



UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE

Actor Sobhita Dhulipala says she faced rejection at the beginning of her career for not being fair enough

LEISURE P2



MODI ADDRESSES US CONGRESS

PM Modi said there can be no ifs or buts in dealing with terrorism in his address to the Joint Meeting of the US Congress

INTERNATIONAL P10



PRANNOY BOWS OUT

HS Prannoy suffers a straight-game loss to end India's campaign at the Taipei Open Super 300 tournament

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Sahitya Akademi award for Sarangi

Bhubaneswar: Odia writer Jugal Kishore Sarangi has been selected for the prestigious Bal Sahitya Puraskar of the Sahitya Akademi for his short stories book 'Jejenka Gapa Ganthili.' The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi in its meeting held Friday under the Chairmanship of its President Madhav Kaushik approved the selection of 22 writers for the Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023. The award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 will be presented to the awardees at a special function to be held at a later date.

US, India to end 6 disputes at WTO

New York: The US and India have agreed to terminate six outstanding disputes at the World Trade Organisation, the US Trade Representative's office said in a statement after a meeting between President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India also agreed to remove retaliatory tariffs on certain US products including chickpeas, lentils, and other goods, the statement said. The six disputes include three initiated by India and as many by the US. P11

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Didn't I say facing the press is quite easy? All you need is untruths, half-truths & lies

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	ARIATION
SENSEX	62979.37	↓ 259.52
NIFTY	18665.50	↓ 105.75
DOLLAR	82.00	↓ ₹0.04
EURO	89.32	↓ ₹0.47
GOLD	₹58,409	↑ ₹213
SILVER	₹ 68,173	↓ ₹135

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.0°C	32.8°C
TEMP MIN	24.4°C	24.5°C
Humidity	94%	85%
Rainfall	0.3mm	Nil

Forecast: Heavy Rainfall



DESTROYED BY DELUGE: Villagers gather near a collapsed bridge over the Daranga River at flood-hit Kumrikata in Baksa district of Assam, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Monsoon covers whole of Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 23: Southwest monsoon, which covered three districts Thursday, has advanced further and covered the entire state, Friday.

The regional centre of India Meteorological Department (IMD) said light to moderate rainfall occurred at most places over the districts of Odisha with heavy rainfall at one or two places during the last 24 hours.

Highest 32 mm rainfall was recorded at Jajpur town, followed by Gopalpur (24.8 mm), Chandbali (20.6) and Berhampur (5.4) and Paradip (5).

Many parts of the state are likely to witness heavy rain activity during the next four days, it said.

According to the IMD bulletin, heavy to very heavy rainfall would occur at one or two places over the districts of Cuttack, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Angul, Kandhamal, Boudh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, and Sundargarh.

We are one: 17 Oppn parties

To fight unitedly against BJP in 2024 LS polls setting aside differences

AGENCIES

Patna, June 23: As many as 17 Opposition parties Friday resolved to fight 2024 Lok Sabha elections unitedly to defeat BJP and work with flexibility by setting aside their differences and will meet in Shimla next month to chalk out a joint strategy.

Addressing a joint press conference after an almost four-hour meeting during which leaders of these parties expressed their views, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar said they will meet in the next few days to give final shape to their plan of fighting together. "We had a good meeting and several leaders expressed their views during the meeting. Seventeen parties have decided to work together and contest the Lok Sabha elections unitedly," he told reporters.

The meeting is viewed as a starting point for Opposition unity ahead of Lok Sabha polls to unitedly take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Sources said differences emerged between the AAP and the Congress after Arvind Kejriwal insisted that the grand old party should make its stand public on the Delhi ordinance failing which it would not be possible for his party to attend future meetings of the Opposition.

"The black ordinance is anti-constitutional, anti-federalism, and outright undemocratic..."



Seventeen parties have decided to work together and contest the Lok Sabha elections unitedly
BIHAR CM NITISH KUMAR

Congress' hesitation and refusal to act as a team player, especially on an issue as important as this one, would make it very difficult for the AAP to be a part of any alliance that includes Congress," the AAP said in a statement.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge announced that the next meeting would be held in Shimla next month. "We have decided to prepare a common agenda and will take decisions in the next meeting on how to move forward," he said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "We may have some differences but we have decided to work together with flexibility and will work to protect our ideology."

As many as 32 leaders of these



We may have some differences but we have decided to work together with flexibility
CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

parties participated in the meeting at the Bihar CM's 1, Aney Marg, residence here.

West Bengal CM and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said the first meet was organised in Patna as "Whatever starts from Patna, takes the shape of the public movement." "If this dictatorial government (NDA) returns this time, there will be no elections in future," she said.

NCP supremo Sharad Pawar said just like the JP movement, "our united front will get the blessings of the public."

"The message from Patna meeting is clear for all of us that we need to work together to save the country," said Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav who thanked all the leaders for making it for the meeting.



If this dictatorial government (NDA) returns this time, there will be no elections in future
WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE

Jharkhand CM and JMM leader Hemant Soren said today's beginning will prove to be a milestone for the country and all leaders will move together with a positive thinking.

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad said people of the country "want us to fight unitedly" against the BJP and the RSS.

NC leader Omar Abdullah said that 17 parties from Kashmir to Kanyakumari have come together "not for power, but for principles."

CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury said the main issue is to protect the character of our secular democratic country which the "BJP wants to change."

CPI leader D Raja alleged BJP's rule has become "disastrous and detrimental" to Constitution.

₹3 crore cash found at officer's houses

GYAN RAJNAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 23: The Vigilance department Friday unearthed ₹3.02 crore in cash along with other assets during raids on multiple properties of Additional Sub-Collector of Nabarangpur, Prasanta Kumar Rout.

The searches were carried out on the strength of a search warrant issued by Special Judge, Vigilance, Sundargarh, over allegations that Rout amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Nine teams of Vigilance comprising two additional SPs, seven DSPs, eight inspectors and other staff conducted raids at nine places including the double-storied residential house of Rout at Kanan Vihar, here, residence and office chamber at Nabarangpur and paternal house in Bhadark district.

The sleuths during the raid at Rout's Kanan Vihar house came to know that he was trying to throw six cartons and a briefcase from his building to the terrace of his neighbour. The officials seized the six cash-filled cartons and briefcase from Rout's residence here.

Vigilance sleuths later recovered ₹2, 03, 00,500 concealed in packets from the Bhubaneswar residence and ₹88, 93,300 lakh from the Nabarangpur residence of Rout. Later, another Rs 10, 37,000 in cash concealed behind a bookshelf in Rout's



Bhubaneswar residence was seized by the sleuths.

This is second highest cash seizure by the Odisha Vigilance ever: April 7, 2022, the anti-corruption sleuths had seized cash ₹3,41,66,280 from the possession of Kartikeswar Raul, then assistant engineer at the minor irrigation office in Bhanjanagar.

"Rout seems to have made regular cash deposits in a number of benami bank accounts. Details of one such account opened in the name of an acquaintance has been collected wherein ₹21 lakh cash deposits are suspected to have been made by Rout from 2019 onwards. The bank documents, passbook, ATM card have been recovered from the house of Rout in Bhubaneswar," a Vigilance source said.

The sleuths also unearthed bank and insurance deposits over ₹41 lakh, two 4-wheelers and one 2-wheeler, gold and silver jewellery and household articles worth over ₹21.35 lakh.

Inflation slowing down consumption: RBI paper

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 23: Inflation is slowing down personal consumption expenditure, which in turn is moderating corporate sales and holding back private investment in capacity creation, said a Reserve Bank paper Friday.

The paper, authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra, underlined the need for lowering inflation to revive consumer spending and boost corporate revenues and profitability.

The retail inflation based on the consumer price index, which remained above 5% during 2022-23, is now on the decline and fell to a two-year low of 4.25% in May, following RBI's monetary

policy actions and government measures.

"Recent national accounts data and corporate results when read in conjunction clearly show that inflation is slowing down personal consumption expenditure. This, in turn, is moderating corporate sales and holding back private investment in capacity creation," said the article published in the RBI's latest bulletin. The RBI, however, said the views expressed in the bulletin articles are of authors and do not represent views of the RBI.

The article stressed that bringing down inflation and stabilising inflation expectations will revive consumer spending, and boost corporate revenues and profitability.

OceanGate CEO's wife a descendant of Titanic victims

THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NO ONE SURVIVED BROUGHT A TRAGIC END TO THE ROUND-THE-CLOCK SEARCH FOR THE TITAN

AGENCIES

New York, June 23: Wendy Rush, the wife of missing OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush, is the great-great-grandchild of Titanic passengers Isidor and Ida Straus, according to The New York Times.

Wendy is the communications director at OceanGate, the company that led the expedition to the world's most famous shipwreck. The announcement that no one survived Thursday brought a tragic end to a five-day saga that included an urgent around-the-clock search for the vessel known as the Titan.

First-class passenger Isidor Straus refused to take a seat on a lifeboat when women and chil-



Isidor and Ida Straus; (R) Wendy Rush

dren were still waiting to get off the sinking ship, and he was joined by his wife Ida, who would not leave his side.

The couple, who were among

the richest passengers aboard, were seen standing arm-in-arm on the deck of the liner when it went down, says the newspaper.

A fictionalised version of the

couple's story was seen in the 1997 film "Titanic" by James Cameron, which featured a shot of an older couple embracing in bed as the cold Atlantic waters rose around their cabin.

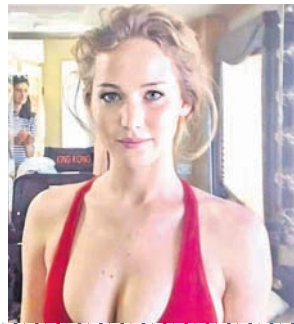
Meanwhile, investigation into what happened was underway and would continue in the area around Titanic where debris from the submersible was found, said Rear Adm. John Mauger, of the First Coast Guard District.

"I know there are also a lot of questions about how, why and when did this happen. Those are questions we will collect as much information as we can about now," Mauger said, adding that it was a "complex case" that happened in a remote part of the ocean.

PAK BILLIONAIRE'S SON WAS RELUCTANT

Karachi: Suleman Dawood, the son of Pakistani billionaire and among the five people who died after a 'catastrophic implosion' of the Titan submersible, was terrified of the daring expedition, his aunt has said. Speaking to NBC News, the elder sister of Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood said she is 'absolutely heartbroken.' He joined the expedition because it was important to his Titanic-obsessed father. "I feel very bad that the whole world has had to go through so much trauma, so much suspense," Azmeah told NBC News. Azmeah said she wouldn't have gotten into the Titan 'for a million dollars.'

leisure



LAWRENCE SAYS METHOD ACTORS MAKE HER 'NERVOUS'

No Hard Feelings actress Jennifer Lawrence says she is not okay working with Method actors. "I would be nervous to work with someone who's Method," she said. "Because I would have no idea how to talk to them, because like, do I have to be in character?" she added.

COSTNER'S EX-WIFE DEMANDS \$248K FOR CHILD SUPPORT

Actor Kevin Costner's ex-wife Christine Baumgartner has made a demand for \$248,000 a month from her ex-husband for child support, which was revealed by court documents in the midst of their tumultuous divorce.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Your attractive personality is always at the disposal of others, and today you could benefit immensely through it. However, there is room for improvement and you could be drawn towards charity work. Ganesh says you will surely feel satisfied by helping the needy.

TAURUS
This day you will tend to be too bossy, too harsh on your subordinates or employees and end up making them miserable as well as hostile. Their insubordination could corrode the respect you get and, in addition, make things unworkable. This acrimony and ill will is sure to spread and foul up your larger professional connections and interests.

GEMINI
You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Don't meddle in others' affairs today, suggests Ganesh. For they will not take it kindly. Adopt the middle path. Ganesh feels that you must keep your bravado and boldness in check.

LEO
Your pride and self-confidence will help you to excel in whatever task it is that you take up today. Other people will also praise you. You will buy new clothes and other possessions that you have been desiring since a long time, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Today will be a pleasant day full of surprises and unforeseen changes. You may go for a long drive with your beloved. The trip will be very interesting and will calm your frayed nerves. All in all, Ganesh says, it is an optimistic and happy day, so go ahead and get the best out of it.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will have a good time with your family members and will have fun with them. You will also be able to organize a picnic or a party for your family members and enjoy the day with them. Ganesh says you will go out for a trip to a religious place or temple, which will enhance your mind and ideas.

SCORPIO
Your sixth sense would work wonders today, as per to what Ganesh has to say. Trust your instincts and work accordingly. Work enthusiastically and dedicatedly. When the pressure of work mounts on you, take a break and unwind with the help of soft music.

SAGITTARIUS
It's time for some entertainment. Movies, picnics and dining out is on your mind. Invite your beloved and enjoy quality time with each other. Also, you will spend time with you family and friends, and attend a music concert together.

CAPRICORN
Actions speak louder than words. Your sincere efforts and honest intentions will motivate others also to put in their best, feels Ganesh. You'll be like a friend, philosopher and guide to them. People will follow you, but it has a darker side to as many will even over take you.

AQUARIUS
You will take the road to spirituality today and give a miss to materialism. You will visit temples, other religious places, and spiritual leaders to find answers for some of your questions. It will, however, take a while for you to distinguish between mysticism and materialism, and understand that you can have the best of both worlds.

PISCES
You will not take matters to heart needlessly today, and will instead calmly evaluate the bitter words of others to see if there is a grain of truth in them somewhere. This is a good practice and one that should be continued. While you won't be in the mood to tolerate any injustice, you will be able to forgive those who have wronged you and will thus be able to refrain from stoking further, the fires of enmity, says Ganesh.

Suhana turns 'agriculturalist'

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan's darling daughter is all set to spell her magic as she's gearing up for her acting debut in Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*. But before that Suhana has turned 'agriculturalist' with a huge investment.

The upcoming actress has reportedly bought a farm land worth Rs 13 crore. The land is located in Thal village, Alibaug and is just a 12-minute drive from Alibaug town. The point worth noticing is that the documents describe Suhana as an "agriculturalist".

According to a report, "The transaction registered on June 1 shows that 1.5-acre agricultural land along with 2,218 sq ft of structures on it has been purchased. A stamp duty of Rs 77.46 lakh was paid by Suhana, the registration documents accessed and shared by IndexTap.com showed. The land was purchased from three sisters Anjali, Rekha and Priya Khot, who inherited the land from their parents. The property is registered in the name of Déjà Vu Farm Pvt Ltd, on which SRK's mother-in-law Savita Chhibber and sister-in-law Namita Chhibber are directors."

Well, Suhana isn't the first one to buy a land in Alibaug. Many top actors like Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, Anushka Sharma-Virat Kohli have already made a whopping investment in hug properties.

Shah Rukh himself owns a luxurious sea-facing property in Thal village of Alibaug that comes with a swimming pool and a helipad. AGENCIES

Sobhita faced rejection for not being fair

Mumbai: Actress Sobhita Dhulipala is preparing for the launch of the second part of her web series, *The Night Manager* featuring alongside Anil Kapoor and Aditya Roy Kapur.

During a recent interview, the actress disclosed that she faced rejection for her complexion and physical appearance, being labeled as "not fair" and "not pretty enough" during her auditions for advertisements.

She revealed that in her past experience working in advertising, she faced frequent comments about her inadequate fairness and lack of conventional beauty. Nevertheless, these remarks did not discourage her; instead, they helped her recognize that society's definition of beauty was limited and restricted. She said, "When you are starting out, everything is a battle. I am not from the movies. I remember in my ad auditions I was told many times that I am not 'gori' (fair) enough. I was told to my face that I am not pretty enough."

In response, she explained that rather than allowing those opinions to discourage her, she began exploring innovative ways to remain involved in the industry she deeply cared about. Her passion for the field fueled her determination to find alternative avenues where she could express her creativity. AGENCIES



Rekha's secret talent revealed

Mumbai: Veteran actress Rekha has a secret talent. She likes to sketch with charcoal, director of the television show *Ghum Hain Kisikey Pyaar Mein*, Siddharth Jenna has revealed.

Sharing his experience of directing Rekha for the promo, Siddharth Jenna shared, "I was super excited and elated when I got to know that I am supposed to direct Rekha. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Rekha. She is what she is because of her discipline, passion, punctuality, and hunger to give more than 100 per cent in all her performances."

He called Rekha, a director's dream actress, and learnt from her that if one

gives their heart and soul to what they do, good things will follow.

He further mentioned: "While we had a painting sequence in the scene, she was having fun doing some interesting strokes with the brush on the canvas. I thought those were some professional strokes. I asked her if she paints, and she nodded a 'no' with a smile. Then she revealed that she loves to sketch with charcoal."

Ghum Hain Kisikey Pyaar Mein, produced by Rajesh Ram Singh, Piya Bajpe, Pradeep Kumar, and Shaika Parween, airs on StarPlus from Monday to Sunday. AGENCIES



Shahana wants to play real women

Mumbai: Actress Shahana Goswami, best known for her roles in films such as *Rock On!*, *Midnight's Children* and *Tu Hai Mera Sunday*, said that she has actively chosen roles which 'challenge conventional narratives' to represent real women.

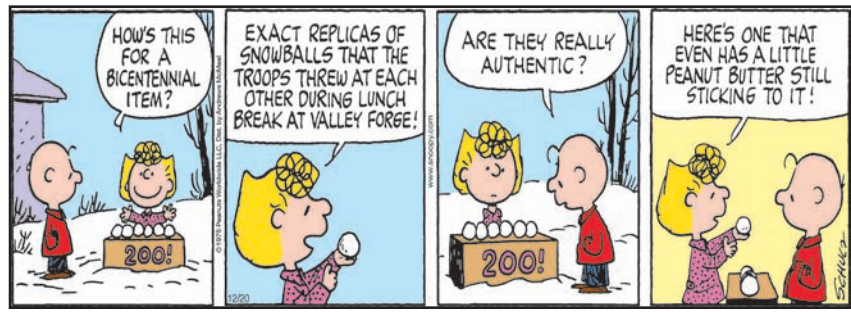
She said: "I have actively chosen roles that challenge conventional narratives, opting for characters that break away from clichés. I want to represent real women who one can relate to."

In an industry where social connections and networking play a pivotal role, Goswami decided to let her acting do the talking instead.

Elaborating on the topic, Goswami said: "The measure of success lies in the quality of one's work rather than the number of connections they have. Throughout my career, I have prioritised my work over party appearances and meetings. Every job is a by-product of some work. When you land on a set, your director wants to know if you can develop a deep understanding of characters, deliver nuanced performances, and leave a lasting impact on audiences."

The actress was most recently seen in the film *Zwigato* and the web series *Hush-Hush*. IANS

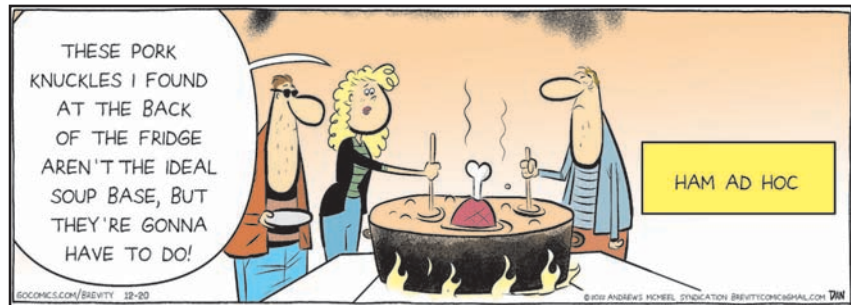
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

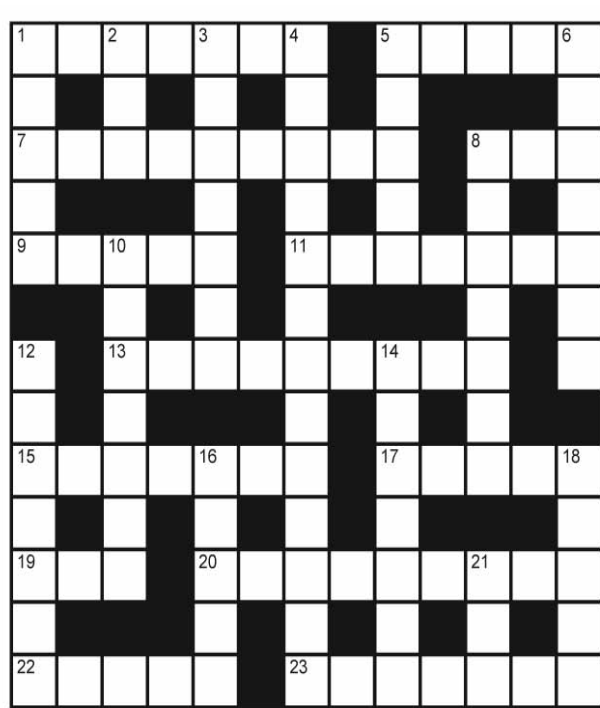


BREVITY



FUN post

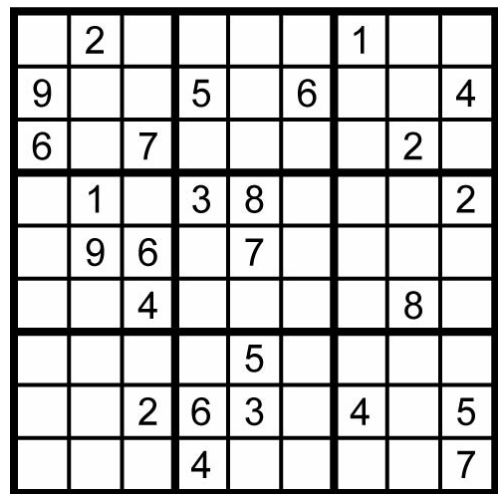
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Biting
 - 5 True health
 - 7 Curriculum
 - 8 Back on board
 - 9 Flubbed
 - 11 Battery material
 - 13 Pause indicator
 - 15 Ritzy
 - 17 Island drum
 - 19 Pea jacket?
 - 20 Reversal (5-4)
 - 22 Stingless bee
 - 23 Viper
 - 6 Earnest endeavour
 - 8 Rhone River town
 - 10 Echo
 - 12 Arranged in batches
 - 14 Seafood
 - 16 Related maternally
 - 18 Blatant
 - 21 Logger's tool

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

CROSSWORD

SHAMPOO REALM
C C E R V A L A
A N T E N N A V A L E T
R E G C I T E A
F D O U B L E E D G E D
I E R O
J E J U N E T A B O U R
A E J A D
C A T B U R G L A R S K
U T S E M I I
Z A I R E N E A T E S T
I S S U E A N T V E R S

SUDOKU

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

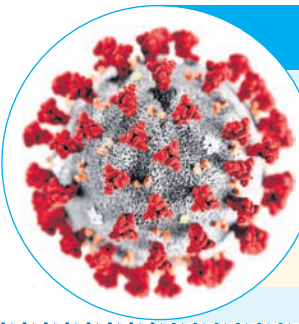
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CULTURAL EVENT

Girls perform during an event organised at the Gundicha Temple in Chandini Chowk area of Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

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

BJD SLAMS BJP OVER FREE RICE, HOUSING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 23: The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Friday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over discontinuance of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMKAY) and non-sanction of 7 lakh Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) houses.

This comes in the backdrop of BJP national president JP Nadda's speech at Bhawanipatna that targeted the Odisha government.

In his reaction, BJD spokesperson Sammit Patra said, "Nadda's speech was aimed at motivating the state BJP leaders and cadre who are demoralised and frustrated due to their massive losses to the BJD in byelections as well as losing all 30 districts of Odisha to our party in 2022 Zilla Parishad elections."

It would have been proper if he had clarified when the BJP government at the Centre will restart providing 5 kg rice per person per month under PMKAY, Patra



This comes in the backdrop of BJP national president JP Nadda's speech at Bhawanipatna that targeted the Odisha government

Had the state BJP leaders properly briefed Nadda about Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), he would have appreciated how BSKY provides Rs 10 lakh of health insurance for women - double the amount provided under Ayushman Bharat, Patra pointed out.

The BJD leader said 4.5 crore people of Odisha have blessed CM Naveen Patnaik with five consecutive terms in office, and 23 years and counting.

"It's because he (Naveen) serves them (people of Odisha) and they in turn love him. People who believe in serving and not ruling will understand this," Patra maintained.

Earlier in the day, Nadda accused the state government of "outsourcing the administration to bureaucrats".

"I wonder who has been running Odisha! Is this the officers or leaders who are running this state? I want to know this. Someone told me that it's actually the officers who are running the state, they are ruling it," Nadda said.



FOR A GLIMPSE: Devotees make a beeline to have a darshan of the sibling deities at 'Adapa Mandap' at Gundicha Temple in Puri, Friday

Nandankanan to be developed as world-class zoo

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 23: Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP), on the outskirts of the Capital city, will be transformed into a world-class zoo under the state government's 5T initiative, with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approving a proposal of the Forest department in this regard, Friday.

Chief Minister Office (CMO) sources said that the transformation of Nandankanan will be implemented in two phases. The first phase of transformation will be implemented from

2023 to 2025 and the second phase from 2025 to 2028.

While the zoological park and the botanical garden would be developed in the first phase, the development of the Chudanga forest would be done in the second phase. Night safari and safari complex would be developed in it.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to fully ban the use of plastic in Nandankanan and to complete the transformation work within the time schedule.

Patnaik, while reviewing the performance of the Forest department May 23 last, had di-

rected the department to prepare a DPR for the transformation of Nandankanan.

In the new plan, there is a provision for developing better additional facilities for tourists, modern frontage and landscaping, tunnel aquarium, water bird aviary, import of new animals from abroad, immersive enclosure, and to develop Nandankanan as a special hub of nature education for children.

There is a plan to develop Nandankanan as an attractive hub on nature education for children. It will have activity-

based zoological park, nature education, Nandankanan club and Zoo Ambassador programmes in some special schools.

At present, Nandankanan has 4,012 animals belonging to 161 species.

Plan is on to import Holocene Gibbon, Pig tailed macaque, one horned rhinoceros, capped langur, spectacled monkey, clouded leopard from north east region of the county.

Similarly, there is also a proposal to bring cassowary, Kangaroo and Wallaby from Australia, official sources said.

Orissa HC drops murder charge against Malkangiri ex-Collector

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 23: The Orissa High Court has quashed the murder charge levelled against former Malkangiri Collector Manish Agarwal for the death of his personal assistant (PA) under mysterious circumstances in 2019.

The single Judge Bench of Justice Sashikanta Mishra, however, sustained the charge of abetment to suicide and criminal conspiracy against the IAS officer and other accused in the case, LiveLaw reported.

According to the case details, Deba Narayan Panda, who was working as PA to the then Malkangiri Collector Manish Agarwal, went missing December 27, 2019.

The next day, Fire Services personnel recovered his body from Satiguda dam site.

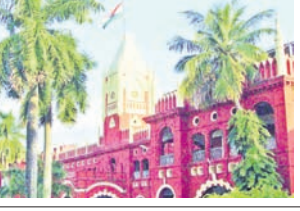
The autopsy disclosed the cause of death as antemortem drowning and its complications, it was learnt.

On November 13, 2020, Panda's wife approached the Malkangiri SDJM court alleging that her husband went to the residence of the Collector at about 10am on the fateful day and never returned thereafter.

It was alleged that Agarwal was responsible for Panda's death.

The SDJM court forwarded the complaint to the police to register an FIR and conduct investigation as per Section 156(3) of the CrPC.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF PA



Upon completion of the probe, the investigating officer submitted the closure report holding that no foul play was involved in the death of Panda and that the accused persons had not committed any offence.

However, Panda's wife filed a protest petition against the submission of the final report by the police.

In the protest petition, she alleged that the matter was not properly investigated and that the involvement of the Collector in Panda's death was being deliberately kept under cover.

Accordingly, the SDJM recorded the initial statement of the complainant.

Four witnesses were examined on behalf of the complainant whereupon the SDJM directed the complainant to file requisites by an order of January 2023.

Being aggrieved, the Collector and other accused approached the HC seeking to quash the order of cognizance.

The HC took note of the facts

and observed that the only allegation made by the complainant against the petitioner-Collector is that April 4, 2018 he had asked Panda as to who are the people or projects or agencies who contributed money to the Collector either on monthly basis or on work-to-work basis.

The complainant also alleged that the Collector wanted to know who were the people who usually did the collection.

The Collector allegedly asked Panda whether he can take up the responsibility of collecting commission on his behalf.

When the deceased expressed his inability to make such collection, the petitioner was visibly upset.

After examining the available materials, the HC was of the view that neither the medical evidence nor the petitions and statements of the complainant as also that of the other witnesses contained, prima facie, any evidence to even suggest that the death was homicidal in nature.

Therefore, the HC expressed inability to sustain the charge of murder (under Section 302 IPC) against the petitioners.

The court, however, sustained the charge of abetment to suicide and criminal conspiracy against the IAS officer and other accused in the case.

Accordingly, the trial court was directed to conclude the trial as expeditiously as possible and ideally within eight months.

Bhadrak ex-DSWO arrested in DA case

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 23: Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested Bhadrak's former District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Jayanti Behera on charges of possessing 145 per cent disproportionate assets (DA).

"After a thorough search, inventory and further enquiry, the income, expenditure and assets of Jayanti Behera, ex-District Social Welfare Officer, Bhadrak, A/p-Social Welfare Officer (SWO) (HdQrs), W&CD Department, Bhubaneswar were calculated and she was found in possession of disproportionate assets which were 145% in excess of her known sources of income," the Odisha Vigilance said in a media statement.

On Thursday, the anti-corruption sleuths carried out simultaneous raids at 11 places related to Behera on allegations of possessing DA. The Vigilance sleuths carried out searches at a double-storey and two triple-storey buildings, office chamber of Behera's son and houses of her associates in Balasore district, rented accommodation and office chamber of Behera in Bhadrak district, and two three-BHK flats in Gautam Nagar and Old Town areas in Bhubaneswar.

As many as 11 teams of the Vigilance comprising one additional SP, four DSPs, eight inspectors, two sub-inspectors, three assistant sub-inspectors conducted the searches on the strength of search warrants issued by the Special Vigilance Court of Balasore.

During the search, the Vigilance officials claimed to have found three multi-storey buildings in Balasore, two flats in Bhubaneswar, eight plots in prime locations of Balasore, postal and insurance deposits of Rs 1.61 crore, Rs 2.79 lakh in cash, silver ornaments worth 2.112 kg, gold jewellery and household articles worth over Rs 7.39 lakh and a four-wheeler apart from a few other assets in the name of Behera and her family members.



FOR A CAUSE: An awareness drive against child labour being flagged off at Cuttack Collector's office, Friday

US approves Sarepta's gene therapy for DMD in kids

THE THERAPY, CALLED ELEVIDYS, WILL COST \$3.2 MILLION PER PATIENT

REUTERS

Washington, June 23: The US health regulator has granted accelerated approval to Sarepta Therapeutics' first-of-its-kind gene therapy for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), an inherited progressive muscle-wasting disorder that almost always affects young boys.

Sarepta said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had approved the treatment for children aged between four and five years who can walk. It was initially seeking approval for all DMD patients who can walk.

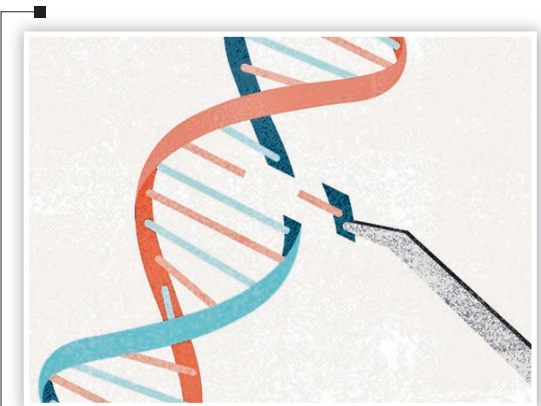
treatment, a gene therapy for bleeding disorder hemophilia from Australian drugmaker CSL Ltd, carries a list price of \$3.5 million.

The agency's decision comes after several delays and questions over the effectiveness of the therapy, which will be sold under the brand name Elevidys.

Elevidys could change the way that DMD patients, who rarely survive beyond their thirties, are treated. Currently, approved steroids and some therapies for specific genetic mutations only control symptoms and slow disease progression.

In a mid-stage trial, Sarepta's gene therapy was able to produce a mini version of the dystrophin protein needed to help keep muscles intact, but did not improve patient clinical outcomes like their ability to walk and stand.

A late-stage study to confirm the treatment's effectiveness is underway and initial data from it is expected by December.



Elevidys could change the way that DMD patients, who rarely survive beyond their thirties, are treated. Currently, approved steroids and some therapies for specific genetic mutations only control symptoms and slow disease progression

Current options for DMD patients are limited. Of four new 'exon-skipping' therapies - intended for a smaller group of patients with specific genetic mutations - three are from Sarepta. They require weekly infusions and work by skipping

specific parts of genes, called exons, with the aim of allowing the body to form shorter forms of the dystrophin protein.

Elevidys should not be used in patients with any deletion in exon 8 and exon 9 in the DMD

CM sanctions ₹30L for 3 patients of Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday sanctioned Rs 30 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the treatment of three patients of Balasore suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), an official said.

According to the CMO, Kiran Kumar Mallik and Suraj Kumar Mallik of Khantapada and Dibyanshu Dixit of Simulia, all of Balasore district, are suffering from DMD, a rare muscular disease, for a long.

As all three patients are poor and unable to bear the expensive treatment, the CM has released a one-time grant of Rs 10 lakh to each patient for their treatment.

gene, the company said on Thursday.

Sarepta's infrastructure is prepared to support the launch of Elevidys and it could take about four months to get to patients even with a limited target population, Ingram said ahead

of the approval.

DMD affects an estimated one-in-3,500 male births worldwide, according to the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

"We will have a very successful launch and I think we'll expand this label successfully early next year," Sarepta's Ingram said. Elevidys could become a multibillion-dollar product, William Blair analyst Tim Lugo said in a note.

A green light for Sarepta's treatment could open the doors for more effective gene therapies, experts and analysts have said. Pfizer is also developing a gene therapy for DMD.

A late-stage trial of 126 patients is ongoing at Sarepta, and will be pivotal in expanding the patient population and gaining a traditional approval.

Roche acquired the commercial rights to Elevidys outside the United States under a 2019 deal. Sarepta remains in charge of clinical development, but it splits the costs with Roche.

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC DAY

'Odisha committed to build world-class sports facilities'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 23: Odisha is committed to building world-class facilities to nurture talents and produce champions of the future, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on International Olympic Day Friday.

Taking to Twitter, Patnaik said, "Let's celebrate the spirit of sports and remember the great Olympians who kept India's flag high with their sporting excellence. Odisha is committed to build world-class facilities to nurture talents and produce champions of the future."

The Chief Minister had recently reviewed the progress of the manifesto commitments and achievements of Sports and Youth Services department during the last four years. Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera had apprised the Chief Minister that Odisha has rapidly emerged as a favoured destination for sports owing to its exceptional infrastructure, sporting facilities and successful organisation of numerous global competitions. The state is actively promoting and nurturing a wide range of sports,



The state has established itself as a global hub of hockey, having successfully organised consecutive editions of the FIH Hockey World Cup in 2018 and 2023

Hockey World Cup in 2018 and 2023. Furthermore, Odisha has been the venue for prominent hockey events like FIH Hockey Junior Men's World Cup, Pro League, FIH Olympic Qualifiers, and FIH Series Finals, solidifying its position as a global destination for hockey. Kalinga Hockey Stadium and Birsamunda Hockey Stadium are the top stadiums in the world.

propelling its journey as a flourishing sports hub.

Over the last four years, sports budget has reached ₹1,217 crore reflecting the commitment of state government towards sports development and promotion.

The state has established itself as a global hub of hockey, having successfully organised consecutive editions of the FIH

It has set a precedent by launching high performance centers in various sports disciplines in partnership with corporates and eminent sports persons - a model that has been lauded widely. It not only extended its support to Hockey India by another 10 years but is also supporting national federations in football, rugby, kho kho and swimming.



ANTI-EVICTION DRIVE: An excavator razing down unauthorised constructions including boundary wall at Jharapada in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

'Flight of Fantasy' joyride for schoolkids

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 23: In a bid to give wings to the young children's dreams of flying high, the Bhubaneswar Knights Round Table 230 and Bhubaneswar Queens Ladies Circle 130 organised a 'Flight of Fantasy' for 20 students (14 girls and 6 boys) and four teachers of Vivekananda Shiksha Kendra.

The children and their teachers boarded the 'Flight of Fantasy' from Bhubaneswar airport to Kolkata June 21 while they returned to the City the next day.

Governor Ganeshi Lal had flagged off the students' bus to the airport. Earlier, the children met Lal at Governor's House where the latter interacted with them and motivated them to dream big and become good citizens. Bhubaneswar-North MLA Susanta Kumar Rout met the students at the airport and wished everyone a happy journey.

"It is for the first time that these students are flying in an airplane and they are very excited," said Amrita Kedia, chairperson of Bhubaneswar Queens Ladies Circle 130.



Kedia said that the 'Flight of Fantasy' is a great initiative that allows children to live their dreams. "Through this initiative, we help children celebrate their childhood and enjoy a 'money can't buy' moment and also motivate them to work hard to achieve their dreams."

5T Secy continues Balasore tour, reviews devpt works

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 23: As per direction of the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian continued the visit of Balasore on the second day.

He visited Shantikanan, Mallikashpur under Balasore Municipality, paid tribute to Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati. He interacted with members of Fakir Mohan Senapati Sahitya Parisad.

Then, 5T Secretary visited Mission Shakti Bazar at Collectorate and interacted with the Mission Shakti group members. He appreciated the Mission Shakti Bazar concept and assured support.

Then, 5T Secretary went to Sahadevkhunta Bus Stand under Sadar Block and discussed various issues with the Bus Owners Association and Truck Owners Association and reviewed the progress of the Bus Stand work and directed for its early completion.

Later, he visited Utkal Balashram, Sahadevkhunta under Balasore Municipality. He visited modern library and interacted with students. Attending the programme at the meeting ground, he interacted with the Mission Shakti Groups and the local people, heard their grievances and assured for the early redressal.

Pandian then proceeded to Chandipur under Sadar Block, and visited the promenade at Chandipur. He directed the Balasore Collector for preparation of DPR for the development of the tourism site.

He visited Chandaneswar Temple at Chandaneswar under Bhograi Block, offered prayer in the temple, interacted with



the temple committee members, discussed on temple development. Also, interacted with people, and heard their grievances. He directed the Collector to prepare a DPR for beautification and development of Lord Chandaneswar Temple.

5T Secretary visited Manoj Das Memorial at Sankhari, under Bhograi Block, reviewed the progress of the memorial monument work and directed the officials to expedite the work for its early completion.

He proceeded to Talasari meeting ground under Bhograi Block, interacted with the WSHG members and local community, heard their grievances and assured for their early redressal.

Thereafter, he visited Talasari area promenade at Udaypur under Bhograi Block, reviewed the progress of the work and directed to expedite its early completion.

He proceeded to the meeting ground at Laxmannath under

Jaleswar block, interacted with local people and Mission Shakti Groups, heard grievances and directed the district administration for early resolution.

5T Secretary visited Multipurpose hall at Jaleswar and interacted with the sports persons and assured them support.

Then, 5T Secretary proceeded to Baharda under Basta Block, visited the proposed wholesale fish market to be taken up at a cost of ₹70 crore.

Later, he proceeded to Langaleswar meeting ground under Baliapal Block, interacted with Mission Shakti Groups, local people and other communities, heard their grievances and assured for early redressal.

Special Secretary to CM and Sports and youth services secretary R Vineel Krishna, DIG Himanshu Lal, Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, SP Sagarika Nath and district level officials accompanied 5T Secretary during the visit.



REPAIRING WORK: Workers mending the railway tracks at Vani Vihar railway station in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Couple adopts 6-yr-old girl

Cuttack: A childless American couple David and his wife Anna adopted a six-year-old girl child at a function organised at the District Collector's office here Friday. The girl child was given up for adoption by Basundhara, an outfit.

CM hails nurses for bagging nat'l award

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Friday congratulated the two nurses from Odisha who were conferred with the National Florence Nightingale Award by President Droupadi Murmu for the years 2022 and 2023, respectively at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi Thursday. In his social media account, CM said, "My best wishes to two nurses from Odisha, Sebati Sahoo and Manjulata Maharana, who have been awarded 'National Florence Nightingale' by the President for their outstanding work in the field of healthcare. Your dedicated work in protecting so many precious lives is highly appreciated and emulated by all." The award was instituted by the Centre in the year 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society. Sebati is currently working as a nursing officer at the district headquarters hospital in Nabarangpur and has 18 years of clinical experience. Manjulata, on the other hand, is working as an ANM at the Sahaspur health sub-centre in Puri.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

Geetarani Sahoo, W/o Santosh Kumar Sahoo, original Deed & RoR Holder: Pravati Nayak, W/o Manoranjan Nayak, lost original Deed & RoR. Deed No. 3357/2007/1, Khata No. 345/904, Plot No. 479/2818, Mouza Ebaranga. If anybody find it, please contact: 9438436378.

AFFIDAVIT

Consequent upon an affidavit duly sworn by me NIRAD PANI, S/o BARAJA PANI, Rayagada, Gajapati. I have changed the name of my daughter as NIRJHARA PANI instead of NAVVANDITA NIRJHARA PANI. Henceforth my daughter will be known as NIRJHARA PANI for all official purposes. Sd./- NIRAD PANI, Rayagada, Gajapati

1.3bn people globally will live with diabetes by 2050

Population living with diabetes worldwide, currently half a billion, is projected to more than double to 1.3 billion in the next 30 years with every country expected to see an increase, according to a new analysis published in *The Lancet*.

"The rapid rate at which diabetes is growing is not only alarming but also challenging for every health system in the world, especially given how the disease also increases the risk for ischemic heart disease and stroke," said Liane Ong, lead author and Lead Research Scientist at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington's School of Medicine, US.

Almost all global cases, 96 per cent, are type 2 diabetes (T2D), the researchers said, who used the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2021 study and examined the prevalence, morbidity, and

mortality of diabetes for 204 countries and territories by age and sex between 1990 and 2021 and forecasted diabetes prevalence to 2050.

The latest and most comprehensive calculations showed the current global prevalence rate to be 6.1 per cent, making diabetes one of the top 10 leading causes of death and disability, the analysis said.

At the regional level, the study found the rate to be the highest in North Africa and the Middle East at 9.3 per cent, which is expected to rise to 16.8 per cent by 2050 and to 11.3 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The researchers also found diabetes to be especially evident in people 65 and older in every country, registering a global prevalence rate of more than 20 per cent for that demographic. Regionally, North Africa and the Middle East had the highest rate



at 39.4 per cent in this age group, while Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia had the lowest rate at 19.8 per cent.

All 16 risk factors studied were associated with T2D, the re-

searchers said, with high BMI being the primary risk for T2D and accounting for 52.2 per cent of T2D disability and mortality. Dietary risks, environmental/occupational risks, tobacco

use, low physical activity, and alcohol use were other important risk factors.

THE LATEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE CALCULATIONS SHOWED THE CURRENT GLOBAL PREVALENCE RATE TO BE 6.1%, MAKING DIABETES ONE OF THE TOP 10 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AND DISABILITY

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, THE STUDY FOUND THE RATE TO BE THE HIGHEST IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AT 9.3%, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO 16.8% BY 2050

ALL 16 RISK FACTORS STUDIED WERE ASSOCIATED WITH T2D, THE RESEARCHERS SAID, WITH HIGH BMI BEING THE PRIMARY RISK FOR T2D AND ACCOUNTING FOR 52.2% OF T2D DISABILITY AND MORTALITY

exercise, and a poor diet, preventing and controlling diabetes is quite complex due to a number of factors. That includes someone's genetics, as well as logistical, social, and financial barriers within a country's structural system, especially in low- and middle-income countries," said Ong. "Some people might be quick to focus on one or a few risk factors, but that approach doesn't take into account the conditions in which people are born and live that create disparities worldwide," said Lauryn Stafford, second author and Post-Bachelor Fellow at IHME.

"Those inequities ultimately impact people's access to screening and treatment and the availability of health services. That's precisely why we need a more complete picture of how diabetes has been impacting populations at a granular level," said Stafford.

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Leaders jailed by Indira now welcoming Rahul: JP Nadda

Referring to the opposition meeting in Patna organised by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and attended by his ally RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, Nadda said both were arrested during the Emergency



Bhawanipatna, June 23: BJP president JP Nadda Friday said that leaders who were jailed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the Emergency were now welcoming her grandson Rahul Gandhi. The BJP president also accused opposition Congress of feeling discomfort when world leaders praise Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Referring to the opposition meeting in Patna which was organised by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and attended by his

ally RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, Nadda said both were arrested during the Emergency when they were student leaders participating in the movement of Jay Prakash Narayan. Addressing a public meeting in Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district, Nadda said, "Strange things are happening in politics today. Leaders jailed by former PM Indira Gandhi have now joined hands with her grandson Rahul Gandhi." He said Prasad was jailed for 22 months, while Kumar was behind the bars for 20 months during the period.

"I saw Uddhav Thackeray reaching Patna to attend the opposition meeting. His father, 'Hindu Hriday Samrat' Balasaheb Thackeray was opposed to the Congress all along. Balasaheb had once said he will shut the 'dukaan' (referring to his political party Shiv Sena) rather than joining the Congress. Now, his son is closing the 'dukaan', Nadda said. Nadda said Modi is strongly opposed to dynasty politics and introduced politics of development in the country. He claimed Congress was unable to digest Prime Minister Narendra Modi's praise by world leaders. Two days ago, Modi visited the US, met leaders and the world believes that his leadership has given India a new direction, he said. The BJP president claimed that Modi is highly admired and loved by leaders across the world. Some call him (Modi) 'hero', some 'boss', some 'reformer-in-chief' while some call him 'great patriot'. But, it is unfortunate that this cannot be digested by the Congress, leaders of which call Modi derogatory names, he said.



NETWORK WOES: Youths from various villages under Lanjigarh block in Kalahandi district use their mobile phones after climbing atop a nearby hill to get internet connection, Friday

2 WOMEN ELECTROCUTED

Sambalpur, June 23: In a tragic incident, a woman and her mother-in-law were electrocuted to death in front of her two-year-old son at Tabataila village under Jujumura police limits in Sambalpur district, Friday morning. The deceased were identified as Padmini Mirधा (35) and her mother-in-law Sata Mirधा. Fortunately, after the inci-

dent, the child was saved as he came out of the house crying rather than going to her electrocuted mother. As per reports, Sata got electrocuted while trying to plug a wire on the board around 8am Friday. Upon hearing her scream, her daughter-in-law Padmini came to her rescue but got electrocuted to death. When the boy came out of the house crying, a youth from their neighbourhood went in-

side with the child to verify the incident. The family members then rushed both to Jujumura hospital, where the doctors pronounced them 'brought dead'. Later, post-mortem was done at VIMSAR, Burla. Informed, Jujumura police registered a case in this regard and handed over the bodies to her family members after the post-mortem. A pal of gloom descended in the area after the news spread.

2 from Odisha bag Nightingale Award

Kanas/Nabarangpur: As many as 30 health workers from across the nation including two from state were conferred with National Florence Nightingale Award for their remarkable service in the healthcare sector. In a special programme held Thursday at New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu awarded 15 health workers each for the years 2022 and 2023. Nurse Manjulata of Sahaspur sub-health centre under Kadua panchayat in Puri district has been in service for the last 19 years. After completing ANM training in 2007, she started her job at National Health Mission. Apart from zero infant mortality in her area, 89 per cent vaccination, delivery of 104 women during floods and Covid-19, are some of her achievements that made her an example for other health workers. Similarly, Sebati of Nabarangpur district has been dedicated towards her profession for last 20 years. Currently, she is working as a nursing officer in ICU department of DHH. Sebati not only reached remote areas for creating awareness but also provided quality services to people.

Bolangir locals unhappy with check dam construction works

Use of poor quality cement and misappropriation of funds rampant, allege locals

Saintala, June 23: Allegations of poor quality of construction and misappropriation of funds have surfaced over the construction of check dams in Bolangir district. The first such allegation is about the check dam being built by the Irrigation department at an estimated cost of ₹41 lakh at Jalia Babamath of Kandhakeigaon under this block. Locals alleged that the contractor allotted with the job is using low quality cement and 12mm iron rods instead of the 16mm in construction of the dam. They pointed out that the contractor has adopted such means to make a hefty profit and added that it has been possible as government officials are not visiting the construction site on a regular basis. Locals are apprehensive about the durability of the check dam. An employee of the construction company remained tight-

lipped when asked on the allegations. Similar allegations have also surfaced over the construction of another check dam at Makri village under Dharabagarh panchayat. Locals also alleged that the contractor who bagged the tender is not doing the job on his own. On the other hand, he has distributed work to local builders after taking his cut. Meanwhile cracks have already developed in a check dam which is being built at Kukurakhai creek under Kansar panchayat. The total project cost is over ₹36 lakh. This has happened due to the use of poor quality cement, locals alleged. Officials of the Irrigation department refused to talk on this issue when contacted over the phone. However, Bolangir district sub-collector Dayamaya Padhi said that the complaints will be probed and appropriate action will be taken accordingly.



POSCO AFTERMATH

52 affected families move OHRC

IN THE PLAINT FILED BEFORE THE RIGHTS BODY THEY HAVE ALLEGED OF NOT RECEIVING ANY COMPENSATION FOR THEIR LOSSES

Kujang, June 23: As many as 52 families who had been driven out of their village near here in Jagatsinghpur district by the anti-Posco activists in 2007 have approached the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) after failing to get compensation for the loss they had incurred during the period of anti-Posco agitation, June 12, 2007, a report said Friday. In the complaint also stated that they were tortured by the anti-Posco activists and driven out of Patana village under Dhinkia panchayat of Jagatsinghpur district, June 26, 2007 as they co-operated in establishment of the Posco project after being urged by the government to do so. As a result, hundreds of anti-Posco activists barged into their village tortured them and drove them out of their houses and village. The affected villagers had then lodged a complaint at the Kujang police station. The affected families were then rehabilitated at the Bhutmundai High School by the then Collector and SP. However, they failed to lead a normal life following which the leader of the affected families Chandan Mohanty and elders of seven panchayats met the Chief Minister with the help of the district administration and requested him to help them return back to their villages.



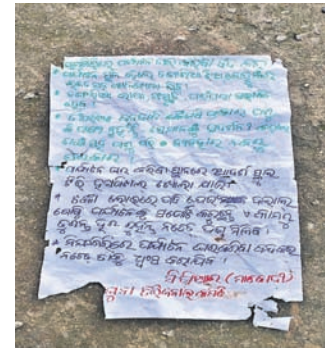
In view of the importance of the Posco project, the Chief Minister reportedly had urged them not to go back to their village and instead take shelter in nearby Damodar Women's College. The Chief Minister also asked the district administration to take the responsibility of providing them food, healthcare and look after the studies of their children. Meanwhile, the members of anti-Posco group pulled down their houses destroyed their belongings that they had left behind in the village while fleeing. The anti-Posco activists also stole their livestock. The affected families again drew the attention of the Chief Minister to which the latter assured to bear all the expenses towards their loss by the state government. Later, Posco constructed a transit camp with tin-roofs at Badagabapur village and rehabilitated them in January, 2008. Around 217 members of the affected families were provided with ₹2,000 for food which was insufficient for them. The district administration then asked them to return to their village. However, the ₹2,000 aid towards food was stopped in 2014

after the Posco project failed to take off. Left with no option, all the 30 families sought apology from the anti-Posco activists and returned to their village. However, around 22 families including their leaders Chandan Mohanty and Rabindra Sahu did not return until the district administration intervened. Two months after their return, they submitted an estimate of their losses which they had incurred while staying outside their native village. The estimate includes their houses, betel vines, livestock and cashew orchards. Later, former minister Raghunandan Das and the then Collector met Patana villagers and urged them to assist in land acquisition for establishment of industries in their area. Das and the then Collector also assured them that the state government will bear all the losses that they had incurred during the Posco agitation period. The affected villagers met the Chief Minister and submitted a written complaint after they were not paid with compensation. However, as the compensation never came by they have now visited the OHRC and submitted a written complaint.

Red posters resurface in Rayagada district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada/Kalyansinghpur, June 23: Maoist posters have resurfaced in Niyamagiri region in Rayagada district, reports said Friday. The Bamsadhara-Nagabali-Ghumusura (Baghuna) Mao committee has pasted four Mao posters at Parsali village under Kalyansinghpur block. In the letters, the Red rebels demanded to ban organisations like 'Shining Kalahandi' and 'Opilipi' as these organisations "acted like brokers of Vedanta company". In the letter, the ultras called for mass agitation against the mining works at Niyamagiri hills to protest against handing over forest land rights to capitalists by snatching the tribals' land. The poster, which also warned against making Niyamagiri a tourist centre, was allegedly put up by CPI Maoists and Baghuna divisional committee. If a tourist centre is constructed at Niyamagiri, then outsiders will play with the modesty of the Dangaria girls and ladies, Dangaria language, tradition, culture will be hampered, the poster read. Do not present Dangaria people like animals, and behave with them rudely, the poster added along with demand to construct a model school and a TB hospital.



Fulkerya adds life to waste creating livelihood

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 23: Fulkerya, an Odisha-based lifestyle brand, creates eco-conscious products in categories across fashion, home décor and accessories. This is a CSR initiative of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). Eight such start-up initiatives have been provided with financial support as part of its CSR initiative so as to strengthen the initiatives like Skill India, Start-up India and Vocal for Local endeavours of the Government of India. This start-up was started in 2017 by Product Designer Sarita Nilima Ekka who is an NID Ahmedabad alumni and former software engineer Udit Oram. Fulkerya, the brand is committed to the ideals of simplicity, good quality and green consumption.



The mantra the brand is following is to go for the local products and for that, it is using locally available resources. It is using scrap wood and bamboo widely available in the region as raw material for its products. Each of the team members is trained and involved in every step of the production process, right from the collection of wood and bamboo, to designing and processing through a series of manual and high-end machines and equipment. Each of the designs is sketched and then the design layout is developed

in the computers which are again loaded into the laser machines to get the desired shapes and sizes. The team has developed more than 70 designs of earrings, ear studs and key chains and is further working on them to keep up with the trend and market demands. It has also been making jewellery boxes, tea-coasters, trays, wooden diaries, pen stands, wooden world-map, dining sets, sofa sets, centre tables, wooden planters etc. Apart from designing the product, eco-friendly packag-

ing with its own design is what makes the entire product special. The products are available both online as well as offline through social media handles and in exhibitions.

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EAST COAST RAILWAY
(1) E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-19, Dtd. 14.06.2023
Name of work: S&T WORK OF FOOT OVER BRIDGE (FOB) IN RELATION TO AMRIT BHARAT WORK AT BALANGIR (BLGR), BARGARH ROAD (BRGA), SAMBALPUR CITY (SBPY) STATION.
Tender Value : ₹ 11,84,190.60. Bid Security: ₹ 23,700.00.
(2) E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-20, Dtd. 14.06.2023
Name of work: S&T WORK OF FOOT OVER BRIDGE (FOB) IN RELATION TO AMRIT BHARAT WORK AT TITLAGARH (TIG), KESINGA (KSN), KANTABANJI (KBJ) & MAHASAMUND (MSMD) STATION.
Tender Value : ₹ 20,76,820.00, Bid Security: ₹ 41,500.00.
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 hrs. on 10.07.2023 (for both tenders).
No manual offers sent by post/courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Sig & Telecom Engineer, PR-291/O/23-24 Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY
(1) Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2023-T-163
Name of work: ELECTRICAL WORK IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY INSTITUTE OF BALANGIR (BLGR) STATION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 4,56,167.62, EMD/Bid Security Deposit: ₹ 9,100.00.
(2) Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2023-T-164
Name of work: ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH SETTING UP OF AUTOMATIC COACH WASHING PLANT AT COACHING DEPOT SAMBALPUR.
Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 47,38,449.10, EMD/Bid Security Deposit: ₹ 94,800.00.
Completion period of the work : 6 (Six) months (for sl no. 1) & 12 (Twelve) months (for sl no. 2) from the date of issue of L.O.A.
Tender closing Date & Time: 1630 hrs. on 17.07.2023 (for sl no. 1) & At 1630 hrs. on 14.07.2023 (for sl no. 2).
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in
The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-292/O/23-24 Sambalpur



The human race tolerates and accepts the existence of superior beings only on the condition that they are at its service

THE MOTHER



Strategic Shift

The appointment of Nitin Agarwal as the new Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) comes at a crucial time, coinciding with the bi-annual four-day border talks between the BSF and its Bangladesh counterpart, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), in Delhi. Those in the know informed DKB that CRPF DG Sujoy Lal Thaosan, who was holding additional charge of BSF until now, headed the BSF during the talks.

This move reflects a strategic shift in India's approach towards securing its borders and signifies a renewed commitment to addressing the complex challenges faced along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders. Agarwal's extensive experience, fresh perspective and expertise in border management and counter-insurgency operations make him a valuable asset in leading the BSF. He has served in the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), another border guarding force under the command of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), apart from working in various capacities in his cadre state of Kerala.

In today's complex geo-political environment, the BSF's effectiveness in securing our borders relies on seamless cooperation with intelligence agencies, local law enforcement and the Indian Army. Agarwal's leadership and ability to forge partnerships will be crucial in fostering synergy among these entities and effectively facilitating joint operations to counter transnational threats.

When babus go wild

The suspension of IAS officer Girdhar and IPS officer Sushil Kumar Bishnoi in Rajasthan following a brawl was necessary to address the public outcry and ensure a fair investigation. However, this shocking incident raises broader questions about civil servants' selection and training processes. Many in the public are now questioning what the LBS Academy in Mussoorie is teaching the trainee civil servants and whether ethics is part of the UPSC exam or training.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

After the incident in which the two 2019-batch officers allegedly used hockey sticks to beat up hotel staff in Ajmer, in the presence of policemen, it is only natural to question how these individuals who have recently joined the services already feel entitled to abuse their power and resort to violence.

The episode has highlighted the need for continuous monitoring and accountability mechanisms within the civil service. It does not take much time for such incidents to tarnish the reputation of the all-India services and erode public trust, never high to begin with, in our babus. It is essential to thoroughly investigate the actions of the two officials and ensure that any misconduct is met with appropriate disciplinary measures.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, striving to retain power in the upcoming Assembly elections, must move swiftly and ensure that such shameful incidents are not repeated. While the state Vigilance Department's probe is a step in the right direction, it should not end there.

TN government locks out CBI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) may be feeling increasingly locked out, with Tamil Nadu joining the list of opposition-ruled states that have withdrawn their general consent to the CBI to probe cases within the state. Now the CBI cannot register any case, conduct raids or probe Central government employees in Tamil Nadu without taking due sanctions from the MK Stalin government.

Though not entirely unexpected, the decision raises questions about the motivation and implications of the move on governance and accountability. Although the DMK government's decision will limit the CBI's investigative powers, observers say that it won't keep the central agencies at bay. The withdrawal of consent applies only to future cases and not to cases already registered and under investigation.

Sources have informed DKB that the state's consent is not required if the order for an investigation comes from the Supreme Court or the High Court. In any case, the withdrawal of consent applies only to the CBI. Other Central agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) or Enforcement Directorate (ED) can continue to probe any case anywhere in the country. So, the Tamil Nadu government may have made its political point about the Modi sarkar targeting opposition-ruled states by using central agencies, but it may be just that. The fear of "arbitrary actions" by central agencies other than the CBI will still linger.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- You cannot cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**
- Good Wishes Alone Will Not Ensure Peace. **ALFRED NOBEL**
- Tact is the art of making a point without making an enemy. **ISAAC NEWTON**

WORDSWORTH

Autohagiography

To commit autohagiography is to write about oneself in an adulatory way. It has the same relationship to autobiography as a publicist's puffery has to objective truth. So far as I know it hasn't yet reached the pages of any major dictionary, being one of those words that lurks unnoticed in the linguistic undergrowth, only occasionally emerging to startle the unwary reader. The first use of it I can trace is in the title of the book *The Confessions of Aleister Crowley; An Autohagiography*, which was published in 1970. I've also seen the adjective autohagiographical, but it seems to be rare to the point where it is reinvented each time it's used. The root word hagiography comes from the Greek agios, "holy", and was at first applied to books which described the lives of the saints. Such books had a marked tendency towards uncritical descriptions. So sometime about the end of last century hagiography broadened its sense to that of any biographical work that flatters or idolises its subject.

Wanion

The first generation of editors of the Oxford English Dictionary were especially literate men and this shows in their definitions, which sometimes needed a dictionary to interpret them (luckily, the reader always had one immediately to hand, if a rather cumbersome one). Take wanion. Its still-current OED definition, written nearly a century ago, says: "An altered form of 'wanian' used in certain formulas of asseveration or imprecation." A modern dictionary aiming at plain English definitions might say instead that in set phrases it meant an emphatic statement or curse. In itself, wanion means "in the waning of the moon". It's from the Old English verb wanian, to lessen, from which we get wane. You may feel wanion is too mild and agreeable a word to be attached to a curse, but in bygone centuries the waning of the moon was thought to be an unlucky time. Various fixed expressions took on the word and the idea, such as with a (wild) wanion (with a plague or with a vengeance), a wanion (a curse on) and fetch one a wanion (bring one a misfortune). By the early nineteenth century the phrases were old-fashioned, if not archaic.

BREAKING NEW GROUNDS!

FOCUS MODI IN AMERICA

The much-awaited state visit of Prime Minister Modi to the United States has happened. Not only in India, across the world, perhaps for the first time, attention is focused on it. Modi was accorded the singular honour of addressing the US Congress for the second time, after a couple of leaders like Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela. He becomes the only major world leader to do so. This is not a small recognition which United States of America bestows, and the American government is not an admirer of Modi. This honour signifies the American intent of embracing India as a partner.



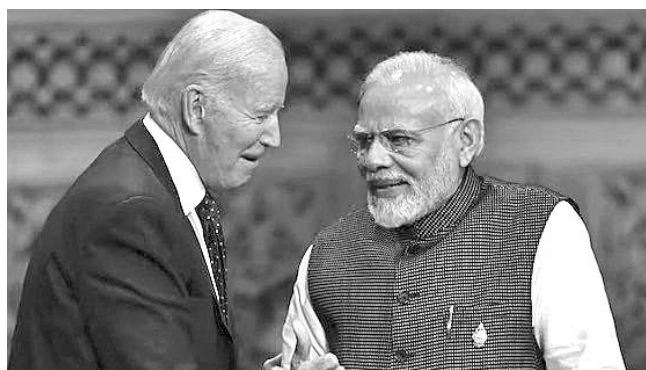
DK Giri

INDIA WILL HAVE TO SHED THE SENTIMENTS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR/RUSSIA AND AMERICA WILL HAVE TO STOP ITS TOUCH-AND-GO CONTACTS WITH CHINA AND PAKISTAN

Many an observer is wondering, why America is rolling the red carpet for Modi, who was once denied a visa as Chief Minister of Gujarat for his controversial role in the communal pogrom in 2002. On a TV panel debate I was asked the very question. My answer was as follows:

America is not cuddling Modi as a person. They are warming up to the most populous country in the world and potentially the biggest market. Estimates are that by 2030, India will have a working population of 1 billion which is more than the G-8 population. Furthermore, India's per capita mobile data consumption ranks number one in the world, which is more than that of the US and China combined. Americans have noticed how people in India's remote areas can access sophisticated healthcare with digital help. American economists have predicted the steady growth of the Indian economy as that of China peaks whenever the Western countries decide to pull the rug under its feet. Second, in inter-governmental transactions, national interests, an euphemism for realpolitik, prompt the countries, not necessarily human rights.

Third, to be fair to both Biden and Modi, both societies,



America is not cuddling Modi as a person. They are warming up to the most populous country in the world and potentially the biggest market. Estimates are that by 2030, India will have a working population of 1 billion which is more than G-8 population

American and Indian, face their respective challenges in upholding democracy and human rights etc. However, Modi's 'stoic silence' at the time of violence against or violation of the fundamental rights of minorities in India raises questions about his attitude towards religious minorities of non-Indic origin.

The second question amid the hype and brouhaha in the media is, what would the visit accomplish in material terms? Will the US and India become allies? America and India may be fumbling a bit in becoming formal allies just yet. But the geo-political situation will nudge both countries into a formal alliance. Ironically, China is the catalyst that will foster this relationship.

In fact, there has been greater reluctance on the Indian part and inconsistency shown by Americans, as I have repeatedly said in this column. Both leaderships will do well to remember the axiomatic advice proffered by Carol Elizabeth Mosley Braun, a former US Senator and diplomat, "In politics, there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies,

just permanent interests". India will have to shed its sentiments about the history of its relationship with the USSR/Russia and America will have to stop its touch-and-go contacts with China and Pakistan.

Thankfully, there was evidence of a new mood and strategic shift during this visit. Sample the words and note the warmth in the speeches of both leaders on the South Lawn of the White House. Some may say they are diplomatic platitudes. But not really! Again, for the first time, Indian Americans in a sizeable number were allowed entry into the coveted premises of the White House. Immigrants and NRIs display an irrational degree of emotion for their home country. That said, let us also study the critical agreements made during this visit.

Biden, in his welcome remarks, said three things. He said that India-American bilateralism "will be a defining relationship of the 21st century and will impact world politics". Second, he said that the three beginning words in our respective constitutions, which are, "We the people" inextricably

bind them together. Third, he underlined that the world is at an inflection point where multiple challenges are staring at them. It is time for two big democracies and two powerful countries to stand together. The reference to the war in the presence of Modi indicates that America will push the envelope on the Ukrainian war and try to nudge India onto their side sooner rather than later.

In his reply, Modi was equally effusive about American's overture and hospitality. He said "I cannot thank Biden and the first lady enough for inviting me to address the US Congress for the second time." He added, post-Covid, world is taking a new shape. In the new scenario, the India and American relationship which is becoming more determined and strongly strategic, will contribute to global good, peace, stability and prosperity. Modi underscored the weight of Indian demography as he said, "I bring the aspirations and goodwill of 1.4 billion people in India and the 4 million plus Indian Diaspora in America."

India and the US on 22nd June, declared number of agreements on defence cooperation, critical emerging technology, health, environment, issuance of visas and space: the last one could pave the way for an unprecedented transfer of Jet Indian technology to India.

Some critics point out that Modi did not get much in strategic terms, as Chinese aggression against India and occupation of its land in Ladakh were not mentioned. Admittedly, both countries are treading cautiously but surely on China, which is the common denominator in the relationship. So, all in all, this visit has taken the next big step in the India-America relationship.

The writer is Secretary General of the Association for Democratic Socialism

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SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Throwing good money after good

Innovation can have a profound effect on our lives. Thanks to technological advances that reduced the price of solar energy by nearly 90% between 2009 and 2019. Likewise, agricultural innovation has helped to triple the amount of food grown per hectare since 1960. And mRNA vaccine technology has saved countless lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Societies have established various mechanisms to encourage innovation. While these mechanisms foster innovation, they are not perfect. In some areas, commercial investment incentives fall far short of what is required, and the needs of the poor too often go unaddressed. Certain innovations, such as emissions-reduction technologies, benefit everyone rather than the customer. This means that their price does not fully reflect their value to society, reducing private companies' incentives to develop them.

Similarly, there is a need for innovations that improve how governments deliver essential services, such as teaching children math or protecting vulnerable individuals and communities from

climate change. But such innovations are often difficult to monetize.

As a result, innovations aimed at serving the poorest segments of society are frequently overlooked. To mobilize investment in projects designed to assist those living in poverty, we helped establish social innovation funds in the United States and France. Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) at the US Agency for International Development, and the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) at the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) both take a page from venture capital's playbook, but focus on currently underserved areas.

These funds identify innovations that can be scaled up, either by the agencies hosting them or by other governments, NGOs, or private companies. For example, DIV's early, relatively modest investments in targeted instruction in India provided the necessary proof of concept that facilitated the Zambian government's almost-nationwide expansion of the model, with assistance from the US government. Millions of children in a dozen African countries now

reap the benefits of these highly effective pedagogical programs.

This approach has been enormously successful. We recently analyzed the impact of the first two years of DIV investments, which included software to support community health workers in delivering basic services, water-treatment dispensers, and affordable glasses for presbyopia. Innovations funded by DIV during this period have affected more than 100 million people and generated at least \$17 of social benefits for every \$1 invested.

Much like venture capital, a handful of "superstar" innovations account for most of the benefits. For both venture-capital and social innovation funds, the majority of innovations have modest impacts or do not pan out, but a few big successes can justify the entire portfolio and drive returns. Nine of the 41 innovations funded by DIV in its first two years reached more than one million people. We were able to put a dollar value on five of them. By 2019, these five innovations generated \$281 million in social benefits, representing a seventeen-fold return on the entire portfolio, including

administrative costs. Given the riskiness of investments in innovation, there is always the fear that a fund could fail to identify the superstars or overcommit to mediocre or failed projects. DIV and FID have managed to avoid this and generate robust returns on their investments.

At a time when aid budgets are under renewed pressure, one way to maximize the impact of spending is through open, tiered, evidence-based social innovation funds like DIV and FID. The evidence suggests that such funds can deliver tremendous returns on investment and avoid throwing good money after bad. By identifying, testing, and rapidly scaling up the most promising innovations, they provide a powerful tool for reducing global poverty and achieving other socially desirable goals.

Esther Duflo is Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at MIT and at the Collège de France. Michael Kremer is a University Professor in Economics at the University of Chicago

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Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer

GIVEN THE RISKINESS OF INVESTMENTS IN INNOVATION, THERE IS ALWAYS THE FEAR THAT A FUND COULD OVERCOMMIT TO MEDIOCRE OR FAILED PROJECTS

Indo-US ties

Sir, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a state visit to the United States of America. The multi-day visit aimed at achieving multiple goals for India. This visit will further strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two nations. The two countries have signed agreements in different sectors like defence, space, technology, industry, science, and education. Modi and USA President Joe Biden have decided to fight the contemporary challenges of the 21st century together. The good ties between these two powerful and democratic nations could help the world face many global challenges like terrorism, climate change, expansionism, etc. In the post-COVID world, both countries face some common challenges like tension with China, energy crisis due to war, etc. The cooperation between both countries will also help to counter these challenges. Both countries possess an essential position in the Indo-Pacific region, so the two nations are also putting efforts into developing the region and creating an accessible environment for trade in that region. So the good relationship between the two oldest democracies can bring positive outcomes for the whole world.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Not a pleasant finding

Sir, Recently, there was a series of mild intensity quakes and aftershocks in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda-Kishtwar region particularly in the Chenab valley. People of the valley are always on their toes because of a US study in 2015 that predicted a major earthquake of more than 8 on Richter scale. Some experts say mild earthquakes upto 5 can prevent more severe ones by what is called "release of tectonic stress". In simple words, tectonic stress is the force accumulated over a period of time due to interaction of two earth plates. Depending upon the severity of earthquakes, India has been divided into four zones. According to a study, about sixty percent of land mass in India is exposed to earthquakes—not a pleasant finding at all. People should be made aware of the fact that earthquakes cannot be predicted, and an aftershock is a natural aftermath of the bigger quake that is not even remotely deadly as the primary quake.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

OrissaPOST
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UP heatwave linked to climate change

A HEATWAVE IS DECLARED IF THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF A STATION REACHES AT LEAST 40 DEGREES CELSIUS IN THE PLAINS, AT LEAST 37 DEGREES CELSIUS IN COASTAL AREAS AND AT LEAST 30 DEGREES CELSIUS IN THE HILLY REGIONS AND THE DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL IS AT LEAST 4.5 DEGREES CELSIUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 23: Climate change at least doubled the chances of heat wave in Uttar Pradesh which swept through the state recently, causing multiple hospitalisations, an analysis conducted using a metric called the Climate Shift Index (CSI) shows.

Developed by Climate Central, an independent US-based group of scientists and communicators, CSI is a tool that quantifies the contribution of climate change to daily temperatures. Sixty-eight patients died at the district hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia in five days till Monday amid a punishing heat wave in the region. Officials, however, said only two people died due to heat stroke. According to media reports, the neighbouring Deoria district also saw deaths amid extreme heat.

Researchers at Climate Central conducted the analysis using CSI, which measures how often and how much temperatures have shifted from the historical average. A higher index indicates more dramatic change compared to the past.

CSI levels above one indicate climate change. Levels between two and five mean that climate change made those temperatures between two to five times more likely. The analysis shows



that certain parts of Uttar Pradesh reached CSI levels of three, indicating temperatures that have become at least three times more likely due to climate change.

New analysis shows that a three-day extreme heat event over Uttar Pradesh from June 14-16 was made at least two times more likely by human-caused climate change, researchers at Climate Central said. According to them, extreme temperatures coupled with high humidity con-

tributed to the severity of the event.

Our most recent World Weather Attribution (WWA) study has shown that this has been recognised in India, but the implementation of heat action plans is slow. It needs to be an absolute priority adaptation action everywhere," said Friederike Otto, the co-lead of WWA, a panel of international experts that study the role of climate change in extreme weather events.

In April, heat and long exposure to the sun claimed 13 lives at a function in Navi Mumbai's Kharghar. Medical experts say heat stroke occurs when the body's temperature regulation system fails and it overheats. Common symptoms include a very high body temperature, rapid breathing, rapid heart rate, altered mental state and sometimes dry skin or absence of sweating. However,

these symptoms can also occur in other medical emergencies, making it difficult to immediately identify heat stroke as the cause of death.

Heatwave conditions prevailed for around 10 days in east Uttar Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh and for around 12 days in Odisha, Jharkhand, Telangana, and north coastal Andhra Pradesh in the absence of any rain-producing weather system, according to India Meteorological Department.

A heatwave is declared if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas and at least 30 degrees Celsius in the hilly regions and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius.

Heat action plans are the primary policy response to economically damaging and life-threatening heat waves. These prescribe several activities, disaster responses and post-heatwave response measures to decrease the impact of heat waves.

We see again and again that climate change dramatically increases the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, one of the deadliest weather events that exist

FRIEDERIKE OTTO | CO-LEAD, WWA

DEMOLITION OF DALIT HOMES

People will teach BJP a lesson: Priyanka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, June 23: Reacting to the demolition of Dalit homes, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi hit out at BJP saying that the atrocities against the community has reached its peak.

"The families who had gone to work as labourers, their homes were demolished without giving any information. The houses built under the PM Awas Yojana were also demolished. The people of Madhya Pradesh will teach a lesson to the BJP government which perpetrated atrocities on Dalits, tribals and the poor," Priyanka Gandhi tweeted.

On Thursday, Madhya Pradesh administration demolished 10 homes in Sagar district. Out of these homes, seven were built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. The state administration claimed that the homes were built on the forest land.

Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh sat on protest against the government's action Friday. His protest prompted Sagar District Collector Deepak Arya and SP Abhishek Tiwari along the other officials to join the protests and demand an apology.

"I came to know that the houses of tribals and others were demolished with the help of bulldozers under police protection in Rapura village around 10.30 pm on Wednesday," the Rajya Sabha



The families who had gone to work as labourers, their homes were demolished without giving any information. The houses built under the PM Awas Yojana were also demolished. The people of Madhya Pradesh will teach a lesson to the BJP government which perpetrated atrocities on Dalits, tribals and the poor

PRIYANKA GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

member told reporters.

"Under which law these houses, built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, were demolished," he asked. Meanwhile, the BSP Supremo Mayawati also condemned the action against Dalits.

"Bulldozer politics of the Madhya Pradesh now has started targeting homes and schools. Now, they have started demolishing the houses of the poor built under the PM Awas Yojana, which is highly condemnable. In this sequence, the destruction of houses of seven Dalit families built under the PM scheme in Sagar district is shameful," BSP supremo said.

UP cops pun with yoga pose to teach people traffic rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 23: Uttar Pradesh Police wore its punning cap on the Yoga Day with a series of Twitter posts to create awareness on traffic rules.

In one such post, the UP Police emphasised the importance of 'Vahan me Anush-asaan' (discipline while driving) with the post carrying a picture of people striking a yoga pose.

The tweet implored people to relax at red lights, railway tracks, no-honking zones, and zebra crossings.

In another tweet, the state police advised people to take slow breaths at red lights, holding breath when they turn yellow, and exhale slowly as they turn green.

Another post compared reckless driving to performing a headstand or 'shirshasana', which ultimately leads to 'shavasana' -- a death pose.

Special DG, Law and order, Prashant Kumar said with the posts the state police did not just



mean to celebrate the International Yoga Day, but also remind people of the traffic safety rules.

When it comes to social media messages, creativity has always been our ally in creating engaging content that captures the attention of the public.

The posts on

#InternationalYogaDay grabs the fleeting attention of social media users and attempts to divert it towards creating a meaningful impact, he said.

Additional SP ATSSocial Media in-charge, UP Police, Rahul Srivastav said that they tried to tap into the familiarity of people with Yoga.

Monsoon onset in MP likely over weekend

THE MONSOON ARRIVED IN KERALA JUNE 8, SEVEN DAYS BEHIND ITS NORMAL SCHEDULE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, June 23: The south-west monsoon is likely to arrive in Madhya Pradesh over this weekend, even as parts of the state, including capital Bhopal and Indore, received pre-monsoon showers, an IMD official said Friday.

Over the last two days, the eastern parts of the state bordering Chhattisgarh received rainfall, giving much-needed respite to citizens from the sweltering heat.

"The south-west monsoon is likely to hit Madhya Pradesh on June 24 or 25 and it is expected to set in over state capital Bhopal on June 26 or 27," India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhopal director R Balasubramanian told PTI. By June 29, it is likely to cover the entire state, he said.

Last year, the monsoon had arrived in the state June 16, a day before its normal schedule. By June 21, it had covered 80 per cent of the state.

The monsoon arrived in Kerala



SWELTERING HEAT

June 8, seven days behind its normal schedule. According to Balasubramanian, three systems were bringing in moisture in Madhya Pradesh at present. These systems are a cyclonic circulation lying over central Uttar Pradesh, another cyclonic circulation over the west-central region and adjoining the north-west Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh and

south Odisha, he said.

A trough line is running from south Punjab to central Uttar Pradesh, where one of the cyclonic circulations lay, the official said.

During the 24-hour period ending 8.30 am Friday, many parts of the state received showers with Guna district recording

the highest rainfall of 43.2 mm.

Other districts, including Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior, also witnessed rainfall during the same period, the IMD data said. The maximum temperature in parts of the state hovered between 30 and 40 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature was between 21 and 30 degrees Celsius following the intermittent showers since the last 48 hours, it said.

OBJECTIONABLE POSTERS OF KAMAL NATH PUT UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, June 23: Objectionable posters of veteran Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Kamal Nath were put up at a market in Bhopal.

The posters in the city's Manisha market had a QR code, along with a picture of the veteran leader calling him "Corruption Nath" and that he was "wanted".

In response, Kamal Nath's media advisor Piyush Babele said it was done on the behest of the state's BJP government, adding that it was an attempt to tarnish the Congress leader's image, who has served to the country for over 40 years.

"This is an insult to Madhya Pradesh. This is an insult to the service of the state. This is an insult to the goal of making a golden Madhya Pradesh. This is an insult to those crores of people in whose heart Kamal Nath resides," Babele said.

He also demanded strict action, saying that the Congress will also stage a protest against the incident.

"I demand from the Chief Minister that while taking action on his behalf, arrest those who put up such posters and give them the strictest punishment. If they fail to do so, then it will be clear to the people of Madhya Pradesh that all this work is being done at their behest," Babele said.



UP to set up Inland Waterways Authority

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 22: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh plans to establish an Inland Waterways Authority to promote and regulate water transport in the state.

To be set up on the lines of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) established in 1986, the proposed statutory body will be known as the Inland Waterways of Uttar Pradesh with an independent office and infrastructure, said a government spokesman. The transport department, that is currently responsible for regulating water transport in the state, is scheduled to give a presentation on the proposal to the chief secretary by the end of the week before it is sent to the Cabinet for approval.

L Venkateshwar Lu, principal secretary, transport, said, "The government has decided to set up an Inland Waterways Authority in the state to promote and regulate passenger and freight transport in various rivers. A proposal in this regard will be sent soon to the Cabinet for approval."

According to transport commissioner Chandra Bhushan Singh, the government will also



enact a law to frame rules laying down powers and functions of the proposed body that will explore the possibilities of promoting water transport in rivers in the state.

He said some states, including

Kerala, had already set up similar bodies. "The water transport has already begun in Varanasi and we feel there is a lot of scope for expanding the same to other rivers and other water bodies, more so when there

are cruises that can operate in shallow water as well," Singh said.

As per the proposal, Inland Waterways Transport Authority of Uttar Pradesh will work closely with various stakehold-

Special emphasis will be placed on improving connectivity between different regions, including hinterland areas, industrial zones, and major cities

ers, including boat operators, cargo handlers and other entities involved in the sector, to establish standardised practices and ensure compliance with safety and other norms.

Additionally, the authority will undertake initiatives to develop necessary infrastructure, such as terminals, jetties and navigational aids to facilitate seamless water transport operations. Special emphasis will be placed on improving connectivity between different regions, including hinterland areas, industrial zones, and major cities.

The government's plan to set up the Inland Waterways Authority to promote water transport in rivers in the state is aimed to diversify the transportation network and reduce the burden on the road infrastructure.



A US Air Force F-16 fighter takes off on the sidelines of a press event marking the conclusion of the Air Defender 2023 air force maneuver at Jagel Air Base in Jagel, Germany. 25 nations participated in the German-led air exercise



Women smear each other's face with vermilion during the Ambubachi festival, in Agartala



A youngster jumps into a canal to beat the heat on a hot day in Amritsar



Security personnel patrol the Dal Lake ahead of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to SKICC to inaugurate the 'Vitasta Cultural Festival', in Srinagar



Villagers cast nets to fish at flood-affected Daranga river at Kumrikata in Baksa district



Britain's Prince William and Kate, Princess of Wales arrive at the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting, at Ascot Racecourse in Ascot, England



DMK MP Kanimozhi poses for a selfie with Coimbatore's first woman bus driver Sharmila after travelling in her bus from Gandhipuram to Peelamedu, in Coimbatore



Climate activist, Greta Thunberg, participates in a protest on the sidelines of the Global Climate Finance Summit in Paris

PTI PHOTOS

national



“We cannot claim to be a society governed by law if someone is above the law, if someone has immunity from law, be it anyone”
JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

NEW MOVE

The students of Classes 9 to 12 in UP Board will study the biography of Veer Savarkar. Apart from Savarkar, the chapters on the life of 50 other great men have been included in the syllabus



of the day quote

Many people feared bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir if Article 370 was repealed, but no blood was spilled there after the special status was revoked
MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

The Opposition parties are meeting in Patna not to dislodge Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government but to save their own political dynasties
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

Measures to encourage capital investment have been an important aspect of "Modinomics" as it is not just a wealth creator but also a means of employment generation
NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

BJP plays down Oppn meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 23: As 17 opposition parties came together Friday to stitch a front against the BJP, the ruling party called it a "multi-headed selfish alliance" and compared it with wolves hunting in packs.

Addressing a press conference here soon after the opposition unity meeting in Patna, BJP leader and Union minister Smriti Irani said this coming together of the parties was not targeted at Prime Minister Narendra Modi but the country's coffers. "It is said that wolves hunt in packs! A political pack met in Patna. Their 'prey' is the future of India," she said.

She said this alliance of selfishness was being forged with India as its target. "Whenever these political parties came together, they brought corruption, nepotism and brought with them the allegation of constricting the economic progress of the nation," Irani added.

She said the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) blackmailing at the beginning itself shows the future of the "unholy alliance." "It is ironic that Trinamool Congress Party members today witnessed bonhomie between Mamata and that Communist Party, the leadership of which was particularly known for dragging Mamata by her hair, especially when she tried to speak for the people of Bengal," she said referring to



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee greets Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during a joint press conference after opposition parties' meeting, in Patna. RJD chief Lalu Prasad and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge are also seen
 PTI PHOTO

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

She further said Trinamool workers never in their life would have thought that "Mamata Bandyopadhyay would go under the protection of the same Communist Party whose Communist Party leaders humiliated Mamata Bandyopadhyay on the road by pulling her hair".

Irani further said the Congress workers of West Bengal similarly would have never imagined that "Mamata, whose hands are stained with the blood of Congress workers, will one day appear on Rahul ji's head".

"Even the people of Tamil Nadu would never have imagined that the DMK party, which was accused by the top leadership of the Congress in the 1990s of helping in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, one day, would have sweeter relations with the Gandhi family," she said.

"At what cost will the Gandhi family do its politics?" she asked. Referring to TMC chief touching RJD supreme Lalu Prasad's feet, Irani said, "While the nation was recently witness to Mamata paying reverence to Lalu ji, I am sure neither the nation nor Lalu ji has forgotten how Mamata presented a white paper describing in de-

“Whenever these political parties came together, they brought corruption, nepotism and brought with them the allegation of constricting the economic progress of the nation”
SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER



tail incapacities of Lalu ji as a minister at the Centre."

Mamata was "extremely prophetic" when she said Rahul Gandhi is leader of opposition but then it becomes "certain" that Narendra Modi will yet again be elected as the prime minister, she added. Irani's comments followed the meeting of Opposition parties, including the Congress, Trinamool, DMK, JD(U), SP and Left, in Patna where they resolved to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha elections unitedly to defeat the BJP and work with flexibility by setting aside their differences.

BENGAL PANCHAYAT POLLS

315 companies of central forces sent

On Thursday, the State Election Commission had sought 800 additional companies of central armed forces in addition to the 22 companies that it had sought earlier



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, June 23: The Centre has cleared the immediate deployment of 315 companies of additional central armed forces for the forthcoming polls to the three-tier panchayat system in West Bengal.

These 315 companies, which will start getting deployed from Friday only, will be in addition to the 22 companies whose deployment has already been cleared. The Union home minister has sent a communication to the West Bengal State Election Commission on this count. The 315 companies will be having a mix of personnel from Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Railway Protection Force (RPF).

On Thursday the state election commission had sought 800 additional companies of central armed forces in addition to the 22 companies that it had sought earlier. Meanwhile, the leader of the opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari has claimed that considering the polls being conducted in a sin-

gle-phase on July 8, a total of 822 companies will not be adequate. He has also indicated approaching the Calcutta High Court again on this count.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress leadership has expressed doubts that the decision to send central armed forces in phases is an indirect pressure on the state election commission to succumb to the pressure from the opposition to break up the single-phase election into multiple phases.

In 2013 West Bengal panchayat polls, where too central armed forces were deployed following the insistence of the then state election commissioner, Meera Pandey, the election were held in five phases. In 2013, as many 820 companies or 82,000 personnel of central armed forces were deployed for the five phase polls.

The opposition has contended since 2013 that there has been an increase in the number of districts, polling stations, polling booths and voters. So, the opposition has argued, if 82,000 central armed forces personnel were enough for five phase polls in 2013, the same is highly inadequate for the single phase polls in 2023.

SHORT TAKES

UP man held

Mumbai: A 22-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh has been arrested for allegedly sending a threat message about "bombings" in Mumbai and Pune, an official said Friday. Accused Darvesh Sharda Rajbhar, alias Rahul, told the police that he got the idea of sending the message from social media, the official said. The Mumbai police control room's WhatsApp number on Thursday morning received a message, which said there would be "bombings" in the city and Pune, the official said. While issuing the threat, the sender also allegedly demanded money. Mumbai cops launched a probe after registering a case at Amboli police station in the western suburbs.

Three killed in building collapse

Jamnagar: Three persons died after a three-storey residential building collapsed in Jamnagar city of Gujarat Friday evening, officials said. The building located in Sadhana colony area, constructed by the Gujarat Housing Board, was in a dilapidated condition, locals claimed. Of the eight persons rescued, three succumbed to injuries while others are undergoing treatment at Guru Gobindsingh government hospital, said the hospital's medical superintendent Dr Deepak Tiwari.

Man arrested

Ahmednagar (Maharashtra): The Maharashtra Police has arrested a man who posed as an officer of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) bearing code name "Chanakya" and duped people by promising jobs in the income tax department and armed forces, officials said here Friday. The arrest, based on a tip-off from the military intelligence unit of the army's southern command, came months after Kiran Patel, a conman from Gujarat was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police for posing as an official in the prime minister's office (PMO). Santosh Aatmaram Rathore, 35, was arrested from a rented accommodation in Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra where he stayed with his girlfriend, they said.

Four of family killed in Maha

Chandrapur: Four members of a family were killed when a truck collided with their car in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district Friday, police said. The accident occurred in the afternoon when the victims were heading towards Yavatmal district through Ghugus town, assistant police inspector Rajkiran Madavi of Padoli police station said.

AWARDS FROM PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS

Prior approval must: Centre to IAS, IPS officers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 23: The Centre has made prior approval mandatory for IAS, IPS and IFS officers before accepting any award from private organisations but with a condition that it should not have any monetary component in cash or in terms of facilities.

In a latest order, the Personnel Ministry said the competent authority may grant approval, only in exceptional circumstances, to the officers and in such cases, credentials of the private bodies/institutions/organisations should be unimpeachable.

The move comes after the government noticed that members of all India services - Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS) - are accepting awards or recognition accorded by private bodies, despite the existing instructions.

Accordingly, it is clarified that awards given by private bodies, institutions or organisations may be accepted only with prior approval of competent authority, said the order issued to all secretaries of central government ministries and chief secretaries of states on Thursday. In the case of officers serving in the state, the competent authority would be the state government.



Army personnel display arms recovered after foiling an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Machil sector, Kupwara
 PTI PHOTO

Rape victim ends life after delay in action

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Barabanki, June 23: A 16-year-old minor Dalit girl was found hanging in her house in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district, five days after complaining about a rape attempt.

Her family members alleged that the girl committed suicide due to the delay in arrest of the accused and after facing mockery by the accused. They said she was very depressed with the incident and reportedly decided to end her life.

According to the police, the vic-

tim's mother spotted the body first Thursday. The girl's family informed the local village head, who in turn told the police. Barabanki Superintendent of Police (SP), Dinesh Kumar Singh said the FIR under Indian Penal Code sections 376/511 for rape attempt was lodged at Haidergarh police station on the girl's complaint on June 17.

He said the medical examination of the girl was done earlier and her statement before the judicial magistrate was to be recorded on Thursday but before this, the police were in-

formed about her suicide.

He said the investigation officer of the case, Sub-Inspector Yogendra Pratap Singh had been suspended reportedly for negligence in the case investigation and departmental enquiry has been initiated against him.

He said a senior police officer had been asked to probe the suicide and if required, another case of abetment to suicide would be lodged. The SP himself visited the spot following resentment among family members and villagers after the girl's death.

Man held for talking about 'hijacking' on plane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 23: A 23-year-old male passenger on board Vistara's Mumbai-Delhi flight was arrested after he was heard speaking over his phone about a "hijacking plan" shortly before the plane was to take off from the city airport, officials said Friday.

The incident occurred around 6.30 pm Thursday at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, they said. After a crew member and others around him heard his conversation, the passenger, hailing from Haryana, was deplaned

and handed over to the security personnel.

A thorough check of the aircraft was conducted and the flight later took off for Delhi with the rest of the passengers following a clearance by the authorities. "The incident took place before the flight was to take off for Delhi around 7 pm. All the passengers were occupying their seats and the cabin crew members were engaged in their work," a police official said.

"A member of the cabin crew and others heard the male passenger speak over his mobile

phone. They heard him saying in Hindi - 'Ahmedabad ka flight board karne wala hain. Koi bhi dikkat ho to mujhe call karna.' (Will board a flight to Ahmedabad. Call me in case you face any difficulty)," he said. The passenger also said, 'Hijack ka sara planning hain. Uska sara access hain, chinta mat karna.' (All planning for hijacking is done. Don't worry as there is an access), according to the official.

"After hearing his conversation, the passengers sitting nearby got scared and many of them stood up. The cabin crew member called in the security staff of the flight and the passenger was handed over to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)," he said.

The passenger, who was later



identified as Ritesh Juneja, was taken to the Sahar police station and based on the complaint lodged by the 27-year-old cabin crew member, an offence was registered against him, he said. It has come to light that the accused is mentally unstable and has been undergoing medical treatment since 2021, he said.

A first information report (FIR) under section 336 (rash or negligent act that endangers human life or the personal safety of others) and 505 (2) (making statement with intent to cause fear or alarm among people) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered against the passenger, he said.

A spokesperson of Vistara airline said in a statement, "We confirm that there was an incident concerning an unruly passenger on Vistara flight UK 996 scheduled to operate from Mumbai to Delhi on 22 June 2023 at 1830 hrs." In line with the guidelines and our standard operating procedures (SOPs), relevant authorities were immediately informed and the said customer was handed over to them. A thorough check was conducted and the flight took off with the rest of the customers after clearance, the statement said. "We are fully cooperating with the security agencies in the investigation. Vistara stands firm with its zero-tolerance policy against unruly behaviour that endangers the safety and security of its customers and staff," it added.

international



Russia may be planning to attack an occupied nuclear power plant to cause a radiation disaster
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

MILLIONS GATHER IN MECCA

Enormous crowds of worshippers thronged Mecca, Islam's holiest city, Friday for the biggest hajj pilgrimage in years, with more than two million expected to brave the scorching Saudi Arabian heat



of the day quote

Australia will stand up for our values and we will stand up for our national security and a bloke standing in the cold on a bit of grass in Canberra is not a threat to our national security
ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

The shortage of skilled labor is considered one of the biggest brakes on economic growth in Germany, and skilled workers are missing everywhere
NANCY FAESER | INTERIOR MINISTER, GERMANY

Recently, Vietnam has received visits from naval vessels from different countries, and this time it will be a visit from the USS Ronald Reagan
PHAM THU HANG | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, VIETNAM

TOURIST SUB DISASTER Murky rules of deep-sea tours grip attention

THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE US COAST GUARD THAT THE TITAN HAD IMPLoded NEAR THE TITANIC SHIPWRECK, KILLING ALL FIVE PEOPLE ON BOARD, HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO HOW DEEP-SEA EXPEDITIONS ARE REGULATED



The Titan wasn't registered as a US vessel or with international agencies that regulate safety. Nor was it classified by a maritime industry group that sets standards on matters such as hull construction
SALVATORE MERCUGLIANO | PROFESSOR, CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

Norfolk (US), June 23: When the Titan submersible made its fateful dive into the North Atlantic Sunday, it also plunged into the murky regulated waters of deep-sea exploration. It's a space on the high seas where laws and conventions can be sidestepped by risk-taking entrepreneurs and the wealthy tourists who help fund their dreams. At least for now. "We're at a point in submersible operations in deep water that's kind of akin to where aviation was in the early 20th century," said Salvatore Mercogliano, a history professor

at Campbell University in North Carolina who focuses on maritime history and policy. "Aviation was in its infancy — and it took accidents for decisions to be made to be put into laws," Mercogliano said. "There'll be a time when you won't think twice about getting on a submersible and going down 13,000 feet. But we're not there yet." Mercogliano said such operations are scrutinized less than the companies that launch people into space. In the Titan's case, that's in part because it operated in international waters, far from the reach of many laws of the United States or other nations.

Stockton Rush, the OceanGate CEO who died on Titan, had said he didn't want to be bogged down by such standards. "Bringing an outside entity up to speed on every innovation

before it is put into real-world testing is anathema to rapid innovation," Rush wrote in a blog post on his company's website. The Titan was a small vessel that was launched from another

ADDRESS TO US CONGRESS

Modi's veiled attack on Pakistan, China

AT JOINT SESSION OF US CONGRESS, PM NARENDRA MODI CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM



Washington, June 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said there can be "no ifs or buts" in dealing with terrorism and sought action against state sponsors of terrorism, in a veiled attack on Pakistan.

Countries of the Global South have been particularly affected. The global order is based on the respect for the principles of the UN Charter, peaceful resolution of disputes, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity
NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

In his address to the Joint Meeting of the US Congress, Prime Minister Modi said that more than two decades after 9/11 and more than a decade after 26/11 in Mumbai, radicalism and terrorism still remain a pressing danger for the whole world. "These ideologies keep taking new identities and forms, but their intentions are the same. Terrorism is an enemy of humanity and there can be no ifs or buts in dealing with it. We must overcome all such forces sponsoring and exporting terror," Modi said in his 60-minute address in English. Modi also made a veiled reference to China, saying the global order is based on the respect for the principles of the UN Charter, peaceful resolution of disputes, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. "The dark clouds of coercion and confrontation are casting their shadow in the Indo-Pacific. The stability of the region has become one of the central concerns of our partnership," Modi said, in an apparent reference to China's aggressive behaviour in the strategic region. "We share a vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, connected by secure seas, defined by international law, free

from domination, and anchored in ASEAN centrality," Modi said in his address to the Joint Meeting of the US Congress, which was attended by Congressmen and Senators along with hundreds of Indian-Americans watching it from the visitors' gallery. The Prime Minister said a region where all nations, small and large, are free and fearless in their choices, where progress is not suffocated by an impossible burden of debt, where connectivity is not leveraged for strategic purposes, where all nations are lifted by the high tide of shared prosperity. ON DEMOCRACY At a joint news conference after his summit talks with Biden, Modi also stoutly defended his government's record on democracy and human rights, asserting democracy is "in our spirit... And flows in our veins" and that there was no discrimination against minorities. He said there is no question of discrimination in India on the grounds of caste or religion because his government follows the Constitution, which is formed on the basic values of democracy. He was responding to a question by a western journal-

ist on reports about human rights and freedom of press in India. "I am surprised that 'people say'. It's not that people say, India is a democracy and as President Biden said India and US, democracy is in the DNA of both. Democracy is our spirit. It's in our veins. We live democracy and our ancestors penned it in words in the form of the Constitution." The two leaders lauded the growing relations between India and the US with the President saying it was among the "most consequential" in the world that is stronger, closer and more dynamic at any time in history. As the US administration rolled out the red carpet to Modi with the camaraderie between the President and the Prime Minister on full display, Biden described the ties between the two countries as "one of the most defining" relationships in the 21st century. Representing 1.4 billion Indians, Modi said it is always a great honour to address the US Congress and it is an exceptional privilege to do so twice. This is the second time that the prime minister has addressed the US Congress, the first time being in 2016.

UN puts Russian forces on blacklist

United Nations, June 23: The United Nations put Russian forces on its annual blacklist of countries that violate children's rights in conflict by killing boys and girls and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine, according to a new report seen Thursday by The Associated Press.



Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the report to the Security Council that he is "appalled" by the high number of "grave violations" against children in Ukraine in 2022, "shocked" at the number of attacks on schools and hospitals, "concerned" by the detention of children, and "troubled" that some Ukrainian children have been transferred to Russia. The UN Chief did not put Israel on the blacklist for grave violations against 1,139 Palestinian children, including

54 killings last year — as supporters had hoped. Instead, he welcomed Israel's engagement with the UN Special envoy for children in armed conflict, Virginia Gamba and its "identification of practical measures including those proposed by the UN" to protect children. In the wide-ranging report, the secretary-general said that last year children were disproportionately affected by conflict. He said the UN verified grave violations against 13,469 children, including 2,985 who were killed, in 24 countries and one region.

SHORT TAKES

Zambia reaches deal with China

Paris: Zambia and its government creditors, including China, have reached a deal to restructure \$6.3 billion in loans, the French government announced Thursday on the sidelines of a global finance summit in Paris. The agreement covers loans from countries including France, the UK, South Africa, Israel and India as well as China — Zambia's biggest creditor at \$4.1 billion of the total. The deal, announced by officials who spoke anonymously in accordance with the French government's customary practices, may provide a roadmap for how China will handle restructuring deals with other nations in debt distress.

Malaysia plans to sue Meta

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's government said Friday it will take legal action against Facebook's parent company, Meta Platforms, for failing to remove undesirable and harmful content from its social media platform. The Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission said Facebook has recently been plagued by a "significant volume of undesirable content" relating to sensitive issues on race, religion and royalty as well as defamation, impersonation, online gambling and scam advertisements. The commission said repeated efforts to reach out to Meta to remove harmful content were of no avail.

Pak to attend SCO

Islamabad: Pakistan Thursday confirmed that it would be represented in the SCO virtual summit hosted by India next month but stopped short of revealing the level of participation. Foreign Office spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was asked at the weekly briefing about the participation in the meeting of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India will host the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), for the first time under its chairmanship, in a virtual format in July.

SA mine killed 31

Johannesburg: A methane gas explosion in a disused South African mine killed at least 31 people last month believed to be from neighbouring Lesotho, South Africa's energy department said Friday. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) had said late Thursday that South Africa was investigating the deaths, which occurred in a ventilation shaft in the shuttered Virginia mine.

Rich nations vow billions of dollars for climate fight

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS MARK A SCALING UP OF ACTION FROM THE DEVELOPMENT BANKS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE AND SET A DIRECTION FOR FURTHER CHANGE AHEAD OF THEIR ANNUAL MEETINGS LATER IN THE YEAR

Paris, June 23: Multilateral development banks like the World Bank are expected to find \$200 billion in extra firepower for low-income economies by taking on more risk, a move that may require wealthy nations to inject more cash, world leaders said Friday. The leaders, gathered at a summit in Paris to thrash out funding for the climate transition and post-Covid debt burdens of poor countries, said their plans would secure billions of dollars of matching investment from the private sector. An overdue pledge of \$100 bil-

lion in climate finance for developing nations was also now in sight, they said. Many in attendance, however, said over the two-day summit that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were increasingly ill-suited for tackling the most pressing challenges and needed a broad revamp. "We ... expect an overall increase of \$200 billion of MDBs' lending capacity over the next ten years by optimizing their balance sheets and taking more risks," the summit's final statement obtained by Reuters said. "If these reforms are implemented, MDBs may need more



capital," it added, recognising in a final summit document for the first time that wealthy nations may have to inject more cash. US Treasury Secretary Janet

Yellen, whose country is the largest shareholder of the IMF and World Bank, had said ahead of the summit that development banks had to first squeeze out

more lending themselves before the possibility of capital increases was considered. The final summit document called for each dollar of lending by development banks to be matched by at least one dollar of private finance, which analysts said should help international institutions to leverage an additional \$100 billion of private money in developing and emerging economies. "While the roadmap from the

Paris Summit acknowledges the urgency for substantial financial resources to bolster climate action, it leans too heavily on private investments and ascribes an outsized role to multilateral development banks," said Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International. The summit statement said there was a "good likelihood" of finalising this year a \$100-billion climate finance pledge to developing countries.

Nepal starts Hindi movies screening except 'Adipurush'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, June 23: Screening of Hindi movies resumed in the country Friday, days after they were banned following a controversy over "Adipurush" dialogues where Goddess Sita is referred as "India's daughter". In Kathmandu, many cinema halls started screening Hindi films, except "Adipurush", which continues to face a ban. In the city's multiplex QFX Cinema, situated in Sundhara, Hindi film "Zara Hatke, Zara Bachke", starring Sara Ali Khan and Vikki Kaushal, was screened. In a statement, Nepal Motion Picture Association said all Nepali and foreign films except "Adipurush" will be screened from Friday.



A dialogue of "Adipurush", in which Sita is mentioned as "India's daughter", had led to the ban on all Hindi films, which was announced by Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah. Sita, also referred to as Janaki, is believed by many to have been born in Janakpur in southeast Nepal.

On Thursday, a single bench of the Patan High Court judge Dhir Bahadur Chand issued a short term order, stating that the screening of films that have acquired permission from the censor board should not be stopped. "It has been our belief that no one is above the nation and nationality. It is our fundamental right to engage in our business freely abiding by Nepalese Law," the bench observed. The same day, Shah said he was ready to face any punishment but would not allow the screening of "Adipurush" as the matter pertains to "Nepal's sovereignty and independence".

Weather alert at highest level in Beijing

The city's temperature reached 41 degrees C Thursday, shattering the record for the hottest day in June and second-highest in history

REUTERS



Beijing, June 23: Beijing upgraded its hot weather warning Friday to "red", the highest in its colour-coded alert system, as many parts of the Chinese capital roasted in temperatures up to 40 degrees Celsius (104 F). The official temperature, measured in Beijing's southern suburbs, hit 40 degrees C just after 1:30 p.m. Friday, to top out at 40.3 degrees C by 4 pm, the municipal observatory said. "This is the first time since the establishment of the observatory that there has been a high temperature of more than 40 degrees C for two consecutive days," Zhang Yingxin, its chief forecaster, told a press briefing. The observatory was founded in 1951.

China follows a four-tier weather warning system in which the colour red indicates the most severe, followed by orange, yellow and blue. A red alert signifies the temperature is set to rise above 40 degrees C (104 F) within 24 hours. On Thursday, the China Meteorological Administration said it expected high temperatures to persist across much of the north for the next eight to ten

days. High temperature monitoring and warnings would continue on a rolling basis in places such as Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Henan and Inner Mongolia, it added. The city is accustomed to sweltering summers but temperatures across China have been unusually high in recent months, with scientists saying the heat is being exacerbated by climate change.

