

SHORT TAKES

Karnataka to repeal anti-conversion law

Bangalore: The Congress government led by Siddaramaiah has decided to scrap the law against religious conversion, meeting its promise of reviewing and if necessary, scrapping all the laws made by the previous BJP government in Karnataka. The changes approved by the state cabinet Thursday also included history syllabus in schools and even a law on agricultural markets, said HK Patil, Karnataka's Law and Parliamentary Affairs minister. P7

Youth electrocuted

Puri: In a tragic incident, a CCTV staff was electrocuted Thursday during installation of cameras on Bada Danda for the auspicious Rath Yatra in Puri. The deceased has been identified as Rakesh Behera, a resident of Rajabagicha in Cuttack district. He came in contact with an electric wire while installing a CCTV above the control room for the upcoming car festival lune 20. Sources said frequent power fluctuations led to Rakesh's death.



DESPERATE MEASURES: Students use ropes and ladders to escape after fire broke out inside a coaching centre at Mukherjee Nagar locality in New Delhi, Thursday PTI PHOTO

Brij too far for wrestlers

Delhi police file chargesheet against former WFI chief booking him mostly under bailable sections of IPC, seek cancellation of POCSO case

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 15: Delhi Police filed Thursday a chargesheet against BJP MP and former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for the offences of sexual harassment and stalking. However, in a big relief to Brij Bhushan, police recommended the cancellation of a complaint filed by a minor wrestler against him, citing 'no corroborative evidence'. It basically means that Brij Bhushan will now not be tried under the POCSO Act. POCSO crimes entail a minimum imprisonment of three years.

The government and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur had assured the agitating wrestlers that the chargesheet in the case would be filed by June 15, following which they had suspended their

stir. However, this chargesheet will be more of a relief for the embattled WFI former chief.

Delhi police's 1,000-page chargesheet lists allegations of stalking and sexual assault, and statements by 25 witnesses to back them. Singh has been charged under Indian Penal Code's section 354, 354A and 354D.

Section 354 relates to outraging the modesty of a woman, a non-bailable charge punishable by a oneyear imprisonment that can go up to five years. Section 354A pertains to sexual harassment and is a bailable offence. Section 354D relates to stalking, again a bailable offence, and is punishable with a jail term up to three years.

It should be mentioned here that the case is quite similar to the one filed against former coach of the Indian U-17 football team, Alex Ambrose in July last year. A minor had brought allegations of sexual harassment against Ambrose. The All India Football Federation had promptly sacked Ambrose and later on an FIR was registered against him. Ambrose however,

has denied all the allegations. The matter regarding the POCSO case will be heard July 4 while the chargesheet will be taken up for consideration by the Rouse Avenue Court, June 22.

Three Indian curries in world's top 10 Couple dies by suicide POST NEWS NETWORK

Dest Detail C

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Before UCC, we should implement the criminal code uniformly!

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 15: Indian cuisine, be it of any variety, has created a niche for itself across the globe. The curries, the dosas, the spicy preparations, the various types of sweets all have contributed to the tongue titillation across the globe. Many entrepreneurs have made a fortune worldwide selling Indian food. Even though curry originates

from the Indian sub-continent, it is now a global dish relished in many countries, including Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Germany,

the United Kingdom and the USA.

Recently 'Taste Atlas', a travel guide for traditional food, compiled the list of best-rated curries in the world. To prepare this list, 3,26,098 ratings were recorded. In the top 10 rankings, three popular Indian curries, namely Shahi Paneer, Malai Kofta and Butter Chicken occupied the fourth, fifth and sixth spots, respectively. On the other hand, Korma, Vindaloo, Keema, Saag Paneer, Madras Curry, Rogan Josh, Mattar Paneer, Jalfrezi, Aloo Matar, Punjabi Kadhi, Chicken Rezala, Goan Fish curry, Prawn malai curry, Handi Paneer and

Bengali Chicken curry also fea-

	to best kated Curr	105
1 🧠	Phanaeng curry	••••• 4.9
2 🗳	Khao soi	***** 4.8
3	Karê (collectively)	***** 4.7
4 🐴	Shahi paneer	***** 4.7
5 🥌	Malai kofta	***** 4.7
6 🧐	Butter chicken	••••• 4.6
7 🥰	Green curry	***** 4.6
8 🝕	Massaman curry	***** 4.6
9 🚳	Karē raisu	***** 4.5
10 🥞	Thai curry (collectively)	4.5

tured in the top 50 rankings. According to 'Taste Atlas', the term 'curry' stems from the Tamil word 'kari' and denotes a variety of dishes prepared in a thin, souplike spiced sauce.

Describing Shahi Paneer, 'Taste Atlas' said that it originated from India's Mughal cuisine. It said that Shahi Paneer is a must have vegetarian item during festivities.

On the other hand, Malai Kofta is a traditional North Indian dish consisting of fried potato and paneer balls in a creamy sauce. The guide also termed Butter Chicken as one of the most popular Indian dishes.

Topping the list were two traditional Thai dishes, Phanaeng Curry and Khao Soi, followed in third position by Japanese dish Kare, which is a vegetarian item.

Bhubaneswar, June 15: A couple was found Thursday hanging inside their house at Balungadihapatna village under Tangi police limits in Khurda district. The deceased were identified as 51-year-old Durga Charan Prusti and his 45-year-old wife, Satyabhama. Sources stated that the deceased couple was suffering from severe mental stress due to financial problems.

The couple left their 12-year-old son and 17-year-old daughter at the residence of Kishore Prusti, the elder brother of Durga Charan, stating that they were going out for some work.

Allegedly, the two then returned home and died by suicide late Tuesday night by hanging themselves. Neighbours came to know about the incident after they found foul smell emanating from the house of the Prusti couple and informed the police. The police arrived at the spot with a forensic team and launched an investigation before sending the bodies for post-mortem.

Sources informed that the couple was involved in various businesses and had taken loans from several agencies. Recently they had invested money in a supermarket in Tangi locality. However, later they discovered that they had been duped by the owners of the supermarket.







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HOLLAND'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ZENDAYA IS 'SACRED'

Actors Tom Holland and Zendaya are incredibly protective of their romance. Tom told The Hollywood Reporter: "Our relationship is something that we are incredibly protective of and we want to keep as sacred as possible. We don't think that we owe it to anyone, it's our thing."

ANISTON HOPES TO FIND LOVE IN 50s

Friends star Jennifer Aniston is feeling happy, healthy and fulfilled. Aniston also retains hope that she'll find love in her 50s. "In her gut, Jen believes she'll eventually meet the right person," a source close to her reveals.



FORTUNE FORECAST



Now at last you have realised that you have been preoccupied with work at the cost of your family life. Making up to them now is going to take a lot more effort. Ganesha says be ready to open your purse strings for either eating out, going out for a movie or shopping at the best places.

TAURUS

This day has been earmarked for beautification, a makeover, savs Ganesha. You are likely to remain preoccupied with ways to enhance your looks and appear-ance. A new, stylish hair do, face packs and massages, trendy outfits and accessories could be in store. You will, subcon-sciously, be doing all that you can do, to get noticed by others.

GEMINI

You will feel lonely and unwanted today. You will feel the need for someone who can calm your troubled mind. Meditation and voga will help you calm vourself. It is a good day to receive love from that someone special, says Ganesha

You will succeed in a new venture and will brim with radiance and energy Ganesha says this is the best time for get-together and kindle contact with friends and relatives.

LEO

You will look to give your house a new appearance by decorating it or undertaking some renovation projects. You will make the best out of waste and produce some truly marvellous pieces of art for improv ing the ambience of your nest. You will be able to save up on some money

VIRGO

You will excel remarkably in whatever work you prefer to engage yourself in today. Ganesha says your aspiration to start a business endeavour in a foreign country will bear fruit. To considerably enhance your self-image, it is necessary to make required nents in your personal appearance

LIBRA

Ganesha savs that on the work front you may be in the midst of meetings or negotiations, which will work out favorably for you. This will help ease your ten

Samantha reflects on forced new normal

Mumbai: Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu Thursday marked one year of her diagnosis with the autoimmune condition. Mvositis. She took to Instagram and penned a long note talking about how she has been battling the disease for a year

She wrote, "It's been one year since the diagnosis. A year of forced new normal. Many battles with my body... no salt, sugar or grains with a cocktail of meds for main course, forced shutdowns and forced restarts. A year of seek ing meaning, reflection and introspection. Of professional failures too... to make things more interesting. A year of prayers and poojas. not praying for blessings and gifts... but 8 praying to just find strength and peace.

now

when it doesn't. That I must control the controllables, let go of the rest, and keep moving forward one step at a time. That sometimes it's not about grand successes, but that functioning forward is in itself a win. That I must hang on to love and those I love ... and not give hate the power to affect

me." "There will be so many of you fighting far harder battles. I pray for you too. The Gods may delay, but they never deny," she concluded.

On the work front, she will be seen with Vijay Devarakonda in

Kushi. AGENCIES

"A year that has taught me that not every-

thing goes

your way all

the time.

And more

impor-

tantly,

that

it's ok



Prabhas fans gear up to greet Adipurush in City

Bhubaneswar: Actor Prabhas post his work in Baahubali is not able to achieve same box office success. But Fans of Prabhas are not heartbroken and his fans in Odisha in fact are gearing up for his new movie Adipurush.

The Prabhas Fans Club Odisha will celebrate its release by organising special programme on first day first show at Maharaja theatre Friday.

They will cut a cake and will distribute orange scarves at the hall.

Based on the Hindu epic Ramayana, the film, one of the most expensive Indian films ever made (Rs 500 crore), is written and directed by Om Raut and produced by T-Series and Retrophiles. Shot simultaneously in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam languages, the film stars Prabhas, Kriti Sanon, Saif Ali Khan, Sunny Singh and Devdatta Nage.

According to sources, an amount of Rs 250 crore is estimated to be spent on visual effects. The original budget was initially estimated to be Rs 400 crore. However, after the extreme backlash to the visual effects and CGI on the film's teaser, the budget was increased to Rs 500 crore to improve and enhance the visual effects, CGI, lighting and color grading. Mumbai:

Actress Kubbra Sait, best known for her role in the Netflix neo-noir crime thriller series Sacred Games, will be soon seen in the upcoming courtroom drama web series The Trial: Pyaar, Kanoon, Dhoka in the role of Sana, who she described as a headstrong per-

FUN

son Elaborating on the same, she said, "One thing that I realised while filming for this show is how women who have a consistent need to be happy and only when they're affable and sprightly, they are nice, but if they are rough on the edges and don't sugarcoat things.

For her Kubbra says," Sana is hardwired and strong willed, she has seen the

worst already and she does things that require her to be twisted. It's amazing to be

only then they are tough.'

THIS IS GOING

Tamannaah breaks her 'no-kissing' rule

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia who is known for her films like Himmatwala, Entertainment, Baahubali shares how she would never kiss onscreen but decided to do so for Lust Stories

Talking about her role in Lust Stories 2, the Babli Bouncer actress said, "I really wanted to work with Sujoy and I'm really happy that he thought of me for this part especially because I have done literally no intimacy in my career or very little intimacy in my career. I was that audience that would get awkward and I was that audience that was like 'main ye kabhi nahi karungi, main kabhi nahi kiss karungi on screen (I will never do this, I will never kiss onscreen).' I was that person, for me it was an evolution to get out of that framework." She added, "India is vast

and so many parts are yet to evolve. A lot of evolution has happened, but a lot more is left. I did not want this to sort of hold me back. It was purely for creativity. Not like I am trying to be famous after 18 years (in show biz). Not my endeavor.

On the work front. Tamannaah will be seen in web show Jee Karda and Rajinikanth's Jailer. AGENCIE

Kubbra opens up on *The trial* role

Disney+Hotstar

that. That per son is so not me, I thought that was an incredible change for me.' Along with Kubbra, the show also stars Padma Shri awardee Kajol as Noyonika Sengupta, along with actors Sheeba Chaddha, Jisshu Sengupta, Alyy Khan, and Gaurav Pandey in key roles. The series is an adaptation of the 200

sion and you will feel mentally free. Today vou will feel more vibrant and active too and hence will be able to get more done.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, your new business venture is likely to keep you on toes today. You may even neglect your person al life to meet expectations at work. A feeling of disappointment may surround you as things do not go according to plan ning and your efforts may go in vain. No pains, no gains reminds Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You are in a dilemma today. You may find yourself stand ing at crossroads. and your decision power does not seem to help you much, says Ganesha. You are likely to become controversy's favourite child: this may add fuel to the fire. Be wise, and take guidance of experienced people

CAPRICORN

God helps those who help themselves, likewise, your sincere efforts will be paid off well, today. If you're dealing with shares and stocks, it maybe your day, today. Your life partner will proved to be lucky for your success, so give him/her the credit he/she deserves, suggests Ganesha.

AOUARIUS You always see the larger

picture, and desire to channelise all your energies towards making things better. Such posi tive approach makes you an excellent team player, and enables you to bring novel ideas and effective solutions to the table, says Ganesha. You will be the life of every party you will go to today.

PISCES

This day promises to be filled with much romance, laughter, and fine dining, says Ganesha. You will seem irresistible to the opposite sex. You might also find yourself falling for someone. A breathe of fresh air could waft into old relationships, or new ones could be formed. However, this is like ly to be a drawn out process.





PEANUTS



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

21 Animal group

oriole

American courtroom drama series, The Good Wife, will begin streaming July 14 on IANS

able

to play



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.

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





(5,8)



SOI





IN MEMORIAM

Legendary poet Fakir Mohan Senapati's 105 birth anniversary observed by 'Utkal Sammilani' at Vani Vihar in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

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

DARSHAN 7,000 tickets to be sold June 19

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration said that devotees who buy the ₹100 tickets can see the deities between 8am to 9am, after the 'Netro Ustav' ritual at the shrine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, June 15: A total 7,000 tickets will be sold by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) for a 'darshan' of the sibling deities June 19, an official said Thursday.

A special ritual 'Nabajouban Darshan' will be held at the 12th century shrine on the day, which will mark the end of the 15-day



Chief Daitapati Ram Krushna Das Mohapatra and SJTA chief administrator Ranian Kumar Das addressing the media in Puri. Thursday OP PHOTO

devotees who buy the ₹100 tickets 'Anabasar' (quarantine period) can see the deities between 8am after the 'Snana Jatra'. The Shree Jagannath Temple to 9am June 19, after the 'Netro Administration (SJTA) said that Ustav' ritual at the shrine.

'Paramanik Darshan' (paid dar shan) ticket holders will be allowed to enter the temple through the Dakshin Dwara (south gate), SJTA chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das told reporters here Thursday.

The temple doors will be closed after 11am on that day for preparations of the famed Ratha Yatra to be held the next day, an official said. Special arrangements are being made for 'Nabajouban Darshan' of the deities, who were out of bounds for the devotees since the 'Snana Jatra' (bathing ritual), which fell June 4 this year, Das said.

Puri superintendent of police Kanwar Vishal Singh said 70 platoons (one platoon has 30 personnel) of the police force will be deployed for the smooth conduct of Nabajouban Darshan' of the deities.









NATIONAL WATER AWARDS Ganjam to get best district award June 17



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will confer the 4th National Water Awards June 17 at a ceremony to be organised at Vigyan Bhawan by Department of Water Resources, River Developmet and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD &GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The first prize for the best state will be given to Madhya Pradesh. best district will be given to Ganjam district of Odisha and best village panchayat will be given to Jagannadhapuram Village Panchavat of Telangana's Bhadradri Kothagudem district. On the other hand, Odisha has secured the second position among all states.

CM approves ₹112cr plan for Joranda Peetha facelift

THE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT EMPHASISES ON THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEETHA ALONG WITH VARIOUS FACILITIES FOR THE DEVOTEES

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday approved ₹112 crore plan for the complete transformation of the Mahima Gadi Peetha at Joranda in Dhenkanal district.

of the Chief Minister, Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian visited the Mahima Peetha and held discussions with the sadhus and devotees about the overall transformation of this famous Peetha and advised to submit a project report within 15 days.

According to this suggestion, the Dhenkanal Collector had preproval which got the CM's nod.

It seeks to create awareness among people about the importance of water and motivate them to adopt best water use practices,

With the objective of encouraging various stakeholders towards adopting a holistic approach towards water resource management in the country, it was con-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Earlier May 29, on the direction

sented a project proposal to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his ap-The transformation project em-

phasises on the overall development of the Peetha along with various facilities for the devotees. As per the plans, samadhi temple, prayer house, wall, bus stand,

Kaupin Dhari Mahima Samaj Peetha and primary health centre will be constructed. Restoration work will also be done.

Inside the Peetha, the entire area

with internal roads will be illu-

minated. A road will be constructed

HC stays tax demand of firm

0000000

from the Jagannath temple to the school grounds.

For beautification, 200 palm trees and 200 banyan trees will be planted along with restoration of the big pond in the east. Promenade will be constructed with lighting. 200 toilets will also be constructed for the sadhus and devotees.

The entire project will ha kinds of facilities for sadhus, devo-

tees, and guests. All steps will be

taken to make it a major pilgrim-

Centre stops sale of OMSS grains; Odisha to be impacted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: Odisha is one of the states which is going to be impacted by Central government's decision to disallow states from buying foodgrains from the Food

corporation of India (FCI). However, Food Ministry Additional Secretary Subhod Kumar Singh, in a press conference said that the decision was more aimed at curbing the price rise, not at any particular state.

Besides Odisha, the state that would be impacted by this decision include Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Central Bengal, Chhattisgarh

and Telangana. June 13, the Food Union Ministry discontinued the sale of rice and wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to all state gov-

ernments, barring northeast. hilly states and those facing law and order situations and natural calamities.

"The decision was not taken suddenly. It was not deliberate. The order came on June 13 after long inter-ministerial consultations. So, it was not a sudden decision for a particular state, it was

commodities -- wheat and rice in the larger interest of the people. Prices of rice and wheat have shown an upswing in mandis recently, he said.

Amid concerns over monsoon, climate change and the geopolitical situation, Kumar said the FCI has to maintain enough stocks for undertaking timely market intervention to keep prices under control and discontinuing grains under OMSS to state governments was one such decision taken in that direction.

Stating that the Centre decides how to use the FCI stock in the larger inter-

est of the society. Singh said the government, in a central govdecision, disallows ernment is alstates from buying ready providing foodgrains from Food foodgrains via ration shops to Corporation of India about 80 crore

poor enrolled under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). There are about 40-50 crore non-NFSA beneficiaries from the middle and upper middle class and the government has a responsibility to-

free

wards them also. To ensure 40-50 crore non-NFSA people get foodgrains at affordable prices in the market, the government has discontinued the sale of rice and wheat under the OMSS to state governments. It will offload these grains to small private bulk buyers for general consumption from month-end, he said.



There are 41 winners, including joint winners, in 11 categories and they will be given a citation and

Review meeting for sanitation workers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 15: A review meeting on utilisation of schemes and facilities available for safai karmacharis was held at Collector Office meeting hall Thursday. It was chaired by member of National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK) PP Vava.

Discussions were held on the wages of different categories of karmacharis, their personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as other issues related to their wellbeing. Vava elaborated on the schemes available for the mainstreaming of these sanitary workers

CMC Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan explained the actions taken by Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) as per the review held earlier November 17. 2021. He assured to resolves the issues at the earliest, within the prescribed rules.

Vava interacted with 20 representatives of safai karmacharis present on the occasion, who discussed about various problems faced by them. He lauded the effort of CMC for the development of safai karmacharis.

Among others present were Collector and District Magistrate Bhabani Shankar Chayani, CDMO Satyabrata Chhotaray, PDDRDA Ambar Kumar Kar and City Health Officer Satyabrata Mohapatra.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

the statement said.

a trophy, according to an official

statement. There are also cash

The National Water Awards'

focus is on encouraging the good

work and efforts made by various

individuals and organisations as

part of the ongoing nationwide

drive to realise the government's

vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat' or

sidered necessary to set up an

integrated National Water Award,

Water Prosperous India'.

it said.

prizes in certain categories.

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Taking an unusual step, the Orissa High Court put a stay on the tax demand of a private firm due to non-formation of GST Appellate Tribunal in the state.

The High Court issued the order recently while hearing the case of Nilamadhaba Enterprises vs CT (commercial tax) & GST Officer, Cuttack. The private firm had moved the court challenging an appellate order issued by the Joint Commissioner of State Tax, Jajpur Range, Jaipur district.

joint team of researchers

from the US and the UK

have for the first time created

a synthetic human embryo-like

structure from stem cells, without

beating heart or a brain, but have

cells which can later form the pla-

centa, yolk sac and the embryo it-

The finding may pave the way for

Professor Magdalena Zernicka-

Goetz from the University of

Cambridge, UK and also a profes-

sor of biology and biological en-

gineering at California Institute

understanding of genetic diseases

or the causes of miscarriages.

self, the Guardian reported.

The structures do not have a

eggs and sperm.

The petitioner appealed to the court that he is not liable to pay the tax and penalty and, as such, against the order passed by the 1st appellate authority though the second appeal lies, the 2nd appellate tribunal has not yet been constituted.

It is contended that the petitioner has already deposited 10 per cent of the demanded tax amount before the first appellate authority and as there is no second appellate forum, the firm moved the HC seeking relief.

The GST officer, represented by standing counsel Sunil, said that the petitioner is liable to pay 20 per cent balance disputed tax for consideration of its appeal by the 2nd appellate tribunal.

The court weighed the arguments of both sides and said, "Since the petitioner wants to avail the remedy under the provisions of law by approaching 2nd appellate tribunal, which has not yet been constituted, as an interim measure subject to the petitioner depositing entire tax demand within a period of 15 days from today, the rest of the demand shall remain stayed during the pendency of the writ petition."

age and tourist centre of the district along with beautification, as per an official release.

project emphasises on

of the Peetha along

for the devotees

with various facilities

the overall development

Bike-borne miscreants snatch gold chains

Bhubaneswar: The police have started an investigation to nab miscreants who snatched a gold necklace from a woman in Saheed Nagar area here Thursday afternoon. The victim. Ansubala Parhi, along with her husband Rajendra Kumar Mohapatra, had gone to Saheed Nagar for marketing. As Ansubala got off the bike near the Bhawani Mall, two bike-borne persons came from behind and snatched the gold chain she was wearing. As her husband was not on the spot, she screamed for help but the accused rushed towards Shantipalli Basti. The gold chain weighing 12 grams is valued at more than ₹65.000.

for the whole country." Subhod Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary in the Food Ministry, said in a press conference.

It was taken mainly for controlling the prices of essential



1st synthetic embryos created without sperm or eggs THE EMBRYOS WERE CULTIVATED AT tinal tract after about of a developmental milestone "Our human model is the first eight days of deknown as gastrulation three-lineage human embryo model A STAGE JUST BEYOND THE EQUIVALENT velopment. when the embryo that specifies amnion and germ **OF 14 DAYS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR A** transforms from cells, precursor cells of egg and sperm," Zernicka-Goetz was quoted being a con-**NATURAL EMBRYO, THE REPORT SAID** as saying to The Guardian. tinuous sheet of "It's beautiful and created encells to forming disof Technology (CalTech), US, detirely from embryonic stem cells.' veloped the embryo model using tinct cell lines and The research also raises seristem cells - the body's master cells, setting up the basic ous ethical and legal issues as the which can develop into almost any lab-grown entities fall outside curaxes of the rent legislation. cell type in the body. "Unlike human embryos aris-'We can create human embrvolike models by the reprogramming ing from in vitro fertilisation (IVF), of (embryonic stem) cells," said where there is an established legal Zernicka-Goetz while presenting the Meanwhile, framework, there are currently no research at the International Society Zernicka-Goetz said clear regulations governing stem for Stem Cell Research's annual that the embryos were body. cell derived models of human em-At this stage, meeting in Boston on Wednesday. cultivated at a stage just bebryos," a James Briscoe, associ-In August, last year, Zernickayond the equivalent of 14 days the embryo does not ate research director at the Francis yet have a beating heart, Goetz and her team, along with of development for a natural em-Crick Institute, said in a statement. gut or beginnings of a brain, but Israeli researchers, had described bryo, the report said. The research "There is an urgent need for regcreating model embryo-like strucis yet to be published in a journal. the model showed the presence of ulations to provide a framework for primordial cells that are the pre-Each structure of the model was tures from mouse stem cells. Those the creation and use of stem cell de-Ra "embryoids" showed the begincursor cells of egg and sperm, the grown from a single embryonic rived models of human embryos,' nings of a brain, heart and intesstem cell. It reached the beginning report said. he added. IANS

MARKET WATCH						
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BOL	NIFTY	18688.10	₽	67.80		
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	82.33	♥	₹ 0.09		
CURR	EURO	89.5870		₹0.80		
ION	GOLD	₹59225	₽	₹73		
BULLION	SILVER	₹71708	₽	₹943		

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	BHUB	СТК		
MA)	< 41.2℃	40.2°C		
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downtown

Heatwave condition likely for next 5 days

Maximum temperature is very likely to be above the normal by 5-7 degrees celsius at a few places over several districts during next 5 days



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jun 15: After a respite of two days, heatwave Thursday returned to the coastal belt of Odisha with 24 places in the state recording temperatures of 40 degrees celsius or more.

OrissaPOST

FRIDAY | JUNE 16 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Though the day temperature substantially declined to 34.4 degrees celsius here Wednesday, the mercury level Thursday reached 42.4 degrees, 7.5 degrees higher than the normal temperature in the state capital. Similar was the situation in

Cuttack where the temperature rose to 41.5 degrees from Wednesday's 35 degrees, the MeT office said, adding that as many as 24 places across Odisha recorded temperatures at or above 40 degrees celsius against 17 places

Wednesday. According to the evening bulletin issued by the IMD, the maximum temperature crossed 43 degrees cel-

sius in seven places during the day. Jharsuguda was the hottest in the state with 44.8 degrees celsius, followed by Hirakud 44.1. Sundergarh 44, Sambalpur 43.9, Sonepur 43.8, Rourkela and Baripada 43.2 and Talcher 43 degrees celsius.

Intense heat wave conditions

are very likely to prevail in some districts of Odisha and the maximum temperature very likely to be above normal by 5 - 7 degree celsius at a few places during next 4 days, IMD sources said.

The weather agency has issued an orange/yellow warning for several districts stating that heat wave to severe heat wave conditions are very likely to prevail. While orange warning has been issued at a few places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Cuttack, Khurdha and Boudh, vellow warning has been issued to few places in the districts of Kalahandi, Ganjam, Gajapati, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur and Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhani.

Consequently, hot and uncomfortable weather is likely and people have been advised to take precautionary measures such as avoid heat exposure, keep cool and avoid dehydration while going outside during day time between 1100 hours to 1500 hours.



RECOGNITION TO TALENT: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik along with students of SAI International School Swayam Shakti Tripathy, Surya Pratap Mishra and Abhipsa Chowdhury, who secured top ranks in Odisha in the recently published NEET-2023 results, joined by SAI International chairperson Silpi Sahoo, at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar Thursday

CM CONGRATULATES STATE NEET TOPPERS

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday met the students of SAI International School who have secured the top ranks in Odisha in the recently published results of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), 2023. The CM met Swayam Shakti

Tripathy, Surya Pratap Mishra and Abhipsa Chowdhury who secured first, second, and third ranks in the state respectively. The students were accompanied by SAI International chairperson Silpi Sahoo. Through his official social media account the CM said, "Glad to meet and interact with the state toppers of NEET2023. I encouraged them to achieve bigger milestones in their academic career. Congratulations to all the students who have qualified NEET 2023 from Odisha this year. Wish

them all the very best." Notably Swayam Shakti Tripathy became the state topper in NEET 2023 by securing all India rank (AIR) 8, followed by Surya Pratap Mishra securing the second position in the state with AIR 35 and Abhipsa Chowdhury securing the third position in state with AIR 63.

Panel refuses discussion on CoWIN data breach CoWIN data breach CoWIN data breach

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, June 15: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communication and Information Technology Thursday refused to hold discussion on the CoWIN data breach. The data of several Indians, including politicians and journalists, vaccinated against Covid-19 was leaked on a Telegram bot.

During the meeting Thursday, TMC and Congress MPs raised the issue of CoWIN data breach and demanded that the discussion should be held on the issue.

However, the committee refused to hold discussion on data leak stating that it is not the agenda of the meeting.

The agenda of the panel's meeting was an evidence of the representatives of the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Members of the Unmukt foundation recently organised a three-day summer camp for children between age of seven-to-fifteen here with participation of some gifted personalities from different walks of life, making it an occasion for these children to try new things, learn and showcase their talents, and hustle together to make things happen while enjoying the process.

"At Unmukt Foundation, we believe in providing a holistic experience to children at our summer camp. Instead of just focusing on fun, we aim to help children develop their physical, emotional, academic, and creative skills, while also encouraging environmental action" says Unmukt founder Shweta on the idea behind the summer camp.

In the opening session, Dance Ka

Keeda founder Debasish took the



low, and brown and linked colors to nature and to self. She spoke about using colors and brushes economically, and unleashing creativity within that economy. The children and volunteers engaged in painting Unmukt t-shirts.

The children were then joined by Bakul Foundation founder Sujit Bhai for an evening storytelling session. "Today I came to Unmukt a story through some wonderful and witty tales.

Later, the children were informed about composting and the state was set for beginning of a composting routine at Unmukt in the coming days. "Be it the young or the old, everyone shared responsibilities, going out of their way. The sessions were designed in such a way that we used less material, and sustainable material. And of course, we kept trying to keep the place clean," said the Unmukt founder. The final day of Summer Camp started at 6 am Sunday with two hours of Judo workout. Post community breakfast, the children were introduced to a short but fascinating session on Unmukt Bank by.

RSC celebrates Raja with art performance

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 15: As part of Raja celebrations, Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar, in association with Natya Chetana here Thursday organised a science based art performance on the theme 'a fly to the Earth' alongside other events like theatre workshop, poster making and a story telling session titled 'life of women scientists of India.'

The programme was organised with a aim to put emphasis on the role of nature in the sustenance of human life as it offered gratitude to 'mother nature' for her contribution to life and livelihood.

Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar, is one of the constituent units of National Council of Science Museums, working under the Union Culture Ministry. The objective of the institution has been to propagate science among the common masses, and students in particular, for which purpose it conducts various events and programmes.

'Frequent power cuts due to nor'westers'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jun 15: Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL), a joint venture with Odisha government, Thursday claimed that the high frequency of power outages in Odisha is due to the nor'westers.

The firm, in a statement, said that over 230 instances of nor'westers affecting power distribution were witnessed this summer, up from just 80 last year.

Nor'westers, locally known as 'Kalbaisakhi', are severe thunderstorms characterised by high wind speeds and heavy rain.

"These storms often cause damage to power supply network by uprooting trees and bending electric poles," a company spokesper-

s, and stunich purs events with a son said. "These storms have significantly impacted residential, commercial areas, and infrastructure, leading to widespread power disruptions."



tangled live wires and sunken roads to restore power supply, even in remote areas," he said.

Meanwhile, opposition BJP staged dharnas in front of various TPCODL offices state for the second consecutive day to protest the

frequent power cuts. The Congress has also an-

on the subject 'citizens' data se curity and privacy'.

According to sources, the panel also refused to hold discussion on the claims made by Twitter's former CEO Jack Dorsey that the Indian government had threatened to shut down twitter in the country if it doesn't block accounts critical to the government and covering farmers' protest against the three controversial laws.

An opposition party MP had raised the concerns on the claims made by Dorsey and demanded a discussion. However, the committee refused citing the same reason.

In a recent interview to a YouTube channel, Jack Dorsey had claimed that the Indian government pressurised Twitter to block accounts covering farmers' agitation against three controversial farm laws during 2020-21 and are critical to the government. The India government had threatened to shut down twitter and raid its employees in India, Dorsey had said. children from conversations about dance and expressions to terpsichorean movements on the song 'Kholo kholo' from Taare Zameen Par. He introduced the group to the idea of freedom through dance. In the following session on art, Vedware from Art Ve Verde re-

Kalyani from Art Ka Keeda requested for splashes of green, yel-

for the first time and saw the impact on the children. They are confident, ready to imagine, think out of the box, and ready to take on the world" said Sujit. Founder of Kathasagar Meera then took the stage and conducted a workshop on creating stories. She introduced the children to the five elements of



he said.

He said that despite facing challenges, the firm's 7,700 team members including ground staff, linemen and engineers have worked tirelessly to restore power connection.

"People on the ground have braved uprooted trees, poles, ennounced its plan to gherao the headquarters of the Grid Corporation of Odisha Limited over the matter.

Several BJD leaders, including MP Amar Pattnaik and Cuttack Mayor Subhas Singh, have also expressed their displeasure over power outages.

Effects of early childhood adversity seen in adolescents: Study

Wearly childhood adversities leave behind impacts, reflected as bodily changes in adolescence, in turn influencing their physical and mental health throughout life, has been uncovered in a new study published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health.

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Boston, US, involved in this study, had previously showed that exposure to adversity between ages 3 and 5 significantly affected the epigenome of children at age 7, altering biological processes possibly linked to damaging long-term health outcomes.

"We wanted to determine if the epigenetic profiles associated with adversity that we observed in children at age 7 persisted into adolescence and whether the timing of exposure to adversity influenced epigenetic trajectories across development," said first author Alexandre A Lussier, research fel-

dver- low at MGH.

Epigenetics is the study of stable changes or mechanisms in cell function not involving DNA alterations, one such mechanism being that of DNA methylation (DNAm).

Measuring DNAm levels conveys information about how genes are expressed, serving as early warning sign of disease processes and helping identify people susceptible to future disease.

"Epigenetics acts at the intersection between a person's genome, which is set at conception and is stable, and the environment, which is always changing," explained Lussier.

"Epigenetic mechanisms, which are sensitive to environmental factors, function like a dimmer switch on our genes, controlling how much of the gene is expressed and how much is turned off over time," said Lussier.

Analysing DNAm in children at three time points - at birth from cord blood, and at ages 7 and 15



from blood, the researchers investigated the timing of exposure to seven adversity types, including neglect, different types of abuse, poverty, and family dysfunction.

They found the greatest DNAm differences at age 15 in children exposed to adversity between ages 3 and 5 compared with adolescents not experiencing adversity.

"The preschool period may be a

sensitive period for the biological embedding of childhood adversity that manifests in adolescence," said senior author Erin C Dunn, associate investigator, Center for Genomic Medicine at MGH.

Exposures to single-parent families were particularly linked to more changes in DNAm in adolescence than other types of childhood adversity, such as maternal depresResearchers had previously adversity between 3 and 5 significantly affected the epigenome of children at age 7, altering biological processes linked to long-term health outcomes

Exposures to single-parent families were particularly linked to more changes in DNAm in adolescence than other types of childhood adversity, such as maternal depression, financial hardship, or abuse

Our bodies adapt, in good ways and bad, in response to our life experiences. If true, then interventions could be mounted to help reverse negative epigenetic changes that occur in response to adversity

sion, financial hardship, or abuse. They also found that DNAm patterns had changed throughout childhood such that at age 15, there were epigenetic changes not present earlier in development. These findings may explain why there are both immediate and latent manifestations of disease among people with histories of childhood adversity.

"These findings are important because they suggest our epigenome may be dynamic across our lifespan," said Dunn.

"In other words, our bodies adapt, in good ways and bad, in response to our life experiences. If true, then interventions could be mounted to help reverse negative epigenetic changes that occur in response to adversity," said Dunn.

The researchers studied children enrolled in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, a 30year-long prospective birth cohort from the UK that has followed 13,988 children from before birth through early adulthood, collecting multiple measures of childhood adversity and epigenetic profiles across the lives of participants.

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state

Uncovered pipeline threat to jumbos in elephant corridors

The agency laying the pipelines has allegedly dumped the pipes on roadside and kept the pits uncovered for years together

POST NEW NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 15: Laying of slurry pipelines in elephant corridors of Keonjhar district has posed serious threat to the life of pachyderms travelling from one iungle to another in search of food, a report said Thursday.

The matter came to the fore after a consultancy firm was found digging pits for laving slurry pipelines along Keonjhar Ghatagaon road passing through an elephant corridor. Reports said that for the past one year the pits are being dug up on the roadside and the adjoining jungles for laying pipelines for iron ore transportation

Meanwhile, animals fail to cross to the other part of the road as the agency has stopped the work midway and left the pipes on the roadside. It was also noticed that at many places pits have not been covered with soil after laying the pipelines. This poses serious threat to the animals during their movement. The road is regularly taken by senior administrative and for

est officials but none have spared a thought to address this problem. Elephants residing in various jungles of Keonjhar district move from one jungle to another in search of food and water. During their movement, they often come

across roads and have to cross them to get to their destination. Notably, National Highways 20, 49 and 520 are often crossed by the pachyderms during their movement. Illegal parking of vehicles on roadside as well as pits and craters dug up by some firms poses serious threat to the life of pachyderms

The agency laying the pipelines has allegedly dumped the pipes on roadside and kept the pits uncovered for years together. The forest department except for putting up an information plaque has done little to ward off the threat to pachyderms.

When contacted, Sadar forest ranger Bijay Kumar Mohanta said that the consultancy firm has been directed to immediately fill the pits after completion of works in the elephant corridors.



TRADITIONAL GAME: Girls participating in a competition of traditional 'Puchi' game, organised by a social outfit Satwik Soul Foundation at Chandannagar slum in Berhampur on the occasion of Raja festival, Thursday

Labourer drowns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rupsa, June 15: A casual labourer drowned in sea after he accidentally fell off a boat into the sea while applving colour to it at Bahabalpur fishing centre under Sadar block in Balasore district, Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Basudev Giri, 40, a native of Pnajibag area under Chandipur police limits in the district. Marine police rescued him and

rushed him to the Balasore district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced him brought dead.

Medical outpost police registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, June 15: A man was arrested Thursday after photos and videos showing him poaching a collared kingfisher (Todiramphus chloris) in a prawn farm around Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district went viral on social media. The arrested poacher has been identified as Gurupada Dalai of Pataparia village.

He poached a collared kingfisher as the bird dived into the

dies in Surat

prawn farm of Dalai to catch prawn at Bandhamala village under Rajkanika block, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Bhitarkanika National Park, Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav.

Man kills kingfisher, posts

on social media; arrested

The photos and videos of the killing of the kingfisher by the accused went viral, leading to an outrage on social media platforms.

Dalai was later arrested under the relevant sections of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as the bird is a protected species

under the law and further investigation was underway, added

the forest officer. Bhitarkanika National Park is home to eight different species of kingfisher including the collared kingfisher.

All these species are blessed with their characteristic large heads, long-sharp and pointed beaks, short legs and stubby tails. They consume a wide range of prey ranging from fishes to geckos and other small invertebrates. added the forest officer.

80-year-old woman raped in Kendrapara 🗦

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, June 15: An 80-yearold woman was allegedly raped by a man 50 years younger than her in Kendrapara district, police said Thursday. The accused had offered her a lift to her daughter's house on his motorcycle in a village in Kendrapara district Wednesday evening and committed the offence, the police.

The octogenarian woman was waiting at Kahuna Chhack for a bus to visit her daughter's house when a young man offered her a lift.

But the accused took her to an isolated place at Madanpur and sexually assaulted her. The old woman is hospitalised with severe injuries to her private parts at the Community Health Center (CHC) in Rajnagar, said medical officer Asutosh Barik.

Senior police officers rushed to the hospital and recorded her statement. "We have formed a team to track down the accused. Police are also examining nearby CCTV footage to nab the accused." said Sandhvarani Beuria, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Pattamundai



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Dy. Chief Materials Manage Carriage Repair Workshop PR-266/O/23-24 Mancheswar, Bhut

No. eT-M-KUR-CTCSTNO 226-23

k: (I) CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING OF CUTTACK (CTC) STATION INCLUDING PLATFORMS YARD, TRACKS, OFFICE BUILDINGS **RESERVATION OFFICE, CONCOURSE** AREA, CIRCULATING AREA, WAITING HALLS, YARD FROM HOME SIGNAL TO HOME SIGNAL ETC. (II) CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING OF DHENKANAL (DNKL), PARADEEP (PRDP) AND DHANMANDAL (DNM) "STATION AND COLONY INCLUDING PLATFORMS YARD, TRACKS, OFFICE BUILDINGS **RESERVATION OFFICE, CONCOURSE** AREA, CIRCULATING AREA, WAITING HALLS, YARD FROM HOME SIGNAL TO HOME SIGNAL" & "LIFTING OF GARBAGE PER DAY FROM ENTIRE RAILWAY SETTLEMENT BY USING SUITABLE VEHICLE (INCLUDING ALL CHARGES i.e. DRIVER, LABOUR, EQUIPMENTS, FUEL AND ALL OTHER CHARGES ETC) AND DISPOSAL OF THE SAME AT NOMINATED DUMPING GROUND BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES DAILY" ETC FOR A PERIOD OF 03

Jharsuguda DFO M Ashok Bhat

Lady medical student found dead at MKCG

SUBHANI WAS REPORTEDLY SUFFERING FROM MIGRAINE AND MIGHT HAVE DIED DUE TO DRUG **OVERDOSE, HER FATHER SUSPECTED**

plaint with the local police, but did POST NEWS NETWORK not suspect any foul play.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chikiti, June 15: A labourer from Parasama village of Kalabada panchayat under Chikiti block in Ganiam district died Tuesday at Guiarat's Surat.

The deceased was identified as Santosh Kumar Behera (42) of Parasama village in Ganjam. He had been working in a private company in Surat for the last 8 years.

Wild boar beaten to death for Odia labourer attack on 3 members of family



Forest officials said that the animal initially strayed into the village in search of food, Thursday night. The animal ran to save itself after stray dogs chased and tried to attack it. Panicked, the animal rushed inside the house and at-

tacked the three during sleep.

an operation Wednesday in Kalamdongri village, located around five kilometres from the Odisha border, the reserve's Deputy Director Varun Jain said.

3 arrested with leopard

skin, bones in Chh'garh

Gariaband, June 15: Three per-

sons were arrested allegedly with

leopard skin, bones and animal

body parts in Chhattisgarh's

Gariaband district, a forest de-

Acting on specific inputs, the

anti-poaching team of Udanti-

Sitanadi Tiger Reserve conducted

partment official said Thursday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

All accused have been handed over to Odisha forest department for further action. The anti-poach ing team of the reserve along with Odisha personnel raided the house of Kurso Bhatra, Mohansingh Rawat and Dumar Manjhi in the village, he said.

"We recovered leopard skin, leop ard bones and tail, horns of fourhorned antelope and sambar, ten Indian porcupines and body parts of other wild animals along with materials used in poaching," he said. Last week, the anti-poaching team of the tiger reserve had arrested six persons in the same area of Odisha and recovered tiger skin.

Berhampur, June 15: A female medical student of MKCG Medical College and Hospital here was found dead Thursday in her hostel room under suspicious circumstances.

The deceased was identified as Subhani Patnaik, 27, daughter of Rabindra Kumar Patnaik of Ratha Sahi locality in Purusottampur after the post mortem report in Ganjam district. She was a first year PG student in the Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy department of the med-

ical college Subhani was rescued in a critical condition from her room and rushed to the hospital. However, doctors pronounced her dead on arrival. Subhani was reportedly suffering from migraine and might have died due to drug overdose, her father suspected. He lodged a com-

The body of the deceased was handed over to Subhani's father after post mortem was conducted. Police, however, have launched a probe into the incident. They searched her room and also seized Subhani's phone. Police said that the exact reason behind Subhani's death can only be ascertained

arrives Subhani's mates informed that they had gone to call the deceased to accompany them for classes. However, they found the door locked. They also called Subhani on her mobile. When repeated calls went unanswered, they felt suspicious. They then informed the hostel superintendent. When the door of the room was broken. Subhani was lying unconscious in the room, her classmates added.

Due to bad health condition he had come to his village three months ago and again returned to Surat to join the company. He returned to where he used to stay in Surat Tuesday. However, he did not join work Wednesday. When the owner of the company went to his house to verify the matter, he found the body of Santosh lying in his room. The company owner then called the local police.

The police arrived at the spot sent the body for post mortem and informed his family members about the incident. However, they were unable to bring his body back to their village owing to poor financial condition and the last rites were conducted at Surat.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 15: Villagers beat up a wild boar to death after it strayed inside a house and attacked three members of a family during sleep and rendered them critical at Kapumal village in neighbouring Jharsuguda town, Wednesday night.

The injured persons were identified as Gouri Naik, 60, daughter Bimala Naik, 40, and son Gajanan Naik, 35, of the village. On being informed, forest officials rescued and admitted the injured to the Jharsuguda headquarters hospital. Their health condition improved after they were administered treatment. The incident sparked tension among the villagers and they beat up the animal to death.

assured that the medical expenses of the injured persons will be borne by the forest department as per government norms

Family members said that they had gone to sleep and the rear door was open due to scorching heat wave gripping the area. The animal straved into the house and first attacked the woman and later her son and daughter when they tried to save her. The woman sustained critical injuries on her face and

stomach. Locals said that Kapumal village is under the jurisdiction of Jharsuguda Municipality area and a waste dumping yard of the civic body is located near the village. The animal might have straved into the village in search of food and water which are scarce in the forest during summer season.

YEARS (i.e. 1096 DAYS). ised Value: ₹ 16,55,78,293.82 EMD: ₹ 9,77,900.00, Tender Documer Cost: ₹ 11,800.00. Period of Completion 36 Months dding Start Date: 15.06.2023. Date 3 time of tender closing: At 1530 hrs 29.06.2023. Manual offers are not allo tender, and any such manual offer receiv shall be ignored. Complete information including e-tende documents are available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engine PR-264/O/23-24 Khurda Road EAST COAST RAILWAY



(2) Tender No. : e-Tender-HQ KUR-106-2023, Dtd. 06.06.2023 Description : MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS TO MAJOR AND MINOR

BRIDGES ON KHURDA ROAD - PUR SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION

ASSISTANT DIVISIONA ELECTRICAL ENGINEER/KHURDA

ion: EXECUTION OF PRE AND

Lakh, EMD: ₹ 4,63,300/-.

ROAD DIVISION

Vedanta establishes Butterfly Park for protection of species

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, June 15: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has established a lush new Butterfly Park within its premises at Jharsuguda. The park harbours over 100 meticulously curated selections of plant species that will attract and nurture more than 30 rare and exquisite butterfly species such as the common mormon, zebra blue and danaid eggfly providing them with a nur turing habitat. The Butterfly Park will further play a pivotal role in providing a thriving ecosystem to local flora and fauna such as rare flowering plant species, birds and bees. Through numerous environmental initiatives like the park under its #GreenHearts campaign, Vedanta Aluminium is creating avenues to nurture biodiversity in Jharsuguda

Vedanta Aluminium firmly believes that fostering biodiversity is



fundamental to its commitment to achieving ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) excellence and UN Sustainable Development Goals. By adhering to the principles of 'Lifestyle for Environment – LiFE' a Government of India initiative, the company implements a comprehensive range of measures to preserve and restore biological diversity around its operations, including habitat restoration and conservation projects for endangered species. Through initiatives

such as the Butterfly Park, Vedanta Aluminium is also contributing to the UN SDG, particularly Goal 15: conserving life on land.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tangi, June 15: A Buddha idol is among some archaeological remains found during excavation work in a pond at Lendo village under Tangi block in Khurda district Wednesday. Among the archaeological re-

mains are a headless Buddha idol, a Buddhist Stupa and an ancient temple stone. During pond excavation work carried out by an earthmover, these ancient artefacts came to notice. Later, local intelligentsia Susanta Biswal and Mahendra Biswal coordinated to bring the ancient items out of the pond and kept them safe. The pond is situated at Bhujabalapada just a few meters away from the ancient Ladukesh Mahadev temple.

After getting information from the residents of Lendo village, historian Deepak Nayak reached the spot and inspected the archaeological remains. "This is a historical area with great archaeological



Ancient Buddha idol found in pond

potential." he said. The newly-built Ladukesh temple has been constructed above the remains of an ancient temple, he added. One can find ancient sculptures of Lord Ganesh, Lord Kartikeya and Lord Vishnu and many other Brahminical sculptures inside the temple premises.

Except for these, many 'Veer Sheelas' were also found at the spot. During the reign of Gangavanshi and Suryavanshi rulers, many brave Paika fighters were residing over there. Presence of these 'Veer Sheelas' is the proof that the place also has a history of battles. However, the excavated archaeological remains are believed to be much older than these periods.

The discovery of Buddhist remains has been made earlier in Dava and Mandakini river basins. It proves the deep influence of Buddhism that once prevailed in these areas. The headless statue of Buddha in 'Dhyana Mudra' is probably from 9th century BC, said historian Deepak Nayak.

According to INTACH Odisha co-host Anil Dhir, it is necessary to establish an archaeological museum at Lindo village. Apart from Lendo, there are many archaeological remains spread in a neglected state at Anjira, Nirakarpur, Dia. Gadabalabhadrapur, Rameswar and in Malisahi villages in the district.

If all these remains are collected and kept in a museum, the historical and archaeological importance of these areas will be known. In this regard INTACH will consult with the higher authorities, said Dhir.

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 195.29 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,47,700/ (3) Tender No. : e-Tender-Cent-KUR-107-2023, Dtd. 07.06.2023 POST OPERATION AND OTHER ENABLING WORKS WITH BCM WORKING UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (DHENKANAL) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

> Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 97.3 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 1.94,800/-. Completion period : 15 (Fifteen) Month (for sl. no. 1) and 08 (Eight) Months (fo sl. no. 2 & 3) Tender closing Date & Time: At 150 hrs. of 28.06.2023 (for all tende No manual offers sent by post/courier/ in person shall be accepted against suc -tenders. Complete information including e-tended documents of the above e-tender is available website : http://www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tende to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note an changes/corrigendum issued for this tende Divisional Railway Manager (Engg PR-268/O/23-24 Khurda Roa











power post

FOCUS TECHNOLOGY

Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down. THE MOTHER



Modi in America

o bilateral relationship has deepened and strengthened more rapidly over the last two decades than the one between the United States and India. In fact, Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US will be his eighth as India's Prime Minister, and his second since US President Joe Biden took office. The US has at least as much to gain from the growing closeness as India does.

India just overtook China in population size, and although its economy remains smaller, it is growing faster. In fact, India is now the world's fastestgrowing major economy, with GDP having already surpassed that of the United Kingdom and on track to overtake that of Germany. India thus represents a major export market for the US, including for weapons.

But commercial opportunities are just the beginning. In an era of sharpening geopolitical competition, the US is seeking partners to help it counter the growing influence - and assertiveness - of China (and its increasingly close ally Russia). India is an obvious partner for its fellow democracies in the West, though what it really represents is a critical "swing state" in the struggle to shape the future of the Indo-Pacific and the world order more broadly. The US cannot afford for it to swing toward the emerging Russia-China alliance

Consider America's quest to bolster supply-chain resilience through so-called friendshoring. As Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has explained, India is among the "trusted trading partners" with which the US is "proactively deepening economic integration," as it attempts to diversify its trade "away from countries that present geopolitical and security risks" to its supply chain.

India is also integral to maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Its military standoff with China - now entering its 38th month - is a case in point. By refusing to back down, India is openly challenging Chinese expansionism, while making it more difficult for China to make a move on Taiwan. Biden has not commented on the confrontation, but he is certainly paying attention. It is telling that both Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan visited New Delhi this month.

Already, India holds more military exercises with the US than any other power, and as of 2020, it had signed all four of the "foundational" agreements that the US maintains with all its allies. This means that the two countries, among other things, provide reciprocal access to each other's military facilities and share geospatial data from airborne and satellite sensors. Meanwhile. India's involvement in the Quad – along with the US, Australia, and Japan - has lent the grouping much-needed strategic heft.

Fortifying the strategic relationship with India is one of the rare issues eliciting bipartisan consensus in the US. The latest in-

vitation to Modi to address the US Congress - he is the first Indian leader to do so twice - came from Democratic and Republican leaders alike.

Nonetheless, plenty of skeptics in the West believe that US efforts to cement strategic ties with India will disappoint. For example, one commentator recently declared that India will never be an ally of the US, and another argued that treating India as a key partner will not help the US in its geopolitical competition with China.

A key concern is India's commitment to retaining its strategic independence. While India has rarely mentioned non-alignment since Modi came to power, in practice, it has been multi-aligned. As it has deepened its partnerships with democratic powers, it has also maintained its traditionally close relationship with Russia.

But India's relationships with the US and Russia seem to be moving in opposite directions. India is building a broad and multifaceted partnership with the US – covering everything from cooperation on human spaceflight to the construction of resilient semiconductor supply chains - whereas its relationship with Russia now seems limited almost exclusively to defense and energy. Nonetheless, India is not prepared to shun Russia, as the West has since the invasion of Ukraine, not least because India still views Russia as a valuable counterweight to China. In India's view, China and Russia are not natural allies at all, but natural competitors that have been forced together by US policy. A Sino-Russian strategic axis serves neither India's nor America's interests, yet, much to India's frustration, the US appears to have little interest in rethinking its policy. This is not the only area where India believes that US policy undermines Indian security interests. India also takes issue with America's insistence on maintaining severe sanctions on Myanmar and Iran, while coddling Pakistan, where mass arrests, disappearances, and torture have become the norm. The US is now threatening visa sanctions against officials of Bangladesh's secular government - which is locked in a battle against Islamist forces - if it believes they are undermining elections that are due early next year. The US is not accustomed to being challenged by its partners. Its traditional, Cold War-style alliances position the US as the "hub" and its allies as the "spokes." But this will never work with India. As the White House's Asia policy czar, Kurt Campbell, has acknowledged, "India has a unique strategic character," and "a desire to be an independent, powerful state." Far from a US client, India "will be another great power." Campbell is right. But that does not mean that the skeptics are also right. While a traditional treaty-based alliance with India would not work, the kind of soft alliance the US is pursuing, which requires no pact but does include, as Campbell also underlined, "people-to-people ties" and cooperation on "technology and the like," can benefit both sides.

AI IS HERE TO STAY

e humans are naturally curious and creative. Since our earliest ancestors bashed a rock on the ground to make the first sharp edged tool, millions of years ago, humans have continued to innovate. From the debut of wheel some 6000 years ago to the launch of Mars rovers, it has been on. The last two hundred years have been marked by so many landmark inventions; our lives would not have been the same without them. Machines are not only stronger

and more dexterous but they are supposed to be more intelligent too. Are they creative too? Machines are doing much more than what we could have done in their absence; but there is an exception --- they can't be human and caring as humans are. Even as it is the be ginning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has not entered into all walks of our lives, the recent advances of AI are highly significant. Bill Gates is of the firm view that they are the most important developments since personal computers were invented. So, what could be AI's implications on growth, productivity and employment? On this the analysis of Goldman Sachs is both optimistic and a little thought provoking too. It says that the combination of significant labour cost savings, new job creation and a productivity boost for non-displaced workers raises the possibility of a labour productivity boom. This will be on the same line as happened post invention of electric motors and personal computers. As per their assessment, globally 18 per cent work could be automated by AI, with larger effects in high-income countries. The most vulnerable jobs will be office, administrative, legal, architecture and engineering. The least exposed will be construction, installation and maintenance. Socially, the impact will fall most heavily on relatively well educated white-collar workers. This may lead to downward mobility of middle and upper-middle classes. So, even if their increasing use will lead to rise in productivity it will



The World Economic Forum predicts that AI will bring three changes -- job cuts, job creation and increased efficiency. It should be our endeavour to take the middle path and focus more on job creation while promoting AI

have social and political impacts and more so in the emerging and developing economies.

The story will go beyond this. While we might have very efficient systems and procedures in many areas including in judiciary with the help of AI, we might also have a world of fake information. Complete surveillance by governments and companies on the activities of individuals cannot be ruled out. It will also have its impact on the democratic process. Democracy as such is a conversation and conversations rely on language. When AI hacks language it can affect our ability to have meaningful conversations. It will have the potential to change our economies, our polity, our social relations and science. It can also change how we think and create although by nature we are creative. In fact, it's quite complex to understand the whole dynamics. We don't know how to have a regulator for AI since it's a generalpurpose technology But then trying to understand

the effects, positive or otherwise, it would be like trying to understand the effects of the printing press in the 15th century. There cannot be a clear demarcation where to start and where to end. Even if some countries did that others will not stop. The Chinese decided to go slow on naval power in early 15th century that did not stop others from doing so. In India there was lot of resistance to computerisation of railway ticketing in the 1990s and also to bank computerisation a few years later. Now we cannot imagine manual railway ticketing or banking.

AI refers to simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computers. While it is nearly impossible on the part of any nation, including India, to prevent the adoption of AI, nor will it be prudent to do so, nations must prioritise regulations for AI ethics, data privacy and protection of intellectual property rights (IPR). Considering the imminent impact on employment and may be displacement on account thereof.

reskilling of the workforce and building an AI-savvy workforce should engage the attention of policymakers. Massive layoffs by MNCs are now a global phenomenon. There is an undercurrent of discomfort and fear among the tech savvy and not so tech savvy all over the world. The coming in of AI is going to add to the discomfiture of jobseekers and also of those who are already in job.

Be that as it may AI has the potential to transform Indian busi nesses by enabling personalised customer experiences, raising the productivity bar, accelerating innovations and revolutionising communication and education. We are a diverse nation, diversity not only in terms of religion or language; but also, in terms of education. IBM CEO tells Bloomberg in an interview that over a 5-year period they expect 30 per cent of jobs getting replaced by AI and automation. Some others opine generative AI is a blessing in disguise as it can take away a lot of repetitive works and leave people to actually perform more creative work. But this will happen in an ideal situation which unfortunately is not the case in a majority of developing economics including India.

Some banks have already started incorporating AI into their business models. Morgan Stanley has begun using open AI-powered chat bots to organise its wealth man agement database. It is pertinent for the future workforce to learn AI skills in a country like ours where creating employment opportunities is the top most priority of the government. However, this has to be carried out in a mission mode.

The World Economic Forum predicts that AI will bring three changes -- job cuts, job creation and increased efficiency. It should be our endeavour to take the middle path and focus more on job creation while promoting AI.

> The writer is a senior adviser to the Indian Banks' Association. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Shifting sand in the Middle East

Antony Blinken visited Saudi Arabia last week in an attempt to restore the strained relations between the two old allies. Apparently the relations have not been on the mend since the Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS) took over the reigns of the state. US-Saudi relations were badly strained by the 2018 murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. What vitiated the atmosphere further was a remark made by US President Joe Biden, who described MBS as a 'pariah'. They were further exacerbated when Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, refused to help bring down skyrocketing energy prices after Russia's invasion on Ukraine in February last year. Blinken's trip came in the backdrop of quickly shifting sand affecting alliances in the Middle East. In March this year, China brokered a rapprochement between regional foes Saudi Arabia and Iran. Another landmark change saw Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad invited back to the Arab League last month for the first time since the start of the 12-year civil war in which his government has been backed by Russia and Iran.

sions to the age-old ties between the

The US Secretary of State There are indeed many dimen- approach, which may yield un- reason is that any cut in oil procertain results. With that in mind.

duction leads to an increase in oil



Brahma Chellaney

The US and India are united by shared strategic interests, not least in maintaining a rules-based Indo-Pacific free of coercion. As long as China remains on its current course, so will the Indo-American relationship

IT IS PERTINENT FOR THE FUTURE **WORKFORCE TO LEARN AI SKILLS IN A COUNTRY**

Bikash Narayan

LIKE OURS

Mishra

The US and India are united by shared strategic interests, not least in maintaining a rules-based Indo-Pacific free of coercion. As long as China remains on its current course, so will the Indo-American relationship.

> The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.

CONFUCIUS

- The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.
- He who would learn to fly one day must first learn to stand and walk and run and climb and dance; one cannot fly into flying. FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE



MBS THINKS THAT THE ONLY POTENTIAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST RESTS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, SO BOTH US AND CHINA

WOULD PREFER TO STAND CLOSE TO IT

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250

two allies and what they expect of each other. Saudi wants guarantee that the US will stand with it in face of any threat from Iran, in spite of the recently shown bonhomie by the two countries by restoring diplomatic channels. There are also indications that the Saudis want to be left alone on human rights issues, with no American interference. Further the Saudis have made the issue of improving ties with Israel contingent upon such demands. This stand roughly follows the same pattern adopted by other Arab states to accept Israel's existence: Morocco obtained US concessions on the Western Sahara; the UAE got better access to sophisticated US weapons; and, earlier, Egypt received massive US aid in exchange for a peace treaty with Israel.

But in view of the trust deficit, which the Saudis currently have amongst US lawmakers and leaders, this may backfire; though the apparent reason behind this seems to be the Saudi gambit to try reaping benefit from both sides. This bargaining model might not be the only way to approach the issue, and the Saudis could be better served by avoiding this indirect

the Saudis should examine the option of moving unilaterally to normalise ties with Israel. This means that if the Saudis take the first step towards diplomatic establishing ties with Israel, it may result in favourable response from the Americans

Saudis want to be designated as a Major Defence Partner (MDP) of the US, in addition to extending the Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty to Saudi Arabia. There is very little chance that the US would agree to such a demand, as it would translate to a commitment to Riyadh that would legally obligate the US to consider an attack on the kingdom as an attack on the US. and further may not get the required support of NATO-member countries.

Though the Biden administration has pledged to work towards normalising Israel-Saudi Arabia diplomatic ties, the visit last month to Riyadh by US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan did not produced any visible breakthroughs. In addition, the optics may give an illusion that the US is particularly disturbed over the Saudi refusal to supply more oil to the US at concessional rates. But in fact this is not the underlying reason, the main

prices the world over and this pinches the American consumer the most, who has become habitual of getting the cheapest oil on earth.

Overall, the visit seemed to be an effort from the US President to cajole America's one time ally and its current de facto ruler, who has expressed his views on the Saudi stand on improving ties with the US as a ploy to play China and US against each other, to get the maximum benefit for the kingdom. MBS thinks that the only potential in the Middle East rests with Saudi Arabia, so both US and China would prefer to stand close to it.

However, in this ploy the balance seems to be tilting more in favour of China, instead of the US, though in reality Saudi may lose a lot if it completely abandons the US in favour of China. Further in this game of one-upmanship, both MBS and Biden, who are poised as emotional enemies are trying to outsmart each other and get an upper hand, and in this personal tussle, respective countries take a backseat.

The writer is a Delhi-based senior political commentator.

Lifestyle diseases

Sir, The adoption of certain habits in the past decade has resulted in lifestyle disorders, commonly referred to as non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Although lifestyle choices are often viewed as personal, they are influenced by social practices and reflect personal, group, and socio-economic identities. The WHO has issued a warning that without government efforts to promote physical activity, nearly 500 million people are at risk of developing heart disease, obesity, diabetes, or other NCDs between 2020 and 2030. The economic impact of these diseases would amount to approximately \$27 billion per year in healthcare costs. In a study supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the concerning prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases in India has been brought to light. The study, led by Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialist Centre and published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, provides the most comprehensive estimation of metabolic disorders in the country. The results indicate that diabetes affects over 10% of the population, while hypertension is present in 35% and high cholesterol levels in 28%. While urban areas bear a greater burden of these conditions, there is also an emerging rise in metabolic diseases, specifically diabetes, in rural areas. Recognising the rapid shift in health trends, the National Health Mission in India acknowledges that NCDs have overtaken the burden of communicable diseases in the past decade. However, the healthcare sector has not consistently taken proactive measures to promote behavioural changes in this regard. The lack of sufficient counseling facilities for diabetics was highlighted in the NCD monitoring survey. Urgent attention is needed to address these concerns, particularly due to the substantial economic costs associated with lifestyle diseases. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Rice politics

Sir, The Congress' flagship Anna Bhagya scheme has run into rough weather after the Union government discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). citing a delay in monsoon. The development means that the Karnataka government would find it a tall order to start its '10kg free rice' scheme in July, as promised. The Union government clarified that discontinuing the sale of foodgrains applies to the entire country, not just Karnataka. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah labelled the move as "anti-poor" and an "underhanded political decision" crafted by the BJP.

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE





national

AGENCIES



BJP's politics of hatred has burnt Manipur for over 40 days leaving more than a hundred people dead. The PM has failed India and is completely silent. An all-party delegation must be sent to the state to end this cycle of violence and restore peace. Let's shut this 'Nafrat ka Bazaar' and open a 'Mohabbat ki Dukaan' in every heart in Manipur RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

KCR INAUGURATES BRS OFFICE IN NAGPUR

Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrasekhar Rao Thursday inaugurated his party's office in Nagpur, its first in Maharashtra, as part of his ambitious plan to increase the organisation's footprint outside his home state



uote

Why is BJP's 'B Team', the JD-S silent on this anti-poor and anti-Karnataka policy decision of the Modi government?

Kannadigas demand answers RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA CONGRESS **K'TAKA IN-CHARGE**

The situation in Manipur is verv distressing and it is deeply disheartening to see that the Central government is not taking immediate measures to ensure the safety of the people of Manipur and the restoration of peace PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

We were in government for 15 months, of which three months passed in code of conducts. But, in 11 months, we had shown the commitment and the working pattern of the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh KAMAL NATH VETERAN CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Over 30 houses gutted in Ballia

Ballia (UP): At least 35 houses were gutted by a fire that broke out in Gopalnagar township of Bairia area here Thursday afternoon, officials said, adding there was no casualty in the incident. The fire broke out at one Surendra Ram's house in a colony at Gopalnagar of Bairia tehsil area, they said. The fire spread quickly and engulfed the houses of the entire colony. The cause of the fire is not yet known, officials said. Locals with help of the fire brigade managed to douse the fire.

9 farmer leaders granted bail

Kurukshetra: A court here Thursday granted bail to nine farmer leaders who were arrested recently during a protest at Shahabad town They were released from the Kurukshetra jail at about 8 pm. Several farmers had gathered outside the jail to receive them The leaders attended a meeting in Kurukshetra and then headed to Shahbad as part of a procession amid the beating of drums by their supporters. Farmers led by BKU (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni had on June 6 blocked the highway near Shahabad here demanding that the state government procure sunflower seeds at the minimum support price.

Biparjoy makes landfall in Gujarat Woman fights back

AUTHORITIES HAVE EVACUATED AROUND ONE LAKH PEOPLE LIVING IN VULNERABLE AREAS IN COASTAL DISTRICTS

to the Saurashtra coast with a wind

speed of 115-125 kmph, gusting to

140 kmph, the IMD said in a state-

Authorities have evacuated around

one lakh people living in vulnerable

areas in coastal districts of Gujarat

following a prompt warning from the

IMD about the "extensive damaging

potential" of the cyclone, the second

powerful storm to hit the state in

three years after 'Tauktae' in May

2021. Officials said 15 National

Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

teams, 12 of the State Disaster

Response Force (SDRF) and per-

sonnel of the Indian Army, Navy, Air

Force, Indian Coast Guard and

Border Security Force have been

deployed for relief and rescue op-

erations. The Met office had earlier

warned of very heavy (11.5 cm to 20.4

ment in Ahmedabad.

Ahmedabad/New Delhi, June 15: Strong winds and heavy rains lashed Kutch and Saurashtra coasts as powerful cyclone Bipariov made landfall near Jakhau Port in Gujarat Thursday evening after churning across the Arabian Sea for more than 10 days as multi-agency response teams remained on high alert for relief and rescue operations.

"Dense convective clouds have entered Kutch and Devbhumi Dwarka districts and therefore, the landfall process has commenced. It will continue until midnight," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in New Delhi. Landfall indicates a cyclonic storm moving over land after being over water.

The eye of the cyclone is around 50 km in diametre. Biparjoy is marching ahead with a speed of 13-14 kmph. Thus, it will take around five hours for the wall cloud and the eye to completely cross into the land, Mohapatra said.

Destructive wind force uprooted many trees and electric polls near Jakhau and Mandvi towns of Kutch as tin sheets and plastic shades were blown away. Until 7 pm, there was no report of any loss of life, said Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said.



The Indian Air Force's assets are in operational readiness for relief and rescue work that would follow Biparjoy's landfall There was no report of any loss of life so far in the state, though three persons were injured in

Devbhoomi Dwarka district after a tree fell on them Ahead of the landfall near Jakhau Port in Kutch district, about one lakh people in the path of Biparjoy (meaning disaster or calamity in Bengali) in coastal districts were moved to safer places The IMD data shows Biparjoy

has become the cyclone with the longest lifespan in the Arabian Sea

> The 'very severe' cyclonic storm Biparjoy is centered over north Arabian Sea but it is coming closer



Villagers use plastic sheet to shield themselves during rainfall

cm) to extremely heavy rainfall (over 20.5 cm) in Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Porbandar. Rajkot, Morbi and Junagarh dis tricts.

The

It said the cyclone would cause 'aseye of the tronomical cyclone is around tide'with a storm surge of 50 km in diametre. 2-3 metres **Biparjoy is marching** height that could inundate ahead with a speed low-lying areas of 13-14 kmph Kutch. in Devbhumi Dwarka,

Porbandar, Jamnagar and Morbi districts during the

landfall. Sea conditions are phenomenal (waves could be 10 to 14 metres high) in the northeast and the adjoining east-central Arabian Sea and all activities, including oil exploration, ship movement and fishing, have been suspended.

Biparjoy, the first cyclone in the Arabian Sea this year, rapidly underwent rapid intensification June 6 and June 7, escalating from just a cyclonic circulation to a very severe cyclonic storm in just 48 hours, defying earlier predictions. The life period of Biparjoy, which developed over the southeast Arabian Sea at 5.30 am June 6, is about 10 days and 12 hours so far. The extremely severe cyclone Kyarr of 2019 over the Arabian Sea had a life of 9 days and 15 hours. Nearly one lakh people living in eight coastal districts have been shifted to temporary shelters in

Guiarat as a precautionary measure. The cyclone will bring extremely heavy rainfall in Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka and Jamnagar, with wind speeds remaining high even Friday despite reduction in intensity, IMD Ahmedabad director Manorama

Mohanty said. Officials said the cyclone will cause total destruction of thatched houses and extensive damage to 'kachcha' houses. and some damage to pucca homes.

after sexual assault in train; accused held PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 15: A 20-year-old female college student, who was allegedly sexually assaulted by a man on board a moving suburban train in Mumbai, courageously fought back her attacker and forced him to flee, police said Thursday.

The accused, a 40-year-old labourer from Kisanganj in Bihar identified as Nawaju Karim Shaikh, was arrested within four hours of the registration of an offence after the incident that took place on the Harbour Line corridor of the Central Railway Wednesday morning, they said. He has been charged with rape.

The incident drew strong reaction from the Opposition in Maharashtra with NCP leader Ajit Pawar expressing anger and demanding swift punishment for the culprit.

The incident took place around 7.30 am between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Masjid railway stations, when the victim, a resident of Girgaon in Mumbai, was going to her college in Navi Mumbai to appear for her examinations, an official said. The victim was sitting alone in a ladies compartment of the Panvel-bound train when the accused entered the bogie as soon it started moving from CSMT station, he said

IndiGo aircraft suffers tail strike while landing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 15: An IndiGo aircraft Thursday encountered a tail strike while attempting to land at Ahmedabad airport.

The flight was en route from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad when the incident occurred. Fortunately, the aircraft landed safely.

"IndiGo flight 6E-6595, operating from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad experienced a tail strike while landing in Ahmedabad. The aircraft was declared grounded at Ahmedabad airport for necessary assessment and repairs. The incident is under investigation by relevant authorities," IndiGo said in a statement

Earlier Tuesday, an IndiGo flight faced challenging weather conditions while attempting to land at



Don't provoke DMK: Stalin warns BJP after Balaji's arrest

STALIN ALLEGED THAT THE BJP LEADERSHIP WANTS TO DO ITS "POLITICS THROUGH THE ED"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 15: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday warned the BJP not to "provoke" the DMK, saying it will not be able to "bear the consequences" and that his party also knows "all types of politics", escalating his attack



dling of the minister, alleging the DMK leader was subject to "men-

189 kids rescued

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Police have rescued at least 189 children aged between 8 to 17 years from a bangle manufacturing unit in the state in the last two weeks, an official said Thursday. All the rescued children were allegedly trafficked from various

districts of Bihar and Rajasthan

Mumbai Airport.

Young girls cover themselves with scarves during a hot day in Patna, Bihar

'Black day' for Indian sports: Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The cry for justice of India's daughters has been "consigned to the dustbin and buried" by the Modi government, the Congress alleged Thursday after Delhi Police recommended the cancellation of a complaint filed by a minor wrestler against BJP MP and outgoing WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The BJP's new slogan is "Beti Darao, Brij Bhushan Bachao", Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said on a day the Delhi Police cited "no corroborative evidence" against Singh, who faces charges of sexual ha-



filed by June 15, following which they had suspended their stir. Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said it was a "black day" for sports in the coun-



charge sheet in the case would be

try and alleged that the entire government apparatus has been pressed into service to save Bhushan, who has been accused of sexual exploitation by women wrestlers.

'The Real Slogan is 'scare daughters, save Brij Bhushan'. Today is a 'black day' for Indian Sports. Today, Law of the land has crumbled and been crushed under the bulldozer of BJP's politics. Today, 'cry for justice' of India's daughters has been consigned to dustbin and buried by Modi Government," he said on Twitter

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said a minor girl had filed a complaint under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against a big man like Singh, alleging sexual exploitation.

The Delhi Police filed a 1,000page chargesheet against Singh a

on the saffron party after the arrest PTI PHOTO of his cabinet colleague V Senthil Balaji.

'Turn back the pages of history to know the kind of agitations done by the DMK. Else, ask the senior leaders in Delhi. Don't provoke. If you provoke the DMK or the DMK worker you will not be able to bear the consequences. We also know all types of politics. This is not a threat, but a warning," he said targeting the BJP in a video message posted on his official Twitter handle.

The Madras High Court, meanwhile, allowed the shifting of Balaji, who is under medical treatment at a city government hospital. to a private facility.

Calling the ED action a "brazen political vendetta", Stalin slammed the central agency for its hantal pressure" and subsequently suffered a health issue. Stalin, who is also the president of the DMK, said his party will not be afraid of "intimidation" by the BJP and that its workers will take on any challenges.

"You all are aware of the unfair troubles being given to Senthil Balaji by the ED. None has any doubt that it is brazen political vendetta. Taking up a case that is 10 years old, he was confined and subjected to mental pressure. He was mentally and physically weakened and even suffered a life threatening heart disease because of the ED. Can there be any more brazen political vendetta?" Balaji is an elected MLA and a five-time legislator and is a minister for the second time. He attends a lot of public events, Stalin said.

Opp claims govt desperate to continue polarisation agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Congress and other opposition parties Thursday attacked the Centre over the Law Commission's move on the uniform civil code, calling it the government's desperation for continuing with its agenda of polarisation and diversion from its glaring failures

civil code (UCC) in the country. The Vishva Hindu Parishad

(VHP) said only those who are against women empowerment and national unity will oppose the move.

The Law Commission on Wednesday initiated a fresh consultation process on UCC by seek ing views from the stakeholders, including public and recognised religious organ-

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE isations, on the

politically sensitive issue. Reacting to the move, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said it is strange that the Law Commission is seeking a fresh reference when it acknowledges that its predecessor, the 21st Law Commission, had published a consultation paper on the subject in August 2018.

The BJP slammed the Congress over its remark, saying it has succumbed to pressure from the "fun-damentalists" and is opposing the move for vote bank politics.

India to buy drones from US that killed al-Zawahiri

It is expected that the mega procurement deal worth around \$3 billion would be announced following talks between Modi and Biden at the White House next week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Defence Ministry on Thursday accorded its approval to procure 30 MQ-9B Predator drones from the US to crank up the surveillance apparatus of the armed forces, especially along the frontier with China, people familiar with the development said

The decision came days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington

It is expected that the mega pro-

curement deal worth around USD 3 billion would be announced following talks between Modi and US President Joe Biden at the White House next week.

The procurement proposal was cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the people cited above said. The hunter-killer Sea Guardian drones are being procured for the three services as they can carry out a variety of roles including maritime sur-



veillance, anti-submarine warfare and over-the-horizon targeting among others. The sources said that the Navy

is likely to get 14 droned while the Indian Air Force and the Army

will get eight each.

The high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) drones are capable of remaining airborne for over 35 hours and can carry four Hellfire missiles and around 450

kg of bombs. The MQ-9B has two variants - SkyGuardian and its sibling SeaGuardian.

66 The BJP's new slogan

Bhushan Bachao³

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

RANDEEP SURJEWALA

is 'Beti Darao, Brij

while ago and over 500 pages of

that charge sheet are dedicated to

how a clean chit has been given to

him and the whole case under

Surjewala said India's proud

Medal winners have been told that

there is no 'justice' for them or

In the POCSO matter, the police

submitted a report requesting for

cancellation of the case based upon

the statements of the complainant,

who is the father of the minor, and

the girl herself, the Delhi Police

POCSO withdrawn, she said.

even a semblance thereof.

said in a statement.

taken on lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones from General Atomics for a period of one year for surveillance in the Indian Ocean. The lease period has been extended subsequently. The MQ-9B drone is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" which was used to launch a modified version of the Hellfire missile that eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in the heart of Kabul in July last year.

The Indian Navy has been bolstering its surveillance mechanism to monitor growing Chinese activities including frequent forays by PLA warships in the Indian Ocean Region.

In 2020, the Indian Navy had The ruling BJP hit back accusing them of "constantly sacrificing women rights, women empowerment and women issues" at the altars of vote bank politics and charged the Congress with succumbing to "fundamentalists' While the Janata Dal (United),

an erstwhile partner of the BJP, said the UCC is not a "political instrumentality" to be hurriedly imposed, the TMC said the government was fanning divisive politics out of "desperation." The B-IP however, asserted it was committed to-





wards implementing the uniform





60 days on, no lead in Atiq-Ashraf murder case

SO FAR, THE UP POLICE, WHICH CLAIMS TO HAVE A 'ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY' TOWARDS CRIME AND CRIMINALS, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE KILLINGS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 15: It has been exactly 60 days since gangsterpolitician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf were shot dead by three 'amateur' assailants in Prayagraj April 15.

Though the three assailants were arrested immediately, the Prayagraj police remain completely clueless about the motive and the mastermind behind the sensational twin murders in police custody.

The double murder was captured on live TV, as it took place when the mafia brothers were being taken to the Motilal Nehru (Colvin) Divisional Hospital for medical examination.

The three assailants -- identified as Lavlesh Tiwari (22) of Banda, Sunny Singh (23) of Hamirpur and Arun Kumar Maurya (18) of Kasganj - were posing as media persons to commit the crime and after the murder, all three of them surrendered themselves

So far, the UP Police, which claims to have a 'zero tolerance policy' towards crime and criminals. has not been able to unravel the mystery behind the killings.

According to police, the assailants claimed that they killed the mafia brothers to make their name in the crime world but the sequence of events and circumstances hinted towards a larger conspiracy involved behind the incident.



The questions that remain unanswered even after two months, include -- Did the three assailants plan the killing single-handedly? Was there any mastermind behind them who hired the three men to execute Atiq and Ashraf? What was the real motive behind the killing? How were the assailants aware of the exact spot where the mafia brothers would be brought? Why did the cops on duty not open fire on the assailants in retaliation? How did the assailants arrange high-end sophisticated firearms like two Turkish-made Girsan and Jigana semi-automatic pistols? And how did the three assailants, who hail from three different districts, come together to execute the killing? Police officials investigating

the murders are vet to reveal how the three assailants kept in touch with each other before killing Atiq and Ashraf.

As per police investigation, one of the assailants, Sunny, was not even using a mobile phone at the time of the incident. So, it is only obvious to ask how he contacted the other two assailants.

During initial interrogation, one of the assailants, Sunny, claimed that he and his accomplices procured firearms from the Jitendra Gogi gang of Delhi to kill rival gangster Tillu Tajpuria.

He also claimed that the idea of posing as media persons while killing Atiq and Ashraf also came from the Gogi gang, again in the context of killing Tillu Tajpuria.

Sunny further said that he fled with the firearms after Gogi was killed in a shootout at Rohini Court on September 24, 2021.

However, there are many loop-

holes in the statements of the three assailants.

Following the double murder, a three-member SIT -- headed by Prayagraj ADCP, Crime, Satish Chandra -- and a three-member supervisory team for the SIT were constituted to investigate the matter.

Besides, a five-member judicial commission -- comprising former chief justice of Allahabad HC, Dilip Baba Sahab Bhosle; former chief justice of Jharkhand HC Virendra Singh; retired justice Arvind Kumar Tripathi; retired IPS officer Subesh Kumar; and retired district judge Brajesh Kumar Soni -- was also constituted to probe the incident.

A senior police official said that the three assailants have denied the involvement of any other person in the incident. The official, however, added that the probe is still underway and the SIT is not in a hurry to file a charge sheet.

Meanwhile, three shooters involved in the killing of Umesh Pal on February 24 -- Guddu Muslim. Sabir and Armaan -- are still absconding

Shooter Vijay Chaudhary a.k.a. Usman was killed in an encounter in Prayagraj March 6. Asad Ahmed and Ghulam were killed in another encounter with the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force April 13 in Jhansi. Atiq's wife Shaista Parveen, said

to be a conspirator in the Umesh Pal murder case, is also absconding.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: Kerala and Cuba Thursday agreed to cooperate with each other in the fields of health and sports, a collaboration which is aimed at improving these sectors of the state.

The decision to cooperate with each other in these two sectors was arrived at in the meetings between Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and top Cuban officials in the health and sports fields, a statement issued by the CM's office (CMO) said.

In the meeting held with senior health officials of Cuba, the CM and the delegation led by him said that the Cuban health system was worldrenowned in the fields of public health care, tropical medicine, neuroscience research, molecular immunology and cancer treatment, the CMO statement said. The meeting was held with the president of

BioCubaFarma, a Cuban organi sation of Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industries, Eduardo Martínez Díaz, Director General of the National Center for Neurosciences (CNEURO) Dr Mitchell Valdes Sosa and Director General of the Center for Molecular Immunology (CIM) Eduardo Ojito Magus in Havana, it said. During the discussions, the del-

OrissaPOST

FRIDAY | JUNE 16 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

KERALA, CUBA TO

COOPERATE ON

HEALTH, SPORTS

egation from Kerala noted that Cuban biotechnology and pharmaceuticals have made great strides in producing drugs and medical devices with international standards and therefore, cooperation in this sector would lead to impressive changes in the state's health sector, the statement said. Vijayan, during the discussions, welcomed global participation and investment in health-related sectors and expressed interest in establishing a vaccine manufacturing facility in Kerala in collaboration with BioCubaFarma, it said.

The CM assured the Cuban officials that conditions will be created for cooperation and continuous exchange of ideas between health institutions in Cuba and Kerala and expressed hope that the relationship in this sector can be maintained for a long time through annual workshops and other activities, the CMO statement said.

Kerala ups speed limits on national, state roads



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: Four wheelers, transport vehicles and even goods carriers can zip along faster on national and state highways in Kerala from next month as the LDF government has decided to revise the speed limits on various roads in the state after installing the artificial intelligence (AI) cameras. However, as two-wheelers account for the majority of road accidents in the state, the government has decided to reduce their maximum speed limit from 70 kilometre per hour (kmph) to 60 kmph, a press release issued by the Transport Department has said. The maximum speed limit for three-wheelers and school buses will remain at the existing 50 kmph. The decision was taken in a high-level meeting chaired by State Transport Minister Antony Raju, the release said.

speed limit after the AI cameras were made operational in the state. The current speed limit in the state was set in 2014," Raju is quoted as having said in the release. The new speed limits will come into effect from July 1, it said

According to the revised speed limits, four wheelers with seating capacity of up to 9 can run at 110 kmph on six-lane national highwavs and at 100 kmph on four-lane national highways, it said. Earlier, the maximum speed limit for four wheelers on four-lane national highways in the state was 90 kmph, it said. The speed limits on other

highways, MC Road and four-lane

state roads for four-wheelers has

been increased from 85 kmph to 90

kmph, while there is no change in

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, June 15: Half a dozen tributaries of river Yamuna in Agra district have died without a drop of water. These rivers need to be dredged and desilted ahead of the monsoon season, so that the vast rural hinterland bordering Rajasthan can revive its agriculture and recharge underground reserves.

Activists in the Taj city have launched a campaign to rejuvenate these rain-fed tributaries of the Yamuna basin.

According to them, the streams flowing down from Rajasthan hills have dried up, reducing the whole area into a vast wasteland. Crops have been hit and there is an acute shortage of water supply in the

Bharatpur and Dholpur districts be-

fore entering Agra. Green activists Anil Sharma, Rajiv Saxena, Aslam Salim, Shiromani Singh, representing the civil society of Agra have demanded urgent talks between Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department officials to work out a time- bound framework for drawing up a mechanism for sharing water of these rivers.

Anil Sharma accused the Rajasthan government of stopping all the water by building barrages and bunds on these rivers.

"Not a drop was being discharged in these rivers for the villages in Agra district. This was clearly against the spirit of federalism. The water table in the whole region had gone down perilously low by hundreds of feet and conventional crops had been badly hit," Sharma said.



"It was decided to redefine the

the speed limits on other state roads, main district roads and city roads, the statement said. The speed limits for light, medium and heavy vehicles with above nine seating capacity on national highways, MC Road, 4-lane and other state roads, main district roads and other roads

has also been increased by 10 to 20

kmph, according to figures cited in the statement. Similarly, the speed limits for light, medium and heavy category goods vehicles have also been increased on national highways, 4-lane and other state roads and major district roads by 5-10 kmph, the statement said.

villages. The deserted capital of Mughal

emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri, suffers from water shortage, and the process of desertification towards Agra has been accelerated. The Terah Mori dam along the

ridge of Fatehpur Sikri lies parched without a drop of water. Similarly, other streams like

Parvati, Utangan, Kivad, Vaan Ganga, that enter Agra district from Rajasthan side, have dried up, adversely affecting agricultural operations in the area. All these streams originate in the Karauli and Sawai-Madhopur districts of Rajasthan, meander around

of their own or individually.

Creating a conducive ambience

for women tourists in the state is

a policy priority of the govern-

ment. The app on Women-Friendly

tourism project will make the visit

to Kerala more pleasant and has-

State Responsible Tourism

Mission (RT Mission), the nodal

agency for implementing the

sle-free for women," said Riyas.

The Agra Civil Society members have interacted with the Chairperson of the Agra District Board, Manju Bhadauria, who has promised to take up the matter at the highest level. They have demanded a water sharing agree ment between the two neighbouring states

The members said the rain water that accumulates in the "bandnis" needs to be restored by building a dam on the Utangan river.

The Rajasthan government has built the Chiksana, Vakola and Khatua dams. If the river system

The deserted capital of Mughal emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri, suffers from water shortage, and the process of desertification towards Agra has been accelerated. The Terah Mori dam along the ridge of Fatehpur Sikri lies parched without a drop of water

is revived, there will be enough water in Fatehabad, Kheragarh and Shamshabad blocks of Agra. In fact water can reach the Taj

Ganj area in Agra city. Experts say inter-state river water agreements need to be revisited to ensure that downstream cities receive an equitable and reliable share of water from inter-state river basins. These agreements can help prevent conflicts over water. They can also ensure that water is used sustainably and the developmental activities are compatible with the needs of other states.

Sharma said, "This agreement can also protect local ecosystems. improve water quality and also guarantee that the precious resource of water is available for future generations.

'Women-Friendly Tourism' app to create 10,000 women ventures, over 30,000 jobs

Aiming at participation of 1.5 lakh women from the state, the project is being implemented with the support of various organisations, including UN Women

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 15: Kerala Tourism is all set come out with a mobile app to further strengthen the country's first 'Women-Friendly Tourism' initiative launched by the state government to turn the state's tourism sector gender inclusive.

Aiming at participation of 1.5 lakh women from the state, the project is being implemented with the support of various organisa tions, including UN Women. It has set a target of creating

10.000 women ventures and 30.000 jobs in the tourism sector. State Tourism Minister P.A.



Mohamed Riyas rolled out the initiative in tune with the UN Women's 'Gender Inclusive Tourism' concept, which sees women playing key roles in tourism sector besides rolling out a variety of womenfriendly tourism products and packages

'We are living in a world where it has become a trend for women to travel to far off places in groups

ect, has been asked to prepare the content of the app, which will have all location-specific information and images, including the socio-cultural features of various places of Kerala, to serve as a ready reckoner on the unique project. The mobile app marks the commencement of the second phase

'Women-Friendly Tourism' proj-

activities of the pioneering project. Apart from providing information about tourism centres in Kerala, the app will have all the details of women-friendly tourism products and packages, resorts, hotels, women enterprises, recognised tour operators, women tour operators, travel agencies, home stays and women tour guides.

RT Mission State Coordinator K. Rupeshkumar said information in the app will include women-led handicraft and souvenir production and sales units, amenities like rest rooms, camping sites, licensed houseboats, caravan parks and ethnic cuisine units in various places, festivals and experiential and adventure packages.

UP forest officials seek radio collar details of 2 cheetahs who strayed out of KNP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 15: Uttar Pradesh forest officials have asked their counterparts in Madhya Pradesh to share inputs from the radio collars attached to the two cheetahs who were reportedly moving towards Lalitpur Wednesday.

The two cheetahs, who strayed out from the Kuno National Park (KNP), are now reportedly returning to the terrains of Madhya Pradesh

"Our staff have been asked to stay alert. Though the latest input stated the cheetahs are reverting, the alert status will remain in place until it is certain that the two large cats are returning to Madhya Pradesh," said Mamata Sanjeev Dubey, the chief of the forest force who is also heading the UP forest department.

As the news of the cheetahs moving towards UP broke, a virtual meeting of forest officials from several states was held.

The UP officials reportedly sought the GPS and radio collar inputs to track the animals' inputs. For now, however, the department has been directed to only track and monitor the cheetahs if they cross into the UP side. Any further decision regarding the matter will be taken by the Cheetah Project Steering Committee. Officials also said UP does not

have a cheetah-friendly terrain as

the animal needs large grassland

to prey and the place they are head-

to the cheetahs," a senior forest

"Feral dogs also pose a threat

ing to has a forest.

official said.

cheetahs in India, more than 70 years after the native sub-species became extinct here. It may be noted that this was the second time when cheetahs strayed out of KNP.

Cheetah reintroduction in India

is an attempt to introduce a small

population of Southeast African

Earlier, a male cheetah, named Oban/Pawan, was tranquilised, and brought back to the park whenit was about to cross over to a forest in Uttar Pradesh.















national



I don't want Assam to be an educational hub just for the North East. I want our state to become a centre for education for Eastern India and the entire country. For this, we need 50 per cent of our universities to come in the top rank

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

FLOOD FURY IN ASSAM

The flood condition in Assam deteriorated Thursday with nearly 29,000 people reeling under the deluge across three districts of the state due to incessant rain, an official bulletin said





Opposition parties are trying to create disturbances by orchestrating violence while filing nominations. They

are doing it to tarnish the state's image. The CPI(M) is behind today's violence in the Chopra area (in Uttar Dinajpur district), and ISF is attacking our party workers in Bhangore (South 24 Parganas) MAMATA BANERJEE WEST BENGAL CM

It is my wish as a soldier of BJP as well as of all the citizens of India that with more than 350 MPs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi take oath for the third time KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA UP DEPUTY CM

India's population dividend could be an instrument of nation building. Apart from youth, the elder citizens including pensioners could also be channelised for building a strong and

prosperous India

JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Security of Nitish breached

Patna: In a major security lapse, two motorcyclists Thursday came dangerously close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who was having an early morning stroll on a street adjoining his residence. This was confirmed by Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Rajiv Mishra, who held a press conference nearly 12 hours after the incident took place at 6.40 am on the Desh . Ratna Marg.

Rajnath pays tributes to 'heroes of Galwan'

New Delhi: The courage, bravery and sacrifice of the Army personnel killed in the Galwan Valley clashes will continue to inspire coming generations, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said iursuay while paving homage to them on the third anniversary of the conflict. The clashes in June 2020 was the most serious military conflict between India and China in decades.

Several houses set on fire in Imphal AGENCIES

Imphal, June 15: At least two

houses were set on fire by a mob

here Thursday afternoon a day

after an attack in the Khamenlok

area left nine people dead and in-

Security forces which tried to

quell the mob were forced to use

force and fired tear gas shells at the

mob at New Checkon in Imphal,

This happened as the army and

Assam Rifles intensified their "area

domination" operations in the af-

termath of the recent spurt in vi-

olence in the strife-torn state of

Manipur. Army and Assam Rifles

columns intensified patrolling,

taking down barriers wherever

An Army tweet said, "Enhanced

Area Domination Operations by

Army and Assam Rifles are being

undertaken in the aftermath of

the recent spurt in vio-

whose opera-

Manipur falls,

said the "domi-

nation of fringe

areas and higher

reaches underway

by long duration self-

contained columns"

their efforts in the wake of an at-

tack on a Kuki village in the

Khamenlok area bordering Imphal

9 people died and 10 more were in-

jured in a gunbattle which ensued

between the miscreants who at-

was being enforced.

tional

they had been created.

they added.

jured ten others, officials said.

Internet suspension extended for 9th time

Imphal: Amidst sporadic incidents of violence, the Manipur government Thursday extended the suspension of Internet services for the ninth time till June 20. to prevent the spread of rumours and videos. nhotos, and messages, which might affect the law and order situation. Manipur Home Department Commissioner T. Ranjit Singh, in a notification, said that to thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property, it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order.

tacked the village and vil-

lence". The social lagers THAN 100 PEOPLE media post by the Later Wednesday HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES evening, other mis-Spear Corps of the IN THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE Indian Army, creants set on fire the BETWEEN MEITELAND KUKI COMMUNITY PEOPLE IN MANIPUR THAT BROKE OUT A official quarters of woman Manipur area MONTH AGO

minister Nemcha Kipgen in the THE STATE HAS IMPOSED A Lamphel area in CURFEW ON 11 DISTRICTS AND Imphal West district. BANNED THE INTERNET IN A Firefighters reached BID TO STOP THE SPREA the spot and doused the OF RUMOURS IN flames before the blaze THE STATE could spread to the neigh-

The security forces redoubled bourhood. More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki community people in Manipur that East and Kangpoki districts in the broke out a month ago. The state early hours of Wednesday, where has imposed a curfew on 11 districts and banned the internet in a bid to stop the spread of rumours in the state





Students arrive to attend classes at St. Marys Multipurpose School which reopened after summer vacation in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

K'TAKA GOVT TO AMEND ANTI-CONVERSION LAW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 15: The Congressled government in Karnataka Thursday announced to amend the Anti-Conversion Law.

The announcement was made after the cabinet meeting in Vidhana Soudha. Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the Cabinet has decided to amend the Anti-Conversion Law.

"All the aspects introduced by the previous BJP government would be dropped. The act will be taken up for amendment in the Assembly session, scheduled to be held in July," Patil said.

The BJP has imposed stringent conditions on religious conversions. It had also prescribed stringent punishment for the offence.

Patil said the government would cancel the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill. 2021 and introduce the the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2023.

When asked about whether the



ment." he said.

In the Congress' poll manifesto, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had promised to repeal all the acts enacted by the BJP government once the party comes to power in the state

Reacting to the development, National President of BJP Yuva Morcha Tejasvi Surya, the MP from Bengaluru South, said "the Congress government in Karnataka is fulfilling the PFI's agenda".

"By deciding to repeal the antinversion law, the Congress gov-

In the Congress' poll manifesto, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had promised to repeal all the acts enacted by the BJP government once the party comes to power in the state

versions. A sad day for Karnataka, indeed," he said.

The BJP government has passed the controversial Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021 popularly known as Anti-Conversion bill in the state was passed in the Legislative Assembly in Suvarna Vidhana Soudha at Belagavi on December 21, 2021.

Nomination filing ends with three deaths on last day

BENGAL PANCHAYAT POLLS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 15: The process of filing nominations for the July 8 panchayat elections in West Bengal ended Thursday with three deaths reported on the last day.

The three deaths include one CPI(M) candidate at Chopra in North Dinajpur, one All India Secular Front (AISF) candidate, and one Trinamool Congress nominee at Bhangar in South 24 Parganas district.

In total, four persons have died in nomination-related violence since the process started on June 9. On the very first day, a Congress activist was shot dead at Khargram in Murshidabad district.

Following the rising incidents of violence, a division bench of the Calcutta High Court Thursday ordered deployment of central armed forces throughout the state for the





Unidentified miscreants torch two houses belonging to a particular community to retaliate the killing of nine civilians by Kuki militants in Manipur

previous bill is repealed, Patil said it is to undo the 2022 amendment. "It is to repeal the changes made to the law by the previous govern-

ernment is clearly going against the Constitution and the judgments of the Supreme Court that clearly prohibit fraudulent religious con-

Governmental Organisations (NGO) were brought under the purview of institutions. The offence is made to be non-bailable and cognisable offence

Under the act, all legal entities,

educational institutions, orphan-

ages, old age homes, hospitals, re-

ligious missionaries, Non-

rural civic body polls. Meanwhile, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has sought a detailed report from the State Election Commission (SEC) on the violence during the nomination filing phase.

According to NCSC vice-chairman Arun Halder, if the SEC fails to send the report, State Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha will be summoned to Delhi.

On Thursday afternoon, Basisrhat in North 24 Parganas district turned violent following clashes between Trinamool Congress and BJP supporters after 11 saffron camp candidates reached the local block development office to submit their nominations

ED arrests two M3M promoters

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (FD) has arrested Basant Bansal and Pankai Bansal, directors of Gurugram-based realty group M3M, in a money laundering matter linked to an anticorruption bureau case against a Panchkula-based former special court judge. official sources said Thursday.

IIIT student dies after falling from building

Hyderabad: A girl student of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), popularly known as IIIT Basar, in Nirmal district of Telangana, died after "accidentally falling" from a building, police said Thursday. The incident comes two days after a girl student died by suicide in the same institute.

Man dies in custody

Ghaziabad (UP): The family members of a 33-year-old man, who allegedly died in police custody, have filed a complaint against a constable, officials said Thursday. The family members of the deceased identified as Mohammad Dilshad have alleged that the victim was called to a police outpost by the constable, where he was beaten mercilessly, leading to his death - a charge denied by police. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Nipun Agarwal said a probe is underway.

Ensure law and order is maintained: HC to govt Infiltration bid foiled in Poonch PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu. June 15: An infiltration bid by terrorists was foiled along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir leading to the seizure of a large consignment of arms and ammunition, the army said Thursday.

Officials said the seizure, in-

cluding steel core bullets and

Pakistan-made medicines, was made

during a search operation in

Krishnaghati sector early Thursday.

of the Indian Army and Jammu and

Kashmir Police foiled an infiltra-

tion bid along the LoC in Krishnaghati

sector on the intervening night of

June 14 and 15," Jammu-based Army

In the operation, he said one

weapon, two pouches and two rucksacks were seized. The recovered

Anand said. The officials said army

troops opened fire after picking

up the movement of suspected ter-

rorists attempting to sneak into

this side from across the border

clothing and medicines

late Wednesday night.

PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said.

"In a joint operation, alert troops

Nainital, June 15: The Uttarakhand High Court heard a petition Thursday on the communal tension in Purola town and directed the state government to ensure that law and order is maintained.

Tension has been brewing in Purola in Uttarkashi district for over a fortnight since a foiled attempt by two men, including a Muslim, to abduct a minor girl. The state government had issued prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in the hill town to prevent a "mahapanchayat"



called by local trade bodies and Hindutva outfits Thursday over alleged incidents of "love jihad". However, the call for the "mahapanchayat" was withdrawn by the

organisers late on Wednesday night. A division bench of Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal, while hearing the petition, also asked people not to engage

in debates on social media on the incident, which had sparked communal tension in the town, and said it will help normalise the situation.

The state government is working towards maintaining law and order in the area and with time, things will settle down as time is the best healer, the bench said and expressed satisfaction with the steps being taken authorities.

The petition was moved by advocate Shahrukh Alam on behalf of The Association for Protection of Civil Rights seeking prevention of the mahapanchavat in Purola as it could disturb public harmony.

K'taka removes RSS founder, Savarkar from textbooks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

items include one AK-74 rifle with nine magazines and 438 rounds, Bangalore, June 15: The two pistols with four magazines Karnataka Cabinet Thursday approved the revision of Kannada and 60 rounds, six hand grenades, and Social Science textbooks of 'By this swift action another classes 6 to 10 in the state for this infiltration bid has been foiled, academic year by removing the chapters on RSS founder K B which had the potential to disturb Hedgewar and Hindutva ideologue peace in Poonch district." Lt Col

> V D Savarkar among others. It has also consented to add chapters on social reformer and educator Savitribai Phule, Nehru's letters to Indira Gandhi and poetry on Ambedkar, and do away with the changes that were brought in by the previous BJP government.

> "Regarding textbook revision, the Cabinet discussed the proposal brought by the department, the lesson removed and added, and the decisions to be taken, and has given its approval," Law and

Parliamentary Affairs

that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has consistently given his guidance on this. Noting that the textbooks had reached the students by the time the new government came to power, he said, "We cannot stop it; withdrawing and reprinting new textbooks would lead to loss of hundreds of crores. There is a provision of supplementary books as done in the past, so we are going for a supplementary book regarding what is to be done and what is not needed or may lead to wrong

Minister H K Patil said after the cabinet meeting. Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said it was Congress's promise in the manifesto to

revise the textbooks and

Congress had in its poll manifesto promised to undo the changes made to schoo textbooks when the BJI was in power, and had also promised to crap the NE

thinking. We have removed what was not required.

The education minister said a five-member expert committee of Rajappa Dalawai, Raveesh Kumar, Prof T R Chandrashekar, Dr Ashwath Narayan, and Rajesh has worked for revising the text book

for this year. He said, "Though there were suggestions for larger changes, keeping in mind technical and printing difficulties, and as the academic year has started, only a few changes have been made this time in Kannada and social sciences textbooks of classes 6 to 10.

This may cost about ₹10-12 lakh. There are 75,000 schools in the state; we will ensure it reaches them." After Congress came to power, a delegation of writers, thinkers and representatives of various organisations met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and petitioned him regarding the revision of textbooks. Responding to the question of what has been added and removed during the revision, Bangarappa said, "We have only restored what was there before the previous BJP government made changes; we have removed the changes they had made." A chapter on Savitri Phule, which was removed, has been re introduced, a poem on Ambedkar titled 'Nee Hoda Marudina' has been added, and 'Magalige Bareda Patra' - achapter on Nehru's letters to Indira Gandhi has also been reintroduced.



international



We are, of course, closely monitoring what Russia is doing. So far. we haven't seen any changes in the nuclear posture that requires any changes in our posture JENS STOLTENBERG SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

BILAWAL TO VISIT CHINA, JAPAN

Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will embark on a two-nation visit to China and Japan from June 27 to deepen bilateral cooperation





uote

As the world's democracies work to de-risk our economies by limiting our strategic vulnerabilities to authoritarian

regimes, we must likewise be clear about the means through which these regimes exercise their influence around the world CHRYSTIA FREELAND

MINISTER OF FINANCE OF CANADA

There are a lot of threats to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren but climate change is the only truly existential threat JOE BIDEN US PRESIDENT

Self-aware Hindu Americans have the power to truly select the next President of the United States

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN

SHORT TAKES

Pro-Khalistani activist dies

London: Avtar Singh Purba alias Khanda, a prominent pro-Khalistani activist who was involved in the attack on the Indian High Commission in London, died at a hospital in the city of Birmingham Thursday morning after a prolonged illness, a UK-based Sikh organisation said in a statement. Sikh Federation UK, which has styled itself as one of the largest Sikh organisations based in the UK, said Avtar Singh was terminally ill with blood cancer. He was on a life support system for the last few days.

Quake shakes **Philippines**

Manila: A deep earthquake shook part of the Philippines southwest of the capital on Thursday, but there were no immediate reports of major damage or casualties. The 6.2 magnitude morning

COVID-19 LAW-BREACHING PARTIES

Boris deliberately misled Parliament: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 15: Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson deliberately and repeatedly misled Parliament when he denied knowledge of Covid-19 law-breaching parties in Downing Street, a crossparty parliamentary panel said Thursday in its damning report into the Partygate scandal.

The Commons Privileges Committee released its final report into the Partygate scandal days after Johnson, 58, resigned from Parliament as a MP, accusing the members of the committee of a "witch hunt" against him.

Finding him in breach of the Commons rules, the committee was also highly critical of his attacks on its integrity and recommended a suspension of 90 days from Parliament had he not resigned."We have concluded above that in deliberately misleading the House Mr Johnson committed a serious contempt. The contempt was all the more serious because it was committed by the Prime Minister, the most senior member

"Although Mr Johnson's resignation as an MP renders it im-



British lawmakers will debate the Privileges Committee report into Johnson's conduct Monday, Commons leader Penny Mordaunt has said

possible for a sanction of suspension to be imposed, we draw attention to the fact that before the events of Friday 9 June we had provisionally agreed to recommend a suspension long enough to engage the provisions of the Recall of MPs Act," it says, with reference to Johnson's resignation.

The committee notes that there is no precedent for a British Prime

he Commons Privileges Committee released its final report into the Partygate scandal days after Johnson, 58, resigned from Parliament as a MP, accusing the members of the committee of a 'witch hunt' against him

Minister having been found to have deliberately misled the House of Commons and also that Johnson misled it on an issue of the "greatest importance to the House and to the public, and did so repeatedly".

They accuse Johnson of committing further contempt in his attacks on the due parliamentary process with deprecated terms such as "witch hunt" and "kan

garoo court". "We put on record that if he had not resigned his seat, we would have recommended that he be suspended from the service of the House for 90 days for repeated contempts and for seeking to undermine the parliamentary process, by - Deliberately misleading the House; Deliberately misleading the Committee; Breaching confidence; Impugning the Committee and thereby undermining the democratic process of the House; Being complicit in the campaign of abuse and attempted intimidation of the Committee," the report concludes.

In light of Johnson's resignation as an MP, the committee has recommended that he should not be granted a former member's pass - which would have allowed him limited access to Parliament. including for lunches and to see former colleagues. The sanctions recommended in the report will have to be voted on by MPs. British lawmakers will debate the Privileges Committee report into Johnson's conduct Monday, Commons leader Penny Mordaunt has said.

The motion will be "voteable, it will be amendable and it is House business and so I am expecting a free vote". Mordaunt said."These are difficult matters for the House, we have to look at the evidence, we have to look at the report," she added.

PROTEST AGAINST LIVE-FIRE DRILLS N Korea launches 2 ballistic missiles

The North Korean launch is its first since it failed in an attempt to put its first spy satellite into orbit in late May

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 15: North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters Thursday, the South Korean military said, in a resumption of its weapons testing activities to protest just-ended South Korean-U.S. livefire drills, which it views as an invasion rehearsal.

The North Korean launch is its first since it failed in an attempt to put its first spy satellite into orbit in late May. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the North Korean launches from its capital region on Thursday evening. It said South Korea's military boosted its surveillance posture and maintains readiness in close coordination with the United States.

Japan's Defense Ministry also said it detected a possible ballistic missile fired by North Korea. Japan's Coast Guard alerted vessels in waters between the Korean



South Korean and US troops ended a fifth round of large-scale livefire drills near the Koreas' heavily fortified border earlier Thursday. About 30 minutes before the launch, North Korea's military also vowed an unspecified response to its rivals' drills, which it called "provocative and irresponsible."

"Our response to (the South Korean-US drills) is inevitable,' an unidentified spokesperson of the North Korean Defense Ministry said in a statement carried by state media.

Greece scours shipwreck site

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kalamata (Greece), June 15: Rescue ships fanned out Thursday in search of hundreds of migrants feared missing after their overcrowded boat capsized and sank as they tried to reach Europe. At least 78 people died.

Rescuers saved 104 passengers from a fishing boat that sank in deep waters off Greece's coast while trying to travel from Libya to Italy, but authorities fear that hundreds of others may have been trapped below deck

If confirmed, that would make the tragedy one of the worst ever recorded in the central Mediterranean. "The chances of finding (more survivors) are minimal," retired Greek coast guard admiral Nikos Spanos told state-run ERT television.



 Overloaded migrant boat sank early on Wednesday

board, many trapped in hold Boat sank in one of

Mediterranean's deepest areas



earthquake was near Hukay and about 120 kilometres below the surface, according to the US Geological Survey.

Two cops killed

Manila: Two police officers

were killed and four others

injured when an armed group

ambushed a police car in the southern Philippines,

authorities said Thursday.

Nobleza, the regional police

Autonomous Region in Muslim

Mindanao (BARMM), said the

team was heading back to the

when attacked at around 8.30

p.m. on Wednesday in Shariff

Aguak town, reports Xinhua

news agency.

camp from a routine patrol

Brigadier General Allan

chief of the Bangsamoro

AP/PTI PHOTO

Britain's King Charles III accompanied by Britain's Princess Anne, salutes as he presents the new Sovereign's Standard to the Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons) during a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London

Man charged with murder of Tejaswini

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 15: A 23-year-old man was Thursday charged with the murder of Indian student Tejaswini Kontham and the attempted murder of her friend at a residential address in Wembley, north London.

The Metropolitan Police said Keven Antonio Lourenco De Morais, previously referred to as a Brazilian national, has been remanded in police custody to appear at Uxbridge Magistrates Court in London. Two other people, one man and a woman, arrested in con-



nection with the murder investigation at the crime scene have now been released with no further action.

"Keven Antonio Lourenco De

Morais, 23, of Neeld Crescent, Wembley was charged on Thursday, 15 June with the murder of Tejaswini Kontham and the attempted murder of a second woman," the Met Police said in a statement

On Tuesday, Met Police officers attended a flat in Neeld Crescent, Wembley, along with the London Ambulance Service and found Tejaswini and another woman, aged 28, suffering from knife injuries."Despite the efforts of emergency services, Tejaswini sadly died at the scene. Her family has been informed," the police said.

The UN migration agency, known as IOM, estimated that the vessel was carrying 700 to 750 people, including at least 40 children, based on interviews with survivors. Authorities revised the confirmed death toll from 79 to 78 following an overnight count of the bodies.

The people rescued were mostly men and included Egyptians, Syrians, Pakistanis, Afghans and Palestinians. "The survivors are in a very difficult situation. Right now they are in shock," Erasmia Roumana, head of a United Nations Refugee Agency delegation, told The Associated Press after meeting the rescued migrants in a storage hangar in the southern port of Kalamata

'They want to get in touch with their families to tell them they are OK, and they keep asking about the missing. Many have friends and relatives unaccounted for." Mohamed Abdi Marwan, who

spoke by phone from Kobani, a Kurdish majority town in northeastern Syria, said that five of his relatives were on the boat, including one who 14 years old. Marwan said he's heard nothing about his relatives since the vessel sank.

Hopes fading as death toll

revised to 79, 104 survivors

He believes his nephew Ali Sheikhi, 29, is alive, after family members spotted him in photos of survivors, but Marwan said friends are still making their way to the makeshift camp in Greece to confirm. "Those smugglers were supposed to only have 500 on the boat and now we hear there were 750. What is this? Are they cattle or humans? How can they do this?" Marwan said. He said that each of his relatives paid USD 6,000 for the trip.

Greece declared three days of mourning and politicians suspended campaigning for a general election on June 25. A Supreme Court prosecutor ordered an in-

vestigation into the circumstances of the deaths. Greek authorities said that the vessel appeared to be sailing normally until shortly before it sank, and declined repeated offers of rescue, while a network of activists said they received repeated distress calls from the vessel during the same time.

The Greek Coast Guard said that it was notified of the boat's presence late on Tuesday morning, and observed by helicopter that it was "sailing on a steady course" at 6 pm. A little later, the Greek Joint Search and Rescue reached someone on the boat by satellite phone, who repeatedly said that passengers needed food and water but wanted to continue sailing to Italy. Merchant and ships delivered supplies and observed the ship until early Wednesday morning, when the satellite phone user reported a problem with the engine.

Two miners dead

Aybak (Afghanistan): Two miners were killed and 35 others fainted due to gas suffocation in a coalmine in Dara-e-Suf Bala district of Afghanistan's northern Samangan province two days ago, district chief Mohammad Nasim Khyber Shakan said. "The gruesome incident took place yesterday evening due to the emission of carbon monoxide gas in a coalmine, Khybar Shakan told Xinhua news agency Wednesday.

Flooding kills 6

Kabul: At least six people have lost their lives and eight others sustained injuries in recent torrential rains and flooding in Afghanistan, local media reported Thursday."Thirty homes have been damaged entirely, seven bridges have been wrecked and some agricultural areas and orchards have lost their crops," Xinhua news agency quoted the local media as saying.

Tourist dies after attack 2023 may become hottest year ever recorded

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 15: Global temperatures have accelerated to recordsetting levels this month, an ominous sign in the climate crisis ahead of a gathering El Nino that could potentially propel 2023 to become the hottest year ever recorded.

Preliminary global average temperatures taken so far in June are nearly 1 degree Celsius above levels previously recorded for the same month, going back to 1979, the Guardian reported.

While the month is not yet complete and may not set a new June record, climate scientists say it follows a pattern of strengthening global heating that could see this year named the hottest ever recorded, topping 2016.

The long-term warming conditions caused by the burning of fossil fuels will likely receive a further pulse of heat via El Nino, a natu-

SPIKING HEAT



rally reoccurring phenomenon where sections of the Pacific Ocean heat up, typically causing tem(NOAA) said El Nino conditions are now present and will "gradually strengthen" into early next year.

Michael Mann, a climate scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, said human-caused warming will be exacerbated by an event that typically adds between 0.1-0.2 degrees to the overall global temperature. "The global surface temperature anomaly is at or near record levels right now, and 2023 will almost certainly be the warmest year on record," the Guardian quoted Mann as saying.

"That is likely to be true for just about every El Nino year in the future as well, as long as we continue to warm the planet with fossil fuel burning and carbon pollution."

Mika Rantanen, a Finnish meteorologist, said that the spiking heat so far this month is "extraordinary" and that it is "pretty certain' it will result in a record warm June, the Guardian reported.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, June 15: An American man has been arrested after allegedly assaulting two US tourists near Neuschwanstein castle in southern Germany and then pushing them down a steep slope, an attack that left one of the women dead, authorities said Thursday.

The incident near the popular tourist attraction happened on Wednesday afternoon. It took place near the Marienbruecke, a bridge over a gorge close to the castle that offers a famous view of Neuschwanstein.

The 30-year-old man met the two female tourists, ages 21 and 22, on a hiking path and lured them onto a trail that leads to a viewpoint, police said in a statement.

The man then "physically attacked" the younger woman, police said. When her companion



tried to intervene, he choked her and pushed her down a steep slope.

The assailant then appears to have attempted to sexually assault the 21-year-old before pushing her down the slope as well. She fell nearly 50 metres (165 feet), ending up close to her friend.

The mountain rescue service 🛁 rescued both women. The 22-yearold was "responsive" and taken to a hospital, police said; the 21year-old was flown by helicopter to a hospital with serious injuries and died there overnight. Thesuspect left the scene but was arrested nearby shortly afterward.

peratures to spike across the world.

and Atmospheric Administration

Last week, the National Oceanic









business



India will be exploring new audit areas, like extraction industries underwater and releasing more reports as the apex government auditor adopts end-to-end digital framework from this fiscal year GIRISH CHANDRA MURMU COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

MAJOR MILESTONE FOR HPX

Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX) Thursday announced that it has crossed the milestone of five Billion Units (BU) of power traded within 11 months of its launch. HPX was able to cross this landmark amid a rapid increase in trading volume across contingency and long duration contracts (LDC) segments





In light of energy security concerns strategic acquisitions and subsequent revival of the stranded power

sector capacity present in India can be a viable alternative to adding new thermal assets

SHANTANU SRIVASTAVA SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND CLIMATE RISK LEAD (SOUTH ASIA), IEEFA



end scooter with minimal performance. This is

what would matter to the customers And we are working on those price points and looking to compete with those brands

SUHAS RAJKUMAR | FOUNDER, SIMPLE ENERGY

India being the second largest steel producer in the world also places a huge responsibility on large manufacturers

like Tata Steel to lead the country's decarbonisation journey TV NARENDRAN CEO & MD, TATA STEEL

SHORT TAKES

Coal stock up 44%

New Delhi: The overall coal stock in the country increased 44 per cent year-on-year to 110.58 million tonne (MT) June 13, according to the Ministry of Coal. In a statement, the ministry said the higher coal stock position indicates the commitment to maintaining an ample supply of the dry fuel -- a key ingredient required for electricity generation. "The overall coal stock position at mines. TPPs (thermal power plants) and transit as on June 13, 2023. reached 110.58 MT. indicating a substantial increase of 44.22 per cent as compared to the stock of 76.67 MT on the same day last year," it said.

Palm oil imports fall 14% in May New Delhi: India's palm oi

5-MONTH HIGH May trade deficit rockets soyoil, sunflower oil **INDIA'S TRADE DEFICIT ROSE FASTER-THAN-EXPECTED IN MAY, DUE** TO A FALL IN DEMAND IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: Exports declined for the fourth-consecutive month by 10.3 per cent year-onyear to \$34.98 billion in May, while the trade deficit widened to a fivemonth high of \$22.12 billion.

According to the data released by the commerce ministry Thursday, key export sectors recording negative growth include petroleum products, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, ready-made garments of all textiles and chemicals.

Imports also declined 6.6 per cent, six-month in a row, to \$57.1 billion against \$61.13 billion in the same month last year, the data showed

The trade deficit in May 2022 stood at \$22.13 billion. The last high was in December 2022, when the gap was \$23.89 hillion Cumulatively, exports during

April-May this fiscal contracted by 11.41 per cent to \$69.72 billion, while imports declined 10.24 per cent to \$107 billion.

Export sectors, which recorded positive growth, include smartphones, electronic goods, and pharmaceuticals.

Smartphone exports in April increased to \$1.06 billion against \$498.26 million in the same month last year. During April-May 2023, shipments of electronic goods

rose by 48 per cent to \$4.54 billion. The decline in import value of petroleum, vegetable oil, coal, coke and briquette, has been largely on account of the decline



There's a slowdown in many developed countries and there is a fall in their GDP growth rates also. consequent to that their import demand ... is quite low. We are expecting that slowdown conditions should improve and demand should pick up

SUNIL BARTHWAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

in commodity prices. The fall in gold import has been EXPORTS **DOWN FOR** largely on account of import duty, it added. Oil imports in May dipped by about 6 per cent to \$15.62 billion. Gold

imports in the month under review declined by 38.71 per cent to \$4 billion.

ucts contracted by about 30 per cent to about \$6 billion.

Briefing reporters on the data, **Commerce Secretary Sunil** Barthwal said headwinds still continue at the global trade front as there is a "whole lot of" recession and slowdown in many countries. He also informed that the ministry is working on

> promote exports. The merchandise trade deficit for April-May 2023 was esti mated at \$37.26 billion against \$40.48

billion during April-May 2022 "India's trade performance,

after witnessing very strong growth in 2022-23 has shown declining trends as compared to the high base of last year as the pace of growth in global merchandise exports moderated significantly in 2023, as persisting geopolitical tensions and monetary tightening induced recessionary fears have led to a decline in consumer spending across advanced nations," ministry said.

TRADE WITH NATIONS

India's exports to the UAE contracted by 10.2 per cent to \$4.82 billion during April-May this fiscal against \$5.37 billion in the year-ago period, according to the data. India and the UAE have operationalised a comprehensive free trade agreement since May 1 last year. Imports from the UAE too fell to \$6.73 billion from \$9.67 billion in April-May 2021-22. India's exports to the UAE in 2022-23 rose by 11.8 per cent to \$31.3 billion, while imports from that country grew by 18.8 per cent to \$53.2 billion in the preceding fiscal due to increased inbound shipments of oil.

Exports to the US also declined by about 13 per cent to \$12.47 billion. Imports from America decreased to \$6.88 billion during the first two months of this fiscal as against \$8.33 billion in the same period a year ago.

However, imports from China have marginally increased to \$15.75 billion during April-May 2023-24 as compared to \$15.46 billion in the year-ago period. Exports to China have recorded negative growth.

Imports from Russia jumped to \$11 billion during the period under review due to increasing inbound shipments of crude oil from the country.

ECONOMIES STUTTER

Centre cuts refined import duty to 12.5%

The move to cut import duty to 12.5% from 17.5% has been taken to keep the price of edible oil under check

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The government has reduced the import duty on refined sovbean and sunflower oils to 12.5 per cent from 17.5 per cent with effect from Thursday to boost the domestic availability and check prices, a finance ministry notification said.

Usually, India imports 'crude' sovbean and sunflower oils and not their 'refined' form. Yet, the government has reduced the duty on refined soybean and sunflower oils.

With this reduction, the effective duty on refined edible oils stands at 13.7 per cent, including cess on social welfare. The effective duty on all major crude edible oils is 5.5 per cent.

Commenting on this, Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) Executive Director BV Mehta said the move may have some temporary impact on market sentiments but unlikely to attract imports.

"Basically, government wants to keep the prices of edible oils under check. Even with less duty difference between crude and refined sova and sunflower oils. chances of shipment of refined soya and sunflower oil may not be



commercially viable but have some temporary sentiment impact on market," Mehta said in a statement

Currently, there are no import of refined soybean and sunflower oils. According to SEA, the delayed onset of monsoon in Kerala by a

week led to delay in sowing. "The Met Department has forecast near normal monsoon, however El Nino is not ruled out completely and may spoil the chances of normal monsoon, which may impact kharif crop and domestic availability of vegetable oils in

next oil year 2023-24," Mehta added. India relies on imports to fulfill its demand-supply gap in edible oils. It meets nearly 60 per cent of edible oil demand through imports.

bout of high inflation and began

raising rates later than many global

While this would normally augur

a pause in policy tightening, the

ECB has been taking its own pro-

jections with a pinch of salt after years

in which they missed the mark.

peers last year.

Market benchmarks halt three-day rally ECB raises rates to 22-year high

A weak opening in European markets and the depreciating rupee sapped risk appetite



EURO ZONE INFLATION HAS BEEN MODERATING FOR MONTHS. COURTESY LOWER ENERGY



US Fed puts brakes on hikes

he US Federal Reserve has left the interest rate unchanged for the first time after March 2022, ending a stream of 10 consecutive hikes to curb inflation. "In determining the extent of additional policy firming that may be appropriate to return inflation to two per cent over time, the Committee will take into account the cumulative tightening of monetary policy, the lags with which monetary policy affects economic activity and inflation, and economic and financial developments," the Fed said Wednesday in a statement after a two-day policy meeting of its top policymaking committee. After the Fed hoisted the interest by 0.25 per cent in June, taking the rate to its highest level in 16 years, there were indications that it would pause the hikes, depending, of course, on how the economy was doing.



SIX-MONTH IN A ROW

TRADE DEFICIT WIDENED TO **FIVE-MONTH HIGH OF** \$22.12BN

Exports of petroleum prod-

FOURTH-CONSECUTIVE MONTH YOY **IMPORTS DECLINED 6.6%**,

imports declined 14.59 per cent to 4,39,173 tonne during May this year, but there was a sharp rise in shipments of crude sunflower oil, industry body SEA said Thursday. India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, imported 5,14,022 tonne palm oils in May 2022. However, the country's total vegetable oil imports declined marginally to 10,58,263 tonne in May this year from 10,61,416 tonne in the year-ago period. The share of palm oil is about 59 per cent in the country's total vegetable oil imports.

ONGC signs pact with IndianOil

New Delhi: India's top oil and natural gas producer ONGC has signed a pact with the nation's largest oil refining and fuel marketing company Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for exploring opportunities in the petrochemicals business. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and IOC "signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore downstream opportunities, especially in petrochemicals, both greenfield projects and through acquisitions," ONGC said in a tweet.

boAt logs ₹4K-cr in sales in FY23

New Delhi: Leading audio and wearables brand boAt Thursday said it registered Rs 4.000 crore in net sales in FY23 In FY23, around 15 million products were made in India by the company. The company said that this milestone has been achieved on the back of its sustained presence in the audio category, establishing a leadership position in the hyper-growth wearables category.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

30-share BSE

Mumbai, June 15: Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure Thursday as investors pared exposure to banking, IT and fi-

nance stocks after three sessions of gains amid the US Fed's hawkish stance on Despite interest rates.

weakness in the After rallying benchmark index, there for the past/ is buying interest observed three days, the with the Nifty Mid-cap index trading at an all-time high Sensex fell 310.88 VINOD NAIR

points or 0.49 per HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT cent to settle at FINANCIAL SERVICES 62,917.63. During

the day, it tumbled 357.43 points or 0.56 per cent to 62,871.08. The NSE Nifty declined 67.80 points or 0.36 per cent to end at 18.688.10

"The domestic market is responding to the Fed's hawkish commentary, which suggests the possibility of 2 more rate hikes in the future this year, although they have currently opted for a halt," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Wipro was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, slipping nearly 2 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC and Bajaj Finserv.

On the other hand, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints and

Maruti were among the gainers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.30 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.12 per cent.

Among the indices, bankex fell by 1.28 per cent, financial services declined by 0.92 per cent, realty

(0.78 per cent), teck (0.60 per cent), IT (0.51 per cent) and metal 0.38 per cent). Healthcare. con-

sumer discretionary auto, FMCG, capital goods and consumer durables were among the gainers. The rupee fell 20 paise to close at 82.25

against the US dollar Thursday, pulled down by a strong greenback

overseas and a negative trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the rupee depreciated slightly on recovery in the US dollar after the US Fed left key interest rate unchanged, but hinted more rate hikes this year. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 3,085.51 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.97 per cent to \$73.91 a barrel.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo ended lower, while Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green. Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended mixed in the overnight trade Wednesday.

PRICES AND THE **STEEPEST INCREASE IN RATES IN THE ECB'S 25-YEAR HISTORY**

REUTERS

Frankfurt, June 15: The European Central Bank raised borrowing costs to their highest level in 22 years Thursday and left the door open to more hikes, extending its fight against high inflation even as the euro zone economy flags.

The ECB increased its key interest rate - the one banks pay to park cash securely at the central bank - for the eighth consecutive time, by 25 basis points to 3.5%, its highest level since 2001.

"Future decisions will ensure that the key ECB interest rates will be brought to levels sufficiently restrictive to achieve a timely return of inflation to the 2% mediumterm target and will be kept at

Reliance to raise up to \$2bn to fund expansion

REUTERS

Bangalore, June 15: Reliance Industries is in talks with foreigncurrency loan lenders to raise up to \$2 billion to fund the expansion of its oil-to-telecom conglomerate, Bloomberg News reported Thursday, citing sources.

Reliance, led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, plans to use India's dedicated external commercial borrowing route to secure the loan, the report said.

Bank of America, Citigroup and Standard Chartered are among the lenders involved in the loan discussions, Bloomberg reported.

Reliance had said in August last year that it plans to invest Rs 750 billion (\$9.12 billion) over 5 years to expand its oil to chemical business.

those levels for as long as necessary, the ECB said.

Inflation in the euro zone is still unacceptably high for the ECB at 6.1% and underlying price growth, which typically excludes food and energy, is only starting to slow.

The ECB raised its inflation forecasts for this year, the next and 2025. when it was still expected to remain above the central bank's target, at 2.2%

That was set to keep the ECB on the tightening path, particularly after it failed to predict the current

NZ SLIPS INTO RECESSION: N^{ew} Zealand slipped into recession as the economy shrank in the first quarter, data showed Thursday, reducing the risk the

central bank would need to hike interest rates further but creating a new headwind for the government's reelection hopes. Gross domestic product (GDP) matched analysts' expectations of a 0.1% contraction in the March quarter but was well below the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's forecast of 0.3% growth. Furthermore, fourth-quarter GDP was revised to a contraction of 0.7% from a decline of 0.6%. The New Zealand dollar slipped 0.2% to \$0.6197 after the data as it was in line with market expectations and gave traction to the central bank's position that no further interest rate hikes would be needed. Weakness in the economy was broad-based with output from half of the country's industries contracting, according to the Statistics New Zealand data. Growth was hurt by the impact of two major cyclones and flash floods in Auckland in January and February.

NO TURBULENCE

Domestic air passenger traffic up 15%

INDIGO INCREASED ITS MARKET SHARE TO 61.4% FROM 57.5% IN MAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 15: India's domestic air passenger traffic grew 15 per cent year-on-year to 132.67 lakh passengers in May 2023, according to DGCA data.

The country's domestic air passenger traffic was 114.67 lakh passengers in the year-ago period.

Low-cost carrier IndiGo increased its market share to 61.4 per cent from 57.5 per cent during the previous month, carrying a total of 81.10 lakh passengers, as per the DGCA data released Thursday. Last month also saw the ground-

ing of city-based carrier Go First. Go First, which is currently undergoing insolvency proceedings at the National Company Law



Tribunal (NCLT), has not flown since May 3.

All three Tata Group airlines --Air India, AirAsia India and Vistara (which is 49 per cent owned by Singapore Airlines) -- also witnessed their market share growing sequentially in May 2023, cornering 9.4 per cent, 7.9 per cent and 9 per cent of the total traffic pie, re-

passengers flown by Air India and Vistara during the month under review stood at 12.44 lakh and 11.95 lakh, respectively. AirAsia India carried 10.41 lakh passengers in May 2023, the data showed.

The combined total of these three airlines was 34.8 lakh passengers, 26.3 per cent of the total domestic air passenger traffic in May 2023.

The market share of Akasa Air, which launched its air services in August 2022, also rose to 4.8 per cent in the previous month compared to 4 per cent in April 2023.

On punctuality parameters, Akasa Air recorded an on-time performance of 92.6 per cent, the highest among all the domestic-(carriers from four key metro airports in May, as per the data.









spectively. The total number of





India, Lebanon share spoils



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 15: India missed the chances that came their way to settle for a goalless draw with Lebanon in the Intercontinental Cup football tournament here Thursday.

Continuing with his policy to make wholesome changes to his starting XI, head coach Igor Stimac benched a number of seniors including striker Sunil Chhetri and goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. Defensive linchpin Sandesh Jhingan wore the captain's armband in Chhetri's absence.

The result however did not matter as both teams had already sealed their places in the final of the fournation tournament. Mongolia and Vanuatu were the two other teams taking part in the event.

Introduced in the 82nd minute, Chhetri received a perfect delivery from Anirudh Thapa but the India captain could not find the

back of the net.

It would have been 1-0 India within the first five minutes of the game but, after being set up by Lallianzuala Chhangte and with just the opposition goalkeeper to beat, Anirudh Thapa missed a sitter on the fourth minute. All he could do was shoot the ball away.

Then, almost 20 minutes into the match, another chance was wasted as Ashique Kuruniyan hit the ball straight to the Lebanese goalkeeper after a good ball inside the box. The two missed chances from India meant the teams went into the half-time break goalless.

It pretty much continued in the same way in the second half, which also saw the floodlights going off for a couple of minutes, as both teams failed to failed to find the target. Hoping to break the deadlock, both India and Lebanon rang in a few changes, but to no avail as the score remained unchanged till the final whistle.

India had kicked off their campaign with a 2-0 win over Mongolia last Friday before beating Vanuatu 1-0 three days later Monday. Lebanon too had started with a victory, beating Vanuatu 3-1 before playing out a goalless draw

against Mongolia Monday. VANUATU PIP MONGOLIA

Vanuatu edged out Mongolia 1-0 to end their Intercontinental Cup campaign on a positive note earlier on the day.

Seconds into the second half. Vanuatu took the lead when Mongolia's Gantuya Gantogtokh accidentally put the ball in his own goal while attempting to clear it after Godin Tenene dribbled past the Mongolian defenders from the left flank to cross inside the penalty box. After conceding the goal,

Mongolia charged forward in numbers to find the equaliser, but to no avail. While Vanuatu finished with three points from as many matches,

Mongolia have only one point to show from their drawn outing against Lebanon. The result also ensured Lebanon's place in the final against India to be played Sunday. The two sides were evenly

matched and produced some end to-end attacking football from the start. In the 10th minute, Mongolia had the chance to draw the first blood when Ganbold Ganbayar led a move from a counter-attack. The forward decided to take an attempt on goal from a difficult angle and his shot was comfortably blocked by Vanuatu goalkeeper Massing Kalotang. In the 36th minute, Mongolia

had a golden opportunity to take the lead. After winning the ball in the rivals' half, Baatartsogt Namsrai ran ahead and passed the ball to Ganbayar inside the box. This time, the forward couldn't get much power behind his shot and the ball landed straight into the goalkeeper's safe hands

Srikanth, Prannoy in quarters

CHIRAG-SATWIK PAIR ALSO REACHES LAST EIGHT STAGE, WHILE SINDHU, LAKSHYA BOW OUT OF INDONESIA OPEN BADMINTON



AGENCIES

Jakarta, June 15: Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy registered straight game wins to advance to the men's singles quarterfinals but it was curtains for double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu at the Indonesia Open World Tour Super 1000 event here Thursday

Taking the court first, Srikanth used his vast experience to quell the challenge of Lakshya Sen 21-17, 22-20 in an all-Indian second round duel.

It was a hard-fought battle between the two Indians but Srikanth bagged the crucial moments with his calmness and experience to prevail over Lakshva in the match that lasted 45 minutes.

The win ensured Srikanth's dominance over his younger compatriot as he took his head-to-head record to 3-0 over Lakshya. Seventh seed Prannoy then took just 43 minutes to get the better of Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong 21-18, 21-

However, World No.14 Sindhu made an early exit once again, losing 21-18, 21-16 to her nemesis and World No.3 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese

Taipei in a women's singles second round match. Sindhu had made opening round exits in the last two events.

Tai Tzu, seeded third, has been the opponent Sindhu had struggled against the most in the international arena and it was no better here with the Chinese Taipei shuttler enhancing her head-tohead record over the Indian to a staggering 19-5.

Sindhu and Tai Tzu's most recent meeting was at the 2023 Sudirman Cup, where the Chinese Taipei player won 21-14, 18-21, 21-17. With Sindhu's loss, the Indian challenge came to an end in the women's singles event.

Earlier in the day, contrary to the final result it was Lakshya who started on a positive note, taking an early 4-0 lead in the opening game before Srikanth clawed his way back.

It was even-steven till 17 points, before Srikanth came out attacking and used the court to great effect to tire out his younger rival and win four straight points to pocket the first game.

The second game was no different as both shuttlers matched each other till 13 points, before Srikanth won six straight points to surge ahead to 20-14. But the 2021 world championships silver medallist squandered six match points as Lakshya bounced back in style to draw level at 20 apiece.

Srikanth, however, had the last laugh as he kept his composure to win the next two points and seal the affair: Srikanth will next play Li Shi Feng of China, who upset fourth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 21-19, 21-14 in another second round match, while Prannoy will face third seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan in the last eight round.

Rising Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat's campaign ended in prequarters as he went down fighting to the World No.2 and home favourite Anthony Ginting 22-20, 15-21, 15-21 in one hour and three minutes.

Earlier, Birmingham Commonwealth Games champion and World No.5 men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Ranikreddy and Chirag Shetty sailed past China's He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong 21-17, 21-15 in 46 minutes. The Indian seventh seed will be up against top seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in the quarterfinals.

ATHLETES EARN ASIAN GAMES TIC 5

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Three athletes achieved the Hangzhou Asian Games qualifications in their respective events on the opening day of the 62nd National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship here at the Kalinga Stadium Thursday.

It was a big pay day for Uttar Pradesh distance runners -Kartik Kumar and Gulveer Singh. On their way to podium in the men's 10,000m, both Kartik and Gulveer bettered the Asian Games qualification time of 29:30.00.

Kartik clocked 29:01.84 seconds for the yellow metal, while Gulveer settled for silver medal with a timing of 29:03.78 seconds. Both Kartik and Gulveer also improved the previous meet record of 29:06.17 clocked way back in 2007 by Olympian Surendra Singh, who is overseeing national camp in Bangalore. In a fast-paced race third and fourth runners - Pritam Kumar of Delhi and Harman Jot Singh of Madhva Pradesh also dipped below the Asian Games qualification time of 29:30.00. Abhishek Pal of Uttar Pradesh, pre-race favourite, quit the race with nine laps to go due to stomach cramps.



able to execute her pre-race plans and eventually finished second.

Sanjivani recently clocked a personal best of 32:46 seconds in the women's 10,000m event during Portland Track Festival and was hopeful to improve her performance in the next race.

The men 20km race walk saw Haryana seasoned athlete Sandeep Kumar take home the gold medal, while Bhawna Jat of Rajasthan added women's 20km race walk title to her profile. Bhawna's gold medal winning time of 1:37:03.00 was better than the previous meet record of 1:39:00 clocked by Deepmala Devi in 2006

Results (all finals):

Men: 10,000m: Kartik Kumar (Uttar Pradesh) 29:01.84 secs, ulveer Singh (UP) 29:03.78 sec

Asia Cup to be played in hybrid model: ACC



Harvana's international sprinter

Amiya Mallick (C) sprints during his event of National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship in Bhubaneswar

Aniali Devi dipped below the Asian Games qualification time of 52.89 seconds. During the women's 400m heats today she clocked 52.96 seconds. In the women's 25-lap event Seema of Himachal Pradesh upset her more experienced rival

Sanjivani Jadhav of Maharashtra. In a tactical race, Seema pushed for home in the last two rounds to cross the finish line in 34:20.01 seconds. Seema's performance was nearly two minutes slower than the Asian Games qualification time

of 32:30.24 seconds. While Sanjivani considered favourite to win gold, said it wasn't her day. The Maharashtra's international runner conserved her energy to push hard in the second half of the race, but she wasn't Pritam Kumar (Delhi) 29:22.36 secs.

20km race walk: Sandeep Kumar (Haryana) 1:27:12, Servin S (Tamil Nadu) 1:28:21, Hardeep (Haryana) 1:28:57

Women: 10,000m: Seema (Himachal Pradesh) 34:20.01 secs, Sanjivani Jadhav (Maharashtra) 34:34.10 secs, Poonam Dinkar (Maharashtra) 34:45.42 secs.

20km race walk: Bhavna Jat (Rajasthan) 1:37:03.00, Priyanka Goswani (UP) 1:40:33.00, Vandana (Karnataka) 1:41:54.00.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: Ending months of speculation around Asia Cup, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Thursday announced that the tournament will be staged in a hybrid model with four games in Pakistan and nine in Sri Lanka from August 31 to September 17.

The deadlock over the staging of the 50-over tournament was broken last week when the Jay Shah-led ACC accepted Pakistan Cricket Board's hybrid model of conducting four non-India games in Pakistan.

The hybrid model was proposed as the BCCI had made it clear that it won't send its team to Pakistan due to the longstanding geo-political tensions between the two countries

'We are delighted to announce that the Asia Cup 2023 will be held from 31st August to 17th September 2023 and will see the elite teams from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal, compete in a total of 13 exciting ODI matches.

"The tournament will be hosted in a hybrid model with four matches being held in Pakistan, and the remaining nine matches being played in Sri Lanka," said the ACC in a statement.

The 2023 edition will feature two groups, with two teams from each group qualifying for the Super Four stage. The top-two teams from the Super Four stage will then face off in the final.

India, Pakistan and Nepal have been bracketed in one group while Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan form the other group. The city of Lahore will host matches in Pakistan while the games to be played in Sri Lanka

will be held in Kandy and Pallekele. The approval of the Asia Cup's schedule also means that Pakistan will travel to India for the ODI World Cup in October-November. The arch-rivals are expected to face off at the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad October 15.

Now that the Asia Cup dates and venues have been announced, the schedule of the ODI World Cup in India will be made public soon.

It is understood that once ICC CEO Geoff Allardice and chairman Greg Barclay visited Karachi to meet PCB chairman Najam Sethi last month, it was decided that Pakistan won't set any conditions for competing in the World Cup, provided four Asia Cup games are held in the country as they have the hosting rights.

Playing a tournament without Pakistan would have meant that the broadcasters would be giving ACC just half the amount committed for the tournament because of two assured India-Pakistan games and may be a chance of a third, if the two teams reach the final.

"I am elated that our hybrid version for the ACC Asia Cup 2023 has been accepted. This means the PCB will remain as the event host and stage matches in Pakistan with Sri Lanka as the neutral venue, which was required due to the Indian cricket team's inability to travel to Pakistan," said PCB chief Najam Sethi.

"Our passionate fans would have loved to see the India cricket team in action in Pakistan for the first time in 15 years, but we understand the BCCI's position. Like the PCB, the BCCI also requires government approval and clearance before crossing borders," he added

Club Ambara in Bhub

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Indian tennis great Leander Paes inaugurated Club Ambara, the state-ofthe art sports arena of Z1 residential complex, here Thursday.

Club Ambara spread over 2 acres is amongst the largest residential outdoor games complex. Club Ambara became the latest addition to Z1's impressive array of modern amenities, offering an unparalleled range of world-class sporting amenities.

Residents will now have the facilities of two synthetic tennis courts, jogging track, an indoor air-conditioned badminton court,

a couple of swimming pools, calisthenics park, golf putting green and practice nets, a half basketball court, two cricket practice nets, skating rink, gym, private movie theatre, banquet lawns, tot-lots apart from various Indoor Games.

Paes shared his invaluable wisdom and experiences with the residents of Z1, expressing his excitement for the exceptional sporting facilities. "I am thrilled to be a part of the grand opening of the Club Ambara," said Paes. "This facility showcases a strong commitment to promoting sports and fostering a healthy lifestyle. I hope Club Ambara becomes a breeding ground for future champions.

Leander Paes unveils India in squash WC semifinals PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 15: Second-seeded India bounced back to edge out Japan 3-1 in a Pool B match to top the group and enter the semifinals of the SDAT WSF Squash World Cup here Thursday. The hosts reached the semifinals of the championship for the first time, where they will play No.4 seeds Malaysia. The India team comprising Abhay

Singh, Joshna Chinappa, Saurav Ghosal and Tanvi Khanna were already guaranteed their place in the semi finals after two incredible 4-0

wins in their first two ties against Hong Kong China and South Africa but Thursday's victory meant that they avoid top seeds Egypt.

The team got off to a poor start when Abhay Singh lost in three games to Tomotaka Endo. In the next match, former World No.10 Joshna Chinappa was on hand to perform an incredible rescue act.

Despite going one game down to Satomi Watanabe - the top ranked player at the tournament-Chinappa showed incredible determination to come back, with the 36-year-old, who is also from Chennai, winning 2-7, 7-4, 3-7, 7-5, 7-5

India men's No.1 Saurav Ghosal then got the better of Ryunosuke Tsukue in five games. The wins for Chinappa and Ghosal meant that India could no longer be caught by Japan in the race for top of Pool B, due to India's superior number of wins over the three days of the Pool Stage. In the final match, Khanna put the tie to bed with a comfortable 3-0 win against Akari Midorikawa.

The defeat for Japan means they will play Egypt in the semifinals, with the top seeds beating Malaysia.



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