

## 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 June 20. Sources said frequent power fluctuations led to Rakesh's death.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Before UCC, we should implement the criminal code uniformly!



**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 one-year 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

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-

### 10 Best Rated Curries

Rank	Curry Name	Rating
1	Phanaeng curry (Thailand)	4.9
2	Khao soi (Thailand)	4.8
3	Karē (Japan)	4.7
4	Shahi paneer (India)	4.7
5	Malai kofta (India)	4.7
6	Butter chicken (India)	4.6
7	Green curry (Thailand)	4.6
8	Massaman curry (Thailand)	4.6
9	Karē raisu (Japan)	4.5
10	Thai curry (Thailand)	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, soup-like 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.

## Couple dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

**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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# leisure



## 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

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**ARIES**  
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, says Ganesha. You are likely to remain preoccupied with ways to enhance your looks and appearance. A new, stylish hair do, face packs and massages, trendy outfits and accessories could be in store. You will, subconsciously, 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 yoga will help you calm yourself. It is a good day to receive love from that someone special, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
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 improving 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 improvements in your personal appearance.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says 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 tension and you will feel mentally free. Today you 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 personal life to meet expectations at work. A feeling of disappointment may surround you as things do not go according to planning and your efforts may go in vain. No pains, no gains reminds Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You are in a dilemma today. You may find yourself standing 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 may be 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.

**AQUARIUS**  
You always see the larger picture, and desire to channelise all your energies towards making things better. Such positive 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 wait into old relationships, or new ones could be formed. However, this is likely to be a drawn out process.

## Samantha reflects on forced new normal

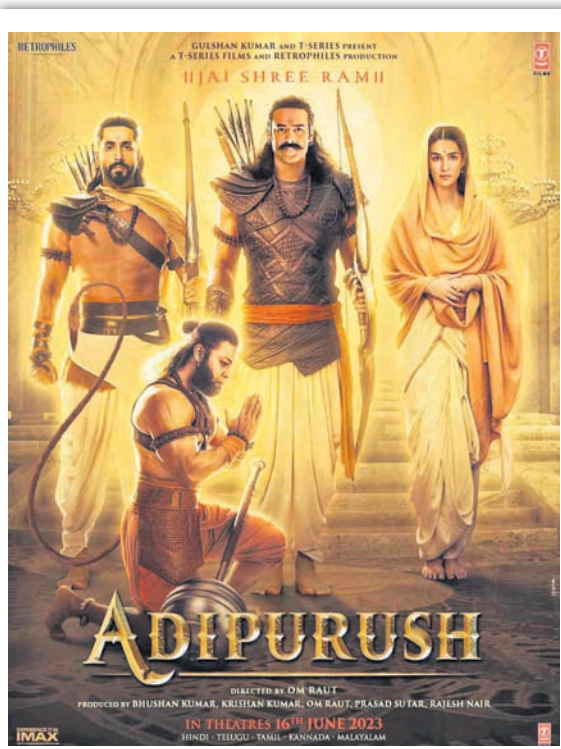
Mumbai: Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu Thursday marked one year of her diagnosis with the autoimmune condition, Myositis. She took to Instagram and penned a long note talking about how she has been battling the disease for a year now.

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 seeking 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 praying to just find strength and peace."

"A year that has taught me that not everything goes your way all the time. And more importantly, that it's ok 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*.



## 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 person.

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, only then they are tough."

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 able to play that. That person is so not me, I thought that with an incredible change for me."

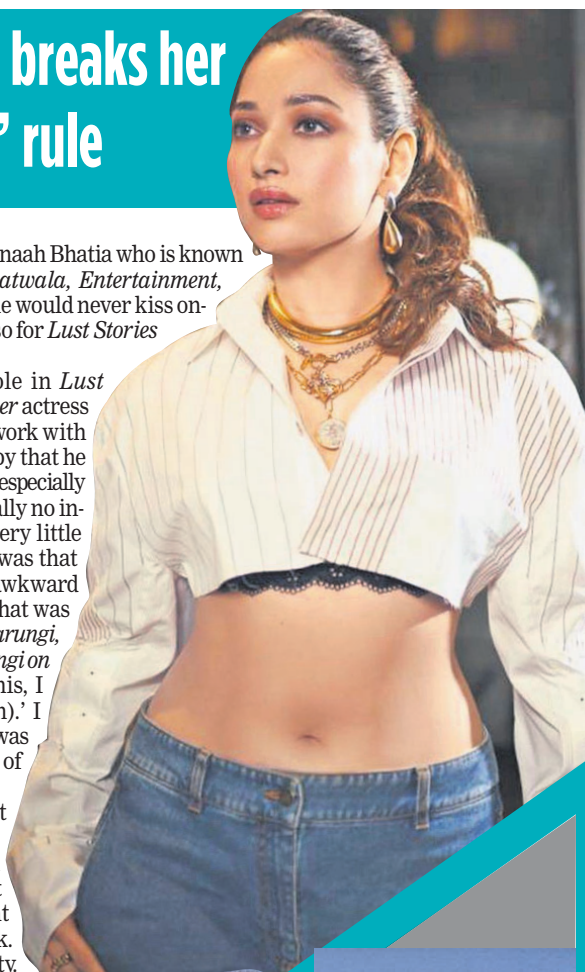
## Tamannaah breaks her 'no-kissing' rule

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia who is known for her films like *Himmatwala*, *Entertainment*, *Baahubali* shares how she would never kiss on-screen but decided to do so for *Lust Stories 2*.

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 showbiz). Not my endeavor."

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

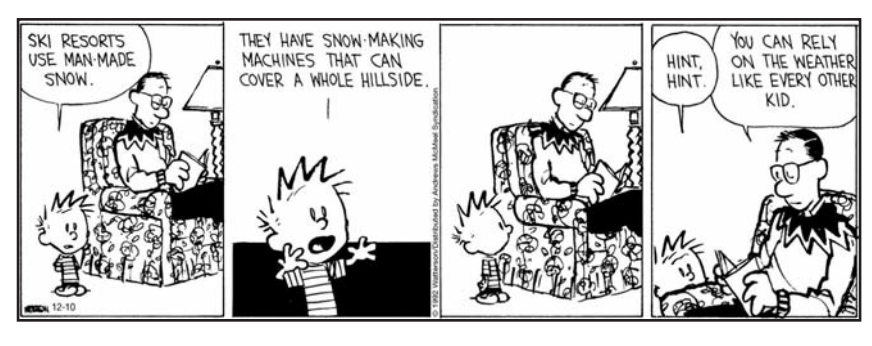


Kubbra opens up on *The trial* role

### PEANUTS



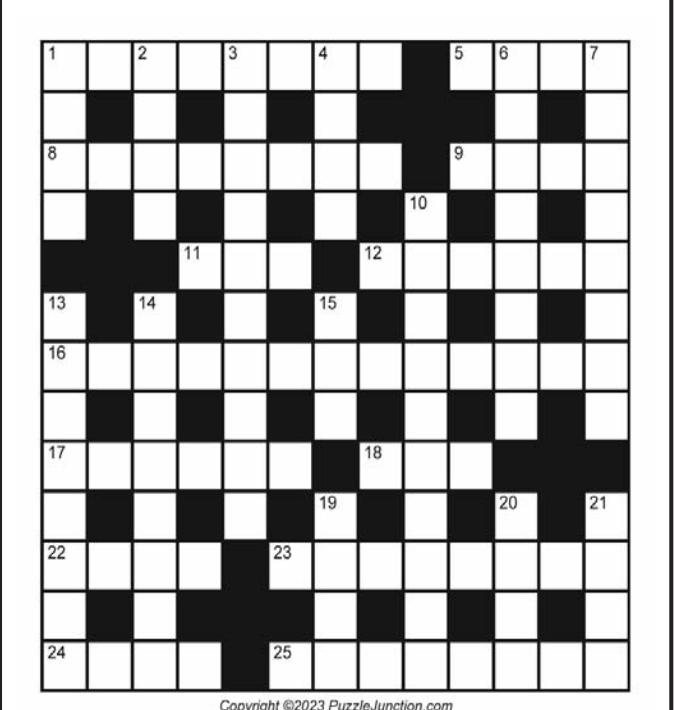
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



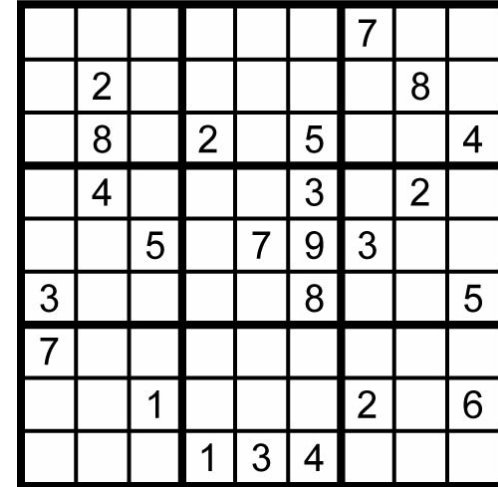
### FUN post CROSSWORD



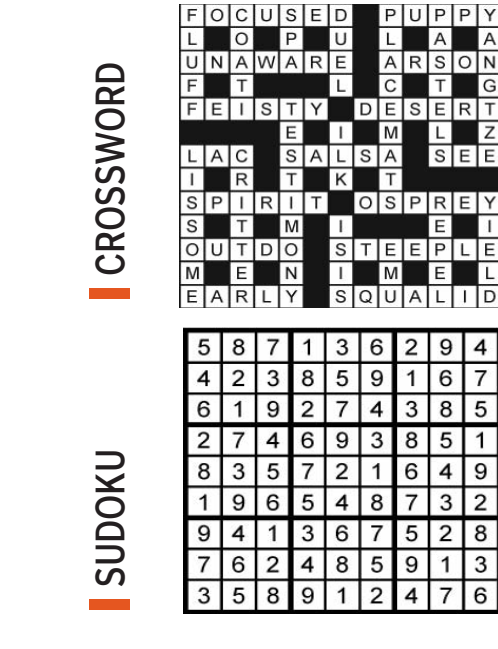
- Across
- 1 Sweater material
  - 5 Maintain
  - 8 Crowd commendation
  - 9 Shoestring
  - 11 Bushy tailed canine
  - 12 Evil spirits
  - 16 Buried treasure tool (5,8)
  - 17 Some brews
  - 18 Fly catcher
  - 22 Streetcar
  - 23 New York City, to some (3,5)
  - 24 Initiation, e.g.
  - 25 Overruled
  - 4 Hazard
  - 6 Weigh, as an offer
  - 7 Enjoyment
  - 10 Bakery item (6,4)
  - 13 Copycat
  - 14 Moribund
  - 15 Tasseled cap
  - 19 Cheese nibblers
  - 20 Musical composition
  - 21 Animal group
- Down
- 1 Pottery material
  - 2 Easy marks
  - 3 New World oriole

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



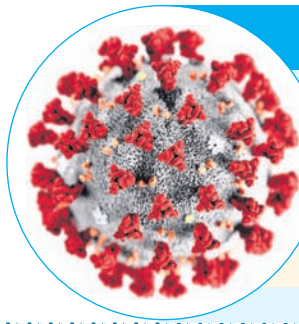
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



IN MEMORIAM

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



COVID-19 TRACKER

Table with columns: World, India, Odisha, and rows for Infected, Recovered, and Dead.

NABAJOUBAN 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



Chief Daitapati Ram Krushna Das Mohapatra and SJTA chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das addressing the media in Puri, Thursday

'Anabasar' (quarantine period) after the 'Snana Jatra'.

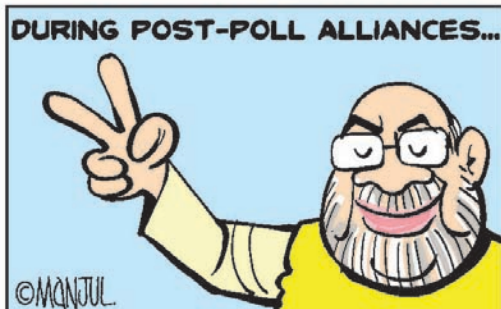
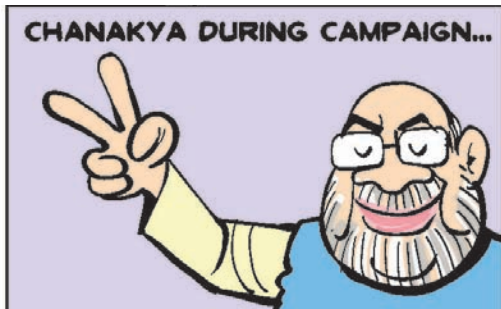
The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said that

devotees who buy the ₹100 tickets can see the deities between 8am to 9am June 19, after the 'Netro Ustav' ritual at the shrine.

'Paramanik Darshan' (paid darshan) 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.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



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 Development 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 Panchayat of Telangana's Bhadrachalam district. On the other hand, Odisha has secured the second position among all states.

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

a trophy, according to an official statement. There are also cash prizes in certain categories.

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 'Water Prosperous India'.

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

With the objective of encouraging various stakeholders towards adopting a holistic approach towards water resource management in the country, it was considered necessary to set up an integrated National Water Award, the statement said.

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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.

Earlier May 29, on the direction of the Chief Minister, Secretary to CM (ST) 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 presented a project proposal to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his approval which got the CM's nod.

The transformation project emphasises 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 illuminated. A road will be constructed



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 have all kinds of facilities for sadhus, devotees, 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 Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

June 13, the Union Food Ministry discontinued the sale of rice and wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to all state governments, barring north-east, 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 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

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 interest of the society, Singh said the central government is already providing free foodgrains via ration shops to 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 towards them also.

To ensure 40-50 crore non-NFSA beneficiaries from the middle and upper middle class and the government has a responsibility towards them also. To ensure 40-50 crore non-NFSA beneficiaries from the middle and upper middle class and the government has a responsibility towards them also. To ensure 40-50 crore non-NFSA beneficiaries from the middle and upper middle class and the government has a responsibility towards them also.

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 resolve 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, PDRDA Ambar Kumar Kar and City Health Officer Satyabrata Mohapatra.



HC stays tax demand of firm

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 Nilamadhya 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, Jajpur district.

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."

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.



1st synthetic embryos created without sperm or eggs

THE EMBRYOS WERE CULTIVATED AT A STAGE JUST BEYOND THE EQUIVALENT OF 14 DAYS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR A NATURAL EMBRYO, THE REPORT SAID

A 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 eggs and sperm.

The structures do not have a beating heart or a brain, but have cells which can later form the placenta, yolk sac and the embryo itself, the Guardian reported.

The finding may pave the way for understanding of genetic diseases or the causes of miscarriages.

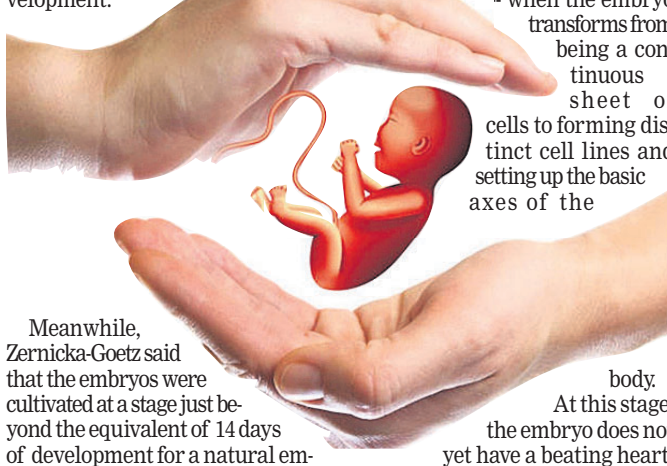
Professor Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz from the University of Cambridge, UK and also a professor of biology and biological engineering at California Institute

of Technology (CalTech), US, developed the embryo model using stem cells - the body's master cells, which can develop into almost any cell type in the body.

"We can create human embryonic models by the reprogramming of (embryonic stem) cells," said Zernicka-Goetz while presenting the research at the International Society for Stem Cell Research's annual meeting in Boston on Wednesday.

In August, last year, Zernicka-Goetz and her team, along with Israeli researchers, had described creating model embryo-like structures from mouse stem cells. Those "embryoids" showed the beginnings of a brain, heart and intes-

tinal tract after about eight days of development.



of a developmental milestone known as gastrulation - when the embryo transforms from being a continuous sheet of cells to forming distinct cell lines and setting up the basic axes of the body.

Meanwhile, Zernicka-Goetz said that the embryos were cultivated at a stage just beyond the equivalent of 14 days of development for a natural embryo, the report said. The research is yet to be published in a journal.

Each structure of the model was grown from a single embryonic stem cell. It reached the beginning

"Our human model is the first three-lineage human embryo model that specifies amnion and germ cells, precursor cells of egg and sperm," Zernicka-Goetz was quoted as saying to The Guardian.

"It's beautiful and created entirely from embryonic stem cells." The research also raises serious ethical and legal issues as the lab-grown entities fall outside current legislation.

"Unlike human embryos arising from in vitro fertilisation (IVF), where there is an established legal framework, there are currently no clear regulations governing stem cell derived models of human embryos," a James Briscoe, associate research director at the Francis Crick Institute, said in a statement.

"There is an urgent need for regulations to provide a framework for the creation and use of stem cell derived models of human embryos," he added.

MARKET WATCH

Table with columns: INDEX, VARIATION, and rows for SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, SILVER.

WEATHER

Table with columns: BHBUB, CTK, and rows for MAX, MIN, Humidity, Rainfall, Forecast.









“**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



## of the day quote

**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

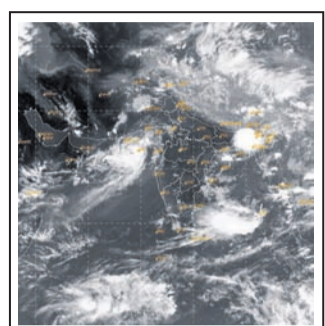
**The situation in Manipur is very distressing, and it is deeply disheartening to see that the Central government is not taking immediate measures to ensure the safety of the people of Manipur and the restoration of peace**  
PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

**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

# Biparjoy makes landfall in Gujarat

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

**Ahmedabad/New Delhi, June 15:** Strong winds and heavy rains lashed Kutch and Saurashtra coasts as powerful cyclone Biparjoy 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.



- **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

to the Saurashtra coast with a wind speed of 115-125 kmph, gusting to 140 kmph, the IMD said in a statement in Ahmedabad. 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 personnel of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Indian Coast Guard and Border Security Force have been deployed for relief and rescue operations. The Met office had earlier warned of very heavy (11.5 cm to 20.4 cm) to extremely heavy rainfall (over 20.5 cm) in Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Rajkot, Morbi and Junagarh districts.

**The eye of the cyclone is around 50 km in diameter. Biparjoy is marching ahead with a speed of 13-14 kmph**

"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 diameter. 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.

## 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 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 harassment and stalking.

The government had assured the agitating wrestlers that the



charge sheet in the case would be 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 country 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 1,000-page chargesheet against Singh a

**"The BJP's new slogan is 'Beti Darao, Brij Bhushan Bachao'"**  
RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

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 POCSO withdrawn, she said.

Surjewala said India's proud Medal winners have been told that there is no 'justice' for them or even a semblance thereof.

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 said in a statement.

## 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 Ballia 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 Ballia 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 Shahabad 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.

### 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.

# 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 on the saffron party after the arrest 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 handling of the minister, alleging the DMK leader was subject to "mental 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 its agenda of polarisation and diversion from its glaring failures.

The ruling BJP **UNIFORM CIVIL CODE** hit back accusing Congress 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 BJP, however, asserted it was committed towards implementing the uniform

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 Wednesday initiated a fresh consultation process on UCC by seeking views from the stakeholders, including public and recognised religious organisations, on the hit back accusing Congress 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".

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# 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 procurement 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 drones 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.

In 2020, the Indian Navy had 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.







**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



of the day **quote**

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 Bhangoore (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 Thursday while paying 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.

**ED arrests two M3M promoters**

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Basant Bansal and Pankaj Bansal, directors of Gurugram-based realty group M3M, in a money laundering matter linked to an anti-corruption 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.

**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 injured ten others, officials said.

Security forces which tried to quell the mob were forced to use force and fired tear gas shells at the mob at New Checkin in Imphal, they added.

This happened as the army and Assam Rifles intensified their "area domination" operations in the aftermath of the recent spurt in violence in the strife-torn state of Manipur. Army and Assam Rifles columns intensified patrolling, taking down barriers wherever they had been created.

An Army tweet said, "Enhanced Area Domination Operations by Army and Assam Rifles are being undertaken in the aftermath of the recent spurt in violence". The social media post by the Spear Corps of the Indian Army, whose operational area Manipur falls, said the "domination of fringe areas and higher reaches underway by long duration self-contained columns"

The security forces redoubled their efforts in the wake of an attack on a Kuki village in the Khamenlok area bordering Imphal East and Kangpokpi districts in the early hours of Wednesday, where 9 people died and 10 more were injured in a gunbattle which ensued between the miscreants who at-

**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, photos, 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.

Later Wednesday evening, other miscreants set on fire the official quarters of woman Manipur minister Nemcha Kipgen in the Lamphel area in Imphal West district. Firefighters reached the spot and doused the flames before the blaze could spread to the neighbourhood. More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki community people in Manipur that broke out a month ago. The state has imposed a curfew on 11 districts and banned the internet in a bid to stop the spread of rumours in the state.

**MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE BETWEEN MEITEI AND KUKI COMMUNITY PEOPLE IN MANIPUR THAT BROKE OUT A MONTH AGO**

**THE STATE HAS IMPOSED A CURFEW ON 11 DISTRICTS AND BANNED THE INTERNET IN A BID TO STOP THE SPREAD OF RUMOURS IN THE STATE**



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

**Infiltration bid foiled in Poonch**

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, including steel core bullets and Pakistan-made medicines, was made during a search operation in Krishnaghati sector early Thursday. "In a joint operation, alert troops of the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police foiled an infiltration bid along the LoC in Krishnaghati sector on the intervening night of June 14 and 15," Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said. In the operation, he said one weapon, two pouches and two rucksacks were seized. The recovered items include one AK-74 rifle with nine magazines and 438 rounds, two pistols with four magazines and 60 rounds, six hand grenades, clothing and medicines.

"By this swift action another infiltration bid has been foiled, which had the potential to disturb peace in Poonch district," Lt Col Anand said. The officials said army troops opened fire after picking up the movement of suspected terrorists attempting to sneak into this side from across the border late Wednesday night.



**Ensure law and order is maintained: HC to govt**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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"

**PUROLA COMMUNAL TENSION**



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

**K'TAKA GOVT TO AMEND ANTI-CONVERSION LAW**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, June 15:** The Congress-led 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 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-



**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**

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 PFT's agenda".

"By deciding to repeal the anti-conversion law, the Congress government is clearly going against the Constitution and the judgments of the Supreme Court that clearly prohibit fraudulent religious con-

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.

Under the act, all legal entities, educational institutions, orphanages, old age homes, hospitals, religious missionaries, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) were brought under the purview of institutions. The offence is made to be non-bailable and cognisable offence.

**BENGAL PANCHAYAT POLLS**

**Nomination filing ends with three deaths on last day**

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 Bhangan 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



**K'taka removes RSS founder, Savarkar from textbooks**

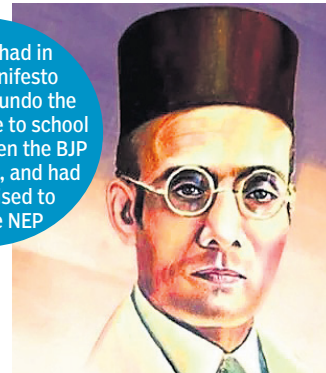
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, June 15:** The Karnataka Cabinet Thursday approved the revision of Kannada and Social Science textbooks of classes 6 to 10 in the state for this academic year by removing the chapters on RSS founder K B Hedgewar and Hindutva ideologue 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 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 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



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, and a poem on Ambedkar titled 'Nee Hoda Marudina' has been added, and 'Magalige Bareda Patra' - a chapter on Nehru's letters to Indira Gandhi has also been reintroduced.

# international

## of the day quote

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

**CHRISTIA 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

**RICH MCCORMICK** | REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN

## SHORT TAKES

### Pro-Khalistani activist dies

**London:** Avtar Singh Purba alias Khandia, 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 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. Brigadier General Allan Nobleza, the regional police chief of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), said the team was heading back to the camp from a routine patrol when attacked at around 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday in Shariff Aguak town, reports Xinhua news agency.

### 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," Khyber 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.

## 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 cross-party 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 of the government," the Privileges Committee report said, in a historic admonishment of a former premier.

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



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

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

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 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 "votable, 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.



**"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



## 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. live-fire 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



Peninsula and Japan and the North Pacific seas, warning them to avoid falling objects. There were no immediate reports of damage to ships or aircraft.

The launch came hours after South Korean and US troops ended a fifth round of large-scale live-fire 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.

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," Erasmus 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



**HUNDREDS FEARED DROWNED**

- Overloaded migrant boat sank early on Wednesday
- Hopes fading as death toll revised to 79, 104 survivors
- Fears that up to 750 were on board, many trapped in hold
- Boat sank in one of Mediterranean's deepest areas

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.

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.

## 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.

**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.

# 2023 may become hottest year ever recorded

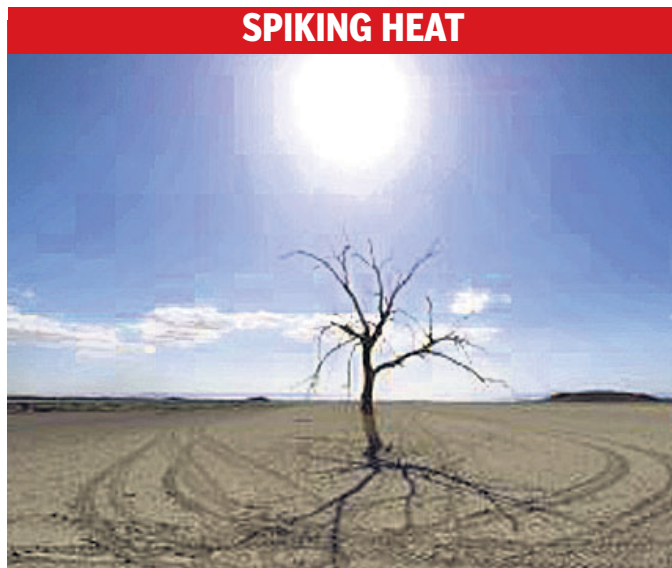
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**London, June 15:** Global temperatures have accelerated to record-setting 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-



rally reoccurring phenomenon where sections of the Pacific Ocean heat up, typically causing temperatures to spike across the world.

Last week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## SPIKING HEAT

(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.

## Tourist dies after attack

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-year-old was "responsive" and taken to a hospital, police said; the 21-year-old was flown by helicopter to a hospital with serious injuries and died there overnight. The suspect fled the scene but was arrested nearby shortly afterward.



# 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 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.

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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 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,

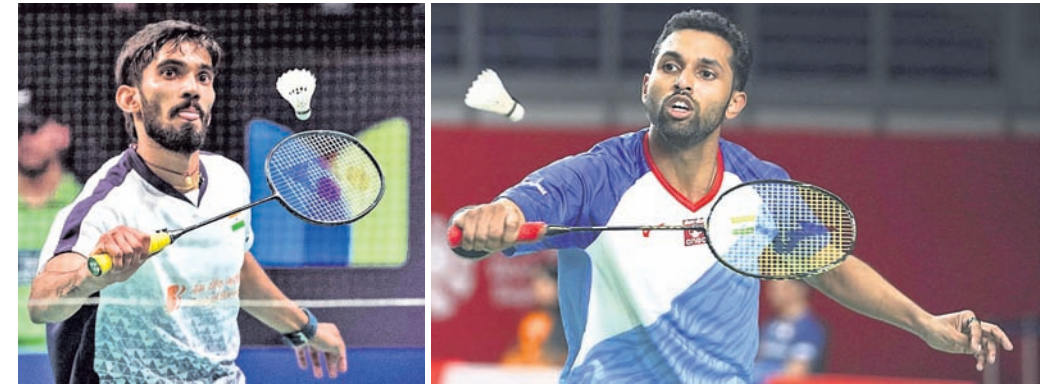
Mongolia have only one point to show from their drawn outing against Lebanon. The result also ensured Lebanon's place in the final against India to be played Sunday.

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 Masing Kalotang.

In the 36th minute, Mongolia had a golden opportunity to take the lead. After winning the ball in the rivals' half, Baatarsogt 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 Lakshya 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, 21-16.

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-to-head 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-even 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 medalist 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 pre-quarters 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.

# 3 ATHLETES EARN ASIAN GAMES TICKETS

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 medal, 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 Madhya 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.

Haryana's international sprinter



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

Anjali 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

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, Gulveer Singh (UP) 29:03.78 secs, 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: Bhawna Jat (Rajasthan) 1:37:03.00, Priyanka Goswami (UP) 1:40:33.00, Vandana (Karnataka) 1:41:54.00.

# Asia Cup to be played in hybrid model: ACC



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.

# Leander Paes unveils Club Ambara in Bhub



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 15:** Indian tennis great Leander Paes inaugurated Club Ambara, the state-of-the-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."

# 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.

