

leisure



TOM CRUISE GETS EMOTIONAL AT MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-7 PREMIERE

Actor Tom Cruise got emotional at *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One*'s world premiere in Rome. Speaking to media about his film, Cruise said cinema 'bridges walls, it breaks them down and allows people to be able to share an experience'.

SASHA CALLE KEEN TO RETURN AS SUPERGIRL

American Superhero film *The Flash* has received positive response for its cast and storyline. One of the actors who was acclaimed by critics and fans alike is actress Sasha Calle for her portrayal of Kara Zor-El or Supergirl. She has now expressed her desire to return as Supergirl.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You can make a difference to others' lives. Considerate and thoughtful, today, you will be treasured more than ever as a boss, colleague, parent or beloved. Utilise this exchange of energy to sort out difficult issues. Ganesh gives a thumbs up to mega projects.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you taking a day off from your work and immersing your self in domestic activities. A lot of time will be spent blissfully with your family folk chatting away or doing this and that. The idea of getting your interiors redone and give your house a new look will surely occur to you.

GEMINI
There is a likelihood of some household disturbance cropping up today. Your family members could make a lot of demands from you. You may feel angry because of your inability to meet all their needs and wants. Unexpected expenses are also indicated. You need to control your spending, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Watch out for winds of change and act accordingly. Ganesh warns you of drowning in a strong current. Your task will be easier if you adjust to circumstances. Fun and entertainment are today's password. In the social sector business, you will have success. This is the right time to enhance social prestige.

LEO
You are advised to be more attentive to your work today. You will try to do the most work possible by putting in your maximum efforts. However, the results might turn out to be lower than your expectations. You need to be wary of excessive expenses or financial loss today.

VIRGO
Family affairs will predominate today. They will even control your thoughts to the exclusion of everything else. Things will look up on the business front. You may spend time relaxing in the evening. Ganesh says a trip to a place of worship is on the cards.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will give more importance to your family and there may be concerns about the health of a family member. There may be news from abroad regarding the health of a close family member, which may disturb you today. Do maintain your mental balance today and remember that this too shall pass.

SCORPIO
A cloud of emotions surrounds you today and you would like to spend the entire day in introspection and self-analysis. You will try to raise your bar at professional level. Your far sightedness and capability to understand human psychology promises a leader in you, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Tough times do not last, but tough people do, remember this fact and move ahead in life. Try to make the complicated life simpler by your optimistic approach. Speak up when it is required and don't get bogged down by unnecessary pressure.

CAPRICORN
You will have heard of many emotional fools who let sentiments rule their lives. Try not to be one of them, and if it's too difficult a task, at least pretend not to be one of them, for Ganesh says going by your feelings can leave you at a low ebb. In other words, your feelings can come in the way of your success.

AQUARIUS
You know how to examine the nuts and bolts of every assignment or project, and it consumes your resources to a great extent. But, like a stitch in time saves nine, your meticulous planning minimises the chances of a loss or a failure, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
You could find yourself re-establishing contact with long lost friends abroad, possibly on matters of business. You will also likely find yourself attending social events. There is a possibility that those who are unmarried, may find their match in these social settings. Long term personal or business relationships will likely be established today, says Ganesh.

Kangana promotes talent & inclusivity

Mumbai: Actress-filmmaker Kangana Ranaut has talked about casting a fresh face like Avneet Kaur in her upcoming production *Tiku Weds Sheru*. She said that she is focusing on genuinely bringing talent and outsiders into the film industry. When asked on launching an outsider and newcomer, the *Dhaakad* actress said "Yes I'm launching a newcomer but as a producer I'm not focusing on capitalism, I'm focusing on genuinely bringing talent and outsiders into the film industry. I want to work with Avneet Kaur again but I haven't done any three films contract which is a very common practice with any newcomers, and to take up a huge percentage of their brands, events and films for the rest of their life". Kangana mentioned that she doesn't want them to bow down and come to her or control their life. On launching Avneet, she said, "She has all my love and blessings and is completely free to follow her dreams. Also in future whoever I launch, will never ever try to control their lives and career." Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur will be collaborating for the first time on the quirky love story *Tiku Weds Sheru* which will stream on Prime video.

Mumbai: Actor Rashmika Mandanna has penned a long note for the team of her upcoming film *Animal*. Taking to Instagram Stories Tuesday, Rashmika heaped praises on her film's co-star, actor Ranbir Kapoor.

She wrote, "20/6/2023. Dear diary, I want to share about my recent experiences. After a night shoot, I returned to Hyderabad and will soon begin working on *Pushpa 2*. But before that, I want to express my love for the #Animal set and my excitement to work with the entire team."

The *Pushpa* actress wrote, "Rkaaaaaay. I think initially because he is #ranbirkapoor, I was a super nervous but my god!! - Our little secret.. god has really taken his time to make



Rashmika goes all praise for Ranbir

him perfect ya..Brilliant actor (green check mark emoji) Amaaaazing human - (green check mark emoji) Everything else - (green check mark emoji) Crazy no? Love it.. but what a beautiful human he is ya..I only wish the best for him for life and woah-hhhh...wait! Haveeeeeee to say this, RK in *Animal* is (bomb emoji). I don't think people are ready for him yet but the release is coming soonnn.."

On the work front Rashmika will be seen in *Animal* and *Pushpa 2*.

AGENCIES



Sayani used to sit in gay bars every day

Mumbai: Actor Sayani Gupta feels glad to see that Indian audience has evolved over the years and started negating the stigma around LGBTQIA+ content in films and shows. However, she is quick to mention that she didn't not care about the acceptance of the audience when she played actor Kalki Koechlin's love interest in *Margarita With A Straw* (2013).

On whether she did any additional research or preparation to play a homosexual character, Sayani reveals, "I went to New York and I used to go and sit in gay bars every day. I did it for two weeks and it was very weird. It was very eye opening for me and a bit of a new thing. There were things that I was seeing and learning for the first time. It was extremely educational, not just in terms of what is possible, but how free the world can be. We as people have to be empathetic and mindful of becoming more and more inclusive."

Looking back, the actor is somewhat happy to see things in the last one decade since her film released. "Nowadays, the younger as well as the older generation is becoming much more aware, open, and inclusive. We are walking in the right direction, we haven't started running yet. But walking is important so you can run," the actor shares metaphorically.

Adipurush writer triggers fresh row

Mumbai: *Adipurush* has been receiving a lot of flak for its dialogues, portrayal of Gods in a loose manner, inaccurate facts, and many more things which can be counted. Om Raut and his team have been constantly defending their film making more blunders, and one more feather has been added to their cap, with writer Manoj Muntashir making some further claims on his film.

A clip has been going viral on the internet where Manoj Muntashir, decided to explain his Hanuman from the film. While talking to a channel, the writer said, "Hanuman was a devotee not a God. He could not have invulnerable conversations like Lord Rama."

After this, furious netizens erupted on social media. A user wrote, "Manoj has gone mad, and needs treatment." One more user shared a meme featuring Jethalal which said, "Chup Ho Jaa Saatvi Fail". Another user wrote, "Good morning to all Hanuman bhakts except fraud



Manoj Muntashir who thinks that Hanuman ji is not a God." Earlier, in an interview the writer claimed that *Adipurush* was made for today's generation since there was nothing made on our real superheroes for a long and he was worried that today's kids will forget our superheroes like Ram, Hanuman, and Angad over Captain America and Hulk.

PEANUTS



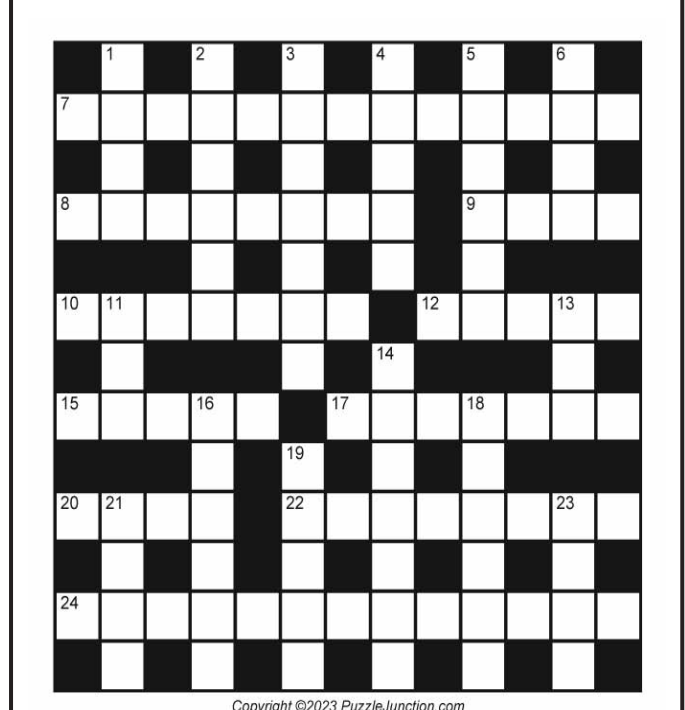
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 When the camel and the straw meet (8,5)
 - 8 Mexican pepper
 - 9 Toy on a string (2-2)
 - 10 Dakar locale
 - 12 School assignment
 - 15 Lazybones
 - 17 Sprinkle, like seeds
 - 20 Mercedes follower
 - 22 Sweater type
 - 24 Exploit for financial gain
- Down**
- 1 Ionian gulf
 - 2 Appetiser
 - 3 Sage, e.g. (4,3)
 - 4 Ice house
 - 5 Sea anemones, e.g.
 - 6 Jealousy
 - 11 Terminus
 - 13 Lumberjack's tool
 - 14 Biting
 - 16 Skin disorder
 - 18 Pirouettes
 - 19 Disdain
 - 21 Cupid, to the Greeks
 - 23 In addition

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

D	I	M	P	L	E	A	G	M	A	Q	A
A	O	A	G	M	U	N					
T	W	I	S	T	E	R	E	X	A	C	T
S	E	E	A	N	E	F	H				
S	T	A	R	T	R	U	F	F	L	E	
A	E										
K	R	I	L	L	E	V	A	D	E		
F	E										
A	N	G	E	R	E	D	L	U	T	E	
J	I	A	I	T	E	R	A	G			
I	V	O	R	E							
A	P	S	E								
T	A	P	S	E							

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

THE JUGGERNAUT ROLLS ON

Ratha Jatra festivities reached its zenith as the breathtakingly massive chariots of Lord Jagannath and his siblings rolled on Grand Road in Puri, Tuesday. The clinking of the bronze temple bells synced perfectly with the electrifying atmosphere as the deities began their 9-day sojourn at Gundicha Temple. With the entire state getting overwhelmed with devotion, **Orissa POST** picks up some of the amazing moments of the opening day



Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra, Lord Jagannath and Lord Sudarshan being carried to the chariots from the sanctum sanctorum of Srimandir through Pahandi procession



Three chariots on the Grand Road in Puri



Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat releasing 'Odisha Review' in Puri



Gajapati Dibyasingh Deb performing Chhera Panhara on a chariot



Artistes performing in front of Srimandir



Srimandir adorned with flowers



KEONJHAR



CUTTACK



RAYAGADA



KORAPUT



ROURKELA



Students perform yoga at a swimming pool on the eve of International Yoga Day in Jabalpur



French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron wait for South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Keon Hee before a working lunch at the Elysee Palace in Paris



Racegoer Ines Hernandez arrives for day one of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting at Ascot Racecourse in Ascot, England



Dutch Queen Maxima and King Willem Alexander, left, and Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde wave to the crowd from the balcony of the Grand Place in Brussels, as part of the activities of the Dutch Royals state visit to Belgium. The Dutch royals are on a three-day visit to Belgium



A vendor sells rain jackets on a rainy day at Mysore road in Bangalore



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) working president Supriya Sule along with party workers protest to mark the anniversary (Gaddar Day) of then Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's rebellion against the party that resulted in the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, outside NCP office in Mumbai



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, right, greets Chinese Premier Li Qiang in front of the Federal Chancellery before the reception with military honors for the German-Chinese government consultations in Berlin, Germany



Farm labourers plants paddy saplings in Jalandhar





The insensitive Modi government is anti-Dalit, anti-tribal, anti-backward class and anti-economically weaker sections that is reason why it is not filling vacant posts

FLOOD FURY IN ASSAM

The flood situation in Assam was serious Tuesday with nearly 31,000 people still reeling under the deluge across 10 districts of the state, an official said.



of the day quote

Today, there is no violence in Kashmir. Now, there is a demand from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir that they want to be a part of India.

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

I pray to Lord Jagannath for the souls of those who died in the train accident. I also pray for the peace and prosperity of the people of the world, the country, of West Bengal.

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Tomorrow is International Day of Yoga. This day inspires us to do yoga. Two years ago, the Delhi government started free yoga classes for the people of Delhi.

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

CBI questions Sam D'Souza

New Delhi: The CBI Tuesday questioned accused Sanville alias Sam D'Souza in connection with alleged bribe demand of ₹25 crore from actor Shah Rukh Khan for not implicating his son Aryan Khan in the 2021 Cordelia cruise drug bust case.

4 suspected UNLF militants arrested

Imphal: Four suspected cadres of the proscribed militant outfit United National Liberation Front (UNLF) were arrested in Thoubal district of ethnic violence affected Manipur.

Cong, BJP spar over rice supply in K'taka

Bangalore: The politics over supply of rice to Karnataka heated up Tuesday with the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP staging demonstrations in various parts of the state.

Dozen inmates hurt in jail brawl

Pune: At least a dozen inmates were hurt in a rioting that suddenly broke out Monday in the historic Yerawada Central Jail (YCJ).

WEST BENGAL PANCHAYAT POLLS

SC RULES IN FAVOUR OF CENTRAL FORCES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: Holding elections cannot be a "licence for violence", the Supreme Court said Tuesday as it dismissed the petitions of the West Bengal government and the State Election Commission (SEC) challenging the Calcutta High Court order directing the state poll panel to deploy central forces across West Bengal for the July 8 panchayat elections.

Several people have been reported killed in clashes in the run up to the July 8 polls, including some June 15, the last day for filing nominations, prompting the Calcutta High Court to order deployment of central forces across the state.

In a setback to the state's TMC government, a vacation bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Manoj Misra rejected the two petitions, observing "Holding election cannot be a licence for violence. Elections cannot be accompanied by violence."

"The fact remains that the tenor of the order of the high court is ultimately to ensure that there is free and fair election conducted in the entire state of West Bengal since the state is conducting the said elections for the local bodies on a single date and having regard to the number of seats which are going to the polls..."

The bench said West Bengal is one of those states where democratic set up exists even at the lowest level and it is at the grassroots level that the elections are taking place.



THE APEX COURT OBSERVED THE TENOR OF THE HIGH COURT ORDER WAS TO ENSURE FREE AND FAIR ELECTION IN THE STATE

BENGAL INVARIABLY TURNS INTO A CAULDRON OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE DURING ELECTIONS, AND OVER 20 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND SCORES OTHERS INJURED IN THE LAST PANCHAYAT POLLS IN 2018

The counsel for the state government said sometimes facts and figures are different from the impressions. Senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for the SEC, said the poll panel is aggrieved by two directions of the high court, including the one which says it will requisition central forces and deploy them across the state.

She said it is not within the jurisdiction of the SEC to requisition and deploy central forces for the conduct of elections. "Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the SEC to conduct free and fair elections," the bench said.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE Oppn upset over PM's silence



AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: Leaders of ten opposition parties from violence hit Manipur, led by Congress, Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of ignoring the people of the north eastern state and not meeting the opposition leaders before leaving for his US visit.

The Congress criticised Prime Minister for meeting the film writer Manoj Muntashir, who wrote obscene dialogues for the movie Adipursh, but has no time to meet senior leaders of the country.

Congress leader Ajoy Kumar claimed that the writer Muntashir met Modi without any appointment for 45 minutes while the leaders from the violence ridden state, including even those from the BJP, were not able to get audience with him (PM Modi).

Addressing a joint press conference at the party headquarters, Congress leader Ajoy Kumar said: "Since June 10, several senior leaders of Manipur, including political leaders, civil society people are waiting here to meet Prime Minister Modi. Even Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, and the Assembly speaker are waiting for the appointment."

The memorandum submitted by the Opposition leaders highlighted that more than 150 people have died while over 1,000 people were injured. More than 5,000 houses have been burned down and more than 60,000 people are displaced.

SC refuses urgent listing of plea seeking protection of tribals

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to hear the interlocutory application (IA) filed by the Manipur Tribal Forum alleging that even after the Centre's assurances to this court, 70 tribals were killed in violence in the state.



BEATING THE HEAT: A monkey drinks water from a waterlogged street on a hot day in New Delhi

AI signs pacts with Airbus, Boeing to buy 470 planes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Air India Tuesday signed agreements with Airbus and Boeing for acquiring 470 planes for an estimated \$70 billion at list prices.

The Tata Group-owned airline had announced that it will buy 470 aircraft, including wide-body planes, in February this year.

The "firm orders include 34 A350-1000, 6 A350-900, 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners and 10 Boeing 777X wide-body aircraft, as well as 140 Airbus A320neo, 70 Airbus A321neo and 190 Boeing 737MAX narrow-body aircraft," the airline said in a release.

new Boeing jets, including 70 on option and expanded services. Air India said the agreements go "one step further in its \$70 billion (based on list prices) fleet expansion program that it announced in February this year".

COUGH SYRUP ROW

Zero tolerance on spurious medicines, says Mandaviya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Asserting that India follows a zero-tolerance policy on spurious medicines, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has said 71 companies have been issued show-cause notices following concerns raised in some quarters about reported deaths due to contaminated India-made cough syrups.

In an exclusive interview with PTI video, the minister also said an extensive risk-based analysis is done continuously to ensure the production of quality medicines in the country, and the government and regulators are always alert to ensure that no one dies due to spurious medicines.



In February, Tamil Nadu-based Global Pharma Healthcare recalled its entire lot of eye drops. Before that, India-made cough syrups were allegedly linked to the deaths of 66 and 18 children in Gambia and Uzbekistan, respectively, last year.

Court allows man to pay maintenance dues to wife in coins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, June 20: In a bizarre case, a man was allowed by a court here to give ₹55,000 in one and two rupee coins to his wife as maintenance dues for 11 months after his family brought the money filled in seven sacks to the court following his arrest for non-payment.

While the counsel for his wife objected to it, terming it "mental harassment", the judge allowed the payment but asked the man to count the coins in court to make packets of ₹1000 each and hand them over to her at the next hearing on June

26, according to lawyers from both sides. The couple's divorce case is being heard in a family court. The court had directed the husband, Dashrath Kumawat, to give the maintenance amount of ₹5000 per month but he was not paying it for the last 11 months. Dashrath, a resident of Harmada area in Jaipur, was arrested June 17 after family court number 1 issued a recovery warrant against him for non-payment of maintenance.



he was produced in the link court of Additional District Judge (ADG)-number 8. "In the court, the family members of Dashrath reached with coins

worth ₹55000 to give to his wife," Raman Gupta, the advocate of the husband, told PTI Tuesday.

₹2 and were stuffed in seven sacks. The advocate of his wife objected to this, but it was argued on behalf of the husband that these coins are legal tender and no one can refuse to accept them.

and make packets of ₹1000 each before handing them over to the wife in the court," he said. Wife Seema Kumawat's advocate Ramprakash Kumawat said that giving coins to the woman was "equal to mental harassment".



The scale and speed of Sudan's descent into death and destruction is unprecedented
ANTÓNIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

ESTONIA TO ALLOW SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Estonia's lawmakers approved legislation Tuesday allowing same-sex marriage as of next year, making Estonia the first of the three Baltic countries to do so



of the day quote

The international community needs to have a proper, honest discussion about what the agency's future role should be in the absence of a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that would mean the end of its mandate



PHILIPPE LAZZARINI | COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF UNRWA

Why do we still need to buy American too often? Because Americans have standardized much more than we have, and they themselves have federal agencies that provide massive subsidies to their manufacturers



EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH PRESIDENT

Tunisia doesn't want to be Europe's border guard to slow migration



KAIS SAIED | TUNISIA'S PRESIDENT



Demonstrators wear masks depicting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping during a protest in front of the Federal Chancellery against the human rights situation in China on the occasion of the German-Chinese government consultations, in Berlin, Germany

Hunter Biden charged with tax, gun offences

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 20: President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden has been charged with failing to pay federal income tax and illegally possessing a firearm and has reached an agreement with the Justice Department, according to a letter filed in US District Court in Delaware.

As part of the agreement, made public on Tuesday, Hunter Biden will plead guilty to misdemeanor tax offences and is expected to reach an agreement with prosecutors on the felony charge of illegally possessing a firearm as a drug user.

It is somewhat unusual to resolve a federal criminal case at the same time the charges are filed in court, though it is not totally unheard of. The deal ends a long-running Justice Department investigation into Biden's second son, who has acknowledged struggling with addiction following the 2015 death of his brother Beau Biden.

have generated days or weeks or distracting headlines for a White House that has strenuously sought to keep its distance from the Justice Department. Christopher Clark, a lawyer for the younger Biden, said in a statement that it was his understanding that the five-year investigation had now been resolved.

"I know Hunter believes it is important to take responsibility for these mistakes he made during a period of turmoil and addiction in his life," Clark said. "He looks forward to continuing his recovery and moving forward."

The news comes as congressional Republicans pursue their own investigations into nearly every facet of Hunter Biden's business dealings, including examining foreign payments and other aspects of his finances.

It also comes days after a 37-count indictment came down against former President Donald Trump for mishandling classified documents on his Florida estate, another case with even more dramatic political implications.

UKRAINE DOWNS RUSSIAN DRONES

Ukraine's air defences have been reinforced with sophisticated weapons from its Western allies, allowing it a higher success rate recently against incoming drones and missiles

a broad area, Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said.

Air defence systems are mostly dedicated to protecting major cities, key infrastructure facilities, including nuclear power plants, and the front line, he said. "There is a general lack of air defence assets to cover a country like Ukraine with a dome like Israel has," he said, in a reference to Israel's Iron Dome aerial defense system.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, June 20: Ukrainian air defences downed 32 of 35 Shahed exploding drones launched by Russia early Tuesday, most of them in the Kyiv region, officials said, in a bombardment that exposed gaps in the country's air protection after almost 16 months of war.

Russian forces mostly targeted the region around the Ukrainian capital in a nighttime drone attack lasting around three hours, officials said, but Ukrainian air defences in the area shot down about two dozen of them.

The attack was part of a wider bombardment of Ukrainian regions that extended as far as the Lviv region in the west of the country near Poland. The Shahed drones made it all the way to Lviv because of the inability of air defense assets to cover such

In the Lviv region, the Russian strike hit a critical infrastructure facility, starting a fire, according to Lviv Gov. Maksym Kozytskyi. Russia also struck the southern Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine with ballistic missiles.

Ukraine's air defences have been reinforced with sophisticated weapons from its Western allies, allowing it a higher success rate recently against incoming drones and missiles. Previously, a winter bombardment by Russia damaged Ukraine's power supply, though speedy repairs blunted that Kremlin effort.

The latest aerial assaults behind Ukraine's front line coincided with the early stages of a Ukrainian counteroffensive, as it aims to dislodge the Kremlin's forces from territory occupied since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.



Nepal seeks report on murals in new Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, June 20: The Nepal government has instructed its embassy in New Delhi to ascertain facts and send a report on the mural installed in the new Indian Parliament building which has created a controversy in the Himalayan nation, the country's foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Answering questions raised by lawmakers, Foreign Minister N.P. Saud during the federal parliament's International Relations Committee (IRC) meeting on Tuesday said that Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar had already made India's stance official that the map was a cultural one and did not involve any political issue. "The mural installed in the newly constructed Indian parliament building depicts the



expanded territory of Indian emperor Ashoka during his reign," the foreign minister told the parliamentary committee.

"After discussing with the Indian side, instructions have already been issued to the Nepalese Embassy to send a report on the matter," Saud said while answering questions raised in the House of Representatives IRC about the recent official visit by Prime

Pak, China sign MoU for nuclear power project

THE INSTALLED CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING FOUR POWER PLANTS IS 1,330 MEGAWATTS, ACCORDING TO THE PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 20: China Tuesday inked an agreement worth a whopping USD 4.8 billion with cash-strapped Pakistan to set up a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant as a sign of increasing strategic cooperation between the two all-weather allies.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the signing of the deal under which Beijing would build a 1,200-megawatt Chashma-V nuclear plant at Chashma in the Mianwali district of Punjab. In his address, Prime Minister Sharif termed the nuclear power plant agreement signing as a



token of increasing economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and vowed to complete the project without any delay.

"We will kick start it without any further delay," he said, as he lambasted the previous government under Imran Khan for delaying the key power project. He said under a difficult economic situation, Pakistan was getting an investment of USD 4.8 billion from China in this project, which "sends the message that Pakistan is a place where Chinese companies and in-

vestors continue to show their trust and faith".

Sharif said the Chinese companies gave special concessions which would save billions of rupees in this project. He expressed confidence that Pakistan would come out of the current economic difficulties with the help of China and other friendly countries.

Sharif said Pakistan was also engaged with the International Monetary Fund to finalise the 9th Review and met all conditions required by the Washington-based global lender. "We are deeply

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif witnessed the signing of the deal under which Beijing would build a 1,200-megawatt Chashma-V nuclear plant at Chashma in the Mianwali district of Punjab

obliged to President Xi Jinping, and the Chinese leadership for their generous help to Pakistan," he said, as he also lauded Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar for extending help to his cash-strapped government.

Pakistan's Chashma power plants are considered a key in the production of cheap nuclear power. The installed capacity of the existing four power plants is 1,330 megawatts, according to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Two other nuclear power plants are also operational in Pakistan.

MPs endorse report against Boris over 'partygate'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 20: British MPs have voted overwhelmingly to approve a damning House of Commons committee report that found former Prime Minister Boris Johnson deliberately misled Parliament about Covid lockdown law-breaching parties at Downing Street.

The 59-year-old, whose exit from 10 Downing Street last year had been hastened by the 'partygate' scandal, had repeatedly denied that lockdown rules were broken within government quarters when asked in the Commons.

Johnson has already resigned as Member of Parliament (MP)



from West London after the findings of the Privileges Committee report were known to him. He will now lose the privilege of special access to Parliament accorded to former MPs.

Many of his colleagues and Opposition members gathered in the Commons on Monday to debate the report's findings and a

majority condemned the former prime minister's actions. Lawmakers approved the finding that Johnson was in contempt of Parliament by 354 votes to seven.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, along with several other Tory MPs, chose not to attend the debate or comment on the report's findings, something several Opposition Labour Party MPs called out during the session that ran into hours.

"It's a crying shame that the prime minister of this country cannot even express how he would vote if he were to turn up today. In my view, that is a dereliction of duty," Labour Party's Jess Phillips said.

Modi to lead unique yoga session at UN Headquarters today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, June 20: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead a unique yoga session Wednesday in a historic celebration to commemorate the 9th International Day of Yoga at the UN Headquarters here that will see participation from top UN officials, envoys from across and the world and prominent individuals.

Modi will be in New York on the first leg of his US visit at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. Nine years after Prime Minister Modi first proposed from the United Nations General Assembly podium to mark International Yoga Day as an annual commemoration, the Indian leader will for the first time be at the UN Headquarters to lead the yoga session in a historic commemoration of the day.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj told PTI in an interview that the yoga celebration this year will be a very "unique occasion" because it was Prime Minister Modi who had given this vision and it was his leadership that ensured that June 21 every year is celebrated as International Yoga Day.

"So about nine years later, the author of that vision comes to the United Nations," she said, adding that now Yoga Day is a UN-mandated occasion. "So the coming together of the two - the visionary leader and the United Nations, I think, is in itself very unique," Kamboj said.

The issue has drawn a huge uproar in Kathmandu. However, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal has said that during his visit to New Delhi, the Indian side clarified that it was a cultural map and not a political one

raising the issue of the 'Akhanda Bharat' map, which, they claimed, also

Pakistan gearing up for polls

Islamabad: Pakistan, currently in the throes of a major political as well as economic crisis, has started preparations for the general elections with a meeting of the election body chaired by its chief reviewing the arrangements made so far to organise polls in a fair and free manner later this year. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja was on Monday briefed by the officials of the Election Commission of Pakistan, a constitutional body tasked to organise elections in the country, according to an official statement.

