



## SPILLING THE BEANS

Actor Taapsee Pannu says there are camps in Hindi film industry and it isn't something that people don't know about

LEISURE | P2



## PEACE MISSION

A delegation of African leaders begins a peace mission in Ukraine to end its full-scale war with Russia

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## SRABANI BAGS SILVER

Srabani Nanda wins silver medal in women's 100m dash at the National Inter-State Athletics Championships

SPORTS | P12

## BALASORE MISHAP TOLL RISES TO 290

**Cuttack:** The toll in Bahanaga Bazar train disaster rose to 290 after a 17-year-old resident of Bihar succumbed to his injuries in SCB Medical College and Hospital here Friday, officials said. Prakash Ram, who was travelling in the ill-fated Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express June 2 when it met with the accident, was undergoing treatment at the surgery ward of the state-run hospital, he said. Prakash is the second accident victim to have died in the hospital from Tuesday. Meanwhile, the identities of bodies of 81 victims are yet to be ascertained.

## ALL SCHOOLS TO REOPEN JUNE 21

**Bhubaneswar:** The state government Friday announced extension of the summer vacation in schools as the schools under the School and Mass Education department will reopen June 21 as against the earlier reopening date scheduled for June 19. In a letter, the School and Mass Education department informed, "The government after careful consideration has been pleased to reopen the schools under the School and Mass Education department on 21.06.2023."



**WAITING FOR SUCCOUR:** People wait in the rain for their turn to receive free food distributed by volunteers outside a camp of internally displaced people from coastal areas in Sujawal, Pakistan's southern district in the Sindh province

## Security forces kill 5 terrorists, foil infiltration bid in Kupwara

**Kupwara (J&K), June 16:** Security forces killed five heavily armed foreign terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir Friday and said it was the biggest infiltration bid to have been foiled since 2021, when India and Pakistan effected a ceasefire understanding. The operation in the Jumagund area in the Keran sector was launched Thursday night based on intelligence input gathered by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Briefing the media here, the general officer commanding of the army's 28 Division, Major General Girish Kalia, said that based on the input, multiple ambushes were set up along the expected routes of infiltration. "Simultaneously, the entire area, the LoC fence or the anti-infiltration obstacle system (AIOS), was kept under surveillance," he said. Around midnight, the movement of terrorists was picked up by the alert troops who braved challenging terrain and weather conditions. The infiltrating terrorists were engaged with precise and accurate fire, and in the ensuing fight, five unidentified terrorists were neutralised, Maj Gen Kalia said, adding there was no collateral damage. He said the terrorists were heavily armed and appeared to be very well trained. During a search of the site Friday morning, a large amount of arms and ammunition, including five AK series rifles, 15 magazines and grenades, and equipment such as night vision devices and binoculars were recovered, he said. Maj Gen Kalia said while there is a ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan, the security forces have been getting a large number of intelligence inputs of likely infiltration from across the LoC in the recent past. The army commander said the operation is a reflection of the high level of synergy between the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police who have been working tirelessly to ensure that our beloved J&K remains peaceful and continues to progress on the path of development and prosperity. He complimented the officers and jawans who took part in the operation, and assured everyone that the security forces "shall remain steadfast in our resolve to defeat the evil designs of inimical elements."

## Fake Mahaprasad racket unearthed

Srimandir servitors demand stringent action against wrongdoers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 16:** In a shocking revelation Friday causing massive resentment among the devotees, a racket allegedly involved in the preparation of duplicate Srimandir Mahaprasad (Abadha) was unearthed at Paika Sahi under Baselisahi police station in Puri. This has come at a time when preparation for the world famous Rath Yatra of the divine Trinity is underway in the pilgrim city in full swing. As per sources, some unscrupulous people were preparing food to be sold as 'Abadha' inside a tent set up in the backyard of a building in Paika Sahi. Hundreds of Koduas (earthen pots) loaded with cooked rice, dal, and other dishes resembling 'Abadha' were found at the spot. The matter came to light after some images and videos showing the location went viral and the locals informed about the same to the Srimandir servitors. As per reports, those involved in this racket were defrauding devotees by claiming that they are providing 'Abadha' outside



since the 'Mahaprasad' was not being prepared in Srimandir in view of the 'Anasara Ghara' of the sibling deities. It has been alleged that some traders through this fraudulent activity are busy cheating the gullible devotees to earn easy money. The revelation has caused massive resentment among the devotees while the servitors have demanded stringent action against persons who are involved in the incident. Hajuri Krushnachandra Khuntia said, "I am speechless. I do not know how to condemn this incident. It is a sin. Whoever has done this will definitely get punished by God. The Supakara Servitors cook the food with utmost devotion. Then Servitors conduct Shodasa Upachara Puja and only after that the food turns into Mahaprasad and is sold to the devotees." "Those, who are cooking food outside and selling them to unsuspecting devotees as Mahaprasad, have committed great sins. The SJTA should take stringent action against them," he said. However, the cook, who was preparing the food, said the food was to be served to guests in the street on the twelfth day of a person's death. SJTA chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said, "We will conduct an enquiry once we get a complaint in this regard."

## Nehru's name missing as govt renames NMML

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 16:** The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society housed in Teen Murti Bhavan premises here has been renamed by the government as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, prompting sharp reactions from the Congress which termed it as a petty act. The move to rename the Society comes nearly a year after the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya was inaugurated on the premises of the Teen Murti Bhavan, which served as the official residence of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. In a special meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society (NMML), it was resolved to change its name, the Culture Ministry said Friday. The meeting was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is the vice president of the Society, it said. In his address at the meeting, Singh welcomed the proposal for change in name, since in its new form the institution exhibits the contributions of all Prime Ministers from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi and their responses to various challenges faced by them, the min-



istry said in its statement. Describing Prime Ministers as an institution and comparing the journey of various Prime Ministers to the varied colours of a rainbow, Singh emphasised that all the colours of a rainbow have to be proportionately represented in order to make it beautiful. Thus the resolution has given a new name, respect to all our previous prime ministers and is democratic in content, it said. The Congress termed it as an act of vengeance, asserting that legacies don't get erased by re-naming buildings. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Pettiness & Vengeance, thy name is Modi. For over 59 years Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) has been a global intellectual landmark and treasure house of books & archives. It will henceforth be called Prime Ministers Museum & Society."

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



OH NO! The same news on TV was looking quite entertaining

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	63384.58 ↑ 466.95
NIFTY	18826.00 ↑ 137.90
DOLLAR	82.11 ↓ ₹0.22
EURO	89.49 ↓ ₹0.14
GOLD	₹59,385 ↑ ₹30
SILVER	₹72,630 ↑ ₹504

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	44.6°C	42.2°C
TEMP. MIN	29.2°C	29.4°C
Humidity	73%	76%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	PARTLY CLOUDY	SKY

## Groundwater extraction tilting Earth's spin

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 16:** Groundwater pumping has shifted such a large mass of water that the Earth tilted nearly 80 centimetres east between 1993 and 2010 alone, which could impact our planet's climate, according to a study. The research, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, found that during the study period, the most water was redistributed in western North America and northwestern India. Scientists have previously estimated humans pumped 2,150 gigatonnes of groundwater, equivalent to more than 6 millimetres of sea level rise, from 1993 to 2010. However, validating that estimate is difficult. Earth's rotational pole actually changes a lot, said Ki-Weon Seo,

a geophysicist at Seoul National University in South Korea, who led the study. "Our study shows that among climate-related causes, the redistribution of groundwater actually has the largest impact on the drift of the rotational pole," Seo said. The researchers noted that water's ability to change the Earth's rotation was discovered in 2016, and until now, the specific contribution of groundwater to these rotational changes was unexplored. The latest study modelled the observed changes in the drift of Earth's rotational pole and the movement of water—first, with only ice sheets and glaciers considered, and then adding in different scenarios of groundwater redistribution. The model only matched the observed polar drift once the researchers included 2150 giga-

### Water's ability to change the Earth's rotation was discovered in 2016

- The rotational pole normally changes by several metres within about a year, so changes due to groundwater pumping do not run the risk of shifting seasons
- However, on geologic time scales, polar drift can have an impact on climate

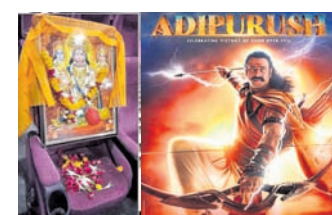
tons of groundwater redistribution. Without it, the model was off by 78.5 centimeters, or 4.3 centimeters of drift per year.

The researchers said attempts by countries to slow groundwater depletion rates, especially in those sensitive regions, could theoretically alter the change in drift, but only if such conservation approaches are sustained for decades. The rotational pole normally changes by several metres within about a year, so changes due to groundwater pumping do not run the risk of shifting seasons. However, on geologic time scales, polar drift can have an impact on climate, they said. This is a nice contribution and an important documentation for sure, said Surendra Adhikari, a research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, US, who was not involved in this study. Adhikari published the 2016 paper on water redistribution impacting rotational drift.

## Man thrashed for sitting on Hanuman's 'Adipurush' seat

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 16:** A video Friday showed a man in Hyderabad being beaten up for sitting on the seat reserved for Lord Hanuman during the screening of movie 'Adipurush'. Another purportedly showed a fan dressed as the Hindu god greeting moviegoers outside a theatre. A seat bedecked with flowers and a picture of Lord Hanuman, another wrapped in saffron with a garland framing a photograph of the god and the words 'Jai Shri Ram' in Hindi. That is how it was in many theatres across the country as crowds streamed in to watch the retelling of the Ramayana. Some were seen offering prayers, others pausing for a moment and there were, of course, those clicking mandatory selfies of the unusual sight before



they settled down to watch the film. There were also incense sticks and coconuts seen in videos from some cinema halls. The multilingual 3-D spectacle, which released Friday amid much fanfare, is directed by Om Raut and stars Prabhas as Raghav, Kriti Sanon as Janaki and Saif Ali Khan as Lankesh. At a promotional event ahead of the film's release, director Raut requested the producers T Series to reserve one seat in every screening of Adipurush as a mark of respect for Lord Hanuman.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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### ARIES

If you are involved in monetary matters, today you will find yourself weighing the benefits. A loan that you have applied for may be sanctioned. Look at a range of choices, says Ganesha, and you will end up feeling very happy about it.

### TAURUS

Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesha. Instead of trying to seek satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out. Your new looks will make you tremendously confident and impressive and will make others see you in a new light. Have no fears.

### GEMINI

The day promises sensitivity and compassion for you, predicts Ganesha. You may plan a trip with your family members. You may also invest your money in various financial companies, as securing the future of your family will be foremost on your mind. Moreover, you will also save some hefty amount to meet future needs.

### CANCER

It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesha.

### LEO

A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully. Your personal life will proceed as usual, however expectations from you at the work-front will increase.

### VIRGO

Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom. Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesha advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day.

### LIBRA

Ganesha says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people.

### SCORPIO

Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

### SAGITTARIUS

Good Samaritans around you may give unsolicited, but valuable advice. Take it as a hint, and consider it for your betterment. Take your decision after following the advice, and this may definitely yield benefits, says Ganesha.

### CAPRICORN

Not everyday is the same day. And, today is one of those days when you feel extremely confused, feels Ganesha. While you won't be able to get rid of negative emotions, your hard work will be paid off and lay a strong foundation for future. You'll not understand whether to feel good about your achievements or experience sadness of confusion. Ganesha throws light on your path and advises you to keep a calm head over your shoulders.

### AQUARIUS

There are no short-cuts to success. You know this very well and work your socks off to get what you want. Colleagues, friends and family - all of them will acknowledge and appreciate your efforts and achievements. Though you will be apprehensive about it, you will have to take some risks to bring the desired change in your life, says Ganesha.

### PISCES

Interactions with those of the opposite sex will mark your day. It is also a good day to strike up friendship with those of the opposite sex. For those in love, today is a good day to spend time with your partner. For those looking for love, now is the best time to pop the question to that special someone you've secretly admired for long, says Ganesha.



## ASHLEY PARK BELIEVES IN HOLISTIC MEDICINE

American actress Ashley Park has started to believe in holistic medicine since being diagnosed with cancer as a teenager and after more than a decade free of the disease. The 32-year-old was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia at the age of 15.

## ALEC BALDWIN DONS TRUMP COSTUME

Actor Alec Baldwin brought back his famous Donald Trump impersonation, an act that became a comic routine for the American actor on SNL during Trump's presidency. In his latest Instagram post, the actor dons a snappy white shirt, red tie and navy blue slacks - and pops a squat on the toilet.



# Taapsee opens up on camps in film industry

**Mumbai:** Actress Taapsee Pannu recently, talking about existence of camps in Hindi film industry, has shared that it isn't something people don't know about!

A few months ago, Priyanka Chopra talked about those camps that often dictate casting. Now, Taapsee was asked about her opinion on camps in the industry, and while she refrained from nitpicking on someone else's comments, she had a similar story to tell.

Speaking to an entertainment portal, the *Pink* actress said, "Yes, Bollywood camps isn't something that people don't know about. It's been there since forever. It can be basis an actor's friend

circle, a certain agency or group that they're a part of and people's loyalties differ based on that."

The *Badla* actress admitted that she was always aware that the industry is going to be biased and unfair, and that she refuses to let it make her a bitter person. "And if after all that, you still decide to be a part of this industry, then it's your choice and you can't complain about it later," said Taapsee.

Taapsee will be seen alongside Shahrukh Khan in *Dunki*.

AGENCIES



## Puri's Abhilipsa bags Raja Rajakumari title

**Bhubaneswar:** Abhilipsa Patnaik of Delang in Puri district took home the 2023 Raja Rajakumari title, with Mamina Das of Anandapur in Keonjhar district coming in second.

One of the oldest fashion training institutions in Odisha, Odisha Fashion Villa, hosted the competition at a City hotel. Despite the fact that many females from the state took part in the competition both online and offline, only 15 made it to the final round. The jury that chose the winners included Poonam Pathak and Krushnapriya Tripathy, both winners of the Mrs. India competition.

According to trainer Abhijit Mohanty of Odisha Fashion Villa, the Raja Rajakumari contest winners would be eligible to compete in future model competitions at the national level.

PNN



## SUNNY RETURNS TO BIGG BOSS

**Mumbai:** Actress Sunny Leone, whose film *Kennedy* recently made waves at the Cannes Film Festival, is set to make an appearance on *Bigg Boss OTT* Season 2.

The actress was a contestant on the show's television counterpart during its 5th season from where she embarked on her journey in the film industry.

Commenting on her appearance, the *Jism 2* actress shared, "Coming on *Bigg Boss OTT* will be like a homecoming for me. There are so many memories that come rushing back as this was one of the turning points in my career. I have been closely following the show and am all charged up to take it to the next level. So, wait and watch, everyone, this season will be even more sunny."

After her stint in *Bigg Boss* Season 5, Sunny went on to feature in some memorable songs and films.

However, the guessing game continues as fans of the show speculate if Sunny Leone is entering as the 13th surprise contestant or if she will be a co-host alongside Salman Khan.

*Bigg Boss OTT Season 2* will be available for streaming from June 17 on Jio Cinema.

IAN5

# KANGANA ON HER MARRIAGE PLANS

**Mumbai:** Actress Kangana Ranaut has opened up about her plans for marriage and having a family. In a new interview, the *Manikarnika* actress said that she wants to tie the knot but it will happen 'at the right time'.

The *Queen* actress said "There's a time for everything and if that time has to come in my life then it will come. I do want to get married and have my own family... but, at the right time it will happen."

In an interview last year, Kangana was asked if she is 'dhakad' (tomboyish) in real life. She had said, "That's not how it is, come on. Who will I beat up in real life? I am unable to get married because of people like you spreading these rumours."

In 2021, speaking with an agency, Kangana had said, "I definitely want to be married and have babies. I see myself as a mother five years down the line and as a wife... There is no such place in love but yes, kind of. Let's move

on. You will know. Very soon."

On the work front Kangana will be seen in *Emergency*, *Chandramukhi 2*, *Manikarnika*

*Returns: The Legend of Didda*, *The Incarnation: Sita* and also her upcoming production, *Tiku Weds Sheru*.

AGENCIES



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

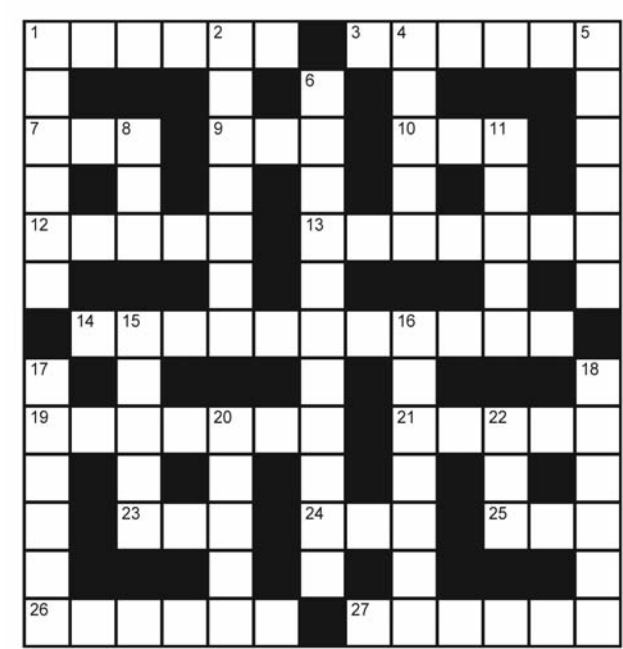


## BREVITY



## FUN post

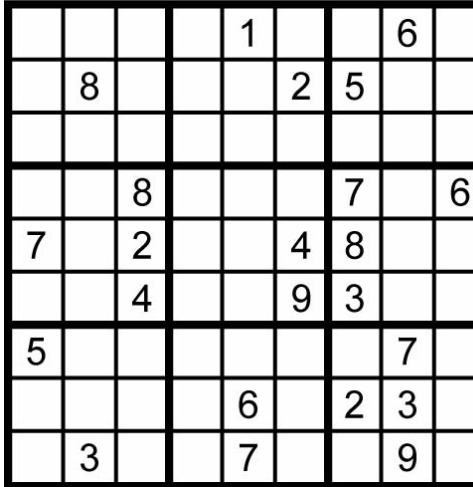
## CROSSWORD



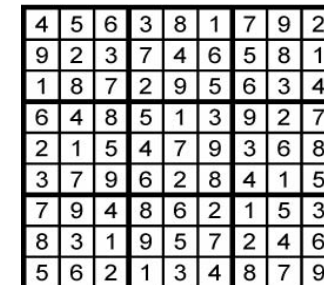
- Across**
- 1 Garden decorations
  - 3 Man of the cloth
  - 7 Napkin's place
  - 9 Duffer's goal
  - 10 Welcome site
  - 12 Hot coal
  - 13 Type of flight
  - 14 Nightmarish (4-7)
  - 19 Small crown
  - 21 Assumed name
  - 23 Pertinent
  - 24 Valuable rock
  - 25 Grassland
  - 26 Soaked through
  - 27 Bread topping
  - 4 Fish flavouring
  - 5 Appetiser
  - 6 Business deal
  - 8 Taproom
  - 11 Hyperion, for one
  - 15 Major artery
  - 16 Advice from a personal trainer (5,2)
  - 17 Quick breads
  - 18 Cyprus, e.g.
  - 20 Plant food
  - 22 Off one's feed
- Down**
- 1 Ship's kitchen
  - 2 Kind of penguin

## 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



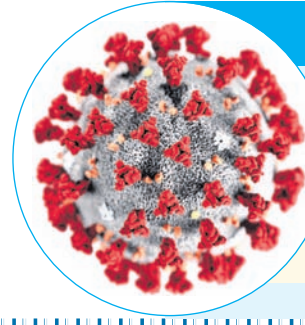
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## RAJA FERVOUR

Girls enjoy a swing on the last day of Raja at State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Friday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

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



**AT LORD'S SERVICE:** Somnath Pattnaik of Puri's Biman Badu Sahi prepares 'Tahias' for Rath Yatra in Koraput, Friday

OP PHOTO

# State sizzles under intense heatwave

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** Odisha continued to reel under intense heatwave conditions as the maximum daytime temperature hovered between 40 and 45.6 degree Celsius in at least 30 places, Friday.

The regional centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted that there will be no significant change in maximum day temperature in the next four days. Similar heatwave conditions will continue to prevail in many parts of Odisha, it said.

The temperature is likely to be above normal by 4-7 degrees Celsius at a few places over the districts of Odisha during next four days. Consequently, hot and discomfort weather would prevail during the next 4-5 days, the IMD said.

It cautioned the people not to expose themselves to heat and



Met office predicted that there will be no significant change in maximum day temperature in the next four days and the heatwave conditions will continue to prevail in many parts of Odisha

keep themselves hydrated by consuming enough water.

Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Angul, Sambalpur, Boudh, Sonepur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Khurda, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj will experience heatwave conditions Saturday.

On Friday, Sonepur with 45.6 degree Celsius was the hottest place in the state, followed by

Jharsuguda (45.4), Bolangir (45.3), Sambalpur (44.8), Angul (44.7), Hirkud 44.6 and Sundargarh with 44.5 degree Celsius.

Capital city Bhubaneswar recorded a maximum temperature of 44.6 degree Celsius, 9.7 degree Celsius above the normal temperature.

As many as 12 places recorded a maximum temperature of 43 to 44 degree Celsius, while 11 places recorded maximum temperature in between 40 to 42.4 degree Celsius.

## Odisha's tourism potential not fully explored: INTACH

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** The potential of state as a tourist destination for both foreign and domestic travellers has not been fully explored, INTACH Odisha State Convener Amiya Bhushan Tripathy said Friday.

Tripathy said in spite of the rich cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, the state lags in tourist footfalls and stressed on the proper conservation and preservation of the crumbling heritage monuments of the state.

He further said that lack of awareness among the people and officials is a malaise.

INTACH's Bhubaneswar chapter convener Anil Dhir said the rich and varied heritage of the state is under severe neglect.

The State Archaeology and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have around 300 monuments under their fold.

Along with the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Konark, the total number of protected monuments in the state is only 300, Dhir said.

During the last two decades, INTACH has already listed and documented more than 6,500 heritage monuments in 16 districts of the state.

Dhir said if proper surveys are made in the remaining districts, the list will surpass 12,500, making Odisha the richest state in built heritage.

Both Tripathy and Dhir were speaking on the occasion of a memorandum signing agreement here between INTACH and the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM).

INTACH has been declared as a Centre of Excellence by the Union government and IITTM is a leading tourism and travel



Along with Konark Sun Temple, the total number of protected monuments in the state is only 300

management institute under the Ministry of Tourism.

Speaking on the occasion, IITTM nodal officer Md. Sabir Hussain said that the pact will facilitate collaborative efforts to further common objectives through various activities.

He said that both the organisations will be working towards promoting academic and research facilities, conducting training programmes on culture education, heritage, tourism and travel industry management and related subjects for persons from the industry, academia, and students.

IITTM coordinator Adyasha Das said that the pact will lead to synergy between the two organisations. She said the students of the institute will benefit by way of field visits, conservation training, photography and content creation.

INTACH undertakes many heritage projects, and the students of IITTM can be involved in these projects, she said.

## 5-time Jajpur MP Anadi Charan Das no more

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** Former Jajpur MP (Lok Sabha) Anadi Charan Das passed away at a private hospital here while undergoing treatment, Friday. He was 97.

Family sources said Das was suffering from diabetes and was admitted to the hospital a few days back. His last rites would be performed at Bijipur in Jajpur.



Das was elected to Lok Sabha from Jajpur constituency five times - thrice on Congress ticket and twice on Janata Dal ticket

Das was elected to Lok Sabha from Jajpur constituency five times, three times - in 1971, 1980 and 1984 - on Congress ticket and twice - in 1989 and 1991 - on Janata

Dal ticket. He joined the Congress again under controversial circumstances which saved the Narasimha Rao government July 28, 1993 in the no confidence motion. During his long career as MP, Das was a member of various Parliamentary committees.

People from various walks of life, including PCC president Sarat Pattanayak, expressed their profound grief over the demise of Das.

## NAYAGARH EX-CSO UNDER VIG SCANNER

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** Vigilance sleuths Friday claimed to have unearthed properties worth crores of rupees belonging to former Nayagarh civil supplies officer (CSO) Brajendra Kumar Nayak following simultaneous raids at multiple locations related him on charges of amassing disproportionate assets (DA).

Vigilance teams comprising two deputy superintendents of police (DSPs), six inspectors and other officials conducted simultaneous searches at eight places in Bhubaneswar and Puri related to Nayak.

The sleuths have so far found two triple-storey buildings at Rajarani Colony, one triple-storey building in Garage Chhak area, one two-storey building at Sisupalgarh, and another at Bhimatangi Housing Board Colony in Bhubaneswar.

These apart, a market complex with 10 shops at Khelar Bazar and a farmhouse in Nimapara area of Puri district were also found in the name of the former CSO.

Vigilance sleuths have unearthed seven plots - two in Bhubaneswar and five in Nimapara - belonging to Nayak. Bank deposits and insurance policies worth over Rs 1.5 crore were also found in his name.

Nayak also owns a four-wheeler and three two-wheelers.

Further searches were on when the last report came in. Notably, Nayak was placed under suspension after his corruption was exposed in a report published by Odia daily Dharitri October 18, 2022.

# YOUR CONTACT LENSES MAY BE SHEDDING MICROPLASTICS

Contact lenses, worn by millions of people around the world, tend to shed microplastics when exposed to sunlight for a long time, according to a pilot study.

To determine the number of microplastics in the small samples, such as contact lenses, researchers from the universities of Nanjing and Hohai designed an automated system that took microscopic images of the samples, processed those images, and quantified any microplastics that were present.

Their findings, published in the journal 'Environmental Science & Technology', showed that lenses exposed to sunlight over time can shed tiny fragments of plastic, though the health impact is unclear.

The researchers gathered six kinds of contact lenses from various brands and of different lifespans.

To mimic normal wear and care,



the lenses were stored in water, kept under a lamp that mimicked sunlight and were rinsed with water three times every 10 hours.

After receiving the equivalent of 30 or 90 days of sunlight, the water each lens was stored in was analysed.

In tests with standard amounts of

microplastics, the team found that the new system's analyses were quicker and more accurate than when the samples were analysed manually. In the absence of any simulated sunlight, no microplastics were detected.

However, the researchers observed increasing amounts when the contact lenses were exposed to the equivalent of 90 days of sunlight. Lenses with shorter lifetimes showed the greatest amount of shed microplastics after this exposure.

Based on their data in this small-scale study, the researchers estimate that more than 90,000 microplastic particles per year could be shed from some lenses if worn for 10 hours a day.

The human health impact of direct exposure of microplastics to eyes is not currently known, but the researchers say their findings indicate that more studies in this area are urgently needed.

IANS

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## NOTICE TO ALL RELATIVES/NEXT OF KIN OF THE DECEASED IN THE BAHANAGA BAZAR (BALASORE) TRAIN ACCIDENT

Indian Railways hereby requests relatives/next of kin of the deceased involved in the recent train accident on 02.06.2023 at Bahanaga Bazar, District - Balasore (Odisha) involving 12841 Shalimar-MGR Chennai Central Coromandel Express and 12864 SMVB Howrah Express to come forward and give their DNA samples to establish their identity and relationship with the deceased to claim the unidentified bodies.

Venue  
**Academic Block (Committee Room),  
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Please contact the persons listed below:

**139**

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Shri Biswanath Padhi, Asst. Commercial Manager,  
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Shri B. Tapan Kumar, Public Relations Officer,  
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Shri Vikas Kumar, Public Relations Officer,  
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Assistance at Bhubaneswar Railway Station : 0674 - 2534027

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**INDIAN RAILWAYS**

# Registration begins for Mo Ghara beneficiaries



**BANKS WILL NOT CHARGE ANY PROCESSING FEE FROM THE BENEFICIARY FOR SANCTION OF THE LOAN**

**UNDER THE MO GHARA SCHEME, A BENEFICIARY CAN AVAIL HOUSING LOAN UPTO RS 3 LAKH WHICH CAN BE REPAID IN 10 YEARS EXCLUDING THE ONE YEAR MORATORIUM PERIOD IN EASY INSTALLMENTS**

**FOR LOAN AMOUNTS OF RS 1 LAKH, RS 1.50 LAKH, RS 2/3 LAKH, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE SUBSIDIES OF RS 30,000, RS 45,000, AND RS 60,000, RESPECTIVELY**

tioner, and has irrigated land below 5 acres or non irrigated land below 15 acres, is eligible for the scheme.

For loan amounts of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 1.50 lakh, Rs 2/3 lakh, the state government will provide subsidies of Rs 30,000, Rs 45,000, and Rs 60,000, respectively. However, the family headed by SC/ST and PwD will get a subsidy of additional Rs 10,000.

Banks will not charge any processing fee from the beneficiary for sanction of the loan.

Notably, over 9.5 lakh houses were sanctioned by the Centre to be distributed under the PMAY scheme in the state. However, the houses could not be distributed even after five months due to a dispute over identification of beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, state BJP president Manmohan Samal alleged that the state government has come up with the new scheme only to hide its failure and irregularities in execution of the PMAY scheme.



**EARS TO GROUND:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik interacted with KALIA beneficiaries Friday at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar

op photo

## 'School infra overhaul need of the hour'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** A recently conducted study by some civil society organisations here revealed that 27.32 per cent of schools in the state lack adequate toilet facilities. The finding is based on a comprehensive analysis of data from 7,146 schools of 98 blocks and one urban local body, Bhubaneswar, from across 17 districts of the state.

The study was conducted by Atmashakti Trust in collaboration with Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha (OSM) and Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha, Odisha (MSMO).

As per the analysis, a staggering 75.68 per cent of schools

are in dire need of repairs and fail to meet the norms and standards outlined in the Right to Education (RTE) Act. The study further reveals that 12.60 per cent of surveyed schools lack adequate drinking water facilities, while an additional 14.26 per cent have partially damaged water structures.

Furthermore, more than a third of all elementary schools (75.86 per cent) do not have a playground. "Classroom facilities also fall short, with a total of 73.85 per cent of schools failing to meet the RTE criteria. Another finding shows that 13.35 per cent of schools lack a kitchen space or have fully damaged structures, while 20.77 per cent of them have partially damaged



kitchen spaces," said a member of the study team.

In terms of sanitation, 27.32 per cent of schools lack proper toilet facilities, including 13.42 per cent without any toilets and 13.09 per cent with fully damaged ones, while an additional 35.96 per cent have partially damaged ones. "Access to basic amenities is also a concern, as 32.26 per

cent of schools lack electricity, 51.25 per cent lack computer facilities, and 29.12 per cent lack a library. Additionally, 32.66 per cent of schools lack a boundary wall, and 55.89 per cent fail to meet the required pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) norms mandated by the RTE Act," added the member.

"These findings highlight a significant non-compliance with the infrastructure provisions mandated by the RTE Act and underscore the urgent need for immediate attention. So, we urge the government to take swift and decisive action to build or repair school infrastructure to ensure providing students with an environment conducive to learning and growth," said OSM convener Anjan Pradhan.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** The state government Friday started receiving applications from people for selection of beneficiaries for the newly launched rural housing scheme Mo Ghara.

The eligible people can submit their application through a web portal with the url: <https://rhodisha.gov.in/moghara>. The applicants can register either by themselves and can use the services of the Mo-Seva Kendra.

"The applicants will have to register in this portal before filing the applications which will be validated through OTP," informed a government official.

Under the scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan upto Rs 3 lakh which can be repaid in 10 years excluding one

**The eligible people can submit their application through a web portal with the url: <https://rhodisha.gov.in/moghara>**

year moratorium period in easy installments. They can opt for one of the four slabs of the loan amount: Rs 1 lakh, 1.5 lakh, 2 lakh and 3 lakh.

Similarly, a family, who has not previously availed any government housing assistance or has availed assistance of amount below Rs 70,000, has a monthly income below Rs 25,000, does not possess a non-commercial motorised four-wheeler for personal use, doesn't have a government employee or a pen-

## OPCC demands probe into explosion at Tata Steel plant

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Friday demanded an inquiry by senior officers of Labour department and Factory and Boilers directorate into the explosion of steam pipe at the Tata Steel plant at Meramunduli June 13 in Dhenkanal district.

As many as 19 labourers were admitted to hospital with critical injuries in the mishap. OPCC spokesperson Rajani Mohanty told reporters here that as per the rules the government should have ordered an inquiry into the incident within 48 hours.

But the government, he said has not ordered any inquiry into the incident even after five days, violating the rule. He said the strange thing is that the company itself has began inquiry into the incident, and that shows how committed and sincere the government is for the interest of the labourers!

Describing it as very unfortunate, Mohanty alleged that the government is trying to suppress the incident.



He questioned why the Labour minister and senior officials of the department are keeping mum when 19 labourers have been injured in the accident.

Mohanty said the silence of the Minister and the officials shows that the government is busy protecting the interest of the company instead of the labourers.

The Congress leader further alleged that though the state government is collecting crores of rupees as labour cess, it has not developed quality health-care facilities in industry dominated areas to provide good health care to the working class.



**GRACEFUL MOVES:** Artistes perform Odissi as part of silver jubilee celebrations of dance academy Soor Mandir at Saheed Bhawan in Cuttack, Friday

## Esplanade celebrates Raja

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 16:** Nexus Esplanade organised its flagship event Raja Rani-2023 to give an opportunity to girls and women of all age groups to celebrate their womanhood.

"Raja Rani is a property created by the mall management to give a platform to women and enable their empowerment. As Raja is celebration of womanhood Nexus Esplanade wanted to make the event a grand occasion for each participating woman," said a mall executive.

Participants in the event fell between the ages of 7 to 50. Bollywood actors Bhoomika Dash,

Poonam Mishra, fashion designer Ramuli Pattanaik, Nexus Esplanade centre director Parth Pratim Nayak joined as the grand jury along with model Sanzz Suvasmita and makeup artist Sonali Mishra to evaluate the participants.

Nayak said, "We want to be the reason people want to dream and turn the dreams into reality." He expressed his happiness that with the initiative many housewives received a platform to fulfil their dreams.

"The decoration, along with one of the biggest swings for customers, was a big attraction with the mall offering free pan stall, mehendi stall and pitha stall for customers," he added.



## Lifestyle, not being 'morning' or 'evening' person, impacts longevity: Study

**A** 37-year long study on nearly 23,000 Finnish twins has found that lifestyle choices such as choosing to smoke or drink impacted one's health, more than one's tendency to be a 'morning' or 'evening' person or chronotype, impact health.

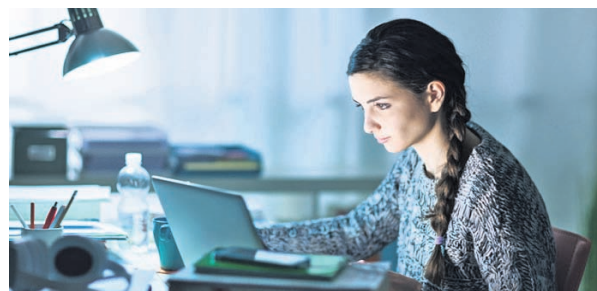
The study, however, showed that evening types had a slightly increased risk of dying than morning types, even as staying up late at night was found to have little impact on how long a life 'night owls' lived.

"Our findings suggest that there is little or no independent contribution of chronotype to mortality," said author Christer Hublin, from the Finnish Institute of

Occupational Health in Helsinki.

"In addition, the increased risk of mortality associated with being a clearly 'evening' person appears to be mainly accounted for by a larger consumption of tobacco and alcohol. This is compared to those who are clearly 'morning' persons," said Hublin.

This research, co-led by Jaakko Kaprio, from the Finnish Twin Cohort study at the University of Helsinki, followed 22,976 men and women aged 24 years and from 1981 to 2018, taking into account education, daily alcohol consumption, smoking status and quantity, BMI, and sleep duration. It is published in the jour-



While the researchers found the chance of dying from any cause to be 9 per cent higher among 'definite' night owls compared to early birds, smoking and alcohol had largely caused these deaths, not chronotype

nal Chronobiology International. At the start of the study, the twins were asked to pick from four possible responses: 'I am clearly a morning person'; 'I am to some extent a morning person'; 'I am clearly an evening person'; 'I am to some extent an evening person'. In 2018, when the study ended, the researchers checked with the nationwide registers for participant deaths.

Results showed that com-

pared to morning types (13,123 participants), night owls (9,853) were younger and drank/smoked more.

'Definite' evening people (2,262) were also less likely to report getting 8 hours sleep.

Of the total participants, 8,728 had died by 2018.

While the researchers found the chance of dying from any cause to be 9 per cent higher among 'definite' night owls compared to early birds, smoking and alcohol had largely caused these deaths, not chronotype.

This finding was highlighted by the fact non-smokers were at no increased risk of dying, they said. The causes of deaths from alcohol included related disease as well as from accidental alcohol poisoning.

7,591 of the twins in the study had identified as 'to some extent' and 2,262 as 'definite' evening types. The figures for morning types were 6,354 and 6,769, respectively.

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**2 killed in road mishap**

**Koraput:** Two women lost their lives Friday when a coal-laden truck overturned on them on Koraput-Jeypore state highway in this district, police said. Another woman suffered serious injuries in the mishap. Eye-witnesses said that the three women were standing on the road when the truck overturned and they were trapped under it. While two women died on the spot, the other one managed to survive due to the efforts of the personnel from the Jeypore Sadar police station and Fire Services. They arrived at the accident spot quickly and initiated rescue operations and brought out the survivor from the rubble. The condition of the injured woman is stated to be critical.

**Man dies of sun stroke**

**Balichandrapur:** A farmer died Friday due to the scorching heat while returning home from work at Baliapada village under Balichandrapur police limits in Jajpur district. The deceased was identified as Bipin Mallick (58). Police said that after working on his agricultural land, Bipin was returning home. However, he suddenly lost his senses and collapsed on the field. Other villagers rushed him immediately to the Gopalpur hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. They said Bipin had died due to heatstroke. Residents of the village said that Bipin has left behind his wife and four daughters.

**New, modern library in VIMSAR soon**

■ Seating capacity of 350 will be of great help to students and doctors



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, June 16:** The long-pending dream of a modern library for students of Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla is finally turning into a reality. The Public Works department (PWD) has already initiated construction of a library-cum-canteen at the institution. The complex is being developed over 4,000 square feet on the premises of VIMSAR. It will be G+5 structure and the estimated cost of the project is ₹16.44 crore. Official sources said, the seating capacity of the proposed li-

brary will be 350 persons. Other facilities available in the building will be a 250-cover canteen, lift and parking space. "The construction is going on at full pace. Work up to the plinth level has been completed. A target has been set to complete the work within nine months," PWD sub-divisional officer, Jagannath Bhujabala said. Currently, the Central Library of VIMSAR operates from a two-storey building and it does not have adequate space. As a result the students of the premier educational institution often face problems. The sitting capacity of the library in VIMSAR, which has 1,000 UG students, 350 PG students and 150 house surgeons, is around 150. "Apart from the students, many doctors, who are preparing for super specialization and those involved in research work will benefit once the new library starts functioning," said an official. All the latest national and international journals will be available for them," he added.



**NURTURING FUTURE TALENT:** Kids take part in a programme to learn the basics of the game at the Biju Patnaik hockey stadium in Rourkela, Thursday OP PHOTO

**Infighting plagues BJP's Ganjam units**

*Saffron party's outreach programme yet to start as various factions fight*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 16:** With intense factional war gripping the saffron party in Ganjam district, the proposed mega public outreach campaign by the BJP has been hit by roadblocks, sources informed Friday. Such is the infighting that the BJP is yet to start its various programmes including the much vaunted 'Maha Jansampark Abhiyan Padayatra'. The BJP has two separate units for better functioning of the organisation in Ganjam district and implementation of its programmes. One of them is the Ghumusar unit comprising Khallikote, Kabisuryanagar, Polsara, Hinjilicut, Aska, Sorada and Sanakhemundi Assembly segments. All these come under the Aska Lok Sabha constituency. The second one is the Ganjam unit which includes Berhampur, Chhatrapur, Gopalpur, Digapahandi and Chikiti Assembly segments under the Berhampur Lok Sabha constituency. The Bhanjanagar Assembly segment has been excluded from these two units as it comes under the Kandhamal Lok Sabha constituency. Sources said that the executive committee meeting of the Ganjam unit was held here, May 23. In the meeting it was decided to undertake the



'Padayatra' in every zone (Mandal) and inform the people about the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine years of governance and the various welfare schemes launched by the Centre. It was decided that leaders and party workers will conduct door-to-door visits to highlight the failures of the BJD government in Odisha. A decision was taken to start the 'Maha Jansampark Abhiyan' from May 30 which would continue for a month. However, the programme received a setback when the bitter infighting within the party was exposed during the visit of state unit president Manmohan Samal

to the Silk City. Samal visited Ward No-27 in Gosani Nuagaon locality along with district chief Bibhuti Jena. However, sources said that Jena was sprayed with ink by a section of the party workers dissatisfied with him. The end result was that the outreach programme failed to take off May 30. BJP workers are now unsure as to when the 'Padayatra' will begin. Former district president and BJP's candidate from the Berhampur Assembly segment in the last state elections, Kanhu Charan Pati said the party has been affected by factionalism. He said demands have been made before the state unit to expel the

mastermind behind the Gosani Nuagaon incident. Some BJP workers on the other hand, have gone to the extent of criticising Modi who praised the Odisha government under Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the way it handled the Balasore train mishap. They said that when Modi is lauding the BJD government, the BJP workers are not in a position to criticise it. Sources also pointed out that a sizeable number of workers are also not showing any inclination to participate in the 'Maha Jansampark Abhiyan'. A similar situation is being observed with workers in the Ghumusar unit. Three days back a 'Padayatra' was taken out in Aska, Sorada and some other localities, but the attendance was very poor. Neither any Union Minister nor any state-level leader participated in it. Such was the attendance that the programme started well after its scheduled time. With the general and the Assembly elections scheduled for next year, the time is very short for the saffron party to resolve internal differences. Unless it does so, it will provide the BJD an easy platform to establish its supremacy in the district, the sources added.

**ILLEGAL LIQUOR RACKET BUSTED IN BERHAMPUR**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 16:** Bada Bazaar police personnel busted Friday a fake liquor manufacturing unit operating within a bakery in Om Nagar locality of this city. Two persons, who are siblings, have been arrested in this connection. The accused have been identified as Tarini Jena and Mantu Jena. Police are interrogating them to ascertain about the others involved in this racket. The adulterated liquor was being produced at the bakery by using caramel and spirit. Stickers of popular brands were used on the bottles, police said. A large number of fake stickers and labels belonging to various reputed companies have also been seized from the spot, police informed. Police have sealed the bakery and seized 10 cartons of fake liquor, 10 boxes of liquor bottles, three cartons of caramel and six cartons of spirit. The adulterated liquor was being sent to various parts of Ganjam district using three autorickshaws. Police have also seized the three-wheelers. Police said that the two brothers were carrying out the illegal activity for the last three years. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the place and busted the unit. They added that further probe on the matter is under way.

**BJP stages protests over power cuts**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 16:** BJP workers Friday held protests here and in some other districts protesting against the frequent power cuts in the state. In this city a scuffle broke out between BJP activists and the police after saffron party workers forcibly tried to enter the office premises of Tata Power. Similar protests were also held at Bolangir and Sambalpur districts. Police said that some of the BJP activists tried to enter the Tata Power office. When police prevented them a scuffle broke out between the two sides. However, no arrests were made. A senior BJP leader who was leading the protests here questioned the Odisha government's

silence over the issue of power cuts. He pointed out that in the last two months residents of this city have been suffering a lot due to the frequent power cuts. Demonstrations were also organised in Sambalpur district. The BJP activists staged demonstrations in front of the Tata Power office at Ainthapali. The protestors blamed the Odisha government for such a situation in the state and said that in the hot and humid conditions people were suffering a lot due to the frequent power cuts. Similar protests in Kantabanji in Bolangir district were also organised citing the region's irregular power supply. BJP workers took out a procession and gheraoed the Tata Power office.

**Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar**  
 P.O.: Sainik School, Sachivalaya Marg, Gajapati Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751005, E-mail: registrar@iopb.res.in; Website: https://www.iopb.res.in/

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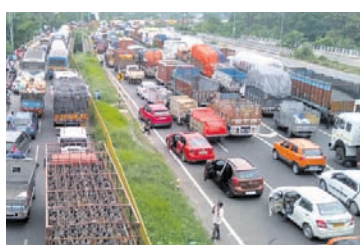
No. IOP/PR/2023/03 Dated: 16 June 2023

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed printing houses/ publishers/ printers based in Bhubaneswar or near around having valid registration certificates, PAN and GST registration for designing and printing of **IOP Annual Report 2022-23 (English & Hindi version)** as per the specification and quantity posted at Institute's website. Interested firms should submit sample copies of Annual Reports designed & printed by them for Govt./ Semi-Govt. Agencies/ Public Undertakings along with details of the available machines/ workforce/ expertise to establish their technical competence together superscribed clearly with "Short Quotation for Designing and Printing of IOP Annual Report". The quotations, along with all the enclosures, should reach the Registrar, Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, P.O.: Sainik School, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751005 on or before **06.07.2023 (up to 2 PM)**. For further details, please visit our website at [www.iopb.res.in](https://www.iopb.res.in).  
 Sd/- Registrar

**Illegal parking leading to highway mishaps**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, June 16:** Illegal parking of heavy vehicles, including trucks, is the root cause of accidents on National Highways (NH) in Odisha, many have opined. This matter has assumed significance after the accident in this district claimed five lives a few days back. In the mishap, a car had crashed into a stationary truck parked near Chhuinbancha Square on Sambalpur-Bolangir National Highway-26. Local residents have pointed out that accidents frequently occur in the vicinity where the mishap took place. They blamed the illegal parking of trucks on the highway as the main reason behind the accident. However, this is not an isolated



incident in this district alone. Trucks are illegally parked on highways in many districts including Sundargarh and Khurda. However, truck drivers who park their vehicles on NH-26 said that they have no other option as there is no designated parking area for them. Mohit, a driver from Andhra Pradesh informed that trucks are not allowed to pass through Bolangir town from

6.00am to 12 midnight. As a result they have no option but to wait on the highway at various entry points. However, illegal parking is not a problem in Bolangir district alone. Hundreds of heavy vehicles can be found parked on both sides of the road on NH-16 in Khurda district. This affects the normal movements of other vehicles and traffic snarls are a regular problem. The situation in Koida of Sundargarh district is similar. Residents pointed out that the number of accidents due to illegally parked trucks is increasing. They demanded action from the district administration and said that designated parking places should be assigned for heavy vehicles to prevent loss of lives and injuries.

**IOCL's clarification**

**IndianOil** wishes to clarify that despite the unprecedented situation in the aftermath of triple train crash tragedy at Bahanaga, Balasore on 2nd June, there has been no shortage of fuel availability in IOCL depot and no dry out at IOCL Retail Outlets of Balasore district on account of supply issues. Apart from receiving two rakes at Balasore depot up to 8th June, replenishment was made from Paradip and Jati for Balasore for initial three days to service the enhanced demand of the rescue operation. It is reiterated that IOCL ensures uninterrupted supplies in all situations across the nation.

**Traders fleecing ignorant tribals selling Mahua flowers**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**R. Udayagiri, June 16:** Tribals under this block in Gajapati district are suffering and losing out on their earnings as they are oblivious about the prices fixed by the state government for minor forest products. As a result, they are getting fleeced by unscrupulous traders who are making huge profits at the expense of the ignorant tribals, sources said Friday. One of the main forest products that the tribal people depend upon for their livelihood is Mahua flowers. Braving the scorching heat, tribal woman collect Mahua flowers from the forests.

However, then they do not get the right price while selling the flowers to the traders. This is because the government is yet to finalise a price for selling of the flowers by the tribals. The Excise department has been issuing licences for hoarding Mahua flowers to traders. However, no such permission has been given to the tribals. Hence the tribal people are failing to reap the benefits of their hard work. People with the permission to hoard the flowers are buying those at dirt-cheap rates exploiting the tribals. This year plenty of Mahua flowers grew in Mohana, Nuagarh and R Udayagiri blocks in Gajapati district.

However, the tribals got a meagre price for their efforts. Traders bought the flowers at ₹15 to ₹20 per kilogram. Later on they went on to sale the same at more than ₹50 per kilogram to traders of other states and in the process made a killing. However, the ignorant tribals failed to earn a substantial sum. A section of the tribal groups have now asked the government to fix a price for Mahua flowers so that they can also benefit. They have also asked the government to take action against the unscrupulous traders. The tribals have demanded storage facilities for the flowers as soon as possible.

**UCO BANK** Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423 **POSSESSION NOTICE**  
For Immovable Property

**(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **UCO Bank, Suryanagar Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **UCO Bank, Suryanagar Branch** for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

SURYANAGAR BRANCH/ Name and Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Ashis Kumar Das, At: Plot No.: 189/1956, Chita Mohanty Colony, Unit - 6, Bhubaneswar / <b>Guarantor:</b> Mrs. Manjulata Das, At: Plot No.: 189/1956, Chita Mohanty Colony, Unit-6, Bhubaneswar	₹ 18,05,041.77 as on <b>12.06.2023</b> + further interest & other charges thereon	18.07.2022 / 12.06.2023	All that part and parcel of the Land & Building standing in the name of <b>Mrs. Manjulata Das</b> , Mouza: Bhipur, P.S.: Airfield, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Khata No.: 544/526, Plot No.: 189/1956, Area: Ac.0.050 Dec i.e. 2178 sqft, Bounded by North: Road, East: PVR Murty, South: Drain, West: Benudhar Mohanty

Place : **Bhubaneswar**, Date: **16.06.2023** Authorised Officer, UCO Bank



**“Mankind has used two powerful weapons to destroy its own power and enjoyment, wrong indulgence and wrong abstinence.”**  
SRI AUROBINDO



## Hierarchy Concerns

As promotions in various ministries/departments are underway, and the chairmen of these bodies sit in on the meetings, having someone who is comparatively junior sitting as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is becoming a matter of some embarrassment, if murmurs are to be believed.

In a world driven by hierarchies as much as by performance, babus are rather prickly about these matters. But it appears that the appointment last month of Suman Sharma, a 1990-batch IRS officer, as a Member of the Commission is causing consternation among seniors in her allied services, who find it awkward to appear at meetings at the UPSC, where she sits as their equal.

Sharma started her career as an IRS officer in Gujarat, and the grapevine believes it sometimes confers some extra powers, which may partly explain her meteoric rise now, to a post that is hugely significant.

But this aside, even after the confirmation of Manoj Soni as UPSC chairperson and the subsequent appointment of Sharma and 1988-batch IAS officer Bidyut Bihari Swain as members, four key member posts remain vacant in UPSC. The tenure of a member of UPSC is six years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Sharma, we are told, will get to serve as a UPSC member until May 2029.

### Growing vacancies impeding effective governance

Despite the PMO's ambitious goal of providing 10 lakh employments by December 2023, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has admitted that 1617 posts of section officer grade remain unfilled as of December last year. Further, sources have informed DKB that an additional 300 vacancies are expected to emerge in July due to promotions from section officer grade to under secretary grade. This will bring the overall vacancy count to more than 1,800, accounting for nearly half of the sanctioned strength.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

Section officers are considered the backbone and institutional memory of the Central Secretariat, playing a crucial role in the units of the ministry or department where they are posted. The minister concerned Jitendra Singh has acknowledged that the shortage of section officers is paralyzing ministries and departments, ultimately affecting the delivery of public services.

Given the situation, sources say that the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Forum, a representative body of all CSS officers, has raised concerns and urged Singh to prioritize the matter. Apparently, eligible officers face a pecuniary loss of Rs 10,000 per month if not promoted before July 1, 2023. Additionally, considering the vacancies expected to come up in the months ahead due to cadre reviews, there could be 3,000 vacancies at the section officer grade, which would seriously impede the functioning of the Central government.

### Unjust pursuit?

In God's own country, an unlikely face-off is brewing between the Kerala government and retired top cop turned author Jacob Thomas. The latest episode in this saga has the state government demanding action against Thomas for daring to write books without its permission! Is the former IPS officer the victim of a political witch hunt? The state's babus are now pondering this troubling question.

Thomas, clearly, has a knack for stirring up trouble. His first book 'Swimming with the Sharks' managed to ruffle a few feathers during his eventful tenure in various posts. He was even suspended twice for having the audacity to publish it.

Now the state government is outraged again, this time taking offence at two more books penned by Thomas. A prominent CPM leader even released the first book, while the second was supposed to be unveiled by none other than Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. But the function never saw the light of day.

Even three years after his retirement, the state seems relentless in pursuing Thomas. Yet strangely, sources point out, there has been no inquiry or action against M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary to the chief minister, who published a book right after being released from jail for his alleged involvement in a major smuggling racket. The plot thickens!

To add fuel to the fire, an inquiry is now underway against Thomas for alleged irregularities in a dredger purchase made a decade ago. Is there no end to the retired police officer's woes? Perhaps this is the price he is paying for falling out of favour with the authorities.

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

## WISDOM CORNER

- Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. **LEO TOLSTOY**
- Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers, but to be fearless in facing them. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**
- It is in your hands, to make a better world for all who live in it. **NELSON MANDELA**

## WORDSWORTH

### Artilect

Since the 1950s, it has been the goal of workers in the field of artificial intelligence to create an autonomous thinking computer. This aim has always been ten years in the future, its attainment retreating as fast as we approached it. Many gave up hope of ever seeing it; indeed the very term artificial intelligence has become a joke in some circles. More recent projects, such as the Japanese drive to develop a Fifth Generation computer, have also failed to meet their ultimate aims. But the idea of a machine that can match or surpass the human brain in its ability to reason has recently resurfaced, along with a debate on the ethics of actually building one. Part of the resurgence in interest can be attributed to Sony's toy dog Aibo, shortly to be joined by Poo-Chi from Sega. Artilect has started to be used as a term for devices that exhibit autonomous learning behaviour, a blend from artificial intellect. It was apparently coined by Professor Hugo de Garis, head of the Brain Builder Group at the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute in Kyoto, Japan.

### Waddle

The first known user is our old friend William Shakespeare, in his play Romeo and Juliet of 1592, in a speech which Juliet's nurse is trying to explain in an outpouring of muddled exposition that her charge is not yet fourteen, along the way pretty much detailing Juliet's entire early history. A brief extract from the waterfall of words: "And since that time it is eleven years, for then she could stand alone, nay, by th'rood, she could have run and waddled all about". Waddle is most often used of ducks and geese and other wading birds, which is appropriate, since it is an extension of wade by adding the -le ending that indicates an action continually or regularly taken, what grammarians call a frequentative. In that, it joins a long list that includes crackle, crumple, dazzle, hobble, niggle, paddle, sparkle, topple and wriggle.

## FOCUS GREEN TRANSITION

# FOSTERING CLIMATE AGENCY



As a 2018 report by the G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance notes, collective action through country platforms has the power to unlock public and private investment to achieve climate-resilient and sustainable development



Rania Al-Mashat and Erik Bergl6f

**PREDICTABILITY IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THE POOR, AND FAIRNESS IS ESSENTIAL TO WINNING LONG-TERM PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE MEASURES**

The gap between the resources needed to achieve net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 and the resources that are available currently amounts to trillions of dollars – and is still growing. As many developing and emerging economies lose ground in the wake of the pandemic, public and private capital must be mobilized to accelerate mitigation and adaptation efforts. But this requires governments to produce credible plans for achieving global sustainability goals, to design and implement these policies themselves, and to ensure that their strategies' costs and benefits are fairly distributed.

Last November's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt (COP27), dubbed the "implementation COP," laid the ground work for a fairer, more robust climate-finance system. The conference's "guidebook" called on the international community to advance a transformative agenda that accounts for developing countries' national priorities and ensures equitable access to financial and technical resources. It included in its definition of climate justice "equitable access to quality and quantity climate financing" that considers "historical responsibility for climate change" and "supports resilient development pathways, leaving no one behind."

With this in mind, Egypt launched its Nexus of Water, Food, and Energy investment programme during COP27, providing a practical and replicable model for ensuring a just net-zero transition through the NWFE's concept of "country platforms." These platforms are meant to help countries build state capacities, and emphasize the importance of developing countries' agency (or "ownership," in aid parlance).

NWFE (pronounced "nuafy," which is Arabic for "fulfilling pledges") builds on Egypt's commitments under the 2015 Paris climate agreement and aims to attract financial support for the country's development agenda while accelerating climate action. The stakeholders include multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The NWFE platform integrates several high-priority water, food, and energy projects – all selected by the Egyptian government – worth a total of \$14.7 billion. The projects seek to replace existing inefficient thermal power plants with renewable energy; enhance small farmers' adaptation to climate risks; modernize farming practices to increase irrigation efficiency and boost crop yields; strengthen the resilience of vulnerable regions; create water desalination capacity; and establish early-warning systems.

By using innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize

public funds, technical assistance, and private investment, Egypt seeks to leverage its partnerships with the MDBs and other development stakeholders to accelerate its climate agenda. This would support the country's green transition and show that climate action and economic development can go hand in hand. Egypt can also rely on these partnerships to help it phase out "brown" oil, gas, and mineral assets. For example, partial concessional financial support from the United States will enable the country to retrain (or retire) fossil-fuel workers.

Yet, the most innovative instrument may be debt-for-climate swaps, whereby Egypt receives partial debt relief from, say, Germany, in exchange for commitments to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. These types of performance-linked financial instruments could provide many developing and emerging countries with an opportunity to lower their debt burden or obtain low-cost funds. By tying development assistance to progress on a common global target, such swaps could also prove to be significant in

mitigating the worst effects of climate change.

As a 2018 report by the G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance notes, collective action through country platforms has the power to unlock public and private investment to achieve climate-resilient and sustainable development. Such investment platforms can take different forms. For example, Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) – first introduced during COP26 in Scotland in 2021 – aim to direct private capital towards decarbonization targets in the energy sector. Since launching in South Africa, JETPs have also been established in Indonesia, India, Vietnam, and Senegal.

Egypt's NWFE initiative provides a useful model for how developing and emerging countries can expedite the implementation of their national climate agendas in line with global priorities. By encouraging coordination among domestic and external stakeholders, such programmes could help bridge the information gap, establish shared standards, and increase the number of bankable projects.

But the platform's success hinges on domestic agency, transparency, and accountability in managing these partnerships. Most importantly, the green transition must be perceived as just in order to be sustainable. Predictability is particularly important for the poor, and fairness is essential to winning long-term public support for climate measures. To achieve these goals, governments must lead on climate finance. The net-zero transition depends on it.

Rania Al-Mashat is Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation. Erik Bergl6f is Chief Economist of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

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## SPECTRUM DEVELOPMENT

# Welfare of marginalised vital

In the midst of Manipur burning, a grand Parliament building was inaugurated. For the Prime Minister and his government it's a great development for the country and perhaps the half-educated people believed this. But the question arises is this true development? As more than seven-and-a-half decades have passed since we attained independence, it is time to re-analyse what do we really mean by development and welfare? Can we not question the ruling dispensation about their vision of inclusive development, which they do not follow but claim at various public meetings?

Over the decades, we have followed policies claiming to help the people and develop the nation. But social and economic exploitation has continued unabated, especially in the last two decades, and the masses have not benefited from policies, which have rightly been described as anti-poor. This is manifested by the fact that the disparity in incomes has widened with the richer sections controlling over 70 per cent of wealth and resources. This obviously was not the state of affairs that the leaders of the independence movement envisaged.

Coming to Manipur, where the recent violence has taken around 50 and displaced around

45,000 people, the majority Meitei community is concentrated in the densely populated valley that accounts for just 10 percent of Manipur area while various tribal communities, including the Kukis and Nagas live in the hills that make up the rest of the population. As is normally the case, the lack of balanced development, largely skewed in favour of the valley has been at the forefront of people's grievances as the tribes have been economically deprived and exploited over the years.

As universities, medical and engineering colleges and tertiary hospitals came up in the valley, a sense of deprivation grew among the tribal communities. Moreover, of the 60 Assembly seats, 40 were in the valley and just 20 in the hills, leaving the tribals feeling politically marginalised. Thus, it can safely be concluded that the root of the problem lies in unequal distribution of resources. Was it not necessary to develop the area equitably so that all sections get the benefits of development?

This is not the case of just Manipur but many other states such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Odisha to name only a few. In Uttarakhand, it is slightly different. Thousands of poor people have been rendered homeless due to subsidence, at-

tributed by experts to wanton construction activities in the Himalayan terrain.

It is not important whether these homeless people get shelter, but the priority is to enable people to visit the so-called holy sites comfortably as religion is more important than livelihood. Delving back, one may refer to the miraculous growth of the steel city, Jamshedpur, but few have ventured to go into reports of how land was acquired and whether these people benefitted, in any way, from this Tata empire. It may be recalled that since at that time there was no rehabilitation policy, land was acquired from the tribals at very low prices, and they were left to fend for themselves. No rehabilitation was provided and most of these tribals squandered the money as they did not know how to wean out an alternate means of livelihood. In fact, most of the tribal families perished in distress. Can this be called development?

It is indeed surprising that at frequent intervals the GDP growth parameters are discussed and compared but the question very crucial at this juncture is whether such growth reflects the true nature of development. Economists tend to judge the country's development through GDP growth, which is erroneous. This is amply demonstrated by the Oxfam re-

port. 'Inequality Kills' released in January last year where it showed that 10 per cent of the population cornering 77 percent of the total national wealth.

The deprived and the vulnerable with poor healthcare and low-quality education have continued to live on the margins of the economy. They mostly belong to tribals, OBCs and Dalits, spread across states. Even with new investments, the prospects of new jobs, especially those that require low skills and minimum education, where these people are mostly engaged are rapidly vanishing. As is well known, technology has increased the labour productivity almost ten-fold. Earlier a four per cent growth would result in a two per cent increase in employment. Now with around eight per cent growth, there is just 0.5 per cent rise in employment. Local politicians take advantage of the present state of affairs and use the youth for anti-social activities.

Mahatma Gandhi had talked of development from below and rejuvenation of villages and making them self-sufficient and agents of change. Are the political leaders of the present dispensation willing to adopt such an approach instead of making tall claims about the country and the economy?

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Dhurjati Mukherjee

**THE OXFAM REPORT RELEASED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR SHOWED THAT 10 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION CORNERING 77 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL WEALTH**

### Democracy in danger

Sir, India is the largest democratic country in the world. However, nowadays, the democracy of India is on the edge of danger. One or two days ago a video went viral on social media showing some muleteers fighting with devotees using sticks in Kedarnath. Some people tried to portray this incident as a Hindu-Muslim conflict, falsely claiming that the attackers were Muslims. When the police arrested the accused, it was revealed that they were not Muslims. Today, inflation in our country has reached sky-high levels. Instead of constantly highlighting Hindu-Muslim differences, we should focus on finding ways to control inflation, promote the development of our country, and eliminate corruption. We should consider criminals as criminals and not as Hindus or Muslims. We all want our country to become a superpower in the world, but how is it possible if we continue fighting amongst ourselves? Muslims can contribute numerous individuals like APJ Abdul Kalam, and Hindus can produce many CV Ramans if we let go of hatred.

Sk Rasidul, HOWRAH

### Fueling north-south divide

Sir, The Karnataka election results, which taught a fitting lesson to the BJP, seem to have further stiffened the north-south divide in Indian politics, as the state has decisively shut the southern gate for the saffron party. Whatever slim chances the party had of making inroads into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in 2024, have vanished in all probability. One can call the north-south divide almost as a second Partition. The gap between the southern states and the rest of India has gradually grown ever since the BJP came to power, and it is now taking the shape of an unbridgeable chasm. By all indicators which determine the health of a nation on economic, demographic, developmental and governance levels, the southern states are beginning to look like they are on a different continent from the rest of India. But what has further exacerbated this simmering discontent is the communal and hate politics perpetrated by the BJP since coming to power. For years, the saffron party has been trying to stir religious cauldron in the South quite unsuccessfully. It tried everything – hijab, halal, removal of quota for Muslims, and the latest 'Bajrangbali', but only to fail miserably. And these have only resulted in further widening the north-south divide.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
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# national

## of the day quote

**Why is the CM so nervous? Balaji didn't cooperate with the ED officials, as he had assured... Instead of thinking about the people who voted the DMK to power, the Chief Minister is concerned about Senthil Balaji**

**The kind of violent scenes that are being seen in the panchayat elections of West Bengal are extremely painful. There is violence all around**

**Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to give a compensation of Rs 40,000 to the cattle rearers for the death of each cow due to lumpy skin disease**

### SHORT TAKES

**3 electrocuted**  
**Amaravati:** Three persons died of electrocution during the last rites of their relative in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district Friday, police said. The incident occurred near a crematorium in Kuppam town of the district. Rani, 65, had died of illness and her relatives had come from different places to take part in her last rites. However, tragedy struck the funeral procession when it had reached close to the crematorium. According to police, three men, who were part of the funeral procession, tried to remove electric wires which were lying on the ground.

**Student killed**  
**Kodagu (Karnataka):** A college student died in a scooter-bike collision in Kushalnagar town of the district Friday. The deceased was identified as 21-year-old Bhavana, a resident of Indira Locality in Kushalnagar. According to police, Bhavana, a student of Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa college, was travelling on a scooter with her friend near Coorg Cineplex when they were hit by an oncoming motorcycle.

**UP woman kills husband**  
**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** A 25-year-old woman, along with her paramour, allegedly strangled her husband and buried his body in a seven-foot deep toilet pit in their home in Muzaffarnagar district. The woman continued to stay at the same house, police said. The body of the victim, identified as Sagar Ahmed (30), was found Thursday evening, almost 10 days after he was murdered at village Mandla under Purkazi police station. According to police, the accused woman identified as Ashiya had lodged a missing complaint of her husband on June 7. During investigation, it came to the fore that Ashiya was in a relationship with Sagar's stepbrother Suhail Ahmed (28), who lives in the same area.

**Youth fires at lineman in UP**  
**Mau:** An electricity department lineman, who had gone to repair damaged power cables in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Mau district, had a narrow escape when a youth opened fire at him. Sources said that upset over the massive power cuts, the local residents of Khatibaha village surrounded the lineman Komal Ram when he went to fix the damage. A local youth started hurling abuses at him. When Komal Ram opposed, the youth opened fire at him with a revolver.



**Irrespective of the ideology, there has always been consensus from all quarters towards attaining the goal of complete self-reliance, and India's defence industry is also fulfilling the security needs of friendly countries**

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

### SC RULING

Theft during a train journey is not a deficiency in service by the Railways and the public transporter cannot be held responsible if the passenger is not able to protect his own belongings, the Supreme Court has ruled



## TN's ex-top cop gets 3 yrs in prison for sexual harassment

**New Delhi, June 16:** Former Special Director General of Tamil Nadu Police (Law and Order) Rajesh Das is perhaps the third senior IPS officer to be convicted for sexual misconduct while in service, after K P S Gill and S P S Rathore. Das was sentenced to three years' imprisonment by a court in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu on Friday for sexually harassing a woman superintendent of police in early 2021. He had since been placed under suspension.

Before Das, senior police officers S P S Rathore and K P S Gill were convicted for sexual harassment. Rathore was convicted for molesting 14-year-old Ruchika Girhotra in 1990 when he was serving as the inspector general of police in Haryana. Girhotra, a budding tennis player, committed suicide as her family and friends were systematically harassed and her brother was taken into illegal custody and tortured by the police. The disgraced IPS officer was sentenced to six months in jail in 2009. The sentence was further enhanced to 18 months at the



plea of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which investigated the case. In November 2010, the

Supreme Court granted bail to Rathore on the condition that he would remain in Chandigarh. The Supreme Court later upheld Rathore's conviction in the molestation case but reduced the punishment to six months' jail already served by him considering his age. Gill, a former chief of the Punjab Police, was convicted for outraging the modesty of a woman IAS officer but was spared from going to prison with the Punjab and Haryana High Court revising his three-month jail term to "probation". The Supreme Court in 2005

upheld the order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court convicting him. The fabled police officer, credited with stamping out terrorism from Punjab, was convicted by a local court in Chandigarh for outraging the modesty of a woman on January 6, 1996. It was alleged that Gill, in an inebriated condition, had patented IAS officer Rupan Deol Bajaj in the back at a party hosted by a senior bureaucrat at his residence on July 18, 1988. Another IPS officer, P S Natarajan, was dismissed from service in 2012 following charges

of sexual exploitation, but he was acquitted by a court in Jharkhand in 2017 due to a lack of satisfactory evidence. Sentencing Das to three-year imprisonment, the court of the chief judicial magistrate granted him bail and 30 days time to go for appeal. The Madras High Court, while hearing a review plea by D Kanan, an SP-rank officer charged along with Das, had observed in 2021 that "if a woman IPS officer can be subjected to sexual harassment, less needs to be said about women police personnel in lesser ranks."

## NATURE'S FURY



(1) Several houses are damaged as the flood water makes its way in the aftermath of cyclone Biparjoy in Kutch (2) An area is waterlogged after heavy rains following the landfall of cyclone Biparjoy in Kutch (3) NDRF personnel clear trees uprooted following the landfall of cyclone Biparjoy (4) High tidal waves lash the shore following the landfall of cyclone Biparjoy in Mumbai

## 1K villages in dark as Biparjoy hits Gujarat

**Ahmedabad/Kutch, June 16:** As cyclone Biparjoy weakened and moved towards south Rajasthan Friday after ravaging the Kutch and Saurashtra regions, the Gujarat government is facing the immediate challenge of restoring electricity in some 1,000 villages and clearing roads of fallen trees. While the cyclone weakened after making landfall on the Kutch coast of Gujarat on Thursday evening, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that north Gujarat should brace for heavy rainfall. There was no loss of life on account of cyclone Biparjoy (which means calamity in Bengali) in Gujarat, the government said. Advance planning and mass evacuation of over one lakh persons helped the state achieve "zero casualty", Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was quoted as saying in a press release. To restore electricity, 1,127 teams are working in the districts of Kutch, Devbhumi

### TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

Dwarka, Jamnagar, Morbi, Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Rajkot and Porbandar, said the release, adding that the forest department teams removed 581 fallen trees from the roads. Commissioner of Relief Alok Kumar Pandey had said earlier that not a single person died due to any incident linked to the cyclone in the state, calling it the government's "biggest achievement." Among 1,09,000 persons shifted from coastal areas to temporary shelters there were 10,918 children, 5,070 senior citizens and 1,152 pregnant women, the government release said. The cyclone made landfall along Saurashtra-Kutch coasts near Jakhau around 6:30 pm on Thursday, bringing incessant rains and wind speeds as high as 140 kmph. The landfall was over by 2:30 am on Friday, and several parts of Kutch as well as Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Morbi districts in

Saurashtra regions were battered with very heavy rainfall of 100-185 mm on Friday accompanied by strong wind of up to 95 kmph, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said. In all, 175 talukas of the state received some amount of rainfall during the day, it said. The storm caused extensive financial loss to the state power utility Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited with 5,120 electricity poles getting damaged, relief commissioner Pandey said. As many as 4,600 villages were left without power, but electricity supply was restored in 3,580 villages, he added. At least 23 people were injured due to cyclone-related incidents while many houses were also damaged, he said. Asked about a cattle-rearer duo of father and son dying on Thursday while trying to save their goats stuck in a flooded ravine in Bhavnagar district, Pandey said that since the district was not cyclone-affected, their deaths were not counted as cyclone-related.

## MANIPUR SEES VIOLENCE AGAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Imphal/Kochi, June 16:** Manipur saw a spurt in violence as riotous mobs combated Rapid Action Force, set up flaming roadblocks and torched properties in the heart of Imphal town on Friday, officials said. Among others, a house belonging to Union Minister RK Ranjan Singh was attacked and attempts were made to burn it down. A warehouse near the royal palace belonging to a retired tribal IAS officer was burnt down completely. Security guards and firefighters managed to control arson attempts by the mob and save the house of the minister of state for external affairs here from being gutted. A mob clashed with RAF personnel on Friday evening after it had set the warehouse on fire. The group also burnt tyres, logs and waste in the middle of streets in Wangkhei, Porompat and Thangapat areas affecting the flow of traffic in Manipur's capital town, officials said. The RAF fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd late in the evening. No casualties have been



reported as yet. Sound of firing could be heard in Imphal East district till the early hours of Friday as security forces fired numerous rounds of tear gas shells and mock bombs to disperse angry locals protesting the killing of nine civilians on Wednesday. The development comes after the burning of two houses and clashes between RAF and a mob in the heart of Imphal town on Thursday afternoon. Reacting to the developments, Union minister RK Ranjan Singh said: "I am trying to bring peace and stop violence since May 3 (when ethnic clashes began in the state) ... this is all a misunderstanding between two communities. The government has set up a peace committee, the process is on. Civil society leaders are sitting together."



He said the investigations pointed at two people, Sehran Bashir Nadaf and Ubaid Nazir Laigroo, both residents of Anantnag town who had gone missing. "We launched a massive search operation to nab them. Based on technical and human intelligence, we were ultimately able to arrest these two accused after which the whole conspiracy was revealed," he said.

### ED TO GRILL BALAJI'S BROTHER, OTHERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, June 16:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned arrested Tamil Nadu Minister Senthil Balaji's brother R V Ashok Kumar, personal assistant B Shanmugam and others for questioning next week in an alleged cash-for-jobs linked money laundering case, officials said Friday. The two, along with some other accused and a woman who is suspected to be linked to an alleged 'benami' land deal related to the minister, have been called for recording their statements under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. They have been asked to depose before the agency at its office here on different dates next week. The agency had earlier claimed that Balaji allegedly "misused" his office for illegal gratification and "engineered" a job racket scam in the state's transport undertakings during 2014-15 with purported kickbacks paid by candidates through his associates who included Kumar and Shanmugam. Balaji, 47, was arrested by the ED on Wednesday and is currently in hospital. Calling the minister the "prime suspect" in the cash-for-jobs case, the federal probe agency also stated in its custody papers that alleged unaccounted cash deposits worth about Rs 1.60 crore were made in the bank accounts of Balaji and his wife.

## Academicians back NCERT textbook rationalisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 16:** More than 105 academicians, including vice chancellors and IIM chairpersons, supported NCERT's move to rationalise textbooks and said the "spectacle" by some "arrogant and self-interested" people seeking withdrawal of their names from textbooks is disrupting the curriculum update process. University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar echoed their sentiments saying there is no merit in the "hue and cry" by certain acade-

micians, and asserted that carrying out revision of content is justified. A day ago, a group of academicians, who were part of the textbook development committees of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), wrote to the council demanding their names be dropped from books as their "collective effort is in jeopardy". A few days earlier, political scientists Yogendra Yadav and Suhans Palshikar had asked the NCERT to drop their names from textbooks over "several sub-



stantive revisions of the original texts". The joint statement issued by 106 academicians on Thursday night alleged that there have been deliberate attempts to malign the NCERT in the last three months and this reflects the "intellectual arrogance of

academicians who want students to study 17-year-old textbooks". The signatories to the statement include the vice-chancellors of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Tezpur University, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, The English and Foreign Languages University, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi University, Bangalore University, Beharmpur University, Central University of Gujarat, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, the NIT Jalandhar director, the chairman of the

Board of Governors of IIM Kashipur, the ICSSR secretary and the NIOS chairman. "In the past three months, there have been deliberate attempts to malign the NCERT, a leading public institution, and disrupt the much-needed process for curriculum update. Academicians trying to capture media attention through this name-withdrawal spectacle seem to have forgotten that textbooks are an outcome of collective intellectual engagement and rigorous efforts," the statement said.

# PoJK: Displaced people get domicile certificates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, June 16:** "We have been reconnected to our roots", says Anil Mahajan, who is among the over 21,000 displaced people from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) given a new domicile certificate mentioning the place they originally belonged to.

The certificate carries the name of the "original place of residence" in PoJK from where their family members had migrated during the Partition in 1947, said officials in the Jammu and Kashmir administration that is issuing the document.

"We have been reconnected to our roots. It is very emotional," said Mahajan, whose domicile certificate mentions the Mirpur area in PoJK as his original place of residence. "Everybody in my family has got one. They took our details and provided us with the domicile certificates. It is really very encouraging", he told PTI over phone from Chandigarh where he currently lives.

The certificate, the officials said, is exclusively for those who were displaced from areas of Jammu and Kashmir that are under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. In 1947, they migrated to different parts of India, including Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

"It is an emotional moment for the people belonging to PoJK that they have got a domicile certificate issued by the Jammu and Kashmir administration with the place of origin in PoJK

**Over 5,000 families of displaced people of PoJK living in various parts of India have been registered as displaced persons with the relief commissioner's office in Jammu**

**Kashmiri migrants are those who left the Valley during the height of terrorism in the 1990s**



written as residential places," SoS International chairperson Rajiv Chummi told PTI here.

Several displaced people belonging to PoJK have got these certificates with the place of domicile mentioned as their post-migration residential address, he said.

Mahajan, who owns an IT firm in Delhi and got the certificate recently, said it gives a "feeling of belongingness". Jaipur-resident Ashwani Kumar's certificate mentions his original place of residence as Siyak in PoJK and all 12 members of his family have received the document.

"We are very happy to get this domicile certificate from the Jammu and Kashmir administration with our place of place of origin written as place of domicile in it. This is the first thing we have got in the past over 75 years from Jammu and Kashmir authorities," Kumar, who heads an organisation 'Kashmiri Welfare Society' for displaced people of PoJK in Rajasthan, said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had said that over 21,000 domicile certificates have been issued through camps in Delhi, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

According to officials in the Relief Commissioner's Office-Jammu, 1.58 domicile certificates have been issued both to Kashmiri migrants and displaced people of PoJK.

Over 5,000 families of displaced people of PoJK living in various parts of India have been registered as displaced persons with the relief commissioner's office in Jammu, they said. Kashmiri migrants are those who left the Valley during the height of terrorism in the 1990s.

Kumar said that "as many as 165 families here (Rajasthan) have got domicile certificates of Jammu and Kashmir. We urge the government to provide us relief on the pattern of displaced Kashmiri migrants. We have been given nothing".

**The certificate carries the name of the "original place of residence" in PoJK from where their family members had migrated during the Partition in 1947**

## SIT set up to probe smuggling, shooting incident in Samba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, June 16:** A special investigation team has been formed to bust a drug trafficking racket after the recovery of heroin worth ₹14 crore near the International Border in Samba district, police said.

Three alleged narcotic smugglers from Punjab were arrested after they shot at two local youths in the border village of Rangoon in the early hours of Monday.

Later, 2.8 kilograms of heroin worth ₹14 crore was recovered at the instance of the accused who were identified as Jagdeep Singh (21) and Satinderpal Singh of Tarn Taran and Sunny Kumar (22) of Amritsar, they added.

Samba Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Benam Tosh set up the five-member SIT to probe the shooting incident and bust the entire smuggling racket so that conviction is secured at the court of law, a police official said.

The police have already registered a case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the case.

## Himachal CM to ensure high-quality construction in new PWD projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

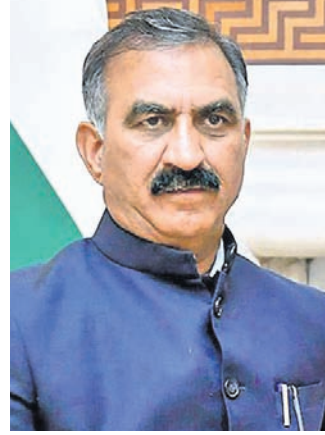
**Shimla, June 16:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has instructed the Public Works Department (PWD) officials to prioritise the construction of tunnels for new road projects to ensure high-quality construction.

Sukhu, who presided over a review meeting with the PWD officials virtually from Shimla, also stressed the need for constructing ropeways in the state, a statement issued here said.

He informed that after the formation of the new government in the state, projects for the construction of 62 roads with an outlay of ₹336 crore have been sanctioned till now under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Moreover, the state government has sanctioned ₹97 crore to decongest the circular road of Shimla city to facilitate the commuters, he added.

Reviewing the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-3, he said that



The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 45 roads with an estimated cost of ₹422 crore have been approved for the state and out of these, tenders for 44 roads have already been awarded. He said that DPRs for 256 roads with an outlay of ₹2,662 crore have been sent to the Union government for approval in the second phase.

These road constructions will encompass 644 kilometres using the full depth reclamation (FDR) technique and 499 km with a cement sub-base tech-

nique. The construction of 14 bridges in the second phase is also pending approval from the Centre, he added.

To expedite infrastructure development, the Chief Minister directed to complete pending 173 road projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-1 and 17 road projects in the second phase within the current year.

He said that a budgetary provision of ₹40 crore for the Mukhyamantri Sadak Rakh Rakhav Yojana has been made this year. Further, he said that under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), the DPRs for four roads amounting to ₹248 crore have been sent to the Centre for approval, while the process of preparing DPRs for five additional roads was underway.

State Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh also emphasised ensuring quality in all departmental works and narrated various activities of the department undertaken during the last about six months.

## Himachal govt to promote lesser-known destinations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, June 16:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said his government is considering framing a new tourism policy to increase the number of tourists in the state by more than half promoting lesser known destinations.

Nature has blessed Himachal with unprecedented grandeur and there was a need to tap this potential, he said, according to a statement. About 72 lakh

tourists have visited Himachal by May 2023, the statement said.

Sukhu during the meet instructed the tourism department to evolve a mechanism to accurately assess tourist influx and asked them to improve the basic infrastructure to facilitate the visitors.

He said tourism is a big part of the state economy and tourism-related projects a top most priority for his government. Reviewing several projects aimed at developing Kangra district into the state



tourism capital, he directed the department to prepare a concept paper for further consideration.

The projects under consideration include a roller skating

rink in Sakoh, a golf course in Paragpur, a high-end resort in Menjha, a tourism village in Narghota, and an Aero City, all in Kangra.

The government also plans to set up a theme-based satellite village in Naura Khad in Nagrota Bagwaan assembly segment the district, he said. The government is working on expanding the Kangra airport, constructing a greenfield airport in Nagchala in Mandi district, and building new heliports across the state, the statement said.

## HP to set up three high-end hotels on Manali highway

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Shimla, June 16:** The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) will open three high-end hotels along the Kiratpur-Manali highway to facilitate tourists, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said.

The hotels would be equipped with modern facilities and aim to enhance the tourism experience in the state, he said, adding that a consultant has conducted a study to determine the best approach for implementing this project.

The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of developing infrastructure for the promotion of tourism and said the inflow of tourists would significantly increase once the four-lane highway becomes operational.



**WHITE BLANKET:** Tourists visit snow covered Rohtang Pass as vehicles move in a long queue in Manali, Himachal Pradesh

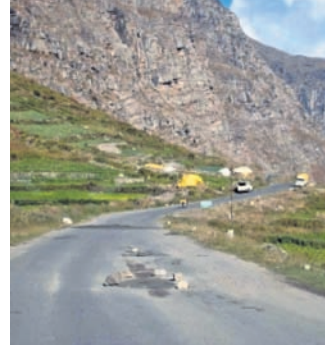
## HP: Sansari-Tandi road to be upgraded to double lane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, June 16:** The Sansari-Killar-Thirot-Tandi road in Chamba district connecting Pangri tribal valley with Lahaul valley in Lahaul-Spiti is set to be upgraded to double lane under 'Project Deepak' of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Avalanches in winters and landslides during rains cause frequent disruptions on the road and deep river valley on one side and steep hard-rock face on the other side with precariously hanging rocks make travel on the road perilous to the tourists and locals alike, according to an official statement.

The upgradation of the road will facilitate all-weather connectivity between Pangri valley



and Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, which is emerging as a major commercial hub after construction of Atal Tunnel as tribal areas which remain cut off for six-seven months due to heavy snow will be reachable for the most part of the year. The BRO has been tasked to upgrade the

road to double lane and its Task Force located at Manali has submitted a detailed project report (DPR) for the stretch from Udaipur to Tindi to 'Project Deepak' recently.

It is also in the process of preparing DPRs for two remaining stretches from Shour to Killar and from Tandi to Thirot, which are expected to be prepared by August this year, the statement said.

The upgradation of the road will facilitate setting up of Run-of-the-River Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) in river Chenab in Himachal Pradesh and the National Hydropower Corporation (NHPC) has plans to execute the 500 MW Duggar HEP which will be the largest project in the area.

## Eco-friendly bamboo kiosks coming up under smart city project in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, June 16:** Braving soaring summer heat, a group of workers are busy constructing eight eco-friendly bamboo kiosks - a new addition to the winter capital Jammu under the smart city project.

The first-of-its-kind structures on the roadside near the Jammu bus stand are being constructed by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), a special purpose vehicle constituted in August 2017 for the implementation of the development works aimed at giving a new look to the city of temples. "The bamboo kiosks are part of the ongoing works aimed at making the city attractive, citizen-friendly and sustainable. After construction, the huts will be handed over to Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for setting up a smart vending zone with a uniform look," Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JSCL Rahul Yadav said. He said similar bamboo kiosks will be set up in other parts of the city after the



■ According to Union Minister Jitendra Singh, there are huge reserves of bamboo spread across Jammu and Kashmir, which have remained unexplored and largely utilised

■ The minister of state in the Prime Minister's office had approved three bamboo clusters in Jammu, Katra and Samba areas in 2020 for making Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti and Bamboo Charcoal

success of the project.

According to Union Minister Jitendra Singh, there are huge reserves of bamboo spread across Jammu and Kashmir, which have remained unexplored and largely utilised. The minister of state in the Prime Minister's office had approved three bamboo clusters in Jammu,

Katra and Samba areas in 2020 for making Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti and Bamboo Charcoal. "The Bamboo products are in great demand both in India and abroad and through start-ups, the youth can explore huge entrepreneurial opportunities in this sector," Singh, who also organised a bamboo workshop in

Jammu city sometime back, had said. Raj Kumar, one of the workers from Delhi who were busy assembling the bamboo sticks underneath the shade of a flyover to escape the scorching sun, said they are expecting to complete the job within a week and hand over the possession to the concerned authorities.

"It is both wind and water-proof. The base is made of iron and we also use polythene and fibre sheets. One hut takes almost four to five days for completion," he said, adding they have imported the bamboo material from Assam. In the private sector, he said their firm had constructed restaurants and huts at different places in Rajouri and Katra - the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district. Officials familiar with the bamboo project said the JSCL plans to set up a total of 28 such kiosks across the city. "Each bamboo hut of 8x10 feet costs an amount of Rs 60,000," they added.

## Fishing banned in HP till Aug 15



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bilaspur (HP), June 16:** The Himachal Pradesh government has put a complete ban on fishing in the state till August 15 in view of the fish breeding season, an official said.

Satpal Mehta, director and warden of fisheries, said the ban will come into force from Friday and strict action will be taken against violators.

According to rules, there is a provision of imprisonment of three years and a fine of up to ₹5,000 for those found violating the ban, he said. Extensive arrangements have been made by the depart-

ment to implement the ban effectively and inspection teams and flying squads have been constituted. He said the ban is necessary to ensure that the fam-

lies of fishers of five reservoirs of the state, including Gobind Sagar, Pong Dam, Chamara, Kol Dam and Ranjit Sagar Dam and its tributaries, continue to get fish. Various species of naturally breeding fish could breed successfully during the ban and suitable numbers of fish should remain in different water bodies.

**The hotels would be equipped with modern facilities and aim to enhance the tourism experience in the state**

The government would provide all basic amenities to the tourists. "The government's efforts in expanding tourism infrastructure and services are expected to not only enhance the experience of visitors but also create employment and self-employment opportunities for the local population," Sukhu said, as per an official statement.

Sukhu said in a recent Cabinet meeting, the decision was made to establish the highway-cum-tourist police stations with necessary staff at Baghed in Bilaspur district, Nerchowk in Mandi district, and Bhunter in Kullu district, all falls along the Kiratpur-Manali highway.



# national

## of the day quote

The Congress can remove Savarkar and Hedgewar from textbooks but not from the hearts and minds of people. In Maharashtra, the Opposition wants to replicate the Karnataka model. I want to ask Uddhav Thackeray what is his stand on this issue

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

Heavy rains and floods are affecting life in Assam. I appeal to all the local workers of the Aam Aadmi Party to serve the victims in the flood-affected districts and provide all possible help to the administration in rescue and relief work

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The Centre has done remarkable work with the theme of service, good governance, and welfare of the poor.

As a result of the working of the Modi government, people today have faith in the system. The poor realise that the government works for them. If the right party is chosen in democracy, then the right work is done

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Student ends life

**Jaipur:** Another student has committed suicide in Kota after failing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NET). The 21-year-old victim, Roshan came from Samastipur in Bihar to study and lived on rent in Kota's Mahavir Nagar area. Recently he had appeared for the NET exam but failed. On Thursday morning, he returned to Kota from Delhi where his uncle stayed and committed suicide. Police officials said that Roshan was not picking up his phone after returning to Kota so they asked his younger brother Suman to go and check.

### Fire breaks out

**Tirupati:** A huge fire broke out in a building near the Govindaraja Swamy temple in Tirupati Friday. No casualties were reported but locals say three persons were feared trapped in the fire. Four fire tenders rushed to the spot and were trying to douse the blaze from spreading towards the Govindaraja Swamy temple ratham. Police said the fire broke out in Lavanya Photo Frame Works abutting the famous temple. Flames engulfed the entire building, spreading panic among people in the busy area in the temple town.

### Siblings stabbed

**Srinagar:** Two siblings were stabbed Friday allegedly over a property dispute in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district. Family sources said that the brother identified as Owais and his sister, Momiina were stabbed in Karewa Kulgam village by unknown persons sent by the neighbours of the siblings over a property dispute. "A team of police visited the village after a complaint was lodged by the victims," sources said.

### Quake jolts Assam

**Guwahati:** An earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale jolted Assam Friday. According to the National Centre of Seismology, the quake struck on 10.16 a.m. and the epicentre was at a depth of 70 km in Bangladesh's Sylhet region. The quake lasted for 20 seconds and the tremors were mainly felt in southern Assam. No casualties or property damage were reported from the quake.



Madhya Pradesh has turned into a scam state and apradh pradesh. These are not my figures (related to crime) but those available on the internet. The maximum number of crimes took place under the current dispensation. The chief minister is unable to give a record of his 18 year-old government

KAMAL NATH | MP CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## NEW AKAL TAKHT JATHEDAR

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Friday appointed Giani Raghbir Singh as the new Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Singh replaces Giani Harpreet Singh who was appointed as the acting Jathedar in 2018



# Political clashes will not be tolerated: Bose

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, June 16:** West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose Friday said that political violence will not be tolerated, asserting that "there will be action and no alibi for inaction".

Bose said this after visiting Bhangore in South 24 Parganas district, where supporters of two political parties clashed Thursday, the concluding day of nomination filing for the panchayat election, leaving three persons dead.

"Some undesirable incidents have happened in some parts of Bengal. I have made my inferences about them. No violence will be tolerated and we will have to end it. There will be action and no alibi for inaction," Bose said.

People of the state have the right to exercise their franchise to vote fearlessly, the governor said assuring the voters that the "perpetrators of violence would be permanently silenced" and would be brought to book.

The governor said he has already discussed the situation with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "The CM is my constitutional colleague. What we discussed cannot be revealed outside. Certainly, whatever is expected of the governor under the Constitution will be done."

"I interacted with the victims of violence and the locals. I can assure the people of Bengal that violence will be the first victim in this election," Bose told reporters after taking stock of the situation at Bhangore, around 30 km from Kolkata.

The governor spent almost two hours interacting with the



The Governor spent almost two hours interacting with the locals, and administrative and police officials before meeting Indian Secular Front activists

The Governor said he has already discussed the situation with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

locals, and administrative and police officials before meeting Indian Secular Front (ISF) activists. The local MLA, Naushad Siddique, belongs to that party.

Reaching Bhangore, Bose went to Bhangore Block No. 1, some parts of which he moved in his convoy, before walking through Bijoyganj Bazar, the centre point of Thursday's violence, and asking people about the clashes and the role of the police to contain the violence.

Bose also visited the BDO office before going to Bhangar Block 2 and held closed-door meetings with ISF activists inside a college before meeting police officers there. "The governor has enquired about yesterday's clashes. He also questioned whether police were present when the clashes took place and what was their role," an official said, adding that he briefed Bose in detail.

A local ISF leader said they told the governor how the party workers were "tortured by TMC supporters". "We have also told him how we were threatened not to file nominations for the election. The governor has assured us of looking into the matter," he said after meeting Bose. The chief minister on Thursday claimed that her party workers were not involved in violence.

Bhangore was the scene of political clashes earlier between the ISF, a party floated by a Muslim cleric, and the ruling TMC. Thursday's violence there left two persons dead and several injured, of whom one succumbed in a hospital this morning.

Besides Bhangore, violence had marred the nomination filing process on Thursday in several other districts. In all, five people died as a result of clashes since June 8, the first day of filing nomination papers. The police seized seven bags of crude bombs from the Bhangore area. The bombs were later defused, an officer said.

## Jitan Ram Manjhi may have been BJP's spy, says Nitish



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, June 16:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has caused a flutter by predicting early Lok Sabha polls, on Friday asserted that the possibility arose out of the ruling BJP's fears of his opposition unity drive gaining momentum.

Kumar also defended the ouster of former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi from the state's ruling 'Mahagathbandhan', alleging that the Hindustani Awam Morcha founder was virtually spying on opposition parties at the BJP's behest.

"I may have spoken about early polls in jest but it is also a strong possibility. Those in power at the Centre may sense that there is a lot of movement in the opposition camp", said Kumar, as part of whose efforts to forge

opposition unity leaders of nearly a score of parties opposed to the BJP will converge here on June 23 for a conclave.

The JD(U) supreme leader was talking to reporters at the Raj Bhavan, after the swearing-in of party MLA Ratnesh Sada into the cabinet, which follows the resignation of Manjhi's son Santosh Suman, who was holding the SC and ST Welfare portfolio.

A cabinet notification confirming allocation of SC and ST welfare department to Ratnesh Sada came shortly after the swearing-in. Apparently miffed by Manjhi's recent statement that Kumar had helped him become the CM in 2014 to cover up the embarrassment over JD(U)'s drubbing in Lok Sabha polls, Kumar underscored that he had stepped down against the wishes of party members. "Nobody wanted me to resign. But I stood my ground. There was no consensus among party men as to who should succeed me. So I had to intervene and I chose Manjhi thinking let there be a Scheduled Castes person in the chair", said Kumar.



Central Reserve Police Force personnel and Quick Action Team special commandos exercise ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, at a camp in Udhampur district

## COP CRUSHED TO DEATH IN K'TAKA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kalaburagi, June 16:** A police head constable, who was trying to stop illegal transportation of sand, was crushed to death in Narayanapura village in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district, police said Friday.

Acting on a tip-off about illegal transportation of sand, head constable Mysuru Chouhan and Constable Pramod Dodmani went to Narayanapura village on bike at 10 p.m. Thursday. The policemen chased tractor in which sand was being transported illegally and asked its driver to stop the vehicle, who did not stop and ran over their bike.

Chouhan was crushed to death while Dodmani managed to escape with minor injuries. The accused had escaped from the spot after the incident.

The Nelogi police have registered an FIR and are investigating the case. The police have taken accused Siddappa into custody and launched a hunt for another accused Sayibanna.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDPR), Information Technology and Biotechnology (IT and BT) Minister Priyank Kharge said: "I have spoken to the District Commissioner and Superintendent of Police and ordered an inquiry."

Karnataka Minister M. C. Sudhakar said: "It is very shocking and we need to take serious action against those behind it. Justice will be served."

Preliminary investigation revealed that the sand was illegally mined from river Bhima. Books are written in Kannada about the notoriety in the Kalaburgi region and revenge killings are reported very often from there.

Before the Assembly polls in



The policemen chased tractor in which sand was being transported illegally and asked its driver to stop the vehicle, who did not stop and ran over their bike

Chouhan was crushed to death while Dodmani managed to escape with minor injuries. The accused had escaped from the spot after the incident

the state, an audio clip of an individual seeking "protection" of then MLA Priyank Kharge to carry out sand business had gone viral on social media. Priyank Kharge had flatly refused to help him and told him that he doesn't mind losing elections rather than supporting him.

Sand from basins of the Bheema, Kagina, Mullamari, Bennethora and Kamalavathi rivers in Kalaburagi district's is in demand and its price is skyrocketing day by day. Main supply is made to Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh from the bordering district of Kalaburagi.

## PM to visit US, Egypt from June 20-25

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 16:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a visit to the US and Egypt from June 20 to 25.

Modi's state visit to the US is at the invitation of President Joseph Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. The visit will commence in New York, where Modi will lead the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga at the UN headquarters on June 21. In December 2014, the UN General Assembly had adopted a resolution proclaiming June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.

Modi will thereafter travel to Washington D.C., where he will receive a ceremonial welcome at the White House on June 22, and meet President Biden to continue their high-level dialogue, according to a statement issued by the external affairs ministry said. The Bidens will host a state dinner in honour of the Prime Minister the same evening.

At the invitation of Congressional leaders, including the Republican House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy and Democratic Senate Speaker Charles Schumer, Modi will address a joint sitting of the US Congress on June 22.

The next day, the Prime Minister will be hosted at a luncheon jointly by Vice President Kamala Harris and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

In addition to the official engagements, Modi is scheduled to have several curated interactions with leading CEOs, professionals, and other stakeholders. He will also meet members of the Indian diaspora. After wrapping up the US trip, the Prime Minister will then head to Egypt for a state visit from June 24-25.



## Food choices key to tackling global warming: Study

The research, published in the journal Nature Food, found that action to protect the planet against the impact of climate change will fall short unless emissions are reduced from the global food system, which now makes up a third of man-made GHG emissions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 16:** Food consumption in the five highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting countries, including India, was responsible for more than 40 per cent of global food supply chain emission in 2019, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Nature Food, found that action to protect the planet against the impact of climate change will fall short unless emissions are reduced from the

global food system, which now makes up a third of man-made GHG emissions.

The largest emission increase within food supply chains is triggered by beef and dairy consumption in rapidly developing countries, such as China and India, while emissions per head in developed countries with a high percentage of animal-based food declined, the researchers said.

The team noted that the growth of the global population and rising demand for emission-inten-



sive food are likely to boost emissions further. "A global shift in diets, including reducing excessive intake of red meat and improving shares of plant-based protein—will not only reduce emissions but avoid health risks such as obesity and cardiovascular disease," said study co-

responding author, Professor Klaus Hubacek from the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. Yuli Shan, from the University of Birmingham, UK noted that the agrifood system drives global land use and agricultural activities—contributing to around

one-third of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas.

"Population growth, expansion of food production, and an increase in animal-based diets are likely to further increase emissions and squeeze the global carbon budget," said Shan, corresponding author of the study.

The study first author, Yanxian Li, a Ph.D. student at the University of Groningen said mitigating emissions at every stage of food supply chains from production to consumption is critical if we are to limit global warming. "However, widespread and lasting diet shifts are very difficult to achieve quickly, so incentives that encourage consumers to reduce red meat or buy products with higher environmental dividends could help to reduce food emissions," Li said.

# international

## of the day quote

Monetary policy should continue to tighten and then remain in restrictive territory for some time until inflation expectations are firmly anchored and inflation trends toward target

Now, this armed gang's members are on the run, and I'm concerned that they will possibly flee to Cambodia

I am pleased to be here today with you, your Excellency, and we wish to build on this relationship and we put our trust in you to do so

## SHORT TAKES

### Nine arrested over deadly shipwreck

Athens: Nine Egyptian nationals suspected of human trafficking were arrested by the Greek Hellenic Coast Guard in connection with the deadly shipwreck that occurred off the country's southwestern coast leaving at least 78 passengers dead, state media reported. All nine were among the survivors of the tragedy, according to the Greek national news agency.

### Indian killed in building collapse

Singapore: A 20-year-old Indian worker was killed when a concrete wall collapsed on him during the demolition of a building structure in Singapore's Central Business District, officials said Friday. The Indian national employed by Aik Sun Demolition and Engineering was found dead under the rubble after part of the Fuji Xerox Towers building in Tanjong Pagar collapsed during demolition works Thursday.

### Harry, Meghan part ways with Spotify

London: The production company founded by Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, are splitting ways with Spotify less than a year after the debut of their podcast "Archetypes." It is unclear why the podcast, hosted by Meghan, is leaving the platform but Spotify and Archewell Audio said in a joint statement that the decision was mutual. Archewell landed a multiyear partnership with Spotify in 2020 to create podcasts and shows that would tell stories through diverse voices and perspectives.

### Japan raises age of consent

Tokyo: Japan's age of consent was raised from 13, among the world's lowest, to 16 years old Friday as lawmakers passed key reforms to sex crime legislation. The reforms, which also clarify rape prosecution requirements and criminalise voyeurism, cleared parliament's upper house in a unanimous vote. Campaigners welcomed the reforms, with the Tokyo-based group Human Rights Now calling them "a big step forward".

### Heatwave hits Beijing

Beijing: On Friday, the Chinese capital of Beijing renewed an orange alert for high temperatures, with the day's maximum temperature expected to reach 39 degrees Celsius amid an ongoing heat wave, according to local weather authorities.



How can we achieve growth without facilitating certain areas of the economy? ISHAQ DAR | PAKISTAN'S FINANCE MINISTER

## POPE LEAVES HOSPITAL

Pope Francis Friday was discharged from the Rome hospital where he had abdominal surgery nine days earlier to repair a hernia and remove painful scarring, with his surgeon saying the pontiff is now "better than before" the hospitalisation



## US nuclear-powered submarine docks in SK



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Seoul, June 16: A US nuclear-powered guided missile submarine (SSGN) arrived in South Korea Friday for the first time in six years, amid heightened tensions after North Korea's launch of two ballistic missiles, Seoul's Defence Ministry said. The Ohio-class SSGN, USS Michigan, entered a key naval base in Busan, 320 km southeast of Seoul, after North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea on Thursday in apparent protest

against the massive live-fire drills that ended earlier in the day, reports Yonhap News Agency. The submarine is scheduled to remain in the country until June 21, a South Korean defence official told reporters. The arrival of the submarine also came after the US pledged to further enhance the "regular visibility" of strategic assets on the Korean Peninsula through the Washington Declaration issued by President Yoon Suk Yeol and his American counterpart Joe Biden during their summit in April. "The US SSGN's visit to South Korea is intended to substantively implement the agreement in the Washington Declaration made in April to enhance the regular visibility of strategic assets on the Korean Peninsula," ROK Fleet Commander Vice Adm. Kim Myung-soo was quoted as saying. ROK stands for South Korea's official name, the Republic of Korea.



SHOWING CREATIVITY: Cirque du Soleil artistes perform during the Ovo show in Riga, Latvia

REUTERS

## Missiles target Kyiv as African leaders start peace mission

AGENCIES

Kyiv, June 16: A delegation of leaders and senior officials from Africa sought in Ukraine Friday ways to end the country's full-scale war with Russia and ensure food and fertiliser deliveries to their continent, though an air raid in Kyiv during their stay provided a reminder of the challenges they face.

The delegation, which included the presidents of South Africa, Senegal, Zambia and the Comoros Islands, first went to Bucha, a Kyiv suburb where bodies of civilians lay scattered in the streets last year after Russian troops abandoned a campaign to seize the capital and withdrew from the area.

The delegation's stop in Bucha was symbolically significant, as the town has come to stand for the brutality of Moscow's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The Russian occupation of Bucha left hundreds of civilians dead in the streets and in mass graves. Some showed signs of torture.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said last month that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed to separate meetings with members of an African peace mission. The delegation was set to travel to St. Petersburg later Friday, where Russia's top international economic conference is taking place, and meet with Putin on Saturday. It also includes senior officials from Uganda, Egypt and Congo-Brazzaville. The members of the delegation represent a cross-section of African views about the war. South Africa, Senegal and Uganda have avoided censuring Moscow for the conflict, while Egypt, Zambia and Comoros voted against Russia last year in



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ukraine's Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin and President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani visit a church at a site of a mass grave, in the town of Bucha, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, outside of Kyiv

REUTERS

- African leaders start peace mission in Kyiv
- They hope to mediate between Ukraine and Russia
- Kyiv officials report no deaths in air strike
- Ukraine says it downed ballistic and cruise missiles

a UN General Assembly resolution condemning Russia's invasion. Many African nations have long had close ties with Moscow, dating back to the Cold War when the Soviet Union supported their anti-colonial struggles. While in Bucha, the visitors placed commemorative candles at a small memorial outside St. Andrew's Church, near one of the locations where a mass grave was unearthed. Shortly after, air raid sirens began to wail in Ukraine's capital. Mayor Vitali Klitschko reported an explosion in the Podilskiy district, one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods. "Russian missiles are a mes-

sage to Africa: Russia wants more war, not peace," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted. The Ukrainian air force said it shot down six Russian Kalibr cruise missiles, six Kinzhal hypersonic ballistic missiles and two reconnaissance drones.

Germany will deliver another 64 Patriot missiles to Ukraine, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said Friday, to help shield it against Russia's relentless aerial attacks.

China presented its own peace proposal at the end of February but it appeared to have few chances of success. Ukraine and its allies largely dismissed the plan, and the warring sides look no closer to a cease-fire. Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin touted Russia's prospects at the country's main international economic forum despite heavy international sanctions imposed because of the war. Western officials and investors steered clear of the year's St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, which began Wednesday and continues through Saturday.

## Xi meets Bill Gates, calls him 'American friend'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, June 16: Chinese President Xi Jinping met Microsoft founder and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates here Friday, and said the latter was his "first American friend I've met in Beijing this year".

Xi applauded Gates and the Gates Foundation for their long-term work to promote poverty reduction, health, development and philanthropy around the world, reports Xinhua news agency.

"At present, momentous changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world. I put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative to provide Chinese solutions to global challenges," he said.

The President said that China as a large country with a population of over 1.4 billion, its "long-term stability and sustained development are major contributions to world peace, stability and prosperity".

He said that China is ready to carry out extensive cooperation with all countries on scientific and technological innovation, and will continue to strengthen cooperation with the Gates Foundation in relevant fields, and will provide support and assistance to other developing countries within its capacity, he said. "The foundation of China-US relations lies in the

- Microsoft co-founder's Bill Gates first visit to China since 2019
- Xi's first meeting with a foreign entrepreneur in years
- Xi tells Gates people are foundation of US-China relations
- Xi discusses rise of AI tech with Gates - sources

people. We have always placed our hope on the American people and wish all the best for the friendship between the two peoples," Xi said.

Gates spoke about the progress of cooperation with China and his vision for the future. He said that China has made remarkable achievements in poverty reduction and Covid-19 response, setting a good example for the world. He said that in recent years, the Gates Foundation's cooperation with China has made remarkable progress, and that accelerating innovation and development in the country is good for Beijing, developing countries and the world.

"The Gates Foundation is committed to strengthening cooperation with China in the fields of innovation, global poverty reduction, public health, research and development of drugs, rural areas and agriculture, and spreading successful practices and technologies to other developing countries," the billionaire added.



## Pak 'largely spared' as Biparjoy weakens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi/Islamabad, June 16: Pakistan was largely spared the full fury of Cyclone Biparjoy, which weakened into a severe cyclonic storm Friday after making landfall in the Indian state of Gujarat, prompting authorities in Sindh province to lift the emergency measures imposed in the coastal areas.

"Thank God, we are safe from the destruction of the cyclone. But it might take us some time to send people back to Sujawal," Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman said.

People in Sindh's coastal city of Ketri, who braved the cyclone threat and a warning of monsoon rains, are now returning to their homes after the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said the cyclone has weakened into a "severe cyclonic storm" from a "very severe cyclonic storm".

"The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) 'BIPARJOY' over the northeast Arabian Sea after crossing the Indian Gujarat coast (near Jakhau port) has weakened into a Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS)," the Met Office said in its latest advisory, it said. "The system is likely to weaken further into a Cyclonic Storm by noon today and subsequently into a Depression by today evening," the alert added. Biparjoy, (meaning disaster or calamity in Bengali), completed landfall Thursday night, authorities said.

## Election to replace Boris in UK Parl to be held July 20

REUTERS

London, United Kingdom, June 16: The successor to Boris Johnson's seat in Britain's parliament will be chosen in a by-election vote July 20, the local council said Thursday, after the former prime minister quit over an investigation into his conduct.

The Conservatives selected Steve Tuckwell to be their candidate for the vote, the party said in a statement Thursday. Johnson last week said he would stand down as the lawmaker for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, an area in West London, after he read a parliamentary report over whether he misled parliament over gatherings at his office during Covid lockdowns.

That report, published in full Thursday, found he had deliberately misled parliament over the rule-breaking parties, though Johnson has dismissed the report as a "lie" and a "charade".



REUTERS

## Humanitarian situation in Sudan still deteriorating: UN

Since the clashes first broke out on April 15 between the Sudanese Army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, at least 958 people have died, while 4,746 others injured

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

United Nations, June 16: As the violent conflict in Sudan has entered its third month, humanitarian situation across the country continues to deteriorate, UN relief chief Martin Griffiths said.

Griffiths, UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, also warned that situation in Sudan's Darfur is spiraling into humanitarian calamity, reports Xinhua news agency. Some 1.7 million people are now internally displaced

while close to half a million people have sought refuge outside Sudan, he said.

Looting of medical and humanitarian assets continues on a massive scale and farmers are unable to reach their land, which further raises the risk of food insecurity, the UN official said and noted that there has also

Some 1.7 million people are now internally displaced while close to half a million people have sought refuge outside Sudan



been a spike in reports of gender-based violence. "I am particularly worried about conditions in Darfur where people are trapped in a living nightmare," Griffiths said in a statement.

In addition to dire humanitarian situations, inter-communal violence is spreading in Darfur, threatening to reignite the ethnic tensions that stoked the deadly conflict there 20 years ago, he said. He noted that the violence is hampering human-



