

## SHORT TAKES

### 3 dead in J'khand mine collapse

**Dhambad:** At least three people were killed when an illegally operated mine collapsed in Jharkhand's Bhowra colliery area Friday, an official said. Among those dead is a minor. The incident occurred at 10.30am at Bhowra Colliery area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL), about 21 km from here. Rescue operations have been suspended as no one is trapped in the debris, DSP, Sindri, Abhishek Kumar said. Eye-witnesses said as many villagers were involved in illegal mining, it led to the mishap.

### FIR lodged after death threat to Pawar

**Mumbai:** Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar has received a 'death threat' on social media, the party claimed Friday. However, it appealed to NCP workers to maintain 'peace at all costs'. Taking cognisance of the matter, Mumbai police have registered an FIR, a senior official said. An NCP delegation led by Pawar's daughter and Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule met Mumbai police chief Vivek Phansalkar demanding prompt action.



**IN REMEMBRANCE:** Dignitaries, including Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhuvaneshwar (North) MLA Susanta Kumar Rout, Kendrapara MLA Shashi Bhusan Behera, Jatri MLA Suresh Kumar Rautray, Bhuvaneshwar Mayor Sulochana Das, Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, after paying floral tributes to former Odisha Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy on her 92nd birth anniversary at LIC Office Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

## Pujari axed, Sethi shunted

The removal of the minister and the transfer of the principal secretary of the Higher Education department indicate that something was majorly amiss

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** In a surprising move, the Odisha government removed Friday Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari and Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi from their respective positions. Sources said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recommended Governor Ganeshi Lal to exclude Pujari's name from the ministry. Minister of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak will now look after the Higher Education department.

Just a few hours after removing Pujari, the government also transferred Sethi as OSD, General Administration and Public Grievances department, which is treated as a punishment post. Few days back, the private secretary of Pujari was also transferred.



Aravind Agarwal has now been appointed Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Higher Education department. Incidentally Sethi was also the chairman of OHPC. Now after his transfer, Finance department Principal Secretary Vishal Dev has been given the additional responsibility of OHPC chairman. These sudden moves of the Odisha government indicate some major loopholes in the Higher Education department. Though the government has removed the top babu and the minister, it has not revealed the reason.

Pujari meanwhile said that he will try to give his best in any responsibility the party gives him to. "I have given my best for the improvement of the Higher Education department. I do not know, the government might be expecting more. I will do whatever work is assigned to me by the party, he said.

Sources said that while holding annual review meetings, Patnaik found the performance of the Higher Education department to be the worst. They added that it could be a reason behind the dropping of Pujari. Sources also pointed out that Pujari had rubbed many influential people the wrong way with a comment on senior party leaders above 60 years in age. He had stated that those leaders who are above 60 years should not become MLAs as they will not be able to devote time to people and their constituency.

## Modi charisma, Hindutva can't help BJP: RSS

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 9:** The BJP should not just depend on the name 'Modi' and his charisma and the 'Hindutva' platform to win elections. Instead, the saffron party should develop strong leadership at the regional level if it aims to do well in the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. This has been stated by the English mouthpiece of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) 'Organiser' in one of its recent editorials.

"For the (BJP), it is the right time to take stock of the situation.



For the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), it is the right time to take stock of the situation.

Without strong leadership and effective delivery at the regional level, Prime Minister Modi's charisma and Hindutva as an ideological glue would not be sufficient.

Without strong leadership and effective delivery at the regional level, Prime Minister Modi's charisma and Hindutva as an ideological glue would not be sufficient in the upcoming elections. Anti-incumbency against the sitting ministers should be a concerning factor

for the BJP," the editorial states. The editorial, written in the aftermath of the Karnataka polls, also states that the victory of the Congress certainly defuses the opposition narrative of 'democracy in danger'. It also states that 'in a democracy, electoral outcomes

should be seen as a mandate and utilised to read the people's minds'.

The article states that the results in Karnataka is not shocking and is somewhat on the expected lines. It however, warns the people that they may have to bear the brunt of such a result as the Congress is known for its 'infighting' like in Rajasthan. It further states that if the Congress government in Karnataka goes for a confrontational approach with the Centre it will be the people who will suffer. "The time has come for the BJP to introspect," the article adds.

## Demolition of Bahanaga HS begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** The Odisha government began Friday demolishing the 65-year-old Bahanaga High School (HS) building that was used as a temporary morgue for victims of the ill-fated Coromandel Express. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved a proposal to make it a model school with modern facilities such as a library, science laboratory and digital classrooms.

The decision to raze the building was taken after the school management committee (SMC) said it

was old and not safe and that kids were reluctant to attend classes in the school where bodies were kept as they feared 'presence of ghosts'.

Based on the SMC's decision and request by guardians and locals, Patnaik held a meeting with senior government officials including the Chief Secretary and sanctioned reconstruction of the institute Thursday.

"A new High School building is being conducted under the 5T transformation programme and the work will be completed soon," said Balasore District Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Not IPC, Milord, I'm quoting from Manusmriti

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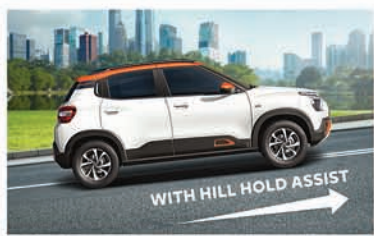
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# leisure



## SELENA GOMEZ SHOUTS 'I AM SINGLE' AT A SOCCER MATCH

Singer-actress Selena Gomez isn't scared to talk about being single. The actress recently, through TikTok, poked fun at the highs and lows of dating while watching a soccer game with friends. She hilariously screamed to the athletes: "I'm single. I'm just a little high-maintenance," reports People magazine

## RYAN, KENNETH TEAM UP FOR MAYDAY

Actors Ryan Reynolds and Kenneth Branagh are teaming up to star in *Mayday*, an action adventure film helmed by directors Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

If you are a gadget freak, today you will have enough opportunity to flaunt your knowledge and impress everyone else. Students with a scientific bent of mind will excel in studies. Ganesh advises housewives to experiment with their own recipes, and not to worry about the oven-it will not burst.

#### TAURUS

This is not one of those easy and carefree days. You are in for a lot of mental anguish. The mental pressure you feel, you will realise, is of your own making. Unless you make radical changes in your basis outlook, mental tensions are likely to become an everyday affair. You need to face and accept things as they are. Try to be more realistic. Yoga and meditation are sure to help.

#### GEMINI

Your desire to go travelling with your family members will receive an impetus today and you will set out to schedule your itinerary. It is a good time for travel and you will be able to more than satisfactorily execute your travel plans within your budget, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

You will win over people with the gift of the gab. Your rhetoric will prove beneficial to you. You may get into an argument or have friction with someone in the in-laws' side. But keep your cool and face it bravely, so as to stave off mental depression.

#### LEO

Traders and businessmen will face heightened competition today. Financial losses are possible. It is not a good day for investments and speculations. Avoid heated discussions with people. Be cautious in all your dealings today, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Give people a word of encouragement and motivate them to achieve bigger things, advises Ganesh. Don the thinker's cap and you may find yourself in contemplation. Criticism will hurt you, but be as unflappable as you can and proceed to your target, says Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says you will try to gain in-depth knowledge about new technological inventions in your spare time today. Some of you may have queries regarding higher education that you may be able to take up today and reach a conclusion about.

#### SCORPIO

You are quite vocal about your ambitious plans, says Ganesh. But, being too harsh on yourself or others for that matter may spoil your relationships with many people. Stay away from lengthy discussions to avoid any conflicts.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Being a part of all things bright and beautiful will remain the highpoint today, says Ganesh. You may don the hat of an activist and fight injustice and discrimination in the right spirits. Even if you are asked to conquer the world, you will be able to do it today, says Ganesh.

#### CAPRICORN

Today, you will not be in the right mood to work or produce expected results. Mounting work pressure may further dampen your self-confidence, foretells Ganesh. The dullness will vanish in the air by the evening and you will be back to your happy self. Are you wondering who will be responsible for this change? The answer is your friends and family members.

#### AQUARIUS

You spend a lot of time planning for a better future. Sure, it does minimize the chances of errors as you know possible obstacles in advance. But, the time you spend for calculations takes you away from the reality and you don't fully concentrate on what you have now.

#### PISCES

You know how important money is and you will think about it all day. You will think less about expenses today and more about prosperity and fame today. Worry about family might increase and in return they will support you, says Ganesh.

## To limit yourself is a sin: Vidyut



New Delhi: Action star Vidyut Jammwal, who is currently shooting for his next *Crakk-Jeetega toh Jijega*, an adrenaline rushing extreme sports film, agrees that the death-defying stunts he does scare him initially but he surpasses it. The *Commando* actor, who can be tagged as a 'superhuman', has time and again performed stunts that are daring. Be it doing pushups on glass bottles or working out with a fully loaded gas cylinder - he has done it all.

"It scares me but that is the first part. Then you surpass it. No, I am fearful of everything I start with but once you get into the groove I think the fear leaves you. To raise the bar is first for yourself," he told. The actor added, "You start thinking about what is it you want to do next, what is it that you have not done, what is that your body has not experienced, or your mind has not arrived at. Once you go through all these things then you reach." Asked how much is too much for an actor to invest in a character, pat came the reply from the actor, "I think to limit yourself is a sin, you should always be unlimited."

IANS

## Real adulting hits at 30: Tamannaah



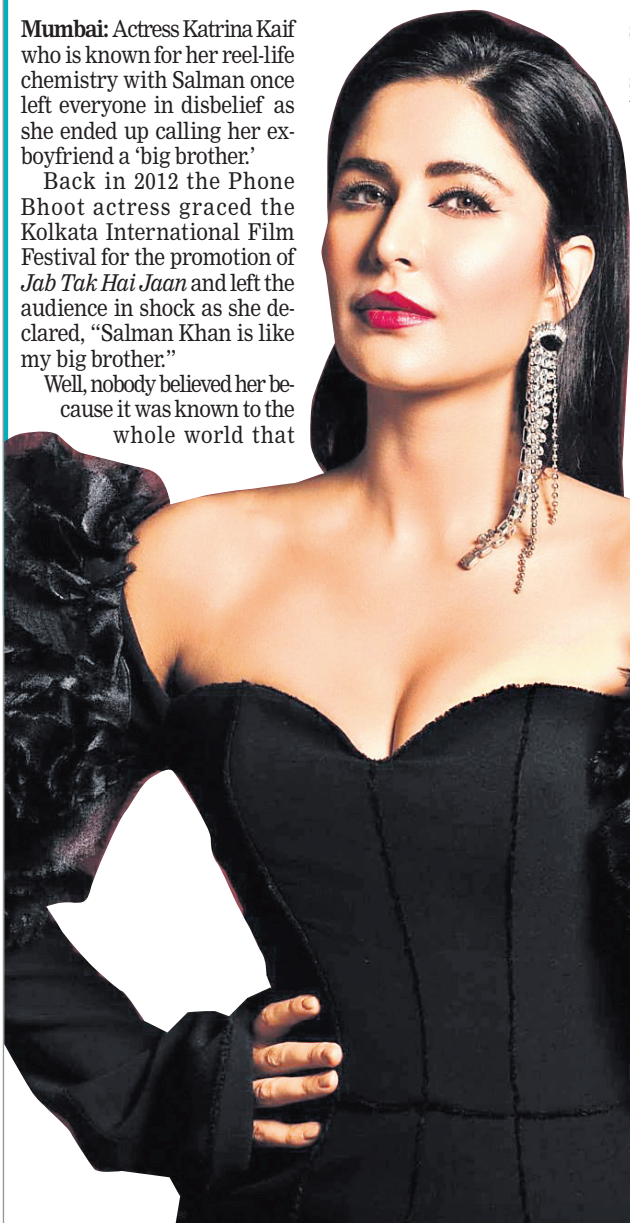
Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who has two upcoming streaming releases, feels that the real adulting starts once people enter their 30s. The actress will be soon seen in the upcoming streaming show *jee Karda* which follows the story of even friends navigating the chaos of life in their 30s. Tamannaah, who plays the role of Lavanya in the series said that she 'deeply relates' to the characters in the show as they face the challenges of peer pressure, both in college and school, and even in their 30s.

The actress said: "It's at 30 when real adulting hits you. This show provides a sneak peek into the lives of people dealing with the trials and tribulations of adulting, showcasing how they navigate through it all. At its core, *jee Karda* is a fun slice of life with a touch of drama, offering a reflection of the lives we lead."

The show, which also stars Aashim Gulati, Suhail Nayyar, Anya Singh, Hussain Dalal, Sayan Banerjee, and Samvedna Suwalka, has been directed by Arunima Sharma and produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films. The show will drop June 15 on Prime Video.

IANS

## When Katrina called Salman a 'big brother'



Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif who is known for her reel-life chemistry with Salman once left everyone in disbelief as she ended up calling her ex-boyfriend a 'big brother'.

Back in 2012 the Phone Booth actress graced the Kolkata International Film Festival for the promotion of *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* and left the audience in shock as she declared, "Salman Khan is like my big brother."

Well, nobody believed her because it was known to the whole world that

Katrina Kaif and Salman Khan were in a relationship. A friend close to the actress had also revealed to the media that she broke up with her Yuvraaj co-star over SMS.

The source added, "She was shooting in Ooty with Ranbir when this happened. She didn't want to wait till she got back home. So, she texted him that it was over from her side, but they could still remain friends. Salman was furious and decided to land up on the film's set but it didn't work."

Katrina tied the knot with love of her life Vicky Kaushal at an intimate wedding in 2021 in Rajasthan.

AGENCIES

## Rajshri's *Privacy* to be screened at BIFF

Mumbai: The upcoming film *Privacy*, which stars actress-activist Rajshri Deshpande, is set to be screened at the Bucheon International Film Festival (BIFF) which will be held from June 29 to July 9, 2023.

*Privacy* is a social thriller, examines the use of video surveillance in urban centres while highlighting socio-economic differences in Mumbai.

The *Trial by Fire* actress said, "As an actor and a social worker it is very important to me that the script is written sensitively. *Privacy* talks about mental health issues. It shines the spotlight on how the society perceives an individual going through struggle. It is a beautifully written story and depicts the importance of 'privacy' and how every societal element is exploiting the term."

Director Sudeep said, "The film depicts the compelling truth of access to information. Whether it be CCTV sur-



veillance or gathering someone's personal data. An individual's privacy has truly become a luxury in today."

Along with Rajshri, the film stars Nishank Verma, Sandesh Kulkarni, Saurabh Goyal, Chhaya Kadam, Rushad

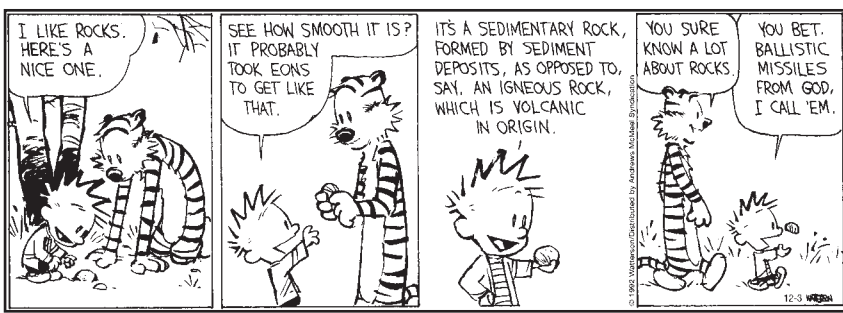
Rana and Sagar Salunke in pivotal roles. The film is produced by Shlok Sharma and Navin Shetty, and is a co-production between India-based Fundamental Pictures and US-based House of Talent Studio.

IANS

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

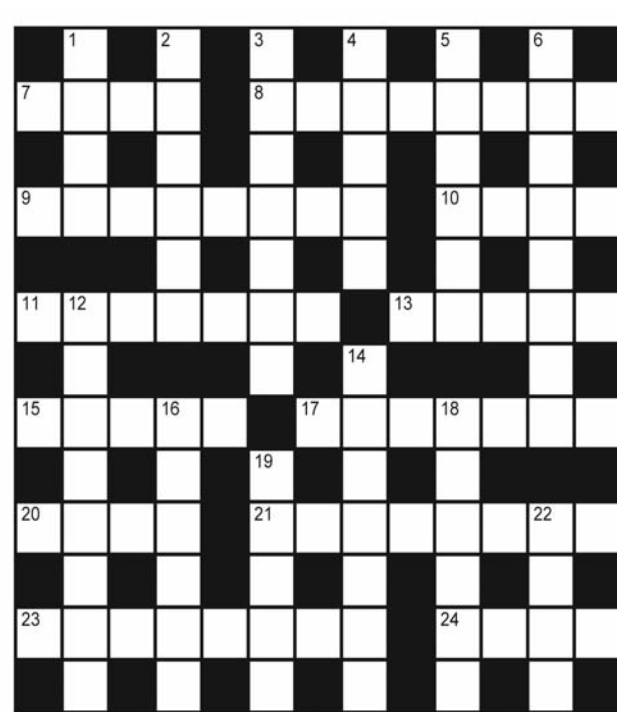


### BREVITY



### FUN post

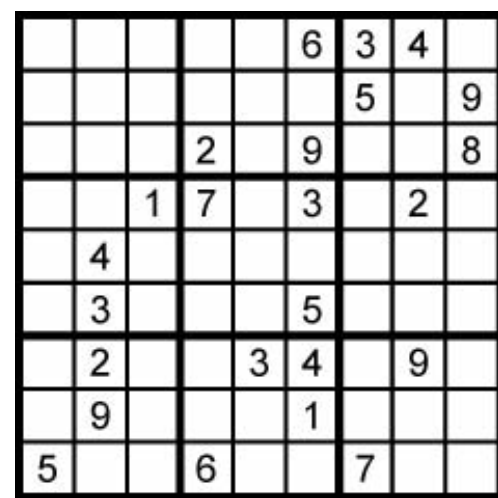
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Greek cheese
  - 8 Infallible
  - 9 Food and drink of the gods
  - 10 Wedding wear
  - 11 Taqueria offering
  - 13 Playful aquatic animal
  - 15 Judiciary
  - 17 Military action
  - 20 Antares, for one
  - 21 Upbeat
  - 23 The writing on the wall?
  - 24 Persian, for one
  - 4 Roomy vehicle
  - 5 Fancy neckwear
  - 6 Mastermind
  - 12 Invert
  - 14 Field event
  - 16 Coffee or wine decanter
  - 18 Fodder
  - 19 Pungent
  - 22 Hideous
- Down
- 1 Squad
  - 2 Cockatoo
  - 3 Settle down

### 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.

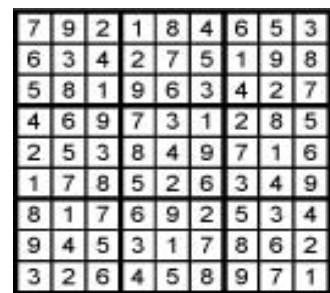


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



92<sup>nd</sup>  
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

# STATE REMEMBERS NANDINI



Dignitaries, including Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, after paying floral tributes to former Odisha chief minister Nandini Satpathy on her 92nd birth anniversary at LIC office square near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday



Noted journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta speaks during Nandini Satpathy Memorial Lecture organised by Odisha Swaraj Abhiyan at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar



A statue of the former Odisha CM being unveiled at a school for the differently-abled in Dhenkanal



Dhenkanal Municipality chairperson Jayanti Patra among dignitaries after garlanding the statue of the former Odisha CM on the premises of Dhenkanal Stadium



Members of Dharitri and Orissa POST family at the garlanding event in the Capital city



Bhadrak block chairperson Urmila Nayak being felicitated during an event at Bhagabat Kalyan Mandap in the district



Dharitri staffers pay tribute to the 'Iron Lady of Odisha' at the newspaper's office in Sambalpur



Guests and students during an event organised by Nandini Satpathy Smruti Sansad to mark the birth anniversary of the first and only woman CM of Odisha at Sai Gurukul Residential School in Ganjam's Bhanjanagar

## BCI rule on advocate enrolment valid: SC State swelters

Top court sets aside Orissa High Court's September 21, 2012 order by which it had said the BCI cannot frame rules and add any condition for enrolment in addition to what is prescribed under section 24 of the Advocates Act of 1961

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 9:** The Supreme Court Friday held as valid the rules framed by the Bar Council of India (BCI) requiring candidates seeking enrolment as advocate to have completed their law course from a college recognised by the BCI.

A vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Kumar set aside an order of the Orissa High Court by which it had said the BCI cannot frame rules and add any condition for enrolment in addition to what is prescribed under section 24 of the Advocates Act of 1961.

The HC had directed enrolment of Rabi Sahu as an advocate despite the fact that he got his law degree from a college which was not recognised or approved by BCI.

The rule framed by BCI requiring a candidate for enrolment as an advocate to have completed his law course from a college recognised/approved by BCI cannot be said to be invalid, as was



**The HC had directed enrolment of Rabi Sahu as an advocate despite the fact that he got his law degree from a college of Angul which was not recognised or approved by BCI**

held in the impugned order, the SC said. "We, therefore, have no hesitation in holding that the division bench was not justified in directing the enrolment of respondent No. 1 (Rabi Sahu) as an Advocate, despite the fact that he secured his law degree from a college which was not recognised or approved by BCI. The appeal is accordingly allowed, setting aside the order dated September 21, 2012 passed by the Orissa High Court..." the apex court said.

Analysing the HC's verdict, the bench said the HC had relied upon the 1999 judgement in the case of V Sudheer versus the Bar Council of India, and said February 10 this year, a constitution bench of the top court had opined that the 1999 verdict was not a good law. "The earlier decision of this Court in V. Sudheer fell for consideration recently before a Constitution Bench in Bar Council of India versus Bonnie Foi Law College & Ors. Perusal of the Constitution Bench judgment re-

flects that the decision in V. Sudeer (supra) was held to be not good law," it said.

The court said the constitution bench held that the BCI's role prior to enrolment 'cannot be ousted', and the finding of V Sudheer verdict that it was not one of the statutory functions of BCI to frame rules imposing pre-enrolment conditions, was erroneous.

"It was categorically held that Section 49 read with Section 24(3)(d) of the Act of 1961 vested BCI with the power to prescribe the norms for entitlement to be enrolled as an Advocate and in consequence, the interdiction placed by the decision in V Sudeer on the power of BCI could not be sustained. The Constitution Bench, accordingly, held that V. Sudeer did not lay down the correct position of law," the bench said.

The vacation bench passed the verdict on an appeal of the BCI against the HC order dated September 21, 2012. The SC had stayed the opera-

tion of the HC's order January 28, 2013 and issued notices to Sahu and the Orissa State Bar Council. Both Sahu and the State Bar Council did not appear before the SC in the matter.

The bench noted that Sahu secured his law degree from Vivekananda Law College at Angul in 2009 but this college was not recognised by the BCI. It also noted that by a letter dated January 5, 2002, the BCI had directed the college to not to admit students in law courses making it clear that students so admitted will not be eligible for enrolment as advocates. The BCI had also informed the Orissa State Bar Council February 28, 2011 about non-recognition of the college.

"As a corollary, the Orissa State Bar Council rejected the application of respondent No. 1 (Sahu) for enrolment as an Advocate, vide letter dated May 4, 2011," the bench noted. Aggrieved by the decision of the state bar council, Sahu had moved the high court which ruled in his favour.



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Heatwave conditions scorched Odisha Friday with 22 weather stations recording a temperature of more than 40 degrees Celsius, officials said. Jharsuguda was the hottest district in the state with the mercury climbing to 45.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

The heatwave conditions are likely to prevail over the next four days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a statement.

"Current meteorological condition indicates that no significant change in maximum temperature at many places over the districts of Odisha during the next four-five days," it said. The maximum temperature is

very likely to be above normal by 3-5 degrees Celsius at a few places, it said.

"People are advised to take precautionary measures (avoid heat exposure and dehydration) while going outside between 11 am and 3 pm," the IMD said. Sambalpur recorded 45.2 degrees Celsius, Sonepur was at 44.8 degrees Celsius, and Hirakud recorded 44.7 degrees Celsius.

Thunderstorm accompanied by wind with speed reaching up to 40-50 kmph was likely in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Gajapati, Ganjam and Kandhamal, among other places, the weather office said.

Light to moderate rainfall was also in the forecast at Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Angul, it said.

## Malaysian Bharatnatyam guru dies after collapsing on stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Prominent Bharatnatyam exponent Sri Ganesan, a Malaysian citizen, collapsed while attending a cultural function here Friday and was subsequently declared dead by doctors at a City hospital.

Ganesan, also the director of Sri Ganesalaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was here to receive an award from a cultural organisa-

tion which was conducting a three-day Devadasi Dance event at Bhanja Kala Mandap. Today was the last day of the event.

According to eyewitnesses, Sri Ganesan, about 60 years old, performed his dance and later while lighting a lamp collapsed on stage.

He was immediately rushed to the Capital Hospital here where doctors declared him dead. "His (Ganesan) death could be

due to sudden cardiac arrest. His body has been kept for post-mortem tomorrow morning," a doctor at the Capital Hospital said.

"He was in good health and performed a Bharatnatyam recital based on the Geet Govinda in the evening.

Unfortunately, he collapsed while lighting the lamp on stage," said Jagabandhu Jena, organiser of the festival.

## Construction of chariots in full swing

AGENCIES

**Puri, June 9:** The construction of three chariots for June 20 Rath Yatra is progressing steadily. About 200 workers - carpenters, blacksmiths, chitrakaras, roopakaras and tailors - are working by adhering to the prescribed time schedule at Rath Yard.

Construction of Rath began on the auspicious Akshyaya Tritiya

and scheduled for completion within 55-57 days and it will be ready to roll a day prior to the fete.

The construction work was initiated after the temple servitors handed over Ajnamallyas (order of the lord) from the Lord Jagannath to the Biswakarmas (chief carpenters) in a formal religious ceremony. The temple administration too



presents the three Biswakarmas with turbans (head gears) a symbolic entrustment of responsibility. Dozens of carpenters and

their assistants work under three chief carpenters assigned to three rathas being under construction at the Rath Yard.



# Crop diversification top priority for state



- Emphasis will be given on private lift irrigation points, pump sets under the Jananidhi programme and on sustainable harnessing of ground water
- More emphasis will also be on the horticulture sector with promotion of plantation crops, oil palm, hybrid vegetable cultivation, Jackfruit Mission, and Mushroom Mission
- Decision has been taken to popularise different farm machinery and equipment by organising Krushi Jantrapati Melas in different pockets of the state

(IFS), farm pond plus, mukhyamantri krushi udyog yojana (MKUY), DBT farm mechanisation, Jananidhi and Saura Jananidhi. Notably, the millet mission has been extended to all the districts by targeting the rainfed areas covering 177 blocks of the state. "Government has targeted to divert the feasible upland and medium paddy lands situated in the ayacut of Mega Lift Irrigation Projects to different non-paddy high-value crops focusing on area expansion of pulses, oilseed and vegetables in the state," said a government official. A decision has also been taken for popularisation of different farm machinery and equipment by organising Krushi Jantrapati Melas in different pockets of the state, he added.

Emphasis will be given for establishment of private lift irriga-

tion points, pump sets under the Jananidhi programme and on sustainable harnessing of ground water thereby bringing more area under assured irrigation.

The use of solar energy for irrigation will be promoted by wide use of solar photo voltaic pump sets and establishment of solar lift irrigation points.

The government has also decided to give more emphasis on the horticulture sector, which presents a promise for higher returns per rupee invested, by implementing programmes like Kharif potato, promotion of plantation crops, oil palm, hybrid vegetable cultivation, Jackfruit Mission, Mushroom Mission.

The Agriculture Production Clusters (APC) will be promoted for organising the farmers into product-centric groups there by facilitating adequate marketing linkage to fetch higher income.



**PUSH TO FARMING:** Dignitaries, including state Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, CII Odisha state council chairman Sashi Sekhar Mohanty, attend FARM2FORK, a seminar on sustainable agri-business in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## 'Industries should extend support to farmers'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** At the 9th edition of Farm2Fork organised by CII Odisha here Friday, Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain called upon industrial houses in Odisha to extend support and guidance to farmers of the state. The minister emphasized on such assistance as it would help enhance farmers' income and contribute to the overall prosperity of Odisha.

During the event, the minister expressed satisfaction over Odisha's progress in agricultural production. "Previously considered a deficient state, Odisha has now achieved near self-sufficiency in various crops and food products," he said highlighting the remarkable strides made in cultivation of both

**Mayor Sulochana Das emphasized the great potential presented by the seafood sector**

traditional and non-traditional crops, such as coffee and millets.

Expressing his aspirations for the state to become a success story in coffee and millet, following the example of Karnataka, Swain urged the industry members to support the coffee mission and assist in its global outreach efforts. Given the state's excellent connectivity compared to other regions, he emphasized that industries should leverage this advantage to reach out to farmers and effectively market their produce.

The minister further acknowledged Odisha's self-sufficiency in fish and milk production. "Despite cultivating only 50 per cent of the available land, the state has achieved a remarkable 220 percent increase in paddy production. Odisha's separate agriculture budget reflects its commitment to empowering the farming community and substantially increasing their income," he said. Speaking at the event, Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das highlighted the opportunities millets offer for farmers. Similarly, she emphasized the great potential of the seafood sector, particularly in coastal areas, affirming commitment to sustainable seafood promotion, from sourcing and processing to marketing.

Prakash Kumar Behera highlighted the proposal of the GST Council fitment committee to reduce the tax rate on millets. The committee recommended a five per cent rate for packaged millet products and a zero percent rate for loose millet, showcasing the government's commitment to fostering an enabling environment for the growth of the millet business.

In his welcome address, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Odisha state council chairman Sashi Sekhar Mohanty stressed on the need for collaborative efforts to make agriculture sustainable. He emphasized that sustainable agriculture leads to biodiversity conservation and plays a significant role in mitigating climate change.

## 12 Odia women entrepreneurs at BIMSTEC Women Leaders Forum

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Sukirti Patnaik has taken charge from Nayantra Pal Chaudhuri as the national chairperson of ICC National Women's Entrepreneurship Committee (INWEC), and under her leadership, INWEC is organising the BIMSTEC Women Leaders Forum, an international conference with ICC, LSG and the Central External Affairs Ministry to explore opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the BIMSTEC region.

A delegation of 12 women entrepreneurs from Odisha is attending the international conference. The conference is part of the 3-day BIMSTEC Business Conclave 2023 at Kolkata from June 13 to June 15 involving the 7 regional countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The conference will cover subjects ranging from education, tourism, trade, gems & jewellery, health care, connectivity, agriculture, financial services, handi-

crafts, start-up, climate change, opportunities for women entrepreneurs, etc. Representation from various ministries, including External Affairs, Commerce, Agriculture, Tourism, Health, with government representatives from all BIMSTEC countries, heads of various chambers of commerce will be present at the conference. In her new role, Patnaik plans to organize several national events that will help develop the entrepreneurship landscape nationally and benefit our state's women entrepreneurs. ICC Odisha chairman JB Pany, ICC Odisha co-chairperson Rajib Sahoo, INWEC Odisha convener Tanaya Patnaik, co-convener Preeti Pallavi Patnaik attended the press conference and shared their enthusiasm towards the summit.

The Odisha delegation includes Sukirti Patnaik, Tanaya Patnaik, Preeti Pallavi Patnaik, Meenu Patnaik, Swati Kejriwal, Sofia Firdous, Sony Samal, Zubina Ali, Shilpa Gupta, Anuradha Mohanty, Sweta Sharma & Stitha Pragnya.

## MAN HELD FOR CHEATING 50 WOMEN OVER 20 YEARS

*The police said that a case was filed by a woman in Gurugram recently, in which she alleged that she met the accused through a marriage app and the duo solemnised their marriage later*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Gurugram/Bhubaneswar, June 9:** A 55-year-old man has been arrested by Gurugram police Thursday from Odisha for allegedly cheating 50 women of lakhs of rupees after marrying them through different matrimonial websites over a period of 20 years, the Gurugram police informed Friday.

The accused has been identified as Tapesh, a native of Jamshepur. Tapesh, who first married in 1992 in Kolkata and has two daughters, disappeared in 2000, leaving



behind his wife and daughters.

In connection with the matter, the police said that a case was filed by a woman in Gurugram recently, in which she alleged that she met the accused through a marriage app and the duo solemnised their marriage later. But after three days of marriage, the accused cheated the woman of Rs 20 lakh, including jewellery and fled.

During the probe, the police came to know that in the meantime the accused went to Bengaluru and opened a job placement agency named 'Smart Hire Solution'.

There the accused used to cheat young men and women on the pretext of getting a job, but when this cheating did not work out for long he started dating divorced, widowed and married women through the Shaadi app. He started getting into relationship with middle-aged women and started cheating on them.

"The accused has so far married more than 50 women in the last 20 years and duped them. The accused was arrested at the drug de-addiction centre in Odisha. He will be taken into police custody for further probe," said a senior police officer.

## 'SOA researchers working on drugs to fight cancer'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Researchers are working to develop new drugs and diagnostic techniques to fight cancer and other infectious diseases at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University at its DBT BUILDER National Laboratory, said SOA vice-chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda here Friday at the inaugural programme of an international conference.

"The research work has started for which Rs 4.54 crore had been sanctioned by the biotechnology department," added Nanda.

The focus of the work, he said, is interdisciplinary research in life sciences with engagement of three principal investigators and 14 co-investigators in the project. The vice-chancellor was speaking at the inaugural event of the three-day international conference on Advances in Power, Signal and Information Technology (APSIT-2023) at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), SOA's faculty of engineering and



technology.

Nanda also referred to the three innovative pharmaceutical formulations developed by university researchers to treat various chronic medical conditions for which SOA has recently signed technology licensing agreement with the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) under the Science and Technology Ministry. The three-day conference is being organised by ITER's Electrical and Electronics Engineering department.

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (OPTCL) general manager (electrical) Prasanta Kumar Pattanaik and Jadavpur University, Kolkata, department of electrical engineering associate professor Susanta Ray also addressed the inaugural session.

## Less efficient antibiotics behind many newborn deaths: Study

Many newborns are dying because the antibiotics used to treat sepsis are losing their effectiveness, according to a global observational study which involved over 3,200 newborn babies suffering from the infection in 11 countries, including India.

The study, conducted from 2018 to 2020 and co-authored by a team of over 80 researchers, found there was high mortality among infants with culture-positive sepsis (almost 1 in 5 across the hospital sites), and a significant burden of antibiotic resistance.

The research, published Friday in the journal PLOS Medicine, provides a wealth of high-quality data aimed at improving the treatment of newborn babies with sepsis.

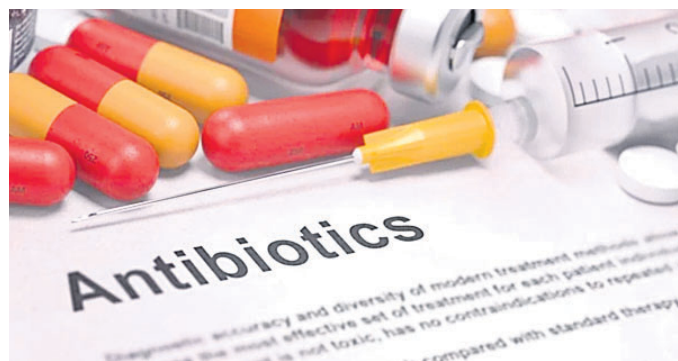
"It was very important to undertake this study to get a better understanding of the kind of infections we are seeing in newborns in

hospitals, the bugs causing them, the treatments that are being used and why we are seeing more deaths," said Manica Balasegaram, executive director of Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP).

"The study has given us vital information which will help us to better design clinical trials and ultimately improve the care and outcome of babies with neonatal sepsis," Balasegaram said.

Sepsis is a life-threatening bloodstream infection which affects up to 3 million babies a year globally. Every year, 214,000 newborn babies, mostly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), die of sepsis that has become resistant to antibiotics.

Newborn babies are particularly at risk of severe infection because of their underdeveloped immune systems.



"One of the study's most striking findings is the wide disparity in deaths from neonatal sepsis, depending on where people live," said Nishad Plakkal, additional professor of neonatology and associate dean (research) at JIPMER, Puducherry.

"It's not unusual in my unit for one nurse to take care of five or six

very ill babies at one time. This makes it easier for infections to spread," Plakkal said.

There was extensive variation in mortality between the 19 hospitals in the study, ranging from 1.6 per cent to 27.3 per cent, with markedly higher rates in LMICs, the researchers said.

■ Sepsis is a life-threatening bloodstream infection which affects up to 3 million babies a year globally. Every year, 214,000 newborn babies, mostly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), die of this infection

■ Newborn babies are particularly at risk of severe infection because of their underdeveloped immune systems

■ The study also aims to inform WHO guidelines on treatment for newborn babies with sepsis. The results have been used to design a pivotal strategic public health clinical trial to find better treatments for newborn infections in the context of increasing resistance to existing treatments

and space," said Sithembiso Velaphi, head of paediatrics at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa.

More than 200 different antibiotic combinations were used by hospitals in the study, with frequent switching of antibiotics due to high resistance to treatments.

"The observational study has been instrumental in providing the high-quality data that we need to design trials of appropriate treatments for sepsis in newborn babies. It has been a huge collaborative effort by researchers and clinicians in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe," said Neal Russell, Principal Investigator for the neonatal sepsis study at St George's, University of London (SGUL), UK.

The study also aims to inform WHO guidelines on treatment for newborn babies with sepsis.

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# Jumbo menace hits life in Dhenkanal villages

10 DIE IN ELEPHANT ATTACKS IN LAST ONE MONTH



Reports said that as many as 15 tuskers have been separated from their herd and wreaked havoc in eight forest ranges in Dhenkanal. The forest department has been making a series of efforts to drive these animals away into the jungle, but in vain. This has only emboldened the tuskers to go on a rampage, destroy crops, properties, and take human lives that come their way. They chased and attacked the villagers whenever they had a face-off.

The man-animal conflicts are now not limited to the boundaries of the villages but have entered into political discourse, with various political parties adopting them as a strategy to attack other parties.

The opposition BJP had warned of an agitation, but the pleas are yet to be addressed. It is alleged that the administration is not making any efforts to resolve the issue by holding talks with the forest department. Wildlife experts were of the opinion that there is a need for a long term plan and regular patrolling in the affected areas to check the elephant menace.

When contacted, divisional forest officer Sumit Kumar Kar said patrolling has been intensified in areas of movement of the tuskers. Measures have undertaken at two places to get advance information on elephant presence. The experiment, if becomes successful, will be implemented in other parts of the district, he added.

and loneliness away from their normal lives. It was learned that they fear stepping out of their house, fearing that they might get trampled.

They only come out of their houses in groups armed with lathis and a torch when there is an urgent need. An eerie silence prevails in the village, and the roads take on a deserted look as evening descends.

Wildlife experts said that the animals are straying into human habitats due to food scarcity in forests. Making matters worse, the blistering heatwave has become intolerable and forced them to rush into human habitats in search of food and water. The smell of the ripe mangoes, jackfruits lures them, for which they flock to the human settlements and unleash a reign of terror, they added.

All works relating to livelihood, cultivation, studies, and other emergencies have come to a halt. Some tuskers getting separated from their herd has caused the situation, alleged the villagers. People here live a life of seclu-



**COOLING ACT:** Children take bath at Mahanadi in Sambalpur to get respite from the blistering heat as the town recorded 45.2 degree Celsius, Friday OP PHOTO

## Bijaya Gamang appointed Rayagada Congress chief

**Rayagada:** Ending all speculations, senior Congress leader and ex-chairman of the Zilla Parishad Bijaya Gamang was appointed as the district Congress president of Rayagada by the state Congress committee, Friday. Earlier, Durga Prasad Panda was appointed as general secretary of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) while the post of district Congress president was lying vacant. The party workers were seen in a cheerful mood, expecting a good show in the coming polls after a change in leadership at the top in the district. It may be noted that Bijay's wife Ketaki Gamang is also an ex-chairperson of Zilla Parishad.

## SECI to supply 600MW wind power to GRIDCO Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) will supply 600 MW of wind energy to transmission company GRIDCO Odisha, an official statement said Friday.

The power will be supplied under an agreement between the two parties, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said. "SECI has signed a Power Sale Agreement (PSA) with GRIDCO Odisha, Government of Odisha, under which GRIDCO Odisha will purchase 600 MW of wind power from SECI under Tranche - XIII of ISTS (Inter State Transmission System) Connected Wind Power Projects Scheme," it said.

Under the ISTS scheme, power generated from a state rich in renewable energy resources could be transmitted to states deficient



in renewable energy resources. The agreement between SECI and GRIDCO was signed in Bhubaneswar Friday, in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Odisha, NB Dhal, it said.

Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission has already given in-principle approval for the procurement of 600MW of wind power

by GRIDCO. SECI is the nodal agency for implementing renewable energy projects in India.

GRIDCO Ltd is presently engaged in the bulk purchase and sale of power to four distribution companies in Odisha and trading of surplus power through traders to promote the exchange of power with neighbouring states in the country.

## Missing newborn rescued after 5 years

**Berhampur:** In an amazing development, a newborn who had gone missing five years ago from a hospital was rescued at Gajapati Nagar here in Ganjam district, Friday. According to reports, Sunita Behera of Rambha area in Ganjam district had delivered a baby boy in 2018. Soon after the birth the baby was found missing. Sunita and her husband Pitabas did everything to get their son back but in vain. They also lodged a complaint with the hospital authorities as well as the local police. But they had to return home empty handed. However, recently they came to know that their missing child was with a woman at Gajapati Nagar. The couple again approached Baidyanathpur police June 6, 2023. Acting on a complaint, the police registered a case and rescued the child.

## Not human remains, rotten eggs emitted foul smell: Rlys

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Balasure, June 9:** Amid apprehension that some bodies were still left in a coach of the Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express that was involved in the June 2 triple train accident in Odisha, an official Friday clarified that it was rotten eggs and not human remains.

People living near Bahanaga Bazar railway station where the crash occurred claiming 288 lives have complained that a foul smell was coming from a coach left there and some bodies might have still been inside.

Following the complaint, the railways with the help of the state government conducted a search.

"It was found that rotten eggs, and not human bodies, are emitting a foul smell in the station. We had got site clearance from NDRF twice," South Eastern Railway CPRO Aditya Kumar Chaudhary told reporters.

Around three tons of eggs were being transported in the Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express in the parcel van, he said.

"All the eggs were rotting, and a foul smell was coming. We have removed the eggs in three tractors

from the accident site," Chaudhary added.

Meanwhile, the CPRO said that the ministry has so far disbursed compensation of Rs 22.66 crore to the families of 661 victims in connection with the train tragedy.

The next of kin of the deceased and those severely injured in the accident have received compensation.

Chaudhary said the railways will give Rs 10 lakh each to the families who lost their near and dear ones in the tragedy. Around 1200 people suffered injuries in the accident.

## CONTRACTOR KILLED OVER PAST ENMITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada/Tikiri, June 9:** A 50-year-old man was brutally killed at Kasanadora village under Kashipur police limits in Rayagada district, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Gajendra Nayak, a Congress leader and a contractor, of the village.

The police arrested the accused, Bagha Gouda of Chandgiri village in Rayagada district a few hours after the incident and began a probe.

It is suspected that Gajendra was killed over past enmity.

According to reports, Gajendra went to his construction site at Kasanadora when accused Bagha had a heated argument with him

over some issues. But the latter suddenly assaulted Gajendra with a sharp-edged weapon, leaving him grievously injured.

The locals rushed Gajendra to a nearby community health centre at Kashipur for treatment. But the doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Tension prevailed in the area after the news spread.

## Vedanta's sensitisation drive on heat stroke in Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 9:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, recently conducted a comprehensive heat stroke awareness programme across several regions in Jharsuguda district, in the wake of the ongoing heat wave. The initiative, which aimed to sensitise community members on the severity of heat strokes and educate them about the precautions necessary to protect themselves, covered several key locations within the town, including Badheimunda Chowk, Private Bus Stand, Railway Station, Sarbahal Chowk, BTM Chowk, in addition to more than 28 villages. Through a combination of live sessions, the distribution of informative leaflets, and the provision of ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) powder, the week-long program successfully



reached out to more than 6500 people across the district.

With rising temperatures, it is crucial to equip people with knowledge of preventive measures. Through the heat stroke awareness programme, Vedanta aims to educate the community about the importance of recognising early symptoms and taking immediate action. The programme highlighted the significance of staying hydrated, avoiding strenuous physical activities during extreme heat conditions, and training on immediate actions to be taken in the event of a heat stroke incident.



**AWARENESS RALLY:** Self-help group women and members of construction workers' outfit take out a rally on child labour eradication in Rayagada, Friday OP PHOTO

## Lack of psychiatrists plagues Berhampur Circle Jail

*In the absence of expert physicians, the condition of inmates suffering from psychological disorders is not only deteriorating, but the number of such patients is also on the rise*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 9:** Established in 1863 during the British era, the Circle Jail here is one of the oldest prisons in Odisha, with 23 sub-jails in undivided Ganjam, Puri, and Phulbani districts functioning under it.

However, several inmates of the jail here suffer from depression and psychological issues in the absence of specialist doctors in the jail.

This may pose serious problems for the other occupants in the future,

a report said.

People who spend more time in jail are likely to suffer from depression after losing their mental balance, and the condition worsens if they are left untreated, say health experts.

At present, 838 inmates, including 18 females, have been kept in the jail. Of these, 179 are convicts, while others are under-trial prisoners (UTP). Most importantly, 21 of them, including one female, suffer from serious psychological disorders and need expert advice.



However, in the absence of psychiatrists, the condition of existing psychiatric patients is not only deteriorating; the number of

such patients is also on the rise, the report added.

Earlier, the authorities had taken a decision to appoint a psychiatric

social worker and a clinical psychologist to address the issue as cases of psychological disorders were rising.

The Director General Manoj Kumar Chhabra, in a bid to address the issue, had promised in April that competent psychiatrists will be appointed during the first week of May but no one has been posted so far.

Reacting to the development, Berhampur Circle jailer Satyanarayan Behera said that approval has come for the appointment of two doctors, and they will take charge soon.

After the appointment of a specialist psychiatrist, the inmates who suffer from psychological disorders will get better treatment, added Behera.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. B-311  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar**  
(Phone/Fax: (06821) 241133/E-mail: eernbngr@yahoo.in)  
Ltr. No.5782/Dtd.31.05.2023

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
**E-Procurement Bid Identification No. E.E.-BNJ-R&B-08/2023-24**

- Name of work :- Construction of one No. "E"-type quarter for (R&B) Sectional Officer at Sorada.
- No. of Works :- 01 No. Building Work
- No. of Covers :- Single Cover
- Estimated cost :- Rs.35.533 Lakhs
- Period of Completion :- Four Calendar Months.
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal :- From 12.00 Noon of dated 13.06.2023 to 5.00 PM of dated 22.06.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal :- Upto 5.00 PM of dated 22.06.2023
- Date of opening of bid documents :- At 11.00 A.M of 23.06.2023
- Class of Contractor :- "C" & "B" Class Contractor
- Name and address of officer inviting Bid :- Executive Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in). The Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

**Sd./- Executive Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division**  
OIPR-34015/11/0007/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
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**Tender Call Notice No.eTcn01/odagaon/2023-24**  
Letter No.2108, Dated:09.06.2023

**Bid Identification No. B.D.O., Odagaon-Online 01/2023-24**  
**No.1-163:**The Block Development Officer, Odagaon on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building work as detailed in the table below.

- Nature of Work: Building Works
- No. of Work : 1 No.
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- Class of Contractor: As mentioned in DTCN.
- Available of Bid document in the website: From Dt.13.06.2023 11.00 AM to Dt.22.06.2023 upto 5.00 PM.
- Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.23.06.2023 at 11.00 AM
- The have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

**Sd./- Block Development Officer, Odagaon**  
OIPR-19307/11/0001/2324





Late, I learned that when reason died, then Wisdom was born; before that liberation, I had only knowledge.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Inconvenient Truths

Rail Bhawan currently is buzzing with activity. The loss of lives in the Balasore rail tragedy has come as a painful reminder that safety must remain the topmost priority. Authorities are looking into an electronic track management system that is suspected of failing and causing the deadly train crash. The CBI has also been roped in to investigate suspicions of criminality. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has pledged stringent punishment for those responsible, but some observers believe that this position assumes that the accident was caused by human error rather than systemic problems with the Railways.

The reasons for the mishap are well known. Ageing tracks, outdated signalling systems and inadequate maintenance procedures persist, despite the government's focus on launching high-speed trains.

A report from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), released last year, has detailed the inadequacies and shortfalls and the report strikes a discordant note in the official narrative of rail infrastructure development. The CAG has highlighted an increasing trend towards expenditure on "non-priority works" even as the allotment of funds for track renewal and maintenance has declined sharply.

Fixing accountability in a vast bureaucracy like the Railways is undoubtedly challenging. Though the babus in the Railway Ministry are unlikely to speak at the moment, there is no doubt that there are multiple notes within the Ministry suggesting that increased investments in safety in signalling and a variety of other training programmes are more crucial than many initiatives currently insisted upon by the Ministry on account of the incessant need for inaugurations and publicity events.

### A curious contractual rollercoaster

A recent slip-up in the re-appointment of Special Protection Group (SPG) chief Arun Kumar Sinha has sparked widespread chatter and raised concerns in babu circles about what it tells us about the functioning of the current government.



**BABUDOM BYTES**

Dilip Cherian

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) uploaded an unusual order stating that Sinha would be re-employed on a contract basis for one year. However, this order was quietly withdrawn and replaced with a new one hours later, extending Sinha's service as the SPG Director. The 'corrected' order ensures Sinha's continued regular service for one year but failed to specify that it superseded the earlier order. Now, we are being told that the earlier order, of rehiring Sinha on contract, was never issued – it was a draft that was mistakenly uploaded on the DoPT website, even if both orders were signed by the same official and were marked to several government departments, including state chief secretaries.

The likely explanation for this apparent goof-up perhaps lies in a recent gazette notification concerning the SPG Act and the rules that deal with the SPG chief's appointment. The rules clearly stipulate that the SPG chief must be of additional director general of police rank and that officers of the All India services should be appointed to the SPG under the same terms and conditions applicable to officers of corresponding rank in the Central government. Hiring an officer on a contract basis does not provide them with the same terms and conditions, thus necessitating a modification of the order.

Some observers have noted that perhaps the DoPT babus are not yet familiar with these rules, given that they were only framed recently, 35 years after the inception of the SPG Act in 1988!

### Babus clash in Delhi heritage demolition case

The recent controversy surrounding the alleged demolition of a heritage structure for the construction of former Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Udit Prakash Rai's official residence has highlighted a division within the capital's babus. Rai has accused Special Secretary (Vigilance) YVVJ Rajasekhar, a 2012-batch IAS officer, of harassment as he oversees the probe against Rai. He also claims that the action against him is politically motivated.

Rajasekhar, on the other hand, maintains that the investigation is based on documentary evidence and that everything is properly recorded. Rajasekhar is busy investigating the alleged Delhi liquor scam and corruption allegations related to the renovation of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence. Rai has reportedly sent copies of his complaint to Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, chief minister Kejriwal and Union Home Secretary AK Bhalla, among others.

According to sources, Rai has suffered a major setback in his fight to reclaim his innocence, with a joint inspection report by the Archaeology Department and the DJB confirming the demolition of a medieval heritage monument, adding weight to the allegations against him. The accusations of harassment need to be viewed in this context. The clash of claims and counterclaims has created an undesirable rift within Delhi's babudom and is likely to be seen through the lens of politics.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on Twitter. Let's multiply the effect

## WISDOM CORNER

Every living being is an engine geared to the wheelwork of the universe. Though seemingly affected only by its immediate surrounding, the sphere of external influence extends to infinite distance.

NIKOLA TESLA

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.

MARIE CURIE

Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.

STEPHEN HAWKING

## WORDSWORTH

### Jingoism

This word is still as popular as it ever was, but few writers who use it to describe that bellicose chauvinistic attitude to foreigners that expresses itself as aggressive or warlike patriotism know that it's from a magician's catchphrase via a music-hall song. Jingo dates from the late seventeenth century and is first recorded in the forms by jingo! or high jingo! as a bit of conjuror's patter when some item was revealed as though by magic. By jingo! was also used around this time as another of the many euphemisms for by God or by Jesus and so became an interjection to show one's surprise or to give emphasis. It turns up, as one example out of a very large number, in Fanny Burney's Evelina of 1778: "If I live an hundred springs," answered he, "I shall never forget it; by Jingo, it has served me for a most excellent good joke ever since." Exactly a century later, during the Russo-Turkish war, Russia was threatening to capture Constantinople. George Hunt, a prolific writer of music-hall songs, composed a topical song for the actor and singer Gilbert Macdermot, who was then performing regularly at the London Pavilion under the stage name of The Great Macdermot. The song immediately became a hit, especially the first four lines of its refrain: We don't want to fight; but by jingo if we do...We've got the ships; we've got the men; and got the money too! This was taken up by what we would now call the hawks of the London public, who had for some time been after the Russians' blood. The Daily News first called them jingoes in its issue of 11 March 1878; a subscriber wrote to the paper two days later about "The Jingoes – the new type of music-hall patriots who sing the Jingo song."

## FOCUS EXTREMISM

# NATIONALISTS ABROAD

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan probably did not need the votes of German and Dutch-Turkish citizens to prevail in Turkey's recent presidential election. Even so, Erdoğan won a majority of the international vote, including nearly 70% of the votes in Germany and the Netherlands. Since not all Germans or Dutch with a Turkish background vote in Turkish elections, such statistics need to be treated with care. But right-wing Turkish nationalism does appear to have a strong appeal among dual citizens. And such overseas nationalists tend to be noisy about their convictions, driving through German cities honking their horns and shouting political slogans.



Ian Buruma

**ALTHOUGH EXTREMISTS ALWAYS REPRESENT A MINORITY, THEIR ACTIONS CAST A SHADOW OVER THEIR COMMUNITIES**

These demonstrations have an air of defiance, a blaring kind of identity politics, and they function as a sign to the majority population that the ethnic minority has a voice, too. But they are also representative of a broader trend: certain members of immigrant communities tend to be more extreme when it comes to the politics of their countries of origin than the citizens who still reside there.

Khalistan separatists who call for an independent Sikh country in Punjab, for example, are sometimes more vociferous in Canada or the United Kingdom than in India. Likewise, the Irish Republican Army received generous financial support from Americans of Irish heritage. Hindu nationalists thrive in some parts of Britain, and radical Islamists have found fertile recruiting ground in Western European cities. While this partly reflects the greater political freedom in the West, other factors also explain why some second-generation immigrants are drawn to right-wing nationalism.

A common explanation is the relative lack of integration of non-Western or non-Christian minorities born in Europe. This is often blamed on the bigotry and prejudice of majority populations. Or the blame might fall on clerical extremists who send out radical and even violent messages in mosques or other religious venues.



**Radical exponents of religious or ethnic minorities are naturally more active than most people who just want to be left in peace to get on with their lives. And the radicals sometimes behave as though they are the representatives of their different communities**

There may be some truth to such arguments. It is neither new nor surprising that some second- and third-generation immigrants from countries with very different cultural and religious traditions find adjusting, adapting, or assimilating difficult and sometimes humiliating. But this problem is compounded by the even greater sense of alienation that many immigrants feel toward their countries of origin.

In my 2007 book *Murder in Amsterdam*, I explored the story of Mohammed Bouyeri, a Dutch-born son of Moroccan immigrants. At first, Bouyeri seemed to be a perfectly integrated second-generation immigrant who loved soccer, beer, and rock music. But a series of personal setbacks led Bouyeri down a radical path, transforming him into an Islamist revolutionary who murdered Theo van Gogh, a prominent Dutch critic of Islam, in 2004. He felt like a despised outsider in his native country, but a trip to the Moroccan village of his

parents made him realize that he could never fit in there, either.

A particularly extreme form of Islamism, disseminated through an online network of English-language revolutionary websites, gave Bouyeri a sense of pride and belonging. While he felt estranged from both the Netherlands and Morocco, he found a community among a group of angry, vengeful misfits, who would show the world that they were to be reckoned with – through acts of violence, if necessary.

This alienation can cause a great deal of damage, affecting both immigrant communities domestically and political dynamics abroad. Although extremists always represent a minority, their actions cast a shadow over their communities. Every act of Islamist violence, for example, places undue pressure on peaceful Muslims, including those who never set foot in a mosque, forcing them to prove that they are not

in league with terrorists.

Radical exponents of religious or ethnic minorities are naturally more active than most people who just want to be left in peace to get on with their lives. And the radicals sometimes behave as though they are the representatives of their different communities. In 2004, for example, Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti, a British playwright of Sikh descent, received death threats and was forced into hiding after she wrote a play about violence in a Sikh temple. After a scheduled performance of the play was canceled, a spokesperson for the protesters claimed it as a victory for the Sikh community. It is to such unselected spokespersons that national and local politicians often turn, even though the activists and protesters may not represent the views of their so-called communities at all.

Most Sikhs, Hindus, Kurds, Turks, and members of other minorities are not extremists or ethno-nationalists. But the mostly young people, who feel neither at home in their native countries, nor anywhere else, inflame prejudice and aggression among the majority population, and bolster the fortunes of extremist movements in the countries their parents or grandparents left behind.

Erdoğan is a shrewd and cynical political strategist who does not need a sociology degree to recognise the problems faced by Turkish immigrants in Europe. He knows that his fantasies of Ottoman grandeur and appeals to religious and ethnic purity resonate with immigrants grappling with fragile identities, which is why he has urged Turkish citizens abroad to resist assimilation. This probably makes life for the immigrants worse, but it helps to get Erdoğan elected. And that is the point.

*The writer is the author, most recently, of The Churchill Complex: The Curse of Being Special, From Winston and FDR to Trump and Brexit.*

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

# Can AI avert train accidents?



Narvijay Yadav

**AI HAS THE ABILITY TO RAPIDLY PROCESS LARGE AMOUNTS OF DATA AND INFORMATION, RESULTING IN EARLY WARNINGS ABOUT CRITICAL EQUIPMENT FAILURES AND POTENTIAL OUTAGES**

The shocking collision of three trains in Balasore has brought the issue of railway safety to the fore. With the tragic death of 288 passengers, it is one of the biggest train accidents in India. The results of the detailed investigation will come later, but initially, it is feared that a wrong signal, technical fault, human error, or some "manual tinkering" could be the possible reason for this unfortunate accident. In the mishap, the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express rammed into a goods train, following which the Howrah-bound Yesvantpur Express slammed into damaged compartments four minutes later.

I have been keenly interested in rail technology since childhood. While studying at Government Inter College, Budaun (UP), I was rewarded by the Uttar Pradesh government for making a new type of rail joint in the early '80s. I had proposed joining the ends of two rails, having a 45-degree angle cut, which was widely appreciated in the media and Indian Railways as well. The innovative theory was examined by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) Lucknow, which works under the

Ministry of Railways. Later, more advanced techniques came into practice for rail joints.

What I feel now is that safety in railways can be improved to a great extent by applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the technical systems. AI has the ability to rapidly process large amounts of data and information, resulting in early warnings about critical equipment failures and potential outages. AI has introduced several new dimensions to ensure safety in the railways. By analysing data in real-time, the system can detect potential hazards, such as AI-powered cameras monitoring track conditions and alerting crews if anything unusual is detected, which could lead to a train derailment. Thus the use of AI can reduce the probability of accidents.

By analyzing passenger numbers, demand, schedules, and availability of tracks with the help of AI, efficient use of resources can be determined. This will reduce the problem of late running of trains and also improve the overall passenger experience. AI can predict passenger demand by analysing passenger behavioural data. This will make it possible to

optimise the train schedule and ensure that trains are run on time. AI can improve operational efficiency in the rail industry by analysing potential delays. These are just some of the ways AI is already benefiting the railways. Smart technology can make train journeys safer, more efficient, and more comfortable.

AI technology and sensitive imaging sensors together can bring a remarkable change in the safety features of long-haul trains. In Australia, AI enables heavy-haul trains to automatically detect hazards on or near railway tracks from around 1.5 km away, taking safety to the next level. Without prior detection, obstacles on the railway track, as well as damage or technical fault can lead to dangerous mishaps. It would be better if the loco pilots are alerted in advance, so they can slow down or stop the train safely. The AI-powered vision sensor technology of the object or hazard detection system can be really useful for the Indian Railways – the fourth largest railway network in the world with a total route length of more than 68,000 km, and a running track length of 1,02,831 km.

The Railway Ministry has already been working on a self-protection programme known as Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) or 'Kavach'. This is an indigenously developed railway collision prevention technology to make rail transport safer. Kavach automatically draws a locomotive to stop when it senses an obstruction on the track. Kavach was developed by the RDSO with the support of two private agencies.

Ever since the practice of digital payments, especially UPI payments, has grown in India, each and every paisa is automatically calculated at a fraction of a second. Transactions worth millions of rupees are being done round the clock with absolute efficiency and trust. This development has ended the dependence on banks or calculators to a great extent. Be it the stock markets or the consumer markets, everywhere all the calculations are done in the blink of an eye. So why can't we use the magic of AI to enhance the level of safety and comfort in our trains?

*The writer is a senior journalist and columnist. Views are personal.*

## Mysterious sightings

Sir, Scientists are continually inspired by the fascinating revelations of the cosmos to conduct more research. Astronomers are constantly working to learn more and more about the other world thanks to cutting-edge technology and increased knowledge of space. UFO (unidentified flying object) sightings are another topic that has drawn the interest of both experts and the general public. Space agency NASA is prepared to begin research on mysterious UFO sightings, also known as unidentified aerial phenomena, in its first public meetings. Leading experts from a variety of disciplines, including physics and astrophysics, were gathered last year to form a 16-member body. Prior to publishing a report anticipated later this summer, the research group hosted a four-hour session live broadcast on a NASA webcast to discuss their initial results. The NASA study is distinct from a recently formalised Pentagon investigation into unexplained aerial phenomena that military aviators have recently recorded and that the US defence and intelligence officials have examined. According to Sean Kirkpatrick, director of the Pentagon's newly created All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, or AARO, the US military has recorded more than 800 cases of unexplained aerial phenomena over the past 20 years. So, it is definite that we are not alone in the cosmos. This study will bring out more facts about aliens which Prof Stephen Hawking predicted long before.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

## Need of the hour

Sir, The three-train crash near Balasore was catastrophic. The Indian Railways and the Odisha government have paid ex-gratia to the families of the deceased. Many families might have lost their only bread-winners. Education of the children who lost their parents will also be taken care of. In this trying situation, the compensation amount may not be sufficient to financially protect the bereaved families on the basis of their education and other qualifications. There are reportedly 140,000 security posts and more than three lakhs posts vacant in the Railways. Providing jobs to the needy is the need of the hour.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

## Letters

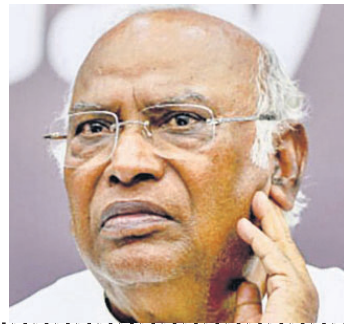
### TO THE EDITOR

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)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# national



**Our Territorial Integrity is being impinged upon by audacious Chinese military construction at the LAC, now in Uttarakhand**  
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## BACK ON TRACK

Country's longest and highest altitude bus service that connects Delhi with Leh via Himachal Pradesh's tourist resort Manali has restarted after remaining closed for nine months due to closure of the route with snowfall, an official said Friday



## of the day quote

The Delhi Development Authority carries a very special responsibility and the change they bring is not just for the national capital, it is an impression of India



S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

The Congress and the CPI(M) will fight the panchayat elections together. We have already directed our party workers to extend all forms of support to the CPI(M) in this regard



ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY | WEST BENGAL CONGRESS PRESIDENT

The income of farmers in India has not doubled but the cost of agriculture has doubled. Rates of diesel, fertilizer and agriculture equipment have gone up. Production cost has increased and income (of farmers) has been halved



BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM



Fishing boats at Vypin Harbour ahead of the 52-day trawling ban in the coastal waters of Kerala, in Kochi

PTI PHOTO

## PM's degree: Kejriwal seeks review of order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 9: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approached Gujarat High Court seeking a review of its recent order setting aside the Central Information Commission's directive to the Gujarat University to provide information on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree to the AAP national convener.

One of the key contentions raised by Kejriwal is that contrary to Gujarat University's claim that Modi's degree is available online, no such degree is available on the university's website.

Following a brief hearing on Friday, Justice Biren Vaishnav admitted Kejriwal's review petition and kept it for further hearing on June 30. The HC issued a rule to the Gujarat University, Central gov-

ernment and former Chief Information Commissioner M Sridhar Acharyulu.

In March, Justice Vaishnav had allowed Gujarat University's appeal against the CIC order and had also imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 on Kejriwal. In April 2016, then CIC Acharyulu had directed Delhi University and Gujarat University to provide information to Kejriwal on Modi's degrees.

The CIC order had come a day after Kejriwal wrote to Acharyulu saying he has no objection to government records about him being made public. Kejriwal, in the letter, had wondered why the commission wanted to "hide" information on Modi's educational qualifications. Based on the letter, Acharyulu directed Gujarat University to give records of Modi's educational qualifications to Kejriwal.

## Pawar threatened; cops register FIR



**WHILE MUMBAI POLICE REGISTERED AN FIR OVER THE THREAT, PUNE COPS REVIEWED SECURITY AT PAWAR'S RESIDENCE IN SHIVAJINAGAR AREA OF THE CITY**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 9: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Friday said his government has taken serious note of the death threat to NCP chief Sharad Pawar and he has given instructions for a probe. His deputy Devendra Fadnis said such threats will not be tolerated.

While Mumbai police registered a first information report (FIR) over the threat, Pune cops reviewed security at Pawar's residence in Shivajinagar area of the city. Calling Pawar a "senior respected leader", Shinde said in a statement that all necessary precautions will be taken for his security. Police authorities have been asked to beef up Pawar's security if needed, the CM said.

For the past few days, the chief minister said, deliberate attempts are being made to create tension in the state.

"Ever since the Supreme Court

verdict (in Shiv Sena-related issues), some people are upset due to which attempts are being made to spoil the atmosphere by glorifying Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan," said the statement.

It added, "These attempts will be thwarted. We will foil the conspiracy to create disturbances for selfish political interests." NCP leaders said their 82-year-old party president received a message on social media that read "he will meet the same fate as (Narendra) Dabholkar soon". Narendra Dabholkar, who fought against superstitious beliefs, was shot dead in Pune in August 2013.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who also holds the home portfolio, said he had asked police to take action, asserting that the government will not tolerate such threats. Mumbai police have registered an FIR under Indian Penal Code sections 153 (wantonly causing or provoking any riot through illegal means) and 506 (II) (issuing threat to cause death or grievous hurt), said a senior official. In Pune, senior cops visited Pawar's residence in Shivajinagar to review security there.

"Eight police personnel and one police officer are deployed there in the daytime and a similar strength is maintained at night. Besides, personnel from police headquarters are also stationed at the residence (of Pawar)," said inspector Arvind Mane at Shivajinagar police station.

## Woman wrestler taken to WFI chief's office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: Stepping up its probe into sexual harassment allegations against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, the Delhi Police Friday took a woman wrestler to his office here to recreate the sequence of events that led to the alleged crime.

It may be mentioned that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's official residence houses the office of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). Sports Minister Anurag Thakur had assured the protesting wrestlers that a charge sheet would be filed in the case by June 15, after which the grapplers suspended their protest.

A Delhi police official said the wrestler, accompanied by women police personnel, was taken to the WFI office at 1:30 pm. "They were there for half an hour: They asked her to recreate the scene and recall the places where she faced harassment," the police official said.

Hours after the police left the place, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was among those leading the



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Sports Minister Anurag Thakur had assured the protesting wrestlers that a charge sheet would be filed in the case by June 15, after which the grapplers suspended their protest

protest, took to Twitter to express her disappointment at media reports that claimed that the wrestlers had reached the WFI office for a compromise.

"This is the power of Brij Bhushan. He is harassing women wrestlers by using his muscle power, political power and running false

narratives, and his arrest is necessary. If the police arrests him instead of breaking us, there is hope for justice, otherwise not." Women wrestlers had gone to the crime scene for police investigation, but it was flashed in the media that they had gone for a compromise," she tweeted in Hindi.

Bajrang Punia, another protesting wrestler, also posted similar tweets. The Delhi Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sexual harassment allegations against the outgoing WFI president and BJP MP Singh is likely to submit in the court its investigation report in the two cases registered against him by next week, officials said on Wednesday.

As part of its investigation, the SIT has questioned more than 180 people, the Delhi Police officials said. Top wrestlers of the country, including Asian Games gold medalist Vinesh Phogat and Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, have been protesting against Singh and demanding his arrest for allegedly sexually harassing female grapplers.

The protesting wrestlers on Wednesday met Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and agreed to suspend their agitation till June 15 after he assured them that a charge sheet against Singh would be filed by then and WFI elections would be held by the end of the month.

## SHORT TAKES

### Shaktisinh Gohil new Guj PCC chief

New Delhi: The Congress Friday appointed Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil as the new Gujarat PCC president and relieved him from the charge of AICC in-charge of Haryana and Delhi by appointing Deepak Babaria in his place. "The Congress president has appointed Shaktisinh Gohil as the new Gujarat PCC president and V Vaithilingam, MP, as the new Puducherry PCC president," said an official communication.

### 2 killed, 5 injured

Guwahati: At least two persons were killed, while five others suffered injuries in Assam's Sivasagar district after they were struck by lightning early on Friday, officials said. The incident happened in the Chenimora Mishing village in the district. A senior official said that after being struck by lightning, two persons died on the spot.

### Two arrested

Guwahati: Two members of the banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) have been arrested in Assam's Baksa district, an official said Friday. A police officer said Ruhul Amin (31) and Tota Miya (40) were arrested on June 6. "We had specific inputs about the movement of two PFI members in the Gobardhana area of the district. Based on this, an operation was launched to nab them," the police officer said.

### Narcotics seized

Chandigarh: The Border Security Force (BSF) Friday seized over 5 kg of narcotics dropped by a drone near the International Border in Amritsar sector in Punjab. The BSF personnel deployed heard the buzzing sound of a drone and something being dropped in the fields near Rai village, the BSF said. On searching, one big packet containing 5,260 kg heroin was recovered, it added.

### Dalit family thrashed in UP

Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh): Four members of a Dalit family, including two minors and a former village head, were allegedly thrashed by upper caste men for bathing in a tubewell reservoir in Khurja city of Bulandshahr district, the police said Friday. The former village head, Malkhan Singh, 58, said his family was taking a bath in the reservoir of a tubewell Thursday when a group of 8-10 upper caste men, aged 20-25 years, of the same village arrived and attacked them with sticks.

## Notice to Xiaomi India official, others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 9: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday said it has issued show-cause notices to the Indian arm of Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Xiaomi, its chief financial officer and director Sameer B Rao, former managing director Manu Kumar Jain and three foreign banks for alleged violations of the foreign exchange law to the tune of more than Rs 5,551 crore.

The Adjudicating Authority (of the Foreign Exchange Management Act) has issued the notices to Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited, the two executives, the CITIbank, the HSBC bank and the Deutsche Bank AG under section 16 of the FEMA, the federal agency said in a statement.

A show-cause notice is issued after the completion of a FEMA probe and once it is settled, the accused may have to pay a penalty that



could be three times the amount contravened. The notices have been issued to the firm, along with Jain and Rao, the ED said.

The Adjudicating Authority has also issued show-cause notices to three banks - Citibank, HSBC Bank and Deutsche Bank AG - for contravention of sections 10(4) and 10(5) of the FEMA and directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as they allowed foreign outward remittances in the name of royalty through the banks, "without" conducting due diligence and "without" obtaining any underlying technical collaboration agreement from the company, it said.

## Read Manusmriti: Guj HC judge to rape survivor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, June 9: It was once normal for girls to marry at a young age and deliver a child before they turned 17, a judge of the Gujarat High Court has remarked while hearing a minor rape survivor's plea for permission to terminate her pregnancy.

While indicating that he might not allow the petition if both the girl and foetus were healthy, Justice Samir Dave of the high court also referred to the Manusmriti during the hearing on Wednesday. The rape survivor is 16 years and 11 months old and carrying a seven-month-old foetus.

Her father moved the HC seeking permission for abortion as the pregnancy had crossed the 24-week



threshold up to which abortion can be performed without a court's leave. On Wednesday, his lawyer sought an early hearing, saying the family was concerned because of the girl's age.

Justice Dave said there was anxiety because "we are living in the 21st century". "Ask your mother or great-grandmother. Fourteen-fif-

teen was the maximum age (for marriage), and girls used to give birth to their first child before turning 17. And girls get mature before boys...Though you may not read, but you should read Manusmriti once," he added.

As the expected date of delivery is August 16, he consulted expert doctors in his chamber, the judge informed the lawyer. "The court can consider (allowing abortion) if any serious ailments are found in the foetus or the girl. But if both are normal, it will be very difficult for the court to pass such an order," the judge said.

In the end, the court directed the Medical Superintendent of Rajkot Civil Hospital to get the girl examined by a panel of doctors to find out if the medical termina-

tion of pregnancy was advisable. The doctors should also carry out ossification test on the girl and a psychiatrist should ascertain her mental condition, Justice Dave said, asking the hospital to submit reports by June 15, the next date of hearing. During the hearing, the judge also advised the girl's lawyer to start looking for options in case the medical opinion went against the termination of pregnancy.

"I will not give permission if both are found healthy. The weight of the foetus is also good...What will you do if the girl gives birth and the child lives? Who will take care of that child? I will also inquire if there are government schemes for such children. You should also check if someone can adopt that child," said the judge.

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, NUAPADA**  
**"e" Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Reference No.2023\_ORULB\_89711**  
**Tender Call Notice No.1273/ Dt.07.06.2023**  
No.C-552: Bid documents consisting of specification the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

1. Nature of Work	: Civil Construction works as mentioned in website.
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.3.006 Lakh to 14.86 Lakh
3. Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
4. Date and Time of availability of the documents in the portal	: 10.00 AM of dt.08.06.2023 to 5.30 PM of dt.23.06.2023.
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Upto 5.30 PM of dt.23.06.2023
6. Offline Submission of Bid	: 10 AM of dt.26.06.2023 to 4.00 PM of 27.06.2023.
7. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, Nuapada NAC District- Nuapada

Further, the details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.  
**Sd./- Executive Officer, NAC, Nuapada**  
OIPR-13158/11/0005/2324

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO.III BHUBANESWAR**  
bbsrrandb03@yahoo.com  
60EStg.No.4004, Date:09.06.2023  
No.B-329: **Government of Odisha "e"-Procurement Notice No. (03) of 2023-24**  
**Bid Identification No.C.C. (R&B) 03**

1 Name of the Work	Road Works
2 Total No. of Works	7 Nos. Work
3 Estimated Cost	i) Rs.22,52,000.00, ii) Rs.38,25,000.00, iii) Rs.40,99,350.00, iv) Rs.25,50,950.00, v) Rs.29,60,616.00, vi) Rs.41,20,000.00, vii) Rs.26,00,000.00
4 Class of Contractor	SI.No.1,2,4,5,7- 'C' & 'B' & SI.No.3 & 6- 'B'
5 Period of Completion	15 (Fifteen) Calendar Days
6 Type of Tender	Single Cover System (Online)
7 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 12.06.2023 at 1.30 P.M. to 17.06.2023 upto 2.30 P.M.
8 Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids in the Portal	17.06.2023, upto 2.30 PM
9 Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er.Gayatri Patel, Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division, No.III, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersorissa.gov.in.  
**N.B.: Subsequent corrigendum/ addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.**  
**Sd./- Superintending Engineer BBSR (R&B) Division No.III, BBSR**  
OIPR-34089/11/0006/2324



# 'Possession, transportation of cows not an offence'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj, June 9:** The Allahabad High Court said that the mere possession and transportation of cows within the state does not amount to an offence under the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955.

Making these observations, Justice Vikram D Chauhan granted bail to Kundan Yadav of Kushinagar district, as no evidence of physical injury to any cow or its progeny was found which could endanger their lives.

The court was hearing bail applications of Yadav, who was arrested and kept in jail for almost three months after six cows, with



no signs of physical injury, were recovered from a vehicle.

Consequently, he was jailed for the offences under UP Cow

Slaughter Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

While allowing the bail application of Kundan Yadav, the court observed: "Mere possession of live cow/bullock by itself cannot amount to committing, abetting or attempting an offence under the Cow Slaughter Act. Further, mere transportation of cow from one place to another within Uttar Pradesh would not come within the ambit of the aforesaid Act.

Hence, mere transport of cow within Uttar Pradesh would not amount to committing, abetting or attempting to commit an offence under the said Act." No material or circumstance has been

shown by the counsel for the state to demonstrate any physical injury to any cow or its progeny so as to endanger the life thereof such as to mutilate its body or to transport it in any situation, whereby endangering the life thereof. No report of competent authority has been placed to show any physical injury was caused on the body of cow or bullock."

A case was registered against the applicant Kundan Yadav under the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act at a police station Patherdewa of Kushinagar, after six cows, were recovered from a vehicle.

# WHO award for Raj girl's documentary

The documentary has been directed by Vandita Saharia of Rajasthan. She was the only Indian among the winners



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, June 9:** A documentary titled 'When Climate Change Turns Violent' has won a special prize in the 'Health for All' category at the 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival held at the World Health Organisation headquarters in Geneva.

The documentary has been directed by Vandita Saharia of Rajasthan. She was the only Indian among the winners.

"It is a proud moment for me to be the only Indian among the winners. I am confident that I shall continue to bring laurels to the country," Vandita said.

The 4.32-minute documentary, Vandita said, focuses on the relationship between domestic violence, climate change and human trafficking.

"When natural resources deplete, they (women) walk longer to fetch water and fuel wood. When food becomes scarce, child marriage increases. After the pandemic, cases of child marriage have gone up. The girl's family re-

ceives cattle and wealth for these marriages. It is simply a survival tactic," she said.

The festival, attended in person and online by actors, producers and public figures, saw winning films announced for seven different categories, while four films received special mention by the jury.

The films were judged by a panel of distinguished professionals, artists and activists, including noted actors like Sharon Stone and Alfonso Herrera; choreographer Sherrie Silver; climate activist Sophia Kianni and media personality Adelle Onyango.

The distinguished panel was joined by senior United Nations officials and WHO staff.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the 'Health for All Film Festival' adds a human face to WHO's scientific work.

"Listening to the voices of people affected by health issues is a powerful way to raise awareness and improve our understanding of people's experiences. It can help us advance towards health for all," Ghebreyesus said.

## RAM TEMPLE

# Foreign donations likely from Nov

AGENCIES

**Ayodhya, June 9:** The temple trust, overseeing the completion of the Ram temple complex in Ayodhya, is expected to get clearance from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to start securing foreign funds via NRI accounts from November.

NRIs and foreigners wanting to make their contribution to the temple will get an opportunity to do so before its formal inauguration.

The trust is collecting more than Rs 1 crore in a month through the contributions of daily pilgrims

and individuals settled in various parts of the country.

However, the trust has been unable to accept donations from outside the country as it is yet to obtain Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration.

In-charge of the trust's camp office in Ayodhya, Prakash Kumar Gupta said: "All the formalities have been completed and necessary documentation has been done. We are hopeful of getting clearance from the MHA in November and will start accepting donations from other countries."

# Medical camps for special kids in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 9:** The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to organise medical assessment camps for differently abled children in secondary schools to provide them easier access to medical tests, advice and disability certificates.



The camps will conduct medical check-ups and assess disabilities to issue appropriate certificates.

Instructions have been issued by the state project director to district basic education officers for the camps.

Each district will determine the venue and dates by June 30, with the aim of completing the camp by August 30, said a government spokesman.

State project director Vijay Kiran Anand said that an orthopaedic surgeon, an ENT surgeon, an eye specialist and a psychologist/psychiatrist would be included in the team of doctors for the camp.

However, in cases where audiologists and psychologists are not available, it is important to reach out to the chief medical officer/district magistrate, additional director health, Indian Medical Association, National Institute for Empowerment of Intellectual Disabilities and Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai.

# Cong dismisses reports of Pilot floating own party

THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SACHIN PILOT, WHO IS ENGAGED IN A TUSSELE FOR POWER IN RAJASTHAN EVER SINCE THE CONGRESS WON THE STATE IN 2018, MAY ANNOUNCE HIS OWN PARTY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** The Congress Friday dismissed as rumours reports that its leader Sachin Pilot may announce a separate party on his father Rajesh Pilot's death anniversary on June 11.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said the party is united and will contest the upcoming assembly elections in Rajasthan together; a day ahead of a programme planned to pay homage to Rajesh Pilot on his death anniversary.

"I don't believe in rumours. The reality is that the Congress president and Rahul Gandhi discussed with Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot and after that we said that we will go together. That is the position of the Congress party," he told PTT.

"In my knowledge, there is no such thing," he said, when asked specifically about reports of Pilot floating a new party.

Venugopal said he has met Pilot in the recent days and there is no such thing.

He also told the media to be optimistic and not believe in such rumours.

"Who told you he is going out of the party. These are imaginary... Rumours. Don't believe these ru-



Pilot launched a tirade against the Gehlot government on the issue of corruption and demanded action against those involved in corruption in the previous BJP government led by Vasundhara Raje

mours. Be optimistic. Don't worry, we will fight unitedly. The Rajasthan Congress will fight unitedly," he also said.

There are reports that Sachin Pilot, who is engaged in a tussle for power in Rajasthan ever since the Congress won the state in 2018, may announce his own party.

Pilot launched a tirade against the Gehlot government on the issue of corruption and demanded action against those involved in corruption in the previous BJP government led by Vasundhara Raje. He also accused the Gehlot government of not acting against the corrupt.

He had launched a yatra and sat

on a day-long fast alleging inaction by the Gehlot government against the corrupt.

Thereafter, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal sat with both Gehlot and Pilot and after hours of deliberations announced that the two would contest the next assembly polls unitedly.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Rajasthan Sukhinder Singh Randhawa had earlier also ruled out the possibility of Pilot floating a new party.

Randhawa said in Jaipur earlier this week that the party will assign responsibilities to Rajasthan leaders according to their stature.

# Govt employees in Raj to get full pension after 25 years of service

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, June 9:** The Rajasthan government employees, who complete 25 years of service, will now get the benefit of full pension service.

Earlier, the pension benefits were extended only after completion of 28 years of service.

A decision to this effect was taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Ashok Gehlot late Tuesday night.

Also, pensioners or family pensioners of 75 years will get 10 per cent additional pension allowance.

To help the OBC category the government has now decided to carry forward the OBC-MBC category recruitments by keeping those posts vacant for three years if no

Earlier, the pension benefits were extended only after completion of 28 years of service

eligible candidates are found for these categories.

Till now, this provision was limited to the SC-ST category, now it has been extended to the OBC.

On the death of the employee or pensioner, his married disabled son-daughter will also get the benefit of family pension.

The benefit of this changed rule will be available from 1 April 2023. It has been decided to increase the special pay of the employees.

The cabinet has approved the proposal to amend the Rajasthan

Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2017.

Chief Minister Gehlot had announced in the 2023-24 budget, according to which the special allowance and special pay of the employees would be increased as per the recommendation of the Pay Anomaly Testing Committee.

The cabinet has now decided to give pay and rank at par with regular government employees to work charged employees working in government departments.

Besides, the proposal to amend the Rajasthan Civil Services Revised Pay Scale Rules has also been approved.

With this, the work charge employees will now be able to get full salary and get the benefit of pension after retirement.

# HEATWAVE UP EXTENDS SUMMER VACATION UP to promote fish farming

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 9:** As heatwave sweeps across Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government has extended summer vacation in schools till June 26 to provide relief to the children and save them from the possibility of sunstroke.

Earlier, the schools were scheduled to resume classes June 15. The schools will, however, open for one day June 21 on the occasion of International Yoga Day.

A notification in this regard been issued by the Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Council to all the District Basic Education Officers



EARLIER, THE SCHOOLS WERE SCHEDULED TO RESUME CLASSES JUNE 15

THE SCHOOLS WILL, HOWEVER, OPEN FOR ONE DAY JUNE 21 ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

saying that the council schools will remain closed until June 26 now and reopen June 27.

The School Management Committee will be authorised to take decisions regarding summer vacation in recognised schools run under the council.

Before the school reopens on June 27, the government said that sanitation, cleanliness of toilets, pure drinking water and proper seating arrangements should be ensured for students in the school.

Director General, School Education, Vijay Kiran Anand said,

"There is a forecast of extreme heat conditions with possibility of sunstroke due to exposure to the sun in the state in the next few days. Extreme heat can have adverse effects on young children. Keeping this in mind, the summer vacation has been extended till June 26."

Classes will start from June 27. Till then the children of basic schools will continue their study and homework given during the summer vacation through 'Diksha App'.

Yellow alert has been issued as the Meteorological Department has warned of severe heatwaves in many districts of the state.

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, June 9:** In its ongoing efforts to boost fish production in the state of Uttar Pradesh and double income of fish farmers, the Yogi Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR).

In the first phase, preservation exercise will be carried out in Ghaghra River in Ayodhya, Ganga in Varanasi and Yamuna in Agra.

Additionally, various constructions have taken place at the cost of Rs 2 crore, including that of a



high-breed boundary wall, a packed shed and toilets, tin sheds outside the main hatchery and a pump house whereas tube wells have also been installed. Besides, the supervisor's quarter, staff quarters, and guest-house store have been renovated.

The Yogi Adityanath government is also modernising fish farming in the state. In view of this, de-

THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN THE NBFGR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES IN UP TO PRESERVE THE STATE FISH CHITALA

VARIOUS SCHEMES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE STATE TO BOOST FISH PRODUCTION AND INCREASE INCOME OF FISHERMEN

cision has been taken to develop the Gonti Hatchery Fish Seed Production Centre in Bakkas, situated in the capital city Lucknow, as the first ultra-modern model hatchery in the state.



# national

## of the day quote

The Andhra Pradesh government will do everything possible to put a smile on the face of government employees

Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | ANDHRA CM

The BJP is trying to vitiate atmosphere in the state, where tension prevailed in some districts over social media posts. The ruling party is busy targeting the Opposition instead of addressing issues faced by people

NANA PATOLE | MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS PRESIDENT

If a country has to be made prosperous, it is important that its citizens are healthy. Healthy citizens build a healthy society which in turn leads to a prosperous nation

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Tourists rescued

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police has rescued at least 250 tourists, who were stuck in the Affarwat mountains after the Gulmarg Gondola car operations in North Kashmir's Baramulla district developed a technical fault, officials said Friday. "Baramulla Police rescues nearly 250 tourists from Gondola Phase II Affarwat Gulmarg who went for Gondola ride and while on return due to technical glitches in cable car operations they got stuck."

### Teenager injured

**New Delhi:** A 19-year-old teenager was shot at by unidentified persons in Delhi's Trilokpuri area, an official said Friday. The injured has been identified as Karan, a resident of Trilokpuri. According to police, on Thursday information regarding the gun shot at Block-32, Trilokpuri was received at Mayur Vihar police station.

### Ten arrested

**Hyderabad:** In a major operation against spurious seeds, Cyberabad police busted an inter-state racket and seized 3.35 tonne of spurious seeds. Acting on specific information, the sleuths of Special Operations Team (SOT), Medchal zone, Rajendranagar zone along with the officials of Agricultural Department, Medchal police station and Chevella police station conducted joint operations and nabbed 10 persons, who had stored spurious cotton seeds in order to sell them to gullible farmers.

### 20 babies rescued

**New Delhi:** Twenty newly born babies were rescued safely after a fire broke out at a children's hospital in Delhi, said a fire department official Friday, adding that no casualty was reported. The fire broke out on Thursday night. According to Atul Garg, the Director of Delhi Fire Service, a call regarding the blaze at New Born Child Hospital in Vaishali Colony was received around 1:35 a.m.

### Rly gateman stabbed

**Patna:** Angry over the railway crossing barrier being down, a biker stabbed a gateman several times in Bihar's Darbhanga district Thursday morning. The incident occurred at gate number 19A near Laheriasarai railway station around 8.15 a.m. The victim, identified as Akhilesh Kumar, is admitted to Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital and his condition is out of danger. He sustained stab wounds on his head and neck.



If love jihad is happening in Maharashtra, give an estimate, a number, that this (incident) happened in Ahmednagar, this is what happened in Kolhapur, Sangli, western Maharashtra, Marathwada. Say that. (But) nothing. Love jihad is happening. Where is it happening?

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

## SHAH REVIEWS PREPARATIONS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday took a detailed review of the preparations being made for a smooth conduct of the upcoming Amarnath pilgrimage in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said



# CBI forms SIT to probe Manipur violence cases



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 9:** The CBI has formed a 10-member special investigation team (SIT) under a DIG-rank officer to probe six cases referred to the Manipur violence referred to it by the state government, officials said Friday.

During his visit to the north-eastern state, Home Minister Amit Shah announced a CBI probe into six FIRs - five on alleged criminal conspiracy and one on general conspiracy behind the violence in Manipur. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had dispatched Joint Director Ghanshyam Upadhyay to coordinate with the state officials, and upon his return, the SIT was constituted, they said.

The agency re-registered the six cases referred to it by the state

## INSURGENTS KILL 3

**Imphal:** Three people were killed and two others were injured in a village in ethnic violence-hit Manipur's Imphal West district Friday when a group of insurgents dressed as security personnel called them out of their homes on the pretext of a combing operation and fired at them, officials said. The incident took place in Khoken village on the border of Kangpokpi and Imphal West districts. The insurgents are believed to be from the Meitei community, the officials said. Security forces on a routine patrol of the village stepped in when they heard the sound of gunfire. Insurgents fled the area but not before shooting down three villagers, the officials said. The bodies were recovered by Assam Rifles. Later, a combined team of the Manipur Police, Assam Rifles and the Army conducted a search operation.



government. The Special Crime Branch, Kolkata will probe the state cases, they said. Violence broke out in the northeastern state after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei

community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. So far, nearly 100 people have lost their lives, and over 300 have been injured ever since the ethnic violence broke out over a month ago.

The clashes were preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals - Nagas and Kukis - constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts. Around 10,000 Army and Assam Rifles personnel have been deployed in the state to maintain peace.

## Warlike stores recovered

**Kolkata:** At least 35 weapons and warlike stores were recovered during joint combing operations by security forces in ethnic violence-affected Manipur, an official said. Domination of the arterial national highway 37, connecting capital Imphal with Assam and other parts of the country, was carried out to ensure free movement of essential goods to and from Manipur as part of the operations, he said. Stating that 35 weapons of different types, ammunition and warlike stores were recovered on the second day of joint combing operations on Thursday in the hills and valley sector, the official said that the security forces are adopting confidence building measure and a people centric approach to alleviate the hardships of the people, affected by the month-long ethnic strife in the northeastern state.

## Kejriwal wanted Sidhu to be Punjab CM, claims wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, June 9:** Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur Friday said her husband "gifted" the chief minister's chair to Bhagwant Mann, claiming that Arvind Kejriwal once wanted the former cricketer to lead Punjab but he chose not to betray his party. Her claims came in the back-



drop of a war of words between Mann and Navjot Sidhu. In a series of tweets, Kaur said, "CM, Bhagwant Mann; let me today open out a hidden secret from your treasure hunt. You should know that the very honourable chair you are occupying has been gifted to you by your big brother, Mr Navjot Sidhu. Your very own senior most leader had desired Navjot to lead Punjab". She claimed that AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal had approached Sidhu

through various channels to lead the state. Punjab went to polls in February 2022 and after the AAP's landslide win Bhagwant Mann became the chief minister.

"Mr Kejriwal through various channels approached him to lead Punjab knowing about his passion for our state. Just because he didn't want to betray his party and thought that two strong headed people might clash when it came to strategy to uplift Punjab, he gave you a chance," Kaur claimed.

She further said Sidhu's only concern is the welfare of Punjab and he has sacrificed everything for it. "You tread on the path of TRUTH and he shall support you but the moment you deviate he will target you left and right. Golden Punjab state is his dream and he lives it 24 hours a day," she said in another tweet.

Mann had on Sunday attacked opposition parties for their gathering in Jalandhar in support of the editor of a Punjabi daily who was under the vigilance scanner. Reacting to it, Navjot Sidhu had said, "Those who make democracy a vigilance system at the behest of Delhi, those who run Punjab as pawns with remote control" were now indulging in moral lecturing."

## HYD PRIEST KILLS WOMAN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, June 9:** Police have arrested a priest of a temple in Hyderabad for the murder of a woman with whom he was having an extramarital relationship.

The shocking incident came to light on Friday, nearly a week after the priest killed the woman in cold blood and dumped her body in a manhole. The accused, who was already married and father of two children, was having extramarital relations with Apsara, a resident of Saroornagar. As she was exerting pressure on the priest for the marriage, he hatched a plot to eliminate her.

Venkata Sai Krishna, priest of a temple in Saroornagar, killed the woman in Sultanpalli and dumped the body in a manhole in Saroornagar area. According to police, he took Apsara to Sultanpalli Shamsabad mandal on the city outskirts in a car.



They had a heated argument over her proposal for marriage. The priest killed her by smashing her head with a boulder. He bundled the body in a bag, kept it in the car and brought it back to Saroornagar, where he dumped it in a manhole. The accused then lodged a complaint with Shamsabad police that his relative Apsara had been missing since June 3.

Police registered a case and took up an investigation. When the police checked the CCTV footage and mobile signals of Sai Krishna, they were shocked to find that the complainant himself was the killer. Police have arrested Sai Krishna, who confessed to the crime.

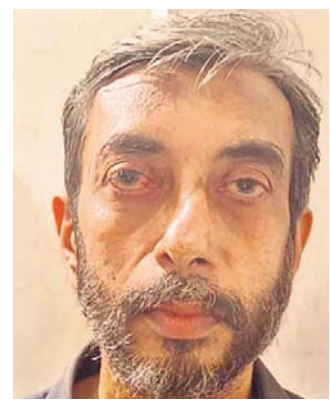
## FRESH TWIST IN THANE MURDER

*Manoj Sane, arrested for allegedly murdering his 'live-in partner' Saraswati Vaidya, was in fact married to her but the couple had concealed this fact, the police said*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai/Thane, June 9:** In a fresh twist to the alleged murder of a woman in Thane district, the police Friday said the man charged with her killing had in fact married the victim, and they were not live-in partners as believed earlier, and he has claimed she committed suicide. Manoj Sane (56), arrested for allegedly murdering his 'live-in partner' Saraswati Vaidya, was in fact married to her but the couple had concealed this fact, the police said, two days after the 36-year-old woman's body parts were found pressure-cooked and roasted inside the flat where they resided in the Mira Road area of the bustling district adjoining Mumbai.

Sane, who worked at a ration shop, has now claimed Vaidya committed suicide by drinking poison and he only tried to dispose of her body by chopping it up, officials said. The accused, arrested on Thursday, also allegedly told the interrogators he was HIV-positive and never had any physical relationship with Vaidya. "The couple did not register their marriage, but they had married by performing rituals in a temple," said Deputy Commissioner of Police Jayant Bajbale of Mira-Bhayandar, Vasai Virar commissionerate, citing the statements given by three sisters of the deceased. Vaidya had informed her sisters



about the marriage, but since there was a considerable age gap between them, the couple did not make their wedding public, he said. The remains of the woman will be handed over to her sisters for last rites as per their wish once DNA testing and other formalities are over, the official added.

The motive behind the crime was still not clear. An FIR has been registered against Sane under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) at the Naya Nagar police station. Vaidya's mother had died when the sisters were very young while their father had abandoned them, DCP Bajbale said. The victim studied up to Class 10 at an 'ashram' school (school for orphans) in Ahmednagar district of western Maharashtra and came to Mumbai to reside with her relatives after turning 18, he said.

After the couple met, Sane had arranged a job of salesperson for her, he said. Sane, who is in police custody till June 16, told interrogators Vaidya died on the morning of June 3 after consuming poison with foam coming out of her mouth, and fearing he would be held responsible for her death, he decided to dispose of the body.

## Man stabbed to death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death by another person after he allegedly slapped the latter's father-in-law in outer Delhi's Narela, police said Friday.

The incident took place on Thursday night. The accused, Sameer, has been detained for questioning, they said.

According to police, the victim Noor Khan and his friend were allegedly consuming alcohol and making noises on the street. Hearing the commotion, Sameer's father-in-law who also stays in the same locality objected to the duo's behaviour.

He asked them to stop and this led to a heated argument between them following which Khan allegedly slapped and beat up Sameer's father-in-law. When Sameer got to know about the incident, he along with his friends went in to meet Khan, police said.

A fight broke out between the two during which the accused took out a knife and stabbed Khan multiple times at a park near their house. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Ravi Kumar Singh said that information was received from SRHC Hospital Narela around midnight that a person with multiple stab injuries was admitted. Khan was declared brought dead by the doctor.

# Over 11 per cent Indians diabetic: Lancet survey

The team, including researchers from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, conducted the survey in multiple phases with a stratified multistage sampling design, using three-level stratification based on geography, population size, and socioeconomic status of each state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** The prevalence of diabetes in India is 11.4 per cent, while 35.5 per cent and 15.3 per cent of people suffer from hypertension and prediabetes respectively, according to the findings of a nationwide survey published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology journal.

The largest epidemiological study on diabetes and non-communicable diseases (NCD) estimates that in 2021, there were 101 million people with diabetes in India, 136 million with prediabetes, and 315 million had high blood pressure.

The study, conducted by the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) in collabora-

tion with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, also found that the prevalence of generalised obesity and abdominal obesity in India stood at 28.6 and 39.5 per cent, respectively.

The estimate shows that 254 million people in India had generalised obesity, and 351 million had abdominal obesity in 2021. In 2017, the team found that the prevalence of diabetes in India was around 7.5 per cent, meaning there has been an increase of over 50 per cent in the burden since then.

Among the states, Goa (26.4 per cent) had the highest prevalence of diabetes and Uttar Pradesh (4.8 per cent) had the lowest, while



Sikkim (31.3 per cent) and Mizoram (6.8 per cent) had the highest and lowest burden of prediabetes.

Punjab (51.8 per cent) had the highest prevalence of hyperten-

sion while Meghalaya (24.3 per cent) had the highest burden, the researchers said. "The steep increase in NCDs can be attributed mostly to the lifestyle choices of peo-

ple such as diet, physical activity, stress levels etc. The positive news is that interventions can be used to curb the trend. Our study has multiple implications for the planning and provision of health care in India," Dr R. M. Anjana, President, MDRF, said.

"The diabetes epidemic in India is in transition, with some states having already reached their peak rates while others are just getting started. These states may see an increase in prevalence over the next 35 years before plateauing," Anjana, lead author of the study, said.

The results, assessing the burden of NCDs across the states, are based on a survey of 1,13,043 (over 1.1 lakh) people (33,537 urban and 79,506 rural residents), in 31 states and

Union Territories in the country, between 2008 and 2020.

The survey also showed that an alarming 81.2 per cent have dyslipidaemia - the imbalance of lipids such as cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, (LDL-C), triglycerides, and high-density lipoprotein (HDL). All metabolic NCDs except prediabetes were more frequent in urban than rural areas. In many states with a lower human development index, the ratio of diabetes to prediabetes was less than 1.

"Our study results have multiple implications for the planning and provision of health care in India," said V. Mohan, Chairman, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMDSC) and MDRF.



# international

## of the day quote

Until the end of the war in the territory of Ukraine, foreign countries will not deploy their troops in the territory of our state



I continue to appeal for engagement in Blue Line talks to address outstanding issues. Our efforts need to be forward-looking and focused on solutions, getting beyond the immediate incidents and looking at how we resolve them



Tolerating glorification of violence and public promotion of hate goes against everything our country believes in. Khalistan supporters have crossed a line and Canada should and must respond



## SHORT TAKES

### UN mediator not welcome in Sudan

Cairo: The United Nations envoy to Sudan, a key mediator in the country's brutal conflict, is no longer welcome in the African country, Sudanese authorities say. A terse statement issued by Sudan's Foreign Ministry late Thursday comes just weeks after the head of the country's military, Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, demanded in a letter to envoy Volker Perthes that he should be removed from his post.

### Sharif hopes to strike IMF deal

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday hoped the IMF would resume the stalled USD 6.7 billion bailout programme as his country has already met all prior conditions set by the global lender despite economic hardships. The premier's remarks came as Finance Minister Ishaq Dar presented a PKR 14 trillion budget for the fiscal year 2023-24, which the government claims to have shared with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

### Israeli soldiers disperse protesters

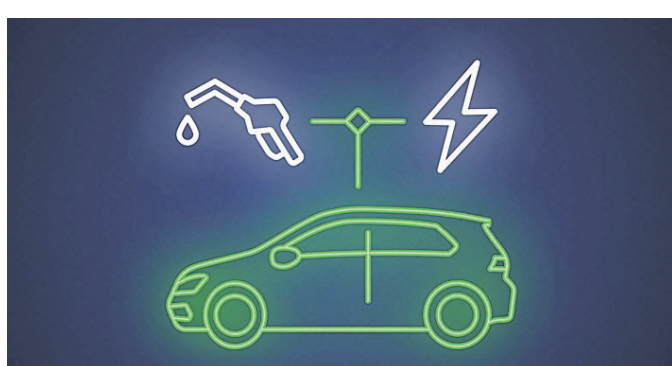
Kfar Chouba (Lebanon): Israeli soldiers fired tear gas to disperse scores of protesters who pelted the troops with stones along the border with Lebanon Friday, leaving some Lebanese demonstrators and troops suffering breathing problems. The tension on the edge of the Lebanese border village of Kfar Chouba began earlier this week over the Israeli military digging in the area that Lebanon claims.

## Reuse of EV battery components crucial: Researchers

MANY VITAL MINERALS LIKE LITHIUM, GRAPHITE AND COBALT ARE FOUND IN EV BATTERIES AND UNLESS RECYCLED, THEY CAN HARM ENVIRONMENT

London, June 9: The sale of electric vehicles (EV) is growing rapidly in popularity charts. As per World Economic Forum figures, the sale of EVs grew by about 60 per cent last year. According to data available, in 2017, EVs accounted for only one in every passenger cars that were sold. However, in 2022, the figure rose to one EV for every seven vehicles. This has happened as the bat-

tle has been launched to keep the environment clean. The question however, is can EVs free the environment from pollution. Remember, EV batteries contain many such materials like lithium, graphite, nickel, cobalt and manganese. So unless the EV batteries are properly reused, there is every possibility that these materials may pollute the environment further. It has been proved that the life span of the battery of an electric vehicle is approximately 10 years. So what happens after that? Is the battery just thrown away or is there an option of reusing it? Rough estimates suggest that by the end of the 2020s million tonnes of such batteries will come to the end of their lives. Sending batteries to landfill would be wasteful and environmentally harmful, while the mining of some materials is associated with environmental and human rights concerns, making recycling to allow reuse especially important. Researchers are al-



ready working on how to use these 'spent' batteries of EVs. Ideally they can be used for stationary energy storage, such as in homes or as backup to improve the stability of electricity grids, before eventually being recycled. Many university research groups and start-up companies are developing better ways to extract the valuable substances in EV batteries to allow reuse in new batteries, the primary among them being Watercycle Technologies in the

United Kingdom. According to Dr Sebastian Leaper, its chief executive, without effective recycling of the materials in batteries, the sector would 'just become beholden to natural resource availability'. 'The metals found in the batteries must be recycled to make the EV industry sustainable,' Dr Leaper has been quoted as saying by 'thenationalnews.com'. There are various ways to extract important components from the EV batteries. The process adopted

by Watercycle Technologies, takes a hydrometallurgical route, as the name suggests. The advantage of this process is that it does not produce contaminated wastewater. Currently lithium recovery from EV batteries is about 70 per cent, so many of the researchers feel that the rate can substantially improve. Other researchers including Professor Karl Ryder from the University of Leicester in the UK also believe that materials found in batteries are useable. He and his colleagues are involved in work to make the extraction process easier. 'It's more technologically elegant and in the long run more economically sustainable to try to separate the valuable materials at source rather than shred them up,' states Ryder. The bottomline however, is quite simple. Unless properly recycled and reused, components of EV batteries can also pose a threat to the environment. If that happens the very essence of shifting to use of electric vehicles will be lost.

## CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CASE

# Trump faces federal charges

The indictment arises from a months long investigation into whether Trump broke the law by holding onto hundreds of documents marked classified at his Palm Beach property, Mar-a-Lago, and whether Trump took steps to obstruct the government's efforts to recover the records



The indictment of Trump on federal charges is unprecedented in American history and emerges at a time when Trump is the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination next year

Miami, June 9: Donald Trump has been indicted on charges of mishandling classified documents at his Florida estate, a remarkable development that makes him the first former president in US history to face criminal charges by the federal government that he once oversaw. Trump, who became the first former President in US history to face federal criminal charges, announced his indictment in a post on his social media platform Truth Social Thursday. "I have been Indicted, seemingly over the Boxes Hoax," Trump wrote, referring to the boxes of documents that he had carried with him from the White House at the end of this presidency to his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida, which contained many files that were described as "classified". "I AM AN INNOCENT MAN!"

he wrote in a subsequent post and said in a video, using capital letters that he is known to for rhetorical flourish. The former President, who is huddled with his advisers in his Bedminster home in New Jersey, will appear Tuesday afternoon at the federal courthouse in Miami. The indictment will be unsealed then, detailing the charges. US media is reporting that Trump has been indicted with seven criminal charges, including conspiracy to obstruct justice and willful retention of documents. The former President has sought to portray the indictment as a political move by President Joe Biden, who beat Trump in the race for the White House in 2020. Trump is running again and is likely to win the Republican nomination to go

up against Biden in 2024; he is the frontrunner. Trump already holds the dubious honour of being the first American President to face criminal charges when he was accused of 37 counts in a case in New York, where he was born and lived most of his life, in connection with paying off an adult film star to keep quiet about an affair that he has denied publicly. Trump is facing a growing list of legal troubles. He has already lost a civil case of defamation against a columnist who has alleged he raped her in the 1990s. He is also under federal investigation for his role in an assault on the US Congress January 6, 2021, and state investigation in Georgia for trying to overturn the outcome of the voting in the state in the 2020 presidential election.

## Imran Khan says stage set for his 'court martial'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 9: Pakistan's embattled former prime minister Imran Khan has said that the stage has been set for his "court martial" after the country's all-powerful army vowed to try the "masterminds and planners" of the May 9 violence in military courts. His remarks came a day after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah accused Khan of planning the country-wide violence that erupted after his arrest in a corruption case May 9.

Talking to reporters after appearing before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday in connection with 10 different cases, including two ongoing petitions and eight new bail petitions, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief said he knew he would be tried by a military court. He termed a civilian's trial in the military court as the "end of democracy" and the "end of justice" in Pakistan. "The trial in the military court will be illegal," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. "They knew that over 150 cases registered against me are baseless and there is no chance of my conviction in these bogus cases, therefore, they have decided to conduct my trial in the military court," Khan said.



## Russia to deploy nuclear weapons in Belarus in July



Putin, Lukashenko speak during a meeting

AGENCIES

Moscow, June 9: Russia will start deploying tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus after special storage facilities are made ready July 7-8, President Vladimir Putin said Friday, Moscow's first move of such warheads outside Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Putin announced in March he had agreed to deploy such weapons in Belarus, pointing to US deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in a host of European countries over many decades. "Everything is going according to plan," Putin told Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, discussing the planned nuclear deployment over a meal at the Russian leader's summer retreat in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. "Preparation of the relevant facilities ends July 7-8, and we will immediately begin activities related to the deployment of appropriate types of weapons on your territory," Putin said, according to a Kremlin transcript of his remarks. Lukashenko said: "Thank you, Vladimir

## WAR INTENSIFIES

Kyiv: A drone crashed into a high-rise residential building in southwestern Russia near the border with Ukraine, a regional governor said Friday, exposing the latest vulnerabilities in the country's air defence systems as President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine increasingly affects Russian soil. The latest drone attack to target Russian cities in recent weeks wounded three people and came amid a front-line push by Ukrainian forces in what appears to be the early stages of a long-awaited counter-offensive in pockets of south and east Ukraine that Russia invaded more than 15 months ago.

Vladimirovich." More than 15 months into the biggest land war in Europe since World War Two, Putin says the United States and its Western allies are pumping arms into Ukraine as part of an expanding proxy war aimed at bringing Russia to its knees. Putin, 70, casts the war as a battle for Russia's own survival in the face of what he says is an ever-expanding NATO. He has warned the West that Moscow will not back down. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Ukraine will not rest until every last Russian soldier is ejected from his country, and wants it to join NATO as soon as possible. Putin's nuclear move is being watched closely by both the United States and its NATO allies in Europe and by China, which has repeatedly cautioned against the use of nuclear weapons in the conflict.

## Blinken to visit China next week



AGENCIES

Washington, June 9: Secretary of State Antony Blinken is planning to travel to China next week as the Biden administration pushes to improve ties that hit a new low in February after a Chinese surveillance balloon was shot down over US airspace. US Officials say Blinken expects to be in Beijing June 18 for meetings with senior Chinese officials, including with Foreign Minister Qin Gang and possibly President Xi Jinping. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the State Department nor the Chinese foreign ministry has yet confirmed the trip. The visit, which was agreed between Xi and President Joe Biden last year at a meeting in Bali, had been initially planned for February but was postponed after the spy bal-

loon incident. Beijing insists the craft was a weather balloon that strayed off course.

Beijing insists the craft was a weather balloon that strayed off course

Since then, there have been contacts between the US and China, but they have been rare as tensions have risen over China's conduct in the South China Sea, aggressive actions toward Taiwan and support for Russia's war against Ukraine. Last week, China's defence minister rebuffed a request from US defence secretary Lloyd Austin for a meeting on the sidelines of a security symposium in Singapore. However, shortly after postponing his trip to Beijing, Blinken met briefly with China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, at the Munich Security Conference in Germany, and, CIA chief William Burns travelled to China in May and China's commerce minister travelled to the US last month.



DOUBLE DUCKS: People take photos of an art installation, dubbed "Double Ducks" by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, seen at Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, China

## ANNECY KNIFE ATTACK

# France hails 'backpack hero'

AGENCIES

Le Pecq (France), June 9: The attacker slashed at the 24-year-old man with the knife that he used to savagely stab one young child after another. But rather than run, Henri held his ground — using a weighty backpack he was carrying to swing at the assailant and fend off his blade.

French media hailed Henri as "the hero with a backpack" Friday after he was shown in a video grappling with the assailant and charging after him during the knife attack that critically wounded four children between the ages of 22 months and 3 years old, and also injured two adults. Henri also got personal words of gratitude Friday from President Emmanuel Macron, who toured hospitals to meet victims and their families. In the Alpine town of Annecy,

the French leader thanked medical workers, police, firefighters, civilians — including Henri — and others whose first aid and swift interventions helped save lives during the attack in the town's lakeside park Thursday. "You experienced very hard moments, traumatising," Macron said. "I am very proud of you." Henri had a heavy backpack on his back and was holding another in his hand when the attacker slashed at him. But despite the blade and the attacker's chilling aggression, Henri still continued to harass him, pursuing the man inside a playground — where he repeatedly stabbed a child in a stroller — and then out of the park again, carrying his backpacks all the while. Henri appeared to hurl one of the backpacks at the assailant at one point and then pick it up again to take another swing.



# business

## of the day quote

India is open to FTA negotiations bilaterally or individually with African countries or Africa as a whole

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

The cumulative effect of the subsidy blockade, the claim on older subsidies and the refusal to allow future sales has been devastating on startups and first movers in the electric two-wheeler segment

**SOHINDER GILL** | DIRECTOR GENERAL, SMEV

We are thrilled to expand our codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines, for the first time across the Atlantic to the United States of America. New York, Boston, Chicago, and Washington are renowned for their cultural significance, iconic landmarks, and vibrant lifestyles

**VINAY MALHOTRA** | HEAD (GLOBAL SALES), INDIGO

## SHORT TAKES

### IndiGo starts flights to US via codeshare

**New Delhi:** IndiGo is all set to commence codeshare flights through Istanbul to the US as the no-frills carrier continues to expand its international connectivity. The flights, in codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines, will provide connections to New York, Boston, Chicago and Washington, effective June 15, it said in a release Friday. The airline, India's largest in terms of domestic market share, already provides codeshare connections to 33 destinations. Codesharing allows an airline to book its passengers on its partner carriers and provide seamless travel to destinations where it has no presence. The overseas connectivity expansion of IndiGo, which has more than 300 planes, also comes at a time when Tata Group-owned Air India is reviving and expanding its fleet as well as routes.

### OpenAI CEO meets PM Modi

**New Delhi:** The potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing India's tech ecosystem is indeed vast, particularly among the youth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday. The Prime Minister reacted after meeting OpenAI CEO Sam Altman in the national capital. "Thank you for the insightful conversation @sama. The potential of AI in enhancing India's tech ecosystem is indeed vast and that too among the youth in particular," PM Modi said in a tweet.

## STREAMING BATTLE SIZZLES

# Disney bets on freebies model for India

In a desperate move Disney's Hotstar will now offer free streaming of cricket tournaments to mobile users in India, following Reliance's JioCinema comparable approach that helped it attract millions of viewers during IPL

REUTERS

**New Delhi, June 9:** Walt Disney Co's Hotstar will offer free streaming of cricket tournaments in India on mobile devices, a move that follows rival JioCinema's recent success in garnering millions of viewers with a similar strategy in the cricket-crazy nation.

Hotstar said Friday it would offer the Asia Cup and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup tournaments at no cost to users. Disney once offered cricket on its platform for free, but has required users to subscribe to a paid plan since 2020.

Disney earlier had digital rights for the Indian Premier League (IPL), one of the world's most lu-

crative annual sporting properties. But JioCinema, run by Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Viacom18, spent \$2.9 billion to bag those rights and then rolled it out for free on the streaming platform.

The free offering will reach more than 540 million smartphone users, Disney said, adding it was aimed at making the matches "accessible to as many mobile users in India".

The cricket matches, however, will continue to be paid when accessed on TV or via website.

The strategy shift from Disney comes as rivalry with JioCinema heats up. Ahead of the IPL matches that concluded in May, Disney used ads to promote viewing of the games on TVs, for which it had

I can say that we have the potential to grow steadily between 6.5 to 7.0 per cent and if we add the additional reforms on skilling, factor market reforms among others, we can go up to 7 to 7.5 per cent and possibly even 8 per cent

**V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN** | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

## SPICEJET TO ADD 10 NEW PLANES

No-frills airline SpiceJet, which is trying to keep afloat amid several aircraft of its fleet being grounded over payment issues with lessors, Friday said it plans to add 10 narrow-body Boeing aircraft, including five B737 Max, on lease by October



rights, while JioCinema countered with ads to lure users to its free web streaming and mobile offering.

While JioCinema has started charging users for premium content, including for the recent Hollywood content deal it struck with Warner Bros and NBCUniversal, its executives have

If continued over the longer term, free cricket offerings may magnify losses for streaming platforms or lead to consolidation, as many platforms may not be able to survive with lower revenue per user

**KARAN TAURANI** | ELARA CAPITAL ANALYST

said IPL streaming will continue to be offered at no cost.

The viewership battle is raging as cricket is the most popular game in the world's top populous nation, where the bulk of digital consumption is driven by smartphones with an estimated 700 million users. Research firm CLSA has esti-

mated Disney Hotstar's subscriber base shrank by nearly 5 million users in India after it lost the digital rights for IPL.

Elara Capital analyst Karan Taurani labeled Disney's move as a "desperate" attempt to garner lost users, but warned free cricket - be it by JioCinema or Disney - sends a negative signal for the industry.

India's streaming industry has been growing rapidly, with Netflix and Amazon Prime among the key players.

Media Partners Asia says Disney+ Hotstar leads the market as of March end despite the slump in subscribers due to the loss of IPL rights, accounting for more than 40% of the total user base in India.

## SIGH OF RELIEF

# Wall St officially enters bull mkt

Markets have remained surprisingly resilient over the past nine months, as 2022 losers like tech and media have bounced back from a disastrous year on hope that the worst is over for those industries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New York, June 9:** The S&P 500 rallied to end the day in a bull market, marking a 20 per cent surge since its most recent low, reached October 12, 2022. That brings to end the bear market that began in January 2022.

Buoyed by gains in big technology stocks, the broad-based index closed at 4,293.93 and crossed the threshold that separates a bear market from a bull market - that's investor-speak for a period of time marked by rising stock prices and optimism on Wall Street, CNN reported.

After a horrible year for Big Tech, optimism has returned as ChatGPT has made AI the 'it-thing' in Silicon Valley. The AI boom has fueled interest in tech stocks, which dominate the S&P 500.

Investors are placing big bets on Google, Meta, Apple, Amazon, Nvidia and others, hoping they can drive a new tech revolution with artificial intelligence.

Over the past week, markets have gained momentum, likely



## Indian equities slip for 2nd day

**Mumbai:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the second straight session Friday as investors offloaded FMCG, IT and tech stocks amid a weak opening in European markets. Selling pressure in index heavyweight Reliance Industries also impacted the market sentiments. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 223.01 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 62,625.63. During the day, it declined 253.9 points or 0.40 per cent to 62,594.74. The NSE Nifty went lower by 71.15 points or 0.38 per cent to end at 18,563.40. On a weekly, the BSE benchmark climbed 78.52 points or 0.12 per cent, while the Nifty gained 29.3 points or 0.15 per cent. The rupee appreciated by 4 paise to close at 82.47 against the US dollar Friday amid a weak sentiment in domestic equities. Forex traders said a strong dollar overseas and fresh foreign capital outflows capped the gains in the domestic currency. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets as they sold shares worth ₹308.97 crore.

because of the end of the debt ceiling crisis, optimism that the Federal Reserve will pause rate hikes at its June meeting and a recent string of strong economic readings, as per reports.

And while those are all positives for the economy, analysts fear that this could be a short-lived rally that ends up biting investors. Inflation remains too high for comfort. The US economy is still adding jobs but the pace has been mostly slower.

Consumers are still spending, but they're pulling back on discretionary expenses like clothing and, focusing instead on necessities like food and leisure activities. That isn't exactly a recipe for long-term market success, reports said.

## VOLATILE MARKET

# Equity MFs inflow halves; SIP shines

THE DOWNTREND IN EQUITY MUTUAL FUND INFLOW CONTINUES FOR THE SECOND MONTH IN A ROW AS INVESTORS BOOK PROFIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 9:** Inflow in equity mutual funds plunged to ₹3,240 crore in May, making it the lowest level in five months, primarily due to profit booking by investors amid rising stock market.

While this was the 27th consecutive month that equity asset class garnered net positive flows, when compared to April, the quantum of flow has halved, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed Friday.

However, SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) inflows are back above the ₹14,000 crore-mark and reached to an all-time high of ₹14,749 crore last month, after a brief dip to ₹13,728 crore in April, with investors continuing their disciplined investing that started more than two years ago.

Overall, the 42-player mutual fund industry continues to see inflow and attracted ₹57,420 crore, on contributions from debt-oriented schemes. This comes following a net investment of ₹1.21 lakh crore in the preceding month.

The inflow led to the asset under management of the industry accelerating to ₹43.2 lakh crore as of May-end from ₹41.62 lakh crore at the end of April.

Amfi CEO N Venkatesh said that the industry has seen an uptick even in the midst of volatile markets.

Going by the data, equity mutual funds (MFs) attracted ₹3,240 crore in May, much lower than ₹6,480 crore inflow seen in April and



INFLOW IN EQUITY MFs HALVED TO ₹3,240CR IN MAY AGAINST ₹6,480CR IN APRIL

SIP INFLOWS BACK ABOVE THE ₹14,000CR-MARK AND REACHED TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH

27TH CONSECUTIVE MONTH THAT EQUITY ASSET CLASS GARNERED NET POSITIVE FLOWS

Profit booking in rising market along with probable expenses towards vacation, education could have led to lower investments in mutual funds in May

**MANISH MEHTA** | NATIONAL HEAD, KOTAK MAHINDRA ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY

₹20,534 crore in March.

Inflow in May was lowest since November 2022, when equity mutual funds

witnessed an infusion of ₹2,258 crore.

Within equities, the highest outflows were seen in the large-cap category (Rs 1,362 crore), followed by the focused category (Rs 944 crore) and ELSS category (Rs 504 crore). However, investors continued to repose faith in small-cap funds with a 50 per cent jump in net flows to ₹3,282 crore.

The valuation difference in

comparison to large-cap stocks continues to play out well for investors opting for mid- and small-cap funds since the beginning of the calendar year, Gopal Kavalireddi, Vice President - Research at Fyers, said.

Debt funds saw a net infusion of nearly ₹46,000 crore, which was more than halved from ₹1.06 lakh crore inflow seen in April.

In the debt segment, inflows were driven by liquid funds, ultra-short duration, money market and short-duration categories.

Only the hybrid category saw net flows rising by 84 per cent to ₹6,093 crore, primarily due to the change in tax regulations and higher than usual inflows into arbitrage funds.

## Forex kitty snaps two weeks of fall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 9:** India's forex reserves jumped \$5.929 billion to \$595.067 billion for the week ended June 2, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

The reserves had dropped for two consecutive weeks and declined by \$4.34 billion to \$589.14 billion in the previous reporting week.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as RBI deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments.



For the week ended June 2, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$5.27 billion to \$526.201 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves jumped by \$655 million to \$45.557 billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$6 million to \$18.186 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was up \$10 million to \$5.123 billion in the reporting week, the central bank data showed.

## SBI set to raise ₹50K-cr in FY24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 9:** State Bank of India Friday said it will raise up to ₹50,000 crore through debt instruments from Indian as well as overseas markets in the current fiscal.

The decision in this regard was taken by the central board of the bank, the country's largest lender said in a stock exchange filing.

SBI board has accorded approval for raising funds in INR or any other convertible currency by issue of debt instruments including, "but not limited to Long Term Bonds, Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 Bonds, Basel III compliant Tier 2 Bonds, up to an amount of ₹50,000 crores through private placement mode to Indian and/or Overseas investors during FY24..."

SBI's March quarter net profit zoomed nearly 90 per cent to ₹18,094 crore on a consolidated level, helped by a robust performance on the core income front and an improvement in asset quality to the decadal best.

On a standalone basis, it reported an 83 per cent jump in its net profit at ₹16,695 crore, while the same for FY23 came 58 per cent up at ₹50,232 crore. Both the quarterly and fiscal year profits were the highest ever.

# Soaring airfares play spoiler for family holidays

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 9:** Soaring airfares to various prime tourist destinations are now making people cancel holiday plans this summer.

Airfares are soaring in the same pattern it had started firming up last year itself as travel demand rebounded after the Covid pandemic subsided, this year's summer travel season has seen an unusually high spike in ticket prices.

The ticket prices to Srinagar, Goa, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Kolkata, Dehradun and Kathmandu have soared beyond the reach of middle-class families and record cancellations have taken place in the past one week.

"We had planned to visit Srinagar in mid-June but the air fares are now beyond our reach. The one-way air fares are between ₹11,000 and ₹18,000 and I cannot afford it for my family of five. I am told that taxis in Srinagar have



also increased their rates," said Rajeshwar Singh, an executive in a telecom company.

With one-way Lucknow-Dehradun fares ranging between ₹8,000 to 11,000, several people have opted for road travel to Uttarakhand.

"We went to Mukteshwar in Uttarakhand but could not get any hotel. For the first time, people

are seeing traffic jams in this small town. We could stay for just two days in a home-stay and then came back," said Sumit Agarwal, a software techie.

Travel and tour operators also admit that there have been a record number of cancellations due to soaring prices in the industry. Even hotel tariffs have soared beyond the reach of the common man.

The rising air fares have been a major spoiler this season. A one-way ticket to Kathmandu costs between ₹15,000 to ₹18,000. How can any middle-class family be expected to bear the cost of this holiday? We searched for other options, including Goa but could not afford a family trip

**PREM SWARUP** | RETIRED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

Vivek Kumar, who works in a travel agency, said, "The air tariffs are coming down in July but by then schools will reopen and family holidays cannot be planned."

The government, too, has taken note of "abnormal surge pricing on certain routes" and asked airlines to "self-monitor" and devise a mechanism to ensure reasonable pricing on such routes.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Union Bank holds mega outreach



**Berhampur:** A mega customer outreach campaign was organised by Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Berhampur at Sanskruti Bhawan, Hilpatna, Berhampur where customers from in and around branches of Berhampur joined. As Ganjam district is selected as aspirational district at central level and it is also a new initiative taken by the bank for improving banks presence in Ganjam district in large scale. This meeting was presided over by Gokulananda Das General Manager, Central Office in the presence of Satyabrata Samal, Regional Head, Berhampur Region and other staff members. A large gathering of existing customers and new customers from different branches attended the meeting and presentation was given by bank officials on various products of the bank.



# OZ EXTEND DOMINANCE India open campaign with win

Rahane, Shardul help India avoid follow on, but Australia keep command of the WTC final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 9: India's Ajinkya Rahane (89, 129b, 11x4, 1x6) revived his international career with a courageous effort in seaming conditions but it could not prevent Australia from extending their supremacy in the World Test Championship final here Friday.

Playing his first Test in 18 months and with his side's back against the wall, Rahane weathered a hostile spell from Australian pacers on way to a memorable knock on the third day and took India to 296 all out from 152/6.

His 109-run partnership for the sixth wicket with Shardul Thakur (51, 109b, 6x4) kept India in the game but Australia still managed to take a massive 173-run lead.

At stumps, Australia extended their lead to 296 runs by reaching 123/4 in their second innings. Marnus Labuschagne (41 batting) and Cameron Green (7 batting) were in the middle.

The pitch continues to offer seam movement but the spinners also came into play Friday with Ravindra Jadeja taking two wickets (2/25) and reigniting the debate on R Ashwin's non-selection for the title clash.

Siraj was the standout Indian pacer once again as he got rid of



SHARDUL THAKUR (L) & AJINKYA RAHANE

David Warner (1) with a ball that seamed away from off-stump and took the edge on way to the wicket-keeper. Usman Khawaja's second failure of the game came after a loose drive off Umesh Yadav.

A rare positive from India's point of view was that Australia's first innings centurions Steve Smith (34) and Travis Head (18) departed in quick succession.

However, it will take a special effort from India to bounce back in the game but Rahane showed that runs could be scored against a formidable pace attack.

Rahane could not add to his tally after the lunch break, and having once again delivered in challenging overseas conditions, fell to a stunning one-handed catch by Green at gully.

Thakur was able to get to his third half century at The Oval with a couple of straight drives off Cummins.

India's tail hardly put up any resistance and the team was bowled out midway into the second session.

India made a fast start and were 20 up inside 15 minutes with strikes from Sahal and Chhangte.

Midfielder Anirudh Thapa found himself in the clear on the right flank in the second minute and he pulled one back into middle of the

penalty box. The Mongolian keeper got a hand to it but Sahal was there to fire home with a low left footer.

There was a brief period when the Mongolians tried to settle down, keeping the ball to themselves but the Blue Tigers were on the prowl and scored soon from a corner.

Thapa was involved yet again as his 14th minute corner and Sandesh Jhingan's header rebounded off a Mongolian defender on the goal-line and Chhangte was in hand to poke the ball into the net.

Three minutes later, Udanta Singh got the ball from captain Chhetri inside the Mongolian box and he appeared to have been tripped by a defender. The Indians shouted for a penalty but the referee had none of it.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 9: A dominant India struck two quick first-half goals to beat lower-ranked Mongolia 2-0 and begin their Intercontinental Cup campaign on a winning note here Friday.

Sahal Abdul Samad and Lallianzuala Chhangte scored in the second and 14th minute respectively as the 101st ranked Indians emerged victorious over their opponents placed 183rd in the world, at the Kalinga Stadium in hot and humid conditions.

India, the 2018 edition champions, dominated the match for most part, attacking and creating chances while the Mongolians were left to defend their citadel. The home side had a 65 per cent possession in the match.

The only worrying part for head coach Igor Stimac was the inability of his attackers to find the opposition net on numerous occasions in the second half.

Captain and talisman Chhetri had a relatively quiet day as he played deeper than he usually does and was replaced by Rahim Ali in the 71st minute. Lalengmawia Ralte also was not up to the mark and he was replaced by Jeakson Singh.

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Mongolia goalie puts body on the line to deny India a scoring opportunity

penalty box. The Mongolian keeper got a hand to it but Sahal was there to fire home with a low left footer.

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Three minutes later, Udanta Singh got the ball from captain Chhetri inside the Mongolian box and he appeared to have been tripped by a defender. The Indians shouted for a penalty but the referee had none of it.

Mongolia also had their own penalty claim in the 37th minute when their midfielder Baljinyam Batmunkh was at the receiving end of a sliding tackle from behind by Anwar Ali but the referee turned down the visiting side's claim.

The home side dominance continued in the second half but they found it hard to break down the Mongolian defence. The Mongolian defence did better in the second 45 minutes than the first as they brought more men to deny the Indians from scoring.

Just before the start of the match, both sides observed a minute's silence to pay respect to the victims of the Odisha train tragedy. India play Vanuatu in their second round-robin league match Monday.

# Djoko moves a step closer to history



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, June 9: Novak Djokovic used every bit of his experience, relentlessness and fitness to beat a cramping Carlos Alcaraz 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 at the French Open Friday and move one win away from a record 23rd Grand Slam title.

The No.1-ranked Alcaraz produced one particularly brilliant shot — one that went viral within minutes and could be talked about for years — en route to claiming the second set of what, at the

time, was a closely contested and thrilling showdown. But in the end, this highly anticipated matchup was as anti-climatic as can be.

That's because early in the third set, after nearly 2 1/2 hours of exertion and tension in 85-degree heat at Court Philippe Chatrier, Alcaraz's body began to lock up. First, his hand began to cramp, then his legs. And so, at 1-all, Alcaraz needed to take a break and get treated by a trainer. Because it was not a changeover, Alcaraz was required to forfeit the following

game and fell behind 2-1.

From there, it was pretty much all over: Djokovic, who is 36, was able to cruise to the finish against Alcaraz, who is 20, making for the widest age gap in a men's Grand Slam semifinal since 1991.

Score one for the old guys. It was the 45th Grand Slam semifinal for Djokovic and the second for Alcaraz. "I feel for him. I feel sorry... I hope he can recover very soon," Djokovic said. "I told him at the net, he knows how young he is. He has plenty of time ahead of him. He's going to win this tournament, I'm sure, many, many times."

Not this time. Instead, it is No.3 Djokovic who will meet No.4 Casper Ruud of Norway or No.22 Alexander Zverev of Germany in Sunday's final. Ruud — a two-time major runner-up last year, including in Paris — and Zverev — the runner-up at the 2020 U.S. Open — were scheduled to play the second semifinal later Friday. Neither owns a major trophy.

Djokovic is hoping to leave Roland Garros this year with his third French Open title and his 23rd Slam championship overall, which would break a tie with rival Rafael Nadal for the most by a man in the history of tennis. Nadal was absent from his favorite tournament this year because of a hip injury.

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