terror act being owned by a rather unknown group would put the security forces off scent," said another senior intelligence officer.

Taxi rates fixed in J&K's Sonamarg to facilitate tourists

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 2: District Administration of Ganderbal in Jammu & Kashmir has recently issued comprehensive guidelines aimed at streamlining and regulating the services provided by service providers in the picturesque tourist destination of Sonamarg. The guidelines specifically target local taxis and aim to enhance the overall experience of tourists visiting the region.

One of the key aspects of the new guidelines is the fixation of rates for taxi services from Sonamarg to zero point. This move ensures that tourists are not overcharged and promotes fair pricing practices. The District



Administration aims to strike a balance between the interests of service providers and the satisfaction of tourists, fostering a harmonious relationship within the local tourism industry.

Additionally as part of the guidelines, the District Administration has strictly prohibited the entry of trucks into the Sonamarg bowl. This measure aims to preserve the natural beauty and serenity of the region, ensuring that tourists can enjoy a peaceful and pollution-free environment.

To further facilitate tourist travel and enhance convenience, the District Administration has established a prepaid taxi stand and pony stand exclusively for tourists. These dedicated stands will not only streamline transportation services but also promote organised and efficient travel arrangements for visitors.

In order to ensure the smooth implementation of the guidelines and address any concerns or issues faced by tourists, a dedicated supervisory team has been appointed. This team will closely monitor the adherence to guidelines by service providers and take appropriate action in case of any violations. Their presence will provide a sense of security and reliability to tourists, ensuring a positive experience throughout their visit to Sonamarg.

Delhi records coldest May in 36 yrs

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the regional forecasting centre of IMD, said Delhi had recorded an average maximum temperature of 36 degrees Celsius in May 1987

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Delhi recorded its coolest May in 36 years with excess rainfall bringing the average maximum temperature down to 36.8 degrees Celsius this time, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the regional forecasting centre of IMD, said Delhi had recorded an average maximum temperature of 36 degrees Celsius in May 1987. "The average maximum temperature of 36.8 degrees Celsius in May this year is the lowest since then," he said.

Delhi recorded maximum temperatures above the 40-degree mark for just nine days in May with heat wave conditions affecting some parts of the national capital for two days. "The Safdarjung Observatory, which is representa-



tive of Delhi, has not recorded any heat wave in the pre-monsoon season this year. This has happened for the first time since 2014," Srivastava said. The weather station recorded 13 heat wave days in the pre-monsoon season last year - nine in April and four in May. It saw just one heat wave day during this period in 2021, four in 2020 and one in 2019.

The threshold for a heat wave is met when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, 37 degrees in the coastal areas, and

30 degrees in the hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 notches. This is also the fourth highest rainfall in the month after 165 mm in 2008, 144.8 mm in 2021 and 129.3 mm in 2002, according to IMD data.

The city logged more than 20 mm of rainfall in April, the highest in the month since 2017, and heat wave conditions at isolated pockets.

Meteorologists attributed the excess rainfall and below-normal temperatures this pre-monsoon

May, generally the hottest month in Delhi with a mean maximum temperature of 39.5 degrees Celsius, recorded 111 mm of rainfall this time, which is 262 per cent more than the long-term average of 30.7 mm

season (March to May) to higher-than-usual western disturbances - weather systems that originate in the Mediterranean region and bring unseasonal rainfall to north-west India.

"Usually, five to six western disturbances are recorded in the northern plains in April and May. This time, we saw 10 western disturbances, mostly strong ones," said Srivastava. "This is unusual. However, we cannot link it to climate change in the absence of data. There is no definite trend," he said.

Delhi recorded 184.3 mm of rainfall this pre-monsoon season (March to May) which is 186 per cent more than normal rainfall, according to the IMD.

217 DRUG PEDDLERS HELD IN J&K THIS YEAR: POLICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jun 2: As many as 217 drug peddlers have been arrested and narcotics worth over ₹7 crore recovered so far this year in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.



As part of its crackdown on drug peddling, the Baramulla police has registered 144 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the first five months of this year, a police official said. So far, 217 drug peddlers have been arrested. Twenty-three of them, who

are habitual drug peddlers, have been booked under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act and the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Contraband worth crores of rupees in the black market has been recovered, according to the police. The police official said 2.625 kg of brown sugar worth about ₹3.41 crore and 2.419 kg of heroin worth ₹3.14 crore in the black market have been recovered. Charas, poppy straw and cannabis powder have also been recovered.

The police also seized ₹43.90 lakh in cash and 15 vehicles, he said. The total value of the recoveries made so far stands at ₹7,69,91,000, the police said. They requested residents of Baramulla to come forward with information on drug peddlers in their areas to help eradicate the menace of drugs from the society. The identity of those providing information will be kept secret, the police said.



LIFE IN HELL: A man rows his makeshift boat through toxic foam covering Yamuna river at ITO barrage in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

'SAVE YAMUNA' HUMAN CHAIN IN DELHI JUNE 4

A group of concerned citizens is rallying thousands of people to form a 22-kilometre human chain on the banks of the Yamuna on June 4 to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to the sorry state of the river, which is plagued by pollution and degradation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Citizens of Delhi-NCR are coming together to breathe life back into the ailing Yamuna.

This will probably be the biggest such effort to sensitise the people of Delhi and ensure their participation in cleaning the Yamuna, said the members of the "Yamuna Sansad", a campaign launched by environmentalists, conservationists, academicians and researchers working to revive the river.

Experts say untapped waste water from unauthorised colonies and jhuggi-jhopri clusters, and the poor quality of the treated waste water discharged from sewage treatment plants (STPs) and common effluent treatment plants



(CETPs) is the main reason behind the high pollution levels in the river.

The river can be considered fit for bathing if the biological oxygen demand is less than three mil-

ligram per litre and dissolved oxygen is greater than five milligram per litre.

"At 6.30 am June 4, a 22-kilometre-long human chain will be formed on the banks of the Yamuna in

According to the city government's Outcome Budget, 29 per cent of the sewage generated in Delhi in 2021-22 fell into the Yamuna untreated. It was 28 % in 2019-20 and 26 per cent in 2020-21

Delhi. Around one lakh people will stand hand in hand between Wazirabad and Kalindi, pledging to keep the river clean. The purpose is to sensitise people to work in this direction," said K N Govindacharya, former general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a member of the

Yamuna Sansad. Ravishankar Tiwari, the coordinator of the Yamuna Sansad, said it will probably be the biggest campaign so far to sensitise the people of Delhi about the current state of the Yamuna. The Yamuna Sansad will remain active until the river becomes pure, Tiwari said.

He added that the campaign has garnered the support of political parties. The campaign calls for a removal of encroachments on the river floodplains, improving the sewer network and STPs in the capital, stopping the direct discharge of industrial effluent into the river in Haryana and Delhi, developing biodiversity parks on the floodplains, ensuring environmental flow and making the polluters pay.

Delhi generates around 770 million gallons a day (MGD) of sewage. The 35 STPs located at 20 locations across the city can treat up to 630 MGD of sewage and have been utilising around 85 per cent of their capacity. The rest of the untreated sewage falls into the river directly.

Government data shows that only 10 of the 35 operational STPs in the capital meet the prescribed standards for waste water (BOD and TSS less than 10 mg per litre). Together, they can treat 150 million gallons of waste water a day.

According to the city government's Outcome Budget, 29 per cent of the sewage generated in Delhi in 2021-22 fell into the Yamuna untreated. It was 28 per cent in 2019-20 and 26 per cent in 2020-21.

Life jackets mandatory for Shikaras in Kashmir

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, June 2: The Jammu and Kashmir government has made 'life saving jackets' mandatory for Shikara boats in Dal and Nigeen lakes besides other water bodies of the region, an official statement said.

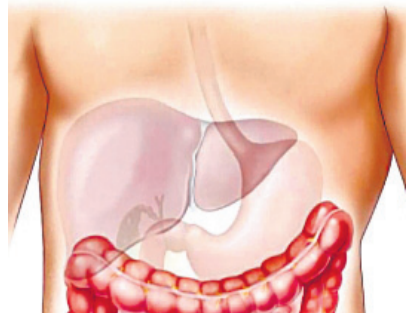
"In order to ensure the safety of tourists taking Shikara rides in Dal and Nageen Lakes and other water bodies and to prevent any untoward incident in view of inclement weather conditions or any other reasons, it is hereby ordered that as provided in the J&K Tourism Policy guidelines, each Shikara boat registered under J&K Tourist Trade Act, 1978 shall maintain the availability of a minimum of three Life Saving Jackets of recommended quality and specifications in the boat, at all times, failing which the registration under the said Act shall be cancelled," it said.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks on the 'miserable condition' of Dalits and Muslims in the country is a 'bitter truth' for which previous governments of the Congress, the BJP and other parties at the Centre were responsible

WOMAN GIFTS HER LIVER TO FATHER

A woman has saved her father by donating her liver to him. Nisha Gupta also sacrificed one year of her career for this. She was pursuing B.A. (Hons) political science. Sanjay Gupta, 51, a vegetable seller in Ghaziabad district, underwent a liver transplant at King George's Medical University May 15



of the day quote

There is tremendous anger among people over the manner in which the Maha Vikas Aghadi government was brought down in Maharashtra in June last year

India is not an emerging but a resurgent power which is regaining its place on the global economic map under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Winnability would be a key factor in thrashing out a seat-sharing arrangement between the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies in Maharashtra for the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections

Over 140 weapons surrendered after Shah's appeal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, June 2: More than 140 weapons have been surrendered in different places in Manipur after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's appeal a day ago, sources said Friday.

Shah, on the last day of his four-day visit to Manipur Thursday, appealed to all concerned to surrender their weapons to the security forces and administration. He had also warned that a search-and-combing operation would be carried out in the state soon and anyone found to possess any weapon would be prosecuted.

After the home minister's appeal in Imphal, more than 140 weapons have been surrendered till Friday morning, sources said. They said the situation in Manipur was by and large peaceful in most districts and sporadic incidents of firing at or torching of empty houses by miscreants were becoming rare now as coordinated effort was made by different security agencies.

Ordinance row: JMM to support AAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, June 2: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha formally announced Friday that it will support the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in opposing the Centre's ordinance on control of administrative services in Delhi after a meeting between Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren in Ranchi.

Announcing this at a press conference here, Kejriwal said the ordinance must be defeated collectively in Parliament where it is likely to come up for voting as a law in the forthcoming session.



the press meet after their meeting with Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann was also present, said, "The Centre's attack on democracy is a matter of serious concern." Kejriwal and Mann arrived here on a special flight from Chennai around 9 pm on Thursday accompanied by AAP MPs Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh besides AAP MLA Atishi. "JMM will support AAP in opposing the Central ordinance on control of administrative services in Delhi. "The Centre is creating a crisis for the AAP and is preventing a duly elected government from functioning independently," the Delhi CM said.

fort was made by different security agencies.

The surrendered weapons included self-loading rifles, carbine, AK and INSAS rifles, light machine guns, pistols, M16 rifles, smoke gun/tear gas, sten gun and grenade launcher. Ethnic clashes broke out in the northeastern state on May 3 after a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the state's hill districts to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

After a relative lull for over a fortnight, the state witnessed a spurt in clashes and gunfights between militants and security forces on Sunday. More than 80 people have been killed in the violence, according to officials.

Sources said that as on Friday morning, 37,450 people are staying in 272 relief camps, including community halls. While Imphal West district has 10 camps with 807 people, Imphal East has 39 camps with 7,183 people, Thoubal

The surrendered weapons included self-loading rifles, carbine, AK and INSAS rifles, light machine guns, pistols, M16 rifles, smoke gun/tear gas, sten gun and grenade launcher

At least 98 people lost their lives and 310 others were injured in the ethnic violence in Manipur that broke out a month ago, the government said in a statement Friday. A total of 37,450 people are in 272 relief camps at present, said the statement, issued by the Chief Minister's Office

12 camps with 1,408 persons, Bishnupur 58 camps with 8,031 persons and Churachandpur has 63 camps with 8,929 persons.

Tengnoupal district has nine camps with 884 persons, Kakching 14 camps with 992 persons, Jiribam three camps with 115 persons, Kangpokpi 54 camps with 8,000 persons, Ukhrul one camp with 35 persons, Senapati two camps with 552 persons, Kamjong five camps with 364 persons and Chandel has two camps with 150 persons.

The home minister had also said an Inter-Agency Unified Command would be formed for "better coordination" among all security agencies in Manipur as multiple forces were working on the ground.

Shah also warned militant groups against any violation of ceasefire agreements with the government. "Any deviation from the Suspension of Operations agreement will be considered as violation of the pacts they have signed. Strict action will be taken against the violators," he said.

Told to pay for excess baggage, woman claims bomb in bag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 2: Upset over being asked to pay for excess baggage, a female traveller at the Mumbai international airport declared that her bag contained a "bomb", causing a brief frenzy among the security staff before she was taken into custody, an official said Friday.

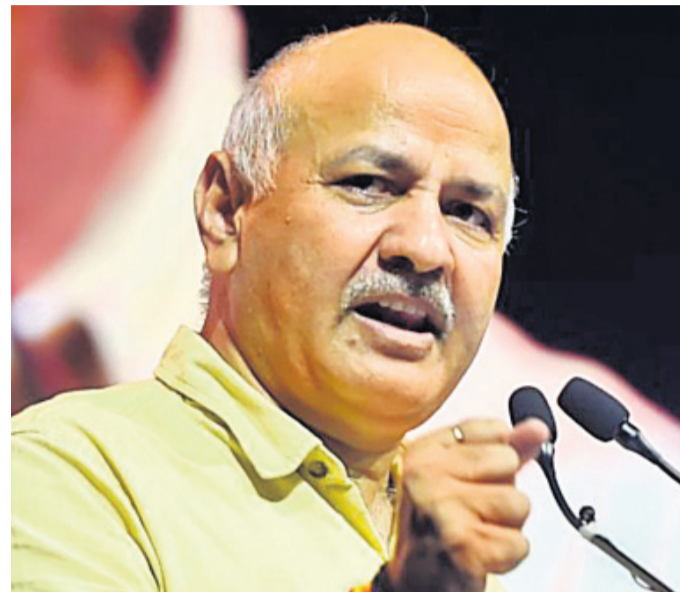
A search of her baggage was conducted and there was nothing suspicious in it, the official said. The incident took place May 29 when the woman, a homemaker from South Mumbai, was scheduled to go to Kolkata with her husband and children to meet her mother, he said.

After reaching the check-in counter, she asked an airline employee for a boarding pass and handed over two bags to the staff. As per the airline's rules, a single bag with a maximum weight of 15 kg is allowed to be checked in for each domestic flyer.

Since the woman's bags weighed a total of 22.05 kg, she was asked to pay for excess baggage, he said. However, the woman allegedly refused to pay for the additional weight and got into an argument with the airline staff.

She later claimed that one of her bags contained a bomb, the official said. Though the on-duty Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel checked her bag and found nothing suspicious in it, the woman's claim sparked panic at the airport for some time, he said.

Sisodia allowed to meet ailing wife



May 30, the court had dismissed the bail plea of Sisodia in the excise policy scam being probed by the CBI, saying he is an influential person who could influence witnesses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The Delhi High Court Friday permitted AAP leader Manish Sisodia, under arrest in cases related to alleged irregularities in the city government's excise policy, to meet his ailing wife at his residence on Saturday.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma directed the Tihar Jail Superintendent to take Sisodia, the former deputy chief minister, to his residence where he has been allowed to meet his wife from 10 AM to 5 PM. The high court made it clear that Sisodia shall not interact with media or any other person except his family members and also not access phone or internet.

"Let the petitioner be taken to his house tomorrow from 10 AM to 5 PM to meet his wife," the court said. The high court was hearing Sisodia's petitions for regular bail and interim bail in the money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and reserved its orders.

Sisodia has sought interim bail on the ground of deteriorating health of his wife who is suffering from multiple sclerosis. The high court also directed the ED to verify the medical documents of

Sisodia's wife and asked it to file a report positively by Saturday evening.

In the CBI case involving alleged corruption, the high court has kept the interim bail plea pending. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, representing the ED, argued earlier also a similar interim bail plea was filed by Sisodia on identical grounds which was later withdrawn, hence no ground was made for calling a report from the agency.

He said Sisodia's wife was suffering from the ailment for the last 23 years, and as the AAP leader was holding 18 portfolios, he was a very busy minister and had no time for home.

So she can be taken care of by an attendant, and the court may grant Sisodia permission to go with an escort and visit his wife, Raju said. During the day, the high court also heard arguments and reserved order on the bail plea of businessman Vijay Nair, the Aam Aadmi Party's communication in-charge and a co-accused in the money laundering case arising from the alleged scam.

Senior advocate Rebecca John, representing Vijay Nair, argued the ED has converted this bail hearing into a mini trial by taking four dates. He has been accused of raising money from the 'South Group' to be paid as kickback to officials and politicians.

Opposing Nair's bail plea, Raju contended when the AAP office bearer contacted the 'South Group', the demand for money was raised and it crystallised into ₹100 crore, and witnesses have said so in their statements.



Artists perform during an event organised by the Ministry of Culture as part of Telangana Formation Day celebrations, at Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, Friday

K'taka Cabinet rolls out Cong's 5 poll guarantees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 2: The Karnataka Cabinet Friday decided to implement the ruling Congress's five poll guarantees, without any discrimination of caste or religion, and has fixed a timeline to operationalise the schemes within this financial year, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

The Cabinet held a detailed discussion regarding the five guarantees and their implementation, and has arrived at some decisions, Siddaramaiah, who headed the meeting, said at a media conference. He, however, did not answer how much the five guarantees will cost the exchequer, and said, "I will

share it later."

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar described it as a "historic day" as the Congress government has walked the talk on fulfilling the poll guarantees, and has fixed a timeline for their implementation.

Ahead of the Assembly polls, the Congress had promised to implement the guarantees - 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), ₹2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), ₹3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and ₹1,500 for unemployed diploma holders (both



in the age group of 18-25) (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti), on coming to power. The 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme to provide up to 200 units free electricity per month to every household will be

implemented from July 1, Siddaramaiah said.

However, the arrears have to be paid by the customers. Under this scheme, the government will take into account the one-year average of power consumption and will give free electricity up to 10 per cent more than the average usage, he said, "This is in order to avoid mis-

use. Someone who has not crossed 70 units per month in 12 months, can he suddenly use 150 or 200 units. Can it happen? So we are taking the average."

Shivakumar said 200 units is the cap. Stating that the scheme will be applicable for consumers using less than 200 units, a senior official clarified that if there is an abnormal increase from past consumption, the consumer has to pay the differential.

The Cabinet held a detailed discussion regarding the five guarantees and their implementation and has arrived at some decisions, Siddaramaiah, who headed the meeting, said at a media conference

SHORT TAKES

GST evasion racket busted

Noida: In a joint operation, a team from Kotwali police in Sector 20 and the cyber cell arrested eight members of an inter-state organised gang, accused of duping the government of thousands of crores of rupees by creating fake GST numbers on fake databases, endangering national security. The arrested persons include Mohammad Yasin Sheikh, Ashwani Pandey, Akash Saini, Vishal, Rajiv, Atul Sengar, Deepak Mujman and Vanitha. Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh said that under the special operation against criminals, the cyber cell and Sector 20 police personnel conducted the joint operation.

BJP leader killed

Kolkata: Prashanta Roy Basunia, a local BJP leader at Dinhatia in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, was killed in broad daylight Friday. The victim was at his residence with his mother when some miscreants barged in and started threatening him. After some heated exchange of words, suddenly one of the miscreants took out a pistol and shot Basunia from point-blank range. A profusely-bleeding Basunia was rushed to a local hospital where he died soon after admission. Speaking to mediapersons, leader of opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, alleged the involvement of goons backed by the ruling Trinamool Congress behind the murder.

Woman attacked

Ghaziabad: A woman was brutally attacked by her family members allegedly due to a dispute over dowry. The assault, captured on a mobile camera by an onlooker, reveals the horrifying atrocities inflicted upon the woman by her in-laws. In the viral video, the woman is seen being forcefully dragged out of her house by her in-laws and repeatedly attacked with an axe. Shockingly, the assault occurred in broad daylight, with no intervention from bystanders to aid the helpless victim.

Tiger found dead

Lakhimpur Kheri: The carcass of a male tiger has been found in the North Nighsan range of the Dudhwa buffer zone. This comes weeks after an elephant was found dead in the Sathiyana range of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR). Deputy director of the buffer zone Sundaresh said preliminary investigations revealed that the male tiger, estimated to be aged four to five years, died of injuries suffered possibly after it fought another big cat.

Most tobacco quitters in India from UP: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: A survey of calls received by the central government's National Tobacco Quit Line Services (NTQLS) has shown that most of the tobacco quitters in the country are from Uttar Pradesh.

The survey findings were released by the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI) on 'World No Tobacco Day' observed on May 31. The VPCI survey based on NTQLS data revealed that 71,39,473 interactive voice response (IVR) calls were received till April 30, 2023 since May 30, 2016.

Out of the total number of IVR calls received by this centre, 20,43,227 calls were counselled, including

9,96,302 inbound calls, 26,80,657 outbound calls, and 3,91,160 registered by the call centre. Most of the callers were from the state of Uttar Pradesh, it said.

According to the survey, 1,56,644 (40 per cent) individuals studied had successfully given up tobacco use. Of these, the maximum 1,23,508 calls were received from Uttar Pradesh. Dr Raj Kumar, director, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute said, "I would like to work with two objectives: firstly, those who have not started using tobacco should not start; secondly, those who have started by mistake should quit.

"And if you need any kind of help in quitting, we are ready to help. There is a team of National



Tobacco Quit Line Service (NTQLS) always ready to help you by providing the right kind of in-

formation and proper counselling on tobacco quitting," he said. The survey data also indicates

that men make up the highest percentage of callers at 98 per cent, followed by transgenders at 5 per cent of the total population, while women comprise the lowest, that is, 2 per cent.

The highest number of tobacco consumers (1,74,097) surveyed were educated till class 10. Besides providing relief to a large number of patients in the community suffering from chest diseases, VPCI runs the National Tobacco Quitline Service (NTQLS), an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The NTQLS has been working for the last seven years to help people get rid of tobacco and smoking addiction. "The counselling and guidance provided by

NTQLS call centre has been very useful to those who are tobacco users, but want to quit at the earliest," Kumar said.

The NTQLS was inaugurated by then Union health minister J P Nadda in 2016. Though this service was initially established with six counsellor stations, it was later expanded in 2020 by then Union Minister of State for Health, Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

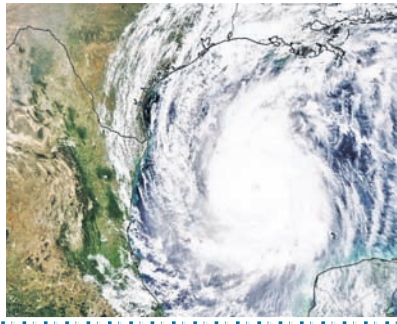
At present, the number of counsellors and other staff at NTQLS has increased to 64. The toll free number to contact the centre is 1800112356. Its three satellite centres are operating at NIMHANS Bengaluru; Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati; and Tata Memorial Center, Mumbai.



BRICS is no longer an 'alternative', it is an established feature of the global landscape S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

STORM INTENSIFIES

Heavy rains intensified by Tropical Storm Mawar fell on Japan's main archipelago Friday, halting trains and transit and threatening floods and mudslides in central and western regions, while residents were urged to use caution



of the day quote

Singapore is seen as a prize target by terrorist groups and it continues to be mentioned in their propaganda



LEE HSIEN LOONG | SINGAPORE PM

Taiwan, with a population of 23 million compared to China's 1.4 billion, has to defend itself and is not asking other countries to fight for it



JOSEPH WU | MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHINA

Beginning this June 2, this day will honor the victims of gun violence, bring awareness to the crisis in our country, and encourage Canadians to come together to find solutions



JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PM

SHORT TAKES

Anti-terrorism court gives bail to Imran

Lahore: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday appeared before an anti-terrorism court here and secured an extension to his pre-arrest bail till June 13 in three cases including an attack on a top military commander's residence in Lahore, a court official said. Khan, 70, who appeared before the ATC Lahore amid high security, reiterated that he faces 'serious threats' to his life. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman also appeared before the Lahore High Court to seek an extension to his bail in the murder case of PTI worker Zille Shah.

US sanctions Iranian firm

Washington: The US imposed sanctions on an Iran-based technology firm on Friday for its role in facilitating the Iranian government's censorship of the internet as anti-government protests have swept the country since September. A firm known as Arvan Cloud, its co-founders Pouya Pirhosseini and Farhad Fatemi, and a United Arab Emirates-based firm were all sanctioned for helping to facilitate the Iranian government's attempts to control and censor internet traffic.

Nepal PM likely to visit China in July

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' is likely to visit China next month or in early August, a leader of the ruling party said Friday, in what could be the senior Maoist leader's second bilateral visit abroad since assuming office in December 2022. Prachanda Wednesday left for India on a four-day official visit for talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and other leaders to further bolster the age-old, multifaceted and cordial ties between the two countries.

Imran Khan's 'Wasim Akram' quits politics

Quetta: Former Chief Minister of Pakistan Punjab Usman Buzdar, known to be close to PTI Chairman Imran Khan, Friday announced his plans to quit politics, media reports said. Addressing a press conference here, Buzdar said he has been facing cases for the past 14 months, Samaa TV reported. "I am taking a break from politics," he said. Buzdar also reiterated his support for Pakistan Army and urged all stakeholders to sit together and take the country out of the problems it is facing. Buzdar said there would be no citizen who would not condemn these incidents of May 9.

US wants to engage Russia on nuclear arms control

Putin announced in February he was suspending Russia's cooperation with the New START Treaty's provisions for nuclear warhead and missile inspections

AGENCIES

Washington, Jun 2: The Biden administration is ready to talk to Russia without conditions about a future nuclear arms control framework even while taking countermeasures in response to the Kremlin's decision to suspend the last nuclear arms control treaty between the two countries, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Friday.

The US is willing to stick to the warhead caps until the treaty's end

Figuring out details about a post-2026 framework will be complicated by US-Russia tension and China's growing nuclear strength

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced in February he was suspending Russia's cooperation with the New START Treaty's provisions for nuclear warhead and missile inspections, a move that came as tensions worsened after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Russia did say it would respect the treaty's caps on nuclear weapons. Sullivan said at the Arms Control Association's annual meeting said that the United States is committed to adhering to the treaty if Russia also does, and that



Washington wants to open a dialogue on a new framework for managing nuclear risks once the treaty expires in February 2026. "It is in neither of our countries' interest to embark on opening the competition in the strategic nuclear forces," Sullivan said. "And rather than waiting to resolve all of our bilateral differences, the United States is ready to engage Russia now to manage nuclear risks and develop a post-2026 agreement. China now has about 410 nuclear warheads, according to an annual survey from the Federation of American Scientists. The Pentagon in November estimated China's warhead count could grow to 1,000 by the end of the decade and to 1,500 by around 2035.

The size of China's arsenal and whether Beijing is willing to engage in substantive dialogue will affect the future US force posture and Washington's ability to come to any agreement with the Russians, administration officials said. US-Chinese relations have been strained by the shooting down a Chinese spy balloon this year after it crossed the continental United States; tensions about the status of the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own; US export controls aimed at limiting China's advanced semiconductor equipment; and other issues. "Simply put we have not yet seen the willingness from the PRC to compartmentalize strategic stability from broader issues in the relationship," Sullivan said using the acronym for the People's Republic of China. The White House push on Moscow on nuclear arms control comes the day after the administration announced new steps in response to Russia suspending participation in the treaty.

DEBT CEILING DEAL

Senate gives final approval

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 2: Fending off a US default, the Senate gave final approval late on Thursday to a debt ceiling and budget cuts package, grinding into the night to wrap up work on the bipartisan deal and send it to President Joe Biden's desk to become law before the fast-approaching deadline.

The compromise package negotiated between Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy leaves neither Republicans nor Democrats fully pleased with the outcome.

But the result, after weeks of hard-fought budget negotiations, shoves the volatile debt ceiling issue that risked upending the US and global economy until 2025 after the next presidential election. Approval in the Senate on a bipartisan vote, 63-36, somewhat reflected the overwhelming House tally the day before, relying on centrists in both parties to pull the Biden-McCarthy package to passage — though Democrats led the tally in both chambers.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said ahead of voting that the bill's passage means "America can breathe a sigh of relief." Afterward he said, "We've saved the country from the scourge of default." Biden said in a statement following passage that senators from both parties "demonstrated once more that America is a nation



that pays its bills and meets its obligations — and always will be." He said he would sign the bill into law as soon as possible. "No one gets everything they want in a negotiation, but make no mistake: this bipartisan agreement is a big win for our economy and the American people," the president said.

The White House said he would address the nation about the matter at 7 pm EDT Friday. Fast action was vital if Washington hoped to meet next Monday's deadline, when Treasury has said the US will start running short of cash to pay its bills, risking a devastating default. Raising the nation's debt limit, now \$31.4 trillion, would ensure Treasury could borrow to pay already incurred US debts.

In the end, the debt ceiling showdown was a familiar high-stakes battle in Congress, a fight taken on by McCarthy and powered by a hard-right House Republican majority confronting the Democratic president with a new era of divided government in Washington.

Modi to address joint session of US Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a joint session of the US Congress on June 22 during his official state visit to the country and will share his vision of India's future and speak on the global challenges facing the two countries, top congressional leaders announced on Friday.

President Joe Biden will host Prime Minister Modi for an Official State visit to the US, which will include a state dinner, June 22. The statement was signed by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries. This will be the second time that Modi will be addressing a joint meeting of the US Congress. He addressed the US Congress during his visit to the US in June 2016.



Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and South African President Nelson Mandela are some of the world leaders to be accorded this rare honour on two occasions.

"Based on our shared values and commitment to global peace and prosperity, the partnership between our two countries continues to grow. During your address, you will have the opportunity to share your vision for India's future and speak to the global challenges our countries both face," the congressional leaders said in their statement.

Modi, during his address in 2016 spoke on issues ranging from climate change to terrorism, defence and security cooperation to trade and economic relationship between India and the US. Modi was the fifth Indian Prime Minister to address a joint session of the US Congress seven years ago.

Others included Manmohan Singh (July 19, 2005), Atal Bihari Vajpayee (September 14, 2000), P V Narasimha Rao (May 18, 1994) and Rajiv Gandhi (July 13, 1985). "Your historic address to a Joint Meeting of the Congress seven years ago left a lasting impact and greatly deepened the friendship between the US and India," according to the statement. "As you said in that address: 'Our relationship is primed for a momentous future.'

The constraints of the past are behind us and foundations of the future are firmly in place.' We look forward to paving the way for greater collaboration between our countries in the years to come," it said.

Pak releases 200 Indian fishermen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, June 2: Pakistan Friday released 200 Indian fishermen from a prison in Karachi and will hand them over to Indian authorities at the Wagah border after "due process."

The fishermen were released from the Malir jail in Karachi as part of a decision by the Pakistan government to hand over jailed 500 fishermen to Indian authorities.

Last month, Pakistani authorities released 198 Indian fishermen, languishing in a prison in Karachi after arresting them for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's waters. They were handed over to India at the Wagah border.

"In the second batch we have released 200 Indian fishermen while another 100 would be freed in July," Malir jail superintendent Nazir Tunio said. He said the fishermen, including 10 Muslims, were put on a train by Edhi welfare foundation and have reached Lahore.



Tunio said the majority of those released in the second batch had completed their jail sentences of 5 to 8 years after being arrested and tried by a court. Pakistan Fishermen's General Secretary Saeed Baloch said that he was relieved to see the release of second batch of Indian fishermen.

Earlier, Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari tweeted: "Today, Pakistan is releasing 200 Indian fishermen and 3 civilian prisoners. Earlier, 198 Indian fishermen were repatriated 12 May 2023."



ROYAL WEDDING: Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein and Saudi architect Rajwa Alseif share a light moment during the wedding ceremony in Amman, Jordan. PTI PHOTO

Pakistan's inflation touches record high

Non-perishable foods and transport costs climbed more than 50 per cent over May 2022, while average inflation for this fiscal year reached 29.2 per cent

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, June 2: Consumer inflation in Pakistan raced to 38 per cent in May, the highest annual rise in prices on record, driven mainly by skyrocketing costs of food, house rents, electricity and gas bills, and transport, official data revealed. The May reading exceeded the

Finance Ministry's projection of 34-36 per cent for the month and comes as political turmoil continues to roil the country.

Years of financial mismanagement, rupee depreciation and the government's failure to unlock IMF funding have also played a role in taking annual price hikes to such record highs, Dawn reported.



Official data showed that the average price of a 20 kg wheat flour bag more than doubled to around 2,700 PKR in May compared to the

same month a year ago. The average price of chicken (live) rose by 38.6 per cent to 435 PKR per kg, that of milk by 41 per cent

to 170 PKR a litre, and that of eggs by 85 per cent to 280 PKR a dozen.

Pulses and vegetables also became costlier, Dawn reported. However, monthly inflation — measured by a basket of products and services called the Consumer Price Index (CPI) — is likely to go down from June due to a high-base effect.

It has been rising since mid-2022 after the government took painful measures as part of fiscal adjustments demanded by the International Monetary Fund to unlock stalled funding.

Prince Harry first British Royal in 130 yrs to testify in court

REUTERS

London, June 2: Prince Harry will become the first senior British royal to give evidence in court for 130 years when he testifies next week in his lawsuit against a newspaper group he accuses of unlawful behaviour.

Harry, King Charles' younger son, will appear in the witness box at London's High Court as part of the case he and more than 100 other celebrities and high-profile figures have brought against Mirror Group

Newspapers (MGN), publisher of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People.

It will be the first time a senior royal has given evidence since Edward VII testified as a witness in part of a divorce case in 1870 and 20 years later in a slander trial over a card game, both before he became king.

Harry, who is fifth-in-line to the throne, has barely been out of the headlines in the last six months over his legal rows with the British press and the release of his mem-



oir and Netflix documentary series in which he accused other senior royals of colluding with tabloid newspapers. His appearance in

Edward VII had testified as a witness in part of a divorce case in 1870 and 20 years later in a slander trial over a card game, both before he became king

court is likely to attract worldwide attention.

David Yelland, a senior communications adviser and a former

editor of Rupert Murdoch's Sun tabloid newspaper — a publication Harry is also suing — said the royal family had long sought to avoid court cases, because they were not in control of the situation. "These cases are often a case of mutually assured destruction. I don't think anyone will get out looking great," he said.

More than 100 people are suing MGN, with Harry and three others selected as test cases. The trial, which began last month, has been told MGN journalists or private

investigators commissioned by them carried out phone-hacking on an "industrial scale", and committed other unlawful acts to obtain information about the prince and the other claimants.

This was done with the knowledge and approval of senior editors and executives, the claimants' lawyer David Sherborne has said. MGN is contesting the allegations and says senior figures denied knowing anything about hacking and had any wrongdoing concealed from them.



The upcoming MPC meeting in early June is expected to focus on two important aspects that have emerged in the last few weeks -- a sustained moderation of the headline retail inflation and a better than expected GDP growth print in Q4FY23

OPENAI'S REACH RISING RAPIDLY

OpenAI, the creator of AI-powered conversational chatbot ChatGPT, is rapidly nearing one billion unique visitors per month on its website, making it the fastest-growing website among the top 50 most visited sites on the planet, a new report said



of the day quote

The new CKD facility in Nepal is in line with our ambitious global expansion strategy of investing in markets with huge potential to grow

Weakness in US dollar and expectation of a pause in the US Federal Reserve policy tightening campaign boosted precious metals' appeal

Introduction of Swaraj Target opens a new segment for growth of Swaraj Tractors and facilitates horticulture mechanisation, a fast-growing segment in Indian agriculture

SHORT TAKES

Coal production grows 7.10%

New Delhi: Domestic coal production was 7.10 per cent higher year-on-year at 76.26 million tonne (MT) in May. India had produced 71.21 MT coal during the same month in 2022, the coal ministry said in a statement.

Hero MotoCorp sales grow 7%

New Delhi: The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp Friday said its wholesales increased 7 per cent year-on-year to 5,19,474 units in May. The company had dispatched 4,86,704 units to dealers in the year-ago period.

Sensex, Nifty rise

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher Friday after two days of fall, helped by buying in metal, telecom and auto stocks amid a firm trend in global markets.

GLOBAL PRICES DROP

Edible oil firms told to cut MRP



EDIBLE OIL PRICES ARE SET TO DROP AS GOVT ASKS INDUSTRY TO SLASH RETAIL PRICES BY ₹8-12/L

a downward trend and therefore, the edible oil industry needs to ensure that the prices in the domestic market also drop commensurately.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The Centre Friday directed edible oil associations to further reduce the maximum retail price (MRP) of major edible oils by ₹8-12 per litre with immediate effect,

Price to distributors by the manufacturers and refiners also needs to be reduced with immediate effect so that the price drop is not diluted in any way, it said.

It was also impressed upon that whenever a reduction in price to distributors is made by the manufacturers/refiners, the benefit should be passed on to the consumers by the industry and the ministry may be kept informed on a regular basis, it added.

With the edible oil prices continuing to show a downward trend and set to witness further reduction by the edible oil industry, the ministry said, "the Indian consumers can expect to pay less for their edible oils. The falling edible oil prices will help in further cooling inflation fears if any."

Industry representatives including Solvent Extraction Association of India and Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association were present in the second meeting convened within a month to discuss further reduction in retail prices of edible oils amidst a continued fall in the global prices.

In the meeting, the ministry said the international prices of imported edible oils are continuing on

The industry was told to ensure the price drop in the global market is passed on expeditiously to the end consumers and not in a delayed manner as is observed now.

"The leading edible oil associations were advised to take up the issue with their members immediately and ensure that the maximum retail price (MRP) of major edible oils to be reduced further by ₹8-12 per litre with immediate effect," the ministry said in a statement released after the meeting.

"The fall in the prices of edible oils in the domestic market is gradually being reflected in the domestic market. However, the government feels the associations can further reduce the prices and provide relief to the consumers," it noted.

On the other side, the industry informed that the global prices of different edible oils have fallen by \$150-200 per tonne in the last two months and they have reduced the MRP and will further reduce shortly.

"However, there is an element of time lag for reflection in the retail markets and the retail prices are soon expected to come down further," the industry said.

Earlier also the ministry had convened a meeting with the leading edible oil associations and over a month the MRP of refined sunflower oils and refined soybean oil of some major brands were decreased by ₹5-15 per litre. Similar decrease has been done in case of mustard oil and other edible oils as well.

The reduction in oil prices came in the wake of reduction of international prices and reduced import duty on edible oils making them cheaper. The industry was then advised to ensure that the entire benefit of the reduced international prices be passed on to the consumers invariably, the ministry added.

Other issues like price data collection and packaging of edible oils were also discussed in the meeting.

CHEAPER BITE

May score marked the lowest since April 2021 and meant the index was now 22% below an all-time peak reached in March 2022 following the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

REUTERS

Paris, June 2: The United Nations food agency's world price index fell in May to its lowest in two years, as a slump in prices of vegetable oils, cereals and dairy outweighed increases for sugar and meat.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) price index, which tracks the most globally-traded food commodities, averaged 124.3 points in May against a revised 127.7 for the previous month, the agency said Friday. The April reading was originally given as 127.2. FAO's cereal price index dropped

Life insurance biz of Sahara India Life transferred to SBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: Regulator Irdai Friday directed SBI Life Insurance Company to take over the policy liabilities of around two lakh policies along with assets of Sahara India Life Insurance Co Ltd (SILIC) with immediate effect.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) in view of deteriorating financial health of the SILIC.

"The Authority has identified SBI Life Insurance Company Limited (SBI Life), which is one of the largest life insurers in the country with satisfactory financials, as the acquirer insurer of the life insurance business of SILIC. SBI Life shall take over the policy liabilities of around two lakh policies of SILIC, backed by the policyholders' assets, with immediate effect," Irdai said in its order.

Sahara India Life Insurance was granted a Certificate of Registration in 2004 to transact the business of life insurance.

"Despite being provided ample opportunities and sufficient time to ensure compliances, SILIC has failed to comply with directions of the authority and take any affirmative steps to protect the interests of its policyholders," the regulator said.

Further, the policy data of SILIC reveals that the company's portfolio is showing run-off trend.

Global food costs at two-year low



CEREAL PRICE INDEX DROPPED BY NEARLY 5% IN MAY

VEGETABLE OIL PRICE INDEX SLID 9% MONTH ON MONTH

DAIRY PRICES EASED OVER 3% WHILE SUGAR ROSE 5.5%

put, the agency said. Sugar prices, in contrast, showed a 5.5% increase from April in a fourth straight monthly gain, as concerns over the El Nino weather

by nearly 5% in May from the prior month, pressured by ample supply prospects and the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative allowing shipments from Ukraine.

But international rice prices continued to increase in May, partly due to tighter supplies in some exporting countries, said FAO. The agency last month expressed concern over rising prices of the staple.

FAO's vegetable oil price index slid almost 9% month on month, reflecting large oilseed supplies and weak demand for palm oil, while global dairy prices eased over 3% amid a seasonal upturn in northern hemisphere milk out-

India, China buy record Russian crude oil in May

WORLD'S NO 1, NO 3 CRUDE IMPORTERS AND TOP BUYERS OF RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTED ABOUT 110MN BARRELS IN MAY, UP NEARLY 10% FROM APRIL DESPITE US WARNINGS AGAINST PRICE CAP EVASION

REUTERS

Singapore, June 2: Russian crude oil imports by China and India in May hit an all-time high as buyers gorged on discounted supplies, reducing demand for oil from the Middle East and Africa, according to preliminary assessments from ship trackers.

The jump in Russian supplies comes ahead of a meeting between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and their allies including Russia June 4.

Producers face some pressure to act to support Brent futures which have fallen 5% this week to about \$73 a barrel despite an OPEC+ pledge in April to cut more output from May.

However, they are unlikely to deepen supply cuts at the Sunday meeting despite lower prices, four



sources from the alliance told Reuters.

The world's No 1 and No 3 crude importers and top buyers of Russian oil imported about 110 million barrels in May, data from Vortexa and Kpler showed, up nearly 10% from the prior month despite US warnings against price cap evasion.

Arrivals of Russian shipments in India are assessed to have reached a record high of 8.6 million tonne (62.8 million barrels) while China received 6 million tonne, steady from April, according to Vortexa.

Data from Kpler showed a similar trend, with India's imports hitting a record of 66.7 million barrels and China's rising to 49.2 million barrels.

Indian refiners stepped up pur-

chases of medium sour crude Urals and lighter grades such as Sokol and Varandey, in addition to a steady inflow of ESPO crude exported from the Pacific port of Kozmino, the data showed.

In China, refiners are scrambling to cut feedstock costs and improve refining margins amid a slower-than-expected economic recovery. Large private oil refiners started buying Russian oil earlier this year and have increased volumes in recent months.

"We see more new buyers from China these days," said an official with a Russian oil company.

Private refiner Hengli Petrochemical, which operates a 400,000-barrel-per-day refinery in northeast Dalian, received its first Urals crude cargo of 730,000 barrels in early May and another 2 million barrels arrived Wednesday night, the shiptracking data showed.

Hengli also bought 3.71 million barrels of ESPO that arrived in the same month.

"Chinese buyers' increased demand for Russian oil loading in April and beyond was supported by higher profitability of supplies amid softer freight and firmer differentials," said a trader involved in Russian oil marketing.

Spot premiums of July-loading Middle Eastern crude benchmarks Oman and Dubai in May versus April fell by 47% and 41%, respectively.

Coal India share sale over-subscribed

GOVERNMENT TO GET MORE THAN ₹4,000 CRORE FROM THE OFS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The Coal India share sale was over-subscribed by both retail and institutional investors and the government is expected to get more than Rs 4,000 crore.

In the two-day offer for sale (OFS), the government sold its 18.48 crore shares or 3 per cent stake in Coal India at a floor price of ₹225 apiece. At the floor price, the stake sale would fetch over ₹4,000 crore to the exchequer.



Institutional investors had Thursday put in bids for over 28.76 crore share, while retail buyers on Friday bid for over 2.58 crore shares of Coal India. Institutional bidders Friday put in bids for 5.12

crore shares. Coal India OFS is the maiden government stake sale of a public sector undertaking in the current fiscal.

The government currently holds 66.13 per cent in CIL.

The stake sale in Coal India will help the government inch towards the ₹51,000-crore disinvestment target set for the current fiscal.

Shares of Coal India settled for the day at ₹230.90 apiece on the BSE, up 0.15 per cent over its previous closing price.

Go First to restart ops with 26 planes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 2: Cash-strapped Go First, which is undergoing voluntary insolvency resolution process, plans to restart operations with 26 planes and 152 daily flights, and has submitted the revival plan to aviation regulator DGCA, according to a source.

Besides, the airline is in discussions with lenders for funds to meet the working capital requirements.

The airline stopped flying from May 3 and is yet to pay some senior level executives and pilots.

On the condition of anonymity, the source said the carrier's salary outgo is around ₹30 crore per month and currently, the workforce is around 4,700 as many have put in their papers in one month.

The source said the airline management is awaiting the nod from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the revival plan and operations will resume soon after the regulator's approval.

The Mumbai-based airline's senior executives have held discussions with senior DGCA officials on the revival plan.

"As per the plan provided to the DGCA this week, Go First is looking to recommence operations with a fleet of 26 aircraft, of which 22 will be engaged in active operations and 4 will be kept as spares," the source told PTI.

With this fleet, the airline will be operating 152 flights per day, the source added. Prior to grounding May 3, the airline was operating around 200 flights daily.

Prior to pausing operations a month ago, Go First was operating over 200 flights daily.

Netflix, Disney, Amazon to dare new tobacco rules for streaming

ALREADY, ALL SMOKING AND ALCOHOL DRINKING SCENES IN MOVIES IN INDIA'S CINEMAS AND ON TV, UNDER THE LAW, REQUIRE HEALTH WARNINGS, BUT SO FAR THERE WERE NO REGULATIONS FOR THE STREAMING GIANTS, WHOSE CONTENT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 2: Streaming giants Netflix, Amazon and Disney Friday privately discussed a possible legal challenge and other ways to stall India's new tobacco warning rules, amid fears they will need to edit millions of hours of existing web content, sources said.

The pushback is the latest headache for streaming giants in India, a top growth market. Companies often face legal cases and police complaints their content sometimes hurt religious sentiment, and many have self-censored content over the years.

As part of India's anti-tobacco drive, the health ministry this week ordered streaming platforms should within three months insert static health warnings during smoking

scenes. Also, India wants at least 50 seconds of anti-tobacco disclaimers, including an audio-visual, at the start and in the middle of each program.

In first signs of industry distress, executives of the three global streaming companies, and India's Viacom18 which runs billionaire Mukesh Ambani's JioCinema app, held a closed-door meeting, where Netflix said the rules would hit customer experience and push production houses to block their content in India, according to two sources familiar with the discussions.

Executives in India also discussed ways of a possible legal challenge to assert that other ministries - IT and information & broadcasting - have powers over streaming giants, and not the health ministry, said one of the sources. In 2013, Woody Allen stopped



his film, Blue Jasmine, from being screened in India after learning about mandatory anti-tobacco warnings would be inserted into its smoking scenes.

Activists have welcomed new anti-tobacco rules by India, the world's second largest producer of tobacco that kills 1.3 million people each year in the country. India

also has stringent cigarette pack warning rules.

HEALTH VS WARNINGS "HARASSMENT"

Truth Initiative, a public health nonprofit group, in March said 60% of the 15 most popular streaming shows among 15- to 24-year-olds it analyzed contained depictions of tobacco, "effectively

New content being created needs to be changed and old content needs to be modified. It could require insertion of ad-type warning in between

KAUSHIK MOITRA | PARTNER, BHARUCHA & PARTNERS

exposing 25 million young people to tobacco imagery" in 2021.

But in India, companies from Netflix to Amazon to Disney, also have popular Hindi content which often shows Bollywood actors smoking, something activists say encourages tobacco use.

India is a hot market for streaming giants, and executives fear business impact and higher costs. Ambani's JioCinema has just in recent weeks signed multiple content deals with NBCUniversal and

Warner Bros, bringing popular shows like "Succession" and "The Office" on its platform.

Together, the companies have millions of hours of content.

During the Friday meeting, Amazon and other companies made the point there was no way films can be edited in three months, said the second source, adding the industry decided to consult lawyers and write letters in protest.

Dylan Mohan Gray, a filmmaker who directed documentaries such as "Fire in the Blood", said the new Indian rules amount to "harassment", saying that murder, war and extremely violent crime scenes were not regulated in the same way.

"Smoking, which though certainly a serious public health problem, is both legal and a massive source of government revenue in this country," he said.

Fritz shushes booing crowd

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 2: The French Open crowd was not happy with American player Taylor Fritz after he beat one of their own — indeed, their last man in the bracket — so they booed and whistled relentlessly. Fritz's response? He told them to shush. Over and over again.

Fritz, a 25-year-old from California who is seeded No.9 at Roland Garros, got into a back-and-forth with the fans at Court Suzanne Lenglen after his 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 comeback victory over 78th-ranked Arthur Rinderknech in the second round Thursday night.

Rinderknech attempted a lob that landed long on the last point, and Fritz, who had been running toward the baseline to chase the ball, immediately looked up into the stands and pressed his right index finger to his lips to say, essentially, "Hush!"

He held that pose for a bit as he headed back toward the net for a postmatch handshake, then spread his arms wide, wind-milled them a bit as if to egg on the rowdiness, and yelled: "Come on! I want to hear it!"

During the customary winner's on-court interview that followed, more jeers rained down on Fritz, and 2013 Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli kept pausing her attempts to ask a question into her microphone.

So Fritz again said, "Shhhhh!" and put his finger toward his mouth, while Bartoli unsuccessfully tried to get the spectators to lower their decibel level. More boos. More whistles.

And the awkwardness continued as both Bartoli and a stadium announcer kept saying, "S'il vous plait" — "Please!" — to no avail, while Fritz stood there with his arms crossed.

A few US supporters with signs and flags drew Fritz's attention from the front row, and he looked over and said to them, "I love you guys." But the interview was still on hold.

Bartoli tried asking a question in English, which only served to draw more boos. So Fritz told her he couldn't hear her. Bartoli moved closer and finally got out a query — but it didn't seem to matter what her words were.

Fritz, who has been featured on the Netflix docuseries about tennis called "Break Point," had his hands on his hips and a message on his mind — one reminiscent of Daniil Medvedev's contretemps with fans at the 2019 US Open.

Coco win after long wait
Coco Gauff thought she was about to head out on the court to play her second-round match at the French Open. "I was probably about 70 per cent done with my warm-up," last year's runner-up at Roland Garros would say later.

Made sense: In the contest preceding hers in Court Suzanne Lenglen Thursday, No.8 seed Jannik Sinner was serving for the victory while up 5-4 in the fourth set against Daniel Altmaier. Then Sinner was one point away. Except he couldn't convert that match point — he had a chance for a putaway overhead, and instead basically sent the ball right at Altmaier, whose forehand in response hit the top of the net tape and fluttered past Sinner — or another that arrived soon after.

They would play on for another 1 hour, 43 minutes, until Altmaier finally cashed in his own fifth match point with a 111 mph ace down the middle to seal the 6-7(0-7), 7-6(9-7), 1-6, 7-6(7-4), 7-5 victory.

So how did Gauff whittle away the time? Watching Sinner vs Altmaier, for one thing. Snacking, for another — on a fruit salad made by her dad, with cantaloupe, pineapple and watermelon. And, well, resting. "I almost

fell asleep in the middle of the fifth," Gauff said. "I was like, 'I wish I could see the future, because I probably would have taken a nap in the fourth.'"

After the delay, the 19-year-old American ended up beating Julia Grabher 6-2, 6-3 in 1 hour, 8 minutes. Next for Gauff will be a third-round matchup on Saturday against 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva of Russia.

Earlier, top-ranked Iga Swiatek kept her title defense on track. The two-time French Open champion has yet to be challenged and faces another unseeded opponent, Xinyu Wang, in the third round. No.4 seed Elena Rybakina, the Wimbledon champion, also cruised to victory. And 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva advanced again in her Grand Slam debut. On the men's side, Casper Ruud, the No. 4 seed who was runner-up to Rafael Nadal last year, reached the third round.

AI vs CYBERBULLYING
Frances Tiafoe says he receives death threats via social media after he loses professional tennis matches.

So do other players. In a bid to try to protect athletes from that sort of abuse, the French Tennis Federation is paying a company to provide players with software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to block these sorts of negative comments.



Lakshya reaches Thailand Open semis, Kiran loses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, June 2: Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stormed into the semifinals of Thailand Open Super 500 tournament with a straight game demolition of Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao in men's singles here Friday.

The 21-year-old from Almora punched the air after unleashing a jump smash which sealed his 21-19, 21-11 win over the qualifier from Malaysia in the quarterfinals. The win helped him to enter the last four for the first time this season, having come close in Indonesia Masters, where he exited in the quarterfinals.

The Indian, whose ranking has slipped to World No.23 from a career-high of six following below-par performances this season, will take on either fifth seed Lu Guang Zu of China or Thailand's second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals.

Kiran George's giant run, however, came to an end after he went down 16-21, 17-21 against Toma Junior Popov of France in another men's singles match.

It was an exciting contest as Lakshya and Leong kept pushing each other from the start. But after a 10-11 deficit at the interval, the Indian fell behind as the Malaysian managed to hold a 16-10 lead.

But Lakshya then changed gears, stepping up the pace in the rallies to restore parity at 17-17 before pocketing the opening game as Leong looked tired.

After the change of ends, he kept a tight grip on the rallies as his returns were sharper and precise. Soon he led 11-8, before breaking off at 13-11. He accumulated the next 11 points in a jiffy to emerge winner.

FIR AGAINST Brij Bhushan: Wrestlers narrate alleged instances of harassments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: The two FIRs registered by Delhi Police against outgoing WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh based on complaints of six adult wrestlers and father of a minor narrate several alleged instances of sexual harassment, inappropriate touching, groping, stalking and intimidation by him at different times and places including in foreign countries, over a decade.

The Delhi Police had April 28 registered the two FIRs at Connaught Place police station, including one by the father of a minor wrestler invoking POCSO Act that entails prison term up to seven years on conviction.

The FIRs registered following a Supreme Court order have charged Singh under various IPC sections including assaulting a woman to outrage her modesty (Section 354), sexual harassment (354 A), stalking (354 D) that are punishable with jail terms of two-three years. The FIR filed by the six wrestlers also names Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) secretary Vinod Tomar as an accused.

In the FIR filed on the basis of complaints by the adult wrestlers, one of them alleged, "While I was training, the accused called me separately, to which I refused since the accused was touching other girls also inappropriately. However, I was again called by the accused who then pulled up my T-shirt and slid his hand down my stomach and put his hand on my naval on the pretext of checking my breath."

"It was during my stay in hotel

that I noticed that all the female athletes used to travel in groups whenever they left their respective rooms in order to avoid meeting the accused alone."

The second wrestler alleged, "While I was stretching/warming up on the ground on a mat, the accused came there and stood on the side watching me."

"While I was lying down on the mat, the accused came near me and suddenly, to my shock and surprise, leaned in on me and in the absence of my coach and without seeking my permission pulled up my T-shirt and placed his hand on my breast and slid it down my stomach on the pretext of examining/checking my breathing and touched me inappropriately."

Another wrestler alleged she was harassed during a team photograph clicked. "While I was standing in the last row and waiting for the other wrestlers to take their position, the accused came and stood alongside me. To my shock and surprise, I suddenly felt a hand on my buttocks. I immediately looked back and to my horror, the accused had placed his hands on my buttock..."

"However, when I tried moving away, I was forcibly held by my shoulder by the accused. Somehow, I managed to get free from the clutches of the accused," she alleged.

The wrestler number four stated, "During a medal ceremony, the accused called me and started asking me personal questions. Once the ceremony got over, he on the pretext of getting a picture clicked with me, forcefully against my will pulled me towards him by my shoulder tightly

and forced me to get a picture clicked."

"In order to protect myself, I tried moving away from the accused and informed him that I didn't possess a mobile phone to get a picture clicked. The accused in response replied by saying that he possessed a mobile phone with him and the picture could be taken on his device," the FIR said.

The wrestler number 5 stated Singh tried to bribe her by offering to buy supplements.

"I won a medal in a championship. While I was resting in my room, a physiotherapist came to my room and told me that the president/accused is calling me in his room. I thought, since I had won the championship, the accused wanted to congratulate me."

"I went to the room where I met the accused. He made me talk to my parents on the phone, since at that time I did not possess a personal mobile phone," she claimed.

"However, after the phone call ended, to my utter shock and surprise, the accused called me towards his bed where he was sitting and then all of a sudden, he hugged me forcefully without my permission."

"He in order to further fulfill his sexual intentions, also tried to bribe me by offering to buy me supplements which I may require as an athlete in exchange for sexual favours," the FIR said.

The complaint by minor's father alleged that Singh forcibly pulled his daughter towards him and sexually harassed her after which she was "completely disturbed and haunted".

Alonso riding wave of ardor for win 'No.33'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montmelo (Spain), June 2: Back when Fernando Alonso was king of Formula One nearly two decades ago, Spaniards flocked to see their idol at their home race.

With Alonso now back near the top of the standings, his supporters are expected to cram the stands and grassy knolls of the Barcelona-Catalunya Circuit this weekend with some 120,000 people estimated to turn out for the Spanish Grand Prix.

Alonso was greeted by several hundred fans chanting "33! 33! 33!" in reference to a long-denied 33rd race victory as he emerged from his team's garage to soak up their adulation on Thursday following his arrival. Alonso's fan club from his native Asturias region organized buses to make the 8-hour trip from his hometown of Oviedo and other cities in Spain's north to come to the race.

The 41-year-old Alonso took his 32nd victory right here in Montmelo a full decade ago back in May 2013 with Ferrari. After that came years of frustration and a stint away from F1 driving in other competi-

Harmanpreet seals India win over Belgium



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 2: Captain Harmanpreet Singh struck a brace as India stunned Olympic champions Belgium 5-1 to bounce back from back-to-back defeats in their European leg of the FIH Pro League here Friday.

Midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad gave India the lead in the first minute of the game, before Harmanpreet (20th and 29th min) scored twice from penalty corners. Amit Rohidas (28th) and Dilpreet Singh (59th) were the other Indian goal scorers. William Ghislain (45th) scored the lone goal for Belgium in the opening minute of the fourth quarter.

India, who had come to Europe as Pro League table toppers, had lost the opening game of the European leg to Belgium 1-2 May 26 before going down to Great Britain 2-4 the next day India play Great Britain again Saturday.



tions, including the Indianapolis 500 and the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race. But after finishing on the podium in five of six races this season with the new Aston Martin team, hopes are high among his faithful that Alonso can end the long wait for a win.

After finishing second both in qualifying and the race to defend champion Max Verstappen at

Monaco last weekend, Alonso knows it is impossible to curb the enthusiasm of his faithful. "It would be like trying to build a wall in the sea: at the end you will be overwhelmed," Alonso said about the euphoria he has unleashed.

Alonso, one of Spain's top sports figures right up there with tennis great Rafael Nadal and its best football players, is more than used to han-

dling the attention. Back in his winning days he happily picked up a full leg of cured Spanish ham that a supporter had hurled over a barbed-wire fence to celebrate a win.

"My fans are pushing this forward on their own and you can only embrace it," he said. "The No.33 is being talked about a lot, but I am keeping calm. We have a good car that will give us chances this year. Red Bull is dominating with an iron fist, but we have seen in previous seasons that even when there is a dominant car... There will be opportunities at some point."

Emerald green shirts and caps of Alonso's Aston Martin team were everywhere Friday when practice started.

"We hope he can pull it off, but something will have to happen to Red Bull and Verstappen. Alonso will be right there, and even if he doesn't win, it doesn't matter," said 59-year-old Carmen Fita, who drove seven hours with her husband from southern Spain to see Alonso again. The couple witnessed Alonso win in Valencia in 2012 and in Italy in 2010 and had saved up to see him again on their vacation.

PRASAD ASKS INDIA NOT TO REPEAT 2021 MISTAKE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 2: India should not pick the playing XI for the World Test Championship final with a pre-determined mindset like they did two years ago, says former chief selector MSK Prasad, who feels it would be very tough to fill the injured Rishabh Pant's shoes as his overseas feats are unparalleled.

India's move to pick two spinners — Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja — in the 2021 WTC final against New Zealand backfired as pacers dominated the game in overcast conditions at Southampton.

Spin could play a role in the final against Australia at The Oval in London from June 7 but Prasad advised the team to take the final call depending on the conditions at that time.

"We went with two spinners and three fast bowlers in the mind but subsequently there was rain, we should have changed our plans, somehow we stuck to the same playing eleven. But that is in the past."

"It all depends on conditions at The Oval. This is the actual story of the movie, the pitch and condi-



tions. We don't know how they will be over five days, so we should not pre fix our mind and understand the conditions and back your instincts," the former India wicketkeeper told PTI.

Praising Pant
Pant, who has scored centuries in England, Australia and South Africa, won't be available to counter attack if the top-order fails. Prasad feels KS Bharat is the automatic choice in Pant's absence but the latter's ability as a batter is rare.

"It is a pretty straightforward call to pick Bharat (over Ishan Kishan). It is really tough to fill the shoes of

Rishabh especially in an away series. In the history of entire India cricket, no other wicketkeeper batter has hundreds in England, South Africa and Australia, so it's very difficult to replace him."

"You need to have a wicketkeeper who is fit and fine for 100 overs. This is a Test match and we need to think from that aspect. But if you are thinking you can have Ishan Kishan, Bharat has been tried and tested and has played India A in England, so they might end up going with him," said Prasad, who was the chief selector between 2016 and 2020.

