



MAANVI'S MANTRA

Actor Maanvi Gagroo opens up on how to strike a balance between work and profession post marriage

LEISURE P2



'500 KIDS KILLED BY WAR'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says that Russia's war has killed at least 500 Ukrainian children

INTERNATIONAL P10



MESSI BIDS FAREWELL

Lionel Messi ends his 2-year stint with PSG as French champions suffer a loss to Clermont

SPORTS P12



GAJANAN BESHHA: Sibling deities, Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, adorn the Hati Beshha on the occasion of Snana Purnima at Srimandir in Puri, Sunday.

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

Monsoon misses Kerala onset date

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: The monsoon missed its onset date in Kerala Sunday with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) anticipating a further delay of three to four days.

The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala June 1 with a standard deviation of about seven days.

In mid May, the IMD said it might arrive in Kerala by June 4.

In a statement Sunday, the IMD said, "Conditions (are) becoming favourable with the increase in westerly winds over the south Arabian Sea. Also, the depth of westerly winds is gradually increasing and today, June 4, the depth of westerlies has reached up to 2.1 kilometres above the mean sea level."

"The cloud mass over the southeast Arabian sea is also increasing. We expect that these favourable conditions for monsoon onset over Kerala will further improve during the next three-four days. It is being monitored continuously and further updates will be provided tomorrow (Monday)."

Scientists, however, said the delay is unlikely to impact kharif sowing and total rainfall over the country.

The southeast monsoon arrived in the southern state May 29 last

IMMINENT EL NINO

Studies indicate a stronger inverse relationship between El Nino and rainfall during the second half of the monsoon season

El Nino, which is the warming of waters in the Pacific Ocean near South America, is generally associated with the weakening of monsoon winds and dry weather in India

The El Nino conditions this year follow three consecutive La Nina years. La Nina, which is the opposite of El Nino, typically brings good rainfall during the monsoon season

year; June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.

India is expected to get normal rainfall during the southwest monsoon season despite the evolving El Nino conditions, the IMD had earlier said.

Northwest India is expected to see normal to below normal rainfall.

East and northeast, central, and south peninsula are expected to receive normal rainfall at 94-106 per cent of the long-period average of 87 centimetres.

WARNINGS IGNORED

In December, a CAG report flagged serious railway safety concerns, while in February a senior official raised signaling issues after a head-on collision was averted

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, June 4: Months before the horrific triple train crash in Balasore that claimed 275 lives and injured over 900, the railway authorities were warned twice about the flaws in the signaling system and the shortcomings that lead to derailments.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India had in its report 'Derailment in Indian Railways' tabled in the Parliament in December 2022, stated that almost seven out of 10 railway accidents between 2017-18 and 2020-21 were derailments. Track defects, engineering and maintenance issues, and operating errors were the causes of these de-



raillments, the report said.

The CAG flagged severe shortfalls in inspections, failure to submit or accept inquiry reports after accidents, non-utilisation of a dedicated railway fund on priority tasks, declining trend in funding track renewal, and inadequate staffing in safety operations as serious concerns. "There were shortfalls ranging from 30-100 per cent in inspections by Track Recording Cars required to assess geometrical and structural conditions of railway tracks," it said. The re-

port also pointed at failures in the Track Management System.

From April 2017 to March 2021, 422 derailments were attributable to the 'engineering department'. The major factor responsible for derailment was related to 'maintenance of track' (171 cases), followed by 'deviation of track parameters beyond permissible limits' (156 cases), the report said, adding 'bad driving/over speeding' was a major cause of derailments.

The number of accidents attributable to the 'operating de-

partment' was 275. Incorrect setting of points and other mistakes in shunting operations accounted for 84% of mishaps, the CAG found.

The report said overall expenditure on priority tasks from the Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) - a reserve fund that received a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore over five years starting from 2017-18 - showed a declining trend.

"Thus, the short deployment of funds by Railways from internal resources to the tune of ₹15,775 crore (78.88%) out of the total share of ₹20,000 crore had defeated the primary objective of the creation of RRSK to support absolute safety in Railways," the report said.

In February, 2023, in the wake of the averting of a head-on collision between two trains, Principal Chief Operating Manager of South Western Railway zone had written to the authorities about "serious flaws" in the signaling system, The Print reported. In a letter, the senior official had warned that if glitches in the signaling system are not fixed, they could lead to "re-occurrence and serious accidents."

PNN & AGENCIES

Rlys seeks CBI probe, hints at sabotage

Balasore/New Delhi, June 4: The railways Sunday sought a CBI inquiry into the Balasore train crash, hours after Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the 'root cause' of the accident and the people behind the 'criminal' act have been identified.

Railway officials also indicated possible 'sabotage' and tampering with the electronic interlocking system, which detects the presence of trains, led to the Friday accident. "We have recommended a CBI probe into the triple train accident," Vaishnaw told reporters in Bhubaneswar Sunday evening.

Earlier in the day he had said the cause of the accident was related to electric point machine and electronic interlocking. "The setting of the point machine was changed. How and why it was done will be revealed in the probe report."

"The root cause of the horrifying incident has been identified... I do not want to go into details. Let the report come out. I will just say that the root cause and the people responsible for the criminal act



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to the family members of the people from the state killed in the triple train accident at Bahanaga Bazar near Balasore.

The assistance will be given from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The next of kin of the deceased from the state will get an assistance of ₹5 lakh and those who sustained serious injuries will get ₹1 lakh as assistance, a statement issued by the CMO said. The ex gratia assistance is applicable to the people of Odisha only, it said.

Patnaik who undertook an on-the-spot inspection of the tragedy Saturday, has also conveyed his deep sympathy to the bereaved families and wished speedy recovery of the injured persons.

Earlier Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh and the Prime Minister's Office declared ₹2 lakh for the families which lost their near and dear ones in the tragedy.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



High-level meeting will start after a while. The photographer is running late

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	39.8°C	37.6°C
	MIN	28.2°C	27.0°C
Humidity		71%	75%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
	Forecast	PARTLY CLOUDY SKY	

Extreme weather alerts on TV, radio soon

This is the largest early warning programme in the world called 'common alerting protocol,' according to the NDMA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: Soon, television screens will flash warning messages about the impending extreme weather events in the country and songs on radio will be cut short to make way for the urgent alerts.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has recently started sending text messages on mobile phones to disseminate critical information about heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and heat wave, among others.

It now plans to expand the warning system to television, radio and other mediums to ensure citizens

are promptly informed and better prepared for severe weather, according to officials. "The text-based system is part of phase one of the project. TV, radio and other mediums are being covered in phase two which will be implemented by the end of the year," a senior NDMA official told PTI.

With the amalgamation of technology and communication, the NDMA aims to surpass the limitations of text-based warnings, he said. Before text messages, the NDMA used to issue such early warnings through the 'National Disaster Alert Portal' and a mobile application called 'Sachet'.

The agency had conceived the 'Common Alerting Protocol Based Integrated Alert System' to bring together the alert generating agencies, including the India Meteorological Department, Central Water Commission, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information



Services and Forest Survey of India, alert disseminating agencies and state disaster management authorities on a common platform. The Centre sanctioned the pan-India implementation of the first phase of the project in 2021 following a successful pilot project in Tamil Nadu.

"This is the largest early warning programme in the world called

'common alerting protocol'. People don't need to subscribe to WhatsApp, email or SMS groups. You will get the alert automatically," another NDMA official said.

The messages will be broadcast in two languages, including the local language, alerting people about the impending severe weather event. Going ahead, mobile phones will vibrate upon re-

ceiving such alerts, he said.

"If you're watching television, the TV screen will flash the warning message and there will be audio too. If you're listening to a song on the radio, it will be cut short and the alert will be aired. This will be done very shortly," the official said.

He said India will be the only country outside the global north to have a common alerting protocol.

According to IMD, India lost 2,770 people to extreme weather events in 2022. Of them, 1,580 died reportedly due to lightning and thunderstorms, while 1,050 died due to floods and heavy rains. The remaining deaths were due to heat waves, hailstorms and dust storms.

Natural disasters, heavy floods and cyclones, triggered around 2.5 million internal displacements in India in 2022, according to a report by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

Police warn against communalising mishap

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Odisha police Sunday appealed to all sections to desist from circulating rumours giving a communal colour to Balasore's triple train accident.

The Odisha police also warned that severe legal action will be initiated against those found trying to create communal disharmony by spreading any rumour.

Taking to Twitter, the Odisha police said: "It has come to notice that some social media handles are mischievously giving a communal colour to the tragic train accident at Balasore. This is highly unfortunate."

It added: "We appeal to all concerned to desist from circulating such false and ill-motivated posts. Severe legal action will be initiated against those who are trying to create communal disharmony by spreading rumours."

leisure



DUA LIPA HURT OVER UK'S BIASED LANGUAGE TOWARDS ALBANIANS

Singer and songwriter Dua Lipa has been hurt by the UK Government's rhetoric towards Albanian migrants. The *Levitating* hitmaker was born in London to Kosovan-Albanian parents and hit out at the small-minded comments made by ministers such as Home Secretary Suella Braverman, reports *Female First UK*.

PORTMAN BATTLES TO SAVE MARRIAGE

Actress Natalie Portman, renowned for her role in *Black Swan*, is working hard to save her marriage as rumours swirl about her husband, Benjamin Millepied, being unfaithful. Benjamin is reportedly involved with a younger woman, a 25-year-old climate activist named Camille Etienne, according to *Mirror.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You experience a sense of freedom today. And in this mood you feel like doing all the things that you loved to do in your childhood. It is a nice time to take your family on an outing, says Ganesh. Given your mood, you may start planning for the future of your loved ones.

TAURUS
This may be, health wise, a bad day for you. Ganesh urges you to take special care and not to do anything that invites illness or discomfort. The least you can do is to ensure that you do not over exert or get into situations that generate tension and anxiety. Be careful about the food you eat. Make sure that the water you drink is potable and safe. Do not expose yourself to extreme heat or cold. Act sensibly.

GEMINI
You will receive unprecedented love and affection from all your friends and family members today. It is a good day to conduct important personal or professional meetings. A lot of joy and happiness awaits, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You may donate to a charity organisation, for your mental happiness. On the job front, stick to your routine, rather than taking a new bold step, says Ganesh. A good day on the financial front.

LEO
A fun-filled day awaits you. You will enjoy all the activities that you take up today. At the work-place too a progressive day awaits you. You will be worried about the fruits of your labour, but they are likely to be sweeter than you thought they will be, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will pen down the things to be done today. However, Ganesh suggests that just making a note of them is not enough; you need to set practical goals according to priority. Moreover, Ganesh warns that items you mark on the top of the list will demand immediate action.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that your day today will be extremely busy and as a result you will be agitated today. Your happy nature will have to bear the brunt of the sad circumstances and situations that life will shower on you but you will be able to face the situation with your inner strength. You will have to be careful about your health today and will need to watch your diet.

SCORPIO
Negative thoughts are likely to surround you today, try to avoid it. You may feel lonely and left-out when the day begins. However, a long list of activities and responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout the day. There are possibilities that you may land up in tricky situations, but you have the knack of handling things gracefully.

SAGITTARIUS
Your ways to deal with your team mates and colleagues will be strict and disciplined. However, your perfect ways at work will leave them awestruck. Your personal equations will be least affected by your stern ways, says Ganesh. Do not let success go to your head.

CAPRICORN
A penny saved is a penny earned. Your strong belief in this will make you scrutinise your requirements and rearrange the priority list, so that you know where and how to utilise the resources. Your choice of friends will represent your approach and outlook towards life. Ganesh advises you to choose your friends wisely.

AQUARIUS
There is nothing like having a good time with your brothers and sisters. Generally, you plan out your routine and activities by yourself, but it is a different day today. Your siblings will make plans for you and you will just go along with the flow, predicts Ganesh. Spontaneity is something new to you, and you will enjoy the change.

PISCES
Some unknown fear could haunt you today. You will direct your energies to discovering the source of your worries and eliminate them. Lovers will find some precious time to cozy up with their partners. You will find yourself going out to the movies or to a concert. On the whole it will be a productive day for you, says Ganesh.

AN EVENING OF MUSICAL BRILLIANCE

Sanu's Sound of Soul enthralls Bhubaneswar

The event provided the audience with an unforgettable experience, immersing them in the magic of the legendary singer's soulful voice and timeless melodies



Kumar Sanu's co-artists

The crowd went berserk when Sanu belted out an Odia number *Mana Ku Mora Chorei Nelu*. The veteran singer, accompanied by a live orchestra, delivered a flawless performance, displaying his versatility and ability to connect with his fans. The concert featured a diverse range of his iconic songs spanning several decades, leaving the audience spellbound. From romantic ballads to foot-tapping chartbusters, Kumar Sanu effortlessly transported the attendees on a nostalgic musical journey. Team Infracon and Nest Leisure, the event organisers, ensured that the venue provided optimal acoustics and a comfortable seating arrangement for the attendees. The sole intention to curate this concert was to bring the administrators, change makers, law makers, socially aware audiences, intellectuals, public figures, and influencers on the same page and take a unanimous step to bring about positive change, said the organisers.

Bhubaneswar: In 1993, he set a Guinness Book of World Record by recording the most number of songs in a day. No prize for guessing who the singer was. Yes, it was none other than Kumar Sanu, whose sweet voice has won over admirers for many years. As the prolific singer took the stage here at Utkal Mandap Sunday, the City audience was treated to a feast of his timeless voice.

Sanu, the legendary playback singer known for his melodious renditions and numerous filmy hits, graced the stage a little late but it was worth the wait for the viewers. His *Sound of Soul* Odisha Edition concert captivated the audience with an enchanting showcase of his musical brilliance. The concert took place last night at Utkal Mandap in Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha.

The show kicked off to his all time hits *Do Dil Mil Rahe Hai* and *Aashiqui Ke Liye* to thunderous applause from the gallery. The crowd enthusiastically joined the singer of more than 22,000 songs in 26 languages, on his popular tracks like *Tum Dil Ki Dhadkan Mein*, *Ladki Aankh Mare* and *Dheere Dheere Se*, showcasing their adoration for the legendary singer.

Popular English daily **OrissaPOST** and Odia daily **Dharitri** were the print partners of the event.

MADHUSMITA SAHAI, OP

Maanvi on her work-life balance post marriage

Mumbai: Maanvi Gagroo has finally opened up about being married to Kumar Varun. Speaking about the life after marriage she said that it feels good since they are coming home to each other at the end of the day and this is the kind of life she and Varun wanted. She further added that they both are busy with their own professional commitments and that's the reason why the couple decided to get married so that they can be occupied yet get to see each other.

people who prefer to work back to back, just like she has gone through the phase before. But what she always wanted is that she will do one project at a time, and take a break after it for a holiday, and then start the next one.

During a recent interview with an entertainment portal, Maanvi also shared that married life is the same as life was before and they don't plan things too much since it happens organically. The 33-year-old actor who is currently doing workshops for a new show ahead of a busy shooting schedule feels that there should be a balance between your work and personal life.

According to the talented actor, there are some



Chiranjeevi refutes rumours of cancer

Mumbai: Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi has refuted the reports of him suffering from cancer. The veteran actor recently took to his Twitter to clear the air as he issued a statement in Telugu language.

He shared that he was not diagnosed with cancer but with non-cancerous polyps which were detected early and also removed.



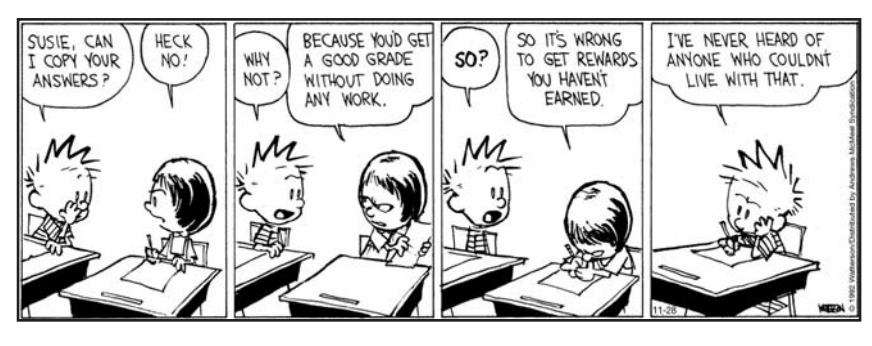
The actor tweeted a long note as he shared, "A while ago I spoke about the need to raise awareness about cancer while inaugurating a cancer centre. I told you that cancer can be prevented if you undergo regular medical tests. I was alert and took a colonoscopy test. I said that non-cancerous polyps were detected and removed. I only said, 'If I hadn't done the test first, it would have turned out to be cancer'. That's why everyone should take precautions and undergo medical tests/screening", I only said."

The actor blamed a few media organisations for irresponsible reporting. He further mentioned, "But some media organisations did not understand this properly and started scrolling and web articles saying 'I got cancer'."

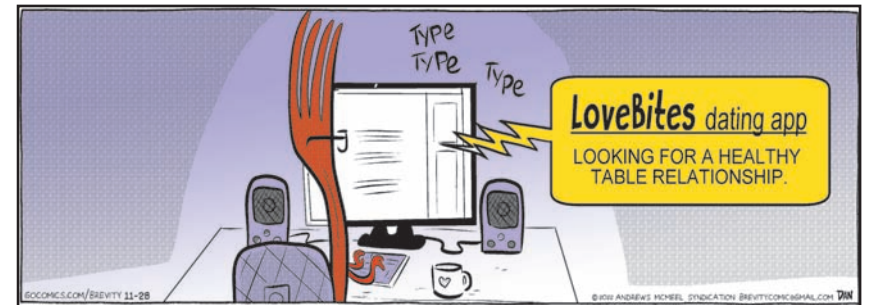
PEANUTS



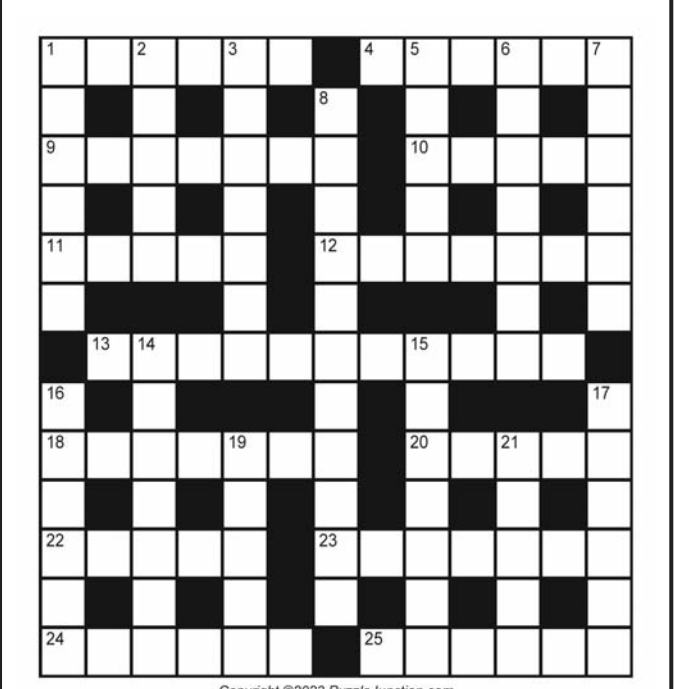
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Wood cutter?
 - 4 Usher, for one
 - 9 Plutonic rock
 - 10 Where to find the Canaries
 - 11 Gallic goodbye
 - 12 Capital of Kenya
 - 13 Brawls (4-3-4)
 - 18 Sahara parade
 - 20 Bullion unit
 - 22 Subsidised
- Down**
- 23 Chest protector (3,4)
 - 24 Where not to lead someone
 - 25 Choose
 - 6 Having a hot streak (2,1,4)
 - 7 Court contest
 - 8 He played Bond. James Bond. (4,7)
 - 14 Baked cheese dish
 - 15 Friendly
 - 16 Dermatitis
 - 17 Champs Elysées, for one
 - 19 Bloody Mary ingredient
 - 21 Critical

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

E	B	O	R	T	B
S	P	H	I	N	X
O	R	I	Y	M	H
A	C	I	D	E	M
H	I	E	H	L	
U	S	E	L	E	S
A	E	C	A	B	
B	L	A	N	D	
Q	U	E	N	B	E
N	L	O	M	T	I
A	C	C	O	R	D
H	C	T	E	N	E

SUDOKU

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

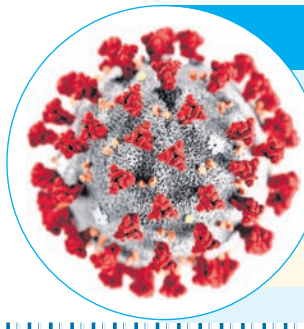
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



SWIFT ACTION

A Fire Services official sprays water on a CNG-carrying truck to curb gas leakage in Palasuni area of Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	68,97,90,003	66,21,25,586	68,85,724
India	4,49,91,582	4,44,56,359	5,31,880
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204



FRANTIC QUERY: Relatives of passengers, who boarded the ill-fated twin trains that met with the horrific June 2 mishap near Bahanaga Bazar station, turned up at the help centre opened by Cuttack district administration near the Casualty OPD of SCB Medical College and Hospital, Sunday

Youth rescued 48 hrs after crash

Bahanaga: More than 48 hours after the triple train crash near Bahanaga Bazar in Balasore claimed at least 275 lives, a traveller from Assam was rescued from the mishap site, Sunday. According to sources, Dhoba Lala, son of Assam's Subash Lala, had a miraculous escape. "When the tragedy struck, the youth (Dhoba) was thrown a few metres away. We spotted him lying under a bush in an unconscious state this evening," said a local, who rescued Dhoba. Soon after, he was rushed to the nearby healthcare facility where he was undergoing treatment for injuries when the last report came in.



MORGUES OVERFLOWING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The state is facing a morgue crunch as a large number of unclaimed bodies from Balasore's triple train accident, have piled up at its mortuaries.

Unable to cope with the large numbers, the state government has shifted 187 of them to Bhubaneswar from Balasore. However, a space crunch in Capital City too is making the situation even tougher for morgue administrators.

While 110 bodies were kept at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, the remaining have been sent to Capital Hospital, AMRI Hospitals, Sum Hospital and some other private facilities.

"It is a real challenge for us to preserve the bodies here as we have a facility to keep a maximum of 40 bodies," an official of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar told PTI, adding that additional arrangements were made at the Anatomy department.

The authorities at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar have procured coffins,

FIRST TRAIN CHUGS OUT

New Delhi: The first train on the section where the accident happened in Balasore started its journey at around 10:40pm Sunday, 51 hours after the horrific crash which killed 275 people, officials said. The goods train was sent off by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw as scores of mediapersons and railway officials looked on. The train carrying coal is headed towards Rourkela Steel plant from Vizag port.

ice and formalin chemicals to preserve the bodies till they are identified.

Sources said state government officials Saturday drew the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the situation created to preserve the bodies in the state during his visit to train accident site Saturday.

"It is really difficult to keep bodies in this hot summer weather condition," the official said.

The PM, sources said, called up Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya from the accident site itself and asked him to make arrangements at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar for the preservation of these bodies.

Mandaviya immediately rushed to

Bhubaneswar overnight and held several meetings here in the state capital.

Chief Secretary PK Jena said the bodies were brought to Bhubaneswar in 85 ambulances Saturday and another 17 bodies reached here Sunday.

"All bodies have been accommodated in cold storage arrangements (due to shortage of morgues)," Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit told PTI.

Admitting that identification was a major challenge for the administration as the victims hailed from different states, the Chief Secretary said the state government has uploaded the details of the passengers on websites of the Special Relief

Commissioner (SRC), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA).

Lists and photographs of deceased passengers are also uploaded on the websites to facilitate identification.

Stating that the photographs of the deceased in the Balasore train accident are being posted only to facilitate identification, the Chief Secretary said keeping in view the nature of the accident, the images posted are too disturbing.

"Nobody can or should reproduce or publish or in any way the images without the prior written approval of the Special Relief Commissioner, Odisha," a senior official said.

"The bodies are mutilated... I came across just one head of a human being and no other body parts to go with it," one of the doctors told PTI.

Meanwhile, a control room has been set up at BMC office. People can get information about the bodies and help in their identification by contacting this office.

Well Wishes to the People of Polasara Legislative Assembly Constituency on the eve of World Environment day

SAVE TREES- SAVE LIVES

Smt. K. Priyadarshini Achary
 Buguda Block Chairperson, Polasara Assembly Constituency
 Buguda Block (Ganjam)

Environment Day thrust on curbing plastic hazard

World Environment Day, hosted under UNEP, marks a day to raise awareness and action about the environmental catastrophes of the industrialised world



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Realising the importance of preserving the mother earth in the wake of industrial revolution, growing urbanisation and population explosion, World Environment Day (WED) is being celebrated across the globe since June 5, 1973. This year's theme is #BeatPlasticPollution, and the host this year is Côte d'Ivoire, in partnership with the Netherlands.

Back home, Nandankanan Zoological Park here hosted an offline 'Poster Presentation Competition' on "Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)" Sunday. Another event will be organised at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre here Monday which will have keynote speakers and display of sculptures made by children from plastic waste, felicitation of startups for environment-friendly and sustainable solutions and cultural performances by Society for Children (SOCH).

Meanwhile, several green activists underscored the hazards of single-use plastic and the need for massive campaign to reduce it. Speaking to **OrissaPOST**, Orissa Environmental Society secretary **Jaya Krushna Panigrahi** said, "The theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution' was also the topic in 2018. I have been highlighting the detrimental impacts of indiscriminate use of plastic through newspapers, TV discussions and public meetings. I have participated in a plastic waste collection drive organised by Chandaka Wildlife Division in the last two days. On June 5, we are organising a programme on this year's theme. I will also deliver talks in the programmes organised by Utkal University and East Coast Railway as the chief speaker."

Although single-use plastic has been banned

by the Union and state governments, production, marketing and use of these products are continuing as usual, Panigrahi rued. "The damage caused to our body by plastic pollution, more importantly by microplastics and nanoplastics, is of grave concern. We need to use available biodegradable alternatives to plastic. It is high time for stringent action against the violators," he added.

Ranjan Panda, a noted water and climate activist, said, "We had started raising awareness and action on pollution of rivers, lakes and other wetlands in early 90s when plastic pollution was perceived as a big menace. Later, as plastic became an omnipresent pollutant, a sustained drive was initiated in March 2019 with flagging off of our #Youth4Water campaign. Since November 2022, we are running #PlasticFreePicnicChallenge in which we have reached out to more than 20,000 youths and community members. This Environment Day, we call upon the youths to adopt at least one picnic spot in their area and help make it free from plastic pollution."

A few cafes and cloud kitchens here have begun using biodegradable packets and utensils to serve food. **OrissaPOST** sat with a couple of food joints to bring up their ideas of creating awareness.

'Chai Bisket', a utility hangout for nature enthusiasts at Anandabazar Chhak of Unit IX area, offers 'kulhad chai' and food in biodegradable packets. "We have been serving tea in kulhad since 2017. It gives me immense pleasure to share that I have taken a little step to avoid single-use plastic for betterment of society," says **Subrat Das**, proprietor of 'Chai Bisket'.

Eco Kitchen, a cloud kitchen in Bhubaneswar, makes organic spices and promotes plastic-free and biodegradable packaging. Identity of this brand reflects its passion for food and environment. "Eco Kitchen uses biodegradable materials for packaging to reduce single-use plastic. Eco Kitchen's motto is to build ecology and economy together," says owner of Eco Kitchen, **Mohammed Reza**.

260 mishap victims in state hospitals

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Altogether 260 people, who were injured in the triple train accident in Balasore, are currently undergoing treatment in various hospitals across the state, while around 900 have been discharged so far, Health department officials said Sunday.

Three Union ministers - Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mansukh Mandaviya and Dharmendra Pradhan - visited the state-run SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack where 202 injured people have been admitted, an official of the health facility said. "Across the state, around 900 patients, out of 1,175 injured passengers in the train accident, have been discharged. A total of 260 injured are currently undergoing treatment in different hospitals, including private ones, in Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Soro and Jajpur. "All are stable except one whose condition is stated to be critical," the official said.

At least 202 people injured in the accident have been admitted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Bhubananda Maharana, the emergency officer, said.

DSPL-66

boyanika

Since 1956

On the Occasion of **Raja Utsav**

Special Govt. Rebate

10%+20%

(Available at all branches)

05.06 to 13.06.2023

EASIER & FASTER SHOPPING ONLINE AT:

www.boyanika.com

Find us on

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

Irregularities at open air jail surface again



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Massive irregularities at the Biju Patnaik Open Air Jail at Jamujhari on the City outskirts have once again come to fore during a recent inspection of the Khurda district judge. The inspection was carried out April 21, 2023, following the directions of the Orissa High court issued in 2008 and 2020.

The High Court had asked the authorities to review the state of health, hygiene and institutional treatment of prisoners by visiting the jails across the state. The court had also given directions to enquire into the steps taken by the jail authorities during the

The High Court had asked the authorities to review the state of health, hygiene and institutional treatment of prisoners by visiting the jails across the state

The court had also given directions to enquire into the steps taken by the jail authorities during the Covid-19 period

During inspection, the Khurda district judge found that the food prepared in the kitchen of the open air jail was of substandard quality

Covid-19 period.

During the visit, the superintendent of the open air jail informed the district judge that the inmates are being supplied food of proper quality as per the standards fixed by the state government. However, the inmates revealed before the district judge that they are not usually provided quality food.

Meanwhile, during inspection the district judge also found that the food prepared in the kitchen of the open air jail was of substandard quality. Sources claim that the jail superintendent has been instructed by the district judge to improve the quality of food being supplied to inmates.

Notably, report of an internal probe of state Prisons Directorate had recently exposed massive mismanagement and infighting among the staffers of the Biju Patnaik Open Air Ashram, the lone open prison of the state, at Jamujhari on the outskirts of the Capital.

The jailor of Biju Patnaik Open Air Jail, Ashok Kumar Behera, had also sent letters to various authorities, including the Odisha Human Rights Commission, alleging mismanagement and corruption by the prison superintendent Saroj Kumar Biswal.



LORD'S BATHING RITUAL: People present in large numbers to witness 'Snana Yatra' of deities at Srimandir in Puri, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Thousands witness Lord's bathing rituals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, June 4: Braving hot and humid weather, thousands of devotees gathered at the seaside town of Puri to witness Lord Jagannath's 'Snana Yatra' or the bathing rituals at the 12th-century shrine.

The sibling deities -- Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath -- were brought to the 'Snana Mandap' or the bathing altar of the temple where 108 pitchers of sacred water were

poured on them.

The water was fetched from the 'Suna Kua' or the golden well in the temple. The water was added with herbal and aromatic essence before pouring in on the deities at 'Snana Bedi'. The festival is also called 'Deva Snana Purnima'.

Gajapati Maharaja or Puri's titular king Dibyasingha Deb performed 'Chhera Panhara' (sweeping) ritual at 'Snana Mandap' immediately after the bathing ritual, said Bhaskar

Mishra, a researcher of Jagannath culture.

After the completion of 'Chhera Panhara', the deities were adorned with 'Hati Besa' (elephant attire) at the 'Snana Bedi'.

As per the belief, the deities then fall sick and develop fever due to excess bathing. The ailing deities are taken to 'Anasara Gruha' (isolation room).

The deities would now be quarantined for 14 days at the 'Anasara Gruha'. The devotees are not allowed to visit the deities during

this period. Upon their recovery, the deities reappear before the devotees on the occasion of 'Nabajauban Darshan'.

The police made elaborate arrangements for the smooth 'darshan'. Most of the devotees had glimpse of the deities from 'Bada Danda', the grand road in front of the temple.

Sixty platoons (one platoon comprise 30 personnel) of police were deployed in Puri for the smooth conduct of the 'Snana Yatra'.



GRACEFUL MOVES: Artistes perform during Chandan Mahotsav organised by Nirjhara Dance Academy at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Exclusive exhibition at City Malabar outlet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Chandrasekharpur, is organising 'Artistry', an exclusive exhibition of gold, diamond, and precious gem jewellery here till June 11, where visiting customers can also purchase the jewellery items.



"The featured ornaments having timeless elegance are creations of master craftsmen. These are examples of the craftsmen's expertise and their ingenious skills, justifying the theme of the show 'experience wearable art,'" said a company executive.

The show was inaugurated in the presence of Rajasmita Kar, popular dancer and winner of Dance India Dance Season 3 in presence of Malabar Gold & Diamonds management team and other distinguished guests.

Artistry features exclusive brands of Malabar Gold & Diamonds like Mine - diamond jewellery, Era - uncut diamond jewellery, Precia - precious gems jewellery, Ethnix - handcrafted jewellery, Divine - Indian heritage jewellery, Starlet - kid's and Zoul - Young adult jewellery.

Notably, the jewellery chain has started 'One India One Gold Rate' campaign under which customers will be given the best gold rate across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds stores in India.

Yellow warning for 5 dists: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: IMD has issued a yellow warning for the next 4 days with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph at five districts in the state Monday.

According to the IMD, such weather condition is also likely to prevail at one or two places in Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur.

One or two places in Nabarangpur, Bolangir, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Koraput, and Kandhamal may also experience

hailstorms. IMD has forecasted the likelihood of thunderstorms at some places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nuapada, and Malkangiri.

Light to moderate rain may also occur at a few places in Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Malkangiri, and Ganjam during this period.

The weather office said that there is unlikely to be any significant change in day temperature (maximum temperature) at many places in the state and the mercury is likely to hover around 42°C and more at one or two places in Interior Odisha during the next 5 days.

Special arrangements made for stranded passengers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 4: In view of disruption of train services caused by Bahanaga train tragedy, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced free bus service to Kolkata from Puri, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The entire cost will be borne from Chief Minister's Relief Fund and arrangement will continue for next 48 hours. It will be extended subject to restoration of normal train services in Balasore route.

All the buses having stage carriage permit issued by State Transport Authority (STA) can ply buses from Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack bus stand to Kolkata. This facility is available in OSRTC buses as well.

Puri-Howrah special trains by ECoR

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to run three special trains between Puri and Howrah for the passengers stranded due to the triple train accident near Balasore.

02801 Puri-Howrah Special from Puri will leave at 1900hrs (7:00pm) and will run via Jakhapura-Kendujhargarh-Dongooposi-Kharagpur route. This train will

Relief by Indian Navy at train crash site

Bhubaneswar: The Indian Navy worked in close coordination with Odisha state administration to provide medical relief and support at the site of triple train accident near Balasore Friday. A medical and support team of 43 personnel including surgical specialist and medical assistants, ambulances and support services from INS Chilka were dispatched and attended to the injured, extending immediate medical relief and OT facilities at the district headquarters hospital at Balasore. A medical camp was also set up by naval medical relief team at Gangadhar Kalyan Mandap at Balasore for treating the non-critical patients.



provide stoppages at Sakhigopal, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jakhapura, Harichandanpur, Keonjhar, Dongooposi, Tata and Kharagpur between Puri and Howrah having two sleeper classes, six second class chair car and two guard-cum-second class seating coaches.

02803 Puri-Howrah Special from Puri will leave at 2100hrs (9:00pm) and will run via Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur City-Jharsuguda route. This train will provide stoppages at Sakhigopal, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Rairakhol, Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda, Rourkela,

Chakradharpur, Tata and Kharagpur between Puri and Howrah having 11 second class seating, two AC chair car, two chair car and two guard-cum-second class seating coaches.

02805 Puri-Howrah Special from Puri will leave at 2200hrs (10pm) and will run via Jakhapura-Kendujhargarh-Dongooposi-Kharagpur route. This train will provide stoppages at Sakhigopal, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jakhapura, Harichandanpur, Keonjhar, Dongooposi, Tata and Kharagpur between Puri and Howrah having two MEMU motor car and six MEMU coaches.

Married men less prone to workplace burnout: Study

Men who are married are less likely to feel burnout at the workplace, suggests a study. Workplace burnout is widespread and can have a detrimental effect on employee performance, wellbeing and the overall productivity of the organisation.

The study, led by a team at National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Russia, showed that satisfaction in personal relationships can help lower the manifestation of workplace burnout syndrome.

Burnout causes significant mental fatigue and manifests through emotional exhaustion, depersonalisation (a state in which individuals feel disconnected from their body, thoughts, or emotions), and a decline in personal fulfilment.

For the study, the team conducted a survey of 203 employees across different Russian companies, wherein the participants were asked to assess their satisfaction with personal relationships and the presence of workplace burnout symptoms.

The results indicate that as the level of marital satisfaction increases, the risk of burnout decreases, and this correlation is more pronounced in men.

The researchers attribute these findings to disparities in social roles and stereotypes attributed to men and women, along with variations in expectations related to marriage and career.

"For men, career success can often become a fundamental aspect of their identity and self-esteem. As a result, they may en-



counter greater pressure in the workplace and experience elevated stress levels while striving to fulfil their duties and meet expectations," said Ilya Bulgakov, Doctoral Student, HSE School of Psychology. "In this context, marital satis-

faction and feeling supported in one's private life can become critical factors in preventing burnout among men," Bulgakov added.

When it comes to women, depersonalisation characterised by a sense of detachment from col-

leagues and clients and a decrease in empathy and compassion has a greater impact on the development of burnout.

The researchers attribute the findings to disparities in social roles and stereotypes attributed to men and women, along with variations in expectations related to marriage and career.

For men, the most significant factor is emotional fatigue from being overwhelmed with requests and feeling incapable of effectively managing them.

For women, the most significant factor is emotional fatigue from being overwhelmed with requests and feeling incapable of effectively managing them.

The researchers suggest that depersonalisation experienced by women is linked to the societal expectations and social roles commonly imposed on them within the professional realm.

Thus, in many cultures, there is an expectation for women to demonstrate nurturing and empathetic behaviour.

Women frequently experience pressure concerning the amount of emotional support they offer to colleagues, clients, or patients.

Escalation of such expectations can result in heightened stress and a tendency to disengage from these responsibilities, ultimately leading to depersonalisation, with a detrimental effect on work performance and relationships with colleagues and clients.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-977682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Uncertainty looms over flight services from Rourkela airport



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 4: Flight services from Smart City Rourkela are hit with serious roadblocks due to frequent cancellations as flights were called off for as many as eight times during the last six months, a report said Sunday.

Flights are being cancelled due to bad weather conditions and low visibility, airport officials said. The authorities are cancelling the flights as the visibility is going down below 5,000 metre most of the times.

The Rourkela Airport received license for flight services in 2019 while the permission for commencing flight services was received December 2022. Flight services from Rourkela to Bhubaneswar are continuing while demands are being made for launching of direct flight services from Rourkela to Kolkata and Bangalore.

Reports said that for a long time, residents had been demanding flight services from Smart City Rourkela, which is also the industrial capital of Odisha. As many as 20 multi-purpose projects like establishment of KIMB, a medical college and other important projects were relocated to other places due to absence of flight services in the city. Finally, flight services were

(ILS) is installed in the airport on an immediate basis.

He said the air here has more smoke as Rourkela is an industrial city. The standard parameter for landing of flights is that the visibility should be above 5,000 metre. However, it is often reducing to 2,000 to 3,000 metre. As a result, the airport authorities are forced to order cancellation of flights and forcing the flights to land in other nearby airports.

The ILS, if installed, will give advance information on air quality and low visibility and reduce the number of flight cancellations, he said. He said that flights are being cancelled for the safety of the passengers and there is possibility of cancellation of more flights in the coming rainy season.

On the other hand, Bimal Bisi, president of citizen forum Sachetan Nagarik Manch has shot off a letter to the Union Aviation Minister, Friday. The copies of his letter have been forwarded to the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and the Sundargarh MP.

In the letter, he has alleged that the frequent cancellation of flights will have direct impact on the proposed medical hub and IT hub in Rourkela. It will not be possible for senior healthcare professionals and doctors with Apollo Hospital group planning for establishment of a hospital in the city.

The visit of senior professors and educationists to National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela will get affected while bad weather conditions will further affect the flight services adversely during rainy season. He said there is an urgent need for installation of ILS and demanded sanction of Rs 6 crore for its implementation.

Flight services have been cancelled eight times in six months due to bad weather conditions and low visibility

An airport official said there is possibility of cancellation of more flights in the coming rainy season

ILS needs to be installed in the airport to avoid frequent cancellations and smooth functioning of flight services

launched from the city after a long standing and persistent demand.

The flight services were launched from the city during the FIH and state government sponsored Hockey World Cup. However, flight services, which started from the city January 7 this year, have been hit with serious roadblocks with uncertainty prevailing over the services.

According to reports, flight services have been cancelled eight times in six months. Authorities are forced to cancel the services due to bad weather conditions and low visibility.

This was stated here by Airport manager Rahul Singh of Airport Authority of India (AAI). He said the problem could be avoided if the Instrumental Landing System



ON WAR FOOTING: Technicians and workers repair the railway tracks at the Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in Balasore district, Sunday after Friday's triple train mishap

LIC announces relaxations for mishap victims

Bhubaneswar: Expressing grief over the tragedy, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced to support those affected and expedite settlement claims to provide financial relief. Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson, LIC, announced many concessions to mitigate the hardships of the claimants of LIC policies and also of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana affected in the major train mishap. "In lieu of registered death certificates, list of casualties published by Railways authorities, police or any state or Central government authorities will be accepted as proof of death. Special help desk has been set up at divisional and branch levels to respond to claim related queries and for providing assistance to claimants," LIC said in a statement.

Gram sabha vows to develop Baisingh as model panchayat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, June 4: After a long time, Rayagada witnessed an excellent congregation of tribals May 27 at Srikagudum village under Baisingh gram panchayat in the district.

As many as 500 people from 15 villages participated in this meeting as primary stake holders in their community development process.

This joint gram sabha was convened by sarpanch Biruma Majhi and coordinated by social activist Balam Panda and youth leader Krishna Tadengi. BDO Lakshmi Narayanan Sabat, deputy collector Pusp Chaudhary, local forest officers and local intelligentsia like Bikram Panigrahi, Dushmanta Mohanty, Chitrupa Sarangi, Mangalmurti Beuria, Gangadhar Padhi shared their supporting views and commitment to the resolutions adopted in the gram sabha.

Chief guest Chittaranjan Sarangi guided the discussion and decision making process. The resolutions adopted will be forwarded to the district administration for approval.

The residents resolved to develop Baisingh as a model village ensuring basic provisions of income, healthcare, education and human rights to all families and preventing all anti social and illegal activities in the village. Each member took a vow to perform social duties for a better society.

An advisory committee in the name of panchayat development committee was formed to guide the development process.

Local intelligentsia Bikram Panigrahi, Dushmanta Mohanty, Chitrupa Sarangi, Krishna Tadengi,



Arjuna Yadav and two lawyers M Beuria and Gangadhar Padhi joined as advisors and 30 youths from 15 villages were taken as members. They will assist in all the activities of the panchayat under the leadership of Balam Panda.

An organisation of 300 youths and senior students is hereby formed under the chairmanship of BDO LN Sabat. Resolutions were taken to create employment for them by providing shops at beautiful view points at tourist spots. Promotion of khadi and cottage industries of agro and forest products will open new avenues for self sustenance. This youth organisation will protect the biodiversity and earn their livelihood from it as part of an model experiment.

The panchayat will seek guidance and support of the Forest department to operate under PESA act. It will deal with procurement, value addition, processing and marketing of all minor forest products especially medicinal plants directly engaging educated young men and women of the panchayat.

The panchayat will be declared free from alcoholism. All anti social activities promoted by outsiders will be prevented and all members will be practitioners of ethical values in developmental activities run by the government.

The individual and community level issues will be raised at BDO

level who promised to address them with immediate effect taking co-operation from district administration and line departments.

An educational camp for the leading forty youths of the panchayat will be held at Tapobhoomi Ashram, Bhubaneswar from 6-8 June in order to enlarge their span of thinking, vision for a better living, and generate faith to execute the decisions. They will travel 400 kilometres from Rayagada at their own expense to learn about their behaviour and activities with nature, community, government and market.

Women were there in large numbers to declare that they will be organised and educated to rise to the occasion and act on all matters in equal footing with the male counterparts for the socio-economic upliftment of their families, especially children who were also present in good numbers in the program.

The girls students of Baisingh High School are forced to walk three kilometres from hostel to the school. Administration was requested to build hostel for the girls near the school immediately. In case of delay, community will start a Satyagraha to fulfill their democratic rights.

The entire programme was organised with donation from the village fund, young tribal organisers and guests on dias.

Three killed as auto-rickshaw hits stationary truck

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, June 4: Three people were killed and five others injured after their auto-rickshaw hit a truck parked on the roadside in Sambalpur district Sunday, police said.

The accident happened near Padhanpali toll plaza on Sambalpur-Rourkela Biju Expressway in the Sason police station area, they said.

The deceased were identified as Punam Bag, 13, her sister Nensika Bag, 8, and their relative Benudhar Bag, 19. They were residents of Bhamarmal village in Kesinga police station area of Kalahandi district.

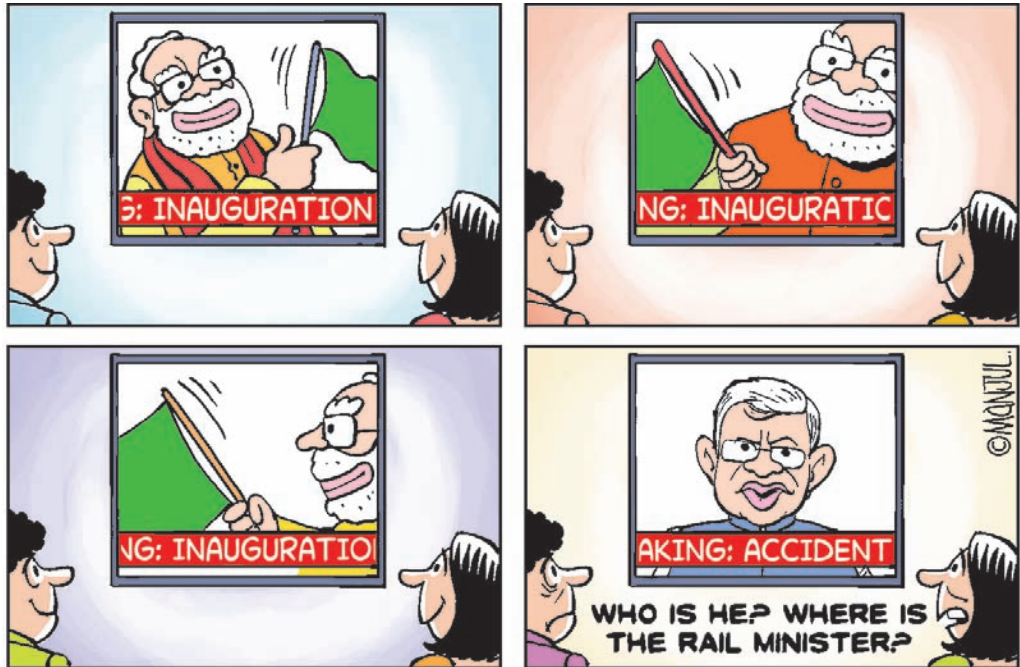
Police said eight people on the auto-rickshaw were going towards Khetrajpur railway station in Sambalpur from Nua Khurigaon in the Sason police station area.

After the accident, the injured persons were rushed to the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla.

However, three persons succumbed to their injuries at the hospital, police said.

The injured persons, including the driver of the auto-rickshaw, were undergoing treatment at VIMSAR. The truck and the auto-rickshaw were seized, and the driver of the truck was detained, police said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



B'deshi diplomat visits hospitals to look for wounded passengers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, June 4: A senior Bangladeshi diplomat, Sheikh Marefat Ali Islam, Sunday visited Soro Hospital in Balasore district to provide consular assistance to Bangladeshi passengers injured in the triple train crash.

Islam told PTI that few Bangladeshi passengers were recuperating in different hospitals in Odisha but there was no news

of death of any citizen of that country in the crash.

"One Bangladeshi passenger admitted at a Bhadrak hospital was discharged after treatment. Another has been referred to SCB Medical College in Cuttack. On Saturday, I had visited a Balasore hospital," he said.

"If there's any information on injured Bangladeshi patients, please dial our deputy high commission at Kolkata - 9038353533,"

Marefat, second secretary in the Bangladesh deputy high commission which looks after eastern India, added.

"Several unclaimed bodies are lying in a few hospitals in Bhubaneswar. We will have to find out if there are any Bangladeshis among them," he added.

He thanked the Odisha government for providing support in tracing the injured and dead Bangladeshi citizens in various

hospitals.

Around 20 lakh Bangladeshis visit India every year mainly for treatment, with many of them preferring medical institutions in southern states.

Three trains— Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah super fast and a goods train— were involved in the pile-up, now being described as one of India's worst train accidents.

VSS transforms bald hill into lush green forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, June 4: A Vana Suraksha Samiti (forest protection committee) formed by the residents of Sagarpali village under Ujalpur forest range of Sundargarh forest division has been able to turn a bald hill into lush green forest with community efforts.

The transformation of the hill into a lush green forest by Sagarpali Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) members has once again proved that community is the best manager of forest resources.

Sagarpali, which is yet to receive revenue village status turned a bald hill named Kurladunguri into a lush green forest within a 25-year period. The first-ever step towards the conservation of Kurladunguri was launched in the year 1956 which aimed to check illegal and mindless tree felling in the village and on the hill. The small step that was taken by the villagers goaded them to form a VSS or forest protection



committee (FPC) in the village.

In 1975, the then members of Sagarpali youth club of the village took action against deforestation and prepared regulations for forest protection. In 1993-94 Sagarpali VSS was formed and registered under Sundargarh forest division.

At that time, Kurladunguri with an area of 121.41 hectare and a length of 8.4 km was a completely bald hill. In the meantime, to give more power to forest protection and management, the Sagarpali VSS prepared and implemented various rules and regulations for conser-

vation of forest with support and assistance by the forest officials and mobilisation by the NGO Sewak.

The VSS members started a popular trend "Thengapali" the stick rotation-based forest patrol practices and "Muthidhana"- contribution of a handful of paddy towards forest protection activities and also to create a corpus fund for the purpose.

The VSS members including women created awareness in and around the VSS areas related to forest fire and wildlife conservation. They motivated themselves for "Shramdaan"- The contribu-

tion of labour for the development of the forest and plantation.

The VSS planted 56 Banyan and 74 Pipal tree by all 130 households of Sagarpali VSS near forest area, palm seedlings around the Kurladunguri forest to create a natural forest boundary. To avoid open grazing and fire control the VSS dug cattle proof trenches of 4 km through 'Shramdaan' around the Kurladunguri forest. It has drastically controlled the cattle movements inside the forest.

Forest fire has always been a troubling issue that destroys forest and the wild animals. So the VSS has formed a forest fire control team in the committee to intervene and douse the wildfire. The 24-hour painstaking watch and ward activities were able to save both the forest and the plantations.

Presently the VSS is implementing the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, phase-II which has drastically reduced the human pressure on forest resources and

increased both farm and off-farm based sustainable livelihood options as well as strengthened the WSHGs.

The VSS successfully implemented the plantation programme in the 52 hectare of open forest land and planted 46,070 seedlings under ANR and AR plantations with 98% survival rate.

To reduce the pressure on forest resources, the VSS members are now connected and using the LPG cylinders. Women self help groups (WSHG) are involved in alternative livelihood options such as dairy farming, mushroom farming, turmeric cultivation, millet farming, and other small businesses. These activities have not only reduced pressure on the forest but also empowered the women of the VSS.

When contacted, a VSS member said that they have transformed the bald hill in Kurladunguri into a lush green forest in just 25 years and created a safe home for wild animals.

BALASORE TRAIN MISHAP

Vedanta joins in rescue, relief ops

Bhubaneswar/Balasore, June 4: As the tragic train accident in Balasore district Friday evening shocked the entire nation, Vedanta Aluminium that believes in action rather than words, joined the state and central administration in the rescue and relief operations immediately. Soon after the news of the accident broke, Vedanta Aluminium, the largest aluminium producer in India, and its sister concern FACOR marshalled their teams and emergency response procedures to support the ongoing relief operations. Experts from the companies' safety teams, along with other personnel trained in disaster management and emergency response, came into action and are still working on the accident site extending support to relief efforts besides providing food, water, clothing and logistical support which are needs of the hour. The company also mobilized over 200 employee volunteers to donate blood, who are now standing by to donate to hospitals facing shortage of blood. This apart, Vedanta Aluminium supplied thousands of food packets and gallons of drinking water in the past two days to those undergoing urgent medical care and to their caregivers, and the relief-and-rescue workers working day and night on the accident site. The company has also donated over 500 pieces of clothing in response to the request from the government for support, ensuring the dignity and comfort of injured passengers admitted to hospitals.



Investigators are looking into possible human error; signal failure and other possible causes behind the three-train crash.

For Sale/Eauction: Wet Damaged Dalmia Cement - 3160 bags lying at DCBL, Sambalpur, Odisha Contact Person at site :Mr. Saroj Kumar Sahoo- 9777106056 Last Date For Inspection & EMD Deposit - 12.06.2023 & Date Of E-auction-13.06.2023 (3 PM), Auctioneer: Meenakshi- 9625137014 / M F Islam - 9911003339 (Insurance Claim Material Will Be Sold On 'As Is Where Is', 'Whatever There Is' And 'No Complaint' Basis).

For More Details:
www.Salvagemanagers.com
Support@Salvagemanagers.com

Widen your consciousness to the dimension of the earth and you will have a place for everything.

THE MOTHER



Sedition Law Mockery

The Law Commission's "considered" opinion that Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) pertaining to sedition laws should be retained is highly regressive and a complete letdown for the very concept of protection of free speech which is universally considered an integral part of a functioning democracy. Curtailment of the freedom of speech and expression in any form and manner only encourages the government of the day - the executive arm of a democratic system - to do what it likes without checks and balances to advance its own agenda with impunity. Some of the commission's recommendations tend to create the impression that the law could be even more draconian than the existing colonial era measure. The minimum punishment has been extended for imprisonment from three years to seven years. It was expected that the commission would act in the light of the Supreme Court's latest ruling keeping the operation of the law in abeyance because of its patent abuse to silence dissent against the government. There was also widespread public anger at the use of the law, as revealed in several recent disturbing cases, as a tool to snuff out criticism of government actions perceived to be favouring vested interests keen on fulfilling their economic and social agenda.

The Law Commission does not seem to have taken into account the basic idea that an elected legislature may not represent the whole nation in entirety in all its actions.

What is ironic is that the commission has come down heavily on social media and internet users in the age of satellite and electronic communications which have revolutionised the system of exchange of facts and data - the soul of democracy. There are legal provisions to curb the misuse of social media platforms just as there are stringent laws to tackle attempts to conspire against the state and overthrow it. But, the commission has regrettably found these laws not so effective as the sedition law.

The commission has cited as reasons for backing the retention of the sedition law the "ever-proliferating" social media "radicalisation" against India, activities of Maoists and militancy in the Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir. These are too familiar charges made by the BJP-led government at the Centre which has coined reprehensible terms such as "urban Naxals" and "tukde tukde gang" to suit its narratives to demonise civil society activists, students and youth protesting against government policies motivated by political interests.

The 81-page report submitted recently by the commission's chairperson, Justice (Retd) Ritu Raj Awasthi, to Arjun Ram Meghwal, the minister of state (independent charge) of law and justice, became public June 2. The report comes in the backdrop of the May 11, 2022, stay imposed by the Supreme Court on invoking the sedition law, following allegations of rampant misuse of the colonial-era legislation by parties in power against critics and political opponents.

The Law Commission seems to have acted as a government mouthpiece as it stated that social media has many a time resorted to propagating radicalisation against India and bringing the government into hatred at the behest of adversarial foreign powers. This has also been the drift of the argument of the current dispensation in many recent cases where sedition law was invoked. It is in this sense that the commission has found Section 124A of the IPC (concerning sedition law) has its utility in combating "anti-national and secessionist elements" as it seeks to protect the elected government from attempts to overthrow it through violent and illegal means.

Similarly, the commission felt the plea by many that the offence of sedition is a remnant of colonial rule established during a time when it was frequently employed against India's freedom fighters is untenable. Its contention is "the entire framework of the Indian legal system" is a colonial legacy just as the police force and the idea of an All-India Civil Service are also temporal remnants of the British era. This is unwarranted since the commission should have known the difference between good and bad laws.

The amendments suggested by the commission to prevent abuse of the law are mere cosmetic changes. These can be easily circumvented and a government can continue targeting people it finds inconvenient after going through the formalities for lodging FIRs as prescribed.

The commission seems to have failed in the task entrusted to it. Its conclusion that any allegation of misuse of this provision does not by implication warrant a call for its repeal is debatable.

WISDOM CORNER

There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

True happiness... is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.

HELEN KELLER

Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROST

WORDSWORTH

Isabelline

Isabelline refers to a colour. The dictionaries variously describe it as greyish-yellow, light buff, pale cream-brown, dingy yellowish grey or drab. The Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary tries hardest to tie it down: "a moderate yellowish brown to light olive brown that is lighter and stronger than clay drab or medal bronze". It has also been described as the colour of parchment or sand. The female name Isabella can similarly refer to the colour. Its first appearance in English is in an inventory of the wardrobe of Queen Elizabeth I in 1600: "one round gowne of Isabella-colour satten... set with silver bangles". Versions of it are known in various European languages from about the same date, including French, German, Spanish and Italian, usually for the colour of a horse. The origin is unclear. That has led to stories growing up that associate Isabella (and by implication isabelline) with an historical event involving a noble lady by that name. One identifies her as Isabel Clara Eugenia, daughter of Philip II of Spain, wife of the Archduke of Austria and joint sovereign of the Spanish Netherlands. Her brother, Philip III, laid siege to Ostend in 1601 and Isabella vowed not to change her undergarments until the city surrendered. Unfortunately for her (and no doubt for those around her) the siege lasted another three years, supposedly leading to this off-colour word for over-worn underwear. Other European nations have a similar story, though they apply it instead to the siege of Granada by Ferdinand and Isabella of Castile in 1491. Isabelline is comparatively recent, appearing from about 1840 in descriptions by zoologists of a wide variety of species of bats, fungi, fish and mammals, but mainly birds, such as the isabelline wheatear and the isabelline shrike. Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace both used it, as did other writers of the nineteenth century: *To begin with, all the smaller denizens of the desert - whether butterflies, beetles, birds, or lizards - must be quite uniformly isabelline or sand-coloured (Falling in Love; With Other Essays on More Exact Branches of Science, by Grant Allen, 1889)*. It's a specialist word of natural history writing and it's rare to find it elsewhere other than occasionally as the horse colour. Most experts say the proper name is the source, though nobody can explain how it came about. Some writers in French and Spanish say instead that it derives instead from an Arabic word, given either as *izah* or *hizah*, referring specifically to the colour of a lion's pelt. However, there seems to be no such word in Arabic and we must disregard the suggestion.

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

FOCUS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Plastic has been an important part of our daily life ever since it was synthesised and patented by the Belgian chemist Leo Bakeland in 1907. We daily wake up to brush our teeth with plastic, bathe with tubs of plastic, drink water with bottles of plastic and sleep with pillow covers of plastic. Plastic is easy to mold to different shapes of our choice, cheap and durable and that is why its popularity in society has been constantly on the rise. Plastic is primarily manufactured from fossil fuel raw materials like crude petroleum oil and is chemically a synthetic long-chain polymer. It is needless to say that the pace and progress of our present civilisation is hardly imagined without plastic.



It is estimated that around 8.8 million tonnes of plastic waste are dumped into the sea every year. This is equivalent to the dumping of nearly one truckload of plastic garbage into the sea every minute

However, plastic has a very long life span in our biosphere and, therefore, is not easily biodegradable. Disposal of plastic items in an eco-friendly manner without causing harm to the environment has created an enormous challenge for our scientists in recent times. The world plastic production as of 2019 has been 365 million tonnes per year with 51% produced in Asia alone having China as the largest producer of plastic. If the trend continues, the global annual plastic production will touch the 1100 million tonnes mark by 2050, according to one estimate. Of the total world production, only 9% is recycled and 12% is incinerated and the rest is dumped in nature causing severe damage to our fragile environment. In developed countries, 50% of the total plastic production is used in the packaging of items of daily use. Another devastating dimension of plastic usage is the proliferation of single-use plastic items which has been greatly infused into today's busy metropolitan lifestyle. These materials such as disposable cups, food trays, tumblers and spoons are used only once after which they are discarded causing irreparable dam-

age to nature and natural ecosystems. India produces 3.4 million tonnes of plastic waste in a year out of which only 30% is recycled. India ranks as the fifth largest producer of plastic in the world.

The most alarming impact of plastic pollution is on the seas and oceans of the world. It is estimated that around 8.8 million tonnes of plastic waste are dumped into the sea every year. This is equivalent to the dumping of nearly one truckload of plastic garbage into the sea every minute. Isn't it quite alarming? These plastic materials break into fine particles over the years called 'microplastic' that enter into the marine food chain to eventually make their way to animals like whales, dolphins, turtles and aquatic birds. It chokes their stomach greatly reducing their food ingestion ability ultimately leading to their death. Plastic items like fishing nets also get wrapped around their bodies reducing their mobility which results in their fate of easily falling prey to enemies. It is estimated that nearly one lakh sea birds die each year as a result of plastic

pollution in the sea.

Similarly, plastic pollution has also cast its footprints on the land. Many domestic animals eat away plastic items mistaking them as food that ultimately choke their food path and intestines. The microplastic materials also enter their bloodstream which causes diseases like cancer and triggers hormonal imbalances in their bodies leading to retarded growth and reduced cognitive ability. It is estimated that nearly one lakh land animals die every year as a result of plastic pollution. Plastic contamination also reduces soil fertility and affects the water retention capability of the soil. It also adversely affects the quality of groundwater sources and the process of cloud formation impacting the rainfall pattern over a region. Plastic materials also clog the sewage drain systems of a locality thereby amounting incurrence of vast expenditure annually by the municipal bodies around the world to clear the blockage.

Since the production of plastic from its source of fossil fuels and its disposal techniques by incin-

eration amount to the release of vast quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, plastic has greatly contributed to global warming and climate change phenomena over the years. It is estimated that the carbon emission due to plastic pollution alone will amount to 14% of the total global emissions by 2050 leading to vast climatic catastrophe.

The way out of the menacing problem is not far to seek and the message is loud and clear. We should minimise the consumption of plastic products in our daily life. Instead of shopping with plastic or polythene bags, we should always carry bags made of natural fibres like jute or cotton which are biodegradable by nature. The use of single-use plastic items should be completely banned from public life. Once the demand for plastic in public life is curtailed, its production will automatically fall. Scientists should come up with the discovery of new biodegradable plastic materials which should also be cost-effective and affordable at the same time to promote its popularity and mass use. Most plastic items should be recycled into new utility products rather than making them anew from raw materials again. Our mantra should be "Reduce, Recycle and Reuse" with a far-reaching goal to defuse the ticking plastic bomb and ensure a transition to a plastic-free society and eco-friendly lifestyle.

With an aim to create awareness about the menacing effect of plastic pollution in our daily life and to join hands for a global campaign for combating plastic pollution by providing tangible solutions for a sustainable future, the theme of World Environment Day 2023 has been chosen as 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Climate science trumps climate fatalism

The Paris climate agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius is in the headlines again. According to the latest projections from the World Meteorological Organization, "There is a 66% likelihood that the annual average near-surface global temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for at least one year." A supercharged El Niño cycle means that record-breaking temperatures are almost certain. But, as concerning as these warnings are, it would be even more worrying if one year above 1.5°C was taken as a sign that the 1.5°C target has been missed. Drawing that erroneous conclusion would lead us to abandon the Paris agreement's goal just when we should be doubling down on it.

The 1.5°C goal will not be lost with just one or a few years of extreme temperatures. The Paris goal refers to human-caused temperature increases that are measured over the course of decades. We must keep this firmly in mind to stave off the dangerous climate fatalism that has been gaining momentum in recent years.

Yes, now that the planet has warmed roughly 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, "once-in-a-century" heatwaves, forest fires, and floods are becoming more familiar to us. In some low-lying regions,

rising seas are already forcing people to relocate. But there is still a massive difference between 1.2°C and 1.5°C - let alone between 1.5°C and 2°C - and the science shows that it is still possible to end this century at or below 1.5°C.

Recent climate research has affirmed the importance and necessity of the 1.5°C guardrail. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned last year, extreme weather events, ecosystem collapse, and planetary tipping points can happen at markedly lower levels of global warming than previously thought. Since the IPCC's last reporting cycle in 2014, we have amassed much more evidence to show that even a 1.5°C warmer world would be immensely challenging, and that temperature increases above that level would be truly devastating.

With every additional tenth of a degree of warming, more people will be exposed to life-threatening heatwaves, water shortages, and flooding. Worse, various studies show that the likelihood of reaching tipping points, like the potential collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet, increases exponentially above 1.5°C. These represent red lines. The world would not fall off a cliff, but there would be a fundamental shift in which planetary systems start moving irreversibly down the path toward more ice

melt, marine-ecosystem change, and rising sea levels.

The only sensible approach is to mitigate that risk by reducing greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions as fast as possible. Though we still might overshoot the 1.5°C limit in the short term, we can return to it in the long run. But that will be possible only if we have cut fossil-fuel emissions to zero. This is the crucial first step toward achieving net-zero GHG emissions. Limiting warming to 1.5°C this century requires that we halve our emissions by 2030. This is not an arbitrary figure. Only if we halve our emissions this decade will we halve the pace of warming in the 2030s and bring it to a halt in the 2040s. Think of it as the difference between tackling climate change ourselves, or passing a civilisational time-bomb to our children.

Slowing the warming process also buys us precious time for adaptation. Even a rich country like the US will be limited in how fast and fully it can adapt to the consequences of climate change. For those in more vulnerable places, the situation is incomparably worse. We must decarbonise electricity first, then electrify as much transportation, buildings, and industry as we can, while also reducing demand. Beyond this low-hanging fruit, we also will need to scale up technologies for carbon removal.

Investments have been moving in this direction. Since the Paris agreement was concluded in 2015, the costs of solar, wind, and batteries have plummeted. Electric vehicles and heat pumps are going mainstream. These are market-driven responses to government incentives. Public policy has been crucial for instilling confidence and supporting clean-energy growth.

To give up and start looking beyond 1.5°C would let big emitters off the hook. Rather than instilling confidence, it would signal to everyone that they should expect less - and betray all those who live in places that lack the resources and possibilities to adapt to a warmer world.

If we don't keep pushing for the most ambitious science-based targets, those with vested interests in the status quo will exploit our fatalism. Following a massively profitable year, owing to Russia's war in Ukraine, BP recently signaled that it will divert much of its intended investments in decarbonisation toward oil and gas.

The best science we have tells us that 1.5°C is still feasible, and it tells us how to get there.

Carl-Friedrich Schleussner is Head of Climate Science at Climate Analytics. Bill Hare is a founder and CEO of Climate Analytics. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Carl-Friedrich Schleussner & Bill Hare

THE BEST SCIENCE WE HAVE TELLS US THAT 1.5°C IS STILL FEASIBLE, AND IT TELLS US HOW TO GET THERE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Temporary truce

Sir, The Congress high command is said to have worked out a temporary truce between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and party leader Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan. The splendid Karnataka win is a real shot in the arm for Congress. Kharge reportedly advised Gehlot-Pilot duo to emulate Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar who buried the hatchet before the all important Karnataka elections. However, it has to be noted that the two Karnataka stalwarts neither washed dirty linen in public nor have they ever spoken lightly about the Congress leaders. It is doubtful whether the youthful Pilot will mind his own business unless he is offered something concrete leading to the state polls in December. Much persuasion and sober advice is the need of the hour, and Kharge has the knack of infusing sanity among warring leaders though the last word has not yet been spoken on the Gehlot-Pilot rivalry. **Ganapathi Bhat**, AKOLA

Plastic menace

Sir, Plastic pollution has become a global crisis, with over 400 million tonnes of plastic being produced annually, half of which is single-use. Shockingly, less than 10% of plastic is recycled, leading to an estimated 19-23 million tonnes ending up in our lakes, rivers, and oceans. This poses a severe threat to our planet as it fills landfills, leaches into the ocean, and emits toxic smoke when incinerated. World Environment Day, 2023 focuses on the urgent need to address plastic pollution through the campaign 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. The consequences of plastic pollution are significant. Microplastics, the fragmented remnants of larger plastics, have infiltrated our ecosystems, accumulating in the bodies of marine organisms and entering the human food chain. The long-term impact on human health is not fully understood, but evidence of potential harm caused by plastics and associated chemicals is growing. Our excessive reliance on single-use plastic products exacerbates the issue. While plastic has beneficial uses, our overconsumption and disposal practices have severe environmental, societal, economic, and public health consequences. Shockingly, one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute globally, and approximately five trillion plastic bags are used annually. Half of all plastic produced is designed for single-use purposes, leading to immediate disposal after a short lifespan. To address this issue, we must reduce our reliance on single-use plastics, promote recycling and proper waste management, and foster a global shift in consumer behaviour towards more sustainable alternatives. **Krishna Kumar Vepakomma**, HYDERABAD



Holding the G20 event in Kashmir will not benefit tourism in the Valley till India and Pakistan resolve the 'future' of the Union Territory through dialogue
FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

AUSTIN ARRIVES

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin arrived in India Sunday on a two-day visit to explore ways to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, especially in areas of transfer of critical technologies for co-development of military hardware



of the day quote

I thank the armed forces, NDRF, ODRF, local administration, people and volunteers for taking care of the rescue and relief operations in Odisha

ADHIR NANJAN CHOWDHURY | CONGRESS LEADER

The time-tested partnership between India and the Maldives is poised to scale new heights

V MURALEEDHARAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Food processing industry will be a focus area after the (Assembly) polls

K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

Why was CAG report ignored, asks Oppn

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 4: The Congress demanded the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw over the Odisha rail tragedy and attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil and AICC's publicity and media department head Pawan Khera alleged that it was a "man-made devastation caused by utter negligence, serious lapses in the system, incompetence, and a narcissistic sense of know-it-all attitude of the Modi government".

The Opposition party also said that Modi should accept part of the responsibility for the "mess" that it alleged that his government has inflicted on the Indian Railways and the people. "Unequivocally and unambiguously, we demand the resignation of the Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Nothing short of it," Khera said.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Kharge posed questions to the Modi government and alleged that "PR gimmicks" have made the working system of the dispensation "hollow". The Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 323rd report criticised the Railways for the "disregard" shown by the Railway Board towards the recommendations of the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS), Kharge said.

"According to Comptroller and Auditor General, 79 per cent of funding was reduced in Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) when ₹20,000 crore was to be made available every year. Why has there been a huge decline in the amount of track renewal works?" the Congress chief said.

The NCP also asked why the



Mamata questions official death toll

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Sunday questioned the death figures given by the Ministry of Railways in the triple train crash in Odisha's Balasore, stating that 61 people from her state were dead and 182 were still missing. Banerjee asked questions on whether Vande Bharat engines were up to the mark. "If from one state, 182 are missing and 61 are confirmed dead, then where would the figures stand?" she asked, addressing a press conference at the state secretariat, Nabanna. At least 275 people were killed and 1,175 injured in the triple train accident in Balasore, according to officials. Asserting that the BJP forced her to speak out despite this being a very sad situation, she said, "It was being stated by some sections that so many people died during my tenure and that of Nitish Kumar or Lalu Prasad Yadav." Banerjee said the new signal system and anti-collision device were introduced during her tenure as the railway minister. "The name Vande Bharat is good, but you have seen what happened that day when a tree branch fell on it," she said, about a mishap the Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat suffered on the second day after its inauguration.

measures suggested in the 2022 Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report to prevent train disasters were not implemented by the Centre. The party also alleged that CAG report stated that train accidents were waiting to happen due to several shortcomings, but the railway ministry and the minister failed to take this warning seriously.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

spokesperson Clyde Crasto asked if Vaishnaw had read the CAG report. If he did, then why was it not taken seriously and why were the suggestions of the CAG not put into implementation immediately? he sought to know. Is this not enough reason for Ashwini Vaishnaw to tender his resignation," Crasto asked. The TMC, CPI and RJD have also demanded the railway minister's resignation.

Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 4: Noted actor Sulochana Latkar will be cremated with state honours, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said Sunday as condolences poured in from various sections.

The well-known actor of Marathi and Hindi cinema died due to a prolonged illness at a hospital in Mumbai at the age of 94 years. In his condolence message, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar said in Sulochana's death the film industry had lost an artist who exuded strength and innocence.

CM Shinde said the film industry had lost a motherly figure, adding that she had good relations with families in both Hindi and Marathi film industries.

Her last rites will be held at 5 pm Monday at Shivaji Park crematorium in Dadar. Some of Latkar's notable films are "Sasurvas", "Vahinichya Bangdya", and "Dhakti Jau" in Marathi and "Aaye Din Bahar Ke", "Gora Aur Kala", "Devar", "Talaash", and "Azaad", in Hindi.



In Bollywood, the actor largely played on-screen mother to lead stars of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s including Sunil Dutt, Dev Anand, Rajesh Khanna, Dilip Kumar, and Amitabh Bachchan.

She featured in Hindi blockbuster hits such as "Heera", "Reshma Aur Shera", "Jaani Dushman", "Jab Pyar Kisise Hota Hai", "Jhonny Mera Naam", "Kati Patang", "Mere Jeevan Saathi", "Prem Nagar", and "Bhola Bhala". Latkar was honoured with Padma Shri in 1999.

Hindu litigant to withdraw from Gyanvapi cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP), June 4: One of the main litigants from the Hindu side Jitendra Singh Visen has announced that he and his family are withdrawing from all cases related to the Gyanvapi issue due to alleged "harassment".

His lawyer Shivam Gaur had earlier also withdrawn from the cases. "I and my family (wife Kiran Singh and niece Rakhi Singh) are withdrawing from all Gyanvapi-related cases that we had filed in the interest of the country and religion in various courts,"

Visen, who heads the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, said in a statement here Saturday.

He alleged that they were facing harassment from various quarters including from the Hindu side and felt humiliated. "In such a situation, due to limited strength and resources, I cannot fight this battle for 'dharma' anymore and that's why I am leaving this."

"Perhaps the biggest mistake I made in my life was by starting this 'dharma yudh'. This society is only with those who mislead by playing gimmicks in the name of religion," he said.

Visen's lawyer Gaur, who had left the case earlier, in a separate statement said that due to a communication gap with plaintiffs, he was withdrawing from the Gyanvapi case, which he is contesting from 2021, and Krishna Jannabhoomi case, which he took up in 2022.



He said that he did not get any fee after May 2022 for contesting these cases. Five women plaintiffs, including Visen's niece Rakhi Singh, had filed the original Shringar Gauri suit in August 2021 seeking permission for daily worship of Goddess Shringar Gauri and other deities in the Gyanvapi mosque compound.

However, Rakhi parted ways with the other women and differences appeared between Visen and the lawyers of the four other plaintiffs, including Hari Shankar Jain and Vishnu Shankar Jain, in May 2022.

Visen had then announced his resignation as the national convener and national general secretary in the Hind Samrajya Party run by the Jain duo. He is involved in litigation related to various high-profile matters like Gyanvapi mosque, Idgah mosque in Mathura and the Taj Mahal. Other cases filed by Visen include seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims into Gyanvapi premises.

SHORT TAKES

5 killed, 1 injured

Chandrapur: Five persons were killed and a girl was seriously injured after the car they were travelling in collided with a passenger bus in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra Sunday, police said. The accident took place at Kanpa village under Nagbhid police station limits, approximately 115 km from the district headquarters, around 4 pm, they said. "Six persons were travelling in a car from Nagpur to Nagbhid when their vehicle rammed into a passenger bus coming from the opposite direction. The impact of the collision was so severe that four occupants of the car died on the spot and their bodies had to be extricated by cutting through its mangled remains," a police official said.

Boy attacked

Hyderabad: A 10-year-old boy suffered injuries after a stray dog attacked him when he was playing in front of his house at Suraram area here Sunday, civic officials said. The incident which happened in the evening was caught on CCTV camera. The boy has been taken to a hospital while the dog that bit him was caught, they said adding the child suffered injuries including on his hands. An official said the 10-year-old was playing in front of his house when the dog, which was loitering in the locality, suddenly turned towards him.

Three injured

Indore: Three persons were stabbed and injured in a brawl that broke out during a wedding procession in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said Sunday. The incident took place in Palasiya area when a wedding procession was passing from Clerk Colony square to Badi Gwaltoli area on Saturday night, Palasiya police station in-charge Sanjay Bais said. The procession was passing through Chitnis community hall when the accused identified as Keshav Silawat, Abhishek Dhiman and Lucky Borasi demanded money from the three victims to buy liquor, but they refused, he said.

Two women killed

Khargone: At least two tribal women were killed Sunday after a mound of clay fell on them while digging amid gusty winds in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh and as many others were rescued, police said. The incident occurred when at least six women and children were digging the clay out of a quarry at Chhoti Bhadwali village, located about 25 km from the Khargone district headquarters, for building kuccha houses. "Sonu Bai and Bali Bai were killed in the clay mine collapse due to squall, while two other women were rescued by villagers after the children informed them about the incident," a police inspector said.

Girl who fell into borewell dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jamnagar, June 4: A 2-year-old girl, who slipped into a narrow borewell in Gujarat's Jamnagar district and got stuck at a depth of 20-feet, has died despite hectic rescue efforts by multiple agencies for 19 hours, an official said Sunday.

The toddler, belonging to a tribal family working as labourers on a farm at Tamachan village, some 40 km from Jamnagar city, fell into the nearly 200-feet-deep borewell in an agricultural field while playing at around 9.30 am on Saturday.

A massive operation involving the Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local fire personnel was launched to rescue the girl. She was brought out at around 5:45 am Sunday and declared dead, Jamnagar taluka development officer N A Sarvaiya said.

Earlier, as soon as the local administration got information about the incident, it launched a rescue operation involving fire department personnel at around 11 am on Saturday, Sarvaiya said. Later, a team of Army personnel from Jamnagar and a NDRF team from Vadodara also joined the operation, he said.

"The rescue operation involv-

ing the Army and NDRF personnel went on for the entire night. The borewell was filled with water, and a private borewell robot was also used in the rescue operation," the official said.

"Water was drained and a parallel hole was dug as part of the rescue effort. Finally, the girl was brought out at around 5.45 am on Sunday and was declared dead," he said. With the latest incident, the dangers posed by open and abandoned borewells have come to the fore again.

In July 2022, a 12-year-old girl fell into a borewell at a village in Gujarat's Surendranagar district and got stuck at a depth of 60 feet, but was rescued nearly five hours later.

On June 9 last year, a two-year-old boy fell into a borewell at a farm in Surendranagar, following which a team of the Army, fire brigade, police and health officials rushed to the spot and rescued him.

In 2009, the Supreme Court issued guidelines for preventing fatal accidents of children falling into abandoned borewells. The revised guidelines issued by the court in 2010 included setting up barbed wire fencing around the well during construction, using steel plate covers fixed with bolts over the well assembly and filling up of borewells from the bottom to the ground level.



A man performs an acrobatic flip at the Marina beach in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

Bridge collapses in Bihar; govt says it was defective

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khagaria/Bhagalpur, June 4: An under-construction bridge over the Ganga river collapsed in Bihar Sunday, portions of which were deliberately destroyed in a planned fashion under expert advice as it had design flaws, claimed state government officials.

The bridge was supposed to connect Khagaria district with Bhagalpur. Images of the mishap

that took place in Khagaria evoked immediate criticisms from the opposition, prompting Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and Additional Chief Secretary of Road Construction Department, Pratyay Amrit, to hold a hurried press conference.

"It may be recalled that a portion of this bridge had collapsed on April 30 last year. We had, thereafter, approached IIT-Roorkee, which is esteemed for its expertise in con-

struction matters, to conduct a study it is yet to come up with a final report but experts who had studied the structure had informed us that there were serious defects," Yadav said at the press conference.

Amrit, who took over, added, "It was decided that we must not take any chance and wait for a final report. So we went ahead with pulling down parts of the bridge. Today's incident was a part of such a preventive exercise".

"Once the final report comes, which is expected shortly, the state government would contemplate action like lodging of FIR and black-listing of the company which was awarded the contract," he said. The bridge was said to have involved an estimated cost of ₹1,700 crore.

As images of the collapsing portion were beamed on media outlets, state BJP president reacted strongly and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

U'khand temples ban entry of devotees in 'indecent' clothes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Haridwar (Uttarakhand), June 4: Temple authorities in Uttarakhand's Haridwar, Rishikesh and Dehradun districts have imposed a ban on the entry of devotees not wearing appropriate clothing.

Mahant Ravindra Puri, secretary of the Mahanirvani Panchayati Akhara, Sunday said a formal ban has been imposed on the entry of "scantily-clad men and women" into the Daksh Prajapati Mandir (Haridwar), Tapkeshwar Mahadev Mandir (Dehradun) and the

Neelkanth Mahadev Mandir (Rishikesh).

"Only women who have their bodies covered up to 80 per cent can enter these temples," Puri, who is also president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, said. The ban comes into effect immediately at these temples affiliated to the Mahanirvani Panchayati Akhara, he said.

Mahanirvani Panchayati Akhara consists of the Dashnam Naga seers. Puri said the ban will soon be extended to akhara-affiliated temples across the country. Asked about the necessity to



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

impose the ban, Puri said, "Sometimes people entering the temples are so skimpily dressed that one feels ashamed to even look at them." "The Daksheshwar Mahadev Mandir - also known as the Daksh Prajapati Mandir - at Kankhal in Haridwar is considered the home of Lord Shiva's in-laws. People from all over the world visit the temple. "Every Monday, the temple receives a stream of devotees. Today's youths come to the temple wearing clothes that reflect their total disregard for its sanctity," Puri said.

He further said that these clothing "hurts the religious sentiments

of the devout" who often come to the temple committee to lodge complaints. The ban follows repeated complaints, he said, and warned that those who violate the ban will be dealt with sternly.

The imposition of the ban has also found support among seers in Haridwar. "The sanctity of the temples must be maintained and people inside their precincts should conduct themselves accordingly. The ban is in accordance with Sanatan Dharma," Katha Vyas (professional narrator of mythological stories) Madhusudan Shastri said.

CAUSE OF CONCERN

Pak going all out to radicalise Valley's youth

PAK USING SOCIAL MEDIA, LOCAL INFLUENCERS, NARCOTICS TO RADICALISE KASHMIRI YOUTH: ARMY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 4: Pakistan is using a mix of social media, local influencers and narcotics to radicalise the Kashmir youth to pick up the gun but Army has launched various people-friendly initiatives to counter the propaganda of the inimical elements, a senior army officer has said.

General Officer Commanding of Army's 15 Corps Lieutenant General ADS Aujla said the attempts from across the Line of Control (LoC) to push narcotics was a cause of concern as it was destroying the future generation of Kashmir.

"Social media plays a very important role in this (radicalisation) and that is where the western adversary invests very heavily and that is where the narratives are built, the themes are built...Which then are let loose in the environment and caught out by the youngsters here," Lt Gen Aujla told PTI in an interview last week.

The officer, who has spent considerable part of his career in Jammu and Kashmir, said besides social media, the local cadres of Jamaat-e-Islami also play a major role in the indoctrination of the youth.

"The local Jamaatis, they also play the major role in radicalising the youngsters. So, a combination of both of these gives them (youths) this high of falling on a wrongful path or joining a tanzim or picking the weapon and doing something wrong," he added.

Lt Gen Aujla said the youth of Kashmir are otherwise very fo-



It is just that within a large society, there are certain inimical elements who do prey upon certain individuals who are very vulnerable because of either education or the condition at home or because of the peer pressure. It is primarily the social media, it is the Jamaatis who are there, and to a certain extent the peer group and a little bit about the narcotics which gets them on doing certain wrongs

LT GEN ADS AUJLA | GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING OF ARMY'S 15 CORPS

cluded and brilliant minds.

Asked if the neighbouring country was using drones to deliver weapons and narcotics into Kashmir, the officer said terrain of the LoC in the valley makes it a difficult task.

"The geography actually does not permit them to use this technology or equipment in this place. So, from that point, I think, we are decently immune. But, I cannot say for sure that they cannot be used. There are certain places where (they can), but we are pretty robust on ground to take care of any

such misadventure by the enemy in this area," he said.

Lt Gen Aujla said with the type of pressure that is being mounted by the investigating agencies like the NIA and the SIA on terror financing networks, the narcotics smuggling has become the source to finance the nefarious deeds on inimical elements.

"From where it was and where it is now, we have put a little bit of check on that, the lid has been put. The agencies and the administration are pretty sensitive to it and many a methods, many a meas-

ures have been put in place to ensure that this particular trend is controlled and captured at the earliest," he added.

The GoC said the narcotics were "ruining the system and the society".

"As far as Kashmir is concerned, a lot of youngsters are getting into this kind of a business, both as carriers and in the consumption part as well. That is where some money comes back which is used by the tanzims to fund their designs," he said.

OPERATION SADBHAVNA

Lt Gen Aujla said 'Operation Sadbhavna' has been a going on with the focus of the army on three major facets.

"The first is education where we put a lot of impetus, a lot of focus is there to enhance the educational reforms to give them top-notch education in whatever way is possible. That is where 28 Army goodwill schools are presently running in the Kashmir valley which is a huge number. It constitutes 11,000 students and if you add the staff, it comes to about 15,000. So, that is the type of families that we are associated with for a long period of time," he said.

The officer said the other aspect where the Army has invested very heavily is for deradicalisation part is the 'Sahi Rasta' (Right Path) programme where the people on the brink of joining terror ranks are brought back to the mainstream.

Lt Gen Aujla said the third aspect is narcotics-related where addicts are given medical help and counselling.

UP govt launches 'Elder Line' to give shelter to elderly homeless

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 4: The Uttar Pradesh social welfare department has come up with an 'Elder Line' 14567 service to rescue aged destitute and help them find shelter in old age homes.

The initiative is a brain child of Minister of state (Independent Charge) for Social Welfare Asim Arun, who had earlier headed the emergency helpline 112 as an Additional Director General.

An MLA from Kannauj constituency, Asim Arun told PTI said the destitute elderly to old age homes and the hotline became active earlier in the week.

Pavan Kumar, the Director of UP Social welfare department, told PTI that at present there are 75 old age homes in the state with one in each district.

He said at present there are 6,053 inmates in these homes, both male and female, who are spending the twilight years of their life with dignity. "The inmates are provided food, health facilities and entertainment facilities free of cost."

There are 118 inmates, in Bareilly, the highest, and 32 inmates in Etah district, Kumar said.

He said a doctor from the office of the Chief Medical Officer does a health check-up of inmates once in 15 days. An ambulance is also attached to every old age home for emergency needs, he added.

"Recently a group of 20 elders from Meerut old age home had gone to visit Akshardham temple in Delhi. A bus was arranged for them, and they returned from Delhi



If you find such destitute elderly persons on a road side, bus station, railway station or any similar place, who should be in an old age home, then you can share that information with elder line 14567. The department's team will reach the spot, and bring the elderly to an old age home with full respect

ASIM ARUN | MLA, KANNAUJ

after having a picnic following the visit to the temple," he said.

Arun said that the state government has revised the breakfast allowance from ₹75 to ₹114 per day for the elderly people living in old age homes.

In addition, the inmates get ₹2,500 each once in a year for new clothes, ₹200 per month for additional medicines, and ₹150 for entertainment, he said.

"Since the start of the helpline this week, 55 elderly have been rescued from roadside, bus stations, railway stations and other similar places. Of these, eight are from Mirzapur, five from Kushinagar, and the rest are from other districts," the lawmaker said.

A veteran of managing 112 helpline, Arun said he doesn't shy from leveraging his old contacts in

police to track the destitute and use their staff.

He said at present, around 56 lakh senior citizens in the state are getting a monthly pension of ₹1,000 under the 'Rashtriya Vridhavastha Pension' directly in their accounts.

The social welfare department is going to link the over 6,000 elderly people living in old age homes to this scheme, so that they could get some extra pocket money, Arun said.

Alok Rai, the manager of an elderly home in Kaushambi district, told PTI, "In our elder home, there are around 66 elderly people. We are fulfilling all the needs of these elderly people. The social welfare department also takes up cases pertaining to family disputes of the elderly citizens in various courts."

Bhaderwah's Purple Revolution inspires states

Known as 'Chhota Kashmir', Bhaderwah town is known as the Lavender Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, which is exporting Purple Revolution to other states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhaderwah, June 4: Once known as a terror hotspot, Bhaderwah, a quaint town has emerged as Jammu and Kashmir's 'Lavender Valley' and inspiring states as far as Meghalaya and Gujarat to embrace the Purple Revolution.

Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh, a local Lok Sabha member, said neighbouring states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand too have evinced interest in growing the lavender crop, which has helped farmers earn a quick buck.

"Chief Ministers of Himachal



Pradesh and Uttarakhand reached out to us to know how to grow lavender as the states have similar climatic conditions," Singh told PTI here.

Singh inaugurated the second edition of the Lavender Festival here which helps farmers link up with businesses and explore markets for their produce.

About 2,500 farmers in this hilly town have given up their age-old tradition of growing maize to embrace the profitable lavender farming.

"We have planted lavender in six villages of Meghalaya and plan

to expand it to 20 other villages soon," Augustus Shemphang Suting, Deputy Project Director, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency told PTI.

Singh said states such as Gujarat were also keen to explore whether lavender can be grown in some parts of the state.

Lavender was introduced to the temperate regions of the Jammu division by the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) under the CSIR-Aroma Mission in 2018.

Lavender oil which fetches ₹10,000 a litre for farmers here has changed lives in this town and sur-

rounding areas.

"We had to struggle to find land to cultivate lavender when we launched the mission in 2018. We managed to get 600 sqmtrs of land with great difficulty, now lavender is grown on 6,000 hectares of land in the region," Singh said.

Known as 'Chhota Kashmir', Singh prefers to call this town as the Lavender Valley of the region, which is exporting purple revolution to other states.

The maize farmers in the region were troubled with monkey attacks on their crops, but they don't target lavender crops which has come as a boon.

Singh, who represents Udhampur parliamentary constituency which also covers Doda, said things have changed for the good as new generation and entrepreneurs are happily working in lavender fields, which not only provide them an opportunity to increase their income by manifold but they are also generating employment for others.

Mega nursery near Pak border all set to cater to local fruit growers

Local farmers will now be able to get plants of various species from the nursery at lower costs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 4: Ahead of monsoon, a mega nursery of fruit plants set up by the Jammu and Kashmir horticulture department near the India-Pakistan border fence is all set to provide saplings of guava, mango, litchi and other fruits to the local farmers from next month.

The nursery spread over 100 acres in the Chakroi area of RS Pura was inaugurated in January by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"It was set up in a record period of one and a half years and was inaugurated in January by the lieutenant governor. We have sown 12,000 mother plants," district level subject specialist at the nursery Sandeep Kumar Sharma told PTI.

According to locals, the border belt has witnessed a massive transformation with majority of plants in the nursery have grown 4 to 5 feet.

"It is the biggest nursery of Jammu and Kashmir for sub-tropical plants. The capacity of this nursery is to produce 5 lakh saplings and we hope to add more to the existing capacity," Sharma said.

The nursery has so far produced



over one lakh root stocks which will be transformed into high-quality fruit plants.

The irrigation of thousands of plants in the greenhouse is being done through a computerised system using boom irrigation, drip irrigation and shower watering techniques and the entire system is managed through artificial intelligence.

All the citrus fruit plants that were earlier brought from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will be produced locally. This will also help increase the income of local fruit growers.

Along with Ram Temple, Ayodhya gears up for a facelift

AFTER THE TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION, AYODHYA IS LIKELY TO ATTRACT DEVOTEES AND TOURISTS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD AND THE FOCUS IS BEING GIVEN ON IMPROVING THE CONNECTIVITY TO THE CITY -- THROUGH AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ayodhya, June 4: The Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport coming up in Ayodhya is being designed to give wings to the holy city.

The construction is in full swing. The first terminal with a capacity of 300 passengers will be operational soon, while the remaining three terminals will be fully completed in 2025.

When people arrive in Ayodhya in the coming months, they will get a glimpse of the grand Ram temple before they actually visit the shrine.

To make travel easy, the Ayodhya district administration has started demolishing shops and houses at Naya Ghat for the Ram Path stretch widening project and compensation has also been given to the people.

Along with the airport, the surrounding area will also be developed. The competition to build



The construction of Ram temple is a phase for Ayodhya. However, Ayodhya should emerge as the biggest heritage of culture and religion in the world. Ayodhya should be identified as the spiritual capital

GIRISH PATI TRIPATHI | MAYOR, AYODHYA

guest houses and stay homes has already started in the surrounding areas. Many taxi stands and shops will also be established near the airport complex.

The Ayodhya airport will be a replica of the Ram temple.

The design of the airport will reflect the idea and spirit of the Ram Mandir and the roof of the terminal is proposed to be adorned

with shikharas of varying heights to add a sense of grandeur to the structure. The terminal will also have decorative columns pictorially displaying important events from the Ramayana.

Apart from this, pink sandstone stones of Rajasthan Banshi Paharpur, which are used in the Ram temple, have been used in the construction of the airport which is 11 kms from the Janmabhoomi.

The terminal is being built in such a way that rain water can be

World-class bus terminus soon

A world-class bus terminus will come up in this holy city of Uttar Pradesh soon to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims and tourists, providing them a feasible option of commuting. With the construction of Ram Temple nearing its completion, the Uttar Pradesh government has been planning to provide for a hassle-free transportation option to the people, and the bus terminus along with the upcoming airport is a part of that. The Uttar Pradesh government has recently approved the ₹400 crore bus terminus project. The government has also given nod to the construction of a four-lane flyover on the Ayodhya-Sultanpur road. The bus terminus would be constructed on the PPP model and it would boast of modern facilities available in airports. A third tender for the project is likely to be floated soon. The upcoming bus terminus would have a cinema hall, a shopping complex, hotel, bank, ATM,

modern toilets, medical store, post office, police booths and tourist assistance centres. Besides, the bus terminus would also accommodate electronic buses for which charging points would be installed. Also, e-rickshaws and other local means of transport are not allowed to run on the highway, and due to that, the passengers face a lot of difficulties in reaching here. The authorities are currently trying to ease the commuting issues. The construction of the airport is also nearing completion, and according to sources, in a few months' time, people would be able to fly to and from the major cities. The railway station has been constructed in accordance with the culture of Ayodhya. Also, direct trains from the south Indian states will be operated to Ayodhya. An official said that over-bridges are being built on almost all the railway crossings, adding "in two years, Ayodhya will be having a new appearance".

harvested and maximum work can be accomplished through solar energy. Its estimated cost is about ₹2.24 billion.

The new terminal building with a total area of 6,000 sq.m. is being designed to serve 300 passengers daily during the peak hours with an annual handling capacity of six lakh passengers.

The civil aviation department of Uttar Pradesh and the Airport

Authority of India have started the work of expanding this international airport in about 317 acres of land for the first phase. The construction is being done in three phases.

The first phase includes the construction of a 6,000 square meter terminal building as well as expansion of the runway to a length of 2,200 meters and a width of 45 meters.

national

of the day quote

The law of the land is quite clear that there should be zero tolerance on sexual harassment. As the author of the world's best and ideal law of POCSO, after the Nirbhaya tragedy, I do not understand how the accused, including BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh, were not arrested even after registration of a second FIR

M VEERAPPA MOLLY | CONGRESS LEADER

More than 24 hours have passed since the horrific train accident in Balasore, Odisha. Shouldn't the accountability of the people sitting on top positions be fixed on human and moral grounds?

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

Ensure people with a criminal background do not get work contracts

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

SHORT TAKES

Tiger dies

Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh): After a reported encounter with local people, a tigress died allegedly due to previous injuries in the Dudhwa buffer zone. The tigress first entered a house in the Rampur Dhakaiya village of Mailani range Saturday. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) field director B. Prabhakar said a rapid response team (RRT) was rushed to the village, which attempted to drive the tigress back into the forest. However, the big cat, which looked weak and feeble, charged on the RRT's vehicle damaging its window panes and hid in the nearby bushes, Prabhakar added.

Boy electrocuted

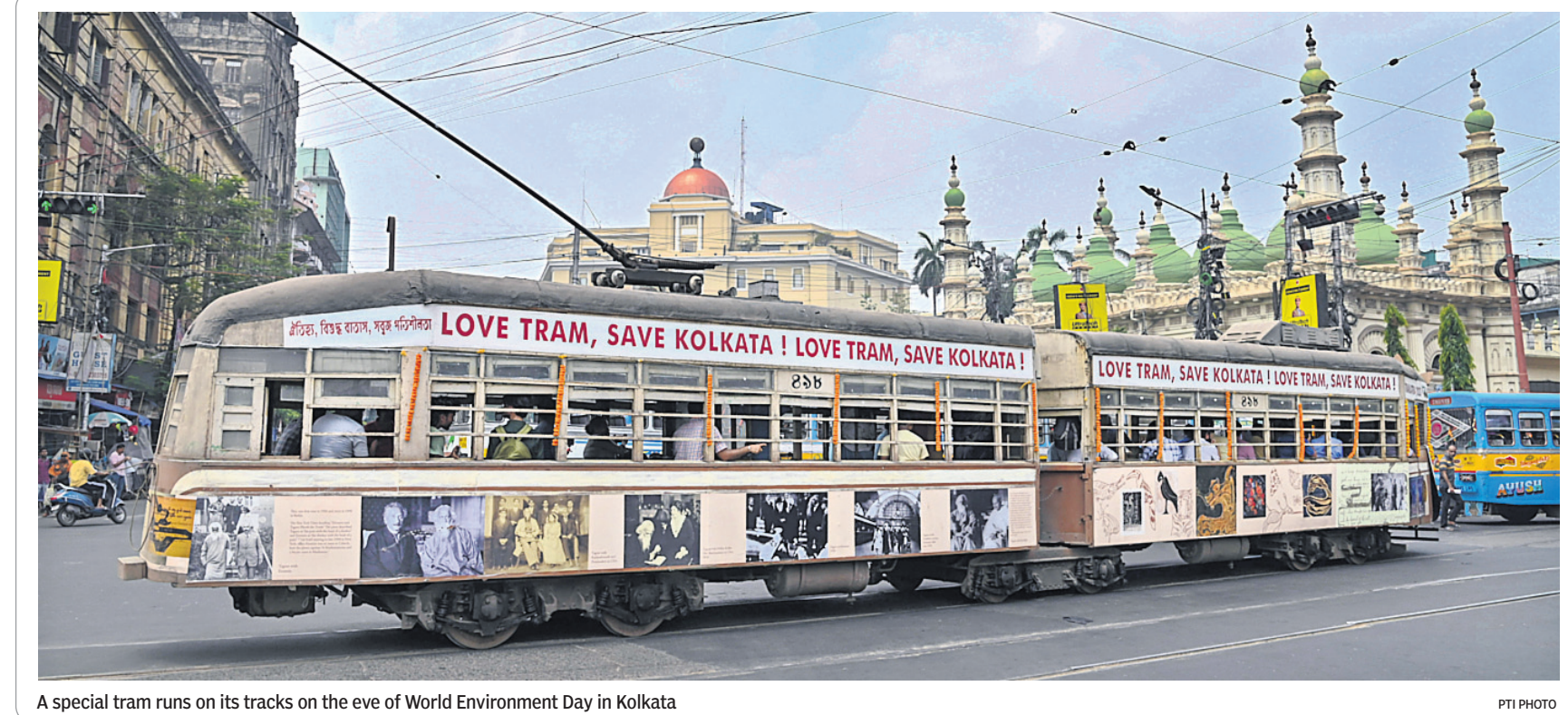
Patna: While making video reels on a goods train, a minor boy from Bihar's Sitamarhi district came in contact with the high tension overhead electric wire and sustained serious burn injuries, an official of the GRP said. The victim was identified as Mohammad Riaz, a native of Mensol locality in Sitamarhi district, and the incident happened on Saturday. He was on his way to school in the morning hours with his friends. A statement to GRP said a group of students were on the way to school and one of them climbed on the goods train and started making reels. He came in contact with the wire and sustained burn injuries.

Two missing

Thiruvananthapuram: Two children, Mohammed Adil (17) and Adil Hassan (16) were missing in the Kozhikode beach in Kerala while they were playing football on a Sunday morning. A team of expert divers, local fishermen and Kozhikode police were engaged in the search operation for the two children. Kozhikode, West Hill police Circle Inspector Biju said, "The water in this sea, according to the expert divers, is having an undercurrent. It is almost an hour after the children are missing in the sea and the team is on the lookout for them."

Man caught stealing in Delhi

New Delhi: A man, who stole Delhi Metro goods (iron pipes) kept on Mehrauli-Badarpur road, was caught by a security manager Sunday, an official said. The accused was identified as Neeraj (33), a resident of Tigr Extension, while the associate managed to flee away from the spot. A police control room call was received Sunday that two persons were caught with stolen iron pipes on Mehrauli-Badarpur Road near RPS Colony MB Road following which a police team was dispatched to the spot.



A special tram runs on its tracks on the eve of World Environment Day in Kolkata

3-member panel to probe Manipur violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: The Centre Sunday set up a Commission of Inquiry, headed by former chief justice of the Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba, to probe the recent series of violence in Manipur that claimed more than 80 lives.

According to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry, the commission will make inquiry with respect of the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur on May 3 and thereafter. It will probe the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relating to such violence; whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities/individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots.

The inquiry by the commission shall look into the complaints or allegations that may be made before it by any individual or association.

The commission shall submit its report to the central government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting.

Passenger detained for ruckus in train

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, June 4: A passenger on board the Avadh Assam Express was detained by a joint team of GRP and RPF at Hajipur railway station Saturday evening for creating ruckus in a drunken state. Saket Kumar, an inspector rank officer of Hajipur GRP said: "We received information about a person who was creating ruckus in New Tinsukia-Sirsa Avadh Assam Express train in AC coach. Accordingly, a joint team of GRP and RPF reached there and detained the accused after the train arrived at the platform number 3 of Hajipur Junction at 6 p.m. He was heavily drunk and not being able to stand on the feet."

"We have initiated action against him as liquor is banned in Bihar and he was creating ruckus inside the coach in front of women and children passengers," Kumar said. The alleged passenger has been identified as Kamal Kumar, a native of Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir. He was taken to the Sadar hospital for the medical examination where doctors confirmed alcohol in his body.

Meanwhile, the alleged passenger claimed that liquor is banned in Bihar but he had consumed liquor outside Bihar. Liquor consumption is legal in other states. He also claimed that he had not misbehaved with the fellow passengers.



Meitei community people of Manipur take part in a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Sunday

The inquiry by the commission shall look into the complaints or allegations that may be made before it by any individual or association

The commission shall submit its report to the central government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting

The commission, however, if it deems fit, can make interim reports to the central government before the said date. The other members of the commission are retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar. The home ministry notification said large-scale violence broke out in Manipur on May 3 and as a result of the violence, many residents of the state lost their lives and several others got seriously injured.

Plane with minister, 2 MLAs diverted

The Guwahati-Dibrugarh flight returned to Guwahati and made a precautionary landing as the pilot suspected a technical snag in the engine, IndiGo sources said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dibrugarh, June 4: A Dibrugarh-bound plane of the IndiGo was diverted to Guwahati Sunday morning after the pilot suspected a snag in the engine, officials said.

Over 150 passengers were travelling on flight 6E-2652, including Union MoS for Petroleum Rameswar Tel and two Assam BJP MLAs - Prasanta Phukan and Terash Gowala, they said. Tel said that 15-20 minutes before the land-



ing, it was announced that the flight was being diverted. "Initially we were frightened and sceptic as to why the flight was not able to land at the Dibrugarh airport. It was diverted to Guwahati. Then the pilot made the announcement that because of a technical snag in the engine, they need a longer runway to land," he said. "We were told to remain seated in the plane while they tried to fix

uncle and the then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had set up an SIT of state police to probe the murder while Jagan Mohan Reddy demanded a CBI probe. The scenario changed within a few months when Jagan became the Chief Minister. Instead of handing over the case to the CBI, he decided to set up SIT of state police to probe the murder. On March 11, 2020 the high court decided to send the case to the CBI. Strangely, the CBI moved at a snail's pace due to the political climate. After nearly three years, the CBI claims to have found that one of the four assailants of Vivekananda Reddy was present in the dead of night at the residence of YSR-CP Lok Sabha MP from Kadappa Y S Avinash Reddy. It was found that a whatsapp call was made to Jagan Mohan Reddy about the murder of his uncle by the Kadappa MP before informing the police. How

come the four assailants were present in the house of Kadappa MP and why the call was made to Jagan Reddy. Though the evidence is very thin, it is enough to give sleepless nights to Jagan Mohan Reddy as CBI wants custodial interrogation of Kadappa MP to unearth the murder mystery.

Kuru Kolumn

Politics over murder mystery

After blowing cold for several years, the CBI is suddenly blowing a hot whistle. It has found a political trail behind the murder of sitting Lok Sabha MP YS Vivekananda Reddy on March 15, 2019. The CBI has some traces of this murder with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y S Jaganmohan Reddy. Vivekananda Reddy was his

on May 29 for the institution of a judicial inquiry commission to look into the causes and associated factors of the crisis and the unfortunate incidents happened on May 3 and afterwards under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

On the recommendation of the government of Manipur, the central government is of the opinion that it is necessary to appoint a commission of inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into a definite matter of public importance, namely, incidents of violence in Manipur.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952), the central government hereby appoint a Commission of Inquiry..." the notification read. The headquarters of the commission will be in Imphal.

Manipur has been witnessing sporadic violence ever since ethnic clashes broke out on May 3. The death toll from clashes has gone up to over 80, officials said. The ethnic violence first broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Mehbooba issued passport after 3 yrs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 4: PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti has been issued a passport with 10-year validity, sources said here Sunday.

After a prolonged legal battle in the Delhi High Court, the passport was delivered to Mehbooba. Her travel document expired in 2019 and since then she had been seeking its renewal. It came barely two days ahead of a hearing in Jammu and Kashmir High Court where Mehbooba's daughter Iltija's plea challenging the decision of the passport office to give her a country-specific passport is to come up.

The passport given to Mehbooba, who was the last chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state before it was bifurcated in 2019, is valid from June 1, 2023, till May 31, 2033. The Delhi High Court in March this year had asked the passport authority to decide within three months on issuing a fresh travel document to the PDP chief.

"Considering that the matter is remanded back to the passport officer and the initial rejection was two years ago, let the passport officer concerned take a decision ex-

Autopsy reveals the brutality of murder

New Delhi: The autopsy report of the 16-year-old Sakshi, who was stabbed 34 times, kicked multiple times, and struck with a cemented stone six times by Mohammad Sahil Khan here in the Shahbad Dairy area on May 28, revealed that her skull was broken into pieces and due to multiple stabbing by knife, her intestines also came out of the body, a source said Sunday. According to sources, there were 16 deep wounds in Sakshi's body, with excessive bleeding leading to her death. "A total of 11 wounds were detected on her vital organs and that caused her death. Her left lung was punctured due to stabbing and her intestines were protruding from the body. There was a deep wound below the abdomen," claimed sources. In the bone-chilling CCTV footage which captured the crime, Sahil, who is wearing a blue t-shirt, can be seen stabbing the girl. Around seven to eight bystanders were also present when he stabbed her. A man wearing a dark red-coloured shirt attempts to intervene, but Sahil pushes him away.

In March 2021, Mehbooba and her mother were denied passports after the Jammu and Kashmir Police had cited an 'adverse report'

pediously and in any case within three months," Justice Prathiba M Singh had noted in the order in March this year.

The court's order had come on a petition by Mehbooba seeking a direction to the passport authorities to take an early decision on her appeal regarding the issuance of a new passport.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said in her plea that there was a considerable delay in issuing a new passport to her despite reminders. She said no decision was being taken on her appeal.

The Central government's counsel had informed the court that an order was passed on the appeal on March 2 and the matter has been sent to the passport officer in Jammu and Kashmir for reconsideration.

In February this year, Mehbooba had sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the issuance of the passport, saying she had been waiting for it for the past three years to take her 80-year-old mother on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

In March 2021, Mehbooba and her mother were denied passports after the Jammu and Kashmir Police had cited an "adverse report".

chatted with journo in free-wheeling discussions. A power-point presentation was also made to list Modi's nine year of achievements. Such interactions are also being held in all the state capitals and prominent cities. All Central ministers have been deputed to travel to these cities and hold press conferences during the next one month.

PM wants 80 LS seats in UP

With the Bahujan Samaj Party declaring to go alone in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, PM Modi has told the UP BJP leadership to work in tandem to win all 80 Lok Sabha seats. He wants Yogi Adityanath to make it possible. If the BJP can win all Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Bihar (39 out of 40) and in other states in 2019 Lok Sabha polls why

not 80 in UP. The BJP and its allies won 64 Lok Sabha seats as BSP-SP and Congress contested in alliance and won 16. But Mayawati has suddenly declared to go alone in 2024. It should help the BJP to capture all 80 Lok Sabha seats in 2024 parliamentary elections. With the ouster of Sunil Bansal and appointment of Dharampal Saini as general secretary in charge of BJP, it should make Yogi happy. Bansal and Yogi had strained relations and virtually not even on talking terms. In order to achieve this Herculean task, the BJP's strategists are contemplating to bring into its fold prominent leaders from BSP, SP and Congress in the months to come. Modi knows that the BJP may have to lose some seats in states like Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka etc. Therefore, he wants these losses to be covered in UP, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and even in Kerala and Tamil Nadu as well.

international



“ (North Korea) will continue to take proactive measures to exercise all the lawful rights of a sovereign state, including the one to a military reconnaissance satellite launch
KIM YO-JONG | MEMBER OF THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF NK

ASTRONAUTS RETURN HOME SAFELY

Three Chinese astronauts Sunday returned safely to Earth on board the Shenzhou-15 manned spaceship after completing their six-month mission to build China's space station. Shenzhou-15's return capsule carrying astronauts Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 6:33 am (Beijing Time)



of the day quote

This is no longer the India that was lumbering around at a relatively slow pace. When it comes to digital, I can assert with a great deal of confidence, that I see practices (and) efficiencies in India which I don't see even if I go to Europe and North America

S JAISHANKAR | EAM OF INDIA

The United States should ease off military deployments close to China in an act of "good faith" if high-level defence talks between the two superpowers are to resume

CUI TIANKAI | EX-AMBASSADOR OF CHINA TO US

The Czech government will try to meet its 2023 budget deficit target of 295 billion crowns (\$13.4 billion) although the gap almost expanded to that level already in May

PETR FIALA | PM OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

SHORT TAKES

China: 14 dead after mountain collapse

Chengdu: Fourteen people were confirmed dead and five others remained missing following a mountain collapse Sunday in Leshan City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, according to local publicity department. The collapse took place at around 6 a.m. in a forest farm in Yongsheng Township, Jinkouhe District of the city, Xinhua news agency reported. A rescue team of more than 180 people are still searching for the missing.

Nepal may tighten rules for climbing

Kathmandu: Weak climbers being led up Mount Everest by expedition operators with insufficient experience are causing problems, a veteran mountain guide said Sunday, after one of the deadliest climbing seasons in years on the world's highest mountain. At least 12 climbers died and five are missing and feared dead on the 8,849 metre (29,032 foot) Mount Everest during this year's main climbing season that has just ended, the deadliest since an earthquake triggered an avalanche that killed 18 people in 2015.

Imran's trial likely in military court

Islamabad: Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said the chances are that PTI Chairman Imran Khan could be tried in a military court in connection with his alleged involvement in the May 9 attacks on civil and military installations in different cities -- days after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah had hinted at that possibility too, a media outlet reported. The Defence Minister told The Express Tribune that the former premier could stand trial in a military court if evidence of his involvement in the May 9 violence surfaced in the coming days.

Navalny supporters hold demonstrations

Moscow: Alexei Navalny voiced hope for a better future in Russia as his supporters held pickets and demonstrations to mark the imprisoned opposition leader's 47th birthday Sunday. Navalny is serving a nine-year sentence for fraud and contempt of court, charges he says were trumped up to punish him for his work to expose official corruption and organising anti-Kremlin protests. He is facing a new trial on extremism charges that could keep him in prison for decades.

'500 KIDS KILLED IN WAR'

THE UNITED NATIONS SAYS THAT AROUND 1,000 OTHER UKRAINIAN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN WOUNDED, AND THOUSANDS OF OTHERS HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY DEPORTED TO RUSSIA

AGENCIES

Kyiv, June 4: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Russia's war, now in its 16th month, has killed at least 500 Ukrainian children.

Zelenskyy provided the number hours after rescue workers found the body of a 2-year-old girl who died in one of the latest Russian strikes.

The president said in a statement that "Russian weapons and hatred, which continue to take and destroy the lives of Ukrainian children every day", killed the hundreds who had perished since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine started February 24, 2022. "Many of them could have become famous scholars, artists, sports champions, contributing to Ukraine's history," he said. Zelenskyy said it was impossible to establish the exact number of children who were casualties due to the ongoing hostilities and because some areas are under Russian occupation.

"We must hold out and win this war!" the Ukrainian president said. "All of Ukraine, all our people, all our children, must be free from the Russian terror!" Rescuers found



Zelenskyy provided the number hours after rescue workers found the body of a 2-year-old girl who died in one of the latest Russian strikes

The latest Russian raids on Ukrainian cities sparked new concerns over civilian safety after officials announced that nearly a quarter of the 4,800 air raid shelters they inspected were locked or unfit for use

In Kyiv, 44 per cent of 1,078 shelters were found closed up tight or unusable, Minister for Strategic Industries Oleksandr Kamyshin said Sunday

the 2-year-old's body early Sunday while combing through the rubble of an apartment building in the suburbs of the central city of Dnipro.

The regional governor, Serhiy Lysak, said five children were among 22 people injured by Saturday's attack, which damaged two residential buildings. The Russians launched more strikes with drones and cruise missiles Sunday, targeting multiple areas of the country, including the capi-

tal, Kyiv. The Ukrainian air force said the country's air defences downed three of the five Shahed self-exploding drones and four of the six cruise missiles fired.

Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said two missiles struck a military air base in Kropyvnytskyi, a city in central Ukraine's Kyrovohrad province. He did not report what damage they caused.

The Russian military said it has conducted a series of strikes in recent days on Ukrainian air de-

fence batteries, air bases and troops depots. The long-range strikes come as Ukraine prepares for a long-expected counteroffensive in which it hopes to reclaim more ground. In what was seen as part of operations to facilitate the planned counterattack, Ukrainian forces maintained pressure on Russian forces in the eastern city of Bakhmut, which Moscow claimed control of last month after the war's longest and bloodiest battle.

Elsewhere, groups of Russians fighting alongside Ukrainian forces declared that they launched new attacks in recent days on Russia's Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine.

One of the groups, the Russian Volunteer Corps, released a video on Sunday showing a purported raid on the region.

Previous attacks in Belgorod, which prompted Russian authorities to evacuate thousands of local residents, were seen by some observers as part of Ukraine's efforts to distract Moscow and to stretch its forces ahead of the planned counteroffensive.

In Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, regional leader Sergei Aksenov reported a Ukrainian drone attack on the city of Dzhankoi early Sunday. He claimed that five of the attacking drones were shot down and four others jammed and were forced to land, adding that there were no casualties.

SUDAN FIGHTING

US, Saudi call for new ceasefire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, June 4: Saudi Arabia and the United States urged Sudan's warring parties Sunday to agree to and "effectively implement" a new cease-fire as fighting showed no signs of abating in the northeastern African nation.

Sudan descended into chaos after fighting broke out in mid-April between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo.

On May 21, both countries suc-



cessfully brokered a temporary cease-fire agreement to help with the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid to the war-torn country. Their efforts, however, were dealt a blow when the military announced Wednesday it would no longer participate in the cease-fire talks held in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah. Following the military's decision, the US and Saudi Arabia said they were suspending the talks "as a result of repeated serious violations of the short-term cease-fire".

President Joe Biden's administration imposed sanctions against key Sudanese defense companies run by the military and the RSF and people who "perpetuate violence" in Sudan.



FOR A CAUSE: People march during a protest against violence in Belgrade, Serbia. Tens of thousands of people rallied in Serbia's capital Saturday in protest of the government's handling of a crisis after two mass shootings in the Balkan country

TIANANMEN CRACKDOWN ANNIV Scores detained in Hong Kong

REUTERS

Hong Kong/Taipei, June 4: Hong Kong police searched and detained scores of people Sunday, including four arrested for "seditious" intent, as authorities tightened security for the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Restrictions in Hong Kong have stifled what were once the largest vigils marking the anniversary of the bloody crackdown by Chinese troops on pro-democracy demonstrators, leaving cities like Taipei, London, New York and Berlin to keep the memory of June 4 alive.

Near Victoria Park, the previous site of yearly vigils, hundreds of police conducted stop and search operations, and deployed

armoured vehicles and police vans. Hong Kong activists say such police action is part of a broader campaign by China to crush dissent in the city that was promised continued freedoms for 50 years under a "one country, two systems" model when Britain handed it back in 1997.

Security is significantly tighter across Hong Kong this year, with up to 6,000 police deployed, including riot and anti-terrorism officers, according to local media.

Senior officials have warned people to abide by the law, but have refused to clarify if such commemoration activities are illegal under a national security law China imposed on Hong Kong in 2020 after sometimes violent mass pro-democracy protests.

SUEZ CANAL Oil tanker breaks down, disrupts traffic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, June 4: A tanker transporting crude oil broke down in a single-lane part of Egypt's Suez Canal Sunday, briefly disrupting traffic in the global waterway, Egyptian authorities said.

The Malta-flagged Seavigour suffered a mechanical malfunction at the 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) mark of the canal, said George Safwat, a spokesperson for Egypt's Suez Canal Authority. The tanker was transiting the canal from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea.

In a phone interview with a local television station, Adm. Ossama Rabei, head of the Suez Canal Authority, said the tanker broke down in a single-lane part of the waterway, disrupting the transit of eight other vessels behind it.

China defends buzzing American warship in Taiwan Strait



AGENCIES

Singapore, June 4: China's defence minister defended sailing a warship across the path of an American destroyer and Canadian frigate transiting the Taiwan Strait, telling a gathering of some of the world's top defence officials in Singapore on Sunday that such so-called "freedom of navigation" patrols are a provocation to China.

In his first international public address since becoming defence minister in March, Gen.

Li Shangfu told the Shangri-La Dialogue that China doesn't have any problems with "innocent passage" but that "we must prevent attempts that try to use those freedom of navigation (patrols), that innocent passage, to exercise hegemony of navigation." US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told the same forum Saturday that Washington would not "flinch in the face of bullying or coercion" from China and would continue regularly sailing through and flying over the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea to emphasise they are international waters, countering Beijing's sweeping territorial claims.

That same day, as a US guided-missile destroyer and a Canadian frigate were intercepted by a Chinese warship as they transited the strait between the self-governed island of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, and mainland China.

The US has said a Chinese J-16 fighter jet late last month "performed an unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" while intercepting a US Air Force reconnaissance aircraft over the SCS

Those and previous incidents have raised concerns of a possible accident occurring that could lead to an escalation between the two nations at a time when tensions are already high

The Chinese vessel overtook the American ship and then veered across its bow at a distance of 150 yards (about 140 metres) in an "unsafe manner," according to the US Indo-Pacific Command. Additionally, the US has said a Chinese J-16 fighter jet late last month "performed an unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" while intercepting a US Air Force reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, flying directly in front of the plane's nose.

Those and previous incidents have raised concerns of a possible accident occurring that could lead to an escalation between the two nations at a time when tensions are already high.

Li suggested the US and its allies had created the danger, and should instead should focus on taking "good care of your own territorial airspace and waters." Li is under American sanctions that are part of a broad package of measures against Russia — but predate its invasion of Ukraine — that were imposed in 2018 over Li's involvement in China's purchase of combat aircraft and anti-aircraft missiles from Moscow.

The sanctions, which broadly prevent Li from doing business in the United States, do not prevent him from holding official talks, American defence officials have said. Still, he refused Austin's invitation to talk on the sidelines of the conference, though the two did shake hands before sitting down at opposite sides of the same table together as the forum opened Friday. The US has noted that since 2021 — well before Li became defence minister — China has declined or failed to respond to more than a dozen requests from the US Defence Department to talk with senior leaders, as well as multiple requests for standing dialogues and working-level engagements.

How chocolate could counter climate change

If the cocoa shells were disposed of as normal, the carbon inside the unused byproduct would be released into the atmosphere as it decomposed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Hamburg, Germany, June 4: At a red-brick factory in the German port city of Hamburg, cocoa bean shells go in one end, and out the other comes an amazing black powder with the potential to counter climate change.

The substance, dubbed biochar, is produced by heating the cocoa husks in an oxygen-free room to 600 degrees Celsius (1,112 Fahrenheit).

The process locks in greenhouse gases and the final product can be used as a fertiliser, or as an ingredient in the production of "green" concrete.

While the biochar industry is still in its infancy, the technology offers a novel way to remove car-

bon from the Earth's atmosphere, experts say.

According to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), biochar could potentially be used to capture 2.6 billion of the 40 billion tonnes of CO2 currently produced by humanity each year. But scaling up its use remains a challenge.

AMAZONIA

"We are reversing the carbon cycle," Peik Stenlund, CEO of Circular Carbon, told AFP at the biochar factory in Hamburg.

The plant, one of the largest in Europe, takes delivery of the used cocoa shells via a network of grey pipes from a neighbouring chocolate factory. The biochar traps the CO2 contained in the husks — in a



process that could be used for any other plant.

If the cocoa shells were disposed of as normal, the carbon inside the

unused byproduct would be released into the atmosphere as it decomposed. Instead, the carbon is sequestered in the biochar "for cen-

turies", according to David Houben, an environmental scientist at the UniLaSalle institute in France.

One tonne of biochar — or bio coal — can stock "the equivalent of 2.5 to three tonnes of CO2", Houben told AFP. Biochar was already used by indigenous populations in the Americas as a fertiliser before being rediscovered in the 20th century by scientists researching extremely feund soils in the Amazon basin.

The surprising substance's sponge-like structure boosts crops by increasing the absorption of water and nutrients by the soil. In Hamburg, the factory is wrapped in the faint smell of chocolate and warmed by the heat given off by the installation's pipework.

The final product is poured into

white sacks to be sold to local farmers in granule form. One of those farmers is Silvio Schmidt, 45, who grows potatoes near Bremen, west of Hamburg. Schmidt hopes the biochar will help "give more nutrients and water" to his sandy soils.

CARBON COST

The production process, called pyrolysis, also produces a certain volume of biogas, which is resold to the neighbouring factory. In all, 3,500 tonnes of biochar and "up to 20 megawatt hours" of gas are produced by the plant each year from 10,000 tonnes of cocoa shells. The production method nonetheless remains difficult to scale up to the level imagined by the IPCC.



Our PSUs are taking various efforts to make the coal mining a sustainable exercise. We are doing our bit for climate change issue. They are spending thousands of crores to meet this goal

PRALHAD JOSHI | COAL AND MINES MINISTER

RBI TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO: EXPERTS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will maintain the policy repo rate at 6.5 per cent during its upcoming June 8 announcement, considering the easing of retail inflation in April and the potential for further decline, indicating the effectiveness of previous policy rate actions, anticipate experts



of the day quote

Private sector investment is set to witness a significant increase, as capacity utilisation in several key sectors has already crossed 80 per cent and economic growth is estimated to be 6.7 per cent in the current financial year

R DINESH | PRESIDENT, CII

This is not the first time that an airline has failed in the country and it does I think underscore the industry structure that has prevailed has not been conducive for a healthy, vibrant, profitable industry

CAMPBELL WILSON | CEO AND MD, AIR INDIA

We are looking at maintaining leadership position in the fast growing sports utility vehicle segment in the current fiscal with demand remaining robust for its model range

MANOJ BHAT | CFO, MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA

Electric 2Ws tread towards dearer lane

Almost all electric two-wheeler companies have hiked prices of their electric models for sustainable operations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp has increased price of its electric scooter VIDA V1 Pro by around ₹6,000 in order to offset the impact of curtailed subsidy structure on electric two-wheelers coming into effect from June 1.

The company's flagship electric scooter VIDA V1 Pro will now be available at ₹1,45,900 including FAME II subsidy and portable charger. This is an increase of around ₹6,000 from the earlier pricing.

For electric two-wheelers (2Ws), the maximum subsidy cap, which

FAME II REVISION

Ola S1 Pro is now ₹15,000 costlier than before	TVS iQube's price rises between ₹17,000-₹22,000
Hero MotoCorp's VIDA V1 Pro price up by ₹6,000	Bajaj Chetak electric vehicle price surges by ₹22,000
	Ather Energy 450X rate increases around ₹8,000

was 40 per cent of the ex-factory price, has been reduced to 15 per cent by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

As per the industry sources, the FAME II revision has resulted in a subsidy reduction of around ₹32,000 per unit.

TVS Motor Company has stated that in order to propel the electri-

fication journey further in a sustainable manner after FAME II scheme revision, it has increased iQube's price between ₹17,000 and ₹22,000 depending on the variant. The iQube base and S trims were earlier priced at ₹1,06,384 and ₹1,16,886, respectively in Delhi.

Ather Energy said that following

Mcap of 7 of top-10 most-valued firms erodes by ₹65,656cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most-valued firms eroded by ₹65,656.36 crore last week, with Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit, amid a muted trend in domestic equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark gained 45.42 points or 0.07 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 34.75 points or 0.18 per cent.

While Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, ITC, Infosys and HDFC were the laggards, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India and Bharti Airtel witnessed addition in their market valuations.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries eroded by ₹34,910.54 crore to ₹116,60,923.11 crore.

ICICI Bank's valuation tumbled ₹9,355.65 crore to ₹6,55,197.93 crore and that of Infosys fell by ₹7,739.51 crore to ₹5,38,923.48 crore.

Bharti Airtel's mcap jumped ₹10,231.92 crore to ₹4,66,263.37 crore and that of State Bank of India climbed ₹1,204.82 crore to ₹5,24,053.21 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the number one rank, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

MAJOR TRADE SHIFT

Russian oil imports at new peak

For the eighth straight month, Russia continued to be the single largest supplier of crude oil and now holds highest market share in Indian oil basket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: India's import of cheap Russian oil scaled another record in May and is now more than the combined oil bought from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE and the US, industry data showed.

India took 1.96 million barrels a day from Russia in May, 15 per cent more than the previous high in April, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

Russia now makes up for nearly 42 per cent of all crude oil India imported in May. This is the highest share for an individual country in recent years.

The rise in Russian share came at the cost of traditional suppliers in the Middle East. Shipments from Saudi Arabia slipped to 560,000 tonnes - the lowest since February 2021, according to figures from the shipping analytics company.



Russian crude is likely to grow as much as they have room to back off spot crude purchases

SERENA HUANG | HEAD OF ASIA-PACIFIC, VORTEXA

Oil producers cartel OPEC's share in India's oil imports fell to an all-time low of 39 per cent in May.

Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), mainly in the Middle East and Africa, made up for as much as 90 per cent of all crude oil India imported at one point of time, but this has been sliding since Russian oil became available at a discount in the aftermath of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February last year.

For the eighth straight month, Russia continued to be the single largest supplier of crude oil, making up for 42 per cent of all oil India imported.

Crude oil is converted into petrol and diesel at refineries.

The imports from Russia are now more than the combined purchases from Iraq and Saudi Arabia - India's biggest suppliers in the last decade - as well as UAE and the US.

Iraq supplied 0.83 million barrels per day (bpd) oil in May, while UAE shipped 203,000 bpd. As much as 138,000 bpd was sourced from the US, the data showed.

From a market share of less than 1 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2022, Russia's share of India's imports rose to 1.96 million barrels per day

RUSSIA MAKES UP FOR 42% OF ALL OIL IMPORTS

15% MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS HIGH IN APRIL

IMPORTS FROM SAUDI LOWEST SINCE FEB 2021

OPEC'S SHARE FELL TO AN ALL-TIME LOW OF 39%

IRAQ AT 2ND SPOT FOLLOWED BY SAUDI

in May, taking a 42 per cent share. OPEC supplied 1.8 million bpd out of 4.7 million bpd oil India imported in May. This was down from 2.1 million bpd imported in April, according to Vortexa.

Indian refiners in the past rarely bought Russian oil due to high freight costs but now they are snapping up plentiful Russian cargo available at a discount to other grades, as some Western nations rejected it because of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The purchases from Russia in May were more than double of 0.83 million bpd of oil bought from Iraq, which had been India's top oil supplier since 2017-18. Saudi Arabia has been pushed down to No 3 spot.

The average cost of Russian crude including freight costs landing on Indian shores in April was \$68.21 a barrel - the lowest level since the Ukraine war. The average cost of Saudi Arabian crude sent to India in April was \$86.96 a barrel, while Iraqi oil was priced at \$77.77 a barrel.

Russia is selling record amounts of crude oil to India to plug the gap in its energy exports after the European Union banned imports in December.

NSE, BSE to introduce ESM for 'micro-small' firms from June 5

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: To curb volatility in small-cap counters, leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE have put in place an enhanced surveillance mechanism for companies that have a market cap of less than ₹500 crore.

The Enhanced Surveillance Measure (ESM) will be effective from June 5.

Sebi and exchanges in a joint meeting have decided to introduce ESM framework for "micro-small" companies (on the main board with market cap less than ₹500 crore), the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE said in two separate circulars Friday.

The parameters for shortlisting the securities under the ESM framework include high-low price variation and close-to-close price variation.

Under the framework, the exchanges said, "... The trading for these securities will be settled through a trade for trade mechanism with a price band of 5 per cent or 2 per cent (if the scrip is already in the 2 per cent band)."

"For securities in Stage II, the trading will be settled through a trade for trade mechanism with a price band of 2 per cent. The trading for these securities will be permitted once a week with periodic call auctions."

Further, the securities of public sector enterprises, public sector banks and the securities on which derivative products are available will be excluded from the process of short listing under the ESM framework.

The security shall be part of the framework for a minimum period of three months. However, in case a security is under Stage II of the framework, it shall be retained under Stage 2 for a minimum period of one month.

After the completion of one month, in a weekly stage review if such a security's close to close price variation is less than 8 per cent in a month, it can move to Stage I of the ESM framework, the bourses said.



SHORT TAKES

IREDA IPO soon

New Delhi: The government is planning to file draft papers for an initial public offering (IPO) of state-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) by September, a top official said. "We have appointed the merchant bankers and they will proceed with valuation. We should be able to file the DRHP in 3-4 months, could be by September," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey told PTI. A public sector enterprise under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), IREDA is engaged in the financing of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The company posted an all-time high net profit of ₹865 crore in 2022-23 fiscal.

Govt holds talks with BALCO

New Delhi: The government is looking to sell a part of its residual 49 per cent stake in BALCO through a public offer and is engaging with the firm's promoter Vedanta to withdraw arbitration and facilitate stock exchanges listing of the company, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. The Ministry of Mines and the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) have held "preliminary talks" with Vedanta Ltd -- the promoters of erstwhile public sector company BALCO, he said. BALCO has to withdraw a 2009 arbitration case it filed against the government over valuation dispute of the residual stake.

Walmart's stake in PhonePe dips

New Delhi: Retail giant Walmart's shareholding in decacorn fintech firm PhonePe has dropped to 85 per cent from 89 per cent following its ongoing fundraising of \$1 billion, the US based firm said. PhonePe has now raised a total of \$850 million of primary capital in the current round till the end of May. "During the three months ended April 30, 2023, the company received \$0.5 billion related to new rounds of equity funding for the company's majority-owned PhonePe subsidiary, which reduced the company's ownership from approximately 89 per cent as of January 31, 2023 to approximately 85 per cent," Walmart said. Till April 30, the Walmart group firm has raised \$750 million, including \$200 million capital infusion from Walmart.

Airbus heads towards mega order from IndiGo

IndiGo's potential new order comes as it is yet to take delivery of nearly 500 jets out of a total order of 830 Airbus A320-family planes, making it one of the largest customers of the European group

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 4: Airbus is closing towards a potentially record deal to sell 500 narrow-body A320-family jets to India's largest carrier IndiGo, sources said Sunday.

The European planemaker has emerged as front-runner for an



order eclipsing Air India's historic provisional purchase of 470 jets in February, the sources said on the sidelines of an airline industry meeting in Istanbul.

Such a deal would be worth some \$50 billion at the most recently published Airbus list prices, but would typically be worth less than half this after widespread airline

industry discounts for bulk deals, according to aircraft analysts.

Airbus and Boeing are also competing in separate talks to sell 25 A330neo or Boeing 787 wide-body jets to the same airline, they said.

Reuters first reported in March that IndiGo, which has a 56% share of the domestic Indian market, was in talks with both Airbus and

Investors still warming up to ESG-focused funds in FY23

GLOBALLY, FLOWS INTO SUSTAINABLE FUNDS IS FAST, WITH ASSETS IN SUCH FUNDS REACHING NEARLY \$3TN AS OF DEC 2021. IT'S STILL EARLY IN INDIA FROM AN ESG PERSPECTIVE, BUT WITH THE LAUNCH OF ESG FUNDS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, THERE ARE INVESTABLE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 4: Sustainable or ESG (environmental, social, and governance) focused mutual funds, which are in a nascent stage in India, have seen their asset base declining by Rs 2,020 crore in fiscal 2022-23 even as experts hope such funds will attract greater attention in coming years.

ESG investing is gaining traction globally, and India is also witnessing an increased awareness and interest in sustainable and responsible investment practices. At present, there are 12 mutual fund schemes in India having ESG as their theme.

According to data compiled by

Morningstar India, 12 ESG funds together clocked assets under management (AUM) of Rs 10,427 crore in March 2023, which was Rs 2,000 crore or 16 per cent lower from Rs 12,447 crore registered a year earlier.

In comparison, the assets base of the ESG funds stood at Rs 10,998 crore in March 2021 and Rs 3,605 crore in 2019-2020.

According to him, short-term fluctuations in AUM do not necessarily reflect the long-term potential or performance of ESG funds.

Moreover, such funds have given returns in the range of 9 to 17 per cent in the past fiscal.

Sustainable funds, which are

With growing concerns about environmental and social issues, coupled with regulatory initiatives to promote ESG investing, the demand for ESG funds is expected to rise in the future. As more investors recognize the potential for both financial returns and positive impact, ESG funds are likely to attract greater attention and witness further growth

GOPAL KAVALEDDI | RESEARCH HEAD, FYERS



There are 12 MF schemes having ESG as their theme

12 ESG funds together clocked AUM of ₹10,427cr

Asset base declines by ₹2,020 crore in FY23

in a nascent stage in India when it comes to retail investor participation, have exposure to themes such as renewable energy, low carbon, green transport, and envi-

ronmental protection. ESG funds are expanding in the Indian mutual fund industry and asset management companies (AMCs) have been launching equity

schemes in the ESG space under the thematic category. The AMCs are also launching exchange traded funds (ETFs) and ETF fund of funds in the ESG space.

Most flows into sustainable funds so far have come in during the new fund offer (NFO) period and the financial year 2021-22 witnessed significant inflows as there were several ESG fund launches.

Acknowledging the growing interest around the globe for sustainable investing, the capital markets regulator Sebi is also coming out with proposals around sustainable investing and disclosures.

Recently, Sebi has proposed allowing mutual funds to introduce five new categories under ESG schemes and mandating ESG schemes to invest at least 65 per cent of AUM in listed entities where assurance on the BRSR code is undertaken.

Athletes shine

Yecheon (Korea): Fast-rising Rezoana Mallick Heena and Bharatpreet Singh clinched a gold medal each in women's 400m race and men's discus throw respectively to launch India's campaign at the Asian U-20 Athletics Championship on an emphatic note, here Sunday. Heena clocked 53.31 seconds – just a tad below her personal best of 53.22s – to win the yellow metal. Bharatpreet picked up the second gold for India with a best throw of 55.66m on the opening day of competitions. Antima Pal won India's third medal of the day – a bronze in the women's 5,000m race with a time of 17 minutes and 17.11 seconds.

Israel stun Brazil

Buenos Aires: Israel shocked favourites Brazil 3-2 and advanced to the semifinals of the football Under-20 World Cup in San Juan. The goals for Israel were scored by Anan Khalilii, Hamza Shibi and David Turgeman. On the other hand Marcos Leonardo and Matheus Nascimento netted for Brazil. Israel could have closed out the game in the scheduled time had they not wasted two penalties. Italy also reached the last four stage with a 3-1 win against Colombia.

Sprinting to glory

New Delhi: India's Amlan Borgohain has bagged gold medals in the men's 100m and 200m races at the Flanders Cup 2023 Athletics Meet, also called the International Antwerp Athletics Gala, in Merksem, Belgium. Borgohain emerged as the winner Sunday in the men's 100m dash with a time of 10.70 seconds, which was 0.45 seconds slower than his own national record. Then he secured the top spot on the podium in the men's 200m race with a timing of 20.96 seconds. However, India's Mohammed Afsal P failed to finish the men's 800m race.

Leipzig retain title

Berlin: Leipzig retained the German Cup with a 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the final thanks to a deflected goal and an assist from Christopher Nkunku. There were few clear chances for either team as they seemed wary of allowing their opponents space to counter. Nkunku gave Leipzig the lead in the 71st minute when his shot took a deflection off two Frankfurt defenders giving goalie Kevin Trapp no chance to stop the ball. Dominik Szoboszlai made it 2-0 for the winners in the 85th minute.

Dahiya withdraws

Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan): Olympic silver medallist wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya pulled out of the Bishkek Ranking Series event after suffering a strain on his right knee during warm-up while Pankaj shocked U-23 World Champion Aman Sehrawat in an all-Indian 61kg quarterfinal here Sunday. Dahiya was to face Kyrgyzstan's Taiyrbek Zhumashbek Uulu in the qualification round. "Ravi has recovered from his right knee injury that he sustained in January this year but during the warm-up, he suffered a strain on the same knee. He did not want to aggravate the injury as the Asian Games are not very far away," a support staff of the Indian squad said.

Verstappen wins

Montmelo (Spain): Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the Spanish Grand Prix from pole position Sunday to strengthen his hold on the Formula One championship. The two-time defending champion was never challenged on the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya after beating Carlos Sainz's Ferrari to the first turn. Lewis Hamilton was second in his Mercedes while fellow Mercedes driver George Russell completed the podium. Verstappen has so far won five of seven races this season. His 40th career win, including his third in Barcelona, leaves Verstappen one win behind the late Ayrton Senna's total of 41. He also seems well on course to matching Senna's three world titles.

Benzema to quit Real

Madrid: Karim Benzema will not have his contract renewed with Real Madrid next season, the club said Sunday. Real Madrid said they have reached an agreement with the French striker to 'put an end to his brilliant and unforgettable' stint with the club. The announcement comes amid reports that Benzema will play in Saudi Arabia. The Frenchman had been with Real Madrid since 2009, playing 14 seasons with the club. He helped Real Madrid win 25 titles, a record for any player with the Spanish powerhouse. Among his titles were five Champions Leagues, five Club World Cups and four Spanish League trophies.

Pep targets historic 'treble'

MANCHESTER CITY MANAGER BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 10

AGENCIES

London, June 4: Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola has said that it is a privilege to be going for the historic 'treble' as he looks to add the Champions League trophy to his side's cabinet this season after the FA Cup triumph.

Manchester City secured the second domestic double in their history after beating Manchester United 2-1 in the FA Cup final here Saturday night. Ilkay Gundogan scored a brilliant brace against United in the FA Cup final to secure the Premier League champions a win and the 'double'.

Guardiola admitted that his team need to win the Champions League to be called a great side after completing a domestic double. "One more to come, one more to go (Champions League) and we feel that we are in a position we probably will never be again. We will go there to try to win. Everybody knows it," Guardiola said after the match.

"We have had some incredible seasons. Premier League to FA Cup to Carabao Cup, but we have to win the Champions League. To recognise a team who deserve to be recognised. We have to admit it, without the Champions League, it has been amazing and fun, but we'll miss it. We have to take our



MOMENT TO SAVOUR: Pep Guardiola holds aloft the FA Cup after Manchester City's triumph over Man United in the final played Saturday at the Wembley Stadium in London

responsibility and we have to do it. What a privilege. We are one game away," added the Man City manager.

Guardiola believes the best way to add the Champions League trophy to City's honours list is to focus firmly on the challenge of Inter, who they face coming Saturday in the Ataturk stadium in Istanbul.

"We have to focus on what you need to do to beat Inter (Milan). What they are as a team, what they have improved. What we have to do. What will be the spaces? The threats they have," Guardiola said.

"The only way to have a chance to win the Champions League like we have done is to focus on what we have to do. Don't think of the consequences if you win or lose. Just

Ten Hag eyes improvement

London: Despite speculation of sale of the club, Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has just one goal... to improve on this year's performance. Man United finished second best in the FA Cup final to rivals Man City, but had also won the League Cup in February this year. "I have only one plan, that is to improve this club and improve this team," Ten Hag said after the game Saturday. "I will fight for this, I will talk to the club about what we have to do for that, but also I have to work with my staff, with my players, to be better next season," he added. The Dutchman also said that he will do all that he can to regain United's lost glory. "We have to be quiet, analyze the season... set the right conclusions and take action," Ten Hag stated.

do the best you can and give it the best shot," he added. The Premier League champions can match Man United's historic feat of a 'treble' in 1999 if they beat Inter Milan.

City will also play Premier League runners-up Arsenal in the FA Community Shield ahead of the 2023/24 season starting August 12.

OCA ropes in Raju for budding spinners



OCA officials welcoming Venkatpathy Raju at the BPIA, Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 4: Former Indian cricketer and also a former member of the BCCI senior selection committee Venkatpathy Raju arrived here Sunday. He will be attending a 15-day coaching camp to train budding spinners of Odisha. The promising spinners were earlier selected through a 'Talent Hunt' programme. Head coach of the Odisha senior men's team Dinesh Mongia and selectors were involved in choosing the players through the 'Talent Hunt' programme.

OCA officials feel that with his experience, Raju can contribute

to the development of spinners in the state.

During his tenure with the Indian team, Raju played 28 Tests capturing 93 wickets. He also played 53 ODIs for India and picked up 63 wickets. At one point of time, along with Anil Kumble, left-arm spinner Raju was a huge threat for batters, especially on Indian pitches. Raju, played his last Test for India against Australia in March 2001. He also represented India in the 1992 and 1996 ODI World Cups.

Raju was also a member of the selection committee that chose MS Dhoni as captain for the 2007 T20 World Cup which India won.

Rules tightened to prevent Covid during Tour race

AGENCIES

Paris, June 4: Tour de France organisers have set up an anti-Covid protocol for this year's race, with riders and team staff banned from signing autographs and eating out of their hotels, a source with direct knowledge of the matter said here Sunday.

Riders and staff members were allowed out of their hotels last year. Access to the paddock at the start of the stages was open to reporters until midway through the race, when organisers decided to close it to 'fight against the propagation of Covid-19'.

Access to the paddock will be allowed when the Tour starts in Bilbao, Spain, June 29, with everyone required to wear a mask.

"For all the team members: Respect a confinement – limit the interactions outside the race bubble. No eating out. Respect social distancing at the hotel," the chart by the Tour organisers said. "Do not get too close to the spectators – social distancing, no selfies, no autographs," it added.

France reported 3,204 Covid-19 cases Friday in the country. At this time last year, there were about 25,000 reported daily cases in France. However, the organisers do not want a repeat of last year when a number of competitors were infected by the virus.

Rohit ready for 'English' challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 4: His only Test hundred outside the sub-continent came at the Oval here in 2021. However, India captain Rohit Sharma said Sunday that one never feels 'in' as a batter in English conditions but somehow develops an intuition as to when to attack the opposition bowling. Ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia starting Wednesday, the Indian skipper feels there is no substitute for hard grind on English tracks.

"Look, I think, in England in general, it's pretty challenging conditions for batters. As long as you are prepared to have a good grind, you can have success," Rohit said during an ICC event 'Afternoon With Test Legends' here Sunday.

Rohit, who was India's best batter in four Tests in 2021 against England, spoke about his personal experiences. "One thing I realised in 2021, you are never in (set) and the weather keeps changing. You need to keep concentrating for longer periods of time and you will get that intuition when it's time to take on the bowlers. More importantly you need to be out there and you have got to understand what your strengths are," Rohit pointed out.

For someone who is big on data and analytics, Rohit feels that knowing the scoring pattern of former players, who have had success at the Oval, won't be a bad idea.

"I am not going to try and emulate them (successful players) but it

Boos mark Messi's departure from PSG

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 4: Lionel Messi didn't care about boos in his final game for Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) as the French league champions lost to Clermont 2-3. Disrespectful PSG supporters booed Messi when the Parc des Princes announcer read his name on a warm Saturday evening. A few minutes later, Messi walked onto the field with a smile on his face, holding his three children's hands before the team photo and kissing them on their foreheads before kick-off.

"I would like to thank the club, the city of Paris and its people for these two years. I wish you all the best for the future," Messi told the club website.

In two seasons at PSG, Messi won two Ligue 1 title and the French Champions trophy and notched 32 goals and 35 assists in all competitions.

The World Cup winner didn't sign the contract extension that Qatar-backed PSG offered him. He has been strongly linked with a move to a Saudi club where he could earn more money than Ronaldo. Inter Miami is another possible option but wouldn't be able to match the Saudi offer of hundreds of millions of dollars.

There were hopes Messi would stay another year in Paris after expressing his happiness at the club in March. "Yes, it's true that I feel very well," Messi had said. "The first year, I needed a little time to adapt to Paris for different reasons, but I started this season really differently, with a lot of



PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi greets Lionel Messi before handing over a memento to the player after the game Saturday

desire. I feel more comfortable with the club, with the city, with everything that Paris means. And the truth is that I am really enjoying this season," he added.

But the mood changed after PSG's exit in the last 16 of the Champions League. PSG fans also jeered Messi in the past couple of months as his form dipped after he helped Argentina win the World Cup.

Then relations with the club deteriorated last month when Messi was suspended by PSG after an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia.

Despite the embarrassment, PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi seemed to show no hard feelings Saturday. "His contribution to Paris Saint-Germain and Ligue 1 cannot be understated and we wish Leo and his family all the best for the future," Al-Khelaifi told the club website.



Rohit Sharma arrives for training at the Oval, Sunday

Neser replaces unfit Hazlewood

London: Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was Sunday ruled out of the World Test Championship final after failing to recover from the side strain he picked up during his IPL stint. This will certainly be a huge blow for Australia ahead of the marquee match against India. Pacer Michael Neser replaced Hazlewood in the squad as the selectors hoped that the latter will recover to be fit for the Ashes series. "Josh was very very close to being given the green light but we are cognisant that our upcoming schedule means this is not a one-off Test match for us," Chair of Selectors George Bailey was quoted as saying in 'cricket.com.au'. Hazlewood had sustained the side strain during his injury-marred stint with Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the recently-concluded IPL in which he played only three games without much success before flying back home.

"It keeps challenging you. You want to be in these situations. You look forward and as a person, it brings the best out of you," he concluded.

Djokovic breaks Rafa's record

PLAYER DISQUALIFIED FOR HITTING BALL GIRL WITH THE BALL ACCIDENTALLY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 4: Novak Djokovic broke a tie with rival Rafael Nadal by reaching the French Open quarterfinals for the record 17th time, never truly in trouble during a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Juan Pablo Varillas here Sunday.

Djokovic is closing on bettering Nadal in a more prestigious category: Grand Slam singles championships. Both currently sit at 22. For Djokovic, that total includes two at Roland Garros, in 2016 and 2021, and he can become the first man to own at least three trophies from each major tournament.

However, earlier in the day an incident of a doubles pair getting disqualified hogged the limelight before Djokovic arrived on the Roland Garros courts.

Doubles player Miyu Kato and her partner Aldila Sutjiadi of Indonesia were forced to forfeit a match when the former accidentally hit a ball girl in the neck with the ball after a point. In the second set on Court 14 at Roland Garros, Kato took a swing with her racket and the ball flew towards the ball kid, who was not



Novak Djokovic acknowledges the applause of the spectators after his win Sunday

looking in the player's direction while heading off the court.

At first, chair umpire Alexandre Juge only issued a warning to Kato. But after tournament referee Remy Azemar and Grand Slam supervisor Wayne McEwen went to Court 14 to look into what happened, Kato and Sutjiadi were disqualified. That made Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic and Sara Sorribes Tormo of Spain the winners of the match.

Against the 94th-ranked Varillas,

who had never won a Grand Slam match until this event and then took three in a row in five sets, Djokovic was, not surprisingly, at his dominant best at Court Philippe Chatrier on a warm, sunny day.

The 36-year-old from Serbia finished with more than twice as many winners, 35-15, and fewer unforced errors. Djokovic got 80 per cent of his first serves in. He converted six of the 12 breakpoints while dropping his serve only once. He will next face No. 11 Karen Khachanov Tuesday. Khachanov, who is 1-8 against Djokovic, made it this far at a Grand Slam for the fifth time by defeating Lorenzo Sonego 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7), 6-1.

Two unseeded women moved into quarterfinals and will play each other next. They are Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the 2021 runner-up at Roland Garros, and Karolina Muchova.

Pavlyuchenkova got past a third consecutive seeded opponent, No. 28 Elise Mertens, by a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3 score. Muchova was a 6-4, 6-4 winner against Elina Avanesyan. Also moving into the last eight was Elina Svitolina who defeated No. 9 seed Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

Indian shooters in medal rush

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Suhl (Germany), June 4: Indian shooters Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw combined well to claim the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF Junior World Cup here Sunday. The Indians shot a total of 17 in the gold medal contest. Oceanne Muller and Romain Aufrere of France settled for the silver with an aggregate score of seven in the final.

The other Indian pair in the mixed rifle event, Swati Chowdhury and Saalim finished seventh in the qualification with a total score of 624.3. Gautami and Abhinav were second in the qualification round, with a total score of 628.3.

Meanwhile, in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, Sainyam, fresh from her gold medal-winning feat Saturday, paired up with Abhinav Choudhary to win silver after shooting 12, finishing behind gold medallists Juri Kim and Kanghyun Kim, who shot 16.

Suruchi Inder Singh and Shubham Bisla bagged the bronze medal with a score 16, finishing ahead of fourth-placed Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov (14) of Uzbekistan.

63rd state swimming championship starts



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The 63rd Odisha State Swimming Championship started Sunday at the Biju Patnaik Swimming pool complex inside the Kalinga Stadium here. The inaugural ceremony was a low key affair because of the state mourning owing to the horrible train tragedy near Balasore. A two minutes silence was observed in the memory of the victims of the train tragedy.

A total of 300 swimmers, including 95 women from 15 districts across Odisha are competing for top honours in this event. Forty tech-

nical officials and volunteers are managing the event with a team of medical and fire brigade staffs. The four-day championships in sub-junior, junior and senior categories will be conducted to select the swimmers who will represent Odisha at the National Aquatic Championships 2023.

Ranjit Parida, joint secretary Department of Sports and Youth Services presided over the inaugural ceremony as chief guest. Among others present were Pradip Kumar Padhee, president of the Odisha Swimming Association and general secretary Golapmani Mahanta.