



**CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD:** Young girls getting makeover for Raja festival at Stoney Road of Dagarpada in Cuttack, Tuesday

## 'India threatened to shut Twitter'

### GOVT DISMISSES TWITTER EX-CEO'S ALLEGATION AS AN 'OUTRIGHT LIE'

**KULDEEP SINGH, OP**

New Delhi, June 13: India threatened to shut Twitter down unless it complied with orders to restrict accounts critical of the government's handling of farmer protests, the social media platform's co-founder Jack Dorsey has said, an accusation Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar dismissed as an 'outright lie', Tuesday.

In an interview to YouTube channel 'Breaking Points', Dorsey, who quit as Twitter CEO in 2021, claimed that the Indian government 'pressured' the company with threats of a shutdown and raids on employees if it did not comply with 'requests' to take down posts and restrict accounts that were critical of the government over the protest by farmers against new agri laws in 2020 and 2021.

"It manifested in ways such as: 'We will shut Twitter down in India', which is a very large market for us; 'we will raid the homes of your employees', which they did; and this is India, a democratic country," Dorsey said.

Rubbishing the claims, the Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar tweeted that Dorsey's Twitter regime 'had a problem accepting the sovereignty of Indian law'. "No one went to jail nor was Twitter 'shutdown'," Chandrasekhar said. "This is an outright lie by @jack - perhaps an attempt to brush out that very dubious period of twitters history."

In the longish post, he then went



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**JACK DORSEY | TWITTER EX-CEO**

Congress said when farmers were protesting, the 'coward dictator sitting in Delhi was trying to suppress this news.' "Be aware, 733 farmers were martyred in this movement and the dictator was engaged in polishing his image on their dead bodies," it tweeted.

Rajya Sabha MP and leader of Shiv Sena-UBT Priyanka Chaturvedi replying to Chandrasekhar's tweet said the law Twitter broke was to 'allow hate speech and rabid BJP agenda.'

India as a sovereign nation, Chandrasekhar said, has the right to ensure that its laws are followed by all companies operating in India.

"During the protests in January 2021, there was a lot of misinformation and even reports of genocide which were definitely fake," he said without giving details.

The minister charged Twitter with not complying with requests to take down tweets spreading misinformation. **MORE P7**

## 100 drown in Nigeria

**Abuja (Nigeria):** A boat carrying residents returning from a wedding capsized in northern Nigeria killing about 100 people, police and local residents said Tuesday, as a search for survivors intensified. The boat capsized early Monday on the Niger River in the state of Kwara close to neighbouring Niger state, police spokesman Okasami Ajayi said. "What we gathered was there was a boat that capsized and about 100 people died," he said. **P10**

## 2 share top rank in NEET-UG

**AGENCIES**

New Delhi, June 13: Tamil Nadu's Prabanjan J and Andhra Pradesh's Bora Varun Chakravarthi have topped the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) this year with a perfect score of 720, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Tuesday.

A total of 11.45 lakh candidates out of 20.38 lakh have qualified the examination, up by 48 per cent from last year. Among the states, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of qualifying candidates (1.39 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (1.31 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1 lakh).

Kerala and Karnataka are the two other states in the top five with over 75,000 candidates each qualifying the examination.

According to a senior NTA official, candidates who scored identical marks are accorded ranks as per the tie-breaker rule where the candidate with higher marks in biology is ranked above the rest. In case of identical marks in biology, the same rule is applied for chemistry followed by physics. If the scores still remain identical, the elder candidate gets the higher rank.

## 28,330 QUALIFIERS FROM ODISHA

As many as 28,330 candidates out of 55,866 from Odisha have qualified the NEET-UG 2023. Swayam Shakti Tripathy with 715 marks bagged the rank 8, while Surya Pratap Mishra with 710 marks bagged rank 35. Abhipsa Chowdhury with 710 marks bagged the overall 63rd rank and 16th in the list of top 20 female candidates.

## 4% DA hike for state employees

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

Bhubaneswar, June 13: Ahead of Raja, the state government announced a four per cent hike in dearness allowance (DA) for its employees and pensioners, Tuesday.

The DA for employees and pensioners has been increased to 42 per cent from the existing 38 per cent.

A release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the enhanced DA will be applicable with retrospective effect from January 1, 2023 and the employees will receive the amount with their June salary. A total of 7.5 lakh employees and pensioners will get the benefit.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Yes, govt has fulfilled one more promise. After buying an air ticket, I could afford only 'hawai chappals'

## 19 hurt in Tata Steel plant mishap



An injured being rushed to a private hospital in CDA area of Cuttack

Tata Steel, in a statement, said the accident took place at around 1pm during the course of the inspection work and has affected a few people working at the site.

The injured persons were immediately shifted to the Occupational Health Centre on the plant premises and then to Cuttack for further treatment, as a precautionary measure, in the company's ambulance, accompanied by doctor and paramedics, the statement added.

All emergency protocols were activated and the area has been cordoned off, the steel major said.

"We are working closely with relevant authorities on ground and have initiated an internal investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident," the company said, adding that safety remains its top priority.

Sources said one of the injured, who has cardiac issues, has been shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of the private hospital, while seven were undergoing treatment at SICU. 11 others are being treated at the casualty of the hospital when the last report came in.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	63143.16	↑ 418.45
NIFTY	18716.20	↑ 114.70
DOLLAR	82.36	↓ ₹0.06
EURO	88.75	↓ ₹0.12
GOLD	₹59,299	↓ ₹342
SILVER	₹72,392	↓ ₹582

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	34.2°C	35.8°C
TEMP. MIN	25.6°C	22.5°C
Humidity	65%	66%
Rainfall	5.2mm	10.5mm

Forecast: Light rain likely

**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** At least 19 persons sustained burn injuries in a steam leak incident at Tata Steel's Meramandali plant in Dhenkanal district Tuesday, police said.

Workers and engineers were inspecting the blast furnace of Meramandali plant around 1pm when steam leaked, leaving at least 19 of them injured.

The injured persons were immediately rushed to a private hospital in CDA area of Cuttack.

Dhenkanal Collector Saroj Kumar Sethi, superintendent of police (SP) Gyana Ranjan Mohapatra and other senior officials reached the site to take stock of the situation.

The SP said that around 19 persons were injured in the incident. However, a Tata Steel spokesperson said 17 persons suffered burn injuries, including one who was described as serious.

## Mourners stunned as 'dead woman comes alive' in coffin

**AGENCIES**

**Quito (Ecuador), June 13:** A 76-year-old woman who was declared dead at a hospital in Ecuador astonished her relatives by knocking on her coffin during her wake. The incident has prompted a government investigation into the hospital.

Relatives left the coffin behind and rushed retired nurse Bella Montoya back to the hospital after the wake Friday in the central city of Babahoyo, son Gilberto Barbera told The Associated Press. "It gave us all a fright," Barbera said, adding that doctors have said his mother's situation remains dire.

Ecuador's Health Ministry said that Montoya was in intensive

care Monday at the Martin Icaza Hospital in Babahoyo while the ministry investigators doctors involved in her case. A technical committee has been formed to review how the hospital issues death certificates, the ministry said in a statement. Initially, Montoya had been admitted Friday at the hospital with a possible stroke and cardiopulmonary arrest, and when she did not respond to resuscitation a doctor on duty declared her dead, the ministry said.

Barbera said his mother was unconscious when she was brought to the emergency room and that a few hours later a doctor informed him she was dead and handed over identity documents and a death certificate.

The family members then brought her to a funeral home and were holding a wake later Friday when they started to hear strange sounds. "There were about 20 of us there," Barbera said. "After about five hours of the wake, the coffin started to make sounds. My mom was wrapped in sheets and hitting the coffin, and when we approached we



**After about five hours of the wake, the coffin started to make sounds. My mom was wrapped in sheets and hitting the coffin, and when we approached we could see that she was breathing heavily.**

**GILBERTO BARBERA | SON OF 76-YEAR-OLD BELLA MONTOYA**

could see that she was breathing heavily." Though he and relatives rushed her back to the hospital Friday, she was still in serious condition Monday. She was under intubation, and doctors weren't giving relatives much hope about her prognosis, Barbera said.

Bella Montoya is not the only person to 'come alive' after being officially declared dead.

In February, an 82-year-old woman was found to be breathing while lying in a funeral home in New York. She had been pronounced dead three hours earlier at a nursing home.

**ବିଶୁ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା**

DSPL-84

ଜୁନ ୧୪ ତାରିଖ 'ବିଶୁ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ଦିବସ' । ରକ୍ତ ଦାନ ହେଉଛି ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ଦାନ, ଯାହା ଦ୍ଵାରା ଜଣେ ମଣିଷ ଆଉ ଜଣକର ମୂଲ୍ୟବାନ ଜୀବନ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବାରେ ସହାୟକ ହୋଇପାରେ ।

'ରକ୍ତ ଦିଅ, ପ୍ଲାଜ୍ଵା ଦିଅ, ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଅ, ବାରମ୍ବାର ବଞ୍ଚାଅ' - ଏହା ହେଉଛି ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ରକ୍ତ ଦାତା ଦିବସ ପାଳନର ଅନୁରୂପ । ରକ୍ତଦାନର କୌଣସି ବିକଳ ନାହିଁ । ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ହେଉଛି ନିରାପଦ ଓ ନିରନ୍ତର ରକ୍ତ ଯୋଗାଣର ଚାବିକାଠି । ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରି ରକ୍ତ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରୁଥିବା ରୋଗୀମାନଙ୍କ ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଇବା ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ନିବେଦନ କରୁଛି ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ରକ୍ତଦାନ ପରି ମହତ ଦାନ କରି ସମାଜରେ ମାନବିକତାର ଜୟଗାନ କରିବା । ରକ୍ତର ଅଭାବ ପାଇଁ ଅକାଳରେ ଝଡ଼ିପଡ଼ୁଥିବା ମୂଲ୍ୟବାନ ଜୀବନ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷାରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାତା, ବିଶେଷ କରି ସଂପ୍ରତି ଘଟିଯାଇଥିବା ଦାରୁଣ ଟ୍ରେନ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ସମୟରେ ଆଗ୍ରହର ସହ ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରିଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହୃଦୟର ଗଭୀରତମ ପ୍ରଦେଶକୁ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

**ନବୀନ ଶର୍ମା**  
(ନବୀନ ପକ୍ଷନାୟକ)

**ବିଶୁ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ଦିବସ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା**

OIPR-10080/13/0003/2324

ଜୁନ ୧୪ 'ବିଶୁ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ଦିବସ' ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାତାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷର ଅନୁରୂପ ହେଉଛି 'ରକ୍ତ ଦିଅ, ପ୍ଲାଜ୍ଵା ଦିଅ, ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଅ, ବାରମ୍ବାର ବଞ୍ଚାଅ' । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବର୍ଷକୁ ହାରାହାରି ୪ ଲକ୍ଷ ୫୦ ହଜାର ଯୁକ୍ତ ରକ୍ତ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ପଡ଼ିଥାଏ । ଏହା କେବଳ ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ଦ୍ଵାରା ହିଁ ପୂରଣ ହୋଇପାରିବ । ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରି ନିଜେ ସୁସ୍ଥ ରହିବା ସହ ଅନ୍ୟର ବହୁମୂଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଇବାରେ ନିଜକୁ ନିୟୋଜିତ କରି ଏକ ଅନନ୍ୟ ଉଦାହରଣ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରି ଆମୁଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଲାଭ କରିବା । ସଂପ୍ରତି ବାହାନଗାଠାରେ ଘଟିଯାଇଥିବା ମର୍ମହୀନ ରେଳ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣାରେ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଭାବେ ଆଗେଇ ଆସି ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣାରେ ପୀଡ଼ିତମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆଶାତୀତ ଭାବେ ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରିଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୁଁ ମୋର ହୃଦୟର ଗଭୀରତମ ପ୍ରଦେଶକୁ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଆଜିର ଦିବସରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ, ଯେଉଁମାନେ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ଅଟନ୍ତି, ସେମାନେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଏହି ମହତ ଦାନ ଦ୍ଵାରା ଅନ୍ୟର ମୂଲ୍ୟବାନ ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଇବା ସହିତ, ସମାଜର ଅଶେଷ ଉପକାର କରିବାରେ ସହାୟକ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

**ସ୍ଵସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ**  
(ନିରଞ୍ଜନ ପୂଜାରୀ )

ମାନ୍ୟବର ସଂସଦୀୟ ବ୍ୟାପାର, ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

# leisure



## AZALEA QUILTS TWITTER TO ESCAPE BAD VIBES

Rap star Iggy Azalea has revealed that she intends to take a break from Twitter. The *Fancy* hitmaker wrote on her micro-blogging platform, "Right now Twitter is feeling overwhelmingly full of bad vibes and honestly I don't know that I'll be coming back on here at all."

## K-DRAMA STAR PARK SOO RYUN DIES AT 29 IN FREAK ACCIDENT

South Korean star Park Soo Ryun, who has appeared in musicals such as *The Days We Loved* and *Siddhartha* has died in a freak mishap. The actress, after falling from the stairs, was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared her brain dead.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Some decisions are hard to take, but a firm resolve will help you stay committed. Sentimentality may shake your purpose, but once decided, you must stick to it. Also, learn to take heartbreak in your stride, says Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
Definitely not a day when you plan to get your feet dirty (maybe a pedicure, though). You might delay the start of a new project. Perhaps, a romantic escape with your sweetheart or a day in the spa grooming yourself with a lavish makeover will validate your lethargy today.

**GEMINI**  
You will try very hard to strike a balance between logic and emotions. Though you may succeed in doing so in front of the world, you may not be so discreet with your friends. You will have an excellent time with your sweetheart, but your physical appearance will be a cause of concern to you, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
A string of domestic responsibilities awaits you; today, you are about to realise that it is a long, long string. Chances are that this sudden rise in work pressure may also lead to blood pressure problems.

**LEO**  
Nothing will overshadow your love for your kids today, and they will be the number one priority for you. It seems like a good day to take time out and monitor their progress in school; so, do not skip that PTA meeting. Remember, there are various ways to teach children, so consider taking them out on a small picnic or a field trip to help educate them better.

**VIRGO**  
You will begin your journey on the long, hard road to success, predicts Ganesh. Hard work will be the key to any progress that you make. Avoid short cuts, and all the toil and trouble will pay off with rich returns as recognition and rewards will come your way. You may let a few opportunities fly past because of fear of taking risks.

**LIBRA**  
Today promises a definite sense of pride and joy from children who bring home glory, says Ganesh. Fiscal gains are also on the cards, and you may consider it worthwhile to put your money into lucrative businesses. Money-lenders and stock brokers are likely to make handsome earnings on this charming and enchanting day.

**SCORPIO**  
It is more than likely that you will be in high spirits today, says Ganesh. All your energy and exuberance may not yield expected results. That is no reason to lose heart though. Keep up the effort from your end and you will eventually taste success in the days to come.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You will find yourself rubbing shoulders with Lady Luck today. Sharpen your multi-tasking skills as you will keep busy and have only occasional moments of respite. Good will and green print, you might find them both with ease and in abundance, predicts Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You have sacrificed a lot on enjoyment with friends and family, done some back-breaking work and kept your focus to reach where you are right now. Ganesh gives you a pat on your back for all the hard work you've put in. Now, it is time to watch the tree bear fruits. With some additional responsibilities, promotion in terms of salary or position is on the cards for you.

**AQUARIUS**  
You blessed with a very high level of patience and practicality, and you can easily untangle any problem. But, it gives an excuse to the people around you to wash their hands of any responsibility. It may put you in a tight spot at times leaving you frustrated.

**PISCES**  
You could swing both ways today! Fortunately, this alludes to nothing more sinister than the mix of the introvert and the extrovert that you are. So, between a quiet evening out by yourself at a classical music concert, or performing on the dance floor at the local disc - take your pick, says Ganesh.

## Tamannaah seals her relationship with Vijay



**Mumbai:** Tamannaah Bhatia has officially announced her romantic involvement with actor Vijay Varma. She openly revealed that their relationship blossomed while working together on the sets of *Lust Stories 2*. This anthology film marks their first collaboration and is directed by Amit Ravindernath Sharma, Konkona Sensharma, R Balki, and Sujoy Ghosh.

In an interview with Film Companion, Tamannaah discussed her relationship with Vijay and said, "I don't think you can get attracted to someone just because they are your co-star. I have had so many co-stars. I think if one has to fall for someone, feel something for someone it's definitely more personal, it's nothing to do with what they do for a living, I mean that's not the reason why this would happen."

She further added, "He is someone I really look up to. He is someone with whom I bonded very very organically. He is someone who came to me with all his guard down. Then, it became very easy for me to put all my guard down. He's a person who I care about deeply and yeah, he's my happy place."

Tamannaah Bhatia and Vijay Varma were frequently seen together in Mumbai following the emergence of a video showing them kissing at a New Year's party in Goa.

## Short films deserve more recognition: Divya Dutta

**Mumbai:** Actress Divya Dutta, who is known for *Badlapur*, *Veer-Zara* and several other films, feels that the audience doesn't give the importance to short films.

Divya said that some short films, which cater to today's current social problems, should be made and watched too.

The actress was seen attending the special screening of a short film *Birha*:

*The Journey Back Home* in Mumbai, recently.

Speaking about the film, Divya said: "We as audience don't give importance to short films. I would want whenever this film is out, people should watch it. It is a beautifully made film and the performances are brilliant."

The actress said: "In today's scenario when the relationships are getting diluted, such films should be definitely made and should be watched also. It focuses on how you should value your re-

lations, especially with your parents."

Talking about her future projects, she said, "My three big shows and two films will be released soon. Currently, I am working on two more projects. By the end of this year, I will have 5-6 releases. The genres of the projects are very different, there is action, drama and thriller." IANS

## Yash says 'no' to playing Raavan

**Bangalore:** KGF actor Yash has rejected an offer to play Raavan in Nitesh Tiwari's *Ramayan*, as per a new report.

The film will reportedly feature Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt and Lord Rama-Sita.

The actor, who still hasn't signed his next project since the release of *KGF: Chapter 2*, is said to have been approached for Nitesh



Tiwari's upcoming magnum opus *Ramayan*, based on the Indian epic. It will report-

edly feature Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, and Alia Bhatt as Sita. Yash was offered the role of Raavan, and has turned it down, as per a report.

As per a new report, Yash is not too keen to play a negative character at this point in his career. Reacting to the report on Twitter, several fans said it's a good decision to reject the offer.

As per a report, Yash is aware of expectations from his fans, who don't want him to take up a negative character.

"Yash is very mindful of what his fans want and, right now, they definitely will not accept him in a negative role. He has always believed in his fans and gone by their sentiments so he will not be taking up this role," a source was quoted in the report.

AGENCIES

## Adah to play female superhero in int'l film

**Mumbai:** Actress Adah Sharma, who is basking in the success of her latest release *The Kerala Story*, is set to start working soon in an international production.

The actress will play the role of a female superhero in the film. When contacted, Adah confirmed the development but chose to keep the details under the wraps.

The actress said, "I've always found female superheroes very cool and all I can say is yes I'm not waiting to share more stuff about it soon. Action is a

genre I really enjoy being part of."

She further mentioned, "I like to try different genres, varied roles and I'm lucky people are thinking of me for different characters. After *The Kerala Story*, I thought this would be very different. I like to talk about a project only when I come out with a trailer for it. Until then, I'm a little superstitious. (I will share) more on this soon."

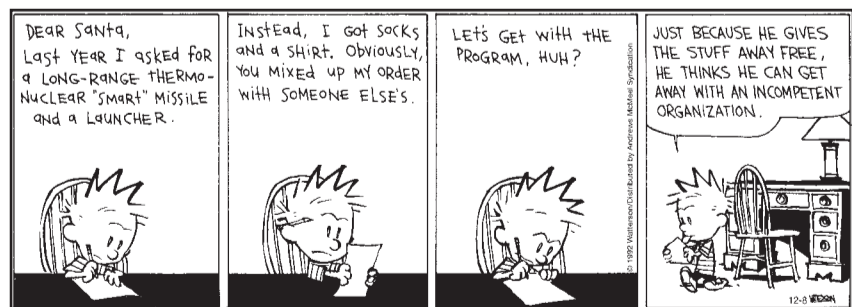
Meanwhile, *The Kerala Story* has collected Rs 238 crore in Indian domestic market as per trade sources.

IANS

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

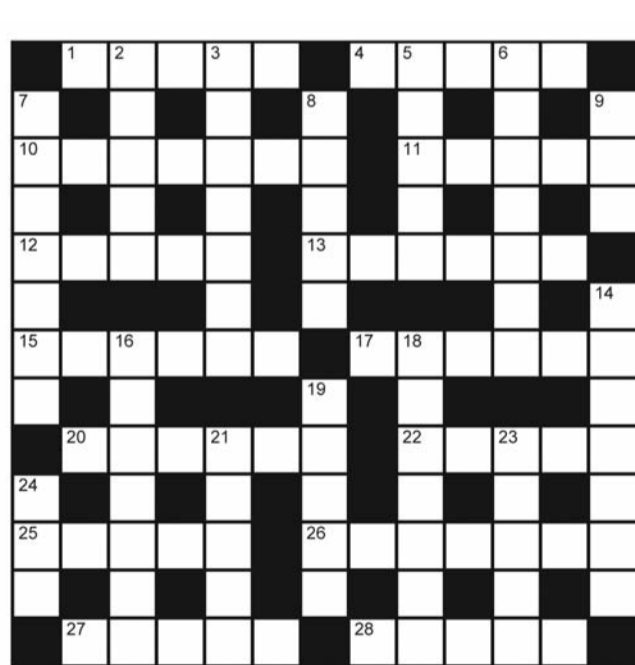


### BREVITY



### FUN post

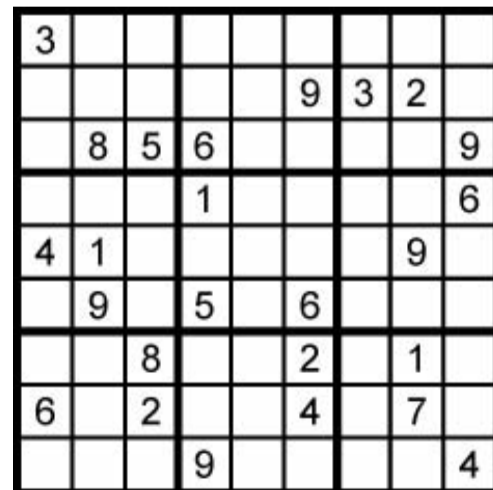
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Keen
  - 4 TV host
  - 10 Commendation
  - 11 Caretaker, briefly
  - 12 Hippodrome, e.g.
  - 13 Tranquil
  - 15 Haughtiness
  - 17 Make a movie
  - 20 Large lizard
  - 22 Flowering shrub
  - 25 Demanding
  - 26 A place all-abuzz?
  - 27 Theatre features
  - 28 Grammar topic
- Down**
- 2 Forgery, e.g.
  - 3 Quake result, at times
  - 5 Scrooge, for one
  - 6 Delete
  - 7 Type of case
  - 8 Put a stop to
  - 9 Sphere
  - 14 Thorn
  - 16 Jealous person's words, possibly (3,4)
  - 18 Malady
  - 19 Airport sight
  - 21 Tick off
  - 23 Courtroom no-no
  - 24 Fancy name appendage

### 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



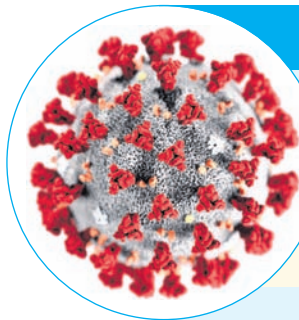
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## TAKING STOCK

DCP Prateek Singh holds a meeting on crime scenario of Bhubaneswar Urban Police District for May, 2023, at the traffic police station in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	69,00,68,151	66,24,96,191	68,89,432
India	4,49,92,293	4,44,57,720	5,31,886
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

## Engineer, banking asst held for graft

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** Vigilance officials Tuesday arrested two officials – Bikash Chandra Bhuyan, assistant engineer of Cuttack Sadar block, and Pradeep Kumar Chandrakar, banking assistant of Bhawanipatna Central Cooperative Bank, Komna branch in Nuapada – for possessing disproportionate assets (DA).

In the first instance, Vigilance registered a case against Bhuyan, and his spouse under Section 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 of Prevention of Corruption Amendment Act, 2018. He was forwarded to the court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack.

During house searches, movable and immovable assets worth crores were unearthed in the name of Bhuyan and his family members. The properties detected include one double-storied building at Soubhagya Nagar in Capital city, seven plots in prime locations of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, bank deposits and jewellery over Rs 50 lakh.

This apart, investment in cryptocurrencies, one four-wheeler, three two-wheelers worth Rs 13.40 lakh, and cash and household articles worth Rs 11.73 lakh were also unearthed. Besides, Bhuyan had spent ap-



proximately Rs 1 crore on engineering and medical education of his son and daughter.

In the second case, the Vigilance sleuths arrested Pradeep Kumar Chandrakar, banking assistant of Bhawanipatna Central Cooperative Bank, in connection with a DA case.

He was forwarded to Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhawanipatna for possession of DA to the tune of 254 per cent of his known sources of income.

A case has been registered against Chandrakar and his spouse under Section 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 PC Amendment Act, 2018.

During searches, movable and immovable assets worth crores were unearthed. The properties include one two-storied building worth over Rs 1.11 crore, two double-storied buildings worth around Rs 25.80 lakh, one single-storied building worth around Rs 38 lakh and another double-storied building – all at Beltukuri of Nuapada.

Eleven plots in and around Khariar and Nuapada. Bank, postal, insurance deposits and jewellery worth around Rs 30.42 lakh, a four-wheeler, one power tiller and three two-wheelers were also unearthed.

Investigation of the case was in progress till the last report came in.

## NAVEEN FOR TIMELY RATH YATRA RITUALS

A decision has been taken to inaugurate Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor project by June 15



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** Chairing a high-level Rath Yatra coordination meeting, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday sought cooperation from all for timely conduct all rituals of Mahaprabhu Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities during the Rath Yatra.

Patnaik reviewed the preparedness made by different departments for smooth conduct of the annual Rath Yatra of the sibling deities.

Attending the meeting through videoconference, the Chief Minister said special attention should be given to the safety of and other facilities for devotees visiting Puri.

He also directed officials to make special arrangements in view of the prevailing heatwave condition in the state.

He also urged the officers to give special attention to ensure that the devotees coming from across the country and abroad will return with a good feeling.

Patnaik sought cooperation of all for smooth conduct of the world famous Rath Yatra this year.

“Mahaprabhu is the identity of Odias. The entire world is waiting for Mahaprabhu's Rath Yatra. It is the responsibility of all of us to conduct the festival smoothly,” he stated.

Chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJT/A), Ranjan Das said, “We have already started preparations and with Lord's blessing we will be able to conduct Rath Yatra in a smooth and hassle-free manner. Our focus is on the early completion of rituals. Das said a decision has been taken to inaugurate Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor project by June 15.

Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu said her department is emphasising on smooth transport facilities for the devotees coming to Puri. Law Minister Jagannath Sarka said all departments have been asked to complete their works as early as possible.

**THE CHIEF MINISTER SAID SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SAFETY OF DEVOTEES VISITING PURI HE DIRECTED OFFICIALS TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING HEATWAVE CONDITION**



Darji servitors carry three circular cushions for 'Chaka Bij' ritual of the sibling deities of Puri Srimandir who have shown signs of recovery after falling sick due to the grand bath during Snana Purnima June 4

## SAI students top state in NEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** In the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET UG) results published Tuesday, Swayam Shakti Tripathy of SAI International School here stood as the state topper by securing All India Rank (AIR) 8 followed by Surya Pratap Mishra as the 2nd state topper with AIR 35, and Abhijit Chowdhury as the 3rd state topper with AIR 63.

By securing the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ranks in the state, SAI students have set a new benchmark for achievement with their exceptional dedication and hard work, said a release issued by the institution.

SAI International chairperson Silpi Sahoo shared her happiness at the students' performance, saying, “We are immensely proud of our students' outstanding achievements. Their accomplishments not only reflect their remarkable dedication and perseverance but also



Swayam Shakti Tripathy with Chairperson

exemplify the efficacy of school's education system. Our aim has always been to create an environment that fosters excellence and empowers students. I wish all my achievers the heartiest congratulations! These students are future doctors that you're looking at!”

Expressing excitement over being the state topper, Swayam Shakti said, “Throughout my journey, my mentors at SAI International School have been instrumental in shaping my academic career. The school's nurturing environment, comprehensive curriculum, and exceptional faculty have played a significant role. I

would like to extend my gratitude towards my parents who have gone above and beyond for constantly encouraging me.”

Similarly, Surya Pratap said, “Preparing for the NEET exams was a challenging yet rewarding experience. SAI International School provided me with a strong foundation. The teachers ensured that I got the best guidance, equipping me with knowledge and skills. My coaches at Akash helped me throughout. I'm extremely grateful to our chairperson for teaching us to dream big and empowering our spirits.”

“Securing the 3rd rank in the state fills me with immense gratitude and pride. I owe this remarkable achievement to the unwavering support of my family, teachers, and the incredible SAI community. Their guidance and encouragement have shaped my success, fuelling my determination to pursue my dreams.” said Abhijit.

## Modified norms for grievance under KALIA

**Bhubaneswar:** In view of the interest of farmers, the state government has modified the methodology for opening and closing of the grievance module under KALIA scheme. Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department modified the order after the approval of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Fisheries and ARD Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain. As per the modified methodology, online grievance portal shall be opened immediately after payment of KALIA assistance for 90 days instead of 30 days and all those grievances will be verified from field level within 45 days. However, the grievance portal shall be opened immediately after issue of this order and in view of the next instalment of KALIA assistance it will remain open till July 31 in respect of release of Kharif-2023 assistance April 1, 2023 and May 23, 2023. The modalities mentioned above shall be followed in subsequent season and years.

## Raise full-time disaster teams: State to Centre

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, June 13:** The state government Tuesday requested Union Home minister to consider a centrally funded scheme for raising a dedicated state disaster response team on the lines of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik, during the meeting con-

vened by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on strengthening the disaster management system, said that there is need for full-time dedicated State Disaster Response Team under the control of state disaster management authorities.

She said Odisha has 20 units of ODRAF at 17 locations with 1,000 trained manpower drawn from Odisha State Armed Police.

“They are available for disaster

response duty from June to November. During other times, they are engaged in law and order duties. However, as we see, disaster has no season. There is a need for full-time dedicated team,” she added.

The minister also raised the issue of coastal erosion in Odisha and said that seven villages of Kendrapara district have been submerged and around 600 displaced families have been rehabilitated.

The minister urged the Union government to launch a national programme with prevention and mitigation activities for coastal erosion and provide for relocation, rehabilitation and livelihood activities for displaced people with funding under National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).

The state government also requested the Centre to notify lightning as disaster at national level.

## 'Power cuts due to governance deficit'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** Taking on the state government over frequent power cuts amid the heat, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Tuesday said it was happening because of “governance deficit”. The state BJP also announced a two-day agitation outside Tata Power offices across the state from Wednesday over the issue.

Maintaining that Odisha was rich in coal and have several hydropower projects, Pradhan said, “It is sad that the people of this state are facing power outages. There is no shortage of resources to generate power here.”

He said other states generate electricity by procuring coal from Odisha, but the people here were experiencing loading shedding.

“There is power in the state, but they cannot reach the people because of governance deficit,” he said. The officials were busy in publicity for the government rather than governance, he alleged.

Reacting to Chief Secretary PK Jena pulling up TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd on social media for sluggish restoration of supply, Pradhan said it was not acceptable.

“The government must have signed an agreement with the discoms (distribution companies) regarding smooth electricity supply to the people. It should now ensure its proper implementation,” he said.

State Energy Minister PK Deb has blamed poor infrastructure and nor'westers for the power cuts, claiming that there was no power shortage in the state.

Two senior leaders of the BJD – Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik and Cuttack Mayor Subhas Singh – also expressed displeasure over the frequent power outages in the state.

Patnaik held Tata Power responsible for the situation, stating that the situation was a result of improper load balancing.

“The disruption in power supply occurs due to some gaps or shortfall in distribution which are not being reviewed and upgraded from time to time,” he said.

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# Another actress opens up about casting couch

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** Odia film actresses continue to expose the dark underbelly of movie and television industry in the state. This time actress Rupashree Panda has come to the fore. She claimed about getting booted out of a television serial after she refused to compromise for the role.  
Speaking to media persons Tuesday, Panda said, "I was selected by a big production house for a role in a television serial. I signed the agreement with the production house and my role had been finalized. However, they told me over telephone that the project was shelved for some reasons just one day before the shooting was supposed to begin. When I went to the office, the office staff informed me that my charges were high which



Rupashree Panda

role in the serial."  
"Casting couch exists in Odia film industry. Not only female actors or newcomers, but also some film producers get trapped," said Panda.  
"I was asked for 10 minutes' compromise to create a space for me in industry where I will survive happily for next 10 years, she said. They will show you dreams, but they are fake. They think young girls can easily make compromises, she added.  
Her statement came close on heels of casting couch allegation by a leading actress Jasmine Rath and supported by popular actress Prakruti Mishra against Odia film producer Sanjay Nayak.  
Mishra, during an interview on a local TV channel, had levelled casting couch allegations against Sanjay.



**NOBLE GESTURE:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during the release of saree allowance and financial assistance to cook-cum-helpers under MDM scheme at Loka Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

# BGU holds Research Scholars' Meet 2023

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** Birla Global University (BGU) in Bhubaneswar conducted its first Research Scholars' Meet 2023, which took place June 9-10.  
On the inaugural session of the meet the vice chancellor Prof. PP Mathur deliberated on the importance of quality Ph.D. research work and promotion of research culture in the university. He also quoted that Ph.D is not a degree rather a training to carry out research. XIM University's Associate Professor Subhajit Bhattacharya discussed the journey of Ph.D scholars, the publication ethics and quality of publication.  
BGU Registrar BK Das emphasised on the importance of fre-



quency of research meetings and sharing of new knowledge to the research community. BGU Research and Development Cell Chairman P Nayak shared the critical concepts of research and encouraged scholars about the timely progress of the Ph.D work.  
XIM University Professor Rajesh Panda delivered a lecture on the research methodology and best practices in Ph.D mentoring. The event featured presentations of research findings by 21 Ph.D scholars and was attended by more than 70 participants.

# TRIPLE TRAIN MISHAP NIST offers free edu to victims' kids

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** Taking a compassionate step to assist the children of the Balasore train accident victims, National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) has announced to provide them free education.  
NIST founder and Chairman Sukant Mohapatra, expressing his deep condolences to the affected families, announced a 100 per cent waiver of academic fees for the children who wish to pursue engineering, management or science disciplines at the institution.  
School of management dean Sabyasachi Rath and NIST principal Priyadarshi Tripathy were also present on this occasion.  
Mohapatra, while conveying



his sincere sympathy, expressed his earnest desire to support in all possible way for the bright future of the affected children. "The aim is to provide them an opportunity to study any discipline at NIST, enabling them to pursue their dreams and aspirations," he said.  
To avail this opportunity, the members of the affected families can contact the dedicated help desk at +91 9777146478. The insti-

# Focus on making millets state's staple food: Secy

*WSHGs participants suggested that if government includes millets in MDM, and in meals at hospitals, army canteens, railways and airports, that will create more market for them*  
**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** Addressing a workshop organised by Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) here Tuesday, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment principal secretary Arabinda Padhee said that Odisha government has adopted the 'whole of society' and 'whole of government' approach to make millets a mainstream food staple in the state by focusing on systems transformation, leadership and infrastructure support.  
The multi stakeholder workshop, titled 'shaping the sustainable future of Odisha Millets Mission', was organised at Krushi Bhawan in collaboration with University of York and Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA). It was inaugurated by Agriculture & Food Production director Rohit Lenka and Agriculture joint director Sailendra Mohanty who presented an overview of OMM, which was followed by a debriefing on the objectives of the workshop by Sonal Chaudhury of University of York and Ramanjaneyulu of CSA.  
At the workshop, farmers shared that before OMM, there was no awareness about different aspects of millet value chain and the price of millet in the state was very low. This led to demotivation among

farmers to cultivate millet. But after OMM, there is a good price in the market for millets due to availability of procurement. In addition, there is increase in awareness on millets and one can see a slow change in diets. The farmers suggested Rabi procurement of millets could also be taken up by the government.  
The participating women's self-help groups (WSHGs) shared that in addition to infrastructure, more skilling and exposure visits should also be done on processing of millets, value addition and book-keeping. The WSHGs suggested that if the government takes up inclusion of millets in MDM, and in meals at hospitals, army canteens, railways, and airports, that will create more market for the WSHGs.  
The technical experts shared the current research in different fields and deliberated on what new activities can be taken up under OMM. Key suggestions that emerged were facilitating an ecosystem of services through carbon markets, standardising the SOPs for private restaurants, companies, cafes, entrepreneurs, and products, setting up of incubation centre for rural startups, and training farmers and farmer groups on diversified products and packaging.



# Khimji's festival offer on payal and toe ring

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** On the occasion of Raja festival, Khimji Jewellers announced a special offer 'Raja Mouja: Payal & Toe Ring Festival' providing the customers, especially women, with the opportunity to adorn themselves with beautiful jewellery at attractive discounts. The 'silver payal and toe ring' collections, which are an integral part of Raja festivities, will be available at discounted prices during this period.



From June 10 to 16, customers can avail exclusive discounts on silver payal and toe ring purchases as part of the Raja offer. This limited-time offer allows customers visiting any Khimji Jewellers showroom across Odisha to enjoy a flat 25 per cent off on making charges and a 10 per cent discount on MRP.  
Khimji Jewellers Director Mitesh Khimji expressed his excitement about the Raja offer, saying, "In Odisha, the Raja festival is all about celebrating the joy of womanhood and making every woman feel special. Hence, we are thrilled to introduce the Raja offer, providing our customers, especially women, with the opportunity to avail attractive discounts on silver payal and toe ring purchases to make the festival even more joyous."

# Minister inaugurates Raja Mahotsav 2023

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** As part of the three-day Raja celebrations, Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra inaugurated Raja Mahotsav at the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) Panthanivas here Tuesday in presence of OTDC chairman Lenin Mohanty and general manager Lagnajit Rout.  
Speaking on the occasion, Patra said that OTDC has made itself synonymous with Raja. The OTDC Raja Mahotsav, which was started in the year 2010, aims at promoting authentic Odia delicacies coupled with traditional Raja celebrations including Raja Doli, Raja Pitha and Raja Paan, as a tribute to Mother Earth as well as a show of respect to women folk.  
OTDC chairman Lenin Mohanty



spoke on the occasion, thanking the audiences as well as media personnel present for helping OTDC in propagating the culture and traditions of the state.  
"For Raja Mahotsav, special arrangements have been made to ensure sale of delicacies and sweets

across all hospitality units of OTDC in Odisha including Nimantran Restaurant in Bhubaneswar and Silver City Boat Club in Cuttack," he informed.  
Further, traditional Raja Doli has been set up and Mehndi artists have been invited at Panthanivas

# 10 bar employees held for assaulting youth

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, June 13:** The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested 10 persons for allegedly assaulting a youth in a bar in Chandrasekharpur area here June 11.  
The accused were identified as Chikun Patra, Samir Kumar Das, SK Nazrul, Bhagirathi Barik, Bibhuti Bhusan Jena, Bibek Mallick, Rakesh Mallick, Rakesh Behera, Sanjay Nayak and Tulu Pradhan.  
Police revealed that nine accused are the employees of the bar and the manager and bouncers of 'Middleton Club' while accused Rakesh is a staffer of Club Venom - both located at District Centre under Chandrasekharpur police limits.  
The complainant along with her friend had visited Club Venom at Chandrasekharpur to have dinner June 11. Two staffers of the club - Sanjay and Raj (absconding)- allegedly misbehaved with

the girl and her friend, and threatened the girl with a sparkle gun.  
The aggrieved complainant called her boyfriend Nitesh Barik who, along with some of his friends, reached the spot. Nitesh spotted accused Sanjay entering into the nearby Middleton Club.  
They thought that Middleton staffers had misbehaved with his girlfriend and started beating Samir and the security guard of the bar. An enraged Samir later called other staffers who reached the spot along with Raj and Sanjay.  
Meanwhile, Nitesh's friends fled the spot leaving him alone after seeing the number of bar staff coming to take revenge. The accused attacked Nitesh with stumps and hockey sticks.  
Police registered a case (281/23) on the basis of the complaint of Nitesh's girlfriend and arrested 10 accused persons Tuesday. The accused were Tuesday produced before the court that later sent them to judicial custody.

# Robots may help AI gain human-like cognition

**E**mbodiment Artificial Intelligence (AI) in robots so they can interact with the world around them and evolve like the human brain is the most likely way AI systems will develop human-like cognition, according to research.  
Researchers from the University of Sheffield, UK, argued that AI systems are unlikely to resemble real brain processing no matter how large their neural networks or the datasets used to train them might become, if they remain disembodied.  
Current AI systems, such as ChatGPT, use large neural networks to solve difficult problems, such as generating intelligible written text. These networks teach AI to process data in a way that is inspired by the human brain and also learn from their mistakes in order to improve and become more accurate. However, the researchers



said there are also important differences. Human brain directly senses and acts in the world. Disembodied AIs, on the other hand, learn to recognise and generate complex patterns in data but lack a direct connection to the physical world. Therefore such AIs have no understanding or awareness of the world around them.  
Further, the human brains are made up of multiple subsystems, which are organised in a specific configuration - known as architecture - that is similar in all ver-

**It is much more likely that AI systems will develop human-like cognition if they are built with architectures that learn and improve in similar ways to how the human brain does**

tebrate animals from fish to humans, but not in AI.  
The team said that the biological intelligence - like in the human brain - has developed because of this specific architecture and how it has used its connections to the real world to overcome challenges, learn and improve throughout evolution.  
This interaction between evolution and development is rarely factored into the design of AI, according to the study, published in the journal Science Robotics.

"ChatGPT, and other large neural network models, are exciting developments in AI which show that really hard challenges like learning the structure of human language can be solved. However, these types of AI systems are unlikely to advance to the point where they can fully think like a human brain if they continue to be designed using the same methods," said Tony Prescott, Professor of Cognitive Robotics at the varsity.  
"It is much more likely that AI systems will develop human-like cognition if they are built with architectures that learn and improve in similar ways to how the human brain does, using its connections to the real world. Robotics can provide AI systems with these connections - for example, via sensors such as cameras and microphones and actuators such as wheels and grippers."

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# Cash crop cultivation on the wane in Kendrapara

LACK OF WATER AND MARKETING FACILITIES PROMPTING FARMERS TO SEEK OTHER METHODS OF LIVELIHOOD



Kansar village under Kendrapara block pointed out that spiralling labour costs is another reason why people are turning away from agriculture. He informed that he was growing arhar and sunflower on 15 acres of land, but this year he could not do so as costs have increased. As a result his two sons have migrated to Surat to earn their livelihood.

Farmer leader Gayadhar Dhal said the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' scheme of the Centre and the state government's promise to give special attention to agriculture in this district is yet to be implemented. "The state government had promised to dig up an irrigation canal. However, it hasn't been done in the last 28 years," Dhal said.

Dhal said sugarcane cultivation should be promoted as there is a need for 2.21 lakh MT of sugar in Odisha. However, first the government has to provide proper marketing facilities for the product. Local intellectual Mir Abbu Obeda said water management is a major problem in Kendrapara district. The only way to solve it, is to link the rivers in the district. It will end the irrigation woes and also minimise the damages due to floods, Obeda added.

Senior agriculture scientist Surya Narayan Mishra of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Jajang said that Kendrapara district receives sufficient rainfall and has four types of soils for which farmers should take up integrated farming. They should dig up ponds to collect rain water and take up cultivation of vegetables, fruits, mushroom, turmeric and medicinal plants to boost their incomes.

that farmers in Garadpur, Marshaghai, Derabish, Pattamundai, Aul and Rajkanika blocks were into sugarcane cultivation even five-10 years back. This was because of the presence of a sugarcane crushing mill. However, with the mill closing down, most of these farmers have stopped sugarcane cultivation. Whatever cultivation is done is for the festive season, Behera added.

Similarly, a jute research centre has been lying defunct for a long time. Hence people are not going in for jute cultivation.

Sources said people in this district were cultivating pulses like arhar and sunflower in the past, but that has been abandoned due to lack of proper water supply and the absence of mandis. Locals pointed out farmers will only be attracted to cultivate various produces only if there is uninterrupted supply of water.

Farmer Niranjana Parida of

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, June 13:** Cultivation of cash crops like sugarcane, jute, arhar and sunflower are on the wane in this district due to a number of reasons. Among them are the lack of irrigation facilities, the closure of a sugarcane crushing mill and proper marketing opportunities, sources said Tuesday.

The economy of Kendrapara district is agriculture oriented. More than 70 per cent of the residents of this district are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. However, due to the various problems they face, more and more farmers are turning towards other means of income.

Sources pointed out that even a few years back, sugarcane cultivation was being carried out on 15,000 hectares of land. Now it has been reduced to only 1,000 hectares.

Sugarcane farmer Akshaya Behera of Pattamundai area said



AT LORD'S SERVICE : Carpenters engaged in chariot making ahead of the Rath Yatra at Jhauapada in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

## Jajpur jewellery shop heist; 1 accused held



Three motorcycles used in committing the crime have been recovered by the police teams along with some documents and mobile phones

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, June 13:** One of the eight main accused in the jewellery shop loot case in this district has been arrested from Bihar, police said Tuesday. The accused, identified as Rupesh Kumar, is from Gauriya Chaman village of Warispur under Bhagwanpur police limits in Vaishali district of Bihar. Incidentally, the showroom situated in this town was looted by eight miscreants at around 1.30pm May 15.

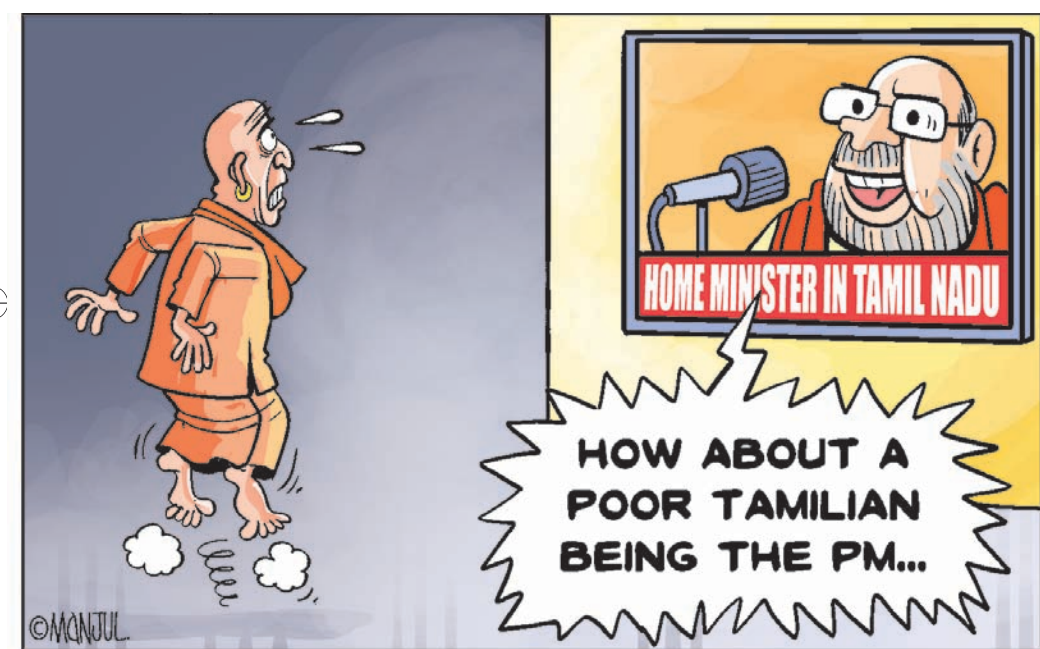
Jajpur SP, Vinit Agrawal told reporters here that the accused had arrived at Balasore two days prior to the loot and had camped

there. On the day of the burglary, he and an accomplice had driven down from Balasore to take part in the loot. After the loot, the eight-member gang separated and went in different directions, police said.

"A dacoity case was earlier registered at Jajpur Road police station and multiple teams were formed to carry out an investigation into the armed robbery. The probe is still continuing," Agrawal stated. "We have found out that eight persons were involved in the crime. Three motorcycles used in committing the crime have been recovered by the police teams, including some documents and mobile phones. Around 10 to 11 kilograms of gold ornaments were looted," the SP stated.

The police decided that some of the gang members were from outside Odisha after examining the CCTV footage. Police found that all the accused were communicating in Hindi. This prompted a team to visit Bihar and they managed to arrest one of the accused who has been forwarded to court.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Wife walks out of man's house over dowry demand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baliguda, June 13:** A woman, who had just got married June 9, returned to her parent's house after the husband and her in-laws demanded a bike as dowry. Sources informed Tuesday here that Devaki Dugal, a native of Baliguda village in the tribal-dominated Kandhamal district tied the nuptial knot Friday with Arjun Dugal.

However, a huge surprise was waiting for Devaki when she went to her husband's house. Upon her

arrival, the man and his parents demanded a bike as dowry from her family. A determined Devaki turned down the proposal, removed her mangal sutra and bangles and returned to her original home.

Sources said that Devaki pointed out that when the marriage was being finalised there were no discussions on providing a bike to the husband. Devaki informed that she had got engaged to Arjun two years back and during this time the latter had never demanded a bike from her family.

## ITI students develop e-trolleys for women vegetable vendors

PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, June 13:** Students of Industrial Training Institute (ITI) here have developed an e-trolley for women vegetable vendors. Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) deputy commissioner Ashirvad Parida launched the e-trolley on the institute campus in the presence of students and teachers Tuesday.

The e-trolley, which has been designed and developed by the in-

stitute with support of Ganjam Zilla Parishad, will be used by women vendors to carry vegetables and other items over long distances, principal Rajat Panigrahy said. "The e-trolley is designed to help street vendors, especially women, to transport their goods more easily and efficiently. It is also environmentally friendly since it does not produce any emissions," Panigrahy informed.

The battery-operated vehicle

can carry up to 300kg load and cover a distance of 50 km when it is fully charged, Panigrahy said and added that the e-trolley can also be pedaled. "The e-trolley is a promising new technology which has the potential to revolutionise public transportation. They can greatly reduce carbon footprint," Panigrahy informed.

"Such e-trolleys are likely to become even more popular in future," Parida added.

## Locals demand burn care treatment unit at MKCG

MANY PATIENTS WITH SERIOUS BURN INJURIES DIE EN ROUTE AFTER BEING REFERRED TO OTHER HOSPITALS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 13:** Despite the MKCG Medical College and Hospital being the lifeline for people in Ganjam and Gajapati districts, it does not have burn care unit. As a result all burn cases are referred to either the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack or to treatment centres in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Despite the state government facilitating treatment, by modernising the hospital, the lack of a burn care unit continues to haunt all. There have been many cases when severe burn patients have breathed their last en route to other



hospitals. Locals pointed out that the authorities or the Health department should immediately set up a centre for treatment of patients with burn injuries.

A plea to this effect has been filed by social worker Rabindra Kumar Mishra with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He has asked NHRC to

instruct the Odisha government to set up a burn care unit in MKCG at the earliest.

There is a high rate of burn injuries during summer. On many occasions, such patients are admitted to the General Ward at the MKCG as it would be too dangerous to send them to other hospitals. Just a couple of days back, a lady, identified as Supriya Bastarai of Raiponka village in Gajapati district was brought to the MKCG with severe burn injuries. However, the hospital refused to admit her as there were no treatment facilities. Another patient died while on the way to Cuttack.

February 9, 2021, 27 persons suf-

fered serious burn injuries in the Mendaraj bus tragedy under Golanthara police limits. All of them were brought to MKCG, but 12 of them died due to lack of treatment. Immediately after that the hospital authorities had announced the setting up of a burn care unit. However, it still remains a distant dream.

It should be pointed out that locals have repeatedly appealed to the Odisha government for a burn unit at the MKCG, but to no avail. Sources pointed out that at an average, 30 severe burn cases come to the MKCG every month. Only a few lucky ones manage to survive while many of them die en route to other hospitals.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETELGSUT-05E, Dated : 07.06.2023

**Name of work :** DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, MODIFICATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 25 KV ONE ALONG WITH SSP & SCADA IN CONNECTION WITH DOUBLING OF LINGARAJ SILO CONNECTIVITY OF NTPC LINE AND AUGMENTATION OF NTPC EXCHANGE YARD AND NTPC BLOCK CABIN YARD PHASE-II IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

**Approx. Cost of the work :** ₹ 1189.43 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 7,44,700/-, Minimum period of the Work : 12 Months.

**Tender closing date & time :** At 1200 hrs. on 29.06.2023.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's Letter Head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

The prospective tenderer(s) are advised to visit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check list) of Tender form (second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter-2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B/G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/GSU PR-34/CG/23-24 Angul

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. : eT-M-KUR-BBSSTNCLG-225-23

**Name of Work :** CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING OF BHUBANESWAR (BBS) STATION INCLUDING PLATFORMS, YARD, TRACKS, OFFICE BUILDINGS, RESERVATION OFFICE, CONCOURSE AREA, CIRCULATING AREA, WAITING HALLS, YARD FROM HOME SIGNAL TO HOME SIGNAL FOR PERIOD OF 03 YEARS (1096 DAYS).

**Advertised Value :** ₹ 17,20,20,959.72, EMD: ₹ 10,10,100.00, Tender Document Cost: ₹ 11,800.00, Period of Completion: 36 Months.

**Bidding Start Date :** 14.06.2023, **Date & time of tender closing :** At 1530 hrs. on 28.06.2023.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, PR-257/O/23-24 Khurda Road

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. : 06-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24

**Name of Work :** PROVISION OF AUXILIARY TRANSFORMERS (AT) AND ONE MODIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH AUTO SECTION IN JAKHAPURA (JKPR)-NERGUNDI (NRG), KHURDA ROAD (KUR)-BHUSANPUR (BSP) AND GOLANTHRA (GTA)-PALASA (PSA) SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION.

**Advertised Value :** ₹ 8,73,75,494.80, EMD: ₹ 5,86,900/-, Period of Completion: 365 Days.

**Bidding Start Date :** 14.06.2023, **Date & time of tender closing :** At 1300 hrs. on 28.06.2023.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-259/O/23-24 Khurda Road

No.1-173

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,**  
**NAKTIDEULA BLOCK, SAMBALPUR**  
**E-Procurement Notice**

**BID IDENTIFICATION No.: NAKTIDEUL/SBP/01/2023-24**  
No.2151/Dev/Dated: 09.06.2023

- The Block Development Officer, Naktideul Block, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Buildings, as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
- No. of Works : 01 (ONE)
- Tender Cost : Rs.6000/-
- Class of Contractor : "C" Class & "D" Class
- Date and time Available in Website & receipt of Bids: 12.00 Hrs. of 19.06.2023 to 17.00 Hrs. of 04.07.2023.
- Date of Opening of Tender: 06.07.2023 at 11.30 Hrs.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) only.
- Any corrigendum/addendum will be displayed in the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) only.

Sd./- Block Development Officer  
Naktideul Block, Sambalpur

OIPR-19159/11/0001/2324

No.1-173

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO.II, CUTTACK**

E-mail ID- [epwdcuttack2@gmail.com](mailto:epwdcuttack2@gmail.com), Tele/Fax No. (0671)- 2973399  
No.B-353- GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" procurement Notice

**e-procurement Notice for Road Work**

**Bid Identification No. S.E. CTC (R&B)-II-09 of 2023-24**

- Name of the work :- 01 No. of Road Work
- Estimated cost :- Rs.41,27,838/- (Civil)
- Period of completion :- 03 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date & time of sale & receipt of bid document :- From 21.06.2023 to 5 PM of 03.07.2023
- Last date/time of receipt of bids :- 5 PM of 03.07.2023
- Date & time of Opening of Bids :- 11 AM of 04.07.2023
- Name and address of :- Superintending Engineer, the Officer Inviting Bid, Cuttack (R&B) Division-II, Cuttack

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer,  
Cuttack (R&B) Division No.II

OIPR-34137/11/0007/2324



By your stumbling, the world is perfected.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Bunga Bunga Berlusconi

The death of Italy's Silvio Berlusconi, former Prime Minister and one of the most remarkably colorful personalities of that country since World War II, marks the end of an era of thrills and fun. At the same time he leaves a dangerous legacy that brackets him with the likes of former US President Donald Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, apart from several other leaders in different countries with mass appeal but with exposed autocratic tendencies. The stuff that leaders of the ilk of Berlusconi are made of is immense personal wealth, control of the media, carefully-crafted personality cult, mass appeal, brazen disregard for the laws of the land, financial irregularities and penchant for changing the laws to evade punishment. Added to the list is an unabashed display of amorous pursuits and involvement in sex scandals. His infamous 'Bunga Bunga' parties with truckloads of young women brought in were always newsworthy.

Berlusconi's career was tainted by countless allegations of corruption, tax fraud conviction and mafia links. A Wikipedia page on the legal cases he faced runs to over 18,000 words showing how deeply he was mired in controversial and illegal business deals. Yet, he earned the distinction of being one of the dominant figures in Italy's postwar politics. The Milan prosecutor's office, which handled many criminal cases in which Berlusconi was involved, said a few hours after his death that he was "a man who marked the history of Italy." The former Prime Minister died with one unresolved case still pending.

Berlusconi was accused of false accounting, bribing tax officials and magistrates and involvement in the mafia bomb attacks of 1992 and 1993. Yet, despite these very serious allegations, he had a remarkably successful political career. This has made some experts comment that he represented certain typical Italian characteristics that do not make much of rules and value unconventional, uninhibited approach to life.

At a time when social media has become a powerful tool in the hands of politicians, especially those who thrive on polarisation politics, Berlusconi could be regarded as a forerunner in the art of propaganda and demagoguery. He began first as a crooner, a showman and then became a real estate giant. Soon, he established his media empire and also became the owner of one of Italy's big football clubs. He manipulated and dominated Italian politics for over two decades.

Berlusconi's sexual escapades eventually tarnished his image and he gradually yielded political space to far-right groups. This was because the liberal democrats had long become discredited in Italian politics for their mismanagement of economy and incompetent governance. He represents a brand of politics where there is no Opposition politician of stature to challenge the main protagonist who charms the electorate with his oratory and a captive media. So many countries, including India, are witnessing such a political phenomenon.

He cultivated friendship with leaders of other countries, including Putin. His intimacy with the latter was such that he even supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which was an embarrassment for Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni who does not subscribe to his view, though his party is her alliance partner.

No wonder Putin was among the first foreign heads of state to pay his respects, in a rare, lengthy letter to Berlusconi. His words show the affinity between the two autocratic leaders: "For me, Silvio was a dear person, a true friend. During each of our meetings, I was literally charged with his incredible vitality, optimism and sense of humour."

Berlusconi's sense of humour often bordered on narcissism and salaciousness. He joked about his funeral at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, where the body of Jesus had been brought after crucifixion. In a humorous vein, he promised to bring a "bus full of whores," for the footballers of his club, if they could win the championship, which they did.

The world has lost a dangerously charming and colourful politician.

### WISDOM CORNER

The way you see people is the way you treat them, and the way you treat them is what they become.

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important.

BERTRAND RUSSELL

There is nothing with which every man is so afraid as getting to know how enormously much he is capable of doing and becoming.

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

### WORDSWORTH

#### Josser

It is easy to become lost in the fog surrounding the source of this word. There are — or at least, there have been — several meanings to it, which don't all come from the same source. At one time josser was a mildly contemptuous word for a man of the cloth, a clergyman or padre, a term that was better known in Australia than elsewhere. This came from the seaports of the Malay peninsula, having been taken from the pidgin English joss for a Chinese idol or religious image (hence joss stick and good joss, meaning good luck). Joss isn't a Chinese word, however, but from deos, an archaic form of the Portuguese word for God, which makes the name for a clergyman entirely apt, if deviously derived. Then there's the sense of joss for the boss, which is from an obscure English dialect word that was taken to Australia in the middle of the nineteenth century. Our word is used in Polari (or Palari, or other spellings), which was once the private language of showmen and travelling folk. The word is originally from Romany, the language of the Gypsies, and literally means an outsider; it was used for a person who wasn't born to the trade but who joined a circus or travelling fair as an adult. A member of a circus community might once have said (for Polari is now virtually extinct), "Nante palari before the josser cul", "Don't speak Palari before that outsider". There's yet another meaning for josser, for a man, often an old man or one regarded with mild contempt (so it's quite close in meaning to geezer). This is the sense that most often turns up in British and Irish literature during a period of about half a century from the 1880s on. An example is in Five Tales, by John Galsworthy (for whom it was a favourite word): "He lowered himself to the ground, and moved in the bluish darkness towards the gate of his daughter's house. Bob Pillin walked beside him, thinking: 'Poor old josser, he is gettin' a back number!' " Was this a variation on the clergyman sense, or from the English dialect word for the boss, or from the circus sense? Nobody seems to know.

#### LOL

#### Looking for trouble

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred. Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and



bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "What are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?" The boy replied, "Why, yes."

# AS IF THE POOR MATTERED

## FOCUS ECONOMIC POLICY



Arvind Subramanian

TO ENSURE A JUST CLIMATE TRANSITION, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE WORLD'S POOREST ECONOMIES BENEFITED ENORMOUSLY FROM GLOBALISATION

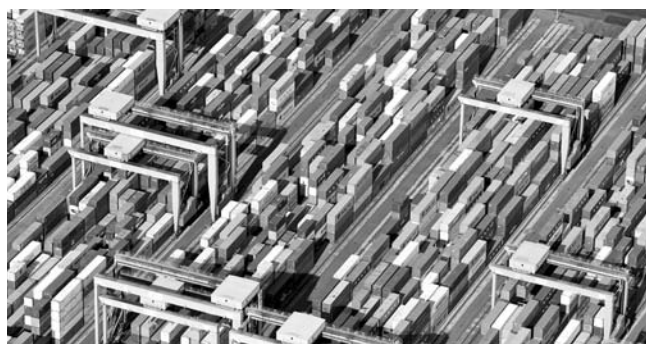
As neoliberalism swiftly gives way to a resurgence of industrial policy in advanced economies, the perspective of low-income countries is being ignored. As in neoliberalism's heyday, a subtle form of intellectual imperialism is skewing the global economic debate toward the interests of major powers.

If developing countries' perspectives were given due consideration, the debate about neoliberalism and industrial policies such as the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) would likely play out very differently. After all, the neoliberal Washington Consensus that took hold in the 1980s delivered tangible benefits to the world's poorest countries. The turn away from it could be similarly beneficial if we draw the right lessons from the neoliberal era.

Neoliberals' embrace of markets and globalisation has been widely blamed for a wide range of problems, such as rising inequality, concentration of power, the decline of manufacturing, recurring financial crises, and even the rise of identity politics. But while neoliberalism's liabilities merit serious debate, its balance sheet includes quite a few assets as well, particularly when it comes to the world's poorest regions. As Dev Patel, Justin Sandefur, and I have argued, the era of hyper-globalisation enabled developing countries to reverse a 200-year trend and catch up with their richer counterparts, resulting in the fastest reduction in poverty ever recorded.

The rising tide of global trade lifted developing countries' exports, enabling them to escape economic underdevelopment. While China's success story is well-known, India's remarkable transformation offers an equally relevant example of globalisation's transformative power. Once considered inward-looking and uncompetitive, India achieved 13 per cent average annual growth (in dollar terms) in exports — not just of its fabled IT services but also of its manufacturing output — for nearly 25 years. As economic miracles go, that is hard to beat. Such was the power of globalisation.

It is to be expected that nativist politicians and thinkers in the West focus solely on the effects of neoliberalism on their own countries. But progressive intellectuals' will-



Neoliberals' embrace of markets and globalisation has been widely blamed for a wide range of problems, such as rising inequality, concentration of power, the decline of manufacturing, recurring financial crises, and even the rise of identity politics. But while neoliberalism's liabilities merit serious debate, its balance sheet includes quite a few assets as well, particularly when it comes to the world's poorest regions

ingness to overlook its positive welfare effects in developing countries is surprising and disconcerting. Any form of cosmopolitanism, whether guided by the utilitarian principle of maximising benefits for the greatest number of people, or inspired by John Rawls' focus on benefiting the least advantaged, would credit globalisation with bringing unprecedented prosperity to billions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

To be fair, intellectuals in developing countries have also celebrated the demise of neoliberalism. While their reasons for downplaying its positive impact remain unclear, this may be an example of what Lant Pritchett calls isomorphic mimicry, whereby they reinforce the intellectual imperialism of their rich-country counterparts. Groupthink is not the monopoly of Davos Man; it afflicts global progressives, too.

A similar dynamic is playing out with the United States' newfound embrace of industrial policy. Setting aside the IRA's domestic political ramifications, much of the conversation about the Biden administration's signature climate legislation has focused on its implications for the US-China rivalry, the tensions between the US and the European Union, and the EU's internal politics. Suppose, instead, that the IRA

was assessed according to the needs of a typical low- or lower-middle-income country that is a net energy importer and reliant on fossil fuels. In this context, all that would matter is its impact on the cost of renewable energy. By fostering technological innovation and facilitating economies of scale, the IRA could drive down energy prices and expand developing countries' energy access, bolster their fiscal positions, and strengthen their climate-mitigation efforts. But the IRA's role as a provider of global public goods has been overlooked.

We tend to forget that the renewables revolution is first and foremost an energy revolution. Enhancing low-income countries' access to energy grids would deliver enormous welfare gains. Moreover, because most developing countries subsidise energy, especially electricity, renewables could lower costs substantially, benefiting these countries' public finances.

To expedite the green transition, it is crucial to lower the cost of renewable energy. Given major economies' already-strained balance sheets, it is unrealistic to expect substantial climate financing for developing countries. The recent debates about expanding the World Bank's lending capacity should puncture ambitions about

large financial flows from rich to poor: The practical solution is to ensure that renewables can compete with fossil fuels — and fast. Only technological progress, supported by IRA-type industrial policies, can accelerate this process.

Without affordable, competitive renewable energy, the green transition is a non-starter. But to achieve a just transition, we must ensure that new technologies are accessible to all and are not driven solely by the proprietary interests of private capital. Developing countries' own policies will be critical to achieving this goal.

It is instructive to compare the US approach to industrial policy and the EU's (arguably neoliberal) strategy, which relies on carbon pricing. Unlike the IRA, it is unclear whether the EU plan could provide the global public good of cheaper renewable energy. What is clear, however, is that Europe's carbon border taxes will undermine developing countries' exports of carbon-intensive goods. That is why the anti-neoliberal US policy is better for low-income economies than the European approach.

While the IRA's potentially protectionist aims and the risk of worsening tensions between the US and China have little relevance to low- and middle-income countries, any breakdown of the international economic order would have severe consequences for the world's poorest economies. For this reason, the US, Europe, and China must reach some modus vivendi that permits the subsidisation of renewables while minimizing the burden imposed on others. But the cost of renewable energy itself will have the most significant impact on developing countries' prospects.

Today's policy debate is marked by certainty about the failures of neoliberalism and confusion about what comes next. From the perspective of developing countries, however, it is possible to mourn the death of neoliberalism while simultaneously embracing its antithetical successor.

The writer, Distinguished Fellow at the Center for Global Development, is currently advising the Tamil Nadu government on power sector reform and the green transition.

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### IN JEST THIS

# An amino acid may help us live longer

If you haven't heard of taurine, don't worry. Until a few days ago, neither had I.

If someone had offered it to me, I would have politely declined. I generally avoid anything containing the word "urine."

But taurine has nothing to do with urine. And taurine is unavoidable—I already have it in my body, though not as much as I did in my younger years.

Taurine is an amino acid that our body produces naturally. It helps us in a number of ways, including keeping our central nervous system functioning and supporting immune health. Taurine is considered a dietary supplement and can be found in many energy drinks. Many people are giving themselves a taurine-boost by buying these supplements and drinks.

It's possible, however, to get taurine for free. You just need to do two things: (1) wear a monkey costume; and (2) visit the lab of Dr Vijay Yadav at Columbia University in New York City.

Yadav has been studying the ef-

fects of taurine on monkeys, mice and even worms.

It's risky, of course, to wear a monkey costume in New York City. You may be captured and taken to the zoo. Much safer to wear the costume in New Delhi, where monkeys are more common and your chances of getting into a taurine-testing lab are just as high. That's because Yadav has been collaborating with a number of researchers around the world, including some at the National Institute of Immunology in Delhi.

It's quite likely that the monkeys getting taurine-boosts are based in Delhi. They're sitting in a lab somewhere, scratching each other's backs as they wait for the next delivery of energy drinks.

Don't feel sorry for the monkeys though—at least not the ones getting high-dose taurine supplements. Save your sympathy for the monkeys in the control group—the taurine-deprived monkeys.

Yadav and his team compared two groups of middle-aged monkeys and found that the ones who had re-

ceived six months of taurine treatment showed improved bone density, sugar metabolism and immune function. They were healthier and ready to tackle any challenges that life gave them. The taurine-deprived monkeys, on the other hand, were counting down the days to retirement.

While the middle-aged monkeys received a significant health-boost from taurine, the middle-aged mice took it to another level. One day, they were lying around, complaining about aches and pains; the next day, they were ready to run in the Delhi Road Race for Rodents. The mice that received taurine were lighter, stronger and less anxious than the other mice. They also had fewer zombie cells—old cells that are damaged but refuse to die. Their average lifespan increased by 10 per cent for males and 12 per cent for females. Worms also lived longer. Yadav and his co-researchers published their results in the Journal Science.

"For the last 25 years, scientists have been trying to find factors that

not only let us live longer, but also increase health-span, the time we remain healthy in our old age," said Yadav, assistant professor of genetics & development at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. "This study suggests that taurine could be an elixir of life within us that helps us live longer and healthier lives."

The key word is "suggests." What works on monkeys and mice may not work on humans. But the researchers have done an observational study, looking at the relationship between taurine levels and about 50 health parameters in 12,000 European adults aged 60 and over. They found that people with higher taurine levels were healthier; with fewer cases of type 2 diabetes, lower obesity levels, reduced hypertension, and lower levels of inflammation.

The next step is to conduct a randomised clinical trial in humans. I'm very excited about this, because there's a chance that I could get a free taurine-boost without wearing a monkey costume.

### Nuclear capabilities

Sir, This refers to "China's nuke arsenal growing," **Orissa POST**, June 13. China continues to rapidly expand its nuclear weapons arsenal, as does Pakistan albeit slowly, but India remains confident of its strategic deterrence capabilities with induction of new-generation Agni ballistic missiles and nuclear-capable Rafale fighter jets. China now has 410 nuclear warheads, while Pakistan has 170 and India 164. Nuclear deterrence, of course, can't be reduced to simplistic counting of the number of warheads, which themselves are just estimates, though well informed ones, because countries keep them closely guarded. With long unresolved "active" borders with both Pakistan and China, which are expanding their nuclear arsenal, India needs robust and assured "second-strike capabilities" in keeping with its declared policy of no "first-use" of nuclear weapons. India has been taking steps to consolidate its nuclear delivery systems, especially the Agni series of ballistic missiles. Just last week, the first "pre-induction night launch" of the new-generation Agni-Prime, which has a strike range from 1,000 to 2,000-km, was undertaken by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC). The third leg of the "nuclear triad," however, remains a major concern. India, currently has only one nuclear-powered submarine armed with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. In contrast, countries like the US, Russia and China have a fleet of much larger SSBNs armed with well over 5000-km range missiles.

N Sathasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON

### Social menace

Sir, This refers to "Child labour in all forms to be abolished: CM", **Orissa POST**, June 13. Kudos to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for thinking better late than never to abolish one kind of social crime that now exists in various parts of our country known as child labour. I can only recall the sorry plight of child bidi workers in West Bengal's Murshidabad district. What a horrible financial conditions of their parents. In my opinion, while attempting to abolish child labour, the respective governments should take the full responsibility of providing financial assistance to the people belonging to the lower strata of the society so that they can dare think of sending their children to schools instead of devouring their golden childhood days. Needless to add, no amount of lip sympathy will serve the desired purpose. More the NGOs work on this project, the better it will be to address the problem.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST

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# national



Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia should take concrete action to control rising airfares rather than 'hiding behind' advisories and quoting 'random figures'

## COURT ALLOWS KARTI TO GO ABROAD

A Delhi court has granted permission to Congress MP Karti Chidambaram, who is an accused in the Aircel-Maxis and INX Media cases, to travel to Spain and the United Kingdom from June 25 to July 17, noting that he hasn't violated any of the conditions imposed upon him by the court before



### of the day quote

The various programmes undertaken by the Narendra Modi government over the last nine years benefitted every section of society

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION SHIPPING MINISTER

The implementation of master plan on ecotourism needs to be expedited to fully realise its potential on employment and revenue generation in the state

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHO | HIMACHAL CM

A policy is being formulated to shift government warehouses outside the cities

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

## Oppn slams Centre over Dorsey's claims



BJP leads in embarrassing the country... We will continue to foil BJP's conspiracy to end democracy in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey's claim that the Indian government pressured the micro-blogging platform during a farmers' protest triggered a political row Tuesday, with the Opposition accusing the Centre of "suppressing" social media and the ruling BJP charging the former Twitter CEO with making "false" allegations.

Citing Dorsey's remarks, the Congress said the government should stop "suppressing" social media and journalists and demanded answers from the Modi government over the issue. The Opposition party alleged that there cannot be a bigger proof of the "weakening of democracy" in the country by targeting institutions.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the political progeny of the BJP-RSS, who stood against Indians and fought in favour of the British in the freedom movement, should not pretend to be nationalists over former Twitter CEO's remarks. "BJP leads in embarrassing the country... We will continue to foil BJP's conspiracy to end democracy in the country," Kharge said in a tweet in Hindi.

At a press conference, Congress spokesperson and head of the party's social media department Supriya Shrinimate said the government should stop suppressing social media and coaxing large sections of the media into sub-

The media eco system is being manipulated in an 'outrageous manner'

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

mission." Opposition voices are regularly being suppressed by the government," she alleged.

Shrinimate said Twitter had banned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's account after "pressure" from the government, and alleged that the "truth" has come out after Dorsey's claim. "The prime minister is afraid because crores (of rupees) have been spent to build his image and that gets demolished when such truth comes out," she said, and added that Dorsey would not benefit anyway by speaking out now.

Rubbing the claims, the Minister of State for IT Chandrasekhar tweeted that Dorsey's Twitter regime "had a problem accepting the sovereignty of Indian law".

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad denied Dorsey's allegations. Prasad, who was the Union IT minister between May 2014 and July 2021, lashed out at the Congress for doing politics on the "sacked" CEO of the company.

Several Opposition leaders slammed the government over Dorsey's claims with TMC spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien tagging the ex-Twitter CEO's remarks and alleged that "Modi and his boys were not only intimidating farmers during the protests, see what else they did!"

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury hit out at the government and said the media eco system is being manipulated in an "outrageous manner".

## ED raids TN minister, Stalin slams BJP

V Senthil Balaji, DMK strongman from Karur district, said he was not aware of what the officials had come searching for at his premises and assured to extend total cooperation in the probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 13: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday conducted searches against Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji and some others as part of a money laundering investigation and held multi-city searches, prompting Chief Minister M K Stalin to slam the BJP for "backdoor intimidation" of political rivals, as he charged the ED with "political intention" behind its action.

Official sources said searches were conducted here and Balaji's native Karur, besides in Erode. The minister's office room at the state Secretariat here was among the locations raided by the ED of



officials. This was the second time in five years that officials belonging to a Central probe agency held searches inside the Secretariat. Income Tax authorities had conducted searches at the seat of power in December 2016 as part of its action against then Chief Secretary P Rama Mohana Rao, days after the death of then Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.

Balaji, DMK strongman from Karur district, said he was not aware of what the officials had come searching for at his premises and assured to extend total cooperation in the probe. Stalin criticised the agency action against his colleague.

"The BJP's politics of backdoor intimidation of those it is unable

to face politically will not succeed. The time that they themselves will realise it is nearing," the Chief Minister, also president of the ruling DMK, said in a statement.

He particularly took strong objection to the ED officials conducting searches at the office room of Balaji at the Secretariat, saying it was a "blot on federalism." With Balaji promising full cooperation to the investigating agency, "it is not known what was the need for holding searches at the Minister's room in the Secretariat," Stalin added.

He said the BJP "avenges" political forces opposed to it using investigating agencies. The raids were being carried out at Balaji's premises in state capital Chennai and his native Karur. Besides these, ED officials also searched the house of a Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) lorry contractor in Erode district. State-run TASMAC is the retailer of liquor in Tamil Nadu.

Balaji also holds the Prohibition and Excise portfolio. The Supreme Court had earlier allowed police and ED probe into an alleged cash-for-jobs scam against Balaji, who was earlier with the AIADMK. He was

Transport Minister in the late Jayalalithaa-led Cabinet.

The ED conducted the searches under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said. Last month, the Income Tax department too had searched people close to Balaji in the state. Responding to the ED searches today, Balaji said he was "ready to extend full cooperation" to the investigating agency.

"With what intention they have come, what are they looking for, we will see. Let it get over," he told reporters soon after the sleuths started the searches. Whether it be the IT or ED, Balaji assured full cooperation to the authorities concerned, adding whatever explanation sought by officials based on documents, will be provided. The Minister, who went for a morning walk, said he took a taxi back home after receiving a message about the raids on his premises.

The ED officials were accompanied by central paramilitary personnel during the raids. Last month, Income Tax officials were allegedly attacked in Karur when they went to conduct searches at some places linked to Balaji.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Two acquitted in Best Bakery case

Mumbai: A sessions court here Tuesday acquitted two accused in the case related to the 2002 Best Bakery massacre in Gujarat where 14 people had been killed during the post-Godhra riots. Harshad Solanki and Mafat Gohil were acquitted of all charges by Additional Sessions Judge M G Deshpande. During the earlier phase of the trial, eyewitnesses had specified the role played by some of the accused, based on which they were convicted. No such specific role was attributed to the present accused, the court said.

#### Pant new Union Health Secretary

New Delhi: Senior IAS officer Sudhansh Pant has been named as the new Union Health Secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre Tuesday. Pant, a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Rajasthan cadre, is currently the Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. He has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

#### Three arrested

Muzaffarnagar (UP): The Muzaffarnagar police have arrested three persons, including two brothers, after they threatened to behead a burqa-clad woman who had gone to buy alcohol from a liquor shop. A video clip of the incident has gone viral on social media. The woman, in her 30s, had apparently gone to buy alcohol from a liquor shop when she was stopped by Baku a.k.a Shahnawaz (40), Adil Ahmed (30), and his brother Sajid Ahmed (35).

#### Bodies found

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police, after a maritime and aerial search operation lasting over 22 hours, have recovered the bodies of all the four minor boys who were sucked into the Arabian Sea off Juhu's Koliwada on Monday evening, the BMC Disaster Control said here Tuesday. Earlier on Tuesday, the police recovered the bodies of Dharmesh Valji Faujiya and Shubham Yogesh Bhogania, both 16, and they were sent to the R.N. Cooper Hospital.

#### Driver shot dead

New Delhi: A 38-year-old taxi driver was shot dead inside his car by a man over personal enmity in Delhi's Dwarka area, an official said Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Dharendra, a resident of Galibpur. According to police, on Monday around 7:30 p.m., the incident of murder took place near Khairi mod.

## Satpura Bhawan fire: Nath for probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, June 13: The Madhya Pradesh Congress Tuesday alleged "corruption" and "foul play" behind the massive fire at Bhopal's Satpura Bhawan, a key state government building, that engulfed thousands of files and assets.

The BJP-ruled government rejected the charges and said the "intentional" angle insinuated by the Opposition doesn't hold water as nearly 4,000 employees were present in the building when the fire broke out on Monday.

The blaze at Satpura Bhawan, located in front of the state secretariat housing the office of the chief minister, is fully doused, said officials on Tuesday. "This is another example of corruption. The question is whether the fire started or it was set (by someone). So far it has been said that 12,000 files got burnt. Don't know how many thousands of files have been burnt. What was its goal? What was the purpose?"



This is a big corruption case," MP Congress chief Kamal Nath said.

Nath demanded a probe by an independent agency. He alleged that authorities were ill-prepared to deal with such a situation. "Their preparedness is only for making money," he said.

When asked about Congress' allegations, MP Home Minister

Narottam Mishra, who is also the state government spokesman, said, "The Congress doesn't participate in helping but looks for opportunities of politics. About 4,000 employees work in the office. Who will take kerosene and petrol to set the fire? I pity their intelligence."

He called the Congress' accusations condemnable. "The chief minister made all the efforts. Even the Air Force was ready and all the arrangements were in place," he said. The minister said that the destroyed files will be recreated as the data is available in electronic form at different places. It will take time and effort but all files would be created, he asserted.

A high-level committee will probe into the fire and submit its report in three days, he said. Prima facie, a short-circuit in the air-conditioning unit caused the fire, Mishra said. The home minister said that alternative arrangements for the fire-hit office are being made.

## Driver kills passenger for praising PM, Yogi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mirzapur, June 13: In a shocking incident, a driver allegedly crushed a man to death because the latter objected to him criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.



The accused has been identified as Amjad while the victim is Rajesh Dubey, 59. The deceased had gone to attend his brother Rakesh Dubey's son's wedding in Mirzapur in a car driven by the accused when the incident took place on Monday evening.

Mirzapur SP Santosh Mishra said that there were some arguments over politics among the occupants of the car which apparently irked the driver who started criticising the Prime Minister and the chief minister. The victim allegedly objected to the criticism of the leaders and he got into a heated argument with the driver.

After some time, other passengers got down at their respective destinations and Rajesh Dubey was the only passenger left in the car. After some time, Rajesh also got down from the car as he was walking towards his house when Amjad ran the car over him. Dubey died on the spot.

When they learnt of the incident, the local people they staged a demonstration of the Mirzapur-Prayagraj highway. Senior officials reached the spot and pacified them with the assurance of action against the accused.

## 4 dead as chemical tanker explodes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, June 13: Four people were killed and three injured when a chemical-laden tanker caught fire following an accident and exploded on Pune-Mumbai Expressway on Tuesday, police said. The busy carriageway was cleared for traffic after a few hours. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed grief over the deaths. The accident took place on the expressway stretch between Lonavala and Khandala, an official said.

The tanker caught fire following an accident and exploded causing fiery balls of the chemical to fall on the motorists travelling on the road below, he said. Four motorists on the road below sustained injuries, of which three died, while one occupant of the tanker was killed and two others in the vehicle were injured, said the official from Lonavala police station.



Fadnavis, who also holds the home portfolio, called the accident "unfortunate". "Three other persons were injured in the accident and are being treated in a local hospital. I pray for their betterment," he said on social media.

The state police, highway police, personnel from INS Shivaji and the fire brigade are at the spot and the fire has been brought under control, he said. The traffic from one side of the highway has resumed. Another side will be opened soon. The situation is being monitored by the state, he added.

The police official said the vehicular traffic on the expressway was stopped due to the blaze and cranes are being used to clear scattered objects on the road. "The clutter is being removed with the help of cranes and the vehicular traffic on the road will be resumed in next 15 to 20 minutes," the official said around 3:45 pm.

## Live-in couples cannot seek divorce: Kerala HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, June 13: The Kerala High Court has held that the law does not recognise live-in relationships as marriage; it considers as a legal union only weddings solemnised according to personal or secular laws.

Therefore, a couple that lives together by virtue of an agreement cannot claim it to be a marriage nor seek a divorce based on that, the high court said. The ruling by a bench of Justices A Muhammed Mustaque and Sophy Thomas came on an interfaith couple's appeal against a family court order dismissing their plea for divorce on the ground that their marriage was not solemnised under the Special

Marriage Act.

The couple, one a Hindu and the other Christian, had been living together since 2006 under a registered agreement and have a 16-year-old child. As they no longer wanted to continue their relationship, they had moved the family court for divorce. Disposing of their appeal, the high court said, "The law is yet to recognise the live-in relationship as marriage."

The law accords recognition only if the marriage is solemnised in accordance with personal law or in accordance with secular law like the Special Marriage Act. "If the parties decide to live together by virtue of an agreement, that by itself will not qualify them to claim it as a marriage and claim di-



orce thereon." The high court said that while there may be a situation where such a relationship qualifies for creation of reciprocal obligation or duties else-

where, that does not mean it can be recognised for the purpose of divorce. The bench further said that law relating to divorce is peculiar in our country and cus-

tomised through legislation.

"The extra-judicial divorce followed in some communities also got recognition through statutory laws. All other forms of divorce are of statutory nature. The statute only recognises or allows the parties to divorce if they are married in accordance with the recognised form of marriage applicable as per the personal law or secular law," it said in its order dated June 8.

The high court also held that in the present case, the family court did not have the jurisdiction to entertain such a claim for separation in the first place and instead of dismissing the couple's plea, it should have returned the petition by saying it was not maintainable. "The family court enactment

was made to resolve all disputes related to marriage and family affairs thereon. The marriage referred to in the preamble of the Family Court Act only denotes marriage as recognised by the law. "Any marriage entered into between the parties through a contract has, so far, not got any recognition under law for the purpose of granting divorce. In such circumstances, the family court also does not have jurisdiction to entertain such a claim for divorce," the bench said. It directed the family court to return the couple's plea holding that it was not maintainable. "The parties are given liberty to work out their remedy elsewhere. Accordingly, this appeal is disposed of," the bench said.

# Delhi govt brings new scheme to settle pending water bills



PRESS TRUST INDIA

**New Delhi, June 13:** The Delhi government will bring a one-time settlement scheme for the water bills of 11.7 lakh domestic consumers who have arrears, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat, Kejriwal said the government plans to implement the scheme from August 1 and the consumers will receive the corrected bills after that.

"Pending water bills increased in large numbers. This happened following the covid pandemic, when the water meters could not be read on a regular basis. Either the meters were not read properly or people got the wrong bills with huge pending. There are around 27.6 lakh domestic metres, of which 11.7 lakh people have huge arrears. ₹5,737 crore arrears is pending. The scheme will be launched from August 1. People will get new bills. People who will not pay their bills from August, they will have to pay the full arrear amount," Kejriwal added.

Explaining the scheme, the chief minister said it will be divided into two sub-heads -- one will cover those who have two or more correct readings and the other will cover those who have one or no correct meter reading.

"Had we gone about correcting every bill, it would have taken us more than 100 years to rectify those. Through this scheme, we will settle the bills of 11.7 lakh consumers. In fact, of these 11.7 lakh consumers, seven lakh will get zero bills following the implementation of the scheme," he said.

Kejriwal said the scheme has been approved by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and will come to the cabinet soon. After the implementation of the scheme, the consumers will be given three months to pay the bills. "If they fail to pay the bills within the three months, they will have to pay the bills with arrears," Kejriwal said. He added that the government is taking steps to stop wrong meter readings.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat, Kejriwal said the government plans to implement the scheme from August 1 and the consumers will receive the corrected bills after that.

# Rising mercury impacts power supply in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

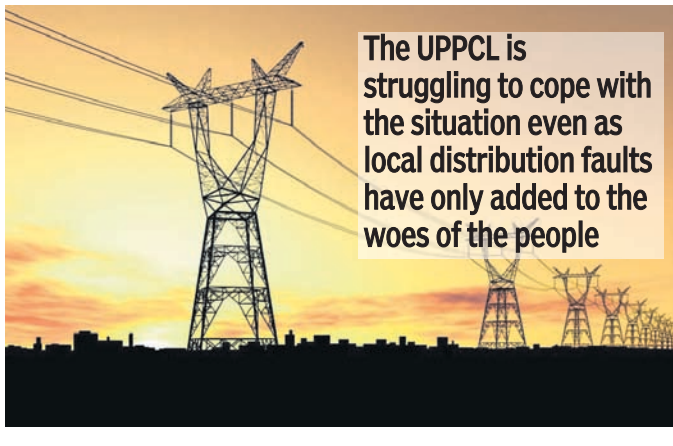
**Lucknow, June 13:** Rising temperatures in Uttar Pradesh are driving up electricity demand in the state to record levels even as the power generation in the state has dipped due to breakdown of some power production units.

The UP Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) is struggling to cope with the situation even as local distribution faults have only added to the woes of the people.

The power demand in the state set a new record Saturday night when it surpassed last year's highest demand witnessed in September.

"The maximum demand was recorded to be 26,672 MW on Saturday at 10.55 p.m. and this was more than the highest peak demand of 26,589 MW recorded on September 9, 2022," senior UPPCL official said.

"As the fresh spell of heat continues, people are increasingly relying on air-conditioners for relief. The power infrastructure is overstrained because of which, reports of transformers catching fire, cables getting burnt and overhead wires melting, causing power outages, are coming



The UPPCL is struggling to cope with the situation even as local distribution faults have only added to the woes of the people

from various parts of the state. Instructions have been issued to promptly fix all the faults," the official said.

Though UPPCL officials claim that the power demand is being met with no additional load shedding, there are reports that rostering is taking place in villages and small cities where local breakdowns are also maximum because of the power infrastructure being ill-equipped to bear the increased load. "It is expected the peak demand in the state will further increase in the state in the days to come," the official said.

## G20 SUMMIT

# 'Waste-to-wonder' park, fountains to beautify Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 13:** As part of the beautification drive for the upcoming G20 summit here, the New Delhi Municipal Council is building a 'waste-to-wonder' park and installing water fountains at several intersections in the national capital.

With India presiding over the G20 bloc for a year, the beautification project will enable the NDMC to showcase Delhi's unique heritage, NDMC Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay told PTI.

A 'waste to wonder' park is being built in Delhi's upmarket Shanti Path, which will exhibit sculptures made of scrap material. The different sculptures will depict the national animals and birds of all the G20 countries. These art pieces for the G20 park have been conceptualised and curated by a team of renowned national-level artists with experience in waste-to-wonder projects, Upadhyay said.

"Alongside each piece, an information plate will be placed mentioning the animal, its real picture and its importance for the country concerned. The details of the artists will also be displayed," the NDMC vice chairman said.

The NDMC has also erected four sculptures made out of waste material at different intersections in the city, while the installation of fountains is in progress, Upadhyay said.

India assumed the year-long presidency of G20 on December 1. More than 200 meetings are sched-



uled to be held at 55 locations across the country and the summit will be hosted in Delhi in September 2023. The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union.

# UP govt to celebrate yoga week from June 15 to 21

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 13:** Uttar Pradesh will celebrate Yoga Week on a large scale in the entire state for a week from June 15 to 21.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed that a unique feature will be that combined yoga practise will be prioritised at tourist destinations associated with the state's ancient culture, historical sites, banks of significant rivers, lakes, ponds, and all Amrit Sarovars, as well as locations rich in scenic beauty.

In addition, video links of the Common Yoga Protocol are also proposed to be disseminated for the convenience and awareness of people, a government spokesman said.

On June 20, a special campaign for cleanliness will be launched by the department of urban development, rural development, and Panchayati Raj

in coordination with local educational institutions.

Celebrities, athletes, yoga gurus, and known members of cultural establishments will work in these programmes as collaborators and influencers to spread awareness of the value of daily yoga practise among the general public, the spokesman said.

Daily group yoga sessions will also take place at the same time from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. in public parks. In addition, extensive yoga programmes will be held on university campuses.

Major universities, colleges, and school-colleges in the state will also host yoga-related seminars and workshops on topics such as the application of yoga to modern lifestyles, stress and mental trauma management, elocution competitions, Rangoli/poster competitions, essay writing competitions, slogan writing competitions, and speech competitions.



During the Yoga Week, large-scale group yoga practise programmes will be organised at all district headquarters

# UP to have fine dining restaurants on rail coaches

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 13:** For food connoisseurs looking for some unique fine dining experience, the railways will soon provide a new food joint with an unmatched ambience.

As part of non-fare revenue opportunity in Uttar Pradesh, the Indian Railways (IR) is giving its scrapped or discarded train coaches on a lease for three to five years to restaurant owners, who have liberty to turn the coaches into an exotic-looking restaurants.

Apart from this, the IR is going to start an open-air railway museum on its premises, which would enlighten visitors about railways history and previous mechanisms that helped India's largest transport organisation to operate on mammoth scale.

According to railway officials, stations like Charbagh, Gomti Nagar, Sidhauri (Sitapur), Gorakhpur, Varanasi junction, Varanasi city, Agra Cantt and Jhansi will have coach restaurants within one or two months.

# Uttar Pradesh to emerge as biggest ethanol producer



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 13:** Uttar Pradesh is all set to emerge as the biggest ethanol producer in the country with around 100 operational distilleries in the ongoing 2023-24 fiscal year.

Additional chief secretary, sugarcane and excise, Sanjay Bhoosreddy said that as many as 85 distilleries are currently in operational stage in UP. Another 15 distilleries are scheduled to get operational in the next few months. The 100 distilleries will be both

The state government, at the same time, planned to promote grain-based distilleries given the large stocks of paddy and wheat

Records show that ethanol production in UP touched 134 crore litres in 2022-23 which was highest in the country

sugarcane-based and dual mode' (based on cane as well as grain).

Moreover, the state government has also set a target of increasing the number of distilleries in the state to 140 within a span of next three years. The increase would primarily be driven by investments which the state received during the global investor summit which was organized earlier this year, Bhoosreddy said.

This is expected to go up to 160 crore litres in 2023-24. As a matter of fact, the state government has been pushing for the establishment of additional fuel storage facilities in two zones -- one between Gorakhpur-Basti-Azamgarh stretch and the other at the Meerut-Moradabad belt.



SPLENDID VIEW: Tourists visit the Taj Mahal during extreme weather conditions on a summer day in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

# 2K exhaust fans removed at Tihar to avoid untoward incidents

**AFTER THE BRUTAL MURDER OF TAJPURIYA INSIDE THE PRISON MAY 2, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DELHI PRISONS ISSUED A CIRCULAR TO REMOVE "DANGEROUS OBJECTS" FROM WARDS OF TIHAR JAIL THAT CAN BE USED BY INMATES TO MAKE IMPROVISED WEAPONS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 13:** Replacing over 2,000 exhaust fans with plastic ones and installing lights at dark spots are among the measures the Tihar Jail has taken to prevent incidents like the recent murder of jailed gangster Tullu Tajpuriya, officials said Tuesday.

The Public Works Department (PWD) will be carrying out the work. It has floated tenders for

Central Jail number 1 of Tihar and more are in the offing. Once the tender is awarded the work has to be completed within a month, the officials added.

According to prison officials, keeping the safety of inmates in mind and to prevent a repetition of such incidents in the near future, the Tihar Jail administration got more than 2,000 exhaust fans removed from the wards housing the barracks where inmates are lodged.



"More than 2,000 exhaust fans installed in the wards of the Tihar jails have been removed and these will be replaced by plastic exhaust fans, which will be installed by the PWD by this month. The process of removing the exhaust fans started after gangster Tullu Tajpuriya was murdered," a senior jail official said. He added that

exhaust fans were removed only from wards of Tihar jails since those installed in the Rohini and Mandoli jails are out of reach of the inmates lodged there.

The attackers of Tajpuriya had also taken advantage of certain "dark spots" to gain access to his cell and so, to keep a close watch on the activities in such

areas, LED lights will also be installed, he said.

"We have identified certain dark spots inside the wards and soon these areas will be lit up with LED lights. This will also help the guards to keep a close watch on any suspicious activities inside the premises," the official added.

The jail officials said the iron grilles of water coolers have also been covered with plastic so that no inmate can use these to make "improvised weapons".

Tajpuriya was killed with "improvised weapons" allegedly by four members of the rival Gogi gang -- Deepak alias Titar; Yogesh alias Tunda, Rajesh, and Riyaz Khan -- who stabbed him "92 times". The four attackers, lodged on the first floor of the prison, cut his cell and used bed sheets to climb down, police had said.

# Delhi govt felicitates 16 handicraft artisans

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 13:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday felicitated 16 artisans who excelled in the field of handicrafts with State Award and State Merit Award for 2020 and 2021 at the Delhi Secretariat here Tuesday.

"For this, it is necessary for the government to encourage artisans. If the government provides financial assistance and skill training to craftsmen, it can create employment opportunities at a higher level in the field of handicrafts. The Delhi government will work towards this direction," he said.

He said that there are thousands of craftsmen in Delhi and a plan would be formulated to

bring them all on one platform. Kejriwal said that discussions should be held with the artisans on how they can take their crafts to a higher level.

As per the government data, there are over 20,000 handicraft artists in Delhi. Also, there are young individuals who are engaged in some form of creative work. "If we attempt to connect all these artisans through advertisements, we can reach approximately 200,000 artists in Delhi. If we can turn their creativity into their source of employment, they will not only find jobs but also enhance their creativity... We will work towards this goal and soon hold a meeting to develop a plan for it," Kejriwal said.



# national



**Telangana is a model for the entire country in women's welfare**  
K.T. RAMA RAO | BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

## FRESH TUSSE

The state secretariat-Raj Bhavan tussle in West Bengal is heading for an even murkier turn as the state education department has ordered to stop the payment of salaries and allowances to the interim vice-chancellors of state universities who were recently appointed by the Governor, C.V. Ananda Bose



## of the day quote

No discussions have taken place at the state level regarding poll understanding with the JD(S) for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | BJP LEADER

Some people in Congress have become what I call 'seasonal Hindu'. I want to ask them why they did not remember Narmada ji before. Why are you remembering Narmada ji now?

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Congress was a "History-Sheeteer of Communalism" which has become a "Mystery-Sheeteer of Secularism" by "defaming the democratic, Constitutional and secular values of the country"

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | BJP LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Three farmers mowed down

**Kanpur:** Three farmers died allegedly after being run over by a car of a Public Works Department (PWD) official in Kanpur's Bilhaur town. The three elderly farmers, all residents of Bilhaur, were standing on the side of the Lucknow-Etawah road on Monday evening when the car ran over them leading to their on the spot death, police said. The accused driver, Ajeet Kumar Pandey, has been arrested.

### IT firm gets bomb threat

**Bangalore:** Tense situation prevailed at the Eospace Business Park in Bangalore Tuesday following a bomb threat call to an IT company, police sources said. The threat call was made to the IDBO company located in the campus at 2 p.m. The miscreant who made the call to the company had threatened that he had planted the bomb on its premises which will explode soon, the police sources said.

### 2 terrorists killed

**Srinagar:** Two terrorists were killed Tuesday during a joint security operation near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said. The operation by the police and army was conducted in the Dobanar Machhal area and a search operation is currently underway.

### EPFO official held

**New Delhi:** The CBI has arrested an Enforcement Officer of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in Delhi while accepting a bribe of Rs 12 lakh from a man, officials said Tuesday. The CBI registered a case against Rishi Raj, the Enforcement Officer, working in the East Regional Office of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Delhi. Raj conducted an inspection of a Delhi-based multi-speciality hospital and informed the manager that there were a lot of irregularities in their records for which a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore would be imposed on the hospital.

### Three end life

**Hyderabad:** Three persons, including a newly-married couple, died by suicide in two separate incidents in Medchal district adjoining Hyderabad, police said. According to police, both the incidents were reported from Keesara police station limits. A couple, which married six months ago, ended their lives due to family problems.



Police use water cannons to disperse BJP workers protesting against the state government on various issues, at Statue Circle near Secretariat office, in Jaipur PTI PHOTO

## MSP demand: Farmers end stir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kurukshetra, June 13:** Farmers protesting over the MSP for sunflower seeds at Pipli in Haryana's Kurukshetra called off their stir Tuesday night after an assurance from the state government of "appropriate price" for the crop.

KURUKSHETRA DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (DC) SHANTANU SHARMA SAID THAT FARMERS HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF 'APPROPRIATE PRICE' FOR SUNFLOWER CROP

ON MONDAY AND DURING THE DAY ON TUESDAY, THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY HEADWAY IN TALKS BETWEEN THE FARMERS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, BUT THE BREAKTHROUGH FINALLY CAME IN THE EVENING

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said after fresh talks with the district administration in the evening, the farmers have ended the protest in Kurukshetra's Pipli and the national highway blockade will be lifted.

Kurukshetra Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shantanu Sharma said that farmers have been assured of "appropriate price" for sunflower crop. The national highway in Pipli had remained blocked for the second day Tuesday over the farmers' demand for MSP for sunflower seeds.



On Monday and during the day on Tuesday, there had not been any headway in talks between the farmers and district administration, but the breakthrough finally came in the evening. Tikait had earlier asked the state government to accept the demand or send farmers to jail. The protesting farmers had blocked the National Highway-44 near Pipli, which connects Delhi with Chandigarh, and some other routes since Monday afternoon after holding a mahapanchayat on the issue. The farmers had been demanding that the state government procure sunflower seeds at an MSP of Rs 6,400 per quintal. Under the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana - price difference payment scheme - the state government was giving Rs 1,000 per quintal as interim support for sunflower crop sold below MSP.

## Quake hits Doda, parts of north India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Doda/Bhaderwah (J-K), June 13:** A 5.4 magnitude earthquake hit Doda in Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday afternoon, causing damage to scores of buildings and injuring at least five people, officials said.

The tremors were felt across Delhi and other parts of north India, and in neighbouring Pakistan. People in parts of the union territory rushed out of their homes in panic. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said the 5.4 magnitude earthquake struck the region at 1:33 pm. Its epicentre was in Doda.

The earthquake struck at a depth of 6 kilometres, it said. Five persons, including two children, suffered minor injuries in Doda district, officials said. Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar said, "There was no loss of life or any major injury to anyone in Jammu region. Several buildings have developed cracks."

In Doda, Bhaderwah and Gandoh, scores of buildings developed cracks due to the tremors. The false ceiling of a ward of the sub-district hospital in Bhaderwah collapsed, injuring a patient and a woman employee. Some of the debris fell on other patients recuperating in the hospital ward, an official said. The patients have been moved to safety and are being treated in an emergency ward of the hospital, he said.

## Biparjoy: 30,000 people evacuated in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jakhau/Ahmedabad, June 13:** Authorities Tuesday shifted 30,000 people from coastal areas to temporary shelters two days before powerful cyclone Biparjoy's expected landfall near Jakhau port in Gujarat's Kutch district.

An official said several NDRF and SDRF teams are on standby. Simultaneously, Army authorities have jointly planned relief operations with civil administration and National Disaster Response Force. The Army has kept flood relief columns ready at strategic locations.

In a virtual meeting to take stock of the cyclone preparedness, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asked the Gujarat government to make arrangements for moving people living in sensitive places to safer areas and ensure all necessary services, such as electricity, telecommunication, health and drinking water.

The meeting was attended by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, two union ministers, several Gujarat ministers and MPs, MLAs and officials from eight districts that are likely to be affected by the cyclone.

"We have already started evacuating people residing near the coast who are likely to be affected the most during the landfall. So far, various district administrations have shifted nearly 30,000 people to temporary shelters," said State Commissioner of Relief, Alok Kumar Pandey.

The state government is aiming to evacuate people within 10 km of the coast, he said, adding that so far one fatality related to the cyclone has been recorded. Ahmedabad IMD director Manorama Mohanty said the cyclone is likely to cross between Mandvi in Kutch and Karachi in Pakistan near Jakhau port with 125-135 kmph wind speed gusting to 150 kmph on the evening

of June 15.

A warning has been issued for extremely heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds in coastal parts of the Saurashtra-Kutch region, especially in the districts of Kutch, Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka, she said. "After it makes landfall and weakens, the movement of the cyclone is likely to remain north-eastward and it is expected to move towards extreme south Rajasthan. It will bring heavy to very heavy rain in north Gujarat till June 15-17," Mohanty said.

Fishing activities have been suspended till June 16, ports are shut and ships are anchored as the sea turned very rough and weather became inclement with extremely heavy rainfall and strong winds in the region due to the approaching cyclone.

"The sea will remain very rough to high till Jun 14, increasing to high to phenomenal on June 15," Mohanty said. Pandey said the government is constantly working to ensure that there is no loss of life due to the weather phenomenon.

He said the rescue operation is being carried out in two phases, with people residing 0 to 5 km from the seashore to be shifted first. Thereafter, people living within a distance of 5 to 10 km from the coast will be moved to safer places, with priority to be given to children, pregnant women and the elderly.

The government said 17 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 12 of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) are on standby in affected districts of Devbhumi Dwarka, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Porbandar, Gir Somnath, Morbi and Valsad.

The Western Railway has so far cancelled 69 trains and decided to short-terminate 32 and short-originate 26 trains as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of passengers as well as train operations.



## MANJHI'S SON RESIGNS FROM NITISH CABINET

The opposition BJP in the state was quick to claim that the development was a dampener for Nitish Kumar's opposition unity efforts as part of which he will be hosting a conclave next week, to be attended by bigwigs like Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, June 13:** In a sudden move, Bihar minister Santosh Suman resigned from the state cabinet Tuesday alleging "pressure" to merge his Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

Suman, who held the SC and ST welfare portfolio, is the national president of HAM founded by his father Jitan Ram Manjhi, a former chief minister. "I have sent my resignation to the chief minister and personally met Vijay Kumar Chaudhary (senior JD(U) leader and minister) to explain my point.



I hope my resignation will be accepted. We are, though, not pulling out of the Mahagathbandhan," Suman told reporters.

He pointed out that his father, who then headed the party, had decided to quit the NDA last year and join the Mahagathbandhan because of his loyalty towards the chief minister. "It is for the CM to decide whether we be kept in the Mahagathbandhan or expelled. We will decide accordingly. But in view of the JD(U)'s proposal, I had to take a decision to save my party from extinction. Hence I resigned," said Suman.

The opposition BJP in the state was quick to claim that the development was a dampener for Nitish Kumar's opposition unity efforts as

part of which he will be hosting a conclave next week, to be attended by bigwigs like Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal.

"The resignation of Jitan Ram Manjhi's son is proof of the chasm that exists in the Mahagathbandhan. The alliance has been rejected by the people and it will become evident in the Lok Sabha polls next year and culminate in the defeat of the Mahagathbandhan in the assembly elections a year later," said BJP national spokesperson Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain.

## Centre asks employees to take Y-Break at workplace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 13:** The Centre has asked its employees to take a short duration 'Y-Break - Yoga at office chair' to de-stress, refresh and refocus.

In an order, the personnel ministry has asked all central government ministries/departments to adopt and promote this new Yoga protocol for the people at workplace. "Y-Break at workplace was introduced by the Ministry of AYUSH with an aim to get de-stressed, re-freshed and re-focused at the workplace. The feedback of the protocol has been very encouraging. The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of AYUSH has added new features for the officials, who owing to their busy schedule, cannot go out and practice Yoga," it said. The officials can now benefit themselves while sitting in their office chair by practicing a short du-



In an order, the personnel ministry has asked all central government ministries/departments to adopt and promote this new Yoga protocol for the people at workplace

ration Yoga protocol namely "Y-Break@workplace yoga" at chair to refresh, de-stress and refocus, said the order dated June 12.

In order to spread awareness about the "Y-Break@workplace - yoga at chair", all ministries/departments of the Government of India are requested for wide dissemination amongst their employees, including those of attached and subordinate under their control, it added.

The order also mentions the Youtube link of the protocol <https://youtu.be/1qQQ3yUjnyM>, <https://youtu.be/2zBEUq7mCc>, <https://youtu.be/aqYJR8HnSJJ>, and also the Yoga portal <https://yoga.Ayush.Gov.In/Y-Break/>.

Yoga Break (Y-Break) protocol is

devised with an aim to help professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus, according to the AYUSH ministry. It consists of a few 'light' practices that can be done by taking a few minutes break from work.

The protocol comprises few simple Yoga practices which include 'asanas' (postures), 'pranayama' (breathing techniques) and 'dhyana' (meditation), the ministry mentioned.

"It has been carefully developed by eminent experts and a tested protocol. In this line, we have prepared and launched Y-Break at workplace," read the details available on the AYUSH ministry's website, which also has four videos of "Yoga at Chair", "Yoga for Workaholics 1", "Yoga for Workaholics 2" and "Yoga Break".

# international

## of the day quote

I expressed to (European Commission) President (Ursula) Von der Leyen Brazil's concern about the additional instrument to the agreement presented by the European Union in March of this year, which expands Brazil's obligations and establishes sanctions in case of non-compliance

**LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA** | BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT

Mutual cooperation and support in terms of bilateral and international affairs have become stronger than at any time

**CHOE SON-HUI** | NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The ground has been prepared for the reopening of the Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran

**NASSER KANAANI** | THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

## SHORT TAKES

### Imran rules out talks with Pak govt

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has ruled out talks with the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government but appeared eager to initiate a dialogue with the military establishment, calling them the "real" decision-makers in the country. Talking to reporters Monday after his appearance at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in connection with multiple cases, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman said that politicians, including the incumbent rulers, were "powerless" and they have no authority to conduct the dialogue.

### Man held as 3 killed in 'serious incident'

**London:** British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he is monitoring developments as a man was arrested as a series of attacks unfolded in the central England city of Nottingham Tuesday, where three people were killed and another three injured in what the local police have declared as a "serious incident". The details remain sketchy, and it is uncertain if there is any terrorism link to three separate incidents being treated as linked by the police.

### 10 injured in mass shooting

**Denver:** Ten people were wounded in a mass shooting early Tuesday in Denver in an area where basketball fans had been celebrating the Nuggets first NBA title win, police said, and a suspect was taken into custody. The shooting happened about 12:30 a.m. — about 3 1/2 hours after the game — and three of the injured were in critical condition, the Denver Police Department said.

## Russian missile attack on Ukraine kills 11 in Zelenskyy's hometown

AGENCIES

**Kyiv, June 13:** Russian missiles rained down in a central Ukrainian city overnight, killing at least 11 people and wounding more than two dozen in a warehouse and an apartment building, regional officials said Tuesday.

The attack in Kryvyi Rih, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown, comes as Ukrainian forces are in the early stages of a counteroffensive, more than 15 months after Russia invaded.

Russian forces have unleashed overnight missile strikes repeatedly against targets across Ukraine in recent weeks, and Tuesday's toll was among the highest from a single attack. In late April, missile strikes hit an apartment building in the central city of Uman, killing 23 people, including six children.

Images from the latest missile attack relayed by Zelenskyy on his Telegram channel showed firefighters battling a blaze as flames poked through broken windows in the damaged apartment building. Charred and damaged vehicles littered the nearby ground.

"More terrorist missiles," he wrote. "Russian killers continue their war against residential buildings, ordinary cities and people."

The governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region, Serhiy Lysak, wrote on Telegram that the bodies of seven people were recovered from a private company's warehouse, and "another four destinations were cut short" at the apartment building. He said search operations had been called off. Kryvyi

### Senior Russian general killed

Russian media reported that a Ukrainian missile strike on the southern Zaporizhzhia front killed an experienced Russian general. "As a result of an enemy missile attack, the Chief of Staff of the 35th Combined Arms Army, Maj Gen Sergei Goryachev, was killed," prominent pro-war blogger Voenkor said in a Telegram post. The Guardian reported. Goryachev, a decorated commander, previously led Russian troops in Moldova's breakaway region of Transnistria.

Rih Mayor Oleksandr Vilkul said on the social media app that 28 people were wounded.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its military fired missiles at Ukrainian operational reserves and a depot with Western weapons and ammunition. It said all targeted facilities were hit. Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, meanwhile, was attacked with Iranian-made Shahed drones, and the surrounding region was shelled, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said on Telegram. The shelling wounded two civilians in the town of Shevchenko, southeast of Kharkiv. The mayor of Kharkiv, Ihor Terekhov, separately reported early Tuesday that the drone strike damaged a utilities business and a warehouse in the city's north-east. Neither Terekhov nor Syniehubov referenced any casualties within Kharkiv.

**KYIV CLAIMS TO HAVE RECAPTURED 90 SQ KM**  
**MOSCOW SAYS IT REPELS LATEST UKRAINIAN ASSAULTS**  
**MILITARY EXPERTS SAY MAIN UKRAINIAN ASSAULT YET TO BEGIN**



## Trump arrives at court to face secret document charges

AGENCIES

**Miami, June 13:** Former President Donald Trump arrived Tuesday afternoon at the federal courthouse in Miami to formally surrender to authorities ahead of his court appearance on charges accusing him of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

He was expected to face a magistrate judge, kickstarting a legal process that will unfold at the height of the 2024 presidential campaign and carry profound consequences not only for his political future but more urgently for his own personal liberty. Four black SUVs entered the garage beneath the Miami courthouse, followed by po-

lice officers, ahead of his scheduled 3 p.m. Appearance.

Security remained tight outside the building but there were no signs of significant disruptions. Trump approached his arraignment with characteristic bravado, insisting as he has through years of legal woes that he has done nothing wrong and was being persecuted for political purposes.

The case is laden with political implications for the 76-year-old Trump, who currently holds the dominant spot in the early days of the 2024 Republican presidential primary.

It also poses profound legal impact given the prospect of a years-long prison sentence. Even for a defendant whose post-presidential



**Advanced economies around the world are dealing with the very difficult combination of high inflation and rising interest rates**  
**ANTHONY ALBANESE** | AUSTRALIAN PM

### NEPAL PREZ HOSPITALISED AGAIN

Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel was Tuesday admitted to a hospital after he complained of chest pain. Paudel, 78, was admitted to the Bansbari-based Shahid Gangalal National Heart Centre at 11am, according to family sources. However, his health condition is normal, they said



**KISS OF RESPECT:** A woman kisses a placard with a picture of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, as people pay their respects outside his house, to which his body was transported following his death, in Arcore near Milan, Italy

## RUSSIA SEEKS EXPANSION IN TIES WITH PAK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Moscow, June 13:** Russia has sought to expand and deepen cooperation with Pakistan as the first shipment carrying Russian oil reached Karachi Port over the weekend, the media reported.

On the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Islamabad, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov issued a video statement expressing his country's desire to expand cooperation with the South Asian nation. The Express Tribune reported.

Pakistan and Russia have remained bitter cold-war rivals but their bilateral ties have taken a positive turn in recent years with both sides willing to bury the past and adjust to the new realities. In April, the two countries signed a landmark deal that allowed Pakistan to receive the first Russian oil shipment at the weekend. The Express Tribune reported. The first shipment is part of the pilot project to assess if Russian oil can be beneficial for Pakistan.

## 100 KILLED IN NIGERIA AFTER BOAT CAPSIZES

Rescue operations underway after the accident on the Niger River

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Abuja, June 13:** A boat carrying residents returning from a wedding capsized in northern Nigeria killing about 100 people, police and local residents said Tuesday, as a search for survivors intensified.

The boat capsized early Monday on the Niger River in the state of Kwara close to neighbouring Niger state, police spokesman Okasanmi Ajayi said.

"What we gathered was there was a boat that capsized and about 100 people died," he said.

The victims, including women and children, were returning from an overnight wedding ceremony in the village of Egboti in Niger state, said Usman Ibrahim, a resident. It was not immediately clear if there were survivors.

"People in the boat were to take



their bikes to their various communities (upon disembarking). The boat was carrying more than 100 people when it sank," said Ibrahim.

Many of the victims drowned because the accident happened at about 3 am and not many knew of it until hours later, he said.

"Up till now, some dead bodies are still being searched (for)." As

of Tuesday afternoon, officials and locals were still searching for more bodies in the river, which is one of Nigeria's largest.

Boat accidents are common in many remote communities across Nigeria where locally made vessels are commonly used for transport.

Most accidents are attributed to overloading and the use of poorly maintained boats.

## Traders in Nepal stop importing veggies from India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kathmandu, June 13:** Traders in Nepal Tuesday said they have stopped importing onions, potatoes and other vegetables from India after the government slapped a hefty 13 per cent Value-Added Tax (VAT) on these items last month.

Opposition lawmakers have criticised the Nepal government's move, arguing that it would make low-income families vulnerable to food insecurity and increase the agony of people who are already hit hard by skyrocketing inflation.



According to the financial bill introduced in Parliament May 29, imported onions, potatoes and other vegetables and fruits will now be subjected to a 13 per cent VAT. Finance Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat has defended the move, asserting that it was intended to protect local farmers and trim imports.

Nepal imports almost all its onions from neighbouring India. Last year, it imported 173,829 tonnes of onions from India. Nepal grows potatoes that cater to around 60 per cent of local demand, while the rest are also imported from India.

## TACKLING RISING SKIN CANCER CASES

# NETHERLANDS TO PROVIDE FREE SUNSCREEN TO CITIZENS

As we learn more and more about the dangers and prevalence of skin cancer, our focus on how to effectively prevent the disease remains at the forefront of our minds. Luckily, there seems to be new brands and genres of sunscreen on the daily, but that doesn't always mean that these sun-care essentials are universally accessible.

This summer, the Netherlands has taken a huge step in making skin cancer prevention accessible with their new free sunscreen campaign.

According to the government, sun cream dispensers will be made available this summer in schools

and universities, at festivals, parks, sports venues, and open public spaces across the country, *Guardian* reported.

The government added that it intends everyone to have access to sun protection and not be hindered by factors such as cost or inconvenience.

This new drive to improve sun-care practices is inspired by Australia's slip-slop-slap campaign. Dutch authorities hope the campaign will turn the act of applying sun cream into an unquestioned habit for all its citizens.

Public broadcaster NOS reported that a skin doctor from a clinic had come up with an idea that dis-

**T**his summer, the Netherlands has taken a huge step in making skin cancer prevention accessible with their new free sunscreen campaign  
**S**un cream dispensers will be made available this summer in schools and universities, at parks, sports venues, and public spaces across the country

pensers used to dispense sanitisers during the pandemic can be used



life has been dominated by investigations, the documents probe has stood out for both the apparent volume of evidence amassed by prosecutors and the severity of the allegations. It's also a watershed mo-

ment for a Justice Department that until last week had never before brought charges against a former president. The arraignment, though largely procedural in nature, is the latest in an unprecedented pub-



to dispense sunscreen. A councillor from a North Sea

bathing resort said that children should get used to applying sunscreen from an early age so that it becomes a habit.

Medical authorities have reported a record rise in skin cancer cases in the past few years. Sun cream is proven to be the best protection against the disease, and children should get used to applying it from an early age so that it becomes as ritualised as teeth brushing, a councillor from a North Sea bathing resort said. Venlo-Venray hospital, in the south east, close to the German border, is also reported to be working with state health insurers to fund sun cream provision in 120 primary schools.

In particular, the hospital's spokesman also said that a hospital dermatologist came up with the idea of using disinfectant hand sanitizer dispensers used during the Covid-19 pandemic to store anti-inflammatory creams, sunshine for the people.

Over the past few years, local health authorities have reported a record increase in the number of skin cancer cases.

Across Europe, skin cancer rates have been going up over the last two decades. In neighbouring Germany, according to the Federal Office of Statistics, in 2021 the number of deaths from skin cancer rose 55% from 2001.

## of the day quote

We feel there is a market for three-row premium MPV/SUVs out there. There are customers who are looking for a premium three-row vehicle which is either an MPV or an SUV or has characteristics of both

**SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA** | MSI SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We have been able to increase the value addition in mobile manufacturing to 20 per cent within a period of 3 years whereas countries like Vietnam achieved 18 per cent value addition over 15 years and China achieved 49 per cent value addition in over 25 years

**RAJESH KUMAR SINGH** | DPIIT SECRETARY

Our AIs (artificial intelligence) are very secure, and we can vouch for data integrity

**GIRISH CHANDRA MURMU** | CAG OF INDIA



As per our current assessment, the disinflation process is likely to be slow and protracted with convergence to the inflation target of 4 per cent being achieved over the medium-term

**SHAKTIKANTA DAS** | RBI GOVERNOR

## WHEAT STOCK LIMIT

The Union Food Ministry Tuesday directed state governments to ensure compliance with the June 12 wheat stock limit order and ensure disclosure of stocks, thereby checking unfair trade practices. In a virtual meeting, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra asked state governments to obtain disclosures of wheat stock held by various entities.



## Govt to review PLI scheme this month



New Delhi, June 13: India will review its production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme at the end of this month to improve utilisation in sectors that are lagging behind, a trade ministry official said Tuesday. The PLI scheme, which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's main industrial policy to boost manufacturing, has so far announced incentives for 14 sectors. The review will focus on six sectors, including steel and textiles, where the scheme has not been effective, the official, who did not want to be named, told reporters. The official said the review will help in better utilisation of funds over the next 2-3 years. Another official said the government had no plans to include chip manufacturing in the PLI scheme, but that talks were in "reasonably advanced stages" to bring toys, footwear and new-age bikes under the fold. The PLI scheme has drawn investments totaling 535 billion rupees (\$6.54 billion) until December 2022.

# RBI may tighten norms for banks' unsecured lending

**INDIAN BANKS HAVE BEEN EXPANDING THEIR UNSECURED LENDING PORTFOLIO AS THE PANDEMIC-INDUCED STRESS BEGAN EASING**

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 13: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking to tighten scrutiny on the unsecured lending portfolios of banks amid the growing risk of potential defaults, four banking sources told Reuters.

Unsecured loans – mostly personal loans and credit cards – do not carry any collateral and therefore pose a higher risk of default. These loans, however, are a big contributor to margins as they entail higher interest rates. "Some action from the RBI on unsecured lending, credit cards, etc. could be seen," a senior source aware of the central bank's thinking said. "Excessive growth is the first sign of potential delinquencies."



None of the sources wanted to be named because they are not authorised to speak to the media. "We can expect the RBI to increase risk weights on unsecured personal loans and credit cards and, or, float a discussion paper on how to monitor the space more efficiently," said the

head of credit card vertical at a private sector bank. As per RBI norms, the risk weights – or the capital that the banks need to set aside for every loan – on unsecured personal loans and outstanding on credit cards currently stands at 100% and 125%, respectively.

"The RBI has enough options with it for stricter vigilance," said a senior official at a large private sector bank. "We are bracing for tighter norms, it's a matter of time," the executive said. The RBI did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

## SHORT TAKES

### SAT relief to Sahara firm

New Delhi: In a big relief to Sahara India Life Insurance Co Ltd, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) Tuesday stayed regulator Irdai's order directing the transfer of policy liabilities of around two lakh policies along with assets of Sahara Group firm to SBI Life Insurance Company. The order comes after Sahara India Life filed an appeal against an order passed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai). Irdai, in its order June 2, ordered for transferring the entire business of Sahara India Life to SBI Life. Further, the books of accounts, bank accounts, etc were also directed to be transferred. The decision was taken at the meeting of the Irdai given the deteriorating financial health of Sahara India Life. In its order Tuesday, the appellate tribunal stayed "the effect and operation of the impugned order dated June 2, 2023, till further orders of this Tribunal".

### High deposit pricing to squeeze NIMs

Mumbai: Banks are expected to see a 10-20 bps compression in their net interest margins (NIMs) to 3-3.1 per cent this fiscal as they price deposits higher to attract more funds, says a report. However, lower credit costs will offset this tailwind on account of continued benign asset quality, which will help them maintain profitability steady after touching a decadal high of 1.1 per cent on a return on assets basis, last fiscal, Crisil Ratings said in a report Tuesday. According to Krishnan Sitaraman, a senior director and chief ratings officer at the agency, NIMs have peaked at the system level. Competition for deposits has driven banks to hike rates since October 2022, and they can increase the rates further given that deposit growth continues to lag credit growth.

### Firms planning to recruit this fiscal

Mumbai: Job postings for small and midsize businesses (SMBs) have witnessed record highs in the last few months, and about 70 per cent of companies are actively planning to recruit this financial year, a report said Tuesday. The report by jobs and professional networking platform apna.Co said it has witnessed a substantial upsurge in SMB job postings from January to May 2023, with around 300,000 jobs listed on the platform. About 70 per cent of SMBs in India are actively planning to recruit full-time professionals for key areas like business growth and expansion, HR, accounts and sales, it added.

## Sensex at 6-month high on macro data push



AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 13: Benchmark Sensex spurted 418 points to settle at more than six-month high while Nifty closed above the 18,700 mark Tuesday on positive domestic macroeconomic data and gains in global markets. Buying in index majors Reliance Industries and ITC also added to the optimism in equities.

Climbing for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 418.45 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 63,143.16, a level not seen since December 1 when the barometer closed at an all-time high. During the day, the index advanced 452.76 points or 0.72 per cent to 63,177.47.

The NSE Nifty climbed 114.65 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 18,716.15. From the Sensex pack, ITC, Titan, Asian Paints, Reliance, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Nestle and ICICI Bank were the major gainers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, HCL Technologies, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Tata Motors

were among the laggards. Retail inflation declined to a 25-month low of 4.25 per cent in May, mainly on account of softening prices of food and fuel items. This is the fourth straight month when retail inflation has declined and the third straight month of Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation remaining within the RBI's comfort zone of below 6 per cent.

India's industrial production growth rose to 4.2 per cent in April from 1.7 per cent in March 2023, mainly due to good performance by the manufacturing and mining sectors, according to official data released Monday.

Among the indices, realty rallied 2.94 per cent, consumer durables zoomed 1.80 per cent, telecommunication (1.69 per cent), FMCG (1.38 per cent), healthcare (1.04 per cent), metal (1.03 per cent) and commodities (0.90 per cent).

Services emerged as the only laggard. As many as 2,117 stocks advanced, while 1,469 declined and 136 remained unchanged on the BSE. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.55 per cent to USD 72.95 a barrel.

## MRF first firm to hit ₹1L stock price mark

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 13: Tyre maker MRF Tuesday reached a new milestone as its stock hit ₹1 lakh mark during the day. The stock went up to ₹1,00,300 -- also its 52-week high level -- on the BSE during the day. Shares of the company ended at ₹99,950.65, a gain of 1.02 per cent. Intra-day, it climbed 1.37 per cent to ₹1,00,300. At the NSE, shares of the company advanced 1.48 per cent to hit a record high of ₹1,00,439.95 during the day. It ended at ₹99,900, up 0.94 per cent. So far this year, the stock has rallied 12.89 per cent. "MRF, one of the leading stocks in the Indian stock market, has made history by becoming the first 6-digit stock after surpassing the impressive milestone of 1 lakh," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd. MRF commands one of the highest price quotations on the exchanges.



## Fuel, jewellery, grocery preferred items to offload ₹2,000 notes

A WHOPPING 55 PER CENT OF PEOPLE ARE PLANNING TO DEPOSIT THEIR CURRENCY NOTES AT THE BANK, ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 13: Fuel, jewellery and daily groceries are the top three preferred items for people to offload their ₹2,000 currency notes post the RBI's announcement of withdrawing the currency note from circulation, revealed a new survey.

The pan-India survey, conducted by location-based social network Public App, also found out that a whopping 55 per cent of people are planning to deposit their currency notes at the bank, while 23 per cent and 22 per cent are planning to spend them and get them exchanged, respectively.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) May 19 made a surprise announcement of the withdrawal of ₹2,000 currency notes but gave the public time till September 30 to either deposit the ₹2,000 notes in accounts or exchange them at banks. In about two weeks, almost half of the ₹2,000 currency notes in circulation, worth around ₹1.8 lakh crore, came back to the banking system, the RBI informed recently.

The poll results, shedding light on the citizens' perspective and providing valuable insights into their experiences during this transition, are based on over one lakh responses across 22 states. "In a bid to spend their ₹2,000 currency notes, people are spending available cash on petrol and diesel, gold and jewellery, and daily groceries," said the survey. When asked if they were facing



About 51 per cent of respondents are of the opinion that the government should have given them more time to exchange their ₹2,000 notes

issues while getting their notes exchanged, according to the survey, 61 per cent claimed they encountered no difficulty in the process. It was easiest in Kerala (75 per cent), followed by Andhra

Pradesh (53 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (50 per cent). "But, 42 per cent of the respondents faced rejection from the local Public while using ₹2,000 Banknotes despite the deadline," it said. It also noted that where 51 per cent of respondents are of the opinion that the government should have given them more time to exchange their ₹2,000 notes, 44 per cent of them complained that the exchange of notes should have been higher than ₹20,000. People can deposit the ₹2,000 currency note or exchange it with lower denomination currency but the exchange is allowed up to ₹20,000 at a time.

## Oil up on bargain hunting as demand worries weigh

REUTERS

London, June 13: Oil prices rose Tuesday on apparent bargain hunting, recovering some ground from the previous day's plunge.

But gains were limited as investors remained cautious ahead of key policy decisions by central banks and on weak economic data from China.

Brent crude futures climbed \$2.28, or 3.2%, to \$74.12 a barrel by 1330 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was at \$69.22 a barrel, up \$2.10, or 3.1%.

Equities, which often trade in tandem with oil, also rose. Brent's six-month backwardation, a market structure whereby shorter-dated futures trade above longer-dated ones, has fallen to its lowest since March at around \$1.30, indicating faltering market



**DEMAND JITTERS OFFSET A TEMPORARY BOOST IN OIL PRICES FROM SAUDI ARABIA'S PLEDGE TO CUT MORE PRODUCTION IN JULY**

confidence in demand outstripping supply over the year. "For market participants to start building up long positions again, they likely need to see larger inventory declines," said UBS strategist Giovanni Staunovo, adding he ex-

pected this to happen within weeks. Both benchmarks fell around \$3 a barrel Monday after analysts highlighted rising global supplies and concerns about demand growth just ahead of a US Fed monetary policy meeting concluding Wednesday. Most market participants expect the Fed to leave interest rates unchanged, a view boosted after data showed U.S. consumer prices barely rose in May.

The Fed's rate hikes have strengthened the greenback, making dollar-denominated commodities more expensive for holders of other currencies and weighing on oil prices, so a rate hike pause could be bullish.

The European Central Bank, meanwhile, is expected to hike interest rates Thursday.

In the world's biggest crude importer, China, which posted disappointing economic data last week, the central bank lowered a short-term lending rate to restore market confidence.

Demand jitters offset a temporary boost in oil prices from Saudi Arabia's pledge to cut more production in July.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) kept its forecast for 2023 global oil demand growth steady for a fourth month Tuesday, slightly increasing expectations of Chinese demand growth.

Another monthly report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) due Wednesday will provide further trading cues.

## 'Net NPAs on course to fall to decadal best'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 13: The banking sector is on course to report the best asset quality in over a decade this fiscal, with headline gross NPAs and net NPAs falling to 2.63 per cent and 0.83 per cent, respectively, in March 2023, according to Moody's and its arm Icria Ratings.

At the same time, the likely gross fresh NPA generation at 2 per cent will be the lowest since fiscal 2012, the agencies told reporters here Tuesday. They also said the strong domestic demand, improving credit conditions of borrowers and strengthened solvency and funding will support further improvement in the credit quality of banks and non-banking financial institutions in spite of the challenging environment for banks globally.

The report expects the healthy profitability trend to continue, primarily driven by strong loan

growth, which it sees to moderate to 11-11.7 per cent this fiscal from 15.5 per cent in fiscal 2023 and a favourable credit environment.

The trend of improving asset quality will continue with headline gross non-performing advances and net bad loans declining to their best level in over a decade, at 2.63 per cent and 0.83 per cent this fiscal from 3.96 per cent and 0.97 per cent, respectively, in fiscal 2023. At the same time, the gross fresh NPA generation rate of 2 per cent will be the lowest level since fiscal 2012, Alka Anbarasu, an associate managing director at Moody's and Karthik Srinivasan, a senior vice-president at Icria, told reporters.

While the year-on-year credit growth is likely to moderate with higher interest rates, the incremental credit growth is expected to be ₹15-16 lakh crore, which is poised to become the banking sector's second-highest increase on record, they said.

# Rohit's Test future uncertain

# McDonald credits 'sub-continent journey' for Aussies' WTC triumph

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 13:** There is no imminent threat to Rohit Sharma's Test captaincy but the stylish Mumbaier will need to rake up some significant numbers in West Indies to prevent a question mark over his leadership in the traditional format.

Rohit will lead Indian in the two-Test series in the West Indies and then perhaps sit with BCCI and decide on his future in traditional format.

If those privy to developments in the Indian team are to be believed, unless Rohit himself decides to stay away from two-Test series against West Indies starting in Dominica from July 12, he will be leading the team.

However the BCCI brass and the national selection committee will be under pressure to take a tough call if he fails to notch up at least one big knock either at Dominica or at Port of Spain during the second Test (July 20-24).

"These are baseless stuff that Rohit will be removed from captaincy. Yes, whether he will last the whole two-year WTC cycle is a big question as he would be nearly 38 when the third edition ends in 2025," a senior BCCI source in know of things told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"As of now, I believe that Shiv Sunder Das and his colleagues will have to take a call after the two Tests and looking at his batting form."

In fact, the BCCI works very differently from other sporting organisations.

tions. In Indian board, those in power believe that you don't take decisions when the criticism reaches crescendo.

"After West Indies, we have no Tests till December-end when the team travels to South Africa. So there is enough time for selectors to deliberate and take a decision. By then the fifth selector (new chairman) will also join the panel and a decision can be taken, he added.

Those who are aware about developments in Indian cricket know that once Virat Kohli quit Test captaincy after series defeat in South Africa, Rohit wasn't very keen to become the leader in longest format initially as he didn't know that whether his body would hold

or not. "The two top men at that time (former president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah) had to convince him to take up the role

once KL Rahul failed to impress as a captain in South Africa," the source said.

Save a classy 120 against Australia on a challenging Nagpur track, Rohit hasn't exactly scored the kind of runs that is expected from a player of his calibre.

Since Rohit took over Test captaincy in 2022, India played 10 Tests and he missed three --- one in England due to COVID 19 and two in Bangladesh due to split webbing. He scored 390 runs in 7 Tests and had an average of 35.45 in 11 completed innings with a single hundred and no other score above 50.

In that same phase, Kohli played all 10 Tests, scoring 517 runs in 17 innings with 186 against Australia at Ahmedabad being his best. Cheteshwar Pujara in the same phase played eight Tests and scored 482 runs in 14 innings with two unbeaten knocks at an average of 40.12. But one needs to factor, scores of 90 and 102 came against a weak Bangladesh attack.

The selectors know that in the next three years, all three big players on the wrong side of 35 can't constitute the top order of India and hence tough calls will be required, looking at future.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, June 13:** They might have failed to conquer the 'Final Frontier' on their last tour of India, but Australia head coach Andrew McDonald feels their "sub-continent journey" helped them get the World Test Championship mace.

Having missed out due to over-rate penalties in the 2019-21 cycle, Australia Sunday became the first team to win ICC world titles across formats when they defeated India by 209 runs in a lopsided WTC Final at the Oval here.

"You can string down series in isolation, you can talk about the sub-continent journey where we went from Pakistan to Sri Lanka into India," McDonald told reporters.

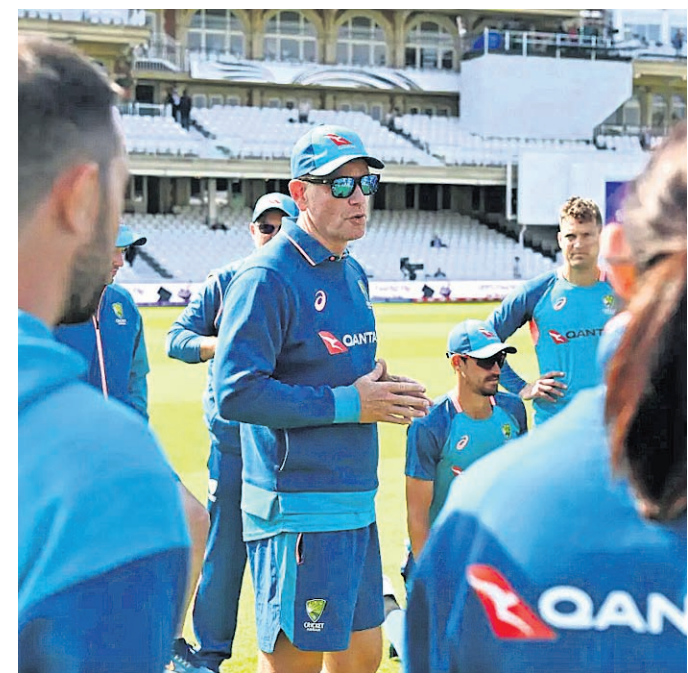
"We had to navigate through that. So, it was a tricky World Test Championship cycle and I think the wins in the subcontinent got us here."

The Pat Cummins-led side had enjoyed some splendid wins in the sub-continent before travelling to India in pursuit of its first Test series triumph since 2004-05 in the final leg of the WTC cycle.

Before travelling to India, Australia won a three-match series in Pakistan 1-0 with a crushing 115-run defeat of the hosts in Lahore in March. Then in Sri Lanka, they won the first Test by 10 wickets only to go down by an innings and 39 runs in a drawn 1-1 series.

On turning Indian conditions where the matches failed to last the distance, Australia's biggest bright spot in a 1-2 loss was their nine-wicket win in the third Test in Indore. It also sealed their WTC Final berth with a round to spare in the 2021-23 cycle.

"We're really strong in Australia. So I think that most people would



Andrew McDonald speaks to Australian players ahead of third day's play of WTC final against India

expect us to be winning Test matches in Australia, but to be able to execute in Pakistan, win a Test match in Sri Lanka and then to get that win in Indore to secure a place in the final was vitally important to give us this opportunity. And we've been able to take that, so it's a job well done."

The 42-year-old further said they were just buying into the "new concept" of the WTC having missed out on the inaugural final in 2021.

"It's a new concept. But we're certainly buying into the concept and I think that was probably the disappointment of the first couple of years when it was in existence where we missed out due to over rate so we've made it a significant focus of ours.

"Every time we come into a series we're checking in around where we are, there's a ladder, albeit stretched out over two years, which is a little bit different to other sports, but yeah, it's high on the priority list.

"And you put on the priority list, you want to be here and you want to win it and that's what we've been able to do. So it's right up there. And if you go into that dressing room at the moment, there's a lot of happy people about, reflecting on what they've been able to achieve over the last few years."

The focus however will shift to the marquee Ashes showdown in less than a week when they will be looking to break a 22-year drought in England.

# Schopman warns seniors over their places in team

# SINDHU, PRANNOY SAIL THROUGH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 13:** Senior India hockey players cannot take their place in the side for the upcoming Asian Games for granted after the success of the junior women's team in the Asia Cup in Japan recently, chief coach Janneke Schopman has said.

The junior women's team returned to Bangalore Tuesday after displayed superb skills defeating four-time champions Korea 2-1 in the summit clash to clinch their maiden Asia Cup title in Kakamigahara, Japan Sunday.

The Dutch tactician also said that while senior India players were "quite competitive", the age of junior players will not come in the way of their selection in the India side for the Asian Games, to be held in Hangzhou, China in September-October this year.

"I was able to see everyone off the field and on the field and their performances. Let's see what happens but the senior core group is quite competitive and people have to show up in every session to get selected," Schopman, who coached the junior Asia Cup side, said in a virtual press conference Tuesday.

"Age is not the deciding factor (for team selection for the Asian Games) and we winning the Junior Asia Cup means players showed up, so I (I'll) definitely take that into consideration.

"I am quite happy with the performance of the players in the Junior Asia Cup and the thing for me was always to use the Australia tour and Junior Asia Cup to have 25 out of our 33 players (in core probable) performing," she added.

Schopman also said she will complete the task of selecting the squad for the quadrennial conti-

mental showpiece this month, although the deadline set by the organisers is July 15.

"We always make selections quite early for bigger tournaments. Of course it makes a difference how players are performing this time, we have selection trials this month and the players need to be good at that time," Schopman said.

She said the players in the Junior Asia Cup-winning squad, five of whom are already in senior core group, will be up for selection in the Asian Games squad but the criteria will remain simple - "consistent performance in training".

"For me, it's about the big picture and I think everyone in the senior core group knows that you have to perform every single day in training and that's what I look at. Currently our core group is pretty strong and we have five from the junior team already but everyone has a chance to make or break into the Asian Games team," she said.

She added that having five junior players as part of the senior team during the five-match Australia tour had given the side a big advantage the Junior Asia Cup.

"In Australia we tried different players in different positions. As a coach, you always build that in your mind. In the Junior Asia Cup we had five players from that team. These two events gave me valuable info. Every player brings in their own quality. The next couple of weeks will be about getting the right players in the squad," she said.

"I was impressed with everyone. We scored a lot of goals. What was key was that the girls played to our principles and girls understood certain teams are playing defensive and how we can manipulate that."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jakarta, June 13:** Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu roared back to form, ousting home favourite Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in straight games in the opening round of the Indonesia Open World Tour Super 1000 event, here Tuesday.

The double Olympic medallist and former world champion, who made first round exits from the last two events, took 38 minutes to prevail over her recent nemesis from Indonesia 21-19, 21-15 and seal a pre-quarterfinal berth.

This was also Sindhu's first win against Tunjung in her last three games as she had lost to the Indonesian in the Madrid Masters final and Malaysian Masters semifinal earlier this year.

Sindhu, who has slipped to World No.13 in rankings, overcame a stiff challenge in the first game when the local challenger led 9-7 with a crosscourt drop. Using her height to full advantage, Sindhu snatched the lead 11-10 following three consecutive errors by Tunjung and sealed the first game. After an edgy start, Sindhu was in full flow in the second game, forcing Tunjung to commit a lot of errors as the



Indian finally managed to end her string of losses and extended her overall head-to-head record to 8-2. Sindhu now faces an even tougher battle as she is next up against third seed Tai Tzu Ying. The Taiwanese star is on an eight-match winning streak against the Indian and overall leads 18-5 on head-to-

head. It was a winning start for the in-form shuttler HS Prannoy too as he prevailed over Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 21-16, 21-14 in 50 minutes. The seventh-seeded Indian, who claimed the Malaysia Masters Super 300 title last month, next faces NG Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in the round of 16.



Indian women's doubles duo of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand crashed out in the opening round, going down to Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi of Japan.

The Commonwealth Games bronze medallist duo squandered their lead in the opening game to go down 22-20, 12-21, 16-21 in a one-

hour 12 minutes fight. CWG Birmingham 2022 champion and World No.5 men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Ranikreddy and Chirag Shetty begin their campaign against Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia in the opening round.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, June 13:** Second-seeded India began their campaign in the SDAT WSF Squash World Cup here Tuesday with a 4-0 win over Hong Kong-China in a Pool B match. Top-seeded Egypt had earlier in the day brushed aside the challenge of Australia, winning 4-0.

In the India-Hong Kong encounter, Abhay Singh got the host team off to a winning start, beating Chung Yat Long 7-2, 7-3, 7-6 while the experienced Joshua Chinappa increased the advantage with a straight-forward victory over Heylie Fung, beating her opponent 7-1, 7-5, 7-6 in just 20 minutes.

Speaking after his match, Abhay Singh said, "I was a bit nervous at

the start. It's a big crowd, you're playing at home and you want to start well! I think I did pretty well and I'm happy with that!"

Saurav Ghosal made it 3-0 but after facing some resistance from To Yu Ling the Indian star dropped the opening game 5-7 before rallying to take the next three 7-2, 7-5, 7-1.

In the fourth and final match, Tanvi Khanna bounced back strongly after losing the first two games to beat Tse Yee Lam Toby 5-7, 6-7, 7-1, 7-4, 7-3 in 26 minutes to seal an emphatic 4-0 margin.

India faces South Africa Wednesday in Pool B, with the No.7 seeds going down 3-1 to No.3 seeds Japan in the opening tie of the day.

In the day's second tie, top seeds Egypt showed their class as they

shut out Australia. Karim El Hammamy bounced back from a troubled start in the opening match, with the world No.42 taken by surprise by the intensity of Australia's Nicolas Calvert, who played the fast conditions better in the opener to take the first game 7-5.

El Hammamy, however, recovered quickly, dominating the rest of the contest with a pair of 7-3 wins, which came on either side of a brutal bagel, the first of the World Cup.

## AT A GLANCE

**Pool B:** Japan (3rd seed) beat South Africa (7) 3-1; India (2) beat Hong Kong, China 4-0.

**Pool A:** Egypt (1) beat Australia (5) 4-0; Malaysia (4) beat Colombia (8) 3-1.

# None of Brij Bhushan's family members to contest WFI polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 13:** The family members of outgoing WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will not contest the upcoming federation elections despite eligibility, reliable sources told PTI Tuesday.

The Wrestling Federation of India elections will be held July 6 for the post of president, senior vice-president, four vice-presidents, secretary-general, treasurer, two joint secretaries, and five executive members.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur had assured the protesting wrestlers that neither Singh's family members nor his associates will be allowed to contest the impending elections, following which they had halted their protest till June 15.

Singh's son Karan Bhushan heads the Uttar Pradesh Wrestling Association while his son-in-law Aditya Pratap Singh is head of the Bihar unit.

"They had a discussion and have decided that neither his son Karan nor his son-in-law Aditya will file nominations for WFI elections," a source close to the Singh family said. "In the current circumstances, it is not advisable to do something

that further fuels the controversy," said the source.

Both Karan and Aditya will, however, participate in the elections and exercise their voting rights. The outgoing chief Singh himself is ineligible to compete since he has completed 12 years as President. The Sports Code does not allow elections after serving three consecutive terms of four years each.

It was being feared by the wrestlers, though, Singh will not hold any position in the federation officially, he will still rule the sports body by installing either Karan or Aditya or both in key positions.

Singh, 66, has been accused of sexual harassment and intimidation by the country's top wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia. The Delhi Police has filed two FIRs against him and is likely to file a charge-sheet in the case soon.

While Singh's family members have agreed to step aside, it remains to be seen which of his associates are asked to stay away from the elections. Thakur had said that the protesting wrestlers will be consulted while forming the new executive body.