



CLIMATE CONCERNS

Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she will not be a silent spectator to the impacts of climate change

LEISURE P2



SATWIK-CHIRAG THROUGH

Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advance to final of Indonesia Open

SPORTS P11



BORIS IN TROUBLE

Boris Johnson is accused of a new breach for taking a newspaper columnist job without waiting for required ethics vetting

INTERNATIONAL P12

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Short takes

BALASORE TRAIN CRASH TOLL MOUNTS TO 291

CUTTACK: The death toll in the Balasore train accident mounted to 291 after a passenger from Bihar succumbed to his injuries at SCB Medical College Hospital here Saturday, officials said. The passenger was identified as Sahil Mansur (32) of Roshanpur in Bhagalpur district of Bihar. He was undergoing treatment at the ICU of trauma care, hospital sources said, adding that the patient was also suffering from a kidney-related ailment. He was also under dialysis, they said. SCB Medical College Hospital Superintendent Dr Sudhansu Sekhar Mishra said the patient died due to cardiac arrest. He had multiple injuries both internal and external and also had renal issues. Mishra said of the 205 patients admitted at SCB, 46 patients are still under treatment which included 13 patients in ICU.

GOODS TRAIN DERAILS IN RAYAGADA DISTRICT

BHUBANESWAR: Four wagons of a goods train derailed near Ambadola in Rayagada district Saturday, a railway official said. There was no immediate report of any loss of life or injury to anyone, he said. The four wagons jumped the rails while the goods train was on its way to a Vedanta Ltd plant in Lanjigarh from Ambadola on a special route, the official said. The train services remained unaffected as the derailment took place on the special route, he said. Railway officials rushed to the site to ascertain the cause of the derailment.

'ADIPURUSH' DRAWS FLAK FROM PARTIES

NEW DELHI: Several parties, including the AAP, Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT), Saturday criticised filmmaker Om Raut's 'Adipurush' for hurting the sentiments of the people with the portrayal of Lord Hanuman, whereas the BJP demanded a temporary suspension of the film's screening. Fronted by Prabhas, 'Adipurush' has been panned on social media over its poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla under fire for dialogues. **PAGE 9**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Nothing is wrong with my language. It's the language of gods. I heard it in a movie

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 44.3°C	42.1°C
	MIN 28.8°C	29.0°C
Humidity	54%	63%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
		Forecast Heatwave



WATER SPORT: Participants at the inaugural function of Jashn-e-Dal at Dal Lake in Srinagar, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

Poachers kill deputy ranger in Similipal

THE INCIDENT COMES DAYS AFTER A FOREST GUARD WAS SHOT DEAD BY POACHERS IN THE SANCTUARY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 17: A deputy forest ranger was shot dead by poachers in Similipal sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district, days after a forest guard was gunned down by a group of hunters. The incident occurred when a team of forest department personnel were carrying out patrolling inside the sanctuary. An exchange of fire broke out between the forest department personnel and six armed poachers under Badachachran beat house Friday night, the official said.

Senior forest officials of North division of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) and police launched an investigation into the killing. Two country-made guns were seized from the spot and three persons were detained for interrogation in this connection, RCCF and field director of Similipal Tiger Reserve Prakash Chand Gogineni said. Deputy ranger Mathi Hansda (45), a native of Tingiria village under Bahalda police limits in Mayurbhanj district was hit by a bullet fired by the poachers. He was rushed to a hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. Hansda was posted at the Barahakamuda range in Similipal. The incident occurred when intelligence inputs alerted forest officials about the presence of some poachers at Gamuchhajarhan area under Kandadhenu forest section and

Barahakamuda forest range in South division of STR. A team of six forest officials including Hansda left for patrolling where they came face-to-face with some 40 poachers. The officials tried to intercept the poachers but the latter suddenly fired at them in which a bullet hit Hansda. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan came down heavily on the state government and alleged that with every passing day the law and order situation is 'deteriorating' in the state. "Criminals have the audacity that they can commit a crime and escape the clutches of law in the state. There is complete failure of state machinery. Within a span of one month, two forest officials have been shot dead," Pradhan said. Earlier May 22, a forest guard was shot dead by a group of poachers at STR.

Tell 'Manipur ki baat': Cong to PM

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, June 17: As violence in Manipur continues unabated, Opposition parties Saturday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not holding a meeting with a delegation of 10 like-minded parties from the state and also questioned his silence on the violence in the northeastern state. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, during a joint press conference by Opposition parties from Manipur, said, "40 days have passed since the clashes broke out in Manipur but PM Modi is yet to make any statement on the matter." Ramesh said that a delegation of 10 Opposition parties from Manipur - Congress, NCP, JD(U), TMC, All India Forward Bloc, CPI, CPM, AAP, Shiv Sena (UBT), RSP - had written to the PM June 10 seeking a meeting to apprise him of the prevailing situation in the state and submit

a memorandum. However, the PM is yet to give an appointment to the delegation, Ramesh said. The representatives of the parties are stationed in Delhi, seeking the PM's audience before his scheduled departure for the United States June 20. The Congress drew a comparison with similar incidents that occurred in Manipur in 2001 and said that then PM Atal Behari Vajpayee had convened all-party meetings twice, the first one merely six days after the violence started. Vajpayee had also earnestly appealed for peace in the state, the Congress said, asking PM Modi to follow suit. Expressing disappointment over the failure of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the state, Jairam demanded that the Prime Minister should meet the delegation. He asked the PM to tell 'Manipur ki Baat' instead of 'Mann ki Baat'.

41 killed in rebel attack on Ugandan school

Boys' dormitory set on fire, girls hacked with machetes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kampala, June 17: Ugandan authorities recovered the bodies of 41 people, including 38 students, who were burned, shot or hacked to death after rebels attacked a secondary school near the border with Congo, the local mayor said Saturday. At least six people were abducted by the rebels, who fled across the porous border into Congo after the raid Friday night, according to the Ugandan military. The victims included the students, one guard and two members of the local community who were killed outside the school, Mpondwe-Lhubiriha Mayor Selevest Mapoze told The Associated Press. Mapoze said that some of the students suffered fatal burns

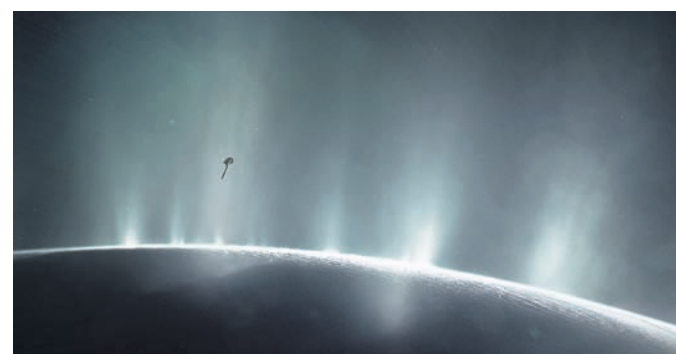
when the rebels set fire to a dormitory and others were shot or hacked with machetes. The raid, which happened around 11.30 pm, involved about five attackers, the Ugandan military said. Soldiers from a nearby brigade who responded to the attack found the school on fire, "with bodies of students lying in the compound," military spokesman Brig. Felix Kulayigye said in a statement. That statement cited 47 bodies, with eight other people wounded and being treated at a local hospital. Ugandan troops are "pursuing the perpetrators to rescue the abducted students" who were forced to carry looted food toward Congo's Virunga National Park, it said.

SIGN OF LIFE

Phosphorous found in Saturn's moon

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 17: Phosphate, a key building block of life, has been detected in one of Saturn's moon's ocean, and in what scientists call the "first finding of phosphorus on an extraterrestrial ocean world." The phosphates were detected in particles ejected from the ice-covered global ocean of Saturn's moon Enceladus, an international team of scientists led by the Freie Universitat Berlin, Germany, found using data from NASA's Cassini space mission. The team also found phosphate to be present in Enceladus' ocean at levels at least 100 times higher than in Earth's oceans. Phosphorous, in the form of phosphates, is known to be vital for life on Earth. It forms the backbone of DNA and is part of cell membranes and bones. "By determining such high phosphate concentrations read-



Scientists found traces of phosphorus in water plumes squirting through the ice crust of Saturn's moon Enceladus. PIC: NASA/JPL-CALTECH/SPACE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

ily available in Enceladus' ocean, we have now satisfied what is generally considered one of the strictest requirements in establishing whether celestial bodies are habitable," said Fabian Klenner, a postdoctoral researcher in Earth and space sciences at the University of Washington, US, and third author of the study published in the

journal Nature. Worlds with oceans beneath a surface layer of ice is common in our solar system and occur on the icy moons of Jupiter (Ganymede) and Saturn (Titan and Enceladus), as well as even more distant celestial bodies, like Pluto. Cassini, the spacecraft, first discovered that Enceladus' harboured an ice-covered watery ocean, and analysed

25 lakh to throng Puri for Rath Yatra: SJTA

Special arrangements are being made in view of the prevailing hot and humid conditions in Puri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, June 17: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration is expecting a footfall of about 25 lakh during the world-famous Rath Yatra scheduled to begin June 20 in Puri. This was stated by SJTA Chief Administrator Ranjan Kumar Das. Talking to PTI, Das said the administration was optimistic about conducting the mega festival smoothly. "We are expecting a congregation of about 10 lakh people at Puri on 'Sri Gundicha Day' June 20, during which chariots will be pulled by devotees," he said. Stating that the festival also includes Bahuda (return car festival), Suna Besha (golden attire of deities) and Niladri Bije (return to main temple), Das said: "In total, around 25 lakh people are expected to join the Rath Yatra festival." The chief administrator said, "Special arrangements are being made in view of the prevailing hot and humid conditions in Puri." Das said adequate drinking water provisions are being made for devotees and special wards are created in Puri Hospital for treatment of heat-affected patients. He informed that above 180 platoons of police of both the state and central government have been deployed to look after the law and order, crowd management and other such things. He said personnel of Rapid Action Force, ODRAF, NDRF and other personnel are engaged in the festival. A green corridor is created to evacuate patients from the crowd to the hospital. The chief administrator said Odisha government departments such as health, police and urban development are busy making arrangements for the mega event. Asked whether he was nervous keeping in view the sensitivity of the festival and the large congregation, Das said he "is confident of conducting a smooth festival with blessings of the Lord." "Rather, I feel blessed to get such a responsibility with the blessings of Lord Jagannath. The Lord himself is with us and He will help us conduct a smooth rath yatra," Das said, adding a team of officials of Puri district administration and the state government are assisting him.

BACKBONE OF DNA

- Scientists find phosphate to be present in Enceladus' ocean at levels at least 100 times higher than in Earth's oceans
- Phosphorous, in the form of phosphates, is known to be vital for life on Earth
- It forms the backbone of DNA and is part of cell membranes and bones

material erupting through cracks in the moon's south pole region using its Cosmic Dust Analyzer. NASA's Cassini mission explored Saturn, its rings and moons from 2004 to 2017. The analyser studied individual ice grains emitted from Enceladus and sent those measurements back to Earth. To try and match their unknown signatures in Cassini's observations, Klenner tried different chemical compositions and concentrations in his samples.

leisure



LETITIA WRIGHT HOPEFUL OF RETURNING TO MCU

Letitia Wright is hopeful about returning to the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Shuri, who takes over the mantle of Black Panther after the death of her brother King T'Challa (the late Chadwick Boseman) in *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*.

HOLLYWOOD IS NOWHERE NEAR EQUALITY: LONGORIA

Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria is making her directorial debut with *Flamin' Hot*. But she thinks there are still too few opportunities available for women to follow in her footsteps. "Hollywood is nowhere near equality when it comes to directing because only one in 10 directors is female," she says.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you have, says Ganesh. Besides, you have already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it. A date of romantic nature may turn out to be interesting or it may lead to a controversy; you have to decide on it.

TAURUS
You can expect a pleasant, comfortable day at the office, today, so says Ganesh. You will be carrying out your work cheerfully and effortlessly. You could, later in the evening, have a strong urge to go out for dinner with your family and friends.

GEMINI
You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm. You may be prone to extreme mood swings as well. Meditative techniques should help you keep your mind calm, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advantage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesh.

LEO
You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sportspeople will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields. You will square off against any obstacles in your way using your entire might. While it is a good day for you, keep a curb on your speculations, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Take a little break today, and spend some time looking within. At your office there may be some bitter confrontations, so Ganesh advises you to be very careful and try to prevent things from getting too difficult. In matters of love, a new romance may develop. Ganesh says you may enjoy a peaceful evening with friends.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will try to be adept in your favorite subject. Today you will be buying antique artistic things too. If there are any legal proceeding going on then the results will be in your favor. You shall be a success in everything that you touch today.

SCORPIO
A series of events at work front may keep you busy throughout the day. You may be unable to manage the clutter and confusion created by too many things at the same time. However, you emerge a fighter because of your power of resilience. Ganesh advises to go slow, yet steady; take one problem at a time and sort it out.

SAGITTARIUS
You are caught in a whirlpool of emotions, predicts Ganesh. You may come across many ups and downs today. However, nothing seems to deter you from your determination and dedication towards work.

CAPRICORN
By and large, your life today will be dull. But, there isn't something unfavourable or negative about it, assures Ganesh, as the planetary movements signal a change, probably a positive one, happening in the near future. So, keep your chin up and get ready for a better tomorrow.

AQUARIUS
You are armed with good communication skills, and like always, it will come to your aide today, too. There is one problem though. You are not clear about your emotions and it may make your arms blunt, foresees Ganesh.

PISCES
Your energy and enthusiasm will know no bounds today, as everything seems to fall into place, seemingly on its own. You will blaze a new trail at the work-place. Certain tough calls may leave you off-balance momentarily, but you will come out of it with flying colours.

Kiara joins War 2 cast

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani has been roped in by Aditya Chopra for the spy thriller *War 2* starring Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr.

A source said: "Kiara Advani fits the bill to the T as far as YRF Spy Universe and *War 2* is considered. The YRF Spy Universe is a league of all-time blockbuster films like *Ek Tha Tiger*, *Tiger Zinda Hai*, *War* and *Pathaan*, and the expectation from each movie coming out from this franchise is sky high.

"Look at the superstars who have graced this Universe. It's the most coveted film Universe in India that stars the biggest superstars of the country. Kiara is right now at the top of the heap and Aditya Chopra taking her for *War 2* loudly signifies that."

The source also said that *War 2* right now has the hottest cast. "You have three superstars like Hrithik Roshan, NTR Jr and Kiara Advani in the film! Then you have the brightest young director of the country, Ayan Mukerji, directing *War 2*! Aditya Chopra is going all out to make this film the coolest action entertainer that this country has ever seen. It will be really exciting to see Kiara in this Universe," it added.

AGENCIES



Bhumi shares her climate mission

Mumbai: Actor Bhumi Pednekar is an environmentalist. Over the years, she has been seen raising awareness towards protecting nature.

"I will not be a silent spectator to the impacts of climate change knowing fully well that I can contribute and do my bit to protect the planet. I'm a restless advocate for the environment and I feel a deep sense of responsibility towards my planet," she shared.

Bhumi wants to live a life of impact whether it is through her choices of films and roles

or it is through her work towards protecting the environment.

"I will never compromise on the kind of roles and films that I choose. Similarly, I will never compromise on raising awareness about climate change in India. I'm not okay living in a state of climate emergency and I want to leave behind a healthier planet for our future generations. I feel as an actor I need to be known for the work that I do on screen and I also feel that off camera, I need to be vocal about the need to save our earth and mobilise others to do so. I want to fight for our existence and get as many people to do so. That's my mission in life," she added.

Bhumi recently planted 3,000 saplings across Maharashtra to mark World Environment Day.

AGENCIES



When Nawaz had to hide his face in Sachin's ad

Mumbai: Acclaimed actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who portrays a junior artiste in the upcoming comedy drama film *Tiku Weds Sheru* remembers his struggling times as a junior artiste, when he didn't know what his next meal would be like.

Reminiscing about his initial tough years, the actor said: "I know how it feels to be a junior artiste because I too was a struggling actor at some point in my life. I've been with junior artistes hence I know the struggles. I know their insecurities, their dreams, and their complexities. I know the fear of not knowing what your next meal would be like."

"I've worked in multiple films as a junior artiste, I've done many ads as well. And if you see there's a Coca-Cola ad featuring Sachin Tendulkar where me and a few of my friends, including Rajpal Yadav play the role of washermen. We had hidden our faces when the camera comes towards us, to save face as ex-NSD students."

Nawazuddin said that those hard times motivated him to portray the character of junior artist Shiraz Khan Afghani aka Sheru in *Tiku Weds Sheru*.

Directed by Sai Kabir Srivastav, the movie is produced by Kangana Ranaut under the banner of Manikarnika Films.

AGENCIES

Rakul Preet believes in old-school romance

Mumbai: Actor Rakul Preet Singh had interesting on-screen romances and relationships in films like *De De Pyaar De* and *Doctor G*, but in reality, she is more inclined toward old-school romance.

While the actor is also recognised for making her relationship with actor-producer Jacky Bhagnani public, little was known about her love life before this recent revelation.

During an interview, Rakul Preet Singh shared the reason behind her prolonged singlehood. She expressed her belief in the kind of love portrayed in 1990s films like *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, emphasising her preference for a dream-like, old-fashioned romance.

While acknowledging that movies have influenced her perception of love, she clarified that her idea of romance is not necessarily mushy or dreamy but rather emphasises the importance of finding a deep friend-

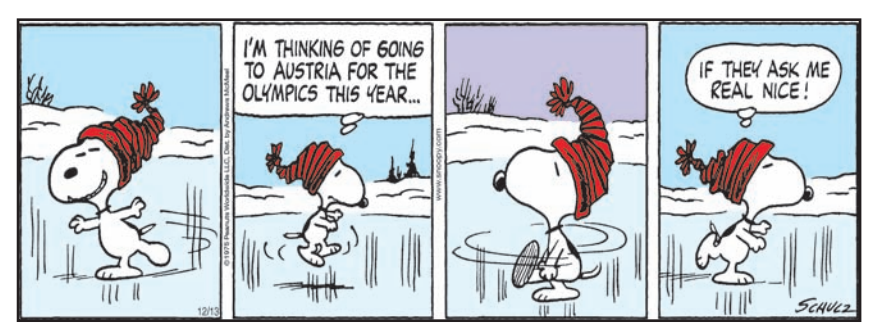
ship within a romantic relationship. As she couldn't find that connection, she remained single for a long time.

In a twist reminiscent of movie plots, Jacky Bhagnani entered her life one fine day, changing everything for her. During a previous interview, Rakul also shared her perspective on going public with her relationship and stated that both she and Jacky believe in transparency and see no reason to hide or be secretive about their connection.

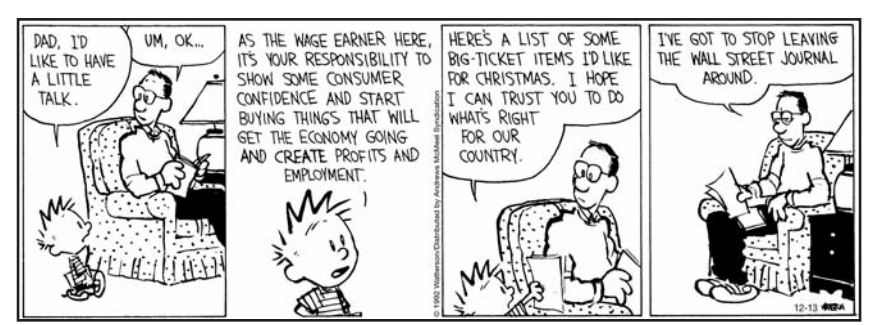
AGENCIES



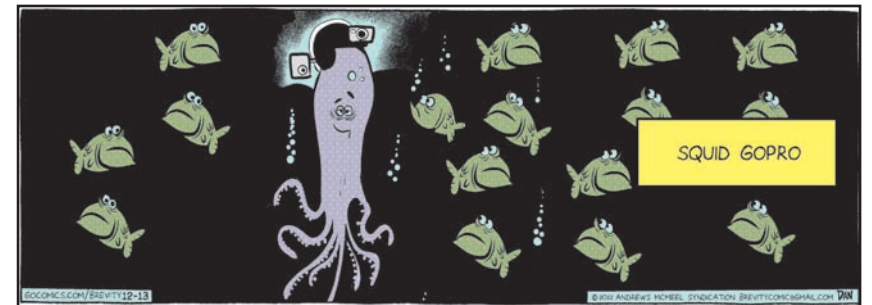
PEANUTS



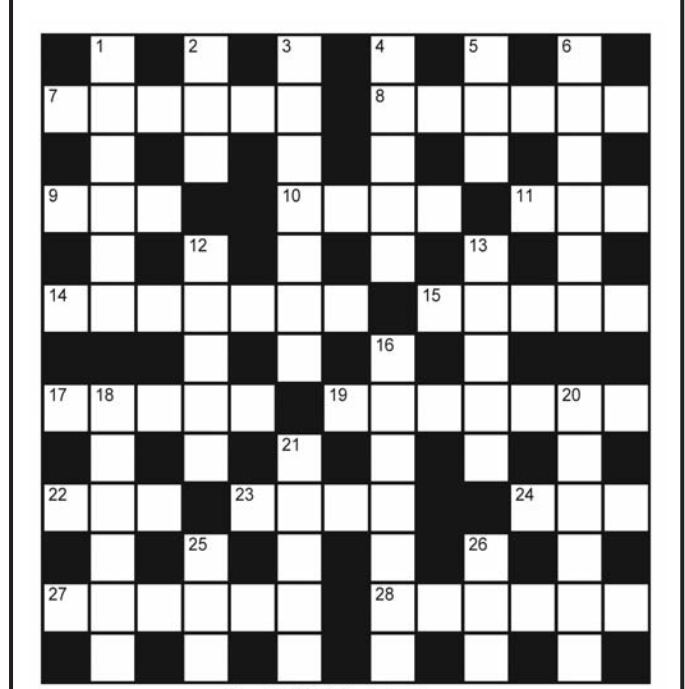
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



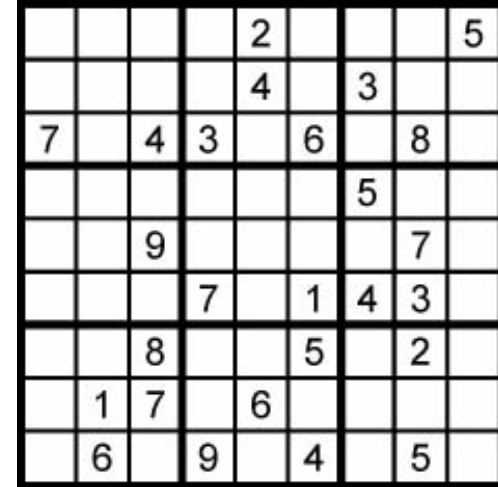
FUN post CROSSWORD



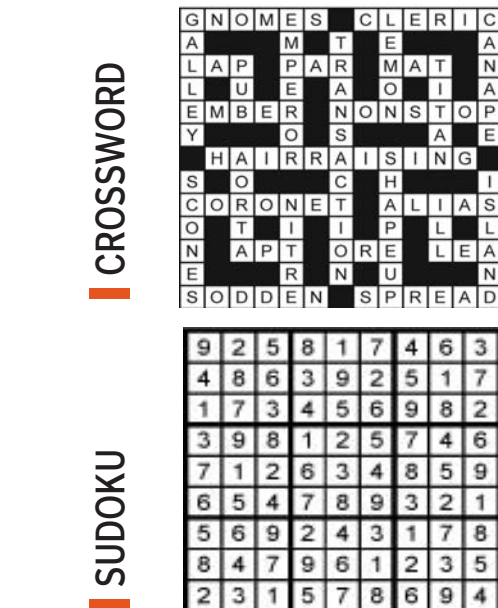
- Across
- 7 Recently
 - 8 Narrative song
 - 9 Honorarium
 - 10 Attention-getter
 - 11 Small dog with curled tail
 - 14 Disregards
 - 15 Deadly snake
 - 17 Holmes word
 - 19 Doctor's clue
 - 22 Airport posting (Abbr.)
 - 23 Headliner
 - 24 Winter driving hazard sign
 - 27 Zeal
 - 28 Fetid
 - Down
 - 1 Good-for-nothing (3,3)
 - 2 Get spliced
 - 3 Whirls
 - 4 Monastery
 - 5 Wing it?
 - 6 Longer than the Volga
 - 12 Man of steel?
 - 13 River horse, briefly
 - 16 Durable wood
 - 18 Tomorrow, e.g.
 - 20 Mystical
 - 21 Cache
 - 25 Cygnet's father
 - 26 Morning moisture

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

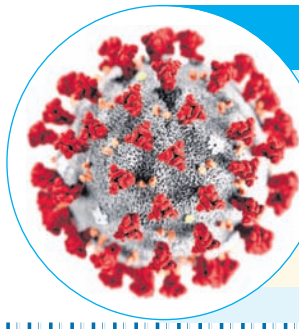


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



WORSHIP TIME

A woman worships Mother Earth at Alisha Bazar area in Cuttack as Raja festival comes to an end



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

DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS CASE

Vigilance arrests suspended CSO



GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The Vigilance Directorate Saturday arrested a suspended Civil Supplies Officer (CSO) after detecting disproportionate assets to the tune of 280 per cent more than his known sources of income, officials said.

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

The officials unearthed assets worth crores, including three triple-storeyed buildings, two double-storeyed buildings, a farmhouse, one market complex

and seven plots in Bhubaneswar and Nimapara. Besides, bank and insurance deposits of ₹1.50 crore were also found in possession of the suspended officer. A four-wheeler and three two-wheelers worth ₹7.8 lakh were found from Nayak, the officials informed. Meanwhile, gold ornaments weighing 644.45 grams have also been recovered from a UCO Bank locker.

The Vigilance Saturday arrested Nayak by registering a case (15/23) against the ex-CSO and his wife under various sections of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. It is pertinent here to mention that Nayak was placed under suspension after a report published by Odia daily Dharitri

The officials unearthed assets worth crores, including three triple-storeyed buildings, two double-storeyed buildings, a farmhouse, one market complex and 7 plots in Bhubaneswar and Nimapara

October 18, 2022 exposed how Nayak allegedly let some millers withdraw the security deposits illegally without supplying the rice as per the rules.

Sources claimed that the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department reportedly launched an internal inquiry and suspended Nayak after finding him guilty December 13, 2022.

Notably, the agency also Saturday carried out raids on the properties of Rama Chandra Sen, senior revenue assistant, office of sub-collector, Baripada in Mayurbhanj district.

Simultaneous house searches are being conducted by a team led by an Additional SP, 5 DSPs, 7 inspectors and other staff at five places in Mayurbhanj.

The sleuths have so far unearthed two multi storeyed buildings, 15 plots, bank and insurance deposits worth ₹29 lakh, three 4-wheelers, five 2-wheelers and other assets owned by Sen.



TAKING STOCK: 5T Secretary VK Pandian flanked by Health and Family Welfare Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit visited Capital Hospital in City to get update on 'Ama Hospital' scheme, Saturday

CP arrests 59 drug peddlers in six months

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The Commissionerate Police has arrested 59 drug peddlers in connection with 31 cases registered under The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 during the last six months. The City police also seized brown sugar weighing 365 gram and 75 milligram, ₹1, 02,045 in cash, 27 mobile phones and 14 two-wheelers from the possession of the accused between January 1 and June 16, 2023.

Similarly, as many as 86 accused were arrested for trans-

porting contraband ganja during the above period. The cops have registered 40 NDPS cases in this regard and seized 13.19 quintal of contraband, ₹7, 84,870 in cash, gold ornaments weighing 103.74 gram, 39 mobile phones, and 25 two-wheelers and four-wheelers during the last six months.

Meanwhile, the cops have booked 140 habitual property offenders involved in several criminal activities in the City under section 110 under the CrPC Act during the above period. The Bharatpur, Jatni and Nayapalli police have slapped section 110 of CrPC against 16,



14 and 12 dreaded criminals respectively between January 1 and June 16, 2023.

On the other hand, 114 persons out of 580 accused involved in as many as 162 cases related to

fight between different groups or families in City have been made to sign surety bonds under section 107 of the CrPC (when any person is likely to commit a breach of the peace or disturb the public tranquility) during the last six months. Action has been taken against 22 in cases under Lingaraj police station and 17 each cases registered in Dhauli and Baliaanta police station during the above period.

The cops have closed 30 cases following the good behaviour of accused persons during the bond period while 132 cases are still pending.

Triple train mishap toll mounts to 291

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 17: The death toll in the Balasore train accident mounted to 291 after a passenger from Bihar succumbed to his injuries at SCB Medical College Hospital here Saturday, officials said. The passenger was identified as Sahil Mansur (32) of Roshanpur in Bhagalpur district of Bihar.

He was undergoing treatment at the ICU of trauma care, hospital sources said, adding that the patient was also suffering from a kidney-related ailment. He was also under dialysis, they said. SCB Medical College Hospital Superintendent Sudhansu Sekhar Mishra said the patient died due to cardiac arrest.

He had multiple injuries both internal and external and also had renal issues. Mishra said of the 205 patients admitted at the SCB medical college hospital, 46 patients are still under treatment which included 13 patients in ICU. "Of the 13 patients in ICU, the condition of two to three

people remain critical," he said, adding that the condition of the remaining patients was stable. Friday, Prakash Ram, 22, a migrant labourer hailing from Patra village in Bihar's Gopalganj district died at the SCB Medical College Hospital. Earlier Tuesday, a passenger named Bijay Paswan, also from Bihar, had succumbed to his injuries at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

As many as 287 people had died on the spot in the triple train crash June 2 while 1,208 persons were injured. Three trains— Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a goods train — were involved in the pile-up June 2, being described as one of India's worst train accidents.

The Coromandel Express rammed into a stationary goods train and many of its carriages overturned including some onto another train - the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express which was also passing by at the same time.

CM approves ₹225cr for 36 ULBs under MUKTA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday approved ₹225.53 crore in favour of 36 urban local bodies (ULBs) covering 10 districts under the state-funded flagship scheme Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA) for the financial Year 2023-24.

The districts covered under Northern RDC (revenue divisional commission) limit are Dhenkanal, Angul, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Deogarh.

All these 36 ULBs have developed ward-wise feasible annual action plan under MUKTA through a participatory process involving local citizens and key stakeholders.

An official statement issued by the CMO said that all these projects are demand-driven, technically feasible and environmentally sustainable projects. The action plans have been



The 10 districts covered under Northern RDC limit are Dhenkanal, Angul, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Deogarh

The projects include the creation of civic amenities, open space development, water body development, construction of multi-purpose community centres, city beautification and other labour-oriented work

screened at the department level before the approval of the Chief Minister. All these approved projects to be taken up under MUKTA will be executed directly by Mission Shakti groups as implementing agency.

Earlier, senior officials of the CMO discussed the matter with the public representatives of 36 ULBs of 10 districts June 16 regarding the successful implementation of various projects under MUKTA.

The projects approved under MUKTA are climate resilient work, which includes the creation of civic amenities, open space development, water body development, construction of multi-purpose community centres, city beautification and other labour-oriented work.

The MUKTA programme was launched by Patnaik in April 2020 with a mission to create rapid, immediate and mass employment opportunities for urban poor, informal and migrant labourers, rendered unemployed and vulnerable in the face of Covid-19 infused crisis, while addressing the needs of creation of climate resilient, cost-effective sustainable and replicable community assets by implementing labour-intensive public works across 115 urban local bodies.

In all, Patnaik has sanctioned ₹833.21 crore in three phases covering all 115 ULBs of 30 districts of the state, official sources said.

₹75.70 cr for trauma care centre at Nuapada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 17: The state government has sanctioned ₹75.70 crore for construction of a modern trauma care centre at Nuapada district headquarters hospital.

Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit directed the executing officers to complete the project within scheduled time for avoiding the possibility of cost and time overrun.

Sources said that the centre would be developed as a level-3 trauma care centre with all modern equipment, lab, imaging facility, observation room, oxygen and ventilator as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

As of now, 106 trauma care facilities have been set up in different government hospitals of the state with a total capacity of 1560 beds. Besides, 18 trauma care centres of the private super speciality hospitals have also been empanelled for trauma care.

AI could change social scientific research

LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS OFFERED NOVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TESTING THEORIES AND HYPOTHESES ABOUT HUMAN BEHAVIOUR AT GREAT SCALE AND SPEED

Artificial Intelligence (AI) could replace or change the nature of social science research, scientists from the University of Waterloo and University of Toronto (Canada), Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania in the US said in an article.

"What we wanted to explore in this article is how social science research practices can be adapted, even reinvented, to harness the power of AI," said Igor Grossmann, professor of psychology at Waterloo.

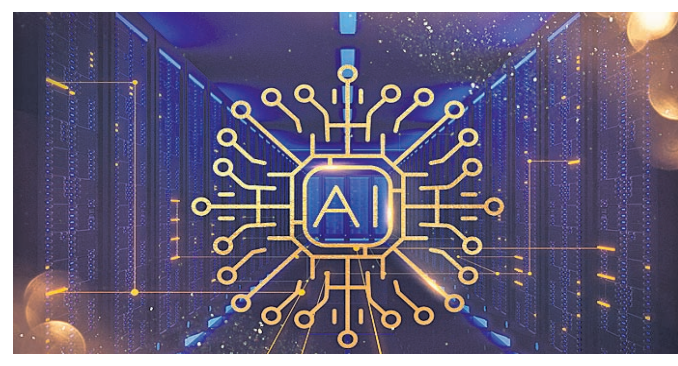
Large language models (LLMs), of which ChatGPT and Google Bard are examples, are increasingly capable of simulating human-like responses and behaviours, having been trained on vast amounts of text data, their article published in the journal Science said.

This, they said, offered novel opportunities for testing theories and hypotheses about human behaviour at great scale and speed.

Social scientific research goals, they said, involve obtaining a generalised representation of characteristics of individuals, groups, cultures, and their dynamics.

With the advent of advanced AI systems, the scientists said that the landscape of data collection in the social sciences may shift, which are traditionally known to rely on methods such as questionnaires, behavioural tests, observational studies, and experiments.

"AI models can represent a vast array of human experiences and perspectives, possibly giving them a higher degree of freedom to generate diverse



responses than conventional human participant methods, which can help to reduce generalisability concerns in research," said Grossmann.

"LLMs might supplant human participants for data collection," said psychology professor at Pennsylvania, Philip Tetlock.

"In fact, LLMs have already demonstrated their ability to generate realistic survey responses concerning consumer behaviour."

"Large language models will revolutionize human-based forecasting in the next 3 years," said Tetlock.

Tetlock also said that in serious policy debates, it wouldn't make sense for humans unassisted by AIs to venture probabilistic judgments.

"I put a 90 per cent chance on that. Of course, how humans react to all of that is another matter," said Tetlock.

Studies using simulated participants could be used to generate novel hypotheses that could then be confirmed in human populations, the scientists said, even as opinions are divided on the feasibility of this application of AI.

The scientists warn that LLMs

are often trained to exclude socio-cultural biases that exist for real-life humans. This meant that sociologists using AI in this way would not be able to study those biases, they said in the article.

Researchers will need to establish guidelines for the governance of LLMs in research, said Dawn Parker, a co-author on the article from the University of Waterloo.

"Pragmatic concerns with data quality, fairness, and equity of access to the powerful AI systems will be substantial," Parker said.

"So, we must ensure that social science LLMs, like all scientific models, are open-source, meaning that their algorithms and ideally data are available to all to scrutinize, test, and modify."

"Only by maintaining transparency and replicability can we ensure that AI-assisted social science research truly contributes to our understanding of human experience," said Parker.

State bags national award for water resources mgmt

ACCORDING TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, MORE THAN FOUR LAKH FARMERS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WATER SECURITY WITH CREATION OF ADDITIONAL IRRIGATION FACILITIES OF 3.2 LAKH HECTARES



than four lakh farmers have been provided water security with creation of additional irrigation facilities of 3.2 lakh hectares. Two major projects namely Lower Indra and Upper Indravati Lift Canal; 61 mega lift irrigation projects, 2833 community LIPs and 22,500 deep bore wells have been completed, thereby ensuring geographical and social inclusiveness. Long pending issues of Subarnarekha Irrigation Project have been resolved and irrigation has been provided to 32,000 hectares, the department informed. The irrigation efficiency of the projects has been increased by more than 20 per cent through the adoption of underground pipelines in the distribution systems of all categories of irrigation projects. "For conservation of water resources, 46 in-stream storage structures have been taken up in various rivers to conserve 49,650 hectare-meters of water with an investment of ₹11,700 crore," informed an official. Besides, the ground water resources of the state has also increased from 15.57 billion cubic meters in 2017 to 17.79 billion cubic meters in 2022 through various ground water conservation measures, he added. Further, a series of IT initiatives have been introduced by the department to bring in transparency and transformation, namely: GoWater (Water ERP) for irrigation management, project monitoring and flood forecasting; PROMISE for expediting procurement work; e-CAD application software for tracking project implementation; Ama Jalashaya portal, covering all the water bodies for planning water use for multiple purposes; PINSYS, a robust database of water resources engineers for effective human resources management; WaterDox as a web-enabled interface to store documents and legacy data of the department in digital form to be accessible to users for official purpose.

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, June 17: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Saturday conferred the fourth National Water Awards, 2022, to Odisha as the 2nd Best State for its achievements in the field of water resources conservation and management. Besides, Ganjam district was awarded as the best district in the country in efficient water resources management. Development commissioner-additional chief secretary Anu Garg received the award from the Vice President in presence of the Central Jai Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at a function organised here by the ministry in Vigyan Bhawan. Similarly, Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida received the award for the district. According to the state Water Resources department, more



REPTILIAN CONCERN: Participants listen with attention as Jayant Kumar Panda of SCB Medical College & Hospital speaks about treatments for snakebite at a workshop on safety for snake rescuers organised at Buddha Mandir in Bhubaneswar by Snake Helpline, Saturday

All should work to promote sustainable devpt: Min

to promote sustainable development. Guest of honour Ashok Kumar Tripathy, independent director of SAIL and external monitor of GAIL, gave examples of projects of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) that prioritised sustainable development. SPCB member secretary K Murugesan presented steps taken by the OSPCB and the state government to address the problems relating to plastic pollution. Tapan Chand, a well-known industry professional said that business and environment are not in conflict but are in collaboration for promotion of sustainable environment. He informed that the aluminium industry is committed to net zero carbon by 2050. And in this

direction, he said, Vedanta is leading from the front. Chand also explained that bauxite mining doesn't destroy forest but it helps in developing green forest which is for all to see in Damanjodi, NALCO, where reclaimed bauxite mining lands are now full of lush green trees. He added that since, bauxite



seams (ore layers) do not allow water to sip in, big trees with deep roots do not grow on such deposits and only small trees and herbs survive. Once the bauxite layer is removed, the earth becomes fertile to support big trees and dense jungle develops in such areas. He called upon business, green champions, and all stake holders to work together keeping in mind that there is only one planet and one future. Seminar chairman Vinod Kumar gave welcome address and IQEMS director and seminar convener Debabrata Panigrahi coordinated the programme. On this occasion, a souvenir was released and Kalinga Environment Excellence Awards were given by chief guest and guest of honours.

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Survival skill training held at Utkal Galleria

Bhubaneswar: A life survival skill training and workshop programme was organised here at Utkal Kanika Galleria. Sushruta Hospital and trauma care, superspeciality hospital along with Women and Child Development Society took this initiative to impart to the visitors some basic skills about how to save life in emergency situations by using available resources. "By giving such training to all the staff of Utkal Kanika Galleria will not only build capacity in employees but also make them able to handle a sudden odd happening with available resources," said mall GM Dulal krushna Sahu. CWDS chairman Major Kalpana said this type of training is very much essential for everyone in society to save priceless lives. Susruta Hospital CEO Chidatmika Khatua sponsored the programme and said that small steps during the golden hours of the accident period can save many lives. Khatua also promised to support all humanitarian activities in future.

Utkal varsity VC visits Higher Edu Minister



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Utkal University Vice Chancellor Sabita Acharya Saturday met the new Higher Education Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Natak at Lok Seva Bhawan to discuss the steps that could be taken for the development of the university. Utkal University is the first

university to be established in the state and the 17th oldest university of the country. But according to the the latest National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, the state-run university has slipped to the 93rd position. The varsity stands at this 8th position from the bottom among the top 100 universities of the country with a score of 43.45. Last year, Utkal University was ranked 88th in the NIRF rankings. Furthermore, the premier state-run university had dropped from A+ to A grade in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading. The varsity scored 3.16 cumulative grade point average (CGPA) in the assessment to secure the grade.

Mercury breaches 45°C at 5 places

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Many places of the state continued to reel under severe heatwave conditions with five places recording a maximum temperature of 45 degrees Celsius or above, Saturday. According to an India Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin, as many as 28 places in the state recorded maximum temperature of 40 degree Celsius or more on the day, of which 17 places sizzled with a temperature of above 43 degree Celsius. With a sizzling temperature of 45.7 degree Celsius, Sonepur was not only the hottest place in Odisha but also across India. It was followed by Boudh with 45.6 degree, Sambalpur (45.4), Hirakud (45.1) and Bolangir (45). Similarly, Jharsuguda burnt



under a temperature of 44.8 degree Celsius, while it was 44.7 degree Celsius at Angul, 44.5 degree at Sundargarh and Nayagarh and 44.4 degree Celsius at Bargarh. Capital city Bhubaneswar registered a temperature of 44.3 degree and neighbouring Cuttack recorded 42.1 degree Celsius. It seems that there will be no

relief from the heatwave for few more days as the IMD forecast that no large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) is likely during the next 3 days. Maximum temperature is very likely to remain above normal by 4-7 degree Celsius at a few places in the state during the period. The Met office has issued orange warning stating that heatwave to severe heatwave condition is very likely to prevail at many places in the districts of Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Bargarh, Sonepur, Boudh, Angul, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Nayagarh, Khurda and Bolangir. It has also issued yellow warning for Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, and Nuapada districts, where heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places.

Khimji launches special 'Vaikuntha Collection'

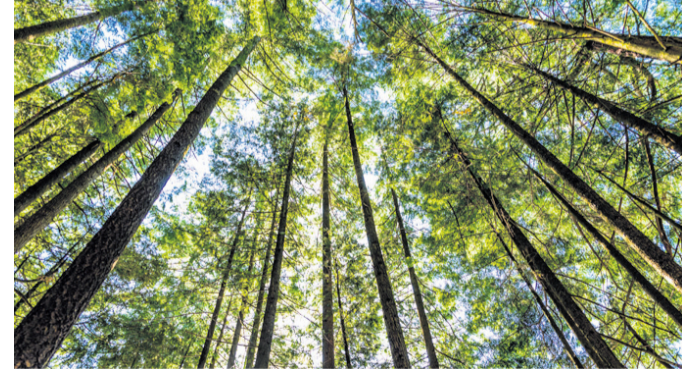
Bhubaneswar: Khimji Jewellers, recently unveiled the exclusive limited edition Vaikuntha Collection, specially crafted to celebrate the auspicious festival of Rath Yatra. "Customers can buy these intricately crafted pieces till June 31. The Vaikuntha Collection draws inspiration from the grandeur of Rath Yatra, the iconic chariot festival celebrated with immense zeal and devotion the world over," said Khimji Jewellers director Mitesh Khimji. As Rath Yatra is deeply religious and devotional festival for people of Odisha, the Jewellers have released the Vaikuntha Collection as a tribute to the devotion and spirituality that surround this holy occasion. The Vaikuntha Collection will be available exclusively at Khimji Jewellers showrooms in Bhubaneswar, Puri, Chandrasekharpur and Cuttack for a limited period, giving the customers an opportunity to embrace the spirit of Rath Yatra through these magnificent pieces of jewellery.

Climate change is making trees bigger, but also weaker

Wood cell walls stock most of the carbon assimilated from the atmosphere by trees. Thus, a thicker cell wall means the tree is absorbing a greater amount of carbon

As global temperatures rise, trees in colder areas are benefiting from an extended growing season. A longer growing season results in thicker growth rings and, as a result, higher overall wood production. However, studies suggest that longer growing seasons contribute to weakening of the wood, making trees structurally weaker. Poor quality of wood means that trunks break more easily. Let's examine the most recent scientific studies available to try to map the future of our forests and analyze how the changing growing season is determining the characteristics of the wood produced. Wood is the product of the progressive accumulation of cells — xylem cells — in trees. The purpose of this accumulation is to renew the sap transport system and to provide mechanical support for the stem (trunk),

branches and leaves. A tree ring is the product of a growing season which, in temperate and boreal environments, runs from spring to autumn. Each year a new growth ring is formed. The thickness of a ring is dependent on a combination of factors inherent to the tree (its species and genetic factors) and environmental factors (such as soil type, sun exposure, climate and competition between neighbouring trees). In spring, the tree produces many large, light-coloured cells with a thin cell wall. This part of the annual ring is called "earlywood." In late summer, growth slows down. The cells become smaller, but their walls become thicker. This "latewood" is the darker portion of the annual ring. The characteristics of the cells of wood are particularly important and are of great interest



in ecological and economic terms. First of all, wood cell walls stock most of the carbon assimilated from the atmosphere by trees. Thus, a thicker cell wall means the tree is absorbing a greater amount of carbon. Secondly, the ratio of the number of earlywood cells to latewood cells determines the density of the wood, and, therefore, its potential use and ma-

terial value. Over the past century, in the temperate regions of North America and Europe, trees have shown a faster growth rate, up to 77 per cent higher than in the previous century. This increase is related to the production of thicker growth rings. A study by the Technical University of Munich in Germany analyzed the growth

rate of trees and the characteristics of their wood over the last century. They found that as the growth rate increased, the density of the wood dropped by eight to 12 per cent. Furthermore, as wood density decreased, their carbon content also decreased by about 50 per cent. This suggested that the trees extracted less carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere. In addition to a reduced capacity to absorb and store atmospheric carbon, reduced wood density can weaken the structural strength of the stems. Wood fulfils the important function of supporting trees. Reducing its density is therefore accompanied by a lower resistance to mechanical stresses that might come from wind or the effect of gravity on steep slopes. To complicate matters further, another recent study has

shown an association between growth and lifespan in trees: fast-growing trees have a shorter life expectancy. In our latest study, we quantified the relationships between the length of growing season, productivity and wood cell characteristics in balsam fir. The study confirmed that trees with a longer growing season produce more wood cells and a thicker growth ring. However, higher growth also corresponds to a change in the ratio between the amount of earlywood and latewood. For every day that the growing season length increased, the trees produced one more cell of earlywood. The increase in the ratio between earlywood and latewood is reflected in the decrease in wood density. This shows that an increase in volume growth does not necessarily correspond to a higher biomass production.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS
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Chaos, humiliation rule the roost in Rourkela Congress

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 17: The last couple of months have been full of chaos and humiliation for the Congress party's Rourkela unit. With each passing day, the party, which was once dominant here, looks more directionless with its dwindling base.

"Where are we heading I am not sure but like me, many in the party pray that at least something should be done to bring some semblance to the party. And the new PCC chief has not done anything to evoke any confidence and sense of purpose," said a party supporter and cadre whose words summarised the state of affairs of the party today.

The grand old party here does not have a president to lead it though in rest of the state, including Sundargarh, District Congress Committee (DCC) heads have been installed. In Sundargarh, a new president was installed by replacing the previous one despite opposition. But Rourkela, a DCC in itself, has been lacking a president for a long time. "What is stopping Sarat Babu to give us a new president is a million-dollar question" said another cadre.

OPCC head Sarat Pattnaik during interaction with the media here had made a very confident sounding announcement soon after his appointment as president. "I declare very soon Rourkela will have a new face as president and the Congress will become stronger to fight the BJD and BJP both," he had said September 24, 2022.

And since then, much water has gone down the Brahmani and Pattnaik's continued visits to Delhi have failed to give a new DCC chief to Rourkela. Insiders say the fear of rebellion is holding the party back. Congress here is known as a 'Hydra-



The grand old party in the Steel City does not have a president to lead it though in rest of the state, including Sundargarh, District Congress Committee (DCC) heads have been installed

headed' party as it is divided between the old and young generation with each age group having its own multiple factions.

Senior party leaders on condition of anonymity say they are "not very much sure when and probably who" will head the unit.

2 WOMEN CRUSHED UNDER TRUCK; 1 HURT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, June 17: At least two women were killed and another was injured after getting crushed under a coal-laden truck in Koraput district, police said Saturday.

The incident took place near Power House Chowk near Bariniput under Jeypore Sadar police limits in the district Friday evening, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Brajalaxmi Rao and Rajeswari Behia, both residents of Tikira street of Koraput, police said.

According to police, the incident took place around 5.30pm when the trio was on way to Koraput from Jeypore on a scooter and the coal-laden truck was moving towards Jeypore.

"The truck flipped and fell on them. Though they were rushed to the district headquarters hospital, two of them were declared dead on arrival," said Iswar Tandi, IIC, Jeypore Sadar police station.

"A case has been registered and investigation is on," said Tandi.

Raja celebrated

Cuttack: Dalmia Cement family at Kapihash has celebrated Raja festival with grandeur. On the occasion Suryakant Samal was invited as chief guest and inaugurated the function by lighting lamp. Bhavesh Wala, Deputy Executive Director & Unit Head and Sangin Ladies Club President Lina Wala gave the inaugural speech and distributed prizes and gifts to the participants in various cultural competitions. Unit Head Wala shared the meaning of the Raja festival in Odisha. HR Head Ajit Payra, Technical Head Govind Rout, Commercial Head Babu Ram were present among the guests. All the executives and their families participated and enjoyed the festival. Stage anchoring was done by Pratikhya Nayak and Khushi Sinha, and the programme was coordinated by PRO Krishna Chandra Sethi which ended with a clap for chief guest and unit head of Dalmia Paribar.

Tension as 2 die in road accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, June 17: Two persons died and another was critically injured in a road accident near Shankarada village of Kashiipur block under Tikiri police limits in Rayagada district, late Friday night.

The two deceased were identified as Maheswar Majhi of Denakaguda and Odia Majhi of Kupakhal, and the injured as Suresh Majhi of Dengaguda village under Tikiri police limits.

According to the police, the trio was returning on a bike from Raphkana to Tikiri when an alumina-laden tanker hit them at 1am Friday. After the accident, both the two-wheeler and the tanker burnt to ashes as the bike was stuck and dragged



200 metres on the road.

Maheswar and Odia died on the spot while the injured Suresh was admitted to Utkal Hospital at Ushapada. His condition was stated to be stable. After being informed fire brigade personnel from Tikiri reached the spot and doused the fire.

Rayagada SDPO Debajyoti Das

along with Tikiri police reached the spot and kicked off an investigation. Locals blocked the road demanding compensation for the deceased and the injured. Traffic movement from Rayagada to Tikiri and Kashiipur was hampered due to the blockade. After assurance from Tikiri police, the blockade was removed.

ASSAULT ON MINOR FOR CALLING COPS 'MAMU'

NHRC asks ASI to pay ₹1L compensation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nischintakoili, June 17: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) directed an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police to pay ₹1 lakh as compensation to the family members of a minor while delivering an order in a 2022 case concerning the assault of a minor by the former for calling police personnel as 'Mamu' (uncle), a report said Saturday.

The ASI was identified as Bhagaban Sahu of Nischintakoili police station.

The NHRC also asked the ASI to pay the compensation to the minor's family members within five weeks

from the date of issue of the order. According to the case diary, a minor boy hailing from Gopapur village under Badakhira panchayat of Nischintakoili block noticed a police patrolling vehicle at Panaspadia Square and called the police personnel inside as 'Mamu', May 2022.

Enraged, ASI Sahu had stopped the vehicle at Panaspadia Square and allegedly assaulted the minor. He even allegedly hurled abuses at the minor using slangs. The incident had sparked tension in the village as locals resorted to road blockade by burning tyres.

Angered, the boy's mother Kabita

Behera lodged a complaint at the Nischintakoili police station demanding action against the errant police official. However, police did not register a case following which Kabita filed a petition in the apex rights body, May 14, 2022.

A case in this regard was registered at the police station following an order by the NHRC, June 3, 2022. The then SDPO of Salipur conducted a probe in the case and submitted a report before the commission, October 19, 2022.

When contacted, ASI Sahu said he is yet to receive any letter from the departmental authorities. He will take further steps after receiving the order.

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),
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

Please contact the persons listed below:

139

Indian Railways Helpline

Shri Digambar Padhi, Asst. Personnel Officer,
Mobile - 8455887604

Shri Biswanath Padhi, Asst. Commercial Manager,
Mobile - 8455885967

Shri B. Tapan Kumar, Public Relations Officer,
Mobile - 8455885040

Shri Vikas Kumar, Public Relations Officer,
Mobile - 8455885041

Assistance at Bhubaneswar Railway Station : 0674 - 2534027

Assistance at East Coast Railway Control Room,
Bhubaneswar - 8455885999
and at Khurda Road - 8455887999

INDIAN RAILWAYS

Bank of Baroda REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SAMBALPUR
AT: PODDAR HEIGHTS, MAIN ROAD, KHETRAJPUR, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA-768003

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2), 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 11.07.2023 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Mortgagors and Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "CONSTRUCTIVE/PHYSICAL POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Co-Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Properties & the Owner	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues as 16.06.2023 (Type of Possession)
1.	Borrowers: 1) M/s Revani Spices Industries Private Limited, Near Tumbiguda Junction, North Check Gate, Rayagada - 765001, Odisha 2) Managing Director: Mrs Renubala Panigrahi, At: Near Regional Office SBI, Near FCI Godown, Saipriya Nagar, Tumbiguda Junction, Rayagada - 765001, Odisha / Director & Guarantors: 1) Mr Surendra Kumar Baxi, C/o.: Sushila Baxi, Dayanand Nagar, Brahmani Tarang, Dandiapali Road, Sundergarh - 769041, Odisha, 2) Mr. Raj Kishore Panigrahy, Patakhanda Fancy Dresses, Baliguda, Kandhamal - 762103, Odisha / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Madhusudan Patro, ROIT Colony, 2 nd Line, Rayagada - 765001, Odisha, 2) Mr. Prafulla Chandra Panigrahy, Near Regional Office, SBI, Near FCI Godown, Saipriya Nagar, Tumbiguda Junction, Rayagada - 765001, Odisha	Property: 1) Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building recorded in the name of Mrs. Renubala Baxi At Mouza: Tumbiguda, Tahasil: Rayagada No-447, Khata No: 62/2232, Plot No.: 15/2340, Area: Ac.0.36 Cents, Bounded by East: Land of IPPILI Farm, West: PWD Road, North: Remaining Portion of This Plot Sold to Allaka Gangaraju and other, South: Boundry Wall of Annapurma Rice Mill 2) Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building recorded in the name of Mrs Renubala Panigrahi, At Mouza: Kholigada, Tahasil: Rayagada No.: 97, Khata No.: 30/587, Plot No.: 94/732, Area: Ac.0.082 Cents, Bounded by East: Land of Shri Gupta, West: Vendors Land, North: Road, South: Land of Sri N.Ram Prasad	(1) ₹2,38,05,000/- ₹23,80,500/- ₹20,000/- (2) ₹1,21,50,000/- ₹12,15,000/- ₹20,000/-	₹ 47,12,747/- plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 16.06.2023 till full payment (Constructive)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>

Also prospective bidders may contact the Authorized Officer on Mob:9776153423

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 6(2), 8(6) AND 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002

This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2), 8(6) AND 9(1) of security interest (Enforcements)Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 17.06.2023

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



The true lasting quietness... comes from a complete consecration to the Divine.

THE MOTHER



The Cost of Silence

Thirty years ago the cartoonist Sudhir Tailang drew an image of the then Prime Minister with a caption that had words from the Gita: "This Self, weapons cannot pierce, nor fire can burn, water cannot wet, nor air can dry up. Changeless, all-pervading, unmoving, immovable."

The reference was to Narasimha Rao's ability to weather criticism and carry on. The primary accusation against him was that in a difficult spot he did nothing. A man of inaction as opposed to a man of action; an indecisive leader and not a decisive one. Tailang's cartoon had Rao seated with his eyes closed while thunderbolts fell all about him damaging the nation. Part of this neglect was forced on Rao. The Congress leader was fettered as he had only 240 seats in Parliament. A Prime Minister with a minority cannot force through legislation the others don't like and in the Congress of that time he had rivals inside the party as well.

But part of it was also deliberate and came from his style. "To not take action is itself an action," as he explained to an interviewer (in those days Prime Ministers offered themselves up for questioning). As a diarist put it in Outlook magazine, "Narasimha Rao has done for the laws of inertia, what even Newton couldn't. Or so it would seem, judging from the kudos he has received for his 'inaction is the best action' principle." His colleague G Sanjeeva Reddy said "He is a deep thinker and not a man of immediate action" and someone with the "ability to resist the temptation to take instinctive decisions."

It was a period of turmoil, as all periods are in this wretched nation. Violence over Mandir, Mandal, the riots in 1992, the bomb blasts in 1993, bribery inside Parliament, impeachment of a Supreme Court justice, an economic crisis. It had everything. Through all it, Rao soldiered on, and he survived.

Let us compare him and his style to the leader in our present time, who is famously decisive and action-oriented. At least so far as the branding goes. This is being written on June 17. Manipur has been in flames since May 3, meaning for 45 days. The Prime Minister has done little about it. The Home Minister took almost a month and went on 30 May, but his visit did not end the violence because he did not go with anything other than words. From the PM there have not even been words.

But then what will he say? That his double engine government has collapsed? That the BJP cannot carry out even the basic functions of the state: law and order and protecting civilians? No, he will not say that. That is not his style. And so instead he has chosen silence, perhaps in the expectation that this will blow over on its own and then he will not have to do anything about it.

This has happened before and not that long ago. On the 17th of April 1971, he was in Asansol, addressing what he said was the largest rally he had ever seen. That day, over two lakh people were detected to be COVID positive and the number would double over the next few days. The scenes from India's hospitals and cremation grounds made news all over the world. The incompetence and the culpability of the government were on display. In the face of the calamity, the government froze and the Prime Minister disappeared. In the seven months from March to September 2020, Modi made 82 public appearances, physical as well as virtual. In the next four months, he made 111 such appearances. From February to 25 April 2021, he clocked 92 public appearances. From 25 April 2021, after he called off the Kumbh and his Bengal rallies, Modi disappeared. He made not a single public appearance for 20 days.

He showed himself only when it was clear that the wave had subsided and that he would no longer have to face hard, immediate questions. What else could he have done? He could have rolled up his sleeves and gone to work there in the trenches. To be at the hospitals, at the airports where the distribution of foreign aid was being blocked by laws, last month to be with the people of Manipur. Even if there is a small chance of success or even if there is a possibility of being personally associated with failure, a leader will step in during a hard time because that is what leadership is. You do it because you are obliged to do it as a leader. Modi does not step in and he stays away, as Manipuris have seen, as the victims and survivors of the second wave saw. Because he does not step in, his ministers also stay away and this makes problems fester. The Home Minister should have been in Imphal earlier but there is no pressure on him if the Prime Minister is also silent.

Many people, if they had met someone for 18 times would confront them if that person did something wrong to them. But Modi did not pick up the phone to ask Xi Jinping why he was doing what he was in Ladakh. No personal responsibility was assumed for trying to solve the problem.

It is what Narasimha Rao would have done also. But he did not pretend to be a man of action and he did not say that he was a decisive leader.

WISDOM CORNER

- In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit. **ANNE FRANK**
- No one gets away with anything, ever, so take responsibility for your own life. **JORDAN PETERSON**
- Great things are done by a series of small things brought together. **VINCENT VAN GOGH**

WORDSWORTH

Jumbo

Many people, especially in Britain, would immediately think of the famous African elephant of that name at London Zoo. Jumbo arrived from Paris on 26 June 1865 and he remained in London for years, giving rides to thousands of children and becoming a great favourite with the public. When fully grown he was the largest elephant known at the time, standing 12 feet tall and weighing over six tons. However, the Zoo became worried that Jumbo was getting very cantankerous and difficult (bull elephants are notoriously hard to keep captive) and that he would become a danger to his keeper and to the public. The Zoo sold him to Barnum and Bailey's Circus in 1882 (he was sadly to be killed by a train in Ontario three years later). The sale aroused huge passion and indignation, including a protest from Queen Victoria. You can judge his popularity from a comment in Mark Twain's Following the Equator about Barnum's intending purchase of him: "Jamrach said it was no use to think about it; that Jumbo was as popular as the Prince of Wales and the Zoo wouldn't dare to sell him; all England would be outraged at the idea; Jumbo was an English institution; he was part of the national glory; one might as well think of buying the Nelson monument". Jumbo the giant elephant certainly popularised the name as an epithet for something of large size and you can find many examples recorded from the 1880s onwards. The word has been around ever since, especially in North America, as a neat way to describe anything large of its type, and led to compounds like jumboburger, jumbo-sized, and jumbo pack.



Malay Mishra

THE VISIT COMES AGAINST ALL ODDS WHEN AMERICAN SOCIETY IS HEAVILY POLARISED IN LOOKING AT MODI'S INDIA



Aakar Patel

Even if there is a small chance of success or even if there is a possibility of being personally associated with failure, a leader will step in during a hard time because that is what leadership is

FOCUS PM'S US VISIT

TOSSES & TURNS



The Democratic administration has been ambivalent in supporting Modi except that he is leading a country which America needs at this moment

On June 21 PM Modi embarks on his first state visit to the USA since his coming to power nine years back. His first halt will be New York where he will participate in the celebrations marking the International Yoga Day (IYD). It may be noted that the IYD was his initiative to promote Yoga as India's ace soft power. This will be Modi's second official visit to the US during the Presidency of Joe Biden. The White House will host a state dinner and the Indian PM will address a joint session of the US Congress, his second such honour joining the likes of Nelson Mandela and Winston Churchill, the first Indian PM to have such an honour.

Much is laid on the Modi visit from Washington's side with Biden calling the US-India relations, "the defining relationship of the twenty first century." Besides, there have been several bilaterals among senior officials of both sides in defence, economy, security, besides the 2+2 meeting of Defence and Foreign Ministers last April, to prepare the ground for the state visit. India's holding the G20 Presidency as "the mother of democracy" and being part of the elite Quad grouping to secure the Asia-Pacific against Chinese aggrandisement may have capped the visit. But more importantly it would be a mid-term assessment of the relationship both for Biden and Modi, as well as for the US to get an opportunity to promote more arms sales, investments and defence industrial cooperation, besides focus on healthcare, education and trade. Corporates on both sides are also due to meet on the sidelines of the visit. However, the visit comes against all odds when American society is heavily polarised in looking at Modi's India. While a good section of the civil society; human rights activists, journalists, intellectuals and think tanks are increasingly restive on account of attrition of democratic rights, suppression of dissent, treatment of minorities and marginalised groups and further pushback into authoritarianism in India, the US govern-

ment is overtly charitable, lauding the visit as of seminal importance. The immediate cause for this is not far to seek, and that is the overriding concern of the US for China, and thus perceiving India as the only country which can hold back China's advances in Asia. That explains the series of 'foundational' defence agreements signed between the two countries as also military exercises in addition to the shopping list which Modi will be carrying to bolster India's defences. India standing firm against China's aggressive postures on India-China border could have led to Washington's strategic thinking to put a good part of its eggs in the India basket "to contain China."

The Blinken visit to Beijing over the weekend (June 16-19) is thus much anticipated not only in Washington but in Delhi too. A press release of the State Dept claims that the visit is intended to discuss "the importance of maintaining open lines of communication to responsibly manage" the US-China relations. Besides meeting his counterpart Qin Gang, Blinken is also likely to call on the Chinese President (June 18-19) to break the ice which has taken unmanageable proportions now with a section of the Biden administration still in favour of doing business with China. Getting Xi to attend the APEC summit in San Francisco in November this year is a part of Washington's game plan. Ostensibly, the alternatives to the Chinese-led global supply chain

have not sufficiently materialised, and even if the US finds willing friends and partners like India to substitute for supply chain resilience in the so-called "friend-shoring" exercise, that will take years to materialise and will give China sufficient space to build an alternative axis of power. China's steady incursions into the Middle East and Arab world with the historic rapprochement between Riyadh and Tehran in March and with the Palestinian leader last week has brought Beijing to centre stage of Middle East diplomacy.

The Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have scheduled a screening of the BBC two-part documentary, "India: the Modi question" two days prior to Modi's reaching Washington, primarily to make the point that the film was banned in "democratic" India with the government going hammer and tongs against the BBC, (IT raids on BBC's offices in Mumbai and Delhi, et al). The film, which much of the world has seen by now, would have little impact on the ground except further accentuating the polarisation which has gone deep into American society. Thus, while the Muslim Brotherhood and a few Muslim organisations have called on the White House to disinvite Modi for the state dinner, the Hindu-American organisation has openly called for Hindu solidarity in support of Modi. Besides, the BJP overseas cell has worked full throttle to make

the visit a success. The PM's scheduled meeting with the Indian diaspora will expectedly garner a rousing reception with several bigwigs of Washington gracing the occasion.

Touted as the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, US-India relations have made giant strides over the last decade and a half in possibly all spheres, and the current visit will only build on that. On the other hand, the Democratic administration has been ambivalent in supporting Modi except that he is leading a country which America needs at this moment. Roll back to the past when Modi had openly called out, hand in hand with the former President in a Houston stadium, "Abki baar Trump sarkar," and now with Trump virtually behind bars when Modi is in town, what retribution would that bring to the Indian PM, or will that chapter be best ignored?

The unpeeped cases of clamped on journalists, intellectuals, minority groups would not have gone unnoticed in Washington DC. In fact, the India 2022 International Religious Freedom Report released by the State Dept had been scathing in its criticism of human rights abuses in India to the extent that it had figured in official talks between the Foreign Ministers of both countries. The Indian side had promptly denied such wrongdoings and sought refuge under its "internal matter" excuse while blaming America for its own human rights abuses and gun violence. Furthermore, India's conduct all through the Ukraine conflict, multi-aligned at best and partisan to Russia at worst, which is likely to figure prominently in the talks may not get a satisfactory answer from the Indian side. India's foreign policy has betrayed unseemly contradictions in the pursuit of national interests marking the tosses and turns in realpolitik which may well reflect during the visit, and after.

The writer is a retired diplomat and foreign policy analyst. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Sexism and statelessness

Neha is a young Nepali woman, born in Nepal to a Nepali mother. She grew up there and had dreams of becoming a doctor. But, despite being an extremely bright student and at the top of her class, Neha could not take the entrance exam for medical school. Her ambition went unfulfilled, because she was not recognised as a citizen of Nepal.



Ottoline Spearman

NEPAL IS ONE OF THE 24 COUNTRIES THAT DENY WOMEN THE RIGHT TO PASS THEIR NATIONALITY TO THEIR CHILDREN

Nepal is one of the 24 countries that deny women the right to pass their nationality to their children. It is also one of almost 50 states where women do not enjoy the same rights as men to acquire, change, and retain their citizenship, or confer citizenship on their spouse. The nationality laws of these countries are rooted in sex discrimination and patriarchal norms. The assumption is that national and family identity naturally flows from men and that women are second-class citizens. It is astounding that a quarter of the world's countries still have such blatantly sexist laws on the books. No one questions a man's deci-

sion to marry a foreigner and confer nationality on his spouse or children. But it is framed as a woman's fault if she chooses to marry a foreigner, or if the father of her child is out of picture.

Deprivation of citizenship disenfranchises entire groups, pushes them to the margins of society, and transforms even the simplest tasks into insurmountable obstacles. Stateless people are routinely denied equal access to healthcare, education, and the labour market, as well as rights to political participation and free movement.

Invidious discrimination is the main driver of statelessness: over 75% of known individuals without citizenship belong to minority groups. Colonialism and decolonisation process, which led to mass-migration flows, new borders drawn arbitrarily, and the development of ethnocentric and patriarchal norms, underpin most cases of large-scale statelessness in the world. After denying citizenship through discriminatory practices, governments use individ-

uals and communities' stateless status to justify further exclusion, linking statelessness and discrimination in a self-perpetuating cycle. Some progress has been made. In Malaysia, for example, the government of PM Anwar Ibrahim, a former political prisoner and thus no stranger to state oppression, recently agreed to amend the constitution so that Malaysian mothers with foreign spouses can pass on citizenship to their children born abroad. Previously, these Malay mothers had no choice but to rush home to give birth – an inconvenient and dangerous journey while pregnant – if they wanted their child to acquire nationality. Even that option was taken away during the pandemic, when borders were closed.

Statelessness – and its effects on people's legal rights and daily lives – has attracted increased attention in recent years. The Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights has led the charge, pushing governments to reform their archaic and discriminatory nationality laws

and ensure gender equality. The 53rd session of the UNHRC, which considers discrimination against women one of its key issues, will be held in Geneva, starting on June 19.

And what of Neha, who was unable to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor? Her mother and other activists and lawyers in Nepal worked tirelessly to secure Neha and her sister's citizenship. Instead of studying medicine and helping sick people, she decided to study law and fight the sickness of gender inequality in her society. Now a lawyer, activist, and inspiring young leader in citizenship rights and statelessness field, Neha will speak at the Global Summit in Geneva, where she will implore those in power to eradicate archaic and sexist nationality laws that remain a stain on our democracies. You, too, can hear her story and her plea for nationality justice in Nepal and elsewhere.

The writer is a programme officer at Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion.

Selective targeting

Sir, Nowadays, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is referred to as the "second CBI" because of its new-found zeal in selectively targeting Opposition leaders. The ED's indiscriminate use of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, that does not entitle bail to the accused, has been outrightly condemned by the Opposition leaders. The Supreme Court has gone on record that if the selective targeting of politicians gains currency among the corrupt, then the real corrupt and those who have actually committed irregularities would try to shield themselves by playing the victim card. The Centre gave a third extension to the probe agency's director, Sanjay Kumar Mishra, November last. He was appointed in 2018 for a two-year tenure and then in 2020, the order was "modified" to give him a total of three years at the top, and then came another extension in November. All these do not inspire confidence in the intention of the Centre though a vague reason of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review was provided by it to the apex court.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Nothing unusual

Sir, This refers to "Nehru's name missing as govt renames NMML," Orissa POST, June 17. There is nothing unusual in the rechristening of the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) to the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society. Considering Nehru's contribution to the nation before and immediately after Independence and the world at large, the name change will have no adverse impact among the people. In its new form, the institution will certainly exhibit the contributions of all the PMs, including Nehru. PM Nehru was liked by one and all, including his bitterest critics in the Treasury and Opposition, for his respect for democratic institutions, and as the father of infrastructure building in the nation. He will be ever revered as the Maker of New India. Creating controversy surrounding him only belittles his iconic stature. Change in the nomenclature puts Nehru in a broader canvas. It is unwise to think that his legacy will get erased by renaming an institution named after him. Nehru will remain in the heart of every Indian forever.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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PANCHAYAT POLLS

PDA can defeat NDA in 2024 LS polls: Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party President, Akhilesh Yadav, defined PDA as a "Pichde (backward classes), Dalit and Alpasankhyak (minorities)"



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 17: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav Saturday said the BJP-led NDA will be defeated in the next year's general elections by "PDA", which he defined as a "Pichde (backward classes), Dalit and Alpasankhyak (minorities)".

Samajwadi Party chief said that his only slogan is, "Assi harao, BJP hatao (defeat 80, remove BJP)."

Uttar Pradesh has 80 Lok Sabha seats. The SP had only won five in 2019 and lost two of them -- Rampur and Azamgarh -- to the BJP in the by-elections.

Talking about his party's alliance with Congress and Bahujan Samaj Party in the 2017 assembly and 2019 general election respectively, Yadav asserted that the Samajwadi Party has always been an honest and accommodating alliance partner.

"Wherever the Samajwadi Party has been in alliance, you wouldn't hear of us fighting over seats," he said.

Yadav also hit out at the BJP government in the state and alleged that it has failed to bring development while the law-and-order situation has deteriorated.

At NDTV Conclave in Lucknow, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said, "The BJP will be defeated in all 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh if bigger national parties back us."

Yadav asserted that he has always maintained that seat distribution should be decided considering which alliance partner is the strongest in a particular state. When asked about his view on efforts being made to stitch a grand united opposition, the

UP to open more liquor shops

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 17: To give a further boost to liquor sale, the Uttar Pradesh government is planning to open 449 new liquor shops in the coming weeks.

higher revenue through retail licence fees.

While in the last financial year, close to Rs 3,000 crore was generated through licensing of 29,522 retail vends, this time the department is eyeing at Rs 3,600 crore revenue.

Officials said that the decision to set up 449 new shops has been taken due to rapid urbanisation and mushrooming of new colonies. As a result, 55 out of the 75 districts in the state are going to have new shops.

Once the latest phase of allocating IMFL, beer and model shops takes place through online lottery on June 20, the state would have close to 30,000 retail vends.

The Excise Department is expecting to achieve significantly



WB moves SC against central forces' deployment

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 17: Political slugfest erupted in West Bengal as the State Election Commission and the state government, Saturday, approached the Supreme Court against Calcutta High Court's order for deployment of central armed forces throughout the state for the forthcoming panchayat elections.

Approaching the apex court in this matter is a U-turn from the SEC's earlier stand of abiding by the order of the Calcutta High Court. Late Thursday evening only, SEC Rajiva Sinha had said that he will abide by the Calcutta High Court's order.

Reacting to the development, the Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari said that move by the state government and the SEC was planned well in advance and hence he too had filed a caveat at the apex court soon after the Calcutta High Court passed its order.

The state Congress president in West Bengal and veteran party Lok Sabha member Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said probably Thursday Rajiva Sinha had said that he will abide by the order of the Calcutta High Court because no clear instruction from the chief minister's office came to him by then.

"Now with the instructions coming, he has taken a U-turn. The Calcutta High Court's order has accepted the arguments of the opposition parties and hence the state government and SEC are approaching the apex court to stall deployment of armed forces," Chowdhury said.

Like Adhikari, Congress Lok Sabha member from Malda (South) Abu Hasem Chowdhury had filed a caveat at the Supreme Court on the same matter.

CPI(M) central committee member Sujana Chakraborty said that the office of the state election commissioner is just "acting as an extended arm of the state secretariat".



In the wake of continuing political clashes and violence in West Bengal ahead of the July 8 panchayat polls, Calcutta HC ordered the deployment of central paramilitary forces in the state to maintain peace

norms, the SEC should work in coordination with the state government with the latter updating the commission of the available security system.

"In this case, the Calcutta High Court gave direct instruction to the SEC to deploy central forces bypassing the state government. Probably that is why the commission and the state government have approached the Supreme Court," he said.

Meanwhile, Adhikari, has expressed apprehension that that the state government is planning to deploy 9,000 new recruits in the police force for panchayat poll duty by posting them hurriedly after wrapping up their training process within seven days.

Adhikari tweeted, "The government intends to deploy them during the panchayat elections.

TMC leader murdered

A Trinamool Congress leader -- the husband of a former panchayat member of the party, has been murdered in broad daylight at Sujapur in West Bengal's Malda district Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Mustafa Sheikh. The Trinamool Congress has accused the Congress workers of carrying out the assassination. To protest the killing, the Trinamool Congress workers blocked National Highway 34 along with Sheikh's body. The State Election Commission has sought a detailed report from the district magistrate and district police superintendent of Malda over the incident. Yeasmin told mediapersons that on Saturday afternoon, when Sheikh was returning home after Namaaz, he was attacked by a group of people associated with Congress. The Congress, however, denied the allegations and claimed that this murder was a result of infighting in the ruling party in the area. This is the seventh killing in connection with the poll-related violence since the panchayat election dates were announced by the State Election Commission June 8. The polling is scheduled to be held July 8. The votes will be counted July 11.

Their training programme is being curtailed and they would be posted in a hasty manner, in order to lower the shortfall of police personnel required during the elections.

"I have written to Home Secretary B.P. Gopalika, ap-

prising him how this move would be in violation of the act, rules and norms of police training. Not only will it be unlawful, it would also prove to be disastrous in future with untrained police personnel being tasked to maintain law and order."

SCHOOL RECRUITMENT CASE

Court raps CBI for not arresting those who got jobs against money



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 17: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigating the alleged multi-crore school recruitment scam in West Bengal faced the wrath of a special court Friday for not arresting those who got teaching and non-teaching jobs in state-run schools by paying money.

After the CBI presented expelled youth Trinamool Congress leader Kuntal Ghosh, an accused in the case, before the court Friday, the judge observed that while Ghosh acted as an agent, by now the CBI should have arrested some of the individuals who got job against money.

"You have mentioned names of the recipients of the pro-

ceeds of crime in your charge sheet. But what about those who had paid money and got jobs? They are also equally guilty," the judge said.

He also said that while some people got jobs by paying money, some did not get jobs even after paying money.

"I can set aside those who did not get jobs. But why are you hesitating to name those who got jobs after paying money," the judge questioned.

The CBI counsel said that the number of people getting jobs after paying money is too high and the central agency is conducting further investigation into the matter.

The judge of the special court then asked the CBI to submit the detailed documents on this count to the court by June 23.



Children play with water on a hot day in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

UP jails renamed as 'reform homes'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 17: Jails in Uttar Pradesh will now be known as 'reform homes' after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to prepare a new Prisons Act.

The Jail Act 1894 and the Prisoners Act 1900 were in effect since the pre-independence days but many of their provisions were not compatible with the changing environment and reformative ideology of prisoners' rehabilitation, he said.

He also asked officials to prepare a proposal to set up open jails in the state as part of prison reforms. High-security barracks will be made for hardened criminals and terrorists, Yogi added.

Technology should be used to bring transparency in the working of the prison administra-



tion, he said.

"The purpose of the Jail Act 1894 is to keep the criminals in custody in a disciplined manner, but we have to focus on reformation and rehabilitation. In such a situation, keeping the future in view, we need to implement new Act," Yogi said.

The state cabinet recently approved a new jail manual. Over 4,200 CCTV cameras are installed in the jails, he said.

The Chief Minister added that the Model Prison Act 2023 has recently been prepared by the government of India.

Deepotsav '23 in Ayodhya will be the grandest ever

UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH SAID THAT THIS DEEPOTSAV WOULD SET A NEW RECORD AS LAST YEAR 15.76 LAKH DIYAS ILLUMINATED AYODHYA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 17: The Deepotsav celebration in Ayodhya this year will be the grandest ever with a target to light 21 lakh earthen diyas.

This year's Deepotsav comes just before Ram Lalla is enthroned at the sanctum-sanctorum of the Ram Temple.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that this Deepotsav would set a new record as last year 15.76 lakh diyas illuminated Ayodhya.

According to a state government spokesman, "this year 21 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) will be lit. Each ghat, mutt, temple, Surya Kund, Bharat Kund and every house will be lit up with diyas".

The Yogi Adityanath government has been organising Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on the eve of Diwali every year since it came to power in March 2017.

Stressing on Ayodhya's importance for his government, the Chief Minister said: "At pres-



ent, projects of around Rs 32,000 crore are underway in Ayodhya. In no city across the country

are projects in such a large number underway." He added that the entire world

would be attracted to Ayodhya when Prime Minister Narendra Modi enthrones Ram Lalla at the sanctum-sanctorum of Ram Temple after 500 years.

The Chief Minister listed the ongoing development projects in Ayodhya. He mentioned upcoming international airport, railway station and other projects.

Yogi also took the opportunity to attack the opposition and said: "Earlier, there was no road, no train (connectivity) in Ayodhya. It used to take five-six hours to reach Ayodhya from Gorakhpur and Lucknow. Now, this journey is covered in one hour. People avoided taking Ayodhya's name six years ago. But this government is striving to ensure its overall development."



Air Warrior Drill Team of Indian Air Force performs during the Combined Graduation Parade at Air Force Academy in Dundigal, Telangana



People from Manipur participate in a rally to raise concerns over the current conflicts in Manipur, at Azad Maidan in Mumbai



Clouds hover in the sky above the Ridge in Shimla



First batch of Agniveer soldiers during their Attestation and Passing Out Parade, at AOC Centre in Secunderabad



From left: Prince George, Prince Louis and Princess Charlotte leave Buckingham Palace to take part in the Trooping The Colour parade in London



A woman surrounded by birds sorts out fish, at Sassoon dock, Colaba, in Mumbai



A labourer works in a GR8 cricket bat manufacturing unit, at Sangam in Anantnag district of South Kashmir

of the day quote

If Nitish Kumar has any proof about me, then he should disclose it in the public domain. We do not have such blood or nature to do spying and pass the messages from one place to another

The deputy commissioners of all districts must ensure that all the card holders and beneficiaries of different schemes are provided with at least two fruit bearing trees. This will not only increase the income of the villagers, but will also be a step towards environmental protection

The water from the Krishna Marathwada irrigation project will reach the fields of Marathwada by June 2024

SHORT TAKES

ED seizes ex-NSG officer's assets

New Delhi: Assets worth more than Rs 45 crore of a former NSG officer and his family members were attached in a case linked to alleged forgery of tender documents issued for undertaking civil works at the garrison of the 'black cats' commando force in Gurugram's Manesar, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Saturday. A provisional order for attaching fifty-two movable and immovable properties worth a total Rs 45.20 crore under the anti-money laundering law has been issued against Praveen Yadav and his family members, the agency said in a statement.

Woman killed

Jamshedpur: A woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district Saturday, police said. The 43-year-old woman identified as Prabhati Kar had gone to relieve herself in a forest in Kaliyam panchayat area under Chakulia police station when the elephant attacked her, police added. The elephant, which had separated from its herd, has created panic among villagers in Chakulia, Ghatsila and Baharagora police station areas under Ghatsila subdivision for the past several days.

Man held

Panaji: The Goa police Saturday arrested a man for allegedly raping and circulating obscene videos of a minor girl, an official said. Valpoi police have registered a case against the man under Goa Children's Act, Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Information Technology Act. A senior police official said that the parents of the girl had filed a complaint against the accused earlier this month after which he went underground. The man befriended the minor girl and later raped her and shot her obscene videos, said the complaint.

Youth arrested

Thane: A 20-year-old youth has been arrested in Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly murdering his friend and dumping the body in a river, an official said Saturday. The suspect has claimed that he killed the victim as the latter often passed abusive remarks on his dead parents, the official said. According to Prasad Pandhre, senior inspector of the Murbad police station, the body of a man tied with a huge stone was found in a river in their jurisdiction on June 11.



The double-engine formula failed in Karnataka and the BJP was shown the door by the people of the southern state and the double-engine government is failing the people of Manipur
P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

LARGE-SCALE PARTICIPATION

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Saturday said that the International Yoga Day has received tremendous response from the public and at least 25 crore people are expected to join this year's celebrations on June 21



Cong, AAP, Shiv Sena (UBT) criticise 'Adipurush'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 17: Several parties, including the AAP, Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT), Saturday criticised filmmaker Om Raut's "Adipurush" for hurting the sentiments of the people with the portrayal of Lord Hanuman, whereas the BJP demanded a temporary suspension of the film's screening in theatres.

Fronted by Prabhas, "Adipurush" has been panned on social media over its poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla under fire for Lord Hanuman's dialogues in the 'Lanka Dahan' sequence, among others.

The 3D multilingual film, also starring Kriti Sanon, Saif Ali Khan and Sunny Singh, was released across the country on Friday. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinat called the language used in the film "tapori" (crass or one used by street thugs) and said it has hurt the sentiments of the people.

"Lord Shri Hanuman is the symbol of gentleness and seriousness. In 1987, when Mr. Ramanand Sagar made the serial Ramayana, then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had said that 'Ramayana' has ignited the hearts and minds of millions



of viewers. Communicated the great culture, tradition and moral values of India. "The author of that Ramayana was Ramanand Sagar, who did not hurt the feelings of crores of people with tapori language, but imprinted a sweet, gentle and charming image of Siya Ram in the minds and hearts of the society," she tweeted. Shrinat said there is a difference between "religion and the business of religion".

In an appeal to Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said the film should be

re-examined for its "controversial scenes and dialogues". "Film 'Adipurush' is being opposed everywhere. Therefore it is requested that its controversial scenes and dialogues should be re-examined. The Censor Board should temporarily suspend its censor certificate and its exhibition should be banned till it is reviewed again," Kapoor said in a tweet in Hindi.

Talking to reporters at his residence in Raipur, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the movie is an attempt to tarnish the image of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman. "An attempt is being

made to tarnish the image of all our deities. We have seen the gentle face of Lord Ram and that of Lord Hanuman drenched in devotion, but from the last few years an attempt is being made to change this image," he said. In an apparent jibe at the BJP, Baghel questioned the "silence" of political parties which call themselves the custodian of religion.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said writer Muntashir as well as the film's director Raut should apologise to the country for "the pedestrian dialogues written for the movie, especially for Lord Hanuman". "It hurts every Indian's sensibilities to see the kind of language being attributed to our revered gods in the name of entertainment. You make a movie on 'Maryada Purushottam' Ram and cross all boundaries of Maryada (dignity) for quick box office success is unacceptable," she said in a tweet.

Addressing a press conference at the AAP headquarters, party Rajya Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sanjay Singh said the film is a "grave insult" to Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and Lord Hanuman as well as the Hindu society and accused the BJP of allowing the film to be made.

NEET merit list: NMC revises regulations

According to the new regulations, students pursuing MBBS course need to complete it within nine years from the date of admission, while they will get only four attempts to clear the first year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 17: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has decided to revise the process for determining ranks of aspirants having an identical NEET score, prioritising marks obtained in Physics, followed by Chemistry and Biology.

This is unlike the current practice of giving priority to marks obtained in Biology, followed by Chemistry and then Physics. According to the Graduate Medical Education Regulations-2023 issued recently, if the subject marks do not resolve the tie, then draw of lots using computers will be conducted to draw the merit list. There would be no human intervention in the draw of lots. The new regulations, notified



on June 2, are likely to be implemented from next year. The National Testing Agency which conducts the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate medical courses, and the National Medical Commission (NMC), will be deliberating on the issue further, sources said.

"In case of tie in marks of the students appearing for NEET-UG, the respective marks obtained in Physics, followed by Chemistry and further followed by Biology in the NEET UG shall be considered; provided if the tie were to continue, then draw of lots by using the computer, with no human intervention, the eligible candidates shall be selected," according to the regulations.

The NEET-UG results were declared June 13 this year. According to the existing guidelines, if two or more candidates obtain equal marks/percentile scores, the tie-breaker rule is followed to decide their ranks.

1 dead, 5 cops hurt in Junagadh violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Junagadh, June 17: One person died apparently after being hit by a stone, while at least five police personnel were injured in Gujarat's Junagadh city after a group of people hurled stones and torched a vehicle to oppose the civic body's plan to raze a dargah to clear "encroachment", officials said Saturday.

The incident occurred on Friday night near Majevedi Darwaja in the city, during which the police lobbed tear gas shells and baton-charged the protesters to control the situation, and later rounded up 174 people, they said.

The exact reason behind the civilian's death would be known after the post-mortem, but the police suspect that he died after being hit by a stone hurled by the mob. "On June 14, the Junagadh Municipal Corporation issued a notice to a mosque near Majevedi Darwaja to produce documents regarding the ownership of land. Agitated over the notice, around 500-600 people gathered near the religious structure and blocked roads on Friday night," Superintendent of Police Ravi Teja Vasamsetty said.

Deputy SP of Junagadh and other staff, who were present at the site, tried to convince them. After nearly an hour-long deliberation aimed at finding a peaceful resolution of the matter and clearing the protesters' road blockade, some stones were thrown at the police staff around 10:15 pm, he said. Shouting slogans, some people, agitated over the notice to the dargah, charged towards the police personnel and tried to attack them, he added. Police lobbed tear gas shells and baton-charged to disperse the unruly crowd.



People wade through a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall in Guwahati

PTI PHOTO

Suryah arrested; BJP hits out at Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madurai/Panaji/New Delhi, June 17: Tamil Nadu BJP Secretary SG Suryah was arrested by the Tamil Nadu police late on Friday from Chennai, an action that saw the saffron party lashing out at the ruling DMK in the state, linking it with the ED arrest of TN minister V Senthil Balaji.

Suryah was arrested by the Madurai police in Chennai late on Friday under sections of the IPC and the IT Act. Police sources said the action was based on a CPI(M) complaint against a social media post by the BJP state secretary. He was remanded to custody later.



Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar compared TN CM Stalin to his namesake and Russian dictator Joseph Stalin, while BJP national spokesperson Tom Vaddakan called Surya's

arrest a "vendetta." "The chief minister has said in a statement after the arrest of Balaji that he will take revenge," he said in an apparent reference to Stalin's strong reaction post the arrest of Balaji.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Balaji under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in an alleged cash-for-jobs scam in the state transport department when he was the transport minister in the AIADMK government during 2011-15. He later joined the Stalin-led DMK.

Addressing reporters in Delhi, Vaddakan said the action has been taken against Suryah for his tweet about the

death of a sanitation worker in Tamil Nadu, while Balaji was arrested "for his involvement in cash-for-jobs scam".

On the minister's arrest, the BJP spokesperson said, "This is not the case that we brought about. It was a case in which Chief Minister Stalin himself wanted Balaji to be arrested for corruption when he was in the opposition."

With Suryah's arrest, a message has been sent out that "if you raise any issue, then Stalin will strike," he charged. Vaddakan alleged the Tamil Nadu Police has arrested Suryah for his tweet in a retaliatory action because Stalin is "worried that Senthil will expose him".

Union Minister's convoy attacked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dinhata/Kolkata, June 17: The convoy of Union Minister Nisith Pramanik was attacked Saturday allegedly by supporters of the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, a charge the ruling party dismissed.

The incident occurred in the Sahibganj area when Pramanik attempted to visit the Block Development Office where scrutinising nomination papers for the upcoming panchayat polls was going on.

The minister claimed that he went there following reports of TMC activists "blocking the road to the BDO office and engaging in malpractices". "When I attempted to visit the BDO office, my convoy was pelted with stones. Bombs were hurled at us. TMC activists beat up our party workers, and papers belonging to our candidates were destroyed. It is shameful that the police stood by as mere spectators," Pramanik alleged.



The Union Minister also claimed that BJP workers were prevented from entering the BDO office, citing Section 144 of CrPC, while "TMC activists were allowed to assemble outside" the office premises. However, the TMC termed these allegations as "baseless".

Biparjoy aftermath: Kutch limping back to normalcy

UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH SAID IT WAS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GUJARAT GOVERNMENT THAT NO DEATH TOOK PLACE ON ACCOUNT OF THE CYCLONE EVEN THOUGH IT PACKED A WIND SPEED OF 140 KMPH WHILE MAKING LANDFALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhuj, June 17: Shops and business establishments in Gujarat's Kutch district opened shutters on Saturday in signs of return to normalcy as authorities stepped up efforts to restore electricity in several towns and hundreds of villages battered by cyclone Biparjoy.

The weather system, which hit the landmass near Jakhau port as a very severe cyclonic storm on Thursday evening, turned into a deep depression and will further lose steam to become a depression, the India Meteorological Department said in its latest update.

However, heavy to very heavy

rains will likely continue in many northern districts of the state, it said. Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the cyclone-affected areas of Jakhau and Mandvi and hold a review in Bhuj with those managing relief and rescue operations, said officials.

It is not raining in Kutch and the wind speed has also significantly reduced after the cyclone passed through the area, they said. While the administration has cleared uprooted trees from most of the roads, it is working to restore electricity in towns like Bhuj and Mandvi and many villages, they said.

To restore electricity, 1,127 teams are working in the dis-



Damaged temporary structures at a beach in Mandvi

PTI PHOTO

tricts of Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Morbi, Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Rajkot and Porbandar, the state government said in a release Friday,

adding that the forest department teams removed 581 fallen trees from the roads.

Shops and business establishments opened in Kutch dis-

trict on Saturday morning as life limped back to normalcy. The anticipated landfall of Biparjoy had prompted the government to shift more than 1 lakh people living in vulnerable areas of the state.

"Deep Depression (Remnant of Cyclonic Storm Biparjoy) at 0830 hours IST of today, 17th June over Southwest Rajasthan adjoining Gujarat and Southeast Pakistan about 80 km south of Barmer and 210 km southwest of Jodhpur. To weaken into a Depression during the next 06 hours," the IMD tweeted.

Apart from Kutch, the worst affected district due to Biparjoy, parts of Devbhumi Dwarka, Banaskantha and Patan were

among the districts that received very heavy rainfall on Friday. Heavy rains continued in several parts of Banaskantha and Patan on Saturday morning.

As per the Gandhinagar-based State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Santalpur taluka of Patan, and Vav and Danta in Banaskantha and Poshina in Sabarkantha districts received between 40-50 mm rainfall in four hours since 6 am on Saturday.

The IMD has forecast of heavy to very heavy rains with isolated extremely heavy rainfall in Banaskantha district as well as in Patan, Mehsana and Kutch till Sunday morning.



India is one of our most important markets around the world. It's really a second home to us. It is also a dynamic market where you see an explosion in both internet usage and in new small businesses and startups

KARAN BHATIA | GLOBAL HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC POLICY, GOOGLE

FB, INSTA SUFFER GLOBAL OUTAGE

Facebook and Instagram suffered an outage in the early hours Saturday as the platforms failed to load and Instagram stories showed an error message while being loaded. Several users reported they were not able to send or receive messages on WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger too



of the day quote

GST registration process may be further strengthened by using technology to curb the entry of fake entities into the GST ecosystem



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

Our biggest strength is our human resource, a highly motivated and committed workforce. We need to develop their skills to make them globally competitive



AJIT DOVAL | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

India needs to be watchful of the Chinese soft influence, which is being used in the recent years along with technology invasion and trade dominance



ABHAY MISHRA | NATIONAL CONVENER AND PRESIDENT, PRAHAR

SHORT TAKES

WB okays \$150mn loan for Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: The World Bank's Board of Directors has approved a \$150 million loan to support the Resilient Kerala Program to continue strengthening the state's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and disease outbreaks. This financing complements the World Bank's earlier investment of \$125 million and the overall support of the two projects is expected to protect nearly 5 million people from the impacts of floods. Auguste Tano Kouame, the World Bank's Country Director for India, said through this additional financing, the World Bank will continue supporting Kerala in increasing its resilience to climate change. "The project will focus on addressing coastal erosion along vulnerable areas of the state - impacting millions of lives," said Kouame.

Amazon's iRobot acquisition cleared

San Francisco: The UK's antitrust regulator has cleared Amazon's proposed \$1.7 billion acquisition of iRobot, which designs and builds consumer robots, including robot vacuum cleaners sold under the 'Roomba' brand. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) found that iRobot's market position in the supply of robot vacuum cleaners in the UK is modest and that it already faces several significant rivals. "On this basis, the CMA considered that the loss of potential competition from Amazon wouldn't have a substantial impact on market outcomes," it said. The acquisition of iRobot would not disadvantage Amazon's rival 'smart home' platforms.

Neuralink to begin human trial soon

San Francisco: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has said that his brain-computer interface company Neuralink is likely to begin the first human trial this year. Addressing the VivaTech trade fair in Paris late Friday, Musk said that "it's looking like the first case will be later this year". Last month, Neuralink received US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval to begin its first-in-human clinical study, which means that actual humans could have a Neuralink device implanted in their heads. "We are excited to share that we have received the FDA's approval to launch our first-in-human clinical study," Neuralink said.

CREDIT-LINE TALKS

India weighs barter trade with Egypt

AN AGREEMENT IS LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER THIS MONTH DURING PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S FIRST VISIT TO EGYPT, WHICH FACES A PROLONGED FOREIGN CURRENCY SHORTAGE

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 17: India is weighing a proposal to begin barter trade in goods like fertiliser and gas with Egypt as part of a wider deal that could see New Delhi extending a credit line worth several billion dollars to Cairo, sources told Reuters. "The agreement would allow Egypt to make purchases in rupees and bartering is being considered as a means to settle this debt through the sale of Egyptian products that might be of use for India," the source said.

India's foreign ministry is consulting with departments on their appetite for fertiliser and gas from Cairo as part payment for the credit line, an Indian official said.

New Delhi is keen to diversify its fertiliser imports, especially after 2021, when some Indian states faced shortages due to Chinese export restrictions and a record price surge. As part of the facility, Egypt is asked to take wheat supplies, among other items, but New Delhi is unlikely to ship the grain due to its wheat export ban, the Indian official added.

India, the world's second-largest wheat producer, banned wheat exports in May 2022 to help control rising domestic prices, rescinding a plan to export 3 million tons of wheat to Egypt in the year 2022/23. Egypt



■ **BARTER OF FERTILISER AND GAS UNDER DISCUSSION**

■ **GOODS COULD REPAY MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR CREDIT LINE**

■ **DEAL MAY BE ANNOUNCED LATER THIS MONTH**

It's a negotiation. Which companies will be involved and in which commodities? All of that is still in discussion. There are a lot of discussions but up until now the model is not defined

ALI MOSELHY | SUPPLY MINISTER, EGYPT

now depends mostly on Russia for the grain.

"It's a negotiation. Which companies will be involved and in which commodities? All of that is still in discussion," Egypt's supply minister Ali Moselhy told Reuters.

"There are a lot of discussions but up until now the model is not defined," said Moselhy, who did not specify the size of a possible credit line.

The other sources from India and Egypt did not wish to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the press.

India's external affairs ministry, finance ministry, trade

minister, and Egypt's foreign ministry and trade ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

India exported \$4.11 billion of goods to Egypt in the last fiscal year, while importing \$1.95 billion.

Egypt has deferred payments for its large wheat purchases, in some cases by months, due to shortage of funds, Reuters reported last month.

Egypt is trying to stabilize an economy hit by the pandemic and high commodity prices, prompting foreign investors to pull about \$20 billion out of its financial markets.

BIZ BUZZ

Bol opens Mini-RBC in Cuttack

Bhubaneswar: Odisha being a fast developing state with ease of doing business offers ample scope for development. To cater to the needs Bank of India decided to open a new Mini-RBC at Cuttack (College Square Branch). The Mini-RBC was inaugurated by Bikram Keshari Mishra, GM, NBG Odisha. S Malaydas Zonal Manager and Ashok Kumar Jena, DZM along with Ramesh Ch Maharana (SR Manager, Mini-RBC), ZO-marketing staff and branch heads of different branches were also present. The inauguration of a new Mini-RBC has marked a significant milestone for the community. The centre aims to offer customised financing solutions to meet the unique needs of retail clients. With a team of experienced professionals, the centre provides a range of financing products, including home loans, vehicle loans, education loans, personal loans and mortgage loans to 26 branches of Cuttack, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts. The centre is committed to providing retail loans with the necessary support to cater to their needs. It aims to benefit the customers seeking any kind of retail loans. The centre's launch is a promising development for the local economy, as retail segment plays a vital role in fulfilling individual customer's needs.



'India-UK FTA has to be win-win for both sides'

INDIA AND THE UK HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING AN FTA SINCE JANUARY LAST YEAR, WITH A GOAL TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE PACT THAT IS EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE THE BILATERAL TRADING RELATIONSHIP WORTH AN ESTIMATED GBP 34 BILLION IN 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 17: Free trade agreements (FTAs) need to ensure they provide a level playing field and the India-UK FTA, which recently completed its 10th round of negotiations, has to be a win-win scenario for both sides, the head of India's leading business chambers has said.

Subhrakant Panda, President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), was in the UK this week for the FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians, a bipartisan initiative for political outreach.

The delegation from India was briefed on areas of interest in the bilateral relationship over a series of discussions with businesses and parliamentarians.

"As far as Indian businesses are concerned, we are competitive, confident and looking to engage

with the world," said Panda.

"I think what FTAs need to ensure is that they provide a level playing field and are rules-based. It's all about give and take. Clearly, both governments are engaged in intense discussions and 10 rounds have been completed, so I would look at it from the point of view that both governments have to find common ground because like with any agreement it has to be a win-win scenario - one which works for both sides," he said.

"We hope that this is something that will be concluded and we have offered whatever inputs we had to provide as a Chamber to the government of India, or some of our members have also individually provided feedback. So, based on that we're comfortable that common ground will be found for an FTA which is broad-based and works in the interests of both countries,"



added Panda.

As the Managing Director of Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA), Panda said, one of the priority areas he has been focused on relates to critical minerals and for India to develop a strategy in this important field.

"When we talk about growth today, the focus is not just on growth but on inclusive and sustainable growth. And talking about the sustainability part of it, when it comes to electric mobility or renewable energy or high-end industrial applications, all of these ultimately boil down to some critical mineral or the other," explains Panda.

"At this point, India happens to be reasonably import dependent. Therefore, one of the things we have done is to put together a FICCI report on 'New

Age Energy Minerals', where the focus is on both geological as well as geographical details of critical minerals, their availability, the resources, where they occur in the world, demand forecast going ahead, and the entire value chain including end-use applications," he said.

The primary recommendation of the report is to look at prioritising exploration in India and Panda pointed to the "great importance" of locating lithium deposits in Jammu and Rajasthan - even though they are a few years away from being commercialised.

"The other main strategy that we are advocating is that India must leverage both its mining expertise, as well as its strategic relationships to access these resources," he added.

SURPRISING TREND

Pvt banks' slippages, write-offs nearly double than that of PSBs

It can be noted that in the aftermath of the pandemic, which led to a hasty lockdown that led to a contraction in the economy, the RBI had announced a restructuring scheme followed by another one

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 17: Private sector banks' slippages and write-offs from loans restructured after the Covid-19 pandemic are nearly double than that of their state-owned peers, a report said Friday.

Private sector banks have seen slippages and loan write-offs at 44 per cent, as against 23 per cent in case of public sector banks, the report by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)

said, calling the trend "surprising".

The domestic rating agency analysed annual results of lenders for FY23. It found that the peak of restructured assets in bank books was in September 2022, when the overall quantum of recast loans had touched Rs 2.2 lakh crore.

"While there could be some more slippages, banks are of the view that the performance of the restructured portfolio would broadly mirror the per-

formance of the overall portfolio," it said.

It can be noted that in the aftermath of the pandemic, which led to a hasty lockdown that led to a contraction in the economy, the RBI had announced a restructuring scheme followed by another one.

Ind-Ra said the Covid restructuring experience has been relatively benign, despite the unpleasant experiences in the past with similar schemes. On the overall asset quality front,



it said banks are "close to a clean slate" as all of them reported improvement on asset front in FY23.

"Banks are seeing the best-ever asset quality in the past 10 years," it said, adding the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) ratio for the banking system

improved to 4 per cent at the end of FY23.

For state-owned banks, GNPAs improved to 5 per cent in FY23 from the peak of 14.1 per cent in FY18, while the same for private sector banks stands at 2.3 per cent from 6.3 per cent.

"Both categories of banks are also seeing a convergence in their asset quality and credit cost related parameters," it said.

Explaining the reasons for the improvement, Ind-Ra said banks have strengthened their processes with the use of technology and rule-based approach to credit,

stringent KYC norms, and centralising the sanctioning authority over the past many years. The pandemic helped weed

out weak borrowers in almost all segments, it said, adding that nearly 40 per cent of the stock of loans are the ones made after FY21 with tighter credit norms and filters.

"Over the next two-three years, as banks' risk appetite increases and competition intensifies, banks would look for growth opportunities and build risk," it said, cautioning that lenders build up risk in good times.

It, however, said that while lenders' dependence on the retail segment has been high, there are no alarming signals anywhere. The transition to the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) system of loan provisioning will be manageable, Ind-Ra said.

PRANNOY BOWS OUT OF INDONESIA OPEN BADMINTON
SATWIK-CHIRAG pair enters final



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 17: Indian men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought hard to advance to the final, but it was curtains for HS Prannoy in the men's singles semifinals of the Indonesia Open World Tour Super 1000 event here Saturday.

The duo of Satwik and Chirag, seeded seventh, overcame a game deficit to beat unseeded Min Hyuk Kang and Seung Jae Seo of Korea 17-21, 21-19, 21-18 to seal their maiden Super-1000 final berth. The win also extended their overall head-to-head record over Kang and Seo to 3-2.

World No.6 Satwik and Chirag will face the winners Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yerima Erich Yoche Yacob Rambitan of Indonesia and second seeds Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik Soh of Malaysia.

However, Prannoy failed to rise to the occasion against top seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, going down 15-21, 15-21. It was Prannoy's sixth loss against the Dane in the international circuit as against two wins.

The men's doubles began on an even keel before the Korean

pair surged ahead to 6-3. Once they conceded the lead, Satwik and Chirag were forced to play a catch-up game.

The Indians used their aggressive play to reduce the margin to 15-19 and then 17-20 before Kang and Seo kept their composure to pocket the first game, courtesy an unforced error.

The Indians looked more purposeful after the change of ends and took an early 6-3 lead before racing to 11-4 with a flurry of fast paced shots and body smashes in the second game.

Satwik and Chirag were also helped by some bad line calls and unforced errors from the Koreans. But Kang and Seo didn't give up and clawed their way back in the game to reduce the gap to 18-15. But the Indians managed to hold on to their nerves and played sensibly to pocket the second game and level the scores.

The decider went neck and neck till the first five points before Satwik and Chirag pocketed seven straight points to race to 12-5 lead. The Koreans tried hard to bounce back and at one time levelled the scores at 16-16 but that is when Satwik and Chirag stepped it up and closed out the game and the match.

The Ashes: Khawaja ton puts Australia in control

REUTERS

Birmingham, June 17: Usman Khawaja flung his bat in the air in delight as his first century (126 batting, 279b, 14x4, 2x6) in England helped drag Australia back into the first Ashes Test, steering his side to 311/5 at the close of play on day two, the tourists trailing by 82 in the first innings.

Stuart Broad's two wickets in two balls, to remove David Warner for the 15th time and inflict a first-ever golden duck in international cricket on Marnus Labuschagne, had got England off to a perfect start Saturday.

Australia were struggling on 78/3 at lunch after Ben Stokes took the key wicket of talisman Steve Smith, but supported by Travis Head (50, 63b, 8x4, 1x6), Khawaja stood firm and led the recovery.

After celebrating his ton with real vigour in the middle, Khawaja was clean bowled by



Broad when on 112, but was handed a reprieve as a no ball was given against the England veteran.

That stroke of luck was more

than deserved for his determination under pressure, however, almost single-handedly giving the tourists hope of getting a result at Edgbaston.

England's decision to declare before the close of play on day one took many by surprise, with the move coming under further scrutiny after they failed to take any wickets before close of play.

But the hosts did not need long to make inroads as play resumed Saturday, with Broad again proving to be Warner's nemesis, the Australian opener playing onto his own stumps for nine.

Ranked the No.1 Test batter in world cricket, much was expected of Labuschagne, only for Broad's swing, in overcast conditions, to find the edge to put England in a strong position.

Smith looked in fine fettle before Stokes, who it was not clear how much he could bowl given his recent knee injury problems, trapped the Australia number four leg before wicket for 16.

Head loosened the shackles after lunch to get the scoreboard ticking over at a rate more akin to England's new aggressive batting approach before being

caught just after reaching his half century.

Moeen Ali struck to remove Cameron Green with a beauty of a ball, but Khawaja could not be undone, punching the air as he reached three figures for the 15th time in international Test cricket.

Alex Carey reached his 50 (52 batting, 80b, 7x4, 1x6) late in the day, edging one past the slips as another chance came and went for England, who on another day could have had Green stumped from just his second ball faced and Khawaja out had Broad not overstepped the line. Instead, the first Test, which for much of Saturday looked to be swinging in England's favour, remains finely poised.

BRIEF SCORES: England 393/8 decl.; Australia 311/5 (Usman Khawaja 126 batting, Alex Carey 52 batting, Travis Head 50; Stuart Broad 2/49, Moeen Ali 2/124). Match to continue.

Tejaswin seals Asian Games berth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 17: Competing in only his third decathlon of career, Tejaswin Shankar of Delhi breached the Asian Games qualifying mark en route winning the gold to steal the limelight on the third day of the National Inter-State Athletics Championship here Saturday.

Swapna Barman of Madhya Pradesh won the gold in the women's heptathlon and also went past the Asian Games qualifying mark of 5654 aggregate points by gathering 5918 points in the combined seven events over the two days. Agasara Nandini of Telangana also breached the Asian Games qualifying mark by aggregating 5703 points. Gold winner in 100m, Jyothi Yarraji of Andhra Pradesh added 100m hurdles title to her kitty with a timing of 12.92 seconds as 12 athletes achieved the Asian Games qualifying mark. The Asian



Games qualifying time for women's 100m hurdles is 13.63 seconds.

The day also witnessed an unfortunate incident as triple jumper Akhilesh of Karnataka suffered a nasty injury on his right leg - his front shin bone badly broken - during takeoff after the first jump and was taken to a local hospital in an ambulance.

The 24-year-old Shankar accumulated 7576 points to go past the Asian Games qualifying mark of 7500 points in the gruelling 10-event competition fought over two days Friday and Saturday. Rajasthan's Yamandeep Sharma was a distant second with 7165 aggregate points while Gokul S of Kerala took the bronze with 6937 points.

Archers Sanjaya, Bikram bag medals at nat'l meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Sanjaya Majhi and Bikram Majhi, the students from Vedanta's Archery Training Initiative, secured medals at the inaugural edition of the Jayanti Khel Mahotsav - a national level archery event - here. They were part of Odisha's eight member contingent.

They competed against over 150 archers from 28 states in the event, June 9-12. The efforts of the duo helped state securing the bronze medal in the overall rankings for the men's teams.

It was a significant milestone for Vedanta Aluminium, Lanjigarh, in its endeavours to promote grassroots sports in Odisha. Over 15 students from Vedanta Aluminium's training program have represented Odisha at the national level, and have bagged a total of 37 medals in various



state-level competitions till date. The company has deployed multiple community development programs in the areas of education, healthcare, livelihood, grassroots sports and art & culture. Within the domain of sports, over 40 students are undergoing training in archery and 60 students in karate at the SSD High School, Lanjigarh. The company provides them with quality equipment, professional coaches, scheduled training programs, and supports them for participating in various competitions.

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of the day quote

Illegal working harms our communities, cheats honest workers out of employment and defrauds the public purse as no taxes are paid

SUELLA BRAVERMAN | UK HOME SECRETARY

Inflation has broken the back of the people, oil prices were touching the sky. The coalition government decided together that we would face the tough times

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PM

I urge all governments to eliminate legal barriers to women owning land and to involve them in policymaking, support women and girls to play their part in protecting our most precious resource

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

Saudi FM in Tehran

Tehran: Saudi Arabia's top diplomat arrived in the Iranian capital on Saturday, the latest step in the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two Mideast rivals, Iranian state media reported. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan was officially welcomed by his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, Iran TV said. He also carried a message from the Saudi king to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. The two are due to meet later Saturday. Prince Faisal is expected to officially inaugurate the kingdom's embassy in Tehran later on Saturday. Until the mission is completed, the employees are working from a Tehran hotel, Iran TV said.

Hot air balloon catches fire, 7 hurt

Berlin: Seven people were injured when a hot air balloon caught fire Saturday morning during takeoff from a village in central Switzerland, authorities said. Authorities in the canton of Zug said seven people — four women and three men, aged between 28 and 62 — were in the balloon's basket in the village of Huenenberg, southwest of Zurich. Two women and one man were seriously injured, while the other four occupants suffered minor injuries.

Cyclone hits Brazil, 8 killed

Brasilia: Authorities of the southern Brazil state of Rio Grande do Sul said Saturday that eight people died and 19 others were missing after a winter storm swept through the region. Gov. Eduardo Leite said that one of those killed was a 4-month-old baby, who died before rescuers were able to get there. Fatalities were registered in seven cities. Firefighters performed 2,400 rescues across the 35 cities at Rio Grande do Sul hit by the tropical storm.

King Charles rides on horseback in birthday parade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 17: King Charles III became the first British monarch in 30 years to ride on a horseback for his first Trooping the Colour parade Saturday, which marks his official birthday celebrations in the UK. Charles turned 74 November 14 last year but Saturday is when the country celebrates its monarch's birthday as per royal tradition for the parade to be held in the summer months. The centrepiece is the King's Birthday Parade involving over 1,400 military officers together

Boris in new trouble over newspaper column

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, June 17: Former UK prime minister Boris Johnson was unveiled Friday as the Daily Mail's star new columnist — but attracted an immediate rebuke from a government watchdog to cap a tumultuous 48 hours. A day after Johnson was given a blistering verdict by a committee of MPs investigating his "Partygate" denials, the right-leaning newspaper announced he would be writing a weekly column Saturdays.

In a video posted by the Mail, former journalist Johnson said he was "thrilled" to contribute to

"those illustrious pages", vowing to deliver "completely unexpurgated stuff". The anti-immigrant, anti-woke, Brexit-supporting Mail has long been one of Johnson and the Conservative party's most vocal and uncritical backers. Johnson joked that he would cover politics only when "I absolutely have to" — but he now has a high-profile platform to pursue his vendetta against Prime Minister Rishi Sunak if he chooses. However, the ever-controversial Johnson was upbraided for failing to respect the rules governing outside appointments for former ministers. The Advisory Committee on Business



Appointments (ACOBA) is meant to vet all such appointments in the two years after a politician leaves high office. But Johnson only informed ACOBA half an

A day after Johnson was given a blistering verdict by a committee of MPs investigating his "Partygate" denials, the right-leaning newspaper announced he would be writing a weekly column Saturdays

hour before the Daily Mail posted its announcement on social media, a spokeswoman for the committee said. That amounted to a "clear breach" of the rules,

she said. "We have written to Mr Johnson for an explanation and will publish correspondence in due course, in line with our policy of transparency."

"However, ACOBA cannot force a politician to go back on an appointment, and Johnson's habitual disregard for the rules was laid bare in Thursday's report by the House of Commons privileges committee. He had already resigned as an MP after being sent a preview of the report, which found that he deliberately misled parliament when denying any knowledge of lockdown-breaking parties in 10 Downing Street.



Nearly 200 settlements have been affected by the June 6 breaching of the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine

DENYS SHMYHAL | UKRAINE PM

TEXAS BRACES FOR HEATWAVE

After a deadly tornado ripped through the town of Perryton in Texas killing three people, the US National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a heatwave advisory for the state to remain in effect until Sunday



Pakistan receives \$1bn from China



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 17: Cash-strapped Pakistan has received \$1 billion from its close ally China to support its critically low foreign reserves amidst the uncertainty to revive a stalled International Monetary Fund loan.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Friday night confirmed having received the amount from China without sharing any other details about it. It would add to the reserves which had fallen to almost \$3.9 billion in recent weeks.

Earlier, finance minister Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had paid back \$1 billion to China last Monday against a due amount of \$1.3 billion and it was hoped that the amount would be returned.

PUTIN SENDS NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO BELARUS

AGENCIES

Moscow, June 17: Russia has already stationed a first batch of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russian President Vladimir Putin was quoted by a media outlet as saying.

Speaking at Russia's flagship economic forum in St Petersburg, Putin said Russian tactical nuclear warheads had already been delivered to close ally Belarus, but stressed he saw no need for Russia to resort to nuclear weapons for now.

"As you know we were negotiating with our ally, (Belarusian President Alexander) Lukashenko, that we would move a part of these tactical nuclear weapons to the territory of Belarus - this has happened," said Putin.

"The first nuclear warheads were delivered to the territory of Belarus. But only the first ones, the first part. But we will do this job completely by the end of the summer or by the end of the year." The move, Moscow's first deployment of such warheads — shorter-range nuclear weapons that could potentially be used on the battlefield — outside Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union was intended as a warning to the West about arming and sup-



Putin said that transferring the tactical nuclear warheads would be completed by the end of the summer, the British news broadcaster reported

The Russian President said that the move was about "containment" and to remind anyone "thinking of inflicting a strategic defeat on us"

AFRICAN LEADERS VISIT RUSSIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to host a group of African leaders who travelled to Russia on a self-styled "peace mission" after their trip to Ukraine. Seven African leaders — presidents of Comoros, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia, as well as Egypt's prime minister and top envoys from the Republic of Congo and Uganda — visited Ukraine Friday to try to help end their nearly 16-month-old war. The African leaders travelled to St. Petersburg Saturday to meet with Putin who attended a business forum in Russia's second-largest city. The mission to Ukraine, the first of its kind by African leaders, comes in the wake of other peace initiatives — such as one by China — and carried particular importance for Africa that relies on food and fertiliser deliveries from Russia and Ukraine.

porting Ukraine, the Russian leader said. Lukashenko, a staunch ally of Putin, said late Tuesday his country had started taking delivery of Russian tactical nuclear weapons that included some three times more powerful than the atomic bombs

the U.S. dropped on Japan in 1945. The Russian leader announced in March he had agreed to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, pointing to the U.S. deployment of such weapons in a host of European countries over many decades.



FITNESS MATTERS: People perform yoga during a session organised by the Indian Embassy ahead of the International Day of Yoga June 21 in Beijing, China

105 held as Sunak joins raid on illegal migrants

Suspects arrested for offences, including illegal working and possession of false documentation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 17: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak joined the UK Home Office enforcement officials on a raid as part of a nationwide crackdown on illegal migration, which ended in the arrest of 105 foreign nationals from across 20 nationalities.

Sunak, 43, dressed in a bulletproof vest, attended one of the actions in Brent, north London, earlier this week to observe Immigration Enforcement officers at work as part of their "day of action".

The British Indian leader has made cracking down on illegal migration one of his government's top priorities ahead of a general election, expected next year. "Illegal working harms our communities, cheats honest workers out of employment and defrauds the public purse as no taxes are paid," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

"As the Prime Minister has set out, we are committed to tackling the abuse of our laws and borders. We know the prospect of black-market employment is a significant attraction for migrants considering making dangerous and illegal journeys to the UK. Operations such as today send a clear message that we will not stand for this," she said.



During the operation, which took place across the UK Thursday, Immigration Enforcement officers arrested 105 foreign nationals found working without the right to do so during 159 raids on suspected illegal work establishments.

The arrests took place at commercial premises including restaurants, car washes, nail bars, barber shops and convenience stores. Suspects were arrested for offences including illegal working and possession of false documentation, with sums of cash also seized at some locations.

Of those arrested, over 40 were detained by the Home Office pending their removal from the UK, with the remaining suspects being released on immigration bail. It is also expected that a number of the arrests will result in a voluntary departure from the UK, the Home Office said.

While offenders of over 20 different nationalities were found to be working without proper visa rights to be in the UK, the countries involved have not been identified.

Antony Blinken set for high-stakes China visit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, June 17: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is embarking on a high-stakes diplomatic trip to China to try to cool down escalating tensions between the two powers that have set many around the world on edge.

Blinken will be the highest-level American official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office, and the first secretary of state to make the trip in five years. Yet prospects for any significant breakthrough on the most vexing issues facing the planet's two largest economies are slim, as already ties have grown increasingly fraught in recent years.

Animosities and recriminations have steadily escalated over a series of disagreements that have implications for global security and stability. Blinken ar-

rives in Beijing on Sunday for two days of talks. He expects to meet with Qin Sunday, Wang, and possibly Chinese President Xi Jinping Monday, according to US officials.

Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to Blinken's trip early at a meeting last year in Bali.

It came within a day of happening in February but was delayed by the diplomatic and political tumult brought on by the discovery of what the US says was a Chinese spy balloon flying across the southern United States that was shot down.

The list of disagreements and potential conflict points is long: ranging from trade with Taiwan, human rights conditions in China to Hong Kong, as well as the Chinese military assertiveness in the South China Sea to Russia's war in Ukraine.



Trooping the Colour parade since the passing away of Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, aged 96 in September last year. Known

as a keen horse lover, she last rode on horseback for the annual parade in 1986.

The tradition of Trooping the Colour dates to the days when flags were used as rallying points on the battlefields and it was essential that soldiers recognise their own regimental flag colours. Hence the "Colours" were trooped, or displayed, prominently regularly to assembled troops.

The regimental flag that was trooped in front of hundreds of Guardsmen and officers for the monarch was the King's Colour of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

