

## RBI likely to keep rates unchanged

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, June 6:** The Reserve Bank of India's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) began deliberations Tuesday amid expectations that the central bank will keep the benchmark interest rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent on the back of easing retail inflation and the need to push economic growth.

Headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das, the six-member MPC will meet for three days and the decision would be announced Thursday, June 8.

After the last MPC meeting in April, the RBI paused its rate hike cycle and stayed with the 6.5 per cent repo rate. Prior to that the central bank had cumulatively hiked the repo rate by 250 basis points since May 2022 in a bid to contain inflation.

The MPC is meeting in the backdrop of CPI inflation declining to an 18-month low of 4.7 per cent in April. Das recently indicated that the May print would be lower than the April numbers. The CPI for May is scheduled to be announced June 12. On expectations from the MPC, Runki Majumdar, Economist, Deloitte India said, "We expect a pause in this meeting as growth concerns cannot be overlooked. With the global economy slowing down, there are risks that the slowdown contagion may impact us." Globally, there are signs that the central banks may also take a pause or go with fewer hikes as runaway inflation takes a breather, Majumdar said, and added this will further help the RBI to maintain the status quo.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Everybody bows down to our brave leadership, from state heads to the people seeking justice

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	62792.88 ↑ 5.41
NIFTY	18599.00 ↑ 5.20
DOLLAR	82.60 ↓ ₹0.06
EURO	88.20 ↓ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹59,949 ↑ ₹101
SILVER	₹ 71,927 ↑ ₹55

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 41.9°C	39.5°C
	MIN 27.9°C	27.5°C
Humidity	69%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

## World's oldest-known burial site found in SA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**South Africa, June 6:** Palaeontologists in South Africa said they have found the oldest-known burial site in the world, containing remains of a small-brained distant relative of humans previously thought incapable of complex behaviour.

Led by renowned palaeoanthropologist Lee Berger, researchers said they discovered several specimens of Homo naledi - a tree-climbing, Stone Age hominid - buried about 30 metres (100 feet) underground in a cave system within the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO world heritage site near Johannesburg.

"These are the most ancient interments yet recorded in the hominin record, earlier than evidence of Homo sapiens interments by at least 100,000 years," the scientists wrote in a series of yet to be peer reviewed and preprint papers to be published in eLife.



**COLOSSAL DAMAGE:** This satellite image provided by Planet Labs PBC shows an overview of the damage on the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine, Tuesday. Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the dam and hydroelectric power station on Dnieper river in an area that Moscow controls, while Russian officials blamed Ukrainian bombardment in the contested area. It was not possible to verify the claims (Report: P12) AP PHOTO

## BALASORE TRAGEDY State's toll 39; CBI begins probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** The state government revised the death toll in the Balasore train crash to 288, which includes 39 from Odisha so far, while the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) started its probe into alleged criminal negligence leading to the mishap after registering an FIR, Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said 275 deaths were confirmed till Monday, and after verification of bodies, the figure was raised to 288.

Jena said 205 bodies of the total 288 have been identified so far and handed over to their families. The remaining 83 bodies were kept at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar and other hospitals for identification, he said. "People are facing difficulties in identifying the bodies as they are in a very bad shape. So, body embalming and DNA sampling is being carried out at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar," he added.

The government had reported the toll figure of 288 earlier as well, but then revised it downwards to 275, stating that some of the bodies were counted twice. It was then raised to 278 and further to 288 again Tuesday.

According to Jena, 39 out of the 288 have so far been found to be Odisha residents. "While eight were from Bhadrak, two were residents of Jajpur, 14 hailed from Balasore, nine from Mayurbhanj, two from Khurda, one from Keonjhar and three belonged to Cuttack," said the Chief Minister's Office. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sanctioned Rs 1.95 crore as ex-gratia to the families of 39 deceased persons from Odisha.

On the other hand, a team of CBI officials, along with forensic experts, which had reached Balasore Monday, started the probe immediately after the

## SMOKE TRIGGERS PANIC IN TRAIN

**Bhubaneswar:** The Secunderabad-Agartala Express was halted at Berhampur railway station around noon as passengers alerted railway officials about smoke emitting from an air-conditioning unit inside a coach, Tuesday, officials said. Although the smoke was controlled immediately, the panic stricken passengers refused to travel in the coach fearing another electrical breakdown. They demanded a replacement of the coach. Some passengers first noticed smoke in the B-5 coach and raised an alarm. Following this, most of the passengers reportedly got down and refused to re-board the train, an official said.

registration of the FIR at 2:15pm, Tuesday. The registration of an FIR is the starting point of the CBI investigation because the agency cannot collect any document or material, question witnesses, record statement or conduct searches without it. The agency, which has little expertise in dealing with the functioning of railways, may need the help of rail security and forensic experts to get to the bottom of the case.

The CBI took over the case (64) registered by the Cuttack GRP June 3 under Sections 337, 338, 304A and 34 of IPC, and 153, 154 and 175 of the Railways Act.

According to the procedure, the CBI re-registers the local police case as its own FIR and starts the probe. It can add or remove a charge from the FIR in its charge sheet filed after its probe.

The triple train crash that occurred around 7pm June 2 near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore claimed 288 lives and left more than 1,100 people injured. **MORE P3 & 7**

The findings—specimens of Homo naledi buried about 30 metres underground in a cave within the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO world heritage site—date back to at least 200,000 BC.

his fellow researchers, date back to at least 200,000 BC. Critically, they also belong to Homo naledi, a primitive species at the crossroads between apes and modern humans, which had brains about the size of oranges and stood about 1.5 metres (five feet) tall.

With curved fingers and toes, tool-wielding hands and feet made for walking, the species discovered by Berger had already upended the notion that our evolutionary path was a straight line. Homo naledi is named after the 'Rising Star' cave system where the first bones were found in 2013.

The oval-shaped interments at the centre of the new studies were also found there during excavations started in 2018.

The holes, which researchers say evidence suggests were deliberately dug and then filled in to cover the bodies, contain at least five individuals.

## Evidence must for summon: SC

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 6:** The Supreme Court has said that the power of summoning a person as accused during the trial should not be mechanically exercised by a court.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Pankaj Mishra said, "The court holding a trial, if it intends to exercise power conferred by Section 319 CrPC, must not act mechanically merely on the ground that some evidence has come on record implicating the person sought to be summoned."

The bench said that court's satisfaction preceding the order thereunder must be more than prima facie as formed at the stage of a charge being framed and short of satisfaction to an extent that the evidence, if unrebutted, would lead to conviction.

"What is essential for exercise of the power under Section 319 CrPC is that the evidence on record must show the involvement of a person in the commission of a crime and that the said person, who has not been arraigned as an accused, should face trial together with the accused already arraigned," it said recently.

The bench said Section 319 CrPC, which envisages a discretionary power, empowers the court holding a trial to proceed against any person not shown or mentioned as an accused if it appears from the evidence that such person has committed a crime for which he ought to be tried together with the accused who is facing trial.

"Such power can be exercised by the court qua a person who is not named in the FIR, or named in the FIR but not shown as an accused in the charge-sheet," said the bench.

## BSF JAWAN KILLED IN MANIPUR FIRING

AGENCIES

**Imphal, June 6:** A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was killed and two Assam Rifles personnel injured in an encounter with suspected Kuki insurgents in Manipur's Serou area early Tuesday, officials said.

The exchange of fire between the two sides took place in a school in Serou area of Sugnu in Kakching district, the officials said.

A BSF official said suspected Kuki miscreants resorted to indiscriminate and heavy firing targeted at BSF troops deployed at the Serou Practical High School around 4.15am.

Constable Ranjit Yadav sustained a bullet injury during the gunfight and was evacuated to Kakching's Jivan Hospital where he was declared dead, the official said.

The two injured Assam Rifles personnel have been air evacuated

to Mantripukhri and search operations are in progress, the Indian Army's SpearCorps, headquartered in Dimapur, added on Twitter.

"Extensive area domination operations by Assam Rifles, BSF & Police undertaken in areas of Sugnu/Serou in #Manipur. Intermittent firing between Security Forces & group of insurgents took place throughout night of 05/06 June. Security Forces effectively retaliated to

the fire," SpearCorps posted on its official Twitter handle.

A fierce exchange of fire was also reported between security forces and suspected Kuki militants from Phayeng in Imphal West district, police said, adding that there was no report of any casualty.

Irate villagers had set ablaze an abandoned camp at Sugnu in Manipur's Kakching district Sunday night.

Govt. of Odisha

### A little precaution can keep Heat Stroke away

### Take Care, Stay Safe

- Avoid exposure to sun and heavy work in hot weather from 11 AM to 3 PM.
- Drink enough water and, take umbrella & water bottle with you while moving out.
- Children, pregnant women, elderly people, and persons with high blood pressure or diabetes should be more careful.
- Stay away from alcohol, cigarette, tobacco and other intoxicants.
- In case of sudden illness due to heat wave, go to a nearby hospital immediately.
- Free treatment is provided for heat stroke patients in all Government Hospitals.

For more information please call **104 Health Helpline**

Healthy Odisha  
Happy Odisha

**Health & Family Welfare Department**

Facebook: @OHW Odisha  
@OHW Odisha  
http://www.health.odisha.gov.in

# leisure



## REBEL WILSON: I'VE NEVER BEEN DRUNK IN MY LIFE

Australian actress Rebel Wilson has revealed that she's not a very big drinker at all - despite attending lots of glitzy Hollywood parties. Rebel - who now lives in the US - told the *Kyle and Jackie O Show*: "You know what I've never been actually drunk, drunk in my whole life."

## TARA FELT 'JUDGED' BY HOLLYWOOD FOR NOT STARTING A FAMILY

American actress Tara Reid has reflected on her 'bad girl' years and how judged she felt for not settling down and having a family. The *American Pie* actor said it's really unfair that society views those who haven't settled down and started a family as immature.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You will be very enterprising and industrious today. You make your plans very carefully and execute them perfectly. Despite this, your progress will be very slow. However, Ganesh advises you not to despair and showers his blessings on you.

**TAURUS**  
This one of those ordinary days that, somehow, do not turn out too well. Unexpected expenses, that could totally upset your budget, cannot be ruled out. Something or the other is likely to give you an uncomfortable stomach upset. Ganesh urges you to take your medicines on time, and exercise moderation and discretion while deciding what and how much you should eat.

**GEMINI**  
You will be in a spot of bother owing to financial problems today. You will try to reduce your expenses and increase your savings, but circumstances will be such that you will have to spend your money. You will spend your day in all this financial jugglery, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You may get a gift from your life partner. Ties with business partners will be good and you will get a good news from them. Time to make new plans for the future with spouse. You will feel greater companionship with spouse, giving you joy.

**LEO**  
You are businesslike and practical in your approach, however, you have a tendency to lose your temper. You will be able to channelise your aggression into business today. It is a good thing, since you need an outlet for your energy. The advise of your elders will help you. You will be able to comfortably sail through the day today, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Mundane, everyday routine will get on your nerves today, warns Ganesh. Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill. All said and done, you won't let anything affect your zest for work. You will break new ground to win the hearts of others, feels Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that you will behave unlike your nature and take a more serious attitude towards life. This is unlike you but your seriousness will give you the opportunity to take up further responsibilities that will prove to people that you can be responsible too. Ganesh says that towards evening you may visit an art gallery or a heritage or cultural place.

**SCORPIO**  
Blood is thicker than water, and you will experience this in true sense today, says Ganesh. Dedicate this day to your family and friends, enjoy and make merry. Feel as if you are on the top of this world when you set out on a secret date with your beloved. Life is beautiful, indeed!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You take the path of spirituality for the peace of mind and to stay away from the daily humdrum of life. You will not only seek love, but also spread love around you. In a nutshell, a pleasant day in store for you, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You are witty and wise. With your extraordinary vision and intelligence you will help many their career and later, thanks to you, they will be near to their goals. Whenever some dark clouds of reality hover above your head, you know how to find the silver lining and get out of a problem. If you are handling a project, you will bring it to its successful completion today, foretells Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
The cupid may strike you today. You don't want make a wrong first impression, so wear something nice and be presentable all the time. Professionally, the day will be favourable for you to make some important decisions. Overall, you are in a happy mood and you will spread the joy around, feels Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Organized and sorted as you are, you will still find yourself clouded with emotions today. Those you are thoughtful and calculative as a person, you will discover the joy of emotions and the warmth that accompanies them.

## Poorna on breaking Asian stereotypes

New Delhi: Actress Poorna Jagannathan, who plays the role of an Indian immigrant mother named Nalini in the Netflix series *Never Have I Ever*, has opened up about how the show has broken all barriers of type casting South Asian characters. Asked if it feels like a pat on the shoulder with *Never Have I Ever* helping to break Asian stereotypes, Poorna told IANS: "I always say this about the show that finally our outsiders are matching our

insides. What I mean by that is our representation in media... we are finally being represented and reflected as who we are inside our house and how we feel inside. There's a balance..." The actress agreed that Indians have been typecast and given characters with absolutely no dimensions. But suddenly we have shows like *Never Have I Ever*."

Drawing a parallel with her character of Nalini, Poorna said that she herself is an 'immigrant mother'. She added that the show tells a lot about what "it means to be an immigrant, mother, what it means to struggle, joy as a woman to have desires and sexuality. What an amazing feeling

to step into these characters' shoes that has a fully lived life as an actor but also as a South Asian woman."

## Arjun's GF Gabriella responds to troll



Mumbai: Actor Arjun Rampal's girlfriend and model Gabriella Demetriades has responded to a social media troll talking about spoiling the mentality of the youth and asking her about when she will get married. Gabriella, who is expecting her second child with Arjun, took to her Instagram and shared a slew of photographs from her weekend.

She captioned it: "A weekend #photodump #weekinphotos." However a social media user commented, "When will u get married. u stay in India not ur born place. You ppl spoil youth mentality." To which Gabriella replied: "Yes the mentality here is spoilt by bringing beautiful souls into the world, not by small minded bigots." Arjun and Gabriella started dating in 2018. They welcomed their first born, a son, named Arik Rampal in 2019. IANS



## NATYA DHARA - DAY III

Artists of Nataraj Kala Parishad, Bhubaneswar, presented Odia play *Kapata Pasha* Tuesday, on the third and final evening of *Natya Dhara* for the month of June. Written by Ananda Shankar Das the play was directed by Bana Bihari Mohapatra. How an intelligence officer exposes many imposters and con artists under the garb of gentlemen formed the crux of the play. Prasanna Pani, Bidyadhar Behura, Rajkishore Das, Bhajakrushna Mohanty, Dharitri Khandual and Asita Satpathy were among the actors who performed on stage. Among the luminaries, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi secretary Prabodh Rath, Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS) president Haren Sahoo, dramatists Upendra Prasad Nayak and Pradeep Biswal were present on the occasion. For the unversed four plays—three at Bhanjakala Mandap and one at Rabindra Mandap—by different theatre troupes of Odisha are performed every month under *Natya Dhara*, collaboration of the Culture Department and ONS, for the promotion of theatre in Odisha.

## Tea addict Yami shares her Kolkata experience

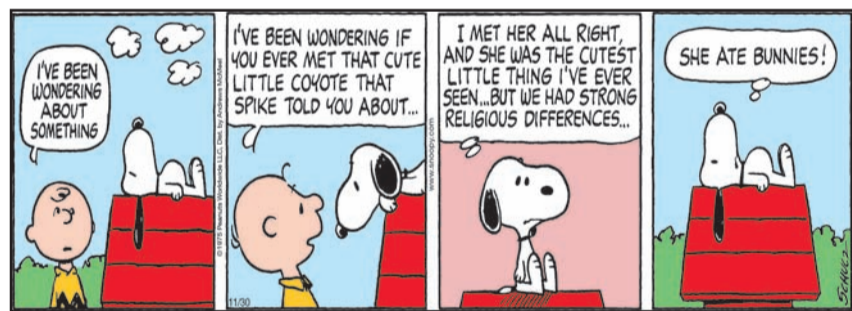
Mumbai: As an actor Yami Gautam Dhar has travelled across India to shoot for her films. And every place she visits, she creates memories. The chai lover that she is, she shares an interesting instance with the readers of an entertainment portal recently.

"I was shooting for *Lost* in Kolkata. We were at Park Street, which was so crowded. We couldn't even park our vans there. The shopkeepers were really sweet though, as they arranged for seats inside their showrooms and asked me to sit there. Then suddenly I see kullad chai coming through the glass door and I wished I could have one," says Yami, who was amazed to know that the film's team had actually called the chai for the actress, as a sweet surprise, as she loves exploring teas.

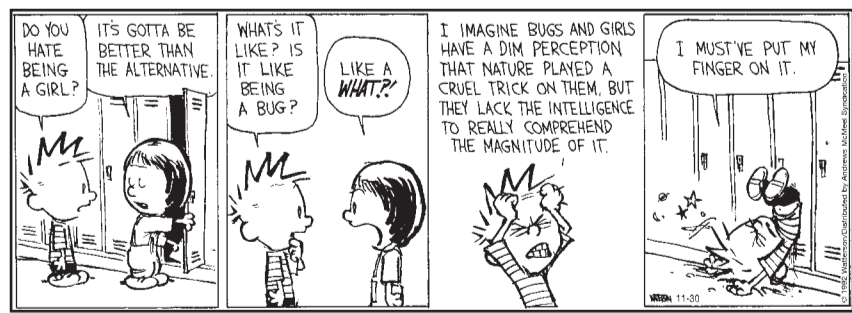
She added, "The chai was so amazing that I called up my mom, spoke to my sister (Surilie) and husband (Aditya) and told them about this really amazing chai." The actress savoured the tea until her next shot was ready. While she enjoyed sipping on the beverage in a kullad, she also doesn't mind having a quick chai outdoors in disposable paper cups, she further said.



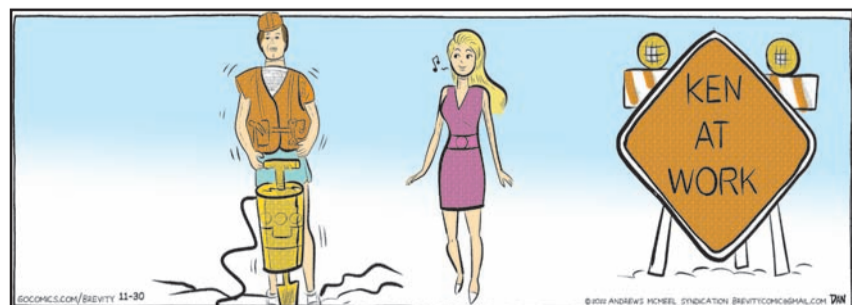
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

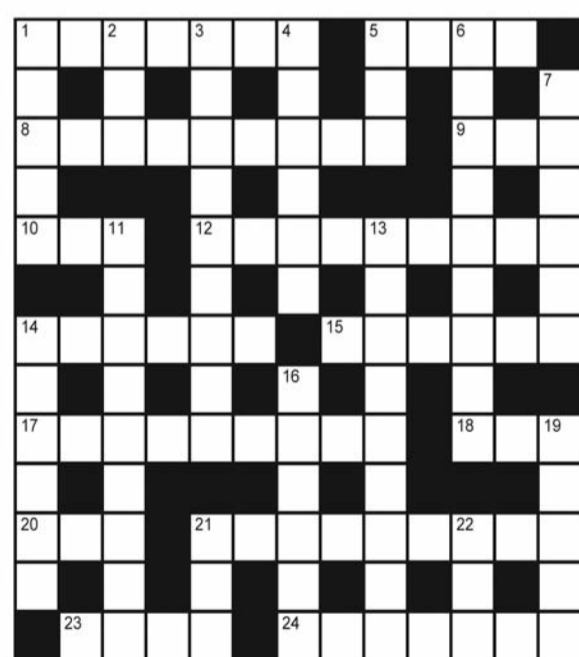


### BREVITY



### FUN post

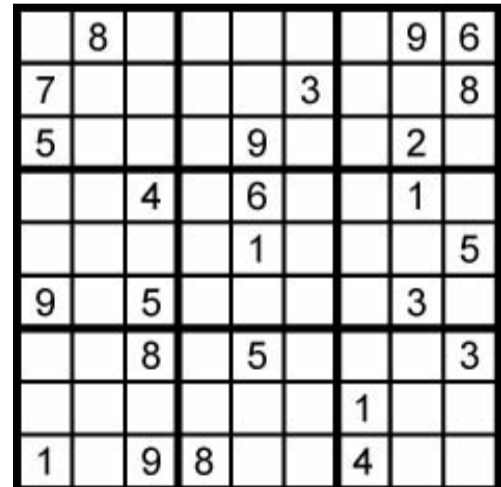
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Superstar
  - 5 Nutmeg-based spice
  - 8 Like some lawns
  - 9 Rink surface
  - 10 Transgression
  - 12 Queen of Egypt
  - 14 Joan of Arc, for one
  - 15 Limited
  - 17 Took the scenic route
  - 18 World view
  - 20 Parisian pal
  - 21 Railroad amenity (6,3)
  - 23 Spindly
  - 24 Gave way
  - Down**
  - 1 Canticles
  - 2 Summer shade
  - 3 Shop-soiled
  - 4 Customs duty
  - 5 That's as clear as \_\_\_!
  - 6 Repeal
  - 7 Central America country
  - 11 Bring back to the status quo
  - 13 Hula, e.g. (4,5)
  - 14 African snakes
  - 16 North Sea islands
  - 19 Skinned
  - 21 Clamour
  - 22 Something to chew on

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU

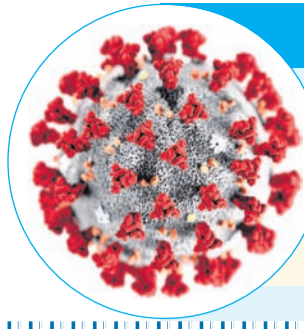


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



### REGALING POSE

Artistes performed during a cultural show organised by Nrutyatma at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



### COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	689,960,939	662,410,092	6,888,041
India	44,991,880	44,456,995	531,884
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

## Pact with S'pore Univ to shape future of edu

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** In a novel initiative and meeting between the Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari and Deans and faculty members of National University of Singapore (NUS), a ground-breaking collaboration was forged with the shared vision of advancing human capital development in Odisha through transformative training, cutting-edge research, and path-breaking innovation.

The discussions revolved around incredible potential for student internships, faculty training and collaborative research initiatives, as well as the imperative to empower government officials from Odisha through specialised training programmes. This strategic alliance between Odisha government and NUS aims at revolutionising aca-

### ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

**T**HE ODISHA GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THIS PARTNERSHIP, ENVISIONS A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, ENABLING THE STATE TO EMERGE AS A HUB OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN INDIA AND BEYOND

demic and research landscape, propelling the state to new heights of excellence.

Renowned worldwide for its exceptional educational standards and research prowess, NUS stood out as the natural choice for this collaboration. With a global ranking that consistently places it among the top universities in the world, NUS brings unparalleled expertise, resources, and a rich academic ecosystem to the table.

**T**HE JOINT EFFORTS WILL ENCOMPASS A WIDE RANGE OF INITIATIVES, INCLUDING EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS, JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS, AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMMES FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The Odisha government, through this partnership, envisions a transformative impact on the academic community, enabling the state to emerge as a hub of research and innovation in India and beyond.

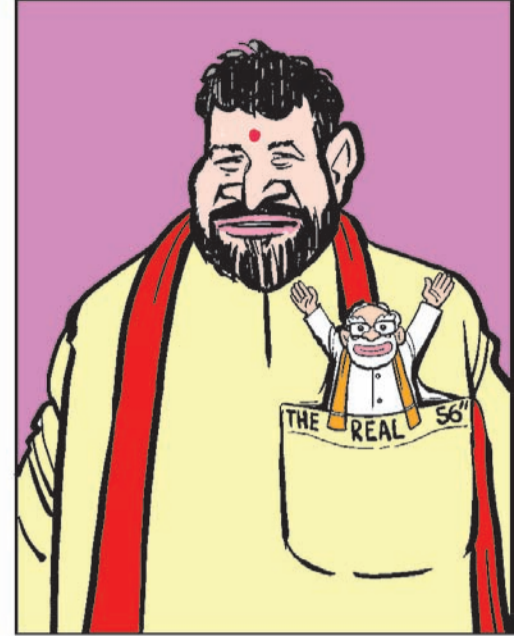
“We are delighted to initiate and embark on this transformative collaboration with NUS. By leveraging NUS’ global reputation and expertise, we aim to enhance our academic and research quotient, empowering our students, faculty, and

government officials to achieve remarkable accomplishments in their respective domains. This collaboration will undoubtedly shape the future of education and research in Odisha,” said Pujari.

The joint efforts will encompass a wide range of initiatives, including exchange programmes for students and faculty members, joint research projects, and capacity-building programmes for government officials. By fostering a culture of innovation, knowledge-sharing, and academic excellence, this partnership will lay the foundation for long-term growth and development in Odisha.

It is noted that NUS is a leading global university (QS World University Ranking #11) with a distinguished reputation for excellence in education, research, and innovation.

### POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## MISHAP PROVED STATE'S ABILITY TO TACKLE CRISIS: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday was in all praises for the people of Odisha and the state administration for the rescue and treatment of the June 2 mishap victims.

“I am proud of my people. I am proud of Odisha,” said the Chief Minister while speaking at ‘Nijukti Parva’, a function at Kalinga Stadium where 1,205 medical officers joined the state government.

Recalling the train accident, Patnaik said everyone is aware of the train tragedy in Balasore that shook the nation and even the world. “It’s a time of immense grief and sorrow. But, this accident has proved the strength of Odisha, its ability to rise up to the expectation during the time of crisis,” said the CM.

He also said, “It has manifested the compassion and humanity of the people of Odisha. Doctors, medical students, general public... all had one thing in mind... Let’s save life... as many as we can. And we have saved more than a thousand lives. People providing support to rescue operations, the long queues for blood donation are rare sights but invaluable. I am proud of my people. I am proud of Odisha.”

The CM said the state administration came into action mode the very moment the news came around. “Ministers, top officers, supporting staff... all were at the site of accident and health centres, making arrangements and monitoring the rescue and treatment operations,” he added.

Congratulating the newly-joined medical officers, he said that this is a huge addition to one go to the existing strength of doctors in state and added that this will certainly strengthen healthcare in government hospitals and further improve patient satisfaction. He expected them to serve people with sincerity and empathy.

## BJP leader's driver found hanging

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** The driver of BJP leader Pradip Purohit was Tuesday found hanging inside the latter’s house at Bhagawan Towers apartment in Jharpada area under Laxmisagar police limits here.

The deceased identified as Dhanuraj Pandey, 48, was a resident of Hirapur village under Paikmala police limits in Bargarh district.

“Dhanuraj was driving my vehicle for the last nine years. He was like my younger brother and also a political guide to me. I had been to New Delhi for some personal work. Yesterday I had talked to Dhanuraj over phone and asked him to receive me at the airport today (Tuesday) at 7am. I tried to contact him before leaving New Delhi early in the morning, but he didn’t respond. Again rang him for several times after reaching Bhubaneswar, but he still did not answer my calls,” claimed Purohit.

He claimed that they found the door locked from inside and called the neighbours and security guard of the apartment. They knocked at the door but to no avail.

Informed, police reached the spot and broke into the house where they spotted the body hanging from the ceiling fan of the room.

## 31 from Bengal missing, says Mamata

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday said 31 passengers from her state who were traveling in the express trains that met with a mishap in Balasore district June 2 evening are still missing.

Mamata arrived in the state Tuesday afternoon when Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera received her at Bhubaneswar airport. Soon after landing in Bhubaneswar, she visited Cuttack and met the injured people of her state undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospitals.

Speaking to media at Cuttack, Mamata said, “There are so many people from West Bengal traveling in the express trains. We are calling everybody; somebody is receiving and somebody is not. So far, 103 bodies have been identified, of which 83 have been received and others are under process while another 31 are still missing.”

Besides, more than 200 people are under treatment in different hospitals of Odisha and West Bengal. Of them, 93 are under treatment in Odisha hospitals, she said.

Asked about her reaction to the CBI probe, Mamata said, “I don’t want to say anything. Truth must come out. Let the truth prevail; it



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee at SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack

must not be suppressed.”

On the death toll, she said. “It is not the time for arguments. So many people have died. Let the truth come out. We are trying to help the injured passengers in all possible ways and had already dispatched teams of doctors, nurses and officers to take care of the injured passengers on the night of the accident June 2.”

She said there are 57 injured passengers from West Bengal in SCB Medical College.

“Some have lost their limbs while some others have lost their eyes. It’s such a tragedy that cannot be described through words,” she told reporters.

“I have already announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹1 lakh for the critically injured. Around 900 people who were travelling in the train and are going through mental and physical stress will be given ₹10,000,” she said.

Banerjee was accompanied by Women and Child Development minister Shashi Panja and Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharjee.

Both the ministers visited injured passengers admitted in AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose visited Basanti in South 24-Parganas

**Some have lost their limbs while some others have lost their eyes. It's such a tragedy that cannot be described through words**

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

to meet families of the passengers who died in the triple train accident June 2.

“It is an extremely sad situation. It is a case of human misery. This is the time when one should stand for all and all for one,” he told reporters.

He said both the state and Central governments have announced compensations for the victims of the tragedy.

The Coromandel Express crashed into a stationary goods train, derailling most of its coaches at 7pm June 2. In all, some 278 (revised to 288 Tuesday) people died in the accident and more than 1,200 were injured.

A few coaches of Coromandel toppled over the last few coaches of Bengaluru-Howrah Express which was passing by at the same time.

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

## AIIMS last hope for missing persons' kin



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** For Sibari, Ashok and Nizamuddin, life has been all about hospitals, mortuaries and bodies for the last four days since their relatives went missing after the Bahanaga Bazar train accident June 2.

The trio was among hundreds of people trooped in to AIIMS Bhubaneswar to find their missing relatives.

Sibari Sardar of Kolkata has been frantically searching for her husband Samar, who was in the ill-fated Coromandel Express.

“I searched for my husband in hospitals and morgues of Soro, Balasore, Cuttack and AIIMS Bhubaneswar,” she said.

Sibari, a 35-year-old mother of a child, says she was afraid to scan the album at AIIMS Bhubaneswar containing the photograph of the deceased.

“After mustering courage, I finally went through it and there too I could not find my husband. I hope he is alive.”

Similar is the case of Ramamani Behera from Odisha. “My husband had left home without informing me 16 days ago. On June 2, he called up my nephew and told him to receive him,” she said.

As Ramamani’s nephew waited for her husband, he got information that the train had crashed. “My world collapsed when I came to know that my husband was in the train. His mobile also went unanswered,” she said.

The case of Mohammad Nizamuddin from Purnia in Bihar is different. He came to AIIMS Bhubaneswar in search of his son-

in-law and two grandsons. Though he got the body of his youngest grandson Samir, his son-in-law and the other grandson Nasib were missing.

Nizamuddin, 70, said he visited at least half-a-dozen hospitals in Odisha and searched for them.

“It is difficult to continue the search as the administration has handed me the body of my younger grandson. I have to leave home with his body. My search is incomplete as the other two are still missing,” he said.

Nizamuddin, has also raised a genuine problem. “The Odisha government has provided a vehicle to carry the body packed in a plastic sheet. How can I cover 600km with this open body, which has now started to stink. They could have provided a coffin,” he said.

Ashok Rabi Das of Malda in West Bengal was cursing his fate as he has lost his patience searching his brother Krishna Rabi Das since Saturday.

“I have visited the accident site, Balasore mortuary and hospitals in Bhubaneswar. My old parents are calling me every 10 minutes,” Ashok said.

Ashok said he requested authorities to put his brother’s mobile number in location search to ascertain where he or his body was located.

“We have been trying our best to help people in distress. Our officials are taking people to different mortuaries and hospitals to locate their relatives,” said Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange.

## ‘Trust’ & ‘distrust’ buttons may help curb fake news

**T**he addition of ‘trust’ and ‘distrust’ buttons on social media, alongside standard ‘like’ buttons, could help reduce the spread of misinformation, finds a new experimental study.

Incentivising accuracy cut in half the reach of false posts, according to the findings published in eLife.

“Over the past few years, the spread of misinformation, or ‘fake news’, has skyrocketed, contributing to polarisation of the political sphere and affecting people’s beliefs on anything from vaccine safety to climate change to tolerance of diversity. Existing ways to combat this, such as flagging inaccurate posts, have had limited impact,” said Professor Tali Sharot at University College London.

“Part of why misinformation spreads so readily is that users are rewarded with ‘likes’ and ‘shares’ for popular posts, but without much incentive to share only what’s true.

“Here, we have designed a simple way to incentivise trustworthiness, which we found led to a large reduction in the amount of misinformation being shared,” Sharot said.

For the study, the team sought to test out a potential solution, using a simulated social media platform used by 951 study participants across six experiments.

The platforms involved users sharing news articles, half of which were inaccurate, and other users could react not only with ‘like’ or ‘dislike’ reactions, and repost stories, but in some versions



of the experiment, users could also react with ‘trust’ or ‘distrust’ reactions.

The researchers found that the

started posting more true than false information in order to gain ‘trust’ reactions.

Further analysis using computational modelling revealed that after the introduction of trust/distrust reactions, participants were also paying more attention to how reliable a news story appeared to be when deciding whether to repost it.

Additionally, the researchers found that after using the platform, those who had been using the versions with trust/distrust buttons ended up with more accurate beliefs.

“Buttons indicating the trust-

worthiness of information could easily be incorporated into existing social media platforms, and our findings suggest they could

be worthwhile to reduce the spread of misinformation without reducing user engagement,” said doctoral student Laura Globig from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

“While it’s difficult to predict how this would play out in the real world with a wider range of influences, given the grave risks of online misinformation, this could be a valuable addition to ongoing efforts to combat misinformation,” she added.

# Coromandel Exp chugs through mishap site

MORE THAN 70 TRAINS INCLUDING VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS HAVE SO FAR CROSSED THROUGH BAHANAGA BAZAR STATION SINCE BOTH THE UP AND DOWN LINES WERE RESTORED SUNDAY NIGHT



**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** Four days after the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express was involved in a triple train accident near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district, the down train from Chennai crossed the accident site at 30kmph Tuesday.

As the locomotive chugged through the distance, a sizeable number of onlookers witnessed the locomotive chug through the distance.

More than 70 trains including Vande Bharat Express have so far crossed through Bahanaga Bazar Station since both the up and down lines were restored Sunday night.

The three trains, involved in the major accident which claimed 278 lives and injured 1,200, were the Howrah-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah Express and a stationary goods train.

The CBI has Tuesday taken over the Balasore GRP case No. 64 registered by Odisha Police.

Khurda Road Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Rinkesh Ray said Monday of the 278 bodies, 177 have been identified while the unclaimed bodies have been kept in six different hospitals.

Roy said the Railways has deployed people in states such as Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand,

## 84 ambulances to ferry mortal remains

**Bhubaneswar:** The state government extended required assistance to the families of the deceased in triple train accident near Balasore. As many as 84 ambulances were pressed into service to ferry the mortal remains to their respective places while 18 more ambulances are put on standby, officials of Commerce and Transport department informed. The ambulances will travel within the state apart from Bihar and West Bengal. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced free bus service to Kolkata from Puri Bhubaneswar and Cuttack for stranded passengers.

Helpdesks have been set up for assistance at the bus stands and the railway stations of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Funds were sanctioned in respect of RTOs (Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri) for free of cost ferrying of stranded passengers. Meanwhile, 47 children rescued from accident sites were sent home to Bhagalpur district in Bihar in a special bus.

Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to locate any missing person.



**TRIBUTE TO LEGENDS:** Prominent members of the Odia film and music industries attended an event held Tuesday at a City hotel during the poster release of Reminiscing Gour & Parbati, a documentary film containing the quotes of the colleagues and peers of legendary Odia film personalities Parbati Ghose and Gour Prasad Ghose

## Plantation drive by JSW Steel, JUSL

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** JSW Steel and JUSL carried out plantation drive on the occasion of World Environment Day observed Monday. JSW Steel and JUSL planted many saplings at their mining and plant areas in Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Jagatsinghpur districts.

JSW Steel planted around 300 saplings in Jajang, Nuagaon, Narayanposhi and Ganua. The environment management department along with mines managers, JSW Steel employees and local villagers took part in the mass plantation drive. Similarly, JSW Utkal Steel in Paradip planted 5,000 Casuarina saplings at its project area.



## 2 Eragola gang members arrested

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** The Commissionerate Police has arrested two members of the interstate Eragola gang involved in a series of looting and mobile snatching cases in the Capital city during the last couple of months. The accused, M Chakrabarty alias Aditya and A Nabin alias Nikhil are the residents of Thengapali village under Aska police limits in Ganjam district.

"The modus operandi of the gang is to loot cash by breaking the side boxes of two-wheelers. The accused persons usually follow the victims after they come out of the banks with cash. They snatch away the cash by diverting the attention of the victims by throwing currency note or spraying some substance on their shirt," told DCP Prateek Singh.

"They used to receive messages from different states on Whatsapp

## MINORS RESCUED BY CHILDLINE

**Bhubaneswar:** The Childline, Bhubaneswar Tuesday rescued two minor boys who alleged sexual exploitation by the teacher of a Madrasa in Niali area of Cuttack district. The victims were produced before the Khurda Child Welfare Commission (CWC). "We received information from locals about the children who were roaming in Balianata area Tuesday morning. Upon asked, the minors revealed that a teacher at the Madrasa was sexually abusing them and they escaped from the place to get rid of continuous exploitation. They also claimed that several other students are being abused by the accused. We will file a complaint at the Niali police station in this regard Wednesday," told an official of Childline. The minors have been kept at a shelter home in the Capital city following the directions of the Khurda CWC.

regarding demands for various brands of mobile phones. Then, they got involved in a series of snatching to meet the demand. Later, they sent the phones to West Bengal, Assam, Bangalore and Chennai where they were sold in weekly markets," Singh added.

They used stolen bikes to commit the crime. They always changed their locations to avoid being tracked by the police.

The Commissionerate Police arrested the duo in connection with a case (122/23) registered at Mancheswar police station. Cops also seized eight mobile phones, one Apache motorcycle and Rs 1,50,000 in cash from their possession. They were involved in seven more cases registered at different police stations in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary, Bhubaneswar on 06.06.2023, I, Lilabati Hansdah, W/o- Late Jitendra Mohan Hansda, At-Saranapali, Jayadev Vihar, RRL, Bhubaneswar, Pin-751013 have correct the spelling of my surname from "HANSDA" to "HANSDAH". Now LILABATI HANSDAH and LILABATI HANSDA is one and same person and I have also correct my date of birth 07.10.1965 instead of 20.10.1969 for all official and non-official purpose. Sd./- Lilabati Hansdah

By virtue of an affidavit filed with Notary Public, Bargarh, I, Pradip Kumar Mohanty, S/o. Birakishor Mohanty, W.No.9, Bandutikra, Bargarh declare that in my Passport (No.J5737228) my father's name has been wrongly mentioned as Birakishore Mohanty instead of Birakishor Mohanty. That Birakishor Mohanty and Birakishore Mohanty is one and same person.

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Cuttack, I, Basanta Kumar Behera, aged about 45 years, S/o- Late Mohan Behera, Shaikh Bazar, PS-Lalbag, Cuttack do hereby state that, in some documents my name has been mentioned as Basant Kumar Behera. Hence Basanta Kumar Behera and Basant Kumar Behera same and one person for all purpose.

## Our aim to be within top 10 varsities: Nanda

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here maintained its pre-eminent position to be placed 15th among universities in the country in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for 2023 released by Union Minister of State for Education and External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh Monday.

SOA's founder president Prof. Manojranjan Nayak expressed his happiness over the ranks obtained by the university while congratulating the faculty, researchers and employees.

SOA vice-chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda thanked all concerned for the university's progress. "We must continue the hard work to ensure that the university is ranked among the top ten universities of the country within the next five years," he said.

This is the first time that SOA, a multi-disciplinary Deemed to be University, has broken into the select list of top 15 institutions of higher learning while being ranked 26th in the overall category jumping four places from the 30th position it occupied last year.

SOA, which was ranked 16th in the country in 2022, has continuously finished in the list of top 25 institutions of higher learning in the country for eight years since the inception of the NIRF rankings by the Ministry of Education in 2016.

SOA also improved its rank in Medical Sciences, Dental Sciences and Law this time. In Medical Sciences, it improved its position from 18th in 2022 to 16th in the country while in Law it finished at 8th (9th in 2022) and in Dental Sciences it has been placed 9th (10th in 2022). In the overall category, SOA has finished at the top of the list in the state in 2023.

in collaboration with Environment department. Students and teachers at the institute planted fruit bearing and other medicinal plants inside the institute premises. A plantation drive was also carried out on the premises of Biju Memorial Hospital at Paradip. Chief Medical Officer of the hospital Basant Kumar Rout, Chief Medical Officer, appreciated the noble efforts of AM/NS India for its contribution towards environmental sustainability.

AM/NS India Odisha Operations executive director Suresha G said, "We all have immense responsibility to protect our environment. We have planted 20,000 saplings inside the plant premises in 2022-23. This year, we aim to plant 10,000 more trees inside the plant and distribute more than 1,000 trees outside our plant boundaries to reduce the carbon footprint and have a greener environment".

## Host of activities by AM/NS India focusing environment

**Bhubaneswar, June 6:** In line with the theme of #beatplasticpollution, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) observed World Environment Day across its operating locations in the state.

To mark the day, various programmes like debate, online quiz, video messages on environment protection and poster-making competitions on environment were organised. A mass cleanliness drive on the National Highway and plantation drive were organised. HR & Environment department organised a customised environmental awareness programme for children of employees as part of their summer camp activities. The CSR team of AM/NS India also organised quiz and essay competition at government ITI at Paradip

## PPL observes World Environment Day

**Paradip, June 6:** Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) organised an event to observe 'World Environment Day' Monday. Regional officer of State Pollution Control Board, Paradip Puskar Chandra Behera graced the occasion as chief guest. Chief Manufacturing Officer & Unit Head Pranab Bhattacharyya, CGM (HR) Jagannath Khuntia and more than 300 employees among others were present on this occasion.

Speaking at the event, Behera explained how people can do away with single use plastic. He also underlined the importance of air, water, soil and waste management.

Bhattacharyya explained this year's theme "Beat Plastic Pollution" with various examples including initiatives taken by PPL.

## Carbon stored by fungi could be key to reaching net-zero

**A** new study has quantified the fungi in the soil globally to be storing over 13 gigatons of carbon, roughly 36 per cent of yearly global fossil fuel emissions, a finding it said could prove crucial to reach net-zero goals.

The study is a meta-analysis of hundreds of studies looking at plant-soil processes to understand how much carbon is being stored by the fungi on a global scale, conducted by an international team of scientists including those from University of Sheffield, UK.

Mycorrhizal fungi have been known to support life on land for at least 450 million years and make up vast underground networks all around us - even forming beneath roads, gardens, and houses.

Given the crucial role of fungi in cutting carbon emissions, researchers are now calling for them to be considered in biodiversity and conservation policies.

While widely believed to be able to store carbon through symbiosis with land plants and transportation



of carbon as sugars and fats into soil, the true extent of the amount of carbon the mycorrhizal fungi were storing was unknown until now, the study said.

Estimating the carbon-dioxide (CO2) being transferred from plants to fungi at 13.12 gigatons annually, the findings transform the soil beneath our feet into a massive carbon pool and the most effective carbon capture storage unit in the world, the study published in the journal Current Biology said.

The study equated the amount of carbon stored to roughly 36 per cent of yearly global fossil fuel emissions - more than what China emits each year.

Given the crucial role of fungi in cutting carbon emissions, researchers are now calling for them to be considered in biodiversity and conservation policies.

"Mycorrhizal fungi represent a blind spot in carbon modelling, conservation, and restoration - the numbers we've uncovered are jaw-dropping, and when we're thinking about solutions for climate we should also be thinking about what we can harness that exists already."

"More needs to be done to protect these underground networks - we already knew that they were essential for biodiversity, and now we have even more evidence that they are crucial to the health of our planet," said Katie Field, Professor of Plant-Soil Processes at the University of Sheffield and co-author of the study.

The researchers are now investigating how long the carbon is stored by the fungi in the soil, and are seeking to further explore the role that fungi plays in Earth's ecosystems.

"We always suspected that we may have been overlooking a major carbon pool."

"A major gap in our knowledge is the permanence of carbon within mycorrhizal structures. We do know that it is a flux, with some being retained in mycorrhizal structures while the fungus lives, and even after it dies."

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## 2 die in elephant attacks



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, June 6:** Two persons were killed Tuesday in elephant attacks in different districts of Odisha. The new deaths once more proved that there is no end to the man-elephant conflict in the state.

In the first incident, an elderly man was trampled to death by a tusker in a field close to Dalak village under Begunia block in Khurda district. The deceased was identified as Debaraj Harichandan (63), a resident of the village.

As per the locals, Debaraj went to a nearby field to relieve himself when he was attacked by the pachyderm. He tried to run to safety, but the elephant chased him down and trampled him. By the time other villagers rushed to Debaraj's rescue he had already breathed his last.

Irate villagers protested when Khurda Forest department officials arrived at the village. Personnel from the Begunia police station arrived at the spot and sent the body of the deceased for post-mortem. The Khurda tehsildar's office provided a compensation of ₹10,000 to the deceased's family from the Red Cross fund.

In the second incident a physically-challenged woman was killed by a tusker in Dahi village under Gajadi forest range in Mayurbhanj district. The woman, identified as Sita (57), had gone with others to collect mahua flowers from the forest when an elephant attacked them. While others managed to flee, the physically-challenged woman could not do so and lost her life.

After getting the news, forester Sushil Mohanta reached the spot. "As per government policy financial assistance will be provided to the deceased's family," Mohanta said.

## Bus terminals lie unused in Ganjam; passengers suffer

The 3 terminals built at a cost of ₹25 crore have not been operational since 2016

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, June 6:** Three newly-built bus terminuses in Berhampur, Gopalpur and this town in Ganjam district are lying unused. This is because owners have refused to ply their buses from these terminals on the pretext of various reasons, sources informed Tuesday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had inaugurated these terminuses in 2016. Since then seven years have elapsed, but still they remain non-functional. Locals alleged that the district administration is also not making any efforts to make these bus stands operational.

A total amount of more than ₹25 crore have been spent on the construction of these terminuses. So far however, the public has failed to reap the benefits, sources said.

Sources said that construction of a bus terminus was taken up on five acres of land at Haldiapadar in 2014 at an expense of ₹13 crore to stem the burgeoning traffic problem and increasing road mishaps. Accidents and traffic snarls were on the rise following a sharp hike in population and in the number of four-wheelers in areas under Berhampur Municipal Corporation.



This terminus has facilities for parking of over 100 buses, shops, toilets, rest rooms, several booking counters and garages. However, it wears a deserted look as there are no takers. Recently, the Kanishi tehsil office has been shifted to premises of this compound.

Similarly, another terminus was constructed on 6.44 acres of land in this town which is the district headquarters. However, buses do not ply from it. The third one at Gopalpur was built at a cost of ₹6 crore, but now it seems that the money has gone down the drain.

The non-functional bus terminals are causing acute hardships to the passengers. Buses are also stopping indiscriminately on the roads to pick up passengers causing problems to others.

Bharatiya Vikash Parishad, a voluntary organisation has demanded immediate steps to make the three terminals operational. It has submitted memorandums to the RDC (South), the District Collector, secretary, Berhampur Development Authority and forwarded copies to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary. The president of the organisation has warned of agitations if the three terminals do not start operations immediately.

## Engineer under Vigilance scanner

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, June 6:** Officials of the Vigilance department unearthed Tuesday properties worth crores of rupees from the possession of an assistant engineer of Rural Works Division in this district.

Sources here said simultaneous searches are being conducted at seven places in Sundargarh and Bhadrak districts following allegations of acquisition of disproportionate assets by the accused Sanjay Kumar Behera. During searches multi-storied buildings,



two plots of land, bank, postal and insurance deposits over ₹1.61 crore and other assets including 200 grams of gold, two-wheelers and four-wheelers were unearthed.

## Cop suspended for smuggling coal

**Bhadrak:** The Bhadrak district administration suspended Tuesday a constable of Sabrang police station for his alleged involvement in coal smuggling. The accused constable was identified as Rajendra Sahu. The matter came to the fore after SP Varun Guntupalli issued an order in this regard suspending the constable from service, Monday night. Sources said that Rajendra came under the scanner after an audio clip of him talking to one Pratap Behera over phone about coal smuggling went viral in social media platforms. In the audio clip, Rajendra was heard taking the names of criminals who have been arrested and produced in court on charges of coal smuggling in the past. He was also heard telling Pratap they should not quarrel among themselves and work in unison otherwise it would only result in losses for both. The SP took the decision to suspend Rajendra after hearing the audio clip. A panel has been formed to probe the incident. During the investigation, Rajendra will remain suspended, officials said.

## Illegal mining of gemstones rampant in Kalahandi dist



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawaniapatna, June 6:** Rampant smuggling of gemstones from Bondoguda and other mines about 15km from Junagarh town in Kalahandi district has led to loss of revenue worth crores to the state exchequer, sources informed Monday.

Gemstones deposits worth many crores are available in the district. Yet people are migrating to other states for work because of the absence of a gemstone processing unit, sources said. So as local people suffer, mafias reap rich profit from gemstone smuggling. People alleged that due to the lack of action by the police, Mines department and district administration, the mining mafia is having a field day.

It has been alleged that precious stones like quartz, blue sapphire (neelam), ruby (manikya), moonstone, emerald (panna) are

being illegally extracted from mines in Bondoguda, Jilingpadar, Rabandagar, Linedangar and Hinjilibahali under Junagarh block, Lavanyasar, Olbahali, Kashipadar, Kendukupla, Kunkuta, Bhaluchuan, Makarchuan, Udrung, Olma, Bandhananagar under Bhawaniapatna block and in some parts of T Rampur block.

The Hinjilibahali and Jilingpadar gemstone mines were being utilised by the state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) some 30 years back. Later, a company by the name of 'Gemco' was awarded the contract for mining. However, now extraction has completely stopped in all the mines. Security of the mines is the responsibility of the Odisha government, sources stated. Residents have expressed shock over illegal mining and have demanded a Vigilance probe into the irregularities.

Things have come to such a pass, that the mafia does not even hesitate to extract gemstones from the mines during daytime. They utilise the services of minors and elderly persons to carry out the extraction of gemstones. However, strangely the authorities and the cops are unaware about the illegal activities.

Sources said the mining of gemstones is taking place in reserve forests, proposed and rural forest areas, but the Mines department and district administration are yet to take any action. They added that illegal mining is also rampant close to the Karlapat wildlife sanctuary. The sources also informed that illegal mining of gemstones is not a recent development, but has been happening for a few decades now.

Locals alleged that the reach of the gangs who indulge in illegal mining is across the country and even abroad. They said that the gemstones are smuggled to Surat and some places in Rajasthan. However, while the criminals reap huge profits from smuggling of gemstones, local people remain deprived.

Local intelligentsia has demanded the setting up of a processing unit so that it will generate employment for the residents here.

## Man finds 'dead' son alive in Balasore morgue

AGENCIES

**Balasore, June 6:** Resident of Howrah district in West Bengal, Helaram Mallik travelled 235km to Balasore in search of his son. He did not know that a 'miracle' of sorts was waiting for him. Mallik found his son alive in a makeshift morgue along with the bodies of those deceased in the horrific train accident, June 2.

After pulling out his 24-year-old son Biswajit from the heaps of dead bodies inside the makeshift morgue at Bahanaga High School, Helaram rushed the former to the Balasore district headquarters hospital before shifting him to the SSKM hospital in Kolkata. Biswajit, who suffered multiple bone injuries in his limbs, has already undergone two surgeries.

"I saw the news (accident) on TV and called Biswajit to find out if he was okay.

He did not initially pick up the calls and then when he did, I could hear a feeble voice on the other side," Helaram, who runs a kirana shop, said.

On the same night (June 2), Helaram and his brother-in-law Dipak Das left for Balasore in an ambulance. "We could not find him as calls to his mobile went unanswered. We visited different hospitals but Biswajit was nowhere. We then went to the morgue at Bahanaga High School but were denied entry initially. Suddenly, there was an altercation among a few people followed by a commotion. Suddenly, I spotted a hand and knew it was my son's. He was alive," Helaram informed.

Without wasting a moment, Helaram took his 'almost unresponsive' son to Balasore DHH where he was administered a few injections. Then Helaram decided to take his son to Kolkata and now Biswajit is much better.



APPEAL

### Kind Attention - Balasore Train Accident

Please come forward and help Odisha Rail Accident Victims to reunite with their families

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Toll Free Number Odisha State Government



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[www.srcodisha.nic.in](http://www.srcodisha.nic.in) — photos of the deceased  
[www.bmc.gov.in](http://www.bmc.gov.in) — list of passenger undergoing treatment at S.C.B. Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack

YOU MAY ALSO VISIT LINKS AVAILABLE ON

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1ST CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.03/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/02.05.2023  
CORRIGENDUM No.1859, Date:24.05.2023  
No.O-198:Due to some unavoidable circumstances the following alternations have been made in the time schedules of this office e-Procurement Notice No. 03/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/02.05.2023.

Sl. No.	TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 03/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/02.05.2023	As per Scheduled	As per Rescheduled
1	Availability of Bid document in the website	Dt.17.05.2023 at 17.00 hours to 26.05.2023 upto 17.00 hours	Dt.07.06.2023 at 17.00 hours to 16.06.2023 upto 17.00 hours
2	Date of Seeking Clarification	During the Office hours of 17.05.2023 to 25.05.2023	During the Office hours of 07.06.2023 to 13.06.2023
3	Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.29.05.2023 at 11.00 hours	Dt.17.06.2023 at 11.00 hours

All other terms and conditions are remain unaltered.  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Koraput  
OIPR-25034/11/0011/2324

## 'Expired' medicines lead to kid's death

**Paralakhemundi:** Villagers protested and blocked the road Tuesday at Jajpur village in Gajapati district over the death of an 11-month-old baby Monday night, sources said. The protesters said that the baby had been given medicines past their expiry dates and those that were not fit for use anymore. The villagers held the Anganwadi worker and ASHA responsible for the baby's death. The deceased baby has been identified as Sanchit. As per information available, Sanchit was administered medicines procured from the Anganwadi centre after he fell ill a few days back. Initially he responded to the medicines, but then his condition deteriorated. He was admitted to a hospital here. However, as his condition did not improve, he was shifted first to AIIMS in Bhubaneswar and then to Sishu Bhawan in Cuttack. However, he died during treatment. The family members have filed an FIR in this regard alleging that the medicines procured from the Anganwadi centre were past their usage date and hence resulted in the child's death. Police have launched a probe into the matter.



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NHPC Limited, a premier Schedule-A, 'Mini Ratna' company of Government of India with 7097.20 MW installed capacity is looking for High performing, Dynamic & Achievement-Oriented Professionals. NHPC is involved in construction and operation of Hydro, Solar, Wind Power and Green Hydrogen Plants across the country especially amidst the beautiful surroundings and breath-taking views of Himalayan region.

NHPC, the biggest hydropower company in India and a leader in design, construction and operation of Hydropower Plants, offers exciting opportunities and challenges to learn and grow. The vacancy details are as below:

Sl. No.	Post	No. of Posts
1	Junior Engineer (Civil) / S1 / ₹ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	149
2	Junior Engineer (Electrical) / S1 / ₹ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	74
3	Junior Engineer (Mechanical) / S1 / ₹ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	63
4	Junior Engineer (E & C) / S1 / ₹ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	10
5	Supervisor (IT) / S1 / ₹ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	9
6	Supervisor (Survey) / S1 / ₹ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	19
7	Sr. Accountant / S1 / ₹ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	28
8	Hindi Translator / W06 / ₹ 27,000-1,05,000 (IDA)	14
9	Draftsman (Civil) / W04 / ₹ 25,000-85,000 (IDA)	14
10	Draftsman (Elect./Mech.) / W04 / ₹ 25,000-85,000 (IDA)	8
	TOTAL	388

Candidates can view the detailed advertisement with post and category wise vacancy position, eligibility conditions and instructions for filling online applications by visiting Career Section of NHPC website: <https://www.nhpcindia.com/career.htm>. Only Online mode of application is accepted.

Date of Opening of online portal : 09.06.2023 (10:00 AM)  
Last date of Closing of online portal : 30.06.2023 (11:55 PM)

For complete details please visit our website: <https://www.nhpcindia.com/career.htm>. Only Online mode of application is accepted.

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL PURUSHOTTAMPUR, (GANJAM) PIN-761018**  
Email id: eo-nacpurushottampur@gov.in / purushottampurnac@gmail.com  
No.C-523: Ph. No. 06811-295222

Letter No.1947/NAC Dated:05.06.2023  
**Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) Construction of Foot over Bridge**

Purushottampur NAC is planning for the construction of Foot over Bridge near Ex-Board School Square in Ward No-08. The tentative requirement is assessed as under:  
1. Length of FOB 24 Meters, Span of 3 meters. Height 25 Feet.  
2. Made of steel used in heavy structures.  
3. For Structural design & drawing with Estimate  
The site can also be visited after **prior intimation**.  
EOI must be submitted to the undersigned in the prescribed Format (Annexure I).  
EOI should include:  
1. Proposal for the work along with the sketch.  
2. Detailed Specification of the equipment/accessories with manuals and costing sheet.  
3. Detailed installation/Labour charges / Taxes etc.  
4. Standing of the firm showing details of the clients served by the firm.

Interested parties may submit their proposal within 7 days from the date of publication.

For any further query or clarification, the interested parties may contact through Phone 06811-295222 (Office), 6371741705 (Jr. Engineer).

The following General Terms & Conditions will be applicable on the EOI:

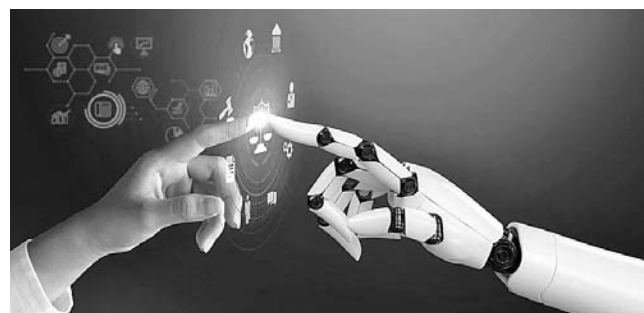
- The applicant (Firm) should have experience of at least ten years in a related field and be capable of handling big projects. (Submit proof of existing/ongoing projects i.e., previous orders, name of organization served, contact details etc.).
- By mere participation in EOI, the party shall not reserve the right to qualify as a bidder.
- Proposal based on Annexure I containing general terms & conditions is to be submitted along with the non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000/- (one thousand only) in the form of a Demand Draft in favour of Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur, payable at Purushottampur.
- The costs of preparing the proposal for the contract, including visits/visits, shall be borne by your firm and are not reimbursable.
- Based on the EOIs received, the competent authority shall decide further course of action.
- Purushottampur NAC will not be responsible for any postal delays.
- Submission by way of e-mail is not acceptable.
- The Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd./- Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur  
OIPR-13187/11/0010/2324

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

SURVIVING THE POLYCRISIS

done as soon as possible. This brings us to the third component of the polycrisis. The Russian invasion of Ukraine came as a negative shock to the world, disrupting food supplies and causing major geopolitical realignments. Having said that, the actual outcome is much better than could have been expected. The Ukrainian army put up heroic resistance and, with strong support from the US and Europe, turned things around. The Russian army proved to be a paper tiger, badly led and thoroughly corrupt. The Wagner Group, a private mercenary army, propped up the invasion for a period, but in the end, they too failed to defeat Ukraine.



AI helps closed societies and poses a mortal threat to open societies. That's because AI is particularly good at producing instruments of control that help closed societies to surveil their subjects

because it has absolutely nothing to do with reality. AI creates its own reality and when that artificial reality fails to correspond to the real world – which happens quite often – it is discarded as hallucination. This made me almost instinctively opposed to AI and I wholeheartedly agree with the experts who argue that it needs to be regulated. But the regulations have to be globally enforceable because the incentive to cheat is too great; those who evade the regulations gain an unfair advantage. Unfortunately, global regulations are unattainable because the world is dominated by a conflict between two systems of governance which are diametrically opposed to each other. They have radically different views on what needs to be regulated and why.

I refer to the two systems of governance as open and closed societies. I define the difference between the two as follows: in an open society, the role of the state is to defend the freedom of the individual; in a closed society, the role of the individual is to serve the interests of the rulers. AI is developing incredibly fast, and it is impossible for ordinary human intelligence to fully understand it. Nobody can predict where it will take us. But we can be sure of one thing: AI helps closed societies and poses a mortal threat to open societies. That's because AI is particularly good at producing instruments of control that help closed societies to surveil their subjects.

The second element in the polycrisis is climate change. The global climate system has been disrupted by increased human intervention, particularly the large-scale use of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, and methane. The 2015 Paris

agreement set a target of 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial times. That is now bound to be transgressed; in spite of all the efforts to fight climate change, the rate of warming is actually accelerating.

Two highly respected climate scientists, David King, a former chief scientific adviser to the UK government, and Johan Rockström of the Potsdam Institute, have warned that this could trigger tipping points and lead to the collapse of life on earth.

"There would be a collapse of all the big biomes on planet Earth – the rainforest, many of the temperate forests – abrupt thawing of permafrost, we will have complete collapse of marine biology, we will have a shift of large parts of the habitability on Earth," Rockström said.

"Over one-third of the planet around the equatorial regions will be uninhabitable because you will pass the threshold of health, which is around 30°C."

Unfortunately, when fighting climate change interferes with people's livelihood, they want to protect their livelihood. Farmers in Germany and the Netherlands are up in arms against regulating nitrogen emissions because these regulations prevent them from keeping cows. They have mobilised, winning elections and shaking the European Union. I should also mention the desire of oil companies to continue making a profit.

We are way behind schedule in fighting climate change. We ought to do everything that climate scientists deem necessary – reduce emissions deeply and rapidly, remove excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and refreeze the Arctic. To do this, we must gain the approval of indigenous communities. All this has to be

As a result, Ukraine is now ready to launch a counterattack as soon as all of the equipment it has been promised by the West is delivered. Biden has even agreed that Ukraine should be given F-16 fighter planes. I believe the counterattack will be successful. The target will be the Crimean Peninsula, the home base of the Russian Navy. By destroying the already damaged land bridge with Russia, Ukraine could turn a strategic asset into a strategic liability, because Crimea has no water. With the land bridge destroyed, Crimea will depend on Ukraine for water.

Many parts of the Russian Federation are already chafing under President Vladimir Putin's despotic regime, and this development may cause them to reject it altogether. Putin's dream, a revived Russian Empire, could disintegrate and no longer pose a threat to Europe and the world.

The end of the war in Ukraine will come as a positive shock for the world. This may provide an opportunity for Biden to lower the tension between the US and China, which is itself in the midst of an economic decline that may make President Xi Jinping more receptive to an accommodation with the US. Biden is not seeking regime change in China; all he wants is to reestablish the status quo in Taiwan.

A Russian defeat in Ukraine, and a lessening of Sino-American tensions, may create room for world leaders to focus on fighting climate change, which is threatening to destroy our civilisation. But there is only a narrow and winding path that leads to this outcome.

**The writer is Founder and Chair of the Open Society Foundations.**  
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Arms & Men

The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive.



THE MOTHER

Truth is the worst casualty in the Russia-Ukraine war as it often happens during warfare on a large scale. But, this time it is in the interest of the global community that the truth is known about what is actually happening there as the world economy is reeling and global climate change is being seriously impacted by that event. Yet, no one knows for sure who is telling the truth about the outcome of the war so far. Russia on the one side and Ukraine and its Western allies on the other are claiming successes in either controlling swathes of territories in Ukraine or repulsing the enemy from the occupied areas. The deception has been sustained with propaganda and repression.

If one is to go by the Deputy Defence Minister of Ukraine Hanna Maliar a Ukrainian offensive is "taking place in several directions." This triggers speculation that a major push by Kyiv to recapture land held by Russia's occupying forces could be getting underway. To buttress her claim she has even said it is not only about repulsing the Russian soldiers from Bakhmut, but the offensive is taking place in several other places as well. She appeared in the country's television late last week exuding confidence.

Recent weeks have seen Ukraine's military attacking Russian targets such as fuel depots and weapons dumps far behind frontlines. But government officials in Kyiv have been at pains to say the start of any counter-offensive would not be announced.

Both Ukraine and Russia have engaged in intense information campaigns to sway public opinion and mislead their opponents about their battle plans. In fact Maliar's comments came in the wake of the Russian Defence Ministry claims that its troops resisted a "large-scale" attack from Ukrainian forces in the eastern Donetsk region. The Russian military claimed in a statement to have killed 250 Ukrainians and destroyed armoured vehicles used in the assault, but provided no evidence whatsoever.

In the midst of this propaganda and counter-propaganda has come the news of drone attacks on strategic locations of Russia. This seems to have rattled Russia's President Vladimir Putin who has so far been successfully convincing his people that he is winning the battle. It is easy to sustain lies with doctored images on television. But when drones strike specific targets in Moscow, it explodes the myth of invincibility carefully built by Putin. There were also reports of a fire at an oil refinery in the southern Russian Krasnodar region, started by a drone. The raid on Moscow did not cause as much damage as alarm. It is highly embarrassing for Putin to find ordinary Russians being greeted with such strikes close to their homes. This punctures the illusion Putin has so carefully created to hoodwink his own people. It is difficult for him now to pretend things did not happen when his people can see them from their windows.

Most analysts believe the drone attacks are part of a strategy to force the Kremlin to divert resources and attention away from the frontline in advance of a Ukrainian counteroffensive to recapture occupied territory. It is therefore all the more necessary to get facts about the war. For Putin the invasion of Ukraine was a dire necessity to create a buffer zone in view of Ukraine's highly probable induction into NATO. He was convinced he could do so easily. Obviously, his intelligence agencies did a shoddy job as they were unable to assess the resolve of the Ukrainians to defend their territories. The supply of arms and ammunition and sophisticated air power by the US-led West has further upset Putin's calculations.

It could be that if he is cornered, Putin may exercise the nuclear option that he has so long been threatening to intimidate the West. The need of the hour for the global community is to persuade Putin to go to the negotiation table and end the war.

The country that can make it possible is China. But, the latter seems to have other ideas. When the economy of Russia and the West are getting hit daily due to the war, China is consolidating its own economy with its plan to overtake the US and become the largest economic power in the world.



George Soros

UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE INTERFERES WITH PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD, THEY WANT TO PROTECT THEIR LIVELIHOOD

We are living in troubled times. Too much is happening too fast. People are confused.

The Columbia University economic historian Adam Tooze has, indeed, popularised a word for it. He calls it a "polycrisis." The polycrisis has many sources. In my opinion the main source of the polycrisis afflicting the world today is artificial intelligence. Climate change comes second, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine qualifies as the third. The list is much longer but I'll focus on these three. That should help reduce the confusion.

AI shocked the world when Microsoft made ChatGPT freely available to the public through an associated company called OpenAI. That was in November 2022. ChatGPT posed an existential threat to Google's business model. Google went into overdrive to release a competing product as soon as possible.

Shortly thereafter, Geoffrey Hinton, who is generally considered the godfather of AI, resigned from Google so that he could speak openly about the risks posed by the new technology. Reversing his previous position, he took a very dim view of AI. He said that it could destroy our civilisation. Hinton pioneered the development of neural networks that can understand and generate language and learn skills by analysing data. As the data grew so did the capacity of AI's so-called large language models.

This made a big impression on Hinton. "Maybe what is going on in these systems is actually a lot better than what is going on in the brain," he said. As they become more powerful they also become more dangerous, he claimed. In particular, he warned against fully autonomous weapon systems – killer robots, he called them.

I grew up before AI was invented. That made me a great believer in reality. I realised at a relatively early age how difficult it is to understand the world I was born into, and I looked to reality to provide me with moral guidance. We, human beings, are both participants and observers in the world in which we live. As participants we want to change the world in our favour; as observers we want to understand reality as it is. These two objectives interfere with each other. I regard this as an important insight which allows me to distinguish between right and wrong. AI destroyed this simple schema

WISDOM CORNER

- Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway. **EARL NIGHTINGALE**
- Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people. **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**
- If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**

WORDSWORTH

Jackanapes

A jackanapes is a cheeky or impertinent person. The most widespread story connects the origins of this word with William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. He was steward of the Royal Household under Henry VI, but was accused of treason and banished in 1450, only to be murdered at sea off Dover. His emblem was an ape's clog and chain (a clog here being not a type of shoe but a heavy block of wood to stop the animal escaping). This led to his being described in a scurrilous poem the year before his death as ape-clog and posthumously as Jack Napes. Though Jack Napes might therefore seem to derive from the ill-fated duke, something that has often been assumed, the experts are sure that it came from another source and was applied to the Duke because of his odd emblem. The real origin probably lay in a playful name for a tame ape, in which the second part was a case of metanalysis (in which an ape has been turned into a nape), with an s on the end to make it match other surnames of the period, like Jacques or Hobbes. It went through various forms until it settled down to its modern spelling. The idea behind it moved from a pet name for an ape to a man acting in some way like an ape. The OED gives the sense in one of its wonderful definitions as "One who is like an ape in tricks, airs, or behaviour; a ridiculous upstart; a pert, impertinent fellow, who assumes ridiculous airs; a coxcomb."

Jackpot

The word has always had associations with gambling, at first not the big lotteries of today with their rollover jackpots, but with the game of poker. In its early days in the US in the 1820s, poker was a gambling game for four players using a deck of only 20 cards; its reputation was commonly as a crooked game for cheats and hustlers. Its rules evolved very quickly through the following decades. Players began to use the full deck of 52 cards so more could take part in a game and, around the 1860s, some bright spark had the idea of improving the game by introducing a rule that nobody could open the betting unless his hand contained two jacks or better. If, after the usual rounds of dealing extra cards, nobody else had a hand good enough to bid, the player with the good hand took the accumulated stakes, which obviously enough became known as the jack pot. This version of the game took a while to catch on. Though the term is first recorded in an issue of The National Police Gazette in 1865, it doesn't appear with any frequency until the middle 1870s. The term began to be applied to lotteries only around the start of the twentieth century.

LOL You're back again?



"Your Honour," the criminal said, "that's what I tried to tell the police, but they wouldn't listen."

The Judge said to the defendant: "I thought I told you I never wanted to see you in here again."

IN JEST THIS

Joining forces to fight baldness

If you're completely bald or have a receding hairline or an ever-growing bald spot like me, I have some good news for you: scientists are getting closer to a cure and it doesn't involve a spray can. It may even happen in our lifetimes, which means we could have all our hair back within a few decades, just in time to charm all those ladies at the retirement home. Actually, there's only one lady I want to charm and she doesn't seem to care that I have a growing bald spot. If anything, she's pleased that there's undeniable evidence of actual growth near my brain.



Melvin Durai

ACTUALLY, THERE'S ONLY ONE LADY I WANT TO CHARM AND SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE THAT I HAVE A GROWING BALD SPOT

I'm perfectly okay with having a bald spot, really I am. And if you don't believe me, just ask anyone in my 'Bald is Beautiful' support group. We get together once a month to share our stories of hair loss. There's Al and Bruce and Pedro and Salman and a few other guys. We have varying degrees of baldness. For example, I have a bachelor's degree, Bruce has a master's and Salman has a PhD (prominent hair deficiency).

Our last meeting began, as it usually does, with a little sharing. We sat in a circle and shared a bottle of wine. It always helps the guys open up. Al took a sip and said, "Yesterday, while I was at the laundromat, I met this pretty woman who told me she's a cancer survivor. So I said, 'Really? Well, I'm a baldness survivor. Maybe we can go out sometime.' And she slapped me."

Pedro shook his head. "People just don't understand what baldness does to a man. When I started losing my hair; my so-called best friend kept saying, 'You're going bald, Pedro!' as if I didn't already know. As if I didn't look in the mirror every morning and take attendance. Ricardo, here. Enrique, here. José, here. Alfredo ... oh no, I lost another one."

Bruce laughed. "You named your hair too?"

"Of course. When you have so few, you grow close to them. They're like family."

"Ain't that the truth," Bruce said. "We need to educate people about this. We need to make them more aware, so that our sons and grandsons don't have to endure as much baldism as we have. Wouldn't that be great?"

"Sure would," Salman said. "That's why I'm starting a petition online to get leaders around the world to declare the third Saturday of March as Baldness Awareness Day (BAD)."

"Good idea," Bruce said. "We could honour all the great bald men in history, such as Dwight Eisenhower, the first bald man to be elected president of America, Tom Stafford, the first bald man in outer space, and Seal, the first bald man to marry a supermodel."

"Wouldn't it be better to call it Bald Man's Day?" Pedro said. "That way, we could get our family and friends to give us cards and gifts."

"I like that," Al said. "Forget the petition, Salman – let's write to Hallmark instead."

"Speaking of cards," Pedro said,

"we should send a 'thank you' card to Dr. Angela Christiano for all her great research on baldness. I was so thrilled when I heard that she and her fellow researchers at Columbia University in New York City have succeeded in growing human hair in a dish using stem cells. Now all we need to do is figure out a way to stick the dish to our heads!"

"I've never heard of Dr. Christiano," Bruce said. "Does she have thinning hair?"

"No," Pedro said. "She's got plenty of hair. But she's on our side. She's a friend of the bald."

"We need to help Dr. Christiano," Bruce said. "I'm sure she needs more money for her research."

"I've got an idea," Salman said. "Let's organise a fundraiser. We can call it the Walkathon to Cure Baldness. We can get our family and friends to walk 10km and raise lots of money."

"I hate walking," Al said. "Why don't we do something different? Let's call it the Drive to Cure Baldness."

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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

Orissa POST  
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Shoddy construction

Sir, This refers to "Guard feared dead in Bihar bridge collapse," *Orissa Post*, Jun 6. It is a relief that about 100 lives of poor labourers were saved from the clutches of death in the unfortunate incident in which one guard feared dead. However, it is one more project of appalling quality meeting its inevitable fate, barely seven months since the Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat that killed over 140 people. The Bihar bridge imploded under the weight of its own flawed design and shoddy construction. There is no end to the state-private contractor-builder nexus where high-value infrastructure projects are rushed through without structural inspections, quality audits or safety monitoring. Bridges, roads, and expressways face the same fate across India and the list is depressingly long. But, public safety is repeatedly disregarded. Regardless of the party at the helm, no heads roll within the governments. The contractors pay the price, if at all. And no one ever pays the price for the grievous pollution caused by the debris of the substandard material, the plumes of dust and the ash that sink into our rivers and country sides, killing aquatic and other ecosystems. Governments are accountable to the people, but first of all, they must be accountable to the law of the land, even as polluters.

N Sathasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON

Fleeing air travellers

Sir, The triple train crash near Balasore is horrific. As many as 288 people were killed and over 900 injured, some are still in critical condition and are undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the state. The number is still counting. The immediate rush of the local people to rescue the injured and many others coming out spontaneously to donate blood at midnight is praiseworthy. Several trains have been cancelled. Misery of the people is beyond description. The Odisha government has been plying free bus services to Kolkata to help the passengers and their relatives. In the meantime, it is reported that the airlines have raised the air fares to and from Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and several other cities five to ten times the normal fare. Exorbitant fare charged by the airlines is not only inhuman but unjustified also. The government must intervene.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

# national

### of the day quote

We are currently undertaking the development of a 25 km two-lane highway with hard shoulders, spanning from Chakabama to Zunheboto, as part of package-3



Providing good education to children and preparing the youth for employment has been Sisodia's vision. He has closely monitored the construction of this campus from the drawing stage to construction



India and Namibia have greater possibility of closer cooperation in the field of energy, including in oil and gas, green hydrogen and solar



### SHORT TAKES

#### Atishi moves Delhi High Court

New Delhi: Delhi's education minister, Atishi, Tuesday moved the Delhi High Court requesting the court to direct the central government to make a decision regarding the necessary clearances for her upcoming official visit to the United Kingdom (UK). The petition states that Atishi, as an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, has been invited by Cambridge University to speak at a conference on 'India at 100: Towards Becoming a Global Leader' June 15. The petition seeking permission to travel abroad from June 14 to 20, is scheduled to be heard Wednesday.

#### 3 women killed in Palghar wall crash

Palghar (Maharashtra): At least three women were crushed to death and one injured seriously when a wall of an under-construction building crashed here Tuesday evening, officials said. According to the Mira-Bhayander Vasai-Virar Police Control, the disaster happened around 4 p.m. in Pimplewadi area of Virar east town. The wall of the building being constructed suddenly gave away, crushing the 4 women working there and three succumbed, said an official.

#### Haryana farmers block highway

Chandigarh: Hundreds of farmers Tuesday blocked the national highway in Haryana's Kurukshetra district demanding the state government to withdraw its decision not to procure sunflower seeds on minimum support price (MSP) and induct the crop under the Bhavantar Bhanjapay Yojana. Some protesting farmers even tried to remove police barricades on the road. The protest was led by Haryana BKU (Chaduni) chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni.

#### Food delivery agent mowed down by bus

New Delhi: In a hit-and-run case, a food delivery agent was mowed down allegedly by a private bus in north Delhi's Civil Lines area, police said Tuesday. The accused driver has been arrested. The deceased was identified as Dhanvir Singh alias Tanvir, 27, a resident of Nepal, and working as a delivery agent in a food canteen. A video of the incident was also doing rounds on social media. According to police, around 5.30 a.m. on Saturday, a police control room call was received regarding an accident at IP College's red light at Civil Lines following which a police team reached the spot.

## NCB makes 'largest-ever' LSD seizure

NCB MAKES LARGEST-EVER LSD BUST OF 15,000 BLOTS IN A PAN-INDIA DRUG TRAFFICKING OPERATION THROUGH THE DARK WEB WITH LINKAGES TO POLAND, NETHERLANDS AND US. LSD IS BECOMING POPULAR AMONG YOUTH IN INDIA AND CAN BE EASILY SMUGGLED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Tuesday said it has made the "largest-ever" single operation seizure of about 15,000 LSD blots in the country with the arrest of six people as it busted an international drugs trafficking network operating on the darknet.

The seizure, as per officials, is estimated to be worth over ₹10 crore in the international market (about ₹5K-7K per blot) and all the six who have been taken into custody, beginning late last month, are students and youngsters who wanted to make "easy money" by remaining anonymous within the deep layers of secret internet-based apps and messenger service like WICKR.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the federal anti-narcotics agency on the achievement, saying it reflected great coordination between cyber vigilance and human intelligence and this was in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a drug-free India. "This is the 'largest-ever' seizure



Narcotics Control Bureau officials with people arrested after the busting of a suspected drugs trafficking network operating on the dark web

of LSD blots in the country in a single operation. Six youngsters have been arrested till now and we are on the trail of one more such cartel," NCB deputy director general (northern region) Gyaneshwar Singh told reporters here.

Those arrested are in the age group of 25-28 years, the officials said. Shah said the success was a result of a "great coordination between cyber vigilance and human intelligence...As the darknet and

cryptocurrencies were used to trade these drugs".

"Due to intensified vigilance and improved coordination, drug seizures have exponentially increased in India in the last few years," the home minister said on Twitter.

A total of 14,961 blots were seized as part of the about two-week long operation and the blots are of "gammagoblin and holy spirit of asura" brand, Singh said.

The deputy DG further said that till now, the highest seizure of LSD was 5,000 blots by the Karnataka Police during the entire span of 2021 and about a similar amount of blots by the Kolkata NCB in 2022 in a single operation. LSD abuse is largely prevalent among youngsters and it can lead to serious health issues, Singh said.

According to the officials, LSD is known as 'acid' in illegal drugs parlance and is odourless, colourless and tasteless and the user loses the sense of space, distance

and time affecting their judgement and behaviour severely.

Possession of 0.1 gram of LSD (about six blots), which is the commercial quantity for the hallucinogenic drug, invites strict legal action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, leading to denial of bail and rigorous imprisonment in jail for the person who trades or consumes it, an NCB officer said.

NCB's deputy DG Singh said the latest seizure of about 15,000 LSD blots is 2,500 times of the commercial quantity. Apart from the LSD blots, 2.32 kgs of ganja and ₹4.65 lakh cash have been seized while bank deposits worth ₹20 lakh have been frozen, the deputy DG said. NCB zonal director (Delhi) Gyanendra Kumar Singh said those arrested are mostly educated and are young.

LSD OR LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE IS A SYNTHETIC CHEMICAL BASED-DRUG AND IS CATEGORISED AS A HALLUCINOGEN. IT IS TRAFFICKED BY PAINTING IT ON BLOTS, HALF THE SIZE OF A STAMP PAPER, AND IS CONSUMED BY LICKING OR SWALLOWING. PAYMENTS WERE MADE VIA CRYPTOCURRENCY AND CRYPTO WALLETS



RAIN WOES: Commuters waded through a waterlogged road following rainfall in Gurugram, Haryana

### ORDINANCE ISSUE Kejriwal to meet Akhilesh today

Kejriwal has so far met his counterparts from various non-BJP led states and leaders of Opposition parties to drum up support against the Centre's ordinance which has taken services out of the Delhi government's purview and handed it over to the L-G

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 6: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will meet Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav here Wednesday amid efforts by the AAP to garner support against the Centre's ordinance on control of services in the national capital.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will accompany Kejriwal at the meeting. "Tomorrow, I and Bhagwant Mann Sahib will meet Akhilesh Yadav ji in Lucknow to seek support for the rights of the people

of Delhi against the unconstitutional ordinance of the Central government," Kejriwal tweeted.

The national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party has been reaching out to leaders of non-BJP parties to garner their support against the ordinance so that the Centre's bid to replace it through a Bill is defeated when it is brought in Parliament.

AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh is also likely to accompany Kejriwal at the meeting, an SP leader said without elabo-



rating on the agenda of the meeting. The Centre May 19 had promulgated the ordinance to create an authority for the transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi, which the AAP government had called a deception with the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.

The ordinance came a week after

the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi, excluding police, public order and land, to the elected government. It seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers from the DANICS cadre.

## 73.7% of healthcare firms pay ransomware demand: Report

As ransomware attacks become more common, organisations are taking steps to mitigate the damage if they are hit, according to a global cyber risk management company Arete

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 6: Healthcare organisations had a 73.7 per cent likelihood of paying a ransomware demand, and they are also the fourth most targeted sector by ran-

somware attacks (13 per cent) globally, a new report said Tuesday.

As ransomware attacks become more common, organisations are taking steps to mitigate the damage if they are hit, according to a global cyber risk management company Arete.

Some of the most effective controls include backups, multifactor authentication (MFA), and end-point detection and response (EDR), which can all play a role in helping keep your organisation safe.

"Healthcare organisations are often targets of ransomware because of the presence of sensitive information, including PII and PHI, can increase the likelihood of ransom payment," said Arete's Chief Data Officer, Chris Martenson.

"In today's digital-first world, it is pivotal for healthcare organisa-



tions to build cybersecurity teams in-house or collaborate with a third-party security partner to implement effective mitigation tactics and controls," he added.

Less than one in four healthcare organisations has MFA in

### Malware attack detected at AIIMS

New Delhi: A malware attack was detected at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here Tuesday but the threat was neutralised by the deployed cyber-security systems at the institute, authorities said. "A malware attack was detected at 1450 hrs today by the cyber-security systems deployed in AIIMS, New Delhi. The attempt was successfully thwarted, and the threat was neutralised by the deployed cyber-security systems. The e-Hospital services remain to be fully secure and are functioning normally," the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) said. As rumours of a possible cyber attack began to spread, Minister of State for Electronics and Information and Technology Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar took to Twitter to clarify that there was no cyber incident or breach.

place, while just over half report performing regular backups.

Moreover, the report said that just having an EDR platform is one of the more effective ways to decrease the payment likelihood in the healthcare sector. Data encryption is the top technique used for impact in 100

per cent of the ransomware cases that impacted the healthcare sector. The next most popular technique was 'inhibiting system recovery'. To mitigate the risk of data exfiltration, user training and data backups are two key controls to consider, the report said.

### PLEA IN TOP COURT AGAINST INTERNET BAN IN MANIPUR

Two Manipur residents have moved the Supreme Court against the "mechanical and repeated" internet shutdown in the state rocked by ethnic violence that began a month ago



### TRIPLE TRAIN CRASH

## Cong slams govt over CBI probe



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The Congress Tuesday slammed the government over the CBI probe into the Odisha railway tragedy, and termed the move as head-lines management to divert attention from its own "failures".

The CBI has taken over investigation into the Balasore train accident and filed an FIR. At a press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said it has been over 96 hours since the accident took place but no accountability has been fixed.

"How is it that there is no accountability, no responsibility. Instead of finding out what caused this grave accident in which almost 300 people died, the government is now spinning conspiracy theories. It is shifting focus from safety to all kinds of conspiracy theories like deliberate interference," she told reporters.

At a time when the Railway Minister should resign by taking moral responsibility, new theories are being created to "divert" attention. There is not even an 'A' of accountability of this government, she asserted.

The Congress spokesperson claimed that the Odisha train occurred due to interlocking and signal failure and also due to low track maintenance but the government is trying to divert attention.

Earlier in a tweet, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh

### The June 2 train crash in Odisha involving two passenger trains and a goods train killed 288 people and injured more than 1,100

said, "Even before the Commissioner of Railway Safety has submitted his report on the Balasore train disaster, a CBI inquiry is announced."

Ramesh also raised the issue of the 2016 Kanpur rail accident in which 150 lives were lost, and noted that the NIA is yet to come out with its report.

"Ab yeh Chronology yaad kiye - 1. Nov 20, 2016: Indore-Patna Express derailed near Kanpur. Over 150 people lose their lives. 2. Jan 23, 2017: Then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu writes to Union Home Minister asking for NIA probe into this accident.

Will the CBI find out why the CAG report mentions that nearly seven out of 10 accidents between 2017-21 were due to train derailments, or why the East Coast Railway track maintenance for safety was not done, she asked.

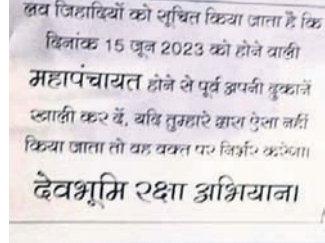
The Congress leader also asked whether the CBI will find out why three lakh positions in Railways are vacant or why loco drivers are being made to work within 12 hours and will CBI find out why has track maintenance fund being cut by 23 percent.

### Muslim traders threatened in Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi (U'khand), June 6: Days after an alleged attempt by two men, including a member of the minority community, to abduct a minor girl was foiled by locals, threatening posters appeared on shops owned by Muslim traders in Purola town here asking them to leave the place immediately.

The posters were put up on the shutters of the shops late on Sunday evening, Purola Station House Officer Khajan Singh Chauhan said.



The posters asked Muslim traders to leave Purola by June 15 when a 'mahapanchayat' will be held by 'Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan'. "Love jihadis are informed that they should vacate the shops ahead of the mahapanchayat to be held on June 15. If you don't do this, only time will tell what will happen," the posters read. Muslim traders said they are scared to open their shops and some of them have even left the town. There are 650-700 shops in Purola main market, of which 30-40 are owned by Muslims. Right-wing Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Virendra Rana said the posters were put up by locals.

# UP kids top in climate change vulnerability index

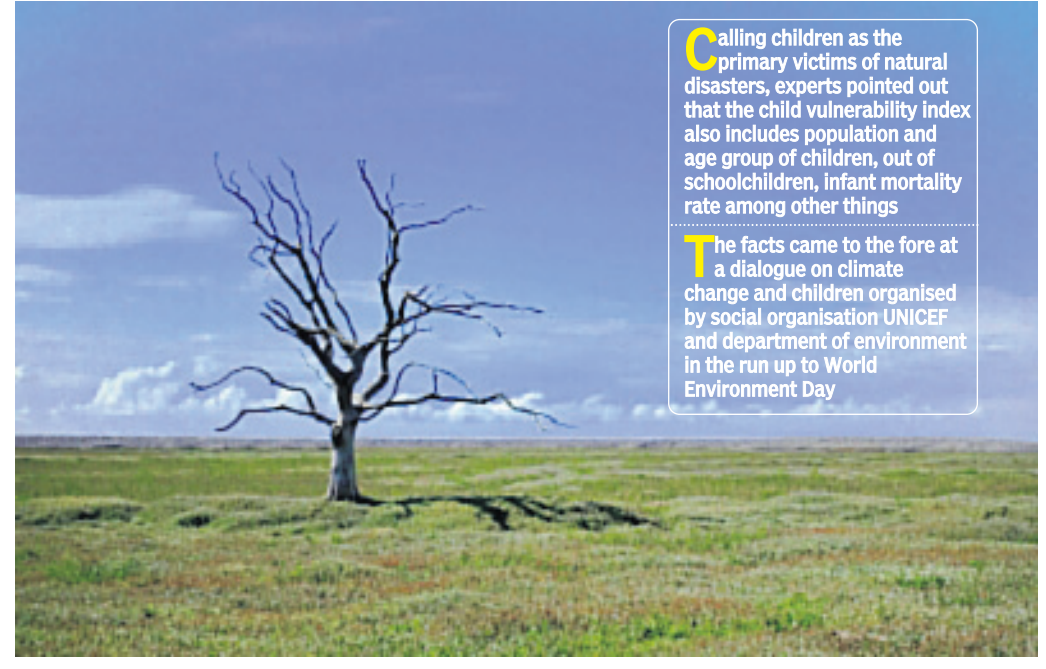
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 6:** Uttar Pradesh tops in child vulnerability index in relation to climate change. As per the Disaster Scorecard for states and union territories of India Report brought out by the Union ministry of home affairs, Uttar Pradesh has the highest Child Vulnerability Index of 4.61.

It is followed by Bihar (4.54), Rajasthan (4.49), Madhya Pradesh (4.48), Andhra Pradesh (4.37), Assam (4.27) and Chhattisgarh (4.00). The state also ranks high on the disaster risk index whereas its disaster resilience index was low.

To note, disaster risk index refers to the average risk of death in a geographical region in large or medium-scale disasters such as earthquakes, tropical cyclones and floods. It is derived from meteorological data tabulated between 1980 and 2000. In India, UP ranks among the top three on the count.

The capacity of communities to prepare, absorb and recover from natural hazard events, and the capacities of communities to learn, adapt and transform towards resilience defines the disaster resilience index.



**C**alling children as the primary victims of natural disasters, experts pointed out that the child vulnerability index also includes population and age group of children, out of school children, infant mortality rate among other things.

**T**he facts came to the fore at a dialogue on climate change and children organised by social organisation UNICEF and department of environment in the run up to World Environment Day.

UP stands at number 20 among the Indian states on this parameter. The facts came to the fore at a dialogue on climate change and children organised by social or-

ganisation UNICEF and department of environment in the run up to World Environment Day.

Calling children as the primary victims of natural disasters, experts pointed out that

the child vulnerability index also includes population and age group of children, out of school children, infant mortality rate among other things.

Nagendra Singh, specialist

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), said, "Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental changes due to reasons like small physical size; physiological and cognitive immaturity; dependence on caregivers for safety and protection."

He added that children are also bound to get a much higher exposure to environmental hazard, develop severe infection and experience complications during recovery due to less developed immunity systems.

Education specialist Ritwik Patra added that children more often pulled out of school to help support their families whenever there is drought or flood.

He also apprised about the concept of green schools which aim to inculcate environmental sensitivity and promote environmental sustainability by encouraging judicious use of resources, cutting down risk factors and preparing children for calamities. The experts said that children are agents of change and that climate was one area which will decide the way they live in future.

# K-FON project rife with corruption: Satheesan

Leader of Opposition in the state assembly V D Satheesan alleged that there was corruption in the escalation of the project cost by 50 per cent from ₹1,028 crore to ₹1,548 crore and also in the award of the sub-contracts



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, June 6:** A day after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan accused the Congress-led UDF of only looking for ways to oppose development in the state, the opposition Tuesday hit back by alleging that the Left government's K-FON project was rife with corruption.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the state assembly V D Satheesan alleged that there was corruption in the escalation of the project cost by 50 per cent from Rs 1,028 crore to Rs 1,548 crore and also in the award of the sub-contracts.

Satheesan claimed that the project cost was escalated by 50 per cent based on a letter by M Sivasanker, former principal secretary of Vijayan, who is an accused in two criminal cases – the Life Mission scam and the gold smuggling through diplomatic bags.

He further alleged that while the project tender was won by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), the work contract was finally given to a company connected to the CM. "All this indicates corruption," the LoP contended.

He also termed as a 'lie' the LDF

government's claim that 20 lakh families would be provided free internet and contended that the state government has a license to provide only 60,000 connections. He further said that when the CM, a day ago, said that K-FON was launched with the intention of freeing people from exploitation by private companies, he had already made arrangements to allow the private telecom operators to carry out 50 per cent of the cable installation.

The Congress leader also reiterated his allegations made a day ago that the K-FON launch event was an "extravagance" and that the optical fibres for the project were not made in India, but were instead procured from China and then rebranded.

On Monday, after launching the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON), Vijayan had said that the UDF opposition was against any kind of development in the state. Refuting the contentions of the CM, Satheesan said that the opposition was not against the K-FON project or other initiatives for the benefit of the people, but it was opposing the corruption allegedly going on under the cover of these projects.

# Security of Gorakhnath temple to be upgraded

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 6:** The Uttar Pradesh government has released a sum of Rs 24.58 crore to upgrade the security of the Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur.

Gadgets that will be installed in the temple premises include an anti-drone system, bulletproof morcha covered from three sides, teaser guns, wedge barriers, bollard system, night vision devices, integrated command and control system devices and many others. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is head priest of the temple.

"The state government issued two separate orders regarding release of funds worth Rs 2.30 crore and Rs 22.28 crore for purchase and installation of these devices. The decision to intensify the Gorakhnath temple security was taken earlier after the incident of security breach at the temple by Mumbai IIT pass out chemical engineer Ahmad Murtaza Abbasi on April 4, 2022, but the funds have now been released and very soon the new devices will be installed there," said a senior government official.

The first order said the security devices to be purchased included four units crash rated wedge barrier (portable auto barrier system), triple unit set of crash rated bollards designed to protect high-target buildings from concerted vehicular attack, one anti-drone system with capacity of static 2000 metre range.



Besides, six thermal cameras with PAN tilt zoom facility, one drone to keep aerial vigil, six units of holographic sight for quick response team for close quarter combat situation, night vision devices for intensified vigil during night hours and three bulletproof morcha for cover full height from three sides and 11 non-lethal teaser guns will also be purchased.

The second government order read that an integrated command and control system devices will be installed at the temple as well as one De-Armer Disruptor (the tool can be configured either as a De Armer for firing a range of solid projectiles or a disruptor for firing a range of fluid and frangible projectiles), wedge barrier and boom barrier will also be a part of the intensified security system at the temple.

Besides, the police personnel deployed in the security will be equipped with bulletproof jackets for which its 24 units will be purchased as well as seven binoculars and 42 torches.

# Kerala startup selected for UN's 'Accelerator Programme'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, June 6:** A Kerala-based startup, Farmers Fresh Zone (FarmersFZ), has been selected for the 'Accelerator Programme by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN.

FarmersFZ has figured in the list of 12 agri-food startups around the world for the UN body to develop business. The Kochi-based multi-channel marketplace platform, which functions under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), is one among India's two startups to qualify for the 'Accelerator Programme'.



Its ultimate aim is to attain the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

KSUM is the nodal agency of the Kerala government for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in the state. CEO AgriTech D2C P.S. Pradeep will attend the UN function in Rome next month.

He said that the UN programme

will enable FarmersFZ to present its model before countries across continents. "The model would require alterations based on the nature of the markets in each economy. For that we need funds, which will come through the Accelerator," said Pradeep.

FarmersFZ, which bridges the gap between rural farmers and urban consumers by providing healthy, premium-quality and pesticide-free vegetables from fields to the table within 24 hours of harvest, connects more than three lakh consumers and 2,000-plus farmers in Kerala. Kerala startup selected for UN's 'Accelerator Programme'

# PRAYAGRAJ TEMPLES TO BE RENOVATED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj, June 6:** The Uttar Pradesh government has undertaken a major upgradation, renovation and beautification work for temples and religious sites in Prayagraj, ahead of the 2025 Maha Kumbh.

According to a state government spokesman, there is a plan to complete more than 47 permanent and temporary works in the area in preparation for the Maha Kumbh. A sum of Rs 15.43 crore has been set aside for Bhardwaj Ashram's entrance gate, corridor development and beautification.

In addition to this, there is a proposal to spend Rs 13.57 crore for Dwadash Madhav temple, Rs 5.43



crore for Nagavasaki temple, Rs 2.83 crore for Dashashwamedh temple, Rs 6.68 crore for Mankameswar temple, Rs 7 crore for Alopshankari temple, Rs 10 crore for Padila Mahadev temple,

Rs 5 crore for temples coming under Panchkosi Parikrama Path, Rs 1.5 crore for Koteswar Mahadev and Rs 1 crore for development of Kalyani Devi temple.

Temples coming under

Karchhana area will also be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 4.6 crore. Corridor development in Akshayvat, Saraswatikoop and Patalpuri temple will be done at a cost of Rs 18.5 crore.

The government will carry out more than 10 facade-related works which are likely to cost more than Rs 18 crore, the spokesman said.

Facade lighting works are proposed at various locations including the Bade Hanuman Ji temple located at Sangam, which will cost Rs 1.04 crore, at the Vimana Mandapam temple at a cost of Rs 2 crore, at the Nagwasuki temple, the Shaktipeeth Alopei Devi temple, and the Hanuman temple located at Civil Lines, with each costing Rs 1.5 crore.

# Wetlands to be developed for Sarus conservation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bijnor, June 6:** Wetlands in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district will soon be cleaned and developed to attract more cranes and the area will unfold a conservation plan for the birds.

According to the forest department officials, there are 117 Sarus cranes in the district which are spotted in more than 50 large wetland areas.

The programme is scheduled to start in July this year and will be undertaken at a cost of Rs 1.56 crore.

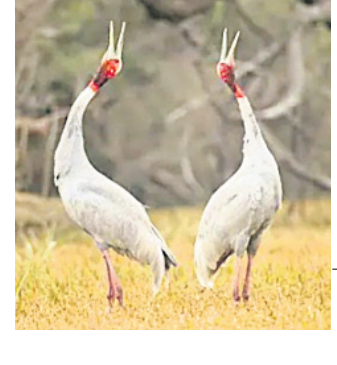
In addition to modifying the wetlands, the forest department will create awareness of the importance of the bird and sensitise people on their conservation.

Officials at the forest department said that poachers steal the bird's eggs, which is unfortunate as it reduces their population.

Gyan Singh, sub-divisional forest officer, said: "The crane is a beautiful state bird. It is about four feet in height, and its feet and neck are considerably long. The bird lays eggs at the end of the summer season and beginning of rainy season. It eats insects that are harmful to agricultural crops, which is why cranes are called farmers' friends."

"I have instructed my staff to keep a vigil on the places where cranes live. If anyone is found hurting them or damaging their habitats, stern action will be taken."

"As per a census carried out last year, there are over 17,000 cranes in Uttar Pradesh. Of them, the highest number of cranes are found in districts Etawah (3,293), and Mainpuri (2,737)."



# ARANMULA MIRRORS UNDER THREAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pathanamthitta (Kerala), June 6:** Aranmula mirrors, a metallurgical wonder and GI-protected centuries-old handicraft from Kerala, whose prized pieces adorn the British Museum and Buckingham Palace, is now under threat from the effects of climate change.

The 2018 floods and the extreme rainfall events that continue to trouble Kerala have depleted a key raw material — the clay from the river Pamba's basin — used to create the casts that make the one-of-its-kind handicraft, say its craftsmen.

Known as the Aranmula Kannadi (mirror) in Malayalam, as it is a product of the temple town of Aranmula in Pathanamthitta district, the metal alloy mirror was given a geographical indication tag in 2004-2005 for its super exclusivity. Made by the finest craftsmen for generations, the unique product has been given on many occasions as a gift to heads of state visiting India by Indian authorities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his visit to the UK in November 2015, presented an Aranmula Kannadi to then British First Lady

Samantha Cameron. But now the artisans who make the true-reflection mirror are finding it hard to source the clay with the requisite qualities, as the past few years' floods and landslides in the area have changed the chemical and physical properties of the soil in Aranmula village.

"The quality of the soil has changed after the 2018 floods. Earlier, we used to take the topsoil from the fields to make the casts for the mirror. Now we have to dig deeper to get the soil that we require, and even that is of poor quality," Manoj S, who has been making Aranmula mirrors for the past 20 years, said.

Manoj and his family live in a house close to the river Pamba in Aranmula, where the mirror-making unit is also located. His house, a one-story building, was completely submerged in water during the 2018 floods. "The floods have deposited



**Known as the Aranmula Kannadi (mirror) in Malayalam, as it is a product of the temple town of Aranmula in Pathanamthitta district, the metal alloy mirror was given a geographical indication tag in 2004-2005 for its super exclusivity**

huge amounts of silt on the soil, causing damage to the original soil here, which is essential for making Aranmula mirrors," Manoj said. The Kerala Soil Survey Department also confirms the changes in the chemical and physical properties of the soil in flood-affected areas of Kerala.

"Our study after the 2018 floods in 13 districts has identified significant changes in soil quality. The quality of the soil in the Pamba

basin, where Aranmula is located, has deteriorated significantly," V Justin, Assistant Director, Soil Survey Department, Pathanamthitta, said.

Extreme rain events can worsen the situation, he adds. Top soil erosion and silt deposits during flash floods could cause a major problem in areas like Aranmula. If these areas get flooded again, more silt will get deposited and contaminants could further alter the soil characteristics, he said.

"Large quantities of sand, silt, and clay were seen deposited on the surface soils of the affected panchayats. The thickness of deposition varied from 2cm to 10cm. Soil crusting was also reported from

these depositional areas," the study titled, 'Soil Health Status of Kerala in Post Flood Scenario' said.

According to the study, in Pathanamthitta district, there was a change in the texture of the soil, from clay loam to sandy clay loam. The study also identified increasing acidity in the soil after the floods as a major problem and found that there was a great imbalance in the chemical components in the soil.

"The soil we use should have the right level of stickiness so that the cast would hold properly in extreme temperatures. The soil we get now cracks easily, and that damages our mirror while moulding," Sooraj Acharya, who runs Sundar Handicrafts, one of the 26 traditional mirror-making units left in Aranmula, said.

The clay discs made from the soil — which is now often turning into a grainy paste — and are baked at a high temperature, are integral to getting a good-quality mirror. These discs are reused several times, and if the quality of clay is not good, they can crack, leaking out the hot metal mixture for the mirror from the clay cast.

A mixture of tin and white lead for the mirror is filled up in the clay

cast, containing the clay discs, and then heated up. Once the metal mixture is melted, the clay cast is turned over, allowing the melted metal mixture to flow into the space between the discs. It is then cooled and taken out.

"A smooth-surfaced mirror has to come out, and for that the quality of the clay cast and discs is paramount. With the present soil quality, we lose at least 10 to 15 mirrors when we cast 50 of them," Sindhu G, president of the association of Aranmula Mirror workers, and a traditional mirror maker, said. The metals used and their proportion in the alloy are secrets that have traditionally been passed down through generations.

Though the Soil Survey Department has been studying the deterioration of soil quality in Kerala after the floods and due to the effects of climate change, they are yet to take up the concerns of the Aranmula mirror workers.

"We were unaware of the problems faced by the artisans due to the deteriorating soil quality. We will propose a detailed study in this regard with the permission of the director and will explore means to conserve the required quality of the soil for the artisans of Aranmula," Justin said.



## of the day quote

Transforming the tenet of progress PM @narendramodi Ji has unfolded an era of #9Years OFWomenLed Development for the world to marvel at. India registered a record of disbursing 27 Cr. Mudra loans to women entrepreneurs who today empower the Indian economy with their womanly force

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

It is the responsibility of the people of Uttar Pradesh to uproot them (BJP from power) in 2024. The new parliament building has been constructed. It may happen that you might not be able to vote in future. They might have learnt from Russia to continue ruling the country

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

A magnificent corridor of Rs 100 crore will be built in the Govind Devji temple. There is no shortage. But we, the Congress people, are being portrayed in such a way as if we are not Hindus at all

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Rape survivor's father ends life

**Jalaun (Uttar Pradesh):** A minor rape survivor's father was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his house in Jalaun district. The police said no suicide note was found, but the man's family alleged that he had ended life due to pressure from the local police station to reach a compromise in the rape case. Jalaun Superintendent of Police Iraj Raza said the additional Superintendent of Police had been directed to conduct an inquiry into the death, and action would be taken based on the report.

### Man posing as IAS officer held

**Ahmedabad:** Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell has apprehended an individual accused of impersonating a senior IAS officer on the Truecaller App, officials said Tuesday. The suspect, identified as Sudhakar Pandey, son of Dalsingar Pandey, had assumed a false identity and misused it to seek employment for his relatives in some reputed companies. This act of deception came to light after the Cyber Crime Cell received information regarding the accused's activities.

### 10 arrested over clashes

**Godhra:** A clash erupted between members of two communities over the use of a road in Godhra town of Gujarat's Panchmahal district, police said Tuesday. One person was injured in the clash which took place Monday evening and the police arrested 10 persons Tuesday in connection with the incident, an official said. As per an FIR lodged on a complaint of Kaderkhan Pathan, one of the accused, Mitrang Parmar, and a few others objected to him using a street passing through their locality, the official said.

### Man held for raping minor

**Thane:** Police have arrested a 45-year-old man for allegedly raping a minor girl in Maharashtra's Thane city, an official said Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday when the man, who worked as a carpenter, came to Balkum area here for work. He saw the girl, aged around 6, alone in the area and took her to an isolated place where he allegedly raped her. Kapurbawdi police station's senior inspector Uttam Sonawane said.

# 'Rich over-emitting nations owe India \$1,446 per capita'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 6:** Industrialised nations of the Global North, such as the US and Germany, are responsible for 90 per cent of excessive levels of carbon dioxide emissions and could be liable to pay a total of USD 170 trillion in compensation to low-emitters like India to ensure climate change targets are met by 2050, according to a new study.

India is owed an annual compensation of \$ 1,446 per capita until 2050 and a yearly compensation equivalent to 66 per cent of its GDP in 2018, the study published in scientific journal Nature Sustainability Monday said.

The researchers from University of Leeds, the UK, analysed 168 countries and quantified historical responsibility for climate breakdown, based on excess carbon dioxide emissions beyond equality-based fair share of global carbon budgets. If some countries use more than their fair share of the carbon budget, it means they are disproportionately responsible for damages caused by global warming but also that other countries must effectively forgo the full use of their own fair shares to keep the world on track for 1.5 degrees Celsius, mitigating more rapidly than would otherwise

be required. The researchers proposed an evidence-based compensation mechanism that takes into account historical responsibility for both causing and averting climate breakdown in an ambitious scenario where all countries decarbonise from current levels to net zero by 2050, which science says would limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Even under ambitious scenarios that limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the Global North would overshoot its collective share of the carbon budget by a factor of three, appropriating half of the Global South's fair share in the process. "This is unjust," the researchers said.

A handful of low-emitting countries, especially India, would sacrifice a majority of total appropriated emissions to balance the excess of over-emitting countries and keep global heating within 1.5 degrees Celsius, the research says. On the other hand, the top five low-emitting countries -- India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria and China -- are entitled to receive USD 102 trillion in compensation or reparations. In 2015, countries agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius as compared to pre-industrial levels (1850-1900) to avoid extreme, destructive and likely irreversible effects of climate change.

Climate science defines carbon budget as the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted for a given level of global warming (1.5 degrees Celsius in this case)



## Air India flight makes emergency landing in Russia

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 6:** Air India flight AI173, from Delhi to San Francisco, was forced to divert and make an emergency landing at Magadan airport in Russia due to a technical issue with one of its engines, officials said.

The flight, carrying 216 passengers and 16 crew members, encountered the problem mid-flight, prompting the pilot to take immediate action to ensure the safety of all onboard. Air India officials assured the passengers that alternate travel arrangements would be made to ensure they reach their destinations as soon as possible.

"The aircraft is undergoing the mandatory checks on ground. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to the passengers," said the airline's spokesperson. "Air India will operate an alternate aircraft from Magadan to San Francisco June 7, 2023 carrying all passengers and crew of AI173 who are presently accommodated in local hotels in Magadan. The authorities are extending all cooperation in our effort to ensure that passengers safely reach their destination at the earliest," said the spokesperson.



## Cyclonic storm moves to north in Arabian Sea

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 6:** A cyclonic depression forming in the south-east Arabian Sea is now moving towards the far north and will intensify over the east-central part in the next 12 hours, the IMD said here Tuesday.

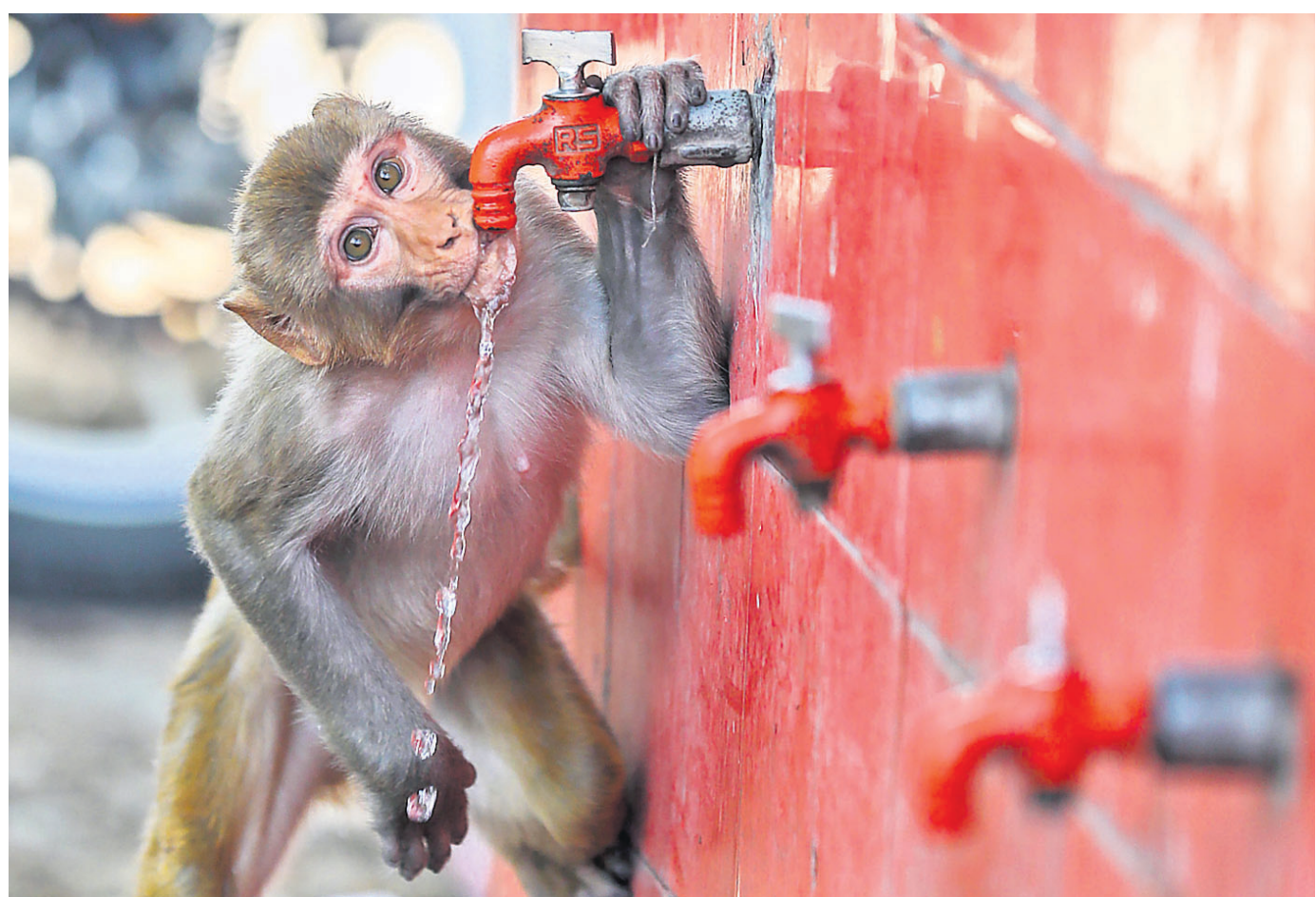
The depression is moving at a speed of 11 km/hour since this morning and is in the same region, around 950 km west-southwest of Goa, around 1,100 km southwest of Mumbai, 1,190 km south southwest of Porbandar (Gujarat) and 1,490 kms south of Karachi (Pakistan), said the IMD.

I didn't understand why there was a need for a new Parliament building. The decision about it could have been taken through dialogue (with political parties). But I learnt about the new building through newspapers

SHARAD PAWAR | NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT

## MANUU SIGNS MOU WITH IIT HYDERABAD

The H K Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies (HKSCDS) at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) here entered into an MoU with Department of Design, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) to jointly work on the emerging initiative of Science and Heritage



NO RESPITE: A monkey drinks water from a tap on a hot summer afternoon near Bahu Fort Park on the outskirts of Jammu

PTI PHOTO

## FUGITIVE BROTHERS FROM INDIA FLOURISH IN NIGERIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 6:** The selection of a firm owned by the family of the Sandesara brothers branded as fugitives by India to drill wells for the project is just the latest sign of how Nigeria has provided the brothers a haven, effectively insulating them from troubles back home, a media report said.

Now, as newly elected President Bola Tinubu sets ambitious targets for Nigeria's hydrocarbons sector, companies created by the brothers, Nitin and Chetan Sandesara, seem poised for an increasingly prominent role -- especially as international oil giants such as Shell Plc and ExxonMobil Corp. retreat from the West African country, said the Bloomberg report.

"This discovery will provide a multiplicity of opportunity and great prosperity for Nigeria," Tinubu said at a November 2022 event. Sworn in May 29, he was the ruling party's presidential candidate at the time.

The state's partners in the multi-billion dollar project in the impoverished, landlocked corner of the country is a company founded



The siblings have built the largest independent oil company in Africa's biggest crude producing nation even as India pursues them as criminals

by two brothers from India.

The Sandesara brothers, Gujarati businessmen who left India in 2017, deny cheating their lenders and say they are victims of political persecution. Having ventured into the Nigerian oil industry almost 20 years ago when they won two onshore licenses in the delta, the brothers -- faced with problems in India -- have shifted their focus to Lagos. They even applied for Nigerian citizenship, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Bloomberg reported.

While the brothers fight fraud charges and non-bailable warrants from India, the Sandesara businesses are flourishing in Nigeria.

The African nation refused to arrest them four years ago saying the Indian allegations "appeared to

be political in nature, according to a letter published by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Bloomberg reported.

From a sanctuary on Lagos's upscale Victoria Island, one of their Nigerian companies has continued that glitzy tradition, sponsoring annual Diwali celebrations that are the talk of the city's small Indian community, even flying in Bollywood singers like Shreya Ghoshal to perform.

The family's Nigerian oil and gas business -- with the slogan "Success is Natural" -- is thriving.

The group's subsidiaries -- Sterling Oil Exploration & Production Co. and Sterling Global Oil Resources Ltd. -- pump about 50,000 barrels of crude a day in the delta via contracts with the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Co.

## Puri, Sinha lay foundation stone of Amarnath yatri niwas in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

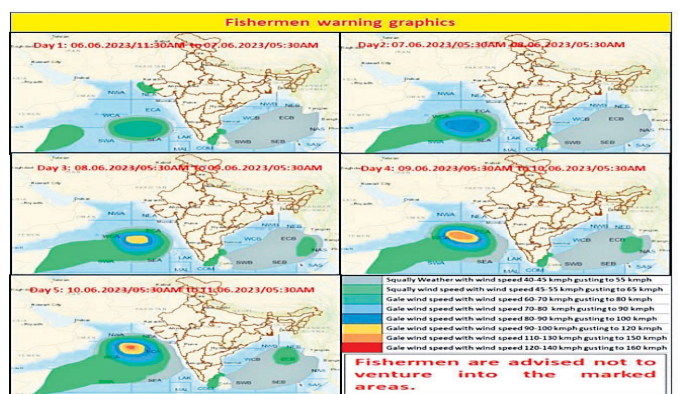
**Jammu, June 6:** Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday jointly laid the foundation stone of an Amarnath yatri niwas and a disaster management centre here, and announced the setting up of 4-5 more yatri niwas soon.

Sinha said a financial allocation of Rs 51 crore was received from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for the construction of the yatri niwas as part of government-owned company's corporate social responsibility.

"I am immensely grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for Amarnath shrine board's yatri niwas at Jammu. This new facility will ease the lives of devotees embarking on annual pilgrimage of Baba Amarnath," Sinha was quoted as saying in an official statement. Designed by School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, the yatri niwas is set for completion within 18-month time period.

Sinha also said the government was trying to "scale up the facilities including lodging, transportation, medical, and better connectivity for the safe and hassle-free pilgrimage of the devotees". Road connectivity is also being improved which will provide smooth passage to the pilgrims, the LG said.

A complex has already been built in Chanderkote in Ramban district and more such complexes are being planned to ensure a smooth and comfortable pilgrimage experience to the yatris.



This depression is likely to move nearly northwards and intensify

into a cyclonic storm over the east-central Arabian Sea and adjoining

southeast areas over the next 12 hours, it added.

Earlier Monday, the IMD had said that the cyclonic formation was developing around Mumbai and its onset course would be decided in the next 48 hours.

With the latest status, the chances of the cyclonic storm hitting Mumbai are virtually ruled out.

However, the IMD-Mumbai has warned fisherfolk venturing into the deep sea to exercise caution for the next five days when the wind speeds will increase from 40-50 kmph to 115-120-140 kmph from June 6 till June 10.

## Lung cancer pill cuts risk of death by half: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 6:** A once-daily pill halved people's risk of dying from a common lung cancer when they took the drug after tumour-removal surgery, trial results from a global study shows.

The research, published recently in The New England Journal of Medicine, found that taking the drug osimertinib after surgery dramatically reduced the risk of patients dying by 51 per cent.

The researchers randomly assigned eligible patients in a 1:1 ratio to receive osimertinib (80 mg once daily) or placebo until disease recurrence was observed.

Of 682 patients who underwent randomisation, 339 received osimertinib also known as Tagrisso and made by AstraZeneca, and

The research found that taking the drug osimertinib after surgery dramatically reduced the risk of patients dying by 51%

343 received placebo. In the primary analysis population, an estimated 85 per cent of patients treated with osimertinib were alive at five years compared to 73 per cent on placebo, the researchers said.

In the overall trial population, an estimated 88 per cent of patients treated with osimertinib were alive at five years compared to 78 per cent on placebo, they said. The study found that osimertinib reduced the risk of death



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

by 51 per cent compared to placebo in both the primary analysis population, the researchers said.

"These highly anticipated overall survival results, with 88 per cent of patients alive at five years,

are a momentous achievement in the treatment of early-stage EGFR-mutated lung cancer," said principal investigator in the trial, Roy S. Herbst, Deputy Director and Chief of Medical Oncology at

Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital, US.

"These data underscore that adjuvant treatment with osimertinib provides patients with the best chance of long-term survival," Herbst said. Susan Galbraith, Executive Vice President, Oncology R&D, AstraZeneca, said osimertinib cut the risk of death by more than half in the adjuvant setting, further establishing this transformative medicine as the backbone treatment for epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-mutated lung cancer.

"These results emphasise the importance of diagnosing patients with lung cancer early, testing for EGFR mutations and treating all those with an EGFR mutation with Tagrisso (osimertinib)," Galbraith said.

of the day **QUOTE**

We are looking at new categories and looking at acquisition opportunities



**N CHANDRASEKARAN** | TCPL CHAIRMAN

At Nissan, we are not just building cars, we are building the future of mobility led by product innovation, technological distinction and customer satisfaction



**RAKESH SRIVASTAVA** | NISSAN MOTOR INDIA MD

What you have in India is a fantastic potential market. You look at the scale of the economy, investments going into airports... (but) India is not a cheap market to operate. Taxation in India is higher than most places in the world. I think there is a lot of potential in India



**WILLIE WALSH** | IATA CHIEF

**SHORT TAKES**

**Bajaj Finserv enters MF biz**

**Mumbai:** Diversified financial services group Bajaj Finserv is entering the highly competitive mutual funds business and has plans to make it big over the next few years, drawing in on the 'late mover advantage'. To begin with, the company is launching three schemes in the fixed income, liquid and money market products by the end of the month, and will have four more soon, depending on the regulatory approvals, group chairman and managing director Sanjay Bajaj told reporters here Tuesday, announcing its entry into the mutual funds' segment. The group's ninth entity Bajaj Finserv Mutual Fund will compete with 40 others in the sector, which together manage as much as Rs 40 lakh crore of public money.

**IIFL Finance to raise ₹1,500cr in debt**

**Mumbai:** Leading non-bank lender IIFL Finance is tapping the debt market to raise up to Rs 1,500 crore by selling NCDs, offering up to 9 per cent in return to investors. The debt raising through a public issue, will be launched June 9, and the proceeds will be used for business growth and capital augmentation, the Prem Watsa-led Fairfax Holding-backed company said in a statement Tuesday. The primary issue of secured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs) is for Rs 300 crore, with a green-shoe option to retain over-subscription of up to Rs 1,200 crore, totalling Rs 1,500 crore, offering up to 9 per cent for a 60-month tenor. The bonds are also available in 24 months, 36 months tenors. The interest will be paid annually, on a maturity basis and with a monthly option for 60-month tenure, group chief financial officer Kapish Jain said.

**HZL disinvestment: Govt woos investors**

**New Delhi:** The government is likely to begin international roadshows starting with the US this month for the sale of its residual 29.54 per cent stake in erstwhile public sector company Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL), an official said. The government had decided to exit the zinc maker last year but the plan hit a roadblock because of the firm's owner, billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd proposal. Vedanta wanted to sell its global zinc assets to HZL in a move that many analysts saw as an attempt to tap into the erstwhile state-run firm's huge cash pile. The government, which has a directorial position on HZL, opposed the move over valuation concerns.

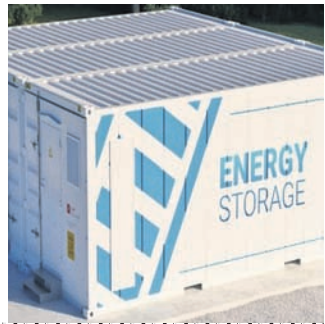


I assure the country on behalf of Coal India and the coal ministry that there will not be any shortage of coal even in the monsoon this time

**PRALHAD JOSHI** | COAL AND MINES MINISTER

**INCENTIVES FOR BATTERY STORAGE PROJECTS**

India will offer Rs 37.6 billion in incentives to companies setting up battery storage projects totalling 4,000 megawatt hours (MWh) under a scheme announced earlier this year. The scheme, details of which were not previously known, is intended to boost battery storage projects critical to India's ambitious plan to expand its renewable energy capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030.



## Bankers await cues on RBI's liquidity approach

**BANKS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO PARK THEIR SURPLUS LIQUIDITY WITH THE RBI FOR LONGER PERIODS OF TIME TO AVOID THE RISK OF A POTENTIAL SHORTFALL**

REUTERS

**Mumbai, June 6:** The Reserve Bank of India's policy review Thursday will be closely watched for cues on its approach towards liquidity, even as policy interest rates are likely to remain unchanged, at least three bankers said.

Banks in India have been reluctant to park their surplus liquidity with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for longer periods of time to avoid the risk of a potential shortfall - an approach the RBI would like changed as surplus money in the system could potentially prove inflationary. Last week the RBI offered to withdraw 2.4 trillion rupees via 14-day variable rate reverse repo auctions - the preferred tool to absorb liquidity for longer periods - after the banking liquidity surplus swelled to 2.4 trillion rupees (\$29.06 billion). Banks, however, parked just a fourth of that amount.

A second VRRR auction of 1 trillion rupees was announced Monday - this time for just 4-days, but was not fully subscribed.

The liquidity surplus Monday



was 2.3 trillion rupees. "Banks are not parking funds with the RBI because they are unsure about how long the surplus liquidity will last," said Soumyajit Niyogi, a director of the core analytical group at India Ratings & Research.

"They would rather give up earning a few extra basis points on their surplus than risk a shortfall due to unanticipated swings in liquidity," he said.

Earlier in May, overnight rates spiked after the liquidity surplus dropped unexpectedly, forcing banks

to borrow from the market.

A treasury official at a large private bank said that apart from unpredictable government spending and forex market intervention, a recent decision to withdraw 2,000-rupee denominated notes was among factors that have added to the volatility.

"There is an opportunity cost for banks to park that liquidity for 14-days because they give up options to invest this elsewhere such as in treasury bills," the official said, declining to be identified as he is not permitted to speak to the media.

## India's internet economy to grow 6-fold to \$1 trn by 2030: Report

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 6:** India's internet economy is expected to register six-fold growth and touch USD 1 trillion by 2030, mainly driven by the e-commerce vertical, a joint report by Google, Temasek and Bain & Company released Tuesday said.

The report estimates that India's internet-economy was in the range of USD 155-175 billion in 2022.

According to the report, the growth will be led by the B2C e-commerce segment, followed by B2B e-commerce, software-as-a-service providers and online media led by over-the-top players.

"India's internet economy is expected to grow 6x to USD 1 trillion by 2030," Google India, Country Manager & Vice President, Sanjay Gupta said while sharing details of the report. He said most of the purchases in future will take place digitally. Gupta said while startups have led the path on digital innovation, small and medium businesses and large enterprises after the pandemic have started to use digital technologies to become more competitive.

According to the report, B2C e-commerce is expected to grow 5-6 times to USD 350-380 billion by 2030, from around USD 60-65 billion in 2022. The report estimates B2B e-commerce to grow 13-14 times to USD 105-120 billion, from around USD 8-9 billion in 2022.

The software-as-a-service segment is expected to grow 5-6 times to USD 65-75 billion by 2030, from USD 12-13 billion in 2022.

## EQUITY MARKETS SETTLE FLAT IN VOLATILE TRADE

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, June 6:** Equity benchmarks BSE Sensex and Nifty closed marginally higher in a volatile session Tuesday as flag-end buying in auto, industrial and commodity stocks helped the indices extend gains for a third straight day.

Investors also preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's interest rate decision later this week, traders said.

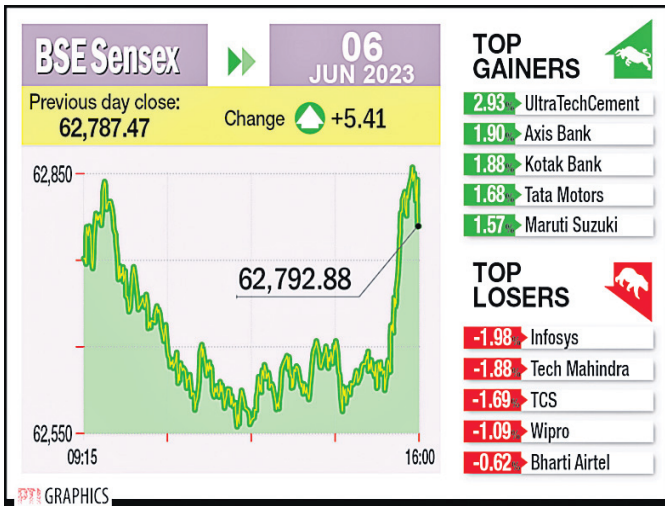
After a see-saw session, the 30-share BSE Sensex eked out marginal gains of 5.41 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 62,792.88. During the day, it hit a high of 62,867.95 and a low of 62,554.21.

The NSE Nifty went up by 5.15 points or 0.03 per cent to end at 18,599.

UltraTech Cement was the biggest gainer in the Sensex chart, climbing 3.13 per cent, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance and Mahindra & Mahindra.

In contrast, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, ICICI Bank and Nestle were among the laggards.

"While the markets ended flat, buying was seen in rate-sensitive stocks like banking, auto and realty ahead of the RBI's MPC meet later this week. With expectations rising that the central bank could once again take a pause on rate hikes,



hopes of steady interest rates going ahead triggered optimism in the rate-sensitives," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.42 per cent and the midcap index gained 0.29 per cent.

Among the indices, IT fell 1.66 per cent, teck (1.51 per cent), metal (0.45 per cent), oil & gas (0.08 per cent) and FMCG (0.02 per cent). Realty jumped 1.25 per cent, auto climbed 1.10 per cent, commodities (0.74 per cent), capital goods (0.61 per cent), and healthcare (0.59 per cent).

"A gauge of Indian IT stocks declined the most in seven weeks after a US-based peer - EPAM

Systems cut its revenue growth forecast, warning of a slowdown in dealmaking," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

Global stock markets were mostly down Tuesday after Wall Street fell on concern the US economy may be weakening following a report that showed growth in service industries slowing, Jasani added.

In Asian markets, Tokyo ended in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.84 per cent to USD 75.33 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 700.98 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

## WB offers dim outlook for global economy

The bank predicts that global trade will slow markedly this year and foresees a sharp drop in the price of energy and other commodities this year and next



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, June 6:** The global economy is likely slowing sharply this year, hobbled by high interest rates, the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

That's the latest outlook of the World Bank, a 189-country anti-poverty agency, which estimates that the international economy will expand just 2.1% in 2023 after growing 3.1% in 2022.

Still, the bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report, which it issued Tuesday, marks an upgrade from its previous forecast in January.

That estimate had envisioned worldwide growth of just 1.7% this year.

The Federal Reserve and other major central banks have been aggressively raising interest rates to combat a resurgence of inflation, set off by a stronger-than-expected rebound from the pandemic recession, persistent supply shortages and energy and food price shocks caused by the Ukraine war.

But the global economy has proved surprisingly resilient in the face of higher borrowing costs, and the World Bank predicts that growth will accelerate to 2.4% in 2024.

The United States has continued to generate unexpectedly robust job gains — employers added 339,000 workers in May, far more than economists had forecast — even

though the Fed has raised its benchmark rate 10 times in the past 15 months.

In its report Tuesday, the World Bank upgraded its forecast for U.S. Economic growth this year to 1.1%.

Though weak, that is more than double the growth the World Bank had envisioned in January.

The eurozone, which represents the 20 countries that share the euro currency, is expected to post collective growth of 0.4% this year.

That, too, marks a slight upgrade: In January, the World Bank had expected no growth at all for the eurozone this year. Europe, struggling with higher energy prices caused by the Ukraine war, enjoyed relief from a surprisingly warm winter, which reduced demand for heat.

The World Bank upgraded its 2023 outlook for China after Beijing late last year relaxed its draconian zero-COVID policies, which had restricted travel and hammered its economy.

The world's second-biggest economy is now expected to grow 5.6% in 2023, up from 3% last year.

The World Bank envisions Japan's growth decelerating to 0.8% this year from 1% in 2022.

It foresees India's growth slowing to a still-strong 6.3% from 7.2% last year.

The bank predicts that global trade will slow markedly this year. It foresees a sharp drop in the price of energy and other commodities this year and next.

## Byju's disqualifies US lender for 'predatory' tactics

**New Delhi:** Byju's has skipped payments due on a USD 1.2 billion loan and instead disqualified the US lender for 'predatory' tactics, the education technology startup said Tuesday. Byju's filed a suit against investment management firm Redwood saying the US entity purchased a significant portion of the loan while primarily trading in distressed debt, which was contrary to the conditions of the term loan facility. Byju's, which provides services to more than 150 million students around the world, did not pay USD 40 million in interest due Monday on the USD 1.2 billion loan. In a statement, the startup said it has elected not to make further payments on the USD 1.2 billion so-called term loan B (TLB) and that it filed a suit in the New York Supreme Court. The lenders in March unlawfully accelerated the loan due to certain alleged non-monetary and technical defaults, it said adding that the lenders undertook unwarranted enforcement measures, including seizing control of its US unit -- Byju's Alpha and appointing its management.

## Will Apple's 'Vision Pro' be what VR has been looking for?

The headset could become another milestone in Apple's lore of releasing game-changing technology, even though the company hasn't always been the first to try its hand at making a particular device

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cupertino, June 6:** Apple Monday unveiled a long-rumoured headset that will place its users between the virtual and real world, while also testing the technology trendsetter's ability to popularise new-fangled devices after others failed to capture the public's imagination.

After years of speculation, Apple CEO Tim Cook hailed the arrival of the sleek goggles — dubbed "Vision Pro" — at the company's annual developers conference held on a park-like campus in Cupertino, California, that Apple's late co-founder Steve Jobs helped design. "This marks the beginning of a

journey that will bring a new dimension to powerful personal technology," Cook told the crowd.

Although Apple executives provided an extensive preview of the headset's capabilities during the final half hour of Monday's event, consumers will have to wait before they can get their hands on the device and prepare to pay a hefty price to boot. Vision Pro will sell for USD 3,500 once it's released in stores early next year.

The headset could become another milestone in Apple's lore of releasing game-changing technology, even though the company hasn't always been the first to try its hand at making a particular device.

Apple's lineage of breakthroughs date back to a bow-tied Jobs peddling the first Mac in 1984 — a tradition that continued with the iPod in 2001, the iPhone in 2007, the iPad in 2010, the Apple Watch in 2014 and its AirPods in 2016.

The company emphasised that it drew upon its past decades of product design during the years it spent working on the Vision Pro, which Apple said involved more than 5,000 different patents. The goggles will be equipped



with 12 cameras, six microphones and variety of sensors that will allow users to control it and various apps with just their eyes and hands. Apple also developed a technology to create three-dimensional digital version of each user to display during video conferencing.

If the new device turns out to be a niche product, it would leave Apple in the same bind as other major tech companies and startups that

have tried selling headsets or glasses equipped with technology that either thrusts people into artificial worlds or projects digital images with scenery and things that are actually in front of them — a format known as "augmented reality."

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been describing these alternate three-dimensional realities as the "metaverse." It's a geeky concept that he tried to push

into the mainstream by changing the name of his social networking company to Meta Platforms in 2021 and then pouring billions of dollars into improving the virtual technology.

But the metaverse largely remains a digital ghost town, although Meta's virtual reality headset, the Quest, remains the top-selling device in a category that so far has mostly appealed to video game players looking for even more immersive experiences. Cook and other Apple executives avoided referring to the metaverse in their presentations, describing the Vision Pro as the company's first leap into "spatial computing" instead.

The response to virtual, augmented and mixed reality has been decidedly ho-hum so far. Some of the gadgets deploying the technology have even been derisively mocked, with the most notable example being Google's internet-connected glasses released more than a decade ago.

After Google co-founder Sergey Brin initially drummed up excitement about the device by demonstrating an early model's potential "wow factor" with a skydiving stunt staged during a San Francisco

tech conference, consumers quickly became turned off to a product that allowed its users to surreptitiously take pictures and video. The backlash became so intense that people who wore the gear became known as "Glassholes," leading Google to withdraw the product a few years after its debut.

Microsoft also has had limited success with HoloLens, a mixed-reality headset released in 2016, although the software maker earlier this year insisted it remains committed to the technology.

The anticipation that Apple's goggles are going to sell for several thousand dollars already has dampened expectations for the product. Although he expects Apple's goggles to boast "jaw dropping" technology, Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said he expects the company to sell just 150,000 units during the device's first year on the market — a mere speck in the company's portfolio. By comparison, Apple sells more than 200 million of its marquee iPhones a year. But the iPhone wasn't an immediate sensation, with sales of fewer than 12 million units in its first full year on the market.

# THE 'ULTIMATE TEST'

## AUSTRALIA SQUAD

**Pat Cummins (C)**, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Josh Inglis, Todd Murphy, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, David Warner; Reserves: Mitchell Marsh, Matt Renshaw



India face tough Australia challenge in World Test Championship final starting today as they aim to end ICC title drought



**INDIA SQUAD**  
**Rohit Sharma (C)**, R Ashwin, KS Bharat, Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan, Cheteshwar Pujara, Axar Patel, Ajinkya Rahane, Mohammad Shami, Mohammad Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unadakt, Umesh Yadav; Reserves: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mukesh Kumar, Suryakumar Yadav.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, June 6:** A formidable bunch of Indian cricketers will require a perfect blend of skill and temperament when they clash with an equally-strong Australia in the World Test Championship final, starting Wednesday, with an aim to end a decade-long global trophy jinx.

India have been the most consistent side over the past two WTC cycles and also reached knockout phases of major white-ball tournaments over the last 10 years but a trophy has eluded them.

The last major ICC trophy India won was way back in 2013 when they bagged the Champions Trophy in England. Since then, the side has lost three finals and on four occasions they bit dust at the semifinal stage. They also made an exit at the preliminary stage of the 2021 T20 World Cup.

The country has been pretty much driving the finances of the sport and considering the vast talent pool on offer, the expectations of dominating the game on field seem only fair.

Out of the six series India

played in this cycle, their only series loss came in South Africa and that led to an unexpected change of guard with Rohit Sharma taking over the leadership role from Virat Kohli.

They remained unconquerable at home, drew a hard-fought series in England before surviving a slight scare in Bangladesh.

Winning the big titles is what defines the legacy of a team but whatever may be the outcome of the final at The Oval, India head coach Rahul Dravid's opinion about his team won't change.

India ignored the conditions and went with their traditional strength - two spinners - against the Black Caps in the final at Southampton two years ago but the move backfired.

As The Oval gears up to host their first ever Test in June in their 143-year existence, India are heading into the unknown and face a couple of key selection calls that might decide the fate of the game.

It will always be a temptation to play both Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin in the same team but considering that it is only the start of the summer and pitches

are fresh, there is a strong case for a fourth pace bowling option.

In the batting department, Rishabh Pant is not available to bail the team out in case of a top-order collapse. Therefore, the management needs to decide whether it needs the 'x-factor' of Ishan Kishan or the more reliable wicket-keeping skills of KS Bharat.

The wily Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj pick themselves in the pace department and a call needs to be made between old-horse Umesh Yadav and all-rounder Shardul Thakur.

Majority of India's squad members were involved in two-month long IPL and only got a week to train together in the scenic town of Arundel before heading to London. As a modern-day cricketer, one is expected to smoothly switch formats but playing Test cricket in England is never easy.

The job gets tougher when one has to face the likes of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland, who is expected to start in place of injured Josh Hazlewood.

It is being billed as the 'Ultimate Test' and it will indeed be one for proven performers like

Rohit and Virat as well for a rising star like Shubman Gill. Cheteshwar Pujara will look to extend the rich form he has shown in County cricket while Ajinkya Rahane will be itching to deliver in his comeback game.

In comparison to Indians who are match-fit after a long IPL season, Australians will go into the final with fresher mind and body.

Only three of their players were part of the league in India. Players like Cummins chose to prepare back home while Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith got themselves ready for the long summer with County stints.

**ROHIT SHARMA:** As a captain, like I said, every captain wants to win championships. So I'll be no different. I also want to win championship. And that's what the sport is all about, winning championship. So for me, it will be nice if I can win one or two championships, as in when I decide to move on from this job

## ROAD TO FINAL

INDIA (P-18, W-10, L-5, D-3)		
Vs	Venue	Result
ENG	Away	2-2 (D)
NZ	Home	1-0 (W)
SA	Away	1-2 (L)
SL	Home	2-0 (W)
BAN	Away	2-0 (W)
AUS	Home	2-1 (W)

AUSTRALIA (P-19, W-11, L-3, D-5)		
Vs	Venue	Result
ENG	Home	4-0 (W)
PAK	Away	1-0 (W)
SL	Away	1-1 (D)
WI	Home	2-0 (W)
SA	Home	2-0 (W)
IND	Away	1-2 (L)

# Srikanth wins; Sindhu, Prannoy knocked out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Singapore, June 6:** India's Kidambi Srikanth made a winning start but PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy were ousted from the Singapore Open Super 750 tournament after suffering contrasting losses in the opening round here Tuesday.

Srikanth, a 2021 world championships silver medallist, beat Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen 21-15, 21-19 in the opening round of men's singles competition. He will face Chinese Taipei's Chia Hao Lee, who beat Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in his opening match after being promoted to the main draw from the reserves.

Orleans Masters winner Priyanshu Rajawat also notched up a 21-12, 21-15 win over Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama to make it to the second round. The 21-year-old from Madhya Pradesh will face Japan's

World No.4 Kodai Naraoka next.

Up against World No.1 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, defending champion Sindhu fought hard before going down 21-18, 19-21, 17-21 in a little over an hour. The two last faced off in Thailand last year.

Prannoy, who came into the tournament after claiming his maiden BWF title at Malaysia Masters, couldn't match the young Naraoka, losing 15-21, 19-21 to the third seeded Japanese in 56 minutes.

Doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, however, made a good start after claiming a 21-16, 21-15 win over France's Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar in their opening match.

Among others, London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal lost 13-21, 15-21 to former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand, while Aakarshi Kashyap went down to another Thai Supanida Katethong 21-17, 21-9 in their respective opening match.

## India fightback to secure draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kakamigahara, June 6:** India came from behind to salvage a 2-2 draw against South Korea in their third game of the women's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here Tuesday.

Yujin Lee (15th) and Jiyeon Choi (30th) found the back of the net for Korea, while Deepika Soreng (43rd) and Deepika (54th) scored a goal each, enabling India to secure a draw and maintain their position at the top of Pool A.

Korea took the lead when Lee scored a field goal. They doubled their lead when Choi converted a penalty corner to make sure that Korea went into the halftime break with a 2-0 lead.

After change of ends, India upped their game and pulled one back through Soreng. India found the equaliser as Deepika calmly converted a penalty stroke.

## SUNIL KUMAR SECURES GOLD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Yecheon (South Korea), June 6:** Competing with a pole vault borrowed from the organisers, Sunil Kumar won the decathlon gold medal with his personal best performance in the Asian U-20 Athletics Championship, here, Tuesday.

The 18-year-old had suffered a setback earlier when a South Korean airlines and Air India barred him from carrying his pole vault due to "technical issues" relating to the length of the equipment. But that did not stop Sunil from bagging the yellow metal as he won 10-event competition with a personal best tally of 7003 points.

In women's high jump, Pooja won a silver, while Bushra Khan added another silver in the women's 3000m race. The Indian women's 4x100m relay team took bronze with a time of 45.36s.






### KALINGA STADIUM BHUBANESWAR





9 JUNE	LEBANON	<b>Vs</b>	VANUATU
	4:30 PM		
	INDIA	<b>Vs</b>	MONGOLIA
	7:30 PM		
12 JUNE	MONGOLIA	<b>Vs</b>	LEBANON
	4:30 PM		
	VANUATU	<b>Vs</b>	INDIA
	7:30 PM		
15 JUNE	VANUATU	<b>Vs</b>	MONGOLIA
	4:30 PM		
	INDIA	<b>Vs</b>	LEBANON
	7:30 PM		
18 JUNE	GROUP TOPPER	<b>FINAL</b>	GROUP RUNNERS UP
	7:30 PM		



**Shri Naveen Patnaik**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

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(11 AM - 7 PM)

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# international



**The Swedish government's highest priority is to become a full-fledged member of NATO as soon as possible**  
PAL JONSON | SWEDISH DEFENCE MINISTER

## BOOSTING TIES

Indian Army chief Gen Manoj Pande Tuesday visited the Bangladesh Military Academy in Chattogram where he reviewed the grand Passing Out Parade of the officer cadets of the 84th 'Long Course' and interacted with them



## of the day quote

**Support for the four million Ukraine refugees being cared for in the bloc is steadfast, but a special report said what we might call solidarity fatigue is beginning to set in some member states**  
YLVA JOHANSSON | EU HOME AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER

**I have no interest in becoming the new leader of NATO**  
URSULA VON DER LEYEN | PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Despite economic challenges, special measures should be taken for the protection of vulnerable sections of society**  
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PM



Armed Philippine Coast Guard personnel run on board the PCG Melchora Aquino ship during a Coast Guard drill off the waters of Bataan, Philippines. PTI PHOTO

## SHOT IN THE ARM

# Iran unveils hypersonic missile, can go fifteen times speed of sound

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dubai, June 6:** Iran claimed Tuesday that it had created a hypersonic missile capable of travelling at 15 times the speed of sound, adding a new weapon to its arsenal as tensions remain high with the US over Tehran's nuclear programme.

The new missile - called Fattah, or 'Conqueror' in Farsi - was unveiled even as Iran said it would reopen its diplomatic posts Tuesday in Saudi Arabia after reaching a détente with Riyadh following years of conflict.

The tightly choreographed segment on Iranian state television apparently sought to show that Tehran's hard-line government can still deploy arms against its enemies across much of the Middle East. "Today we feel that the deterrent power has been formed," Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said at the event.

"This power is an anchor of lasting security and peace for the regional countries," Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's aerospace programme, unveiled what appeared to be a model of the missile. Hajizadeh claimed the missile had a range of up to 1,400 kilometres (870 miles).

That's about mid-range for Iran's expansive ballistic missile arsenal, which the Guard has built up

over the years as Western sanctions largely prevent it from accessing advanced weaponry. "There exists no system that can rival or counter this missile," Hajizadeh claimed.

That claim, however, depends on how manoeuvrable the missile is. Ballistic missiles fly on a trajectory in which anti-missile systems like the Patriot can anticipate their path and intercept them.

Tuesday's event showed what appeared to be a moveable nozzle for the Fattah, which could allow it to change trajectories in flight.

The more irregular the missile's flight path, the more difficult it becomes to intercept. Iranian officials did not release footage of a Fattah successfully launching and then striking a target.

Hajizadeh later said that there had been a ground test of the missile's engine. A ground test involves a rocket motor being put on a stand and fired to check its abilities while launching a missile with that rocket motor is much more complex.

Hypersonic weapons, which fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound, could pose crucial challenges to missile defence systems because of their speed and manoeuvrability.

Iran described the Fattah as being able to reach Mach 15 - which is 15 times the speed of sound.



## SHORT TAKES

### Qureshi released from prison

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who was among some of the top leaders of Imran Khan's party to be arrested following the May 9 violent protests, was released from a Rawalpindi prison Tuesday following a court order. The Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was arrested last month on a plethora of charges, including inciting violence following chairman Imran Khan's arrest in a corruption case on May 9. Qureshi, 66, served as Pakistan's foreign affairs minister from 2018 to 2022 under Khan's regime.

### Imran's wife files petition

**Lahore:** Wife of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi, Tuesday, filed a petition in the Lahore High Court seeking a blanket cover in all cases registered against her across the country, a media report said. The move came amid the ongoing crackdown against Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party following the attacks on civil and military installations on May 9. Khan's wife in her petition said she feared she could be arrested in any case and sought details of all the disclosed and undisclosed cases registered against her in the country, Geo News reported.

### Bulgaria gets new government

**Sofia:** Bulgaria's parliament Tuesday formally approved the country's new government proposed by the two main political rivals in a bid to end a 30-month-long political crisis, restore stability and spur economic development in the poorest EU member country. The GERB party of ex-Premier Boyko Borissov, which won the April general election, and the runner-up, the pro-European liberal coalition "We Continue the Change - Democratic Bulgaria" have agreed to form the first-ever Bulgarian government where the post of prime minister will change hands halfway through.

### Quake strikes Haiti; three dead

**Port-Au-Prince:** An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.9 struck southern Haiti early Tuesday, killing at least three people and injuring several others, authorities said. The quake struck before dawn near the southern coastal city of Jeremie at a depth of six miles (10 kilometers), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. "I thought the whole house was going to fall on top of me," Eric Mpitabakana, a World Food Program official in Jeremie, said.

## MOSCOW, KYIV BLAME EACH OTHER

# Collapse of major dam in Ukraine triggers emergency

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kyiv, June 6:** The wall of a major dam in southern Ukraine collapsed Tuesday, triggering floods, endangering Europe's largest nuclear power plant and threatening drinking water supplies as both sides in the war rushed to evacuate residents and blamed each other for the destruction.

Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station on the Dnieper River in an area that Moscow controls, while Russian officials blamed Ukrainian bombardment in the contested area. It was not possible to verify the claims.

The potentially far-reaching environmental and social consequences of the disaster quickly became clear as homes, streets and businesses flooded downstream and emergency crews began evacuations; officials raced to check cooling systems at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant; and authorities expressed concern about supplies of drinking water to the south in Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

Both Russian and Ukrainian authorities brought in trains and buses for residents. About 22,000 people live in areas at risk of flooding in Russian-controlled areas, while 16,000 live in the most critical zone in Ukrainian-held territory, according to official tallies. Neither side reported any deaths or injuries.

The dam break added a stunning new dimension to Russia's war in Ukraine, now in its 16th month. Ukrainian forces were widely seen to be moving forward with a long-anticipated counteroffensive in patches along more than 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) of front line in the east and south.

It was not immediately clear



The dam break added a stunning new dimension to Russia's war in Ukraine, now in its 16th month.

The damage could also hinder Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south and distract its government, while Russia depends on the dam to supply water to Crimea.

whether either side benefits from the damage to the dam, since both Russian-controlled and Ukrainian-held lands are at risk. The damage could also hinder Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south and distract its government, while Russia depends on the dam to supply water to Crimea.

Patricia Lewis, director of the International Security Program at Chatham House think tank in London, said apportioning blame is difficult but "there are all sorts of reasons why Russia would do this". "There were reports (last fall) of Russians having mined the reservoir. The question we should pose is why the Ukrainians would do this to themselves, given this is Ukrainian territory," she said.

Experts have previously said the dam was suffering from disrepair. David Helms, a retired American scientist who has monitored the reservoir since the start of the war, said in an e-mail that it wasn't clear if the damage was deliberate or simple neglect from

Russian forces occupying the facility. But Helms reserved judgement, also noting a Russian history of attacking dams. Authorities, experts and residents have expressed concern for months about water flows through -- and over -- the Kakhovka dam. After heavy rains and snow melt last month, water levels rose beyond normal levels, flooding nearby villages. Satellite images showed water washing over damaged sluice gates.

Amid official outrage, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he convened an urgent meeting of the National Security Council. He alleged Russian forces set off a blast inside the dam structure at 2.50 am (2350 GMT Monday) and said about 80 settlements were in danger. Zelenskyy said in October his government had information that Russia had mined the dam and power plant. But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called it "a deliberate act of sabotage by the Ukrainian side... aimed at cutting water supplies to Crimea".

## PHONE HACKING CASE Harry makes landmark court appearance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, June 6:** Prince Harry Tuesday became the first senior British royal to give evidence in a high court trial in over 100 years as he appeared in the witness box here to allege "utterly vile" unlawful information gathering, including by phone hacking, by journalists working for the Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN).

The 38-year-old Duke of Sussex accused the tabloid newspapers of "inciting hatred" against him as a young royal and casting him as a "thicko", "cheat", "underage drinker", and "irresponsible drug taker" -- referring to some of the media labels he felt associated with over the years.

"I genuinely feel that in every relationship that I've ever had -- be that with friends, girlfriends, with family or with the army, there's always been a third party involved, namely the tabloid press," reads his witness statement released as Harry gave oral evidence in court.

## IMMENSE SIGNIFICANCE

# Murmu gets Suriname's highest civilian award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paramaribo, June 6:** India's President Droupadi Murmu has been conferred with Suriname's highest civilian award by her counterpart Chandrikapersad Santokhi to honour the deep-rooted bilateral ties.

Murmu arrived in Suriname Sunday on a three-day state visit - her first since assuming office in July last year.

She was conferred with the highest civilian honour of Suriname 'Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star' by the President of Suriname at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace here, her office said in a statement in New Delhi. In her



India's President Droupadi Murmu pays homage at the Baba and Mai monument, a symbolic representation of the first Indian man and woman who set foot in Suriname, in Paramaribo, Suriname. PTI PHOTO

acceptance remarks, she thanked Government of Suriname for bestowing upon her this honour.

# 2.3 bn people globally use polluting fuel to cook: Report

The report said that at current rates, 660 million people are projected to be without electricity and 1.9 billion won't have clean cooking opportunities by 2030

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**United Nations, June 6:** Up to 2.3 billion people around the world are still using polluting fuels to cook and 675 million don't have electricity, according to a report released Tuesday by five international organisations.

The report said that at current rates, 660 million people are projected to be without electricity and 1.9 billion won't have clean cooking

opportunities by 2030. That's the target date to achieve a United Nations goal set in 2015 "to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."

The report by the International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, U.N. Statistics Division, World Bank and World Health Organisation said that at the midway point toward the goal, the world is not on track to reach the energy target, which will negatively impact the health of millions and accelerate climate change.

"The energy crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues to have a profound impact on people all around the world," International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol said in a statement.

"High energy prices have hit



the most vulnerable hard, particularly those in developing

economies." He said that while the transition to clean energy is hap-

pening faster than people think, a great deal of work is still needed to provide it to the billions still living without it.

According to the report, global access to electricity increased from 84% in 2010 to 91% in 2021, but the pace of growth slowed in 2019-2021, which includes the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the electrification of rural areas contributed to progress, there is still a large gap in urban areas, it said.

More than 80% of those without electricity -- 567 million in 2021 -- lived in sub-Saharan Africa, similar to the deficit in 2010, it said. The report also found that up to 2.3 billion people still use polluting fuels and technologies, including firewood.

Francesco La Camera, director-general of the International

Renewable Energy Agency, said: "Cost-competitive renewable energy has yet again demonstrated remarkable resilience, but the poorest in the world are still largely unable to fully benefit from it."

According to estimates by WHO in 2019, 3.2 million premature deaths every year were attributable to household air pollution from polluting fuels and technologies. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said investing in clear and renewable solutions to achieve universal energy access "can play a crucial role in protecting the health of our most vulnerable populations."

Guangzhe Chen, the World Bank's vice president for infrastructure, called for urgent efforts "to ensure that the poorest and hardest-to-reach people are not left behind."