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INTERNATIONAL | P10



BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY JUNE 7, 2024

BUSINESS | P11



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AG, advisors

to CM resign

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Advocate

General (AG) Ashok Kumar

Parija, two advisors to the Chief

Minister and the IT Principal Secretary Thursday resigned

from their posts after the fall of the BJD government in the state.

Jyoti Prakash Patnaik was ap-

pointed as the in-charge AG in

place of Parija, according to a no-

tification issued by the Law de-

department issued two differ-

ent notifications on the accept-

ance of the resignation of R

Balakrishnan, Chief Advisor

(Special initiatives), and Suresh

Mahapatra, Chief Advisor to

department Principal Secretary

Manoj Kumar Mishra has also

department said the resignation

of Mishra has been accepted. Mishra, a 2000-batch IRTS of-

ficer, was on deputation to the

state and served as Secretary of

the IT department. Later, he took VRS and the BJD government appointed him as the Principal

Secretary of the same department on a contractual basis.

Outgoing CM Naveen Patnaik submitted his resignation as the

chief minister to Governor Raghubar Das after the BJD

failed to get a majority in the

Assembly.

Similarly, Electronics and IT

the Chief Minister's Office.

resigned from his position. In an official order, the GA&PG

The General Administration and Public Grievances (GA&PG)

AGENCIES

nartment

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

NDA meet today

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 6: Newlyelected MPs of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are expected to meet Friday to elect Narendra Modi as their leader, paving the way for him to take oath as the PM for a third term. The swearingin is likely to be held Sunday.

After Modi's election as the leader of NDA MPs, senior members of the alliance like TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar will join the prime minister for a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu to present her the list of parliamentarians supporting him, some alliance members said.

He may be sworn in over the weekend, possibly Sunday, they added. The NDA has 293 MPs, comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, held deliberations through the day Thursday as the party set in motion government formation efforts amid a demand by a senior Janata Dal (United) leader that his party should receive respectable representation in the Union Council of Ministers

31-yr-old man beaten to death in Ganjam

AGENCIES

Berhampur, June 6: A 31-yearold man was beaten to death by a man in Ganjam district following a heated argument, police said Thursday.

The victim, identified as Mitu Bisoyi, worked as a labourer in Sundhipalli village under jurisdiction of Badagada police station, police added.

Police arrested the accused identified as Kalu Nayak, also a resident of the same village, and confiscated a bamboo stick, purportedly the weapon used in the fatal attack. While the precise motive behind the assault remains under investigation, preliminary findings suggest a potential personal feud between the two. Sandhyrani Singh, the inspector in-charge of Badagada police, said.



release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it to Delhi (Report P8)

'Pandian in Delhi on Naveen's direction'

AGENCIES

stocks 'scam': Rahul Bhubaneswar, June 6: The BJD Thursday tried to defend party supremo Naveen Patnaik's o confidant VK Pandian, who finds himself in the eye of a storm following the party's debacle in the Assembly and Parliamentary elections, by saying that the bureaucrat-turned-politician flew to New Delhi on the instructions of the Naveen. "BJD leader VK Pandian has gone to Delhi on work as per the direction of our party president Naveen Patnaik. There are some misleading and unpleasant media reports on his Delhi tour," party Rajya Sabha member Sasmit Patra said Patra however, did not clarify over the purpose of Pandian's sudden visit to the national capital. He also did not make it clear as to why Pandian, who was the BJD's chief election strategist and often conveyed his messages through recorded videos, has not yet reacted to the party's debacle. It is nevertheless, understood that the regional party's clarification was aimed at quelling rumbling within the party over Pandian's role in recent performance and his whereabouts after the announcement of the poll results. Meanwhile, Naveen held a meeting with MLA and MP can-



Modi, Shah behind

ried out on the ground and the stock markets." he also aske

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Serving the public is my duty, sir. You will feel no discomfort. Bribe me in easy EMIs

| MARKET WATCH | | | | | | | | | |
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| | ' SKY 🥏 | |
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New Delhi, June 6: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were 'directly involved' in what he described as the 'biggest stock market scam' with retail investors losing ₹30 lakh crore due to the market crashing after the Lok Sabha poll result and

а Parliamentary Committee

tail investors to buy stock be-

fore the result, which is 'un-

and Shah knew from their in-

ternal survey that BJP was not

going get more than 220 seats, but

they 'artificially' jacked up the

stock prices with the help of

'fake' and 'fictitious' exit polls and

the markets crashed when the ac-

tual result came out June 4 lead-

Gandhi also alleged that Modi

Joint

demanded

precedented'.

AGENCIES

ing to huge losses to retail investors.

(JPC) probe into the 'scam'. "The common people of India Addressing a press conferlost ₹30 lakh crore in the stock ence here, Gandhi also sought an market June 4...We demand a inquiry into the alleged role of JPC investigation into this the PM, HM and Finance biggest-ever stock market scam," Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in he said. it, claiming they had advised re-

"This is a criminal act and we demand a JPC to investigate the involvement of the PM, HM and FM and who are the people who made the money in this scam," he said referring to those behind the exit polls. "I am saying that people very

high up in the BJP have carried out the scam...they had partners who carried out these exit polls," he said, questioning whether such exit polls were actually carmethodology adopted.

Gandhi also asked who these investors were who invested huge sums before the exit polls and made money when the stocks rose thereafter a day before the actual result.

Gandhi claimed that when the actual result was way off the mark from the exit poll claims, the market crashed leading to loss of ₹30 lakh crore to the retail investors.

Besides, he said, the interviews were carried out by channels 'owned by Adani' and asked why did the PM and HM need to give investment advice which people are bound to take seriously, which they did, and later suffered huge losses

Gandhi also posed a set of three questions, asking, "Why did the PM and HM give specific investment advice to the five crore families investing in the stock markets? Is it their job to give investment advice to the people?"

"Why were both interviews given to the same media house owned by the same business group, which is also under SEBI investigations for manipulating "What is the connection be-

tween the BJP, the fake exit pollsters, and the dubious foreign investors, who invested one day before the exit polls were announced and made huge profits, at the cost of five crore families?" Gandhi asked.

He claimed that it is for the first time that during polls, Modi, Shah and Sitharaman commented on the stock market.

Gandhi cited the chronology of events in which Shah said May 13 that 'buy shares before June 4' and May 19, PM Modi said 'stock markets will break records June 4'.

The markets first rose June 3 after exit polls, but crashed badly June 4 when the actual result came.

In a quick retort, Union Minister Piyush Goyal addressed a press conference dismissing Gandhi's demand for a JPC probe into the matter as 'baseless' and saying he keeps making useless comments.

He claimed that domestic investors in fact made money while the loss was suffered by foreign investors.

Screenshot of a purported video showing Pandian in a New Delhibound flight

didates, who had lost the polls, at his residence here. This was the second consecutive day that Patnaik held a meeting with party leaders without Pandian by his side.

Coming out of the meeting, the leaders avoided questions on Pandian and described Patnaik as their one and only leader. Asked whether Patnaik has distanced Pandian after the party's defeat, BJD's organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das said, "It was Naveen babu's prerogative as to who would remain present in the meeting. Naveen babu is our only leader. He will continue to lead the party."

Pandian's absence from public view, particularly alongside Patnaik, had raised many eyebrows, considering his consistent presence by the BJD leader's side.

NEET aspirants smell rat

examination centre in Haryana.

New Delhi, June 6: Several NEET aspirants have alleged inflation of marks which led to a record 67 candidates bagging the top rank, including six from the same exam centre.

The National Testing Agency (NTA), however, denied any ir-

made in the NCERT textbooks

and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres are some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks. The results announced by NTA Wednesday saw 67 students sharing rank

"After the NEET exam, now its result is also in controversy. After the NEET results were declared,

questions are being raised on six students from the same centre getting 720 out of 720 marks. Apart from this, many other irregularities related to the NEET exam have also come to light," the Congress wrote regularities and said the changes **NTA DENIES CHINKS** on X. "First due to paper leak and now due to result error, the future of lakhs of youth of the country is getting ruined. It's clear that this government cannot get any paper done without leaking it. Sir claims to stop

wars in foreign countries but he is unable to even stop paper leaks in the country," it added. P9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, June 6: Actor and BJP MP-elect Kangana Ranaut said she was hit in the face and abused by a woman CISF constable during security check at the Chandigarh airport Thursday, the ugly fracas breaking out two days after she was won from the Mandi Lok Sabha seat in Himachal Pradesh.

Constable Kulwinder Kaur, who appeared to be upset with Ranaut over her stance on the farmers' protests, was suspended and an FIR lodged against her, officials said.

The Central Industrial



CISF constable slaps Kangana, suspended

Security Force (CISF), tasked with providing security at airports, has also ordered a court

In a video statement titled 'Shocking rise in terror and violence in Punjab' posted on X after she landed in Delhi, the



'Queen' actor said she was safe

Recapping in detail what had

happened, Ranaut said she had

been getting a lot of calls from

the media and her well-wishers.

towards her from the side. "She

The constable, she said, came

and fine.

hit me in the face and started abusing me. I asked her why she did it and she said she supports the farmer protests.'

"I am safe but my concern is that terrorism is increasing in Punjab... How do we handle that?"

Another video doing the rounds of social media showed an agitated Kaur talking to people presumably after the incident.

"Kangana made a statement that farmers were protesting in Delhi because they were paid ₹100 or ₹200. At the time, my mother was one of the protesters," she said in the purported video.



one, including six from same







eisure



DAKOTA: TOM CRUISE GIFTS ME SHOES EVERY BIRTHDAY

Actress Dakota Fanning shared that, despite Tom Cruise having given her a cell phone, when she was 11 on the set of their 2005 film War of the World, the actor has continued to send shoes as birthday presents, which she has been receiving for the past 19 years.

JAKE SAYS LEGAL BLINDNESS BENEFITS HIS ACTING CAREER

Actor Jake Gyllenhaal, who has been wearing intensive corrective lenses since he was six years old, said that being classified as legally blind has been advantageous to his career.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**



ARIES

You are not so much in a mood to socialise today. Something unsavoury may also be hard to overcome. Although you are industrious, Ganesha advises you not to bite off more than you can chew. A bit of faith in providence can go a long way in your life.

TAURUS

Ganesha sees you preferring your outer appearance, having a good time over getting internally organized. You will seek your comfort level from creature comforts, not from within. You are due to spend most of the day, dressed in your best and going out to your favourite haunts for good food and company.

GEMINI

It is possible that the start of the day may not see you in the best of moods and some mental distress is the likely reason behind it. You need to consult an expert to find out the best way out of your current predicament. You will feel the need to do things that appeal to you in the evening, in a bid to elevate your mood, says Ganesha.

CANCER

A perfect day in store for vou, savs Ganesha! You may begin the day on a positive note, and may decide to express you gratitude towards the God by visiting a tem-ple. Religious feelings may also keep you preoccupied. Stars will take a good care of your health today, and you may also

get a plenty of free time

LEO

Whether you are an entrepreuner or an employee, you will spend more time at the office as compared to home. This is primarily because you will be full of ener gy and enthusiasm towards your work. Events will conspire to draw your atten tion towards work as well.

All big businessmen may expect a very beneficial and progressive day. The loans for which you have applied may be sanctioned by the financial institutions today. However, Ganesha advises you not to neglect your beloved and near and dear ones, for without them there is little cause for interest in life.



Mumbai: Working towards a better tomorrow has always been of utmost importance to actress Sanjana Sanghi Her journey with humanitarian endeavours has involved many relentless successful campaigns and programmes, that focus on empowerment through increasing access to education and focusing on the needs of India's shining youth.

This journey that began back in 2014 during her time at Delhi University, much before her debut in Dil Bechara, today has led her to being entrusted with the honour of being Youth Champion for UNDP India. She was recently invited to the UN HQ in New York to further the cause of Youth Empowerment and work together with global teams on collective action for a better world. Being entrusted with

representing the largest youth population in the world is a testament to the deep commitment she has shown to their needs and concerns. She was also seen 🛛 at the prestigious UN General Assembly.

Taking to her social media; the young star wrote 'Experiencing the corridors of the @unitednations Head Quarters in New York, standing at the General Assembly, where quite literally - history is made. And receiving the opportunity to experience the magic of action and collaboration for a better tomorrow. as India's Youth Champion for the @undp - have been moments of such

gratitude and learn-

Sonam eyes career in Mumbai

New Delhi: Actress Sonam Bajwa, who is known for her captivating performances in Punjabi films, has expressed her interest in working in the Hindi and South Indian film industries and is awaiting a good script for her Bollywood debut.

In an interview with a news agency, she stated, "I am waiting for a good script. See, some films I said no to, and then, of late, I have heard from people that many don't know I live in Mumbai. So they think that since I don't stay here, I don't want to work in Hindi films. Having said that, if there is a good script offered to me, I would love to do Hindi

films. Like many others, the actress also dreams of being part of the Hindi film industry. Earlier, she

made a

cameo appearance in the 2019 film Bala, which hinted at her potential and left audiences wanting more. Despite this, she has not pursued major roles in Bollywood at this time. She also shed light on her interest in working for South films: "In fact, I would

love to work in South films as well. I feel that the more lan-

guages I work in, the better it is for me. AGENCIES

3-day Bhubaneswar Film Festival from today

Fifteen Odia classics including Nitai Palit's 'Mala Janha (1965)' and internationally acclaimed 'Maya Miriga' by Nirad Mohapatra (1984) will be screened at the event



Bhubaneswar: As many as 15 award-winning Odia classics will be screened during the three-day Bhubaneswar Film Festival (BFF) beginning here at Soochana Bhawan, Friday, organisers said.

Those 15 movies include the internationally acclaimed Maya Miriga (The Mirage, 1984) and the famous Mala Janha (Dead Moon, 1965).

This special film festival has been organised by a group of film directors, scriptwriters and those involved in the technical aspects of film-making spread across the country. The five Odia films will be

screened daily between 10 am and 9 pm, according to the organisers.

A book titled Odia Cinema @ 90: Rhythms, Rendisons and Reflections compiling the journey of Odia cinema over a period of 90 years will also be released during the festival. One of the big attractions of the festival would be two Master Classes on film acting and script writing to be conducted by famous Bollywood filmmaker and casting director Mukesh Chhabra and the director of the super hit film Oh My God 2, Amit Roy, re-

spectively. Eminent film directors Ketan Mehta and Deepa Sahi, the Director of the National School of Drama, Chittaranjan Tripathy, and Odia film directors Apurba Bir and Prasanta Nanda will attend the inaugural programme, an organiser said.

The event is being held under the banner of Bhubaneswar Film Circle and will be attended by actors, technicians, students of mass communication, personalities connected with films and film aficionados.

'Sethupathi's

move to avoid

being typecast

Chennai: Actor Vijay Sethupathi opens up about his disappointments with doing multi-starrers and villain roles

In an interview, Sethupathi claimed that his performances were overlooked, despite the ef-

fort being on par with that of the heroes. When asked if he has a list of stars he aspires to work with in Tamil cinema, Sethupathi responded with honesty. "No, I think 'm fatigued by those kinds of films," he stated.

Recently, the Jawan actor said he has taken a decision to stay away from villain and guest roles. "Yes, first said this during the promotions for Merry Christmas that I don't want to play villain roles and guest roles going forward," he confirmed. Elaborating on the reason behind this choice, he pointed out, "I have turned down many such roles in recent times. When you do multiple roles in the same space (antagonist), then there are also limitations and comparisons to your earlier films and perormances.

On the work front, Sethupathi will

return to the silver screen in

his 50th film, Maharaja.

Ganesha says today is a /|good day to start out with new ventures. You shall be interested in fine arts like drawing, classical music, dance etc as the artistic streak in your nature comes to the fore, and their pursuit shall make you happy.

.

SCORPIO

A series of events will keep you occupied, physically and mentally. You will enjoy meeting like-minded people and intellect tual discussions with them. You are charged up and look forward to soiree and merry making with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS

All things bright and beauti ful in store for you today, predicts Ganesha. Your

focus improves as your vision becomes clear and ideas innovative. You may even sort out the troubles that you are going through, since past few days.

CAPRICORN

You have high expectations from all, says Ganesha. Not only that, you also expect miracles from yourself. Naturally, with such high expectations you raise the chances of getting disappointed, also. A stitch in time saves nine. You need to plan out how you want to go about ideas and projects well in advance.

It is not only important to ideate, but also to get those ideas executed is equally important. Don't worry though, you are good at both, assures Ganesha. Icing on the cake will be your communication skill which gets you through the door every time. For students, it will be an amazing day.

PISCES

Your energy levels will be at their peak today, and that, coupled with your extraordinary enthusiasm, will give you the momentum you need to implement your plans, says Ganesha. However, maior decisions are still likely to be delayed for some rea son or the other

PEANUTS

ing.

AGENCIES



CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

AGENCIES

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.

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SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

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BREVITY







downtown

TALENT HONOURED

Eminent singer Sekhar Ghosh being conferred with 'Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Dash Memorial Award' during a function organised by Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Dash Foundation at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



BJP Parliamentary Party to decide on CM today

THE BJP LEADERSHIP MIGHT SPRING A SURPRISE AS IT DID IN MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN AND CHHATTISGARH BY ANNOUNCING CMS

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The Chief Minister of Odisha's maiden government of the BJP is likely to be selected during its Parliamentary Party meeting in New Delhi Friday, leaders of the saffron camp said.

The BJP trounced the BJD which was ruling the state for 24 years in a row, winning 78 seats in the 147-member Odisha Assembly

Three of these 78 MLAs were ministers in the state earlier but it is not essential that the Chief Minister would be chosen from among the new Assembly members only, a senior BJP leader said Thursday.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who was elected from Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency, however, is also one of the front-runners for the top post. Besides him, names of senior

MLAs Suresh Pujari, Jayanarayan Mishra and KV Singh Deo are also doing the rounds as probable candidates for the chair.

"The Parliamentary Party is the highest decision-making body of the BJP and it will meet in New Delhi tomorrow, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi said.

The Parliamentary Party is likely to take the opinion of the MPs for the selection of



CEO Nikunja Bihari Dhal hands over gazette notification to Governot Raghubar Das at Raj Bhavan, Thursday

ernment in the state began

Thursday with election offi-

cials presenting the gazette no-

tification declaring the poll re-

sults to Governor Raghubar

Das at Raj Bhavan here, an of-

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

Nikunja Bihari Dhal presented

the gazette notification to the

governor. The notification was

regarding the election of new

members of the next Assembly

and it will pave the way for the

formation of the House, he said.

has intimated it to the state

parliamentary department.

The Governor's secretariat

The CEO was accompanied by

representatives of the Election

Commission of India (ECI) and

Odisha gazette notification re-

garding the newly elected MLAs

were handed over to the

Governor, the official said

The ECI notification and

other senior officials.

ficial said.

Odisha's new CM.

The BJP leadership might also spring a surprise as it did in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh by announcing CMs, whose names had not been anticipated by political experts, a senior leader said. At an election rally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the party's CM will be a 'Bhoomiputra' and the per-

son will be sworn in June 10. Meanwhile, preparations are being made to hold the new government's oath-taking ceremony at Janata Maidan, a sprawling park in Bhubaneswar.

Governor Raghubar Das will administer the oath of office to the new Chief Minister. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are likely to attend the function.

Meanwhile, the process for the formation of a new govnouncement of the Lok Sabha election has been lifted. In a communication to the Union Cabinet Secretary and state chief secretaries, the

Model code of

conduct lifted

New Delhi, June 6: The model

code of conduct (MCC) that came into force March 16 with the an-

AGENCIES

Election Commission (EC) said as results of Lok Sabha elections and Assembly polls in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, along with some Assembly bypolls have been declared, "model code of conduct has ceased to be in operation with immediate effect"

TheMCC is a set of conventions agreed upon by all stakeholders and imposed during elections. Its objective is to keep the campaigning, polling and counting process orderly, clean and peaceful and check any abuse of state machinery and finances by the party in power.

While it does not enjoy any statutory backing, the Supreme Court has upheld its sanctity on several occasions. The Election Commission is fully authorised to investigate any violation of the code and pronounce punishment.

The poll code finds its origin during the 1960 Assembly elections in Kerala when the administration tried to evolve a code of conduct for the political parties. The code has evolved over the last 60 years to assume its present form. According to EC, the MCC states that the parties in power at the Centre and in the states should ensure that they do not use their official position for campaigning.

5 held for attacking women picnickers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Infocity police here Thursday arrested five youths on charges of assaulting some women picnickers as the latter raised objections about playing loud music at Sikharchandi hilltop.

Infocity inspector in-charge (IIC) Mahendra Kumar Sahu said the accused men have been identified as Jagdish Acharva. 29. Ganesh Behera. 27, Ashish Kumar Bhoi, 27, Dharmendra Pradhan, 24, and Roshan Bhoi. 20. He added that three women had gone for a picnic to the Sikharchandi hilltop June 5, when the miscreants heckled them by playing loud music. When they requested to stop the music, the miscreants teamed up and thrashed the trio, he added. The police have registered cases against the accused under Sections 341, 294, 323 and other of IPC. They were produced in a local court Thursday.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BSKY intact, says Chief Secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: A day after state BJP president Manmohan Samal hinted at replacing the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) of the BJD government with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme which followed a series of allegations of some private hospitals denying cashless services to BSKY cardholders, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena Thursday assured that beneficiaries of the state's 'biggest heath assurance scheme' will continue to receive treatment seamlessly.

With the BJP is poised to form the government in the state, some hospitals reportedly began refusing to honour BSKY benefits to patients, apprehending that the scheme may be discontinued and their dues may not be cleared due to

BJP will exploit tribal land, natural resources: Cong

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar. June 6: Senior Congress leader Ajoy Kumar Thursday warned that the new

the change in government.

The Chief Secretary reassured that BSKY cardholders will continue to receive treatment at the empanelled hospitals. He also urged the people to dial 104, issued by the Health department, to lodge complaints, if any, about the health services provided by the empanelled hospitals.

According to available data, June 4, empanelled hospitals booked treatment packages for over 5,800 patients, and June 5, treatment packages were booked for more than 5,389 patients.

The MoUs on BSKY signed with empanelled hospitals remain in force," Jena said, adding that the government has instructed all empanelled hospitals to continue providing treatment as usual.

"The Health and Family Welfare department has clarified that the BSKY remains active with approved budgetary

Kumar told a presser here.

He assured the people of

Odisha that Congress will fight

inside and outside the Assembly

for next five years to protect the

support. Hospitals are to ensure that patients do not face any difficulty or disruption in availing services," an official statement said. Jena said people being denied

treatment at any hospital under the health scheme can register their complaints by calling the health department's helpline 104. He underscored that hospitals found violating government orders will face strict consequences.

In a significant development, Governor Raghubar Das expressed 'deep concern' over media reports regarding the confusion over BSKY health cards and that beneficiaries are being deprived of health services.

Das has asked Jena to take appropriate steps immediately so that no confusion regarding BSKY arises and beneficiaries get uninterrupted healthcare services

Sidelining sr leaders cost us dearly: Behera

Bhubaneswar: Following the humiliating defeat of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in the Assembly elections, senior party leader and former minister Shashi Bhusan Behera Thursday raised questions over the election management by the party, calling the sidelining of senior leaders as one of the main reasons behind the poll debacle. Speaking to mediapersons here, Behera said the election results took everyone by surprise. "There were some faults and lapses in the management of elections which the party might examine. However, it is apparent that keeping the senior BJD leaders at bay in the whole election process was one of the major reasons behind the party's defeat. The people refused to accept the sidelining of the senior leaders," Behera said.



CAR FEST AHEAD: Maharana servitors busy constructing chariots at Rath Yard in Puri, Thursday

government that would be formed by BJP will snatch away the natural resources belonging to the people of Odisha, while saying that his party has humbly accepted the verdict in the recently concluded elections.

The Congress won 14 seats in the 147-member Odisha Assembly. "We humbly accept the verdict of the people of Odisha in the recently concluded election. But, we want to warn the people that they are going to lose their 'jal' (water), 'jungle' (forest) and 'jamin' (land) as the BJP is set to form government in the state,"

people of Odisha and their resources. "Our 14 newly-elected MLAs will fight like 140 MLAs and they will stand tall before the people of Odisha and protect them," Kumar said. He alleged that BJP will exploit the tribal land and natural resources of Odisha. "The people of our country have shown BJP their place. The Congress has fought this election not only against the BJP but also against the central agencies like ED, CBI, IT, etc. If there would have been a level playing field for Congress, we would have got 400 seats in Lok Sabha polls."

251 elected MPs face criminal cases: ADR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: As many as 251 (46 per cent) of the 543 newly elected Lok Sabha members have criminal cases registered against them, and 27 of them have been convicted, according to an analysis by poll rights body Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR).

This is the highest number of candidates facing criminal charges to be elected to the Lower House

A total of 233 MPs (43 per cent) had declared criminal cases against themselves, 185 (34 per cent) in 2014, 162 (30 per cent) in 2009 and 125 (23 per cent) in 2004

According to the analysis, there has been a 55 per cent increase in the number of MPs with declared criminal cases since 2009

Of the 251 winning candidates this year, 170 (31 per cent) are facing serious criminal cases, including rape, murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women.

This is also an increase from 159 (29 per cent) MPs in 2019, 112 (21 per cent) MPs in 2014, and 76 (14 per cent) MPs in 2009 the analysis showed. There has been a 124 per cent

increase in the number of MPs with declared serious criminal cases since 2009, it said

The analysis also highlights specific cases among the winning candidates.

While 27 winning candidates have declared they have been convicted in criminal cases, four declared cases related to murder under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and 27 declared cases related to attempt to murder under Section 307 of the IPC.

Fifteen winning candidates have declared cases related to crimes against women, including two facing charges of rape under IPC Section 376.

Additionally, four winning candidates have declared cases related to kidnapping and 43 have declared cases related to hate speech.

The chances of winning for a candidate with declared criminal cases in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections stood at 15.3 per cent, compared to just 4.4 per cent for candidates with a clean background, the analysis found.



Of the 240 winning candidates of the BJP, which emerged as the largest party in the 18th Lok Sabha, 94 (39 per cent) have declared criminal cases, accord-

ing to the ADR. Forty-nine (49 per cent) of the Congress' 99 winning candidates have declared criminal cases and 21 (45 per cent) of the Samajwadi Party's 37 candidates face criminal charges.

Thirteen (45 per cent) of the TMC's 29, 13 (59 per cent) of the DMK's 22, eight (50 per cent) of the TDP's 16, and five (71 per

cent) of the Shiv Sena's seven winning candidates have declared criminal cases.

Sixty-three (26 per cent) BJP candidates, 32 (32 per cent) Congress candidates and 17 (46 per cent) SP candidates have declared serious criminal cases, the analysis found.

Seven (24 per cent) TMC candidates, six (27 per cent) DMK candidates, five (31 per cent) TDP candidates, and four (57 per cent) Shiv Sena candidates face serious criminal cases, it stated.

Review heat-stroke room availability: Govt to states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: With many parts of the country in the grip of a heatwave, the Centre has asked states and Union territories to conduct follow-up reviews to ensure dedicated heat stroke rooms at all health facilities besides implementing critical fire and electrical safety measures.

Atul Goel, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). Union Health Ministry conducted a virtual review meeting with states and UTs to assess the preparedness for heatwave conditions and fire safety measures adopted by various healthcare facilities across the country.

State Health departments have been issued advisories and asked to implement guidelines on strengthening health systems preparedness for Heat-Related Illnesses (HRI) besides issuing a public health advisory with do's and don'ts.

They have been urged to follow the guidelines on emergency cooling for severe heat-related ill-UTs were asked to take proactive



heat related deaths.

age impact of heat.

State health departments have

been asked to adhere to the joint

communication from Secretary

(Health), MoHFW and NDMA

and a communication from

Directorate General of Health

Services (DGHS) on health fa-

cility fire safety measures and

checklist for assessment of health

facility and ambulance pre-

paredness to prevent and man-

Earlier, March 23, states and

measures to prevent devastating incidents caused by extreme heat. This was followed by another letter May 29 for taking all preventive measures in respect to fire safety.

Measures to be undertaken by states and UTs, include implementation of Heat Health Action Plan, dissemination of early warning of heat waves issued by IMD, sensitisation and capacity building of health care staff on HRI symptoms, case identification, clinical management and surveillance.

The ministry also stressed on conducting regular preventive fire risk assessment drills to identify potentially vulnerable areas and implementing appropriate fire prevention measures, such as proper storage of \rightarrow flammable materials and regular and optimal preventive maintenance of electrical circuits and systems and establishing an emergency response plan with SOPs for evacuatingpatients, staff, and visitors in the event of a fire.



downtown

150 main reservoirs reveal a total live storage of 39.765 billion cubic meters (BCM), which constitutes just 22% of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. June 6: The monitoring data from 23 reservoirs in eastern region including Odisha. Jharkhand and Assam revealed a capacity of 20.430 billion cubic meters (BCM), with current storage just at 24.6 per cent. This is an improvement over the last year's 21 per cent but slightly below the normal of 24.8 per cent, according to the weekly reservoir bulletin of Central Water Commission (CWC) released Thursday.

The bulleting reported highly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bhubaneswar, June 6: Four women candidates including former IAS officer Aparaiita Sarangi and Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo. all belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party, emerged victorious in the Lok Sabha elections in the state. A total of 29 candidates con-APARAJITA SARANGI

tested in the 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha of whom four won and five came second in the polls.

Sarangi, a former IAS officer and BJP candidate, retained the prestigious Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat for the second time by defeating her nearest BJD rival Manmath Kumar Routray by 35,152 votes.

Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo of the erstwhile Royal family of Patna in Bolangir district won

Plantation drive by ICAR-CIFA

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) celebrated World Environment Day (WED) and organised a tree plantation programme on its campus, recently. This year's WED theme, 'Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience' which underlines the critical need to heal the land, combat desertification,





deficient conditions in the east flowing rivers like the Mahanadi, Krishna and Cauvery basins.

There is a total live storage of 39.765 BCM, which constitutes just 22 per cent of the total live storage capacity of the 150 main reservoirs in the country, the bulletin said.

Last week, the total capacity was 23 per cent of the storage capacity of these reservoirs. As the temperature rose, a weekon-week decline has been seen in the reservoir level for the past three months.

The southern region, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana,

defeating her nearest BJD rival

Surendra Singh Bhoi by 1,32,664

votes. BJP candidate Malvika

Devi of the erstwhile Royal fam-

ilv of Kalahandi district won

the Kalahandi Lok Sabha seat by

Lambodar Nial.

Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, has 42 reservoirs with a total capacity of 53.334 BCM. The current storage is alarmingly low at 7.114 BCM (13 per cent), significantly down from last year's 23 per cent and the ten-year average of 19 per cent.

The total live storage capacity of the monitored reservoirs is 178.784 BCM, approximately 69.35 per cent of the nation's overall live storage capacity of 257.812 BCM. This week's live storage stands at 79 per cent of the storage available during the corresponding period last year (50.549 BCM) and 93 per cent of the tenHimachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, the 10 reservoirs have a combined live storage capacity of 19.663 BCM. The current storage is 5.888 BCM (30 per cent of capacity), a drop from last year's 39 per cent and the ten-year average of 31 per cent.

The western region, encompassing Gujarat and Maharashtra, has 49 reservoirs with a total capacity of 37.130 BCM. They are currently at 8.359 BCM (23 per cent), down from 25 per cent last year but above the 21 per cent ten-year average.

In the central region, covering Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, 26 reservoirs have a capacity of 48.227 BCM, with current storage at 13.369 BCM (27.7 per cent). This is less than the last year's 35 per cent and just below the normal of 27.9 per cent.

Victory for four women candidates in LS elections



A total of 29 candidates contested in the 21 Lok Sabha seats in state of whom four won and five came second in the polls

n the 2019. seven women candidates had won the Lok Sabha elections in Odisha

rival Ranjita Sahu by 99,974 votes. In the 2019, seven women can-

BJP's Anita Subhadarshini won

SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEC

elections in Odisha. Five BJD women candidates Ranjita Sahu, Lekhasri Samantsinghar, Pariniti Mishra, Manjulata Mondal and Rajashree Mallick - came second in the Aska, Balasore, Bargarh, Jagatsinghpur and Jajpur Lok Sabha seats respectively.

The BJP won 20 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha, while Congress won only one.



The top court said Section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is intended to reassure the victim that they are not forgotten in the criminal justice system.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: If payment of compensation becomes a consideration for reducing a sentence, it will have a "catastrophic" effect on the criminal justice administration, the Supreme Court has said.

The object of payment of compensation to the victim in a criminal case, it said, is to rehabilitate those who have suffered loss or injury by the offence and it cannot be a ground to reduce the sentence imposed upon the accused.

The court said it will result in criminals with a purse full of money to buy their way out of justice, defeating the very purpose of criminal proceedings.

Section 357 of the CrPC empowers a court to award compensation to victims while passing a judgment of conviction.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the idea of compensation is based on the theory of victimology which recognises the harsh reality that victims are unfortunately the forgotten people in the criminal justice delivery system.

"Payment of victim compensation cannot be a consideration or a ground for reducing the sentence imposed upon the accused as victim compensation is not a punitive measure and only restitutory in nature and thus, has no bearing with the sentence that has been passed which is punitive in nature," the bench said.

It is a constructive approach

the bench said

The top court said The top court's observation Section 357 of the Code came while hearing a plea filed by a man named Rajendra of Criminal Procedure Bhagwanji Umraniya chal-(CrPC) is intended to lenging an order of the Gujarat reassure the victim High Court which reduced five years sentence imposed upon that they are not two men to four years jail in a forgotten in the criminal case. criminal iustice system

to crimes based on the prem-

ise that mere punishment of

the offender may not give sol-

ace to a victim or their family,

compensation which is to be

paid to a victim, the only fac-

tor that the court may take

into consideration is the con-

vict's capacity to pay the com-

pensation and not the sentence

that has been imposed. In crim-

inal proceedings the courts

should not conflate sentence

with compensation to victims,"

"As such, when deciding the

it said.

The high court had also said the convicts need not undergo even the four-year sentence, if they paid ₹2.50 lakh to the victim.

The apex court noted that 12 years have gone by since the incident occurred and the convicts have already deposited ₹5 lakh.

The bench said, "We are not inclined to direct them to undergo further sentence of four vears.

"However, having said so, we direct each of the respondents to deposit a further sum of ₹5 lakh, i.e. in all ₹10 lakh, in addition to what they have already deposited before the trial court," the top court said.

BJD panel to examine ବିତନାଦ କାନୁନ୍ଗୋ



said 'We will have to wait for the Bhubaneswar, June 6: The report of the committee on the cause of the defeat." he said Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will form

1,33,813 votes. She defeated BJD's by defeating her nearest BJD In the Aska Lok Sabha constituency in Ganjam district,

didates had won the Lok Sabha

silience against drought.

The event was graced by the presence of ICAR-CIFA in-charge director S S Giri who highlighted the significance of this year's theme and the importance of tree plantation programme at grass root level.



In his address, Giri expressed his commitment towards a greener CIFA campus.

To mark the occasion, Giri planted a Bael (Aegle marmelos) plant. ICAR-CIFA APE division head PC Das, FGB division head JK Sundaray, and FHM division head M Samanta, along with other staff members and research scholars, participated in the plantation drive.

Around 150 Bael trees were planted across the ICAR-CIFA campus. The step is a contribution towards the institute's longterm goal of creating a lush and sustainable environment and enhancing biodiversity, said an official. The participation of the entire ICAR-CIFA community in the programme underscores their collective commitment to environmental stewardship.

a committee to examine the cause of its defeat in the elections, a party leader has said.

BJD's Kendrapara MLA Ganeswar Behera said the decision was taken at a meeting chaired by party president Naveen Patnaik with the newly-

elected legislators. "The party has decided to form a committee, which will submit its report to the president," he

The BJP stormed to power in Odisha Tuesday, securing 78 of the 147 Assembly seats and bringing an end to the Naveen Patnaikled BJD government that ruled the state for 24 years.

The BJD managed to win 51 seats, while the Congress bagged 14 constituencies. The CPI (M) got one seat, and three Independent candidates also emerged victorious.



IN MEMORIAM: CMC Commissioner Subash Singh along with guests paying tributes to Padma Shri Binod Kanungo, founder of Gyana Mandal, on his 113rd birth anniversary at Satichaura Burial Ground in Cuttack. Thursday OP PHOTO

High salt intake could raise chances of skin inflammation

' igh levels of sodium, commonly consumed through salt, could increase the risk of eczema, an inflammatory condition of skin marked by dry and itchy patches, a new study has found.

Previous studies have found the sodium present in skin to be linked with autoimmune and chronic inflammatory conditions, including eczema. They have also showed that consuming fast food, known to contain excessive dietary sodium, is associated with increasing chances of eczema, including its severity, among teenagers.

The new study found that eat-(UCSF), US, ing even one extra gram of said the chronic sodium than the daily recomskin condition mendation could increase the has become more chances of eczema flares by 22 common in recent per cent. One gram of sodium is years, especially in in-

roughly the amount present in half a teaspoon of table salt or in a Big Mac, a hamburger sold by McDonald's, the international fast food chain.

While the World Health Organisation recommends less than two grams of sodium intake in a day, according to the UK's National Health Service, the recommended sodium intake is 2.3 grams a day.

Eczema flares can be The study's difficult for patients to cope researchers of with, especially when they are the University unable to anticipate them and of California don't have recommendations on San Francisco what they can do to avoid them

> KATRINA ABUABARA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR O DERMATOLOGY AT UC SAN FRANCISCO

countries, implying that environmental and lifestyle factors such as diet had a role to play.

dustrialised

Limiting sodium intake could, therefore, be an easy way for eczema patients to manage their disease, they said. The findings are published in The Journal of the American Medical

The new study found that eating even one extra gram of sodium than the daily recommended intake of 2.3 grams could increase the chances of eczema

flares by 22 per cent

One gram of sodium is roughly the amount present in half a teaspoon of table salt or in a Big Mac, a hamburger sold by McDonald's, the international fast food chain

Association (JAMA) Dermatology.

"Eczema flares can be difficult for patients to cope with, especially when they are unable to anticipate them and don't have recommendations on what they can do to avoid them," said the study's corresponding author Katrina Abuabara, an associate professor of dermatology at UCSF.

For the research, the team used data of more than 2 lakh people aged 30-70 years old from the UK Biobank, including urine samples and electronic medical records. The team analysed the urine samples to find out each participant's sodium intake. From the medical records, they could see if the participant was diagnosed with eczema, or atopic dermatitis, along with its severity.

The researchers found that consuming one gram of sodium more than that recommended raised the chances of developing the skin condition by 22 per cent.

Future research could look at restricting sodium in daily diet as an intervention for eczema, they added.

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state

Girl hangs self POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, June 6: A 20-year-old girl was found hanging inside her bedroom Thursday at Jhapasahi of Ankura village under this police limits in Keonjhar district, sources said. The deceased has been identified as Shakuntala, daughter of Bati Buliuli of this village.

According to sources, Shakuntala went to sleep after completing her dinner Wednesday night. However, the family members found her hanging in her bedroom Thursday morning and informed police. Informed, police reached the spot, seized the body and sent it to Patana community health centre (CHC) for post-mortem.

After post-mortem, police handed over the body to her family members. Though the exact reason behind the extreme step taken by the girl has not yet been ascertained, sources said that the girl committed suicide as her parents finalised her marriage against her wish.

A case of unnatural death has been registered in this regard at Patana police station and an investigation is underway in this regard, said Patana PS IIC Saroj Kumar Sethi.

Sons, wife of BJD leaders in Jajpur lose Assembly elections

Of the seven Assembly seats of Jajpur district, BJP and BJD bagged three each and an Independent emerged victorious in one seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, June 6: In Jajpur district, sons and wives of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders lost in the recently concluded Assembly elections.

The Korei Assembly seat has been represented by Ashok Das, father of BJD organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das for over two and half decades.

This time the BJD had fielded Ashok Das's wife Sandhyarani Das but she lost the Assembly elections from the Korei seat. BJP's Akash Das Nayak won the Korei seat defeating Sandhyarani Das by 5,646 votes.

In the Dharmasala Assembly seat, BJD's Pranab Balabantray, son of veteran leader Kalpataru Das, lost the election to Indépendent candidate

Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo by 4,150 votes. Balabantray's father Kalpataru Das had won the Dharmasala seat four times since 1995. In the Sukinda Assembly con-

stituency, BJD candidate Pritiranjan Ghadei, son of veteran BJD leader Prafulla Chandra Ghadei, lost the Assembly elections to BJP's Pradeep Bal Samanta by 9,496 votes. Prafulla Ghadei had won the Sukinda seat several times. Of the seven Assembly con-

stituencies of Jajpur district, the BJP won three, the BJD also bagged three and an Independent candidate emerged victorious in one seat. The BJP stormed to power in

Odisha Tuesday by securing 78 of the 147 Assembly seats, bringing an end to the Naveen Patnaikled BJD government that ruled the state for 24 years. The BJD managed to win 51

seats, while the Congress bagged 14 constituencies. The CPI (M) secured one seat, while three Independent candidates also emerged victorious

a fake tribal caste certificate

and joined as a teacher under

/yasanagar tehsil. Similarly,

three persons were found work-

ing as teachers in Barchana

block on the basis of fake OTET

certificates. Accordingly, Jajpur

education department has sus-

pended these fake teachers.

Furthermore, three siblings,

who were working as fake teach-

ers under Korei block, have been

Despite presence of hundreds

of fake teachers in the district,

the district education depart-

ment is yet to start criminal or

departmental proceedings

against them. Similarly, a person

of Asanjhar village under Korei

block had been working as a

teacher for years on the basis

of a fake ST certificate. Promoted

as Block Education Officer (BEO).

he had been enjoying all the ben-

efits of a government servant

However, he has been transferred

to Kendrapara district after com-

plaints were filed. Sources said,

he is working as a BEO there

and providing cover to other

fake teachers.

Notably, the

suspended.



ARDENT WORSHIP: Women participate in Sabitri Brata rituals, praying for long life and well-being of their spouses, at Jagannath temple in Modipara of Sambalpur, Thursday OP PHOTO

Man awarded 20-yr

6 yrs on, probe into 'fake' teachers yet to complete

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, June 6: Six long years after the filing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in Orissa High Court praying to trace the 'fake teachers in state and take action against them, probe into the matter and action against the lot by the state government have been quite disappointing.

Meanwhile, the high court has issued a show-cause notice to the Directorate of Elementary Education (DEE) owing to the inordinate delay. Accordingly, the director of DEE has asked all the District Education Officers (DEOs) to identify all the fake teachers in their respective districts by June 15 and file compliance reports on the final criminal and departmental proceedings against the lot.

Reports said that hundreds of fake teachers, working on the basis of fake caste and educational certificates, have been debarred from continuing in their service. The Education department has issued order for action against them numerous times. However, the district level



trict. The director of DEE has issued several orders to sack them and lodge police cases against them under Section-15 of Odisha Civil Services (OCS) (CC & A) rules-1962. However, the district education officials are violating these orders. Moreover, attempts to take action against these errant officials have been futile.

Earlier, one Sanjay Kumar Moharana had filed a PIL (18752/2018) in the Orissa High Court praying to take action against the fake teachers posted in various schools of the state. As per the high court order, the Education department somehow tried to conduct a probe and prepared a list of 394 fake teachers in the state. The probe informed presence of only one fake teacher in Jajpur but it is suspected that there are over 200 fake teachers



Rourkela, June 6: A minor boy died due to snake bite Thursday while his elder sister, who was also bitten by the snake, is battling for her life in a critical condition in Sundargarh district.

Sources said a brother-sister duo was bitten by a venomous snake Wednesday night at Katuridua village under Bonai police station limits. The mishap occurred while they were sleeping on the ground in their house. The other family members were sleeping at a little distance.

It was around 3am in the night when the duo, Sandeep Oram, 4, and his sister Alisha, 12, woke up crying aloud. The family initially could not understand anything.

Meanwhile, due to commotion in the house the snake came out from its hiding place. Then only the family realised that the duo had been bitten by the snake and rushed them immediately to Bonai subdivisional hospital where Sandeep succumbed during treatment.

When the condition of the girl worsened further, she was soon rushed to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH). She is undergoing treatment at RGH and her condition was reported to be serious. Alisha is under the observation of



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 6: Fast Track Court (FTC) Judge Vijay Kumar Mishra Thursday convicted a 22-vear-old youth for raping a 13-year-old girl and sentenced him to 20 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) under section 4 of POCSO Act and slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on him.

In default of payment of the fine, the accused has been ordered to further undergo six months of RL

Bank of India Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, Jaydev Bihar, Bhubaneswar-751015 CORRESIDUM With reference to the "Gold Auction Notice" Published in "The Orissa Post" on 21.05.2024, the Last Date for deposi of dues by the borrower(s) should be read as "14.06.2024" instead of "15.06.2024 and the auction will be held at Concerned Branch Premises on "18.06.2024" instead of "17.06.2024". All other Facts vill remain unchanged Dt.06.06.2024 Zonal Manager, Bank of India

EAST COAST RAILWAY No. SDCM/KUR/E-Auction/Press

Date: 03.06.2024 bings/2024-25 SI. No.1: DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS SETTING UP RAIL COACH RESTAURAN AT KHURDA ROAD STATION. SI. No.2: DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS

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SI. No.3: DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS: ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS CONTRACT ON BRIDGE GIRDERS OVER 03 ROAD UNDER BRIDGES & ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS IN ITS CONCRETE STRUCTURE WING WALL. SI. No.4: DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS: SHORT JINGLE OF ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE AGENCY/FIRM WITH **DURATION OF MAXIMUM OF "15** SECONDS" EACH WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER TRAIN ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE EXISTING PASSENGER ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEM AT 11 STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD

DIVISION Auction Start Date & Time: at 1100 hrs. of 14.06.2024 (for SI No. 1), at 1100 hrs. of 15.06.2024 (for SI No. 2) at 1200 hrs of 14.06.2024 (for SI No. 3) & at 1100 hrs. of 18.06.2024 (for SI No. 4), Auction End Date & Time: at 1130 hrs. of 14.06.2024 (for SI No. 1), at 1130 hrs. of 15.06.2024 (for SI No. 2), at 1230 hrs. of 14.06.2024 (for SI No. 3) & at 1130 hrs. of 18.06.2024 (for SI No. 4). Complete details available at

education officials are allegedly going all the way out to provide cover to the fake teachers.

As per sources, hundreds of fake teachers are working in various schools under Korei and several other blocks of Jajpur disworking in the district.

Reports of a fake teacher working under Vyasanagar tehsil is a case in this point. A person, on the basis of a land patta he had acquired from Ghasipura tehsil in Keonjhar district, obtained

Divisional Commissioner (Central) at Cuttack had directed for a probe August 8, 2022 but the then Vyasanagar tehsildar, without making any field visit, filed a report favouring these fake teachers.

a team of doctors at RGH.

The convict has been identified Jena, special public prosecutor.

nesses and the police investigation report," said Gyanendra Nath

as Tukuna Munda of Shiriabahal

village under Telkoi police station.

ommended to the District Legal

Services Authority (DLSA) to

pay a compensation of ₹5 lakh

According to the sources, the

incident took place February 25

in 2022, when the minor girl and

her younger sister slept along

with other girls of the village

after having dinner in a house.

Late at night, the accused Tukuna

broke into the house and raped

the minor after shutting her

mouth with his hand. When the

other girls who were sleeping

nearby woke up after hearing her muffled scream, the accused

ran away leaving his torch and

In the morning, the victim in-

formed his brother about the

incident. A complaint was reg-

istered February 26 in Telkoi

police station. Police investi-

gated the matter after record-

ing the victim's statement. Later

police arrested Tukuna and for-

pronounced the verdict on the

basis of the statements of 31 wit-

'The Fast Track Court judge

warded him to court.

to the victim.

sandals there

In addition, the court has rec-

ww.ireps.gov.in PR-186/P/24-25 Khurda Roa



Applications are invited for filling up of the post of Secretary Textiles Committee, Mumbai, Group 'A' (Non-Ministerial) in Pay Level-13 [Pay Band-4 of Rs. 37400-67000 plus Grade Pay of Rs. 8700] on deputation (including short-term contract) on tenure basis

For details of eligibility conditions for the post and application proforma, please visit http://texmin.nic.in.

The Applications in the prescribed format, complete in all respects along with the required documents may be sent through proper channel, so as to reach Smt. Jayashree Sivakumar, Under Secretary, Room No. 336-A, Ministry of Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011 within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News

CBC 41101/11/0003/2425

Minor siblings duo drowns in Kusumi

NAYAGARH: In a tragic incident, two minor siblings drowned while they were bathing in a ditch on the dry Kusumi riverbed near Ekantabasi temple at Baunsiapada village under Itamati police limits in Nayagarh district Thursday morning. The deceased have been identified as Kajal, 12, and Sai, 7, children of Dwitikrushna Sethi of Baunsiapada village. According to reports, the brother-sister duo along with another minor boy had gone to take bath in the river Thursday morning. However, while bathing Kajal and Sai both slipped into deep water of the ditch and started drowning. The other boy raised an alarm and by then the mother of the children also

reached the spot and shouted for help. Hearing her cries, the villagers rushed to the spot and rescued Kajal and Sai from the river. They rushed them to the hospital, where the doctors declared them dead. Locals informed that a pool which was earlier dug on the dry riverbed has now turned into a ditch. During summer, the residents of Baunsiapada and nearby localities take bath in the pool. Two separate cases of unnatural death (6-7/24) were registered at Itamati PS and investigation into the incident is underway, said the police.

RSP's Pattachitra training for rural women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, June 6: As part of its women empowerment and livelihood generation initiatives, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) department of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) here has taken up the famous art of Pattachitra painting as a means of income generation for rural women. For smooth execution of the training programme, RSP has collaborated with NGO Society for Women Action Development (SWAD).

For the purpose, 10 women from Suidih periphery village of Lathikata block were chosen for training. The group completed the first phase of the training programme in the first month at the Institute for Periphery Development (IPD) of the CSR department.

During this period, the trainees were taught various designs like borders, lining, creative motifs, designs such as birds, animals and fish, paper preparation for final painting and completing a painting. The trainees were provided the required materi-



als. Susanta Kumar Betal was the training instructor Now the group is undergoing the

second phase of the training of 11 months duration at Suidih gram panchayat office where they are learning the advance course of portraying simple themes with perfection.

'Without any prior knowledge about drawing and painting, I was very apprehensive about this training programme. However, it is the trust and encouragement of the CSR officials of RSP and the trainers that I am able to create beautiful arts on paper now," says 43-yearold Poonam Tete.

"I had an interest in drawing since childhood. With the Pattachitra painting workshop, I am honing my skills, which I aspire to use as a way of income generation," says Jasmine Kissan a starry-eyed girl pursuing Plus II education and simultaneously undergoing the training by RSP in the traditional Pattachitra painting.

Notably, the project is undertaken at a total cost of around ₹10.5 lakhs. The 12-month long training programme aims at income generation, skill development, capacity building and sustainable livelihood for these women.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI 🕅

students and staff has received widespread praise.

believes this innovative approach will educate hundreds of students and

visitors who come to the campus regularly. The team effort of ITI Berhampur's

ITI Berhampur combats plastic

pollution with UN collaboration

BERHAMPUR: ITI Berhampur has joined forces with the UN

Environment Programme (UNEP) in a new initiative to

keeping the planet clean. In a unique display, ITI

educate the public about reducing plastic bottle use and

Berhampur created a 12-foot-tall metal faucet constructed

plastic bottles, highlighting the issue of plastic pollution.

a reduction in plastic bottle consumption. This initiative

embodies the 'Waste2Wealth' concept, promoting a

The message "turning off the tap" figuratively encourages

circular economy where waste is repurposed into valuable

resources. Rajat Kumar Panigrahi, the institute's principal,

from recycled scrap materials. This symbolic tap dispenses

Bank of India Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Paradeep Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under sectior 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon vithin 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Paradeep Branch for an amount mentioned below with nterest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

| PARADEEP BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor | Liabilities due as per Notice | Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession | Description of the Immovable Properties | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | + interest & expenses thereon Ac.0.04 Dec, Kiss Mahakalapada, Di | + interest & / consisting of Land & Building site | | | | | | |
| Borrower: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Panda, S/o.: Mr. Prahallad Panda, At: Mangarajpur, PO.: Mangarajpur, P.S.: Kujang, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur-754141 | + interest & / expenses thereon 05.06.2024 | | All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building situated over Khata No.: 622/139, Plot No.: 820/1409, Area: angarajpur, P.S.: Kujang, SRO: Kujang, Tahasil: | | | | | |
| Kujang, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Standing in the name of Mr. Prafulla Kumar Panda , Bounded by North: Other Co-Sharers and Keshab Tarai, South: Road, East: Basab Tarai, West: Bichitra Nanda Parida | | | | | | | | |
| N.B.: The Borrower/Guarantor will be required to hand over actual and vacant possession of the above properties immediately to the Authorised Officer failing which, the Authorised Officer will take actual and vacant possession of the properties by moving the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / District Magistrate. | | | | | | | | |
| Place: Bhubaneswar Authorised Office Date: 07.06.2024 Bank of India | | | | | | | | |

power post

FOCUS DEMOCRACY

NEED FOR CONSCIOUS VOTING

Peace is the first condition without which nothing else can be stable

SRI AUROBINDO

The 1.5°C Target

he world is burning, and our political leaders are failing us. With temperatures rising at an alarming rate, it seems that anyone who believes it is still possible to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius is in a rapidly shrinking minority.

As governments around the world fail to meet their responsibilities under the Paris climate agreement, the window for keeping global temperatures below the 1.5°C limit has all but closed due to insufficient action. But while some eminent commentators have declared the 1.5°C target "deader than a doornail," I have come to the opposite conclusion: 1.5°C will never die.

To be sure, the world is in a dire state. Greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions dumped in the atmosphere since the start of the Industrial Revolution have already warmed the planet by roughly 1.3°C, according to this year's annual report on Indicators of Global Climate Change. And studies, including mine, unequivocally show that crucial climate goals are not being met. Under current policies, global temperatures are projected to increase by 2.5-3°C by the end of this century

Even if governments meet all their existing climate pledges, the

odds against global warming staying below 1.5°C are seven to one. Combine this with the fossil-fuel industry's delaying tactics, including the greenwashing of their polluting business practices and recent roll-back on self-imposed emissions targets, and it becomes abundantly clear that our chances of staying below 1.5°C are indeed slim. Consequently, climate scientists expect global warming to "blast past" the 1.5°C limit.

But just as risks do not vanish when safety limits are exceeded, the Paris agreement's climate commitments do not disappear once we cross 1.5°C. While 1.5°C is a political target, it was not pulled out of thin air. It is a scientifically informed limit, first championed by small island states and later supported by a broad coalition of ambitious countries.

By now, it is clear to many governments that allowing global warming to exceed 1.5°C involves unacceptable societal risks, undermines development. and poses an existential threat to vulnerable communities and their cultures. Moreover, the line between "safe" and 'dangerous" warming is becoming in-

creasingly blurred. As the devastating effects of climate change worldwide show, even 1.5°C is dangerous and our societies are ill-equipped to handle it.

Over the past 20 years, we have experienced what a world that has warmed by about 1°C is like. No region has been spared the impact, with a growing number of countries facing fires, floods, and storms, resulting in devastating human and financial costs that extend well beyond national borders. Between 2000 and 2019, climate-related disasters claimed over half a million lives, caused over \$2 trillion in estimated damage, and affected almost four billion people worldwide.

Even at 1.5°C warming, up to one in seven species face extinction, critical ecosystems like tropical coral reefs face destruction, and extreme heat waves that our great-grandparents experienced once in a lifetime will occur on average every six years. Centuries of ice melt will cause sea levels to rise, flooding major cities like London, New York, Shanghai, and Kolkata. Vulnerable and marginalised communities' efforts to escape poverty will be undermined, and every

country's economic development will be impeded. Limiting global warming is thus a matter of social justice, human rights, and long-term development, and this imperative remains even if we cross the 1.5°C threshold. Moreover, while exceeding 1.5°C will have unpredictable political consequences as compensation claims for avoidable climate-related damage increase, the political implications of reducing GHG emissions remain consistent with what the Paris agreement already outlines. To halt global warming, the Paris agreement expects countries to implement emission-reduction plans that represent their "highest possible ambition." While governments are failing to meet this goal, exceeding 1.5°C does not change their responsibilities; in fact, fulfilling these commitments will become more important as temperatures continue to rise. The only way to improve our chances of keeping warming close to 1.5°C is by pledging and implementing more ambitious near-term emission cuts every year until 2035.

Joeri Rogelj

To maintain a safe, livable, and just planet, we must keep our eyes on the 1.5°C limit and ensure that pursuing it remains our top priority

according to constitutional provisions serve as essential tools for deepening of democratic consciousness and ensure people's governance. These elections aim to humanise power and establish a state and government that prioritises the well-being of both people and the planet. However, there is a concerning trend in recent years where authoritarian, undemocratic, and reactionary forces use electoral means to capture state power. These forces often pursue interests that conflict with those of the working population, undermining the principles of democracy in various countries.

n electoral democracies.

periodic elections conducted

These alarming anti-democratic developments highlight a significant issue: elections alone are necessary but insufficient in cultivating a secular, scientific, and democratic consciousness among the populace. Despite the regular occurrence of elections, many societies struggle to instil these fundamental values in their citizens. The failure to foster a more informed and democratically engaged citizenry allows anti-democratic elements to exploit the electoral system, posing a threat to the core ideals of democratic governance. People across the globe con-

tinue to cast their votes based on narrow silos of religion, race, regional affiliation, caste, and other immediate, assigned majoritarian, dominant, and reactionary identities. This tendency to vote along these lines often leads to a fragmented and polarised electorate, which undermines the broader goals of democratic governance. Voting driven by such narrowly assigned affiliations prevents individuals from considering the larger societal implications of their electoral choices. It contributes to the perpetuation of social divisions and hinders the development of policies that address the needs of the broader population. When voters prioritise their immediate identity group over the common good, it becomes challenging to build inclusive and



Voting driven by narrowly assigned affiliations prevents individuals from considering the larger societal implications of their electoral choices

equitable societies.

Political parties, interest groups, propagandists and lobby ists often exploit fragmented and polarised electorates to mobilise the masses in pursuit of their own agendas. These entities manipulate divisions based on nationality, religion, race. caste, and regional affiliations to garner support and advance their specific goals. This strategy is highly effective in rallying segments of the population during elections to capture state power at the cost of deepening societal divides. By appealing to narrow dominant identity-based interests, these groups can distract from real issues that affect the collective well-being of the entire population.

The tactics of populist mobilisation based on dominant and narrow identities often lead to the prioritisation of divisive policies that reinforce existing inequalities and hinder the devel opment of inclusive and equitable societies. The use of dominant identity politics can also undermine democratic processes by shifting the focus away from policy discussions and towards emotional and majoritarian identitydriven rhetoric. This can result in voters making decisions based on fear, prejudice, or loyalty to their identity group rather than on a rational assessment of policies and their potential impact on society as a whole.

The rise of fraudulent propaganda, disinformation campaigns,

anti-minority and anti-migrant hate speeches, and targeted advertisements by political leaders and media outlets threatens the very foundation of electoral democracy by manipulating elections. This manipulation undermines the integrity of the democratic process, eroding public trust in the fairness and transparency of elections. Disinformation campaigns spread false or misleading information, which can confuse voters and skew their perceptions of candidates and issues.

Anti-working classes, antiwomen, anti-minority and antimigrant rhetoric fosters diviprejudice. sion and marginalising vulnerable communities and inciting social unrest. Targeted advertisements. often fuelled by data analytics and social media algorithms, can micro-target specific voter groups with tailored messages that reinforce biases and polarise opinions. These tactics not only distort the electoral landscape but also create an environment where informed decision-making is compromised. As a result, elections have failed as a tool to foster democratic consciousness among people and deepen the democratic practice of governance.

Political participation grounded in progressive, democratic, secular, and scientific consciousness is crucial for determining the quality of an electoral democracy. When citizens

engage in the electoral process with these values in mind, it enhances the functioning and integrity of democratic systems. However, the weakening of such participation poses a significant threat to democracy as a practice. When political engagement is driven by narrow identity-based appeals or manipulated by powerful political groups and parties, it undermines the foundational principles of democratic governance. This type of mobilisation can lead to a less informed and more polarised electorate, where decisions are made based on immediate affiliations rather than on a rational evaluation of policies and their broader societal impact.

Dominant and reactionary electoral mobilisation often involves leveraging societal divisionssuch as those based on nationality, religion, race, caste, and region-to rally support. While this can be effective in the short term, it risks entrenching existing inequalities and perpetuating divisive politics. Over time, such practices can erode public trust in democratic institutions and processes, making it harder to achieve inclusive and equitable governance.

To safeguard people's democracy, it is essential to promote and sustain political participation that is informed by progressive, democratic, secular, and scientific principles. This involves not only encouraging citizens to vote but also fostering a political culture that values critical thinking, inclusivity, and evidencebased decision-making Accountability, transparency, and rule of law can help in restoring faith in electoral democracy and uphold its core constitutional principles in defence of people and the planet. Civic education also plays a key role in this, equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills and democratic consciousness needed to participate meaningfully in the democratic processes to strengthen democracy in practice.

The writer teaches at the University of Glasgow, UK

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY





Nayak

WHEN VOTERS **PRIORITISE** THEIR **IMMEDIATE IDENTITY GROUP OVER THE COMMON GOOD, IT BECOMES CHALLENGING TO BUILD**

INCLUSIVE AND

EOUITABLE

SOCIETIES

Even if we cannot avoid overshooting 1.5°C, the 1.5°C target remains relevant. Every fraction of a degree counts, and global climate efforts must therefore focus on limiting the exceedance of 1.5°C and returning to safe levels as quickly as possible. The Paris agreement's target of achieving global net-zero GHG emissions, in particular, could help reverse some of the excess warming. To maintain a safe, livable, and just planet, we must keep our eyes on the 1.5°C limit and ensure that pursuing it remains our top priority.

The writer is a lead author of reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world
 - DESMOND TUTU
- Love and work... work and love, that's all there is

SIGMUND FREUD

A happy life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy dare live

BERTRAND RUSSELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1892:** Chicago's elevated Loop train line (commonly known as the "L") began operating, and it became one of the longest and busiest mass transit systems in the United States.
- **1925:** The automobile manufacturer Chrysler Corporation was incorporated, with Walter P. Chrysler as president.
- **1944:** Normandy Invasion begun. Led by U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, an Allied armada of ships, planes, and landing craft and some 156,000 troops began the invasion of northern France from England this day in 1944-the famous "D-Day" of World War II.
- **1982:** Israel invaded Lebanon and subsequently defeated the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Syrian armed forces, and assorted leftist Lebanese groups.



Ashyashree Praharaj

RESPONSIBLE CENSORSHIP SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT, **TARGETED AND SUBJECT TO OVERSIGHT TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT BECOME A TOOL FOR**

AUTHORITARIANISM

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

101

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

n our modern world, where social media has seeped into Levery corner of our lives, the question of censorship has never been more pressing. While censorship may initially spark concerns about free speech and democratic principles, a deeper look reveals that some oversight is essential for the well-being of individuals and society.

First and foremost, the unchecked spread of misinformation on social media platforms poses a significant threat to public health and safety. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, false claims about cures and vaccines proliferated rapidly, undermining public health efforts and endangering lives. Similarly, misinformation about elections can erode trust in democratic processes, leading to political instability. Censorship, in this context, is necessary to curb the dissemination of false and potentially harmful information. In 2018, a wave of mob lynching across India was triggered by false rumours spread via WhatsApp. Messages warning about child abductors were widely circulated, leading to mass hysteria and vigilantism.

In several tragic cases, innocent people were brutally attacked and killed based on baseless accusations. The series of incidents highlighted the dire consequences of misinformation and the need for stricter content regulation on messaging platforms.

Furthermore, social media platforms have become breeding grounds for hate speech, cyberbullying, and harassment. These toxic behaviours can have devastating effects on individuals, particularly young masses, leading to mental health issues and, in extreme cases, suicides. While freedom of expression is a fundamental right, it should not come at the cost of allowing harm to others. Effective censorship can help create a safer online environment by removing content that incites violence or promotes discrimination. Amanda Todd, a 15vear-old Canadian girl, became the victim of severe cyberbullying after a stranger manipulated her into exposing herself on camera. The individual then blackmailed her with the footage, leading to widespread online harassment. Despite Amanda's pleas for help and multiple attempts to report

the abuse, the harassment continued, ultimately leading to her tragic suicide in 2012. In the aftermath of Amanda's suicide, Meta (formerly Facebook) and other social media platforms faced significant criticism for their failure to protect her and effectively moderate harmful content.

One of the most pressing concerns about social media influencers displaying nudity is the impact on young, impressionable audiences. Teenagers and children who follow these influencers may develop distorted perceptions of body image and self-worth. Due to their vast reach and impact, social media influencers bear a significant ethical responsibility. Responsible influencers should be mindful of their content's accessibility and strive to create a positive and respectful digital environment. Another critical aspect to con-

sider is the role of social media in amplifying extremist ideologies and facilitating radicalisation. Terrorist organisations and hate groups often use these platforms to recruit members. spread propaganda, and coordinate activities. Censorship, therefore, becomes a crucial tool

in national security efforts, helping to disrupt the operations of such groups and prevent acts of violence.

Critics of censorship often argue that it infringes on individual liberties and stifles dissent. However, it is essential to distinguish between censorship aimed at silencing legitimate criticism and that which seeks to protect public order and safety. Responsible censorship should be transparent, targeted and subject to oversight to ensure that it does not become a tool for authoritarianism.

While censorship may be antithetical to the ideals of a free society, it is necessary in the digital age to protect individuals and the collective well-being. Social media platforms are responsible for ensuring that their spaces are safe, truthful, and conducive to constructive discourse. When applied judiciously and transparently, censorship can help achieve this balance, fostering a healthier and more secure online environment.

> The writer is a research scholar, Department of Business Administration, Berhampur University.

Fractured mandate

Sir, The 2024 general election results revealed a divided verdict. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a substantial number of seats, yet no single party reached the 272-seat threshold required for a clear majority. Similarly, the INC-led INDIA alliance made notable gains but also fell short of a majority. This outcome resulted in a hung parliament, underscoring the competitive and fragmented political landscape. The fractured verdict has significant implications for government formation. Without a clear majority, both major alliances must engage in coalition-building and negotiations with smaller regional parties to establish a stable government. This process underscores the importance of coalition politics in India's parliamentary system and the diverse regional issues that influence national elections. The challenges ahead include the difficulty of forming a stable government, potential policy paralysis, and instability if a fragile coalition emerges. Addressing critical issues such as unemployment, economic growth, and social harmony will require effective governance and consensus-building among various political factions. Overall, the 2024 elections have reinforced the complexity of Indian politics. Regional parties and local issues play a significant role in shaping national outcomes, and the fractured mandate reflects a divided electorate. This scenario necessitates inclusive and collaborative governance to navigate the diverse and dynamic political landscape of India.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Regional forces

Sir, The 18th Lok Sabha elections reveal a nation loyal to democracy and its core principles, rejecting divisive ideologies. While craving stability, voters won't tolerate intolerance or hate-driven agendas. Despite BJP's ambition, they fell short of an absolute majority, signaling a shift in political dynamics. The BJP's "Congress-free India" vision contrasts with the Opposition's resurgence, led by regional parties. Understanding grassroots realities, not 🔺 just rhetoric, is vital for electoral success. Regional parties, sidelined in recent years, now play pivotal roles, ensuring diversity in governance. The election outcome discredits exit polls and reinforces faith in electronic voting machines, though electoral processes demand improvement

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR



rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010







Enhanced features for travellers in new rakes of Kolkata Metro

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 6: Kolkata Metro's new rakes from China come with enhanced features for travellers like CCTV coverage inside, wheelchair parking facility and wider evacuation doors, an official said.

While one of the Dalian rakes is already in use, two more arrived at the Noapara shed here May 26, he said.

"Enhanced features of these rakes ... will also provide CCTV coverage inside the coach .. wheelchair parking facility and

door-side handrails making them unique in Kolkata Metro," a spokesperson of the rapid transit system said.

"These rakes have doors which are 100 mm wider in comparison to the existing AC rakes. Moreover. greater seating capacity, better air conditioning system, noise reduction feature... are some of the additions for the comfort of passengers," he said.

One of the two new rakes will $undergo\,mandatory\,inspection$ soon. Eleven more rakes from Dalian are expected to arrive in



TWO STATES

One of the two new rakes will undergo mandatory inspection soon

BIHAR

leven more rakes from Eleven more rakes from Dalian are expected to arrive in the next six months

the next six months, the spokesperson said.

These also have improved safety features like disc brake system, controlled-discharge fire extinguishers and evacuation ramp with anti-skid rubber flooring, he added.

THREAT TO SOIL **Campaign launched in** WB to create awareness PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 6: The West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) has launched a campaign to create awareness among students about the threat to soil due to the use of pesticides.

Speaking at a programme on the occasion of World Environment Day, WBPCB member secretary Rajesh Kumar said it would involve schools from across the state in the campaign

'With the motto of land restoration, we will sensitise the children and their parents about the threat to our soil due to the use of pesticides. If this practice continues, the soil will lose its fertility after a few decades and we will be faced with a serious crisis," he said. Kumar said school teachers can be the best communicators of the campaign. He said the 'Paribesh' mobile app launched by the WBPCB helps in noting air and sound pollution in an area on real-time basis.

Complaints about violations can also be made through the app, he said. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also greeted people on World Environment Day. "Let's aim for a green planet, a beautiful planet," she said in a post in Bengali on X, sharing a poem written by her.

Meanwhile, NGO SwitchON Foundation released a report, which claimed that 24 per cent of the state's soil has degraded due to erosion, salinisation and nutrient depletion, affecting 1.8 million hectare of land.

Cong gets a toehold in Bihar after 20 yrs **IN THE 2024 LOK**

SABHA POLLS, THE CONGRESS CONTESTED NINE SEATS IN BIHAR BUT MANAGED TO WIN ONLY THREE -KATIHAR, SASARAM AND KISHANGANJ LOK SABHA SEATS



Patna, June 6: Congress has made some electoral inroads in Bihar after 20 years by winning three Lok Sabha seats. The last time Congress won four seats from Bihar was 20 years ago during the 2004 Lok Sabha polls.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress contested nine seats in Bihar but managed to win only three Katihar, Sasaram and Kishanganj Lok Sabha seats.

Tariq Anwar won from Katihar, Manoj Kumar Ram from Sasaram and Mohammad Jawed won the KIshanganj seat for Congress.

The surprising candidate was Pappu Yadav who won the Purnia Lok Sabha as an independent candidate. However, he is likely to side with Congress, as he was seen waving the Congress flag after his victory.

"Pappu Yadav is most likely to join the Congress before the oath-taking ceremony. He is taking the legal opinion about it. He wants to keep his politics limited to the Kosi and Seemanchal regions of Bihar. Seemanchal is considered a stronghold of Congress and with Pappu Yadav on its side, Congress can gain in the Kosi region as well," said political analyst Ajay Kumar.

Congress alliance partner RJD which had contested 23 seats managed to win only four Lok Sabha seats in Patliputra, Buxar, Aurangabad and Jahanabad.

Ajay Kumar said that RJD had claimed that the Mulsm-Yadav (MY) would vote for them but they failed to get their votes. "RJD's two Muslim candidates failed to win while Congress two Muslim candidates won. It



ISSaPO

JUNE 7 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

points out that Lalu Prasad Yadav's grip on the MY equation has weakened," Kumar said.

Both Congress and RJD had fielded two Muslim candidates each in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. However, both the RJD candidates, Ali Ashraf Fatmi from Madhubani and Shahnawaz Alam from Araria lost the election while the Muslim Congress candidates Tariq Anwar and Mohammad Jawed won the election.

"Pappu Yadav won the Purnia Lok Sabha seat. Muslim community has around six lakh votes in Purnia while Yadavs have near about 1.5 lakh votes. Pappu Yadav cannot join any other party but Congress," Ajay Kumar said. He said that whenever Pappu Yadav joins Congress, they (INDIA bloc) will reach the 100 mark in the parliament.

Interestingly, Tejashwi Yadav had camped in Purnia for five days but failed to get the desired results in favour of his party. Congress has now equalled the RJD in terms of the number of elected MPs in the Lok Sabha election from Bihar.

Also, the Congress was under intense pressure from its INDIA bloc partners not to hold an election rally in Purnia but they (Congress) did send Rahul Gandhi to Purnia for cam paigning where he did not speak against Pappu Yadav.

Is the Congress' win in Bihar after 20 years indicating a resurgent Congress in Bihar's politics which has been heavily overshadowed by JD-U and RJD, for the last 30 years, only time will tell.

ALLEGATIONS IN WB Calcutta HC expresses concern

The order came following a petition in the High Court seeking direction to police to ensure protection to Opposition party workers in the wake of alleged post-poll violence in some places of the state following the elections

AGENCIES

Kolkata, June 6: Expressing concern over alleged post-poll violence in certain areas of West Bengal following the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections, the Calcutta High Court Thursday issued a directive allowing affected people to submit complaints to the state's Director General of Police (DGP) via email

The order came following a petition in the high court seeking direction to police to ensure protection to Opposition party workers in the wake of alleged post-poll violence in some places of the state following the elections.

Stating that similar allega tions had come up after the 2021 Assembly elections, the court asked whether incidents of postpoll violence happened in any other state.

Expressing dismay at reports of post-poll violence following the general elections, the court emphasised the state's responsibility to prevent recurrence of

Patna remembers JP's call for total revolution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 6: It has been 50 years since socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan gave the call for 'Sampoorna Kranti'June 5, 1974 at the historic Gandhi Maidan here.

Addressing a massive gathering on that day, he had thundered, "...it is a Total Revolution we want, nothing less". While five decades have passed on since that historic moment and much has changed in the capital city of Bihar, the legend of 'JP', as he was popularly known, lives on in political speeches, statues, and in names of bridges, boulevards, public buildings, institutions and some streets in the state. Under the firebrand 'JP', the agitation in Bihar took the shape of a 'Total Revolution' and the initial demand for resignation of the then Ghafoor ministry in the state ultimately turned into a larger demand for dismissal of the Indira Gandhi government.



such incidents. A division bench com-

prising justices Kausik Chanda and Apurba Sinha Roy directed that complaints can be sent to the DGP by email by emphasised the state's persons who are responsibility to allegedly affected prevent recurrence of by incidents of postsuch incidents poll violence. If the complaint indicated a

cognisable offence, the DGP

would forward it to the relevant local police station for FIR registration Expressing The petitioner dismay at reports claimed that afof post-poll violence fected individuals following the general elections, the court

were hesitant to visit local police stations to file complaints. The court instructed the DGP to provide a report within 10 days detailing the number of complaints re-

State counsels argued that the incidents mentioned by the petitioner might not be directly

actions taken.

ceived, FIRs registered, and

linked to the elections. Following the conclusion of the Lok Sabha election process, the Election Commission decided to maintain a substantial presence of central forces in the state for some more time.

In August 2021, a five-judge bench of the high court had ordered a CBI probe into all cases of alleged murder and crimes against women, including rape or attempted rape. related to post-election violence in West Bengal following the state assembly elections.

The bench, in response to PILs seeking an independent probe into alleged violence following the assembly elections, had also ordered the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising three IPS officers of the West Bengal cadre to oversee investigations into all other cases.

'NDA to fight Bihar polls under Nitish's leadership'



Kumar's support has become crucial for NDA government formation at the Centre as the BJP has failed to attain a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own



The 'Bihar Movement' during the turbulent 70s eventually led to the Emergency.

Patna The district administration Wednesday paid floral tributes to the socialist leader also known as 'Loknayak' at a roundabout which has an imposing statue of him, facing the Gandhi Maidan.

The pedestal of the statue also carries some of the lines that poet Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' had earlier written for Narayan and his struggle for social justice.

"Senani Karo Prayan Abhay, Bhavi Itihas Tumhara Hai: Ye Takhat Abha ke Bujhte Hain, Sara Akash Tumhara Hai," reads a couplet on a side of the pedestal.

Patna has another imposing statue of 'JP', installed at Income Tax roundabout in the heart of the city. The city's airport, new Ganga bridge – 'JP Setu' completed a few years ago -- the huge Ganga drive along its banks, a university in Chhapra in north Bihar, a public building -Loknayak Jayaprakash Bhawan' -- at Dakbunglow Chouraha, are named after him, while a long road in Kankarbagh area is called 'JP Senani Path'. Sudhir Kumar Jha in his book "A New Dawn: Patna Reincarnated" talks about the 'JP movement' as the agitation is popularly known in Bihar. He writes in his book that June 5, 1974, Narayan addressed a mammoth gathering at the Gandhi Maidan.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 6: Bihar BJP president Samrat Chaudhary Thursday announced that the NDA would contest the 2025 Assembly polls in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar. In the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, Nitish Kumarled JD (U) contested 16 seats and emerged victorious in 12. It is in coalition with the BJP, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and

(HAM) in the state. Kumar's support has become crucial for NDA government for-

Hindustani Awam Morcha

mation at the Centre as the BJP has failed to attain a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own.

In the backdrop of the current political situation in the country, Samrat Chaudhary's statement that NDA would contest the 2025 Assembly polls in the state under the leadership of Kumar assumes significance.

"The NDA will contest the next assembly elections in Bihar under the CM's leadership... we have started preparations for it," Chaudhary, the deputy chief minister, told reporters. Kumar first took oath as the chief minister of Bihar in 2000. However,

his government fell within a week. He has been the chief minister of the state since 2005, except for a brief period in 2014.

Of the 40 Lok Sabha seats, the JD (U) and the BJP won 12 each, while LJP (Ram Vilas) secured five, and HAM won one. In the INDIA bloc, the RJD won four seats, the Congress three and the CPI (ML) Liberation two. Compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the NDAs tally in Bihar decreased by nine seats.

Commenting on BJP's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha polls, Chaudhary said, "People of Bihar gave us 75 per cent marks (12 seats) in this Lok Sabha polls. We will deliberate on what went wrong in constituencies where we lost,' Chaudhary added.



A woman covers herself and her child during a dust storm in Patna, Bihar

TMC's women candidates dominate Bengal LS polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 6: Amidst a gripping political showdown, the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal witnessed a riveting narrative unfold as the ruling TMC's eleven women candidates clinched resounding victories, while their seven counterparts from the BJP faced defeats, finishing as runners-up.

The saga continued with firsttime candidate and actor-turnedpolitician Savani Ghosh, whose victory in Jadavpur by a whopping 2,58,201 votes marked a dramatic rise from her previous electoral failure. In Midnapore, TMC's June Maliah, a political newcomer, won by 27,191 votes and proving her mettle beyond

her acting career. Adding to the theatrical flair, reality show anchor Rachana Banerjee dazzled voters in Hooghly, winning by 76,853 votes. Sitting TMC MP Mala Roy, a sea-

soned politician, retained her Kolkata Dakshin seat with an overwhelming majority of 1,87,231 votes

In Joynagar, Pratima Mondol's landslide victory by 4,70,219 votes added to the TMC's triumphant narrative. Meanwhile, Sajda Ahmed's formidable margin of 2,18,673 votes in Uluberia, where she secured 7,24,622 votes, showcased the party's stronghold. Actor-turned-MP Satabdi

Roy's re-election in Birbhum with 7,17,961 votes, surpassing her BJP rival by 1,97,650 votes, continued the TMC's winning streak. Mitali Bag, a former anganwadi worker, clinched victory in Arambagh by a narrow 6,399 votes.

Veteran politician Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar from Barasat won with a decisive margin of 1,14,189 votes, while first-time candidate Dr. Sharmila Sarkar triumphed in Bardhaman Purba by 1,60,572 votes.



In stark contrast, the BJP's women candidates met a series of dramatic downfalls. Locket Chatterjee's defeat in Hooghly to her former film industry colleague Rachana Banerjee was a stunning blow. In Basirhat, where Sandeshkhali is located,

Rekha Patra's campaign ended in a crushing defeat by 3,33,547 votes to TMC's Sk Nurul Islam. The heartbreak continued as Agnimitra Paul, despite her status as a fashion designer-turned-politician, lost in Medinipur by 27,191 votes, securing 6,75,001 votes.

Among the triumphant TMC women, the spotlight shone brightly on Mahua Moitra, who, despite her expulsion from the Lok Sabha last year, secured a stunning victory in Krishnanagar by a margin of 56,705 votes

Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury's attempt to secure Malda Dakshin resulted in a dramatic loss by 1,28,368 votes to Congress' Isha Khan Choudhury.

Piya Saha faced a landslide defeat in Bolpur, losing by 3,27,253 votes to TMC's Asit Kumar Mal. Former Union minister Debasree Choudhury's campaign ended in despair in Kolkata Dakshin, losing by 1,87,231 votes. The royal lineage of Amrita Roy from Nadia district couldn't save

her from defeat by TMC's Mahua Moitra in Krishnanagar.

Even amidst TMC's celebratory victories, there was a touch of drama and disappointment as Sujata Mondol, a debutant Lok Sabha candidate from Bishnupur, faced a narrow defeat by 5,567 votes.

Altogether, 72 women candidates from various parties vied for seats in West Bengal, with the TMC fielding the highest number at 12, followed by BJP's seven, SUCI CPI(M)'s six, (Communists)'s five, and 41 independents. Despite making up only 14 per cent of the candidates, the women showed remarkable tenacity.

TMC's candidates rode high on Mamata Banerjee's populist social welfare schemes, while the BJP's focus on issues like Sandeshkhali and corruption failed to resonate, ultimatelyculminating in a dramatic electoral showdown.









national



GLOBAL LEADERS TO ATTEND MODI'S OATH CEREMONY

India is likely to invite leaders of a number of its neighbouring countries, including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, to the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the weekend, people familiar with the matter have said. Top leaders of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Mauritius are likely to be among the foreign leaders to be invited for Modi's oath-taking ceremony





very clear direction. It is against the Modi regime. It is against the BJP as a party, but more particularly I think it is against the known faces Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath

DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA CPIML LEADER

If there is any villain in Maharashtra politics, then it is Devendra Fadnavis. The BJP's drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls is

due to Devendra Fadnavis. He has destroyed many families and resorted to political vengeance SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

In this election. the voters of the state rejected the `ICE (Income Tax, CBI and Enforcement Directorate) and their repression, and it is the real strength of Maharashtra

SUPRIYA SULE NCP (SP) LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Bodies of 4 more trekkers recovered

Uttarkashi/Dehradun: The bodies of four more trekkers from Bangalore who died during a trek to Sahastra Tal were recovered Thursday. completing the retrieval of bodies of all nine victims. officials said. Thirteen trekkers have been rescued safely, SDM Brijesh Kumar Tiwari said, adding that the rescue operation aided by Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters is over. The bodies of five persons, including a 71 year-old woman, who were part of the same trekking group were recovered Wednesday, the officer said.

Man found dead in locked car

New Delhi: A 34-year-old man was found dead Thursday inside a car with burn wounds and blood all



New Delhi, June 6: The acute shortage of drinking water has become an "existential problem" in Delhi, the Supreme Court observed Thursday and directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to the national capital Friday and Haryana to facilitate its flow.

The apex court also said there should be no politics over water. A vacation bench of Justices PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan noted that the Himachal Pradesh government is willing to release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it for Delhi.

One cusec (cubic foot per second) is equal to 28.317 litres of liquid flow every second.

"Since Himachal Pradesh has no objection and is ready and willing to release the surplus water available with it, we direct that Himachal Pradesh shall release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it from the upstream so that the water reaches Hathnikund barrage and reaches Delhi through Wazirabad." the bench said. Considering the urgency in the matter, the bench directed Himachal Pradesh to release the water June 7 with prior intimation to Harvana. It said the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) shall measure the excess water which comes to Hathnikund for its onward sup-

Victory for people: Atishi

New Delhi: Delhi Water Minister Atishi Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court order directing Himachal Pradesh to release surplus water to the national capital, terming it a "victory' for the people of the city. The Supreme Court Thursday directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water available with it to Delhi, which is grappling with a water crisis. A vacation bench of Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan noted that the Himachal Pradesh government has no objection and is willing to release the surplus water. The bench also directed the Haryana government to facilitate the flow

of surplus water released by Himachal Pradesh so that it reaches the national capital. In a post on X. Atishi said. "I salute the Hon'ble Supreme Court for standing with the people of Delhi during this unprecedented water crisis. This is a time that calls for coordinated effort above all else. and the SC order marks a victory for the people of Delhi and their right to water.'

the flow of surplus water so released by Himachal Pradesh to Hathnikund and to Wazirabad so that it reaches Delhi uninterruptedly and is made available for the citizens of Delhi for drinking water," the bench ordered.

"As and when the surplus "A status report be submitted before this court Monday (June water is released with prior information to Haryana by the 10)," it said. It also asked the state of Himachal Pradesh, the Delhi government to ensure water received for the parched state of Haryana shall facilitate

Court extends Praiwal's SIT custody till June 10

ply to Wazirabad and Delhi.



While hearing the matter June 3, the apex court had asked for an emergent meeting of the UYRB June 5 to address the issue.

national capital is not wasted

The apex court said the Delhi

government and the respon-

The UYRB was set up in 1995 with one of its main functions being to regulate the allocation of available flows amongst the beneficiary states and also monitor and review the progress of all projects up to and including Okhla barrage in Delhi. The beneficiary states include Uttar Pradesh Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

During the hearing Thursday, the bench observed that a meeting was convened June 5 and issues concerning water crisis faced by Delhi were discussed.

"The above discussions recorded by the board would clearly reveal that the members/stake holders participating in the meeting have not contradicted or disputed that there are extraordinary heatwave conditions in Delhi which is facing acute shortage of drinking water," the bench noted.

It said though the board recorded that Haryana was also facing similar heatwave conditions, there was no material before the court that there was acute drinking water crisis in Haryana. It noted the board eventually recommended that to meet the drinking water requirements during the present summer season or before the onset of monsoon June 30, the Delhi government may send a formal request to Haryana to consider releasing 150 cusecs of additional water on humanitarian grounds.



President Droupadi Murmu receives the list of elected members following general elections to the 18th Lok Sabha from Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

Statues of national icons relocated in Parl premises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Statues of Mahatma Gandhi, BR Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji among others have been removed from their original place within the Parliament premises and shifted to a lawn near the old building as part of a landscaping exercise, a move that drew sharp criticism from the Congress Thursday.

All the statues, including those of tribal leader Birsa Munda and Maharana Pratap, are now at the same place - the lawn between the old Parliament building and the Parliament library. Reacting to the development, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X

"Statues of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Gandhi, and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar have just been removed from their places of prominence in front of the Parliament House. This is atrocious.

Attacking the BJP, Congress's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said when Maharashtra voters did not vote for BJP, the statues of Shivaji and Ambedkar were removed from their original place in Parliament. When they did not get clean



sweep in Gujarat, they removed the statue of Mahatma Gandhi from its original place in Parliament, he said.

The Parliament premises will sport a new look when the 18th Lok Sabha convenes for its maiden session in June as work is underway to integrate the entire complex, comprising four different buildings

As part of the redevelopment of external areas, the statues of national icons, including those of Gandhi, Shivaji and Mahatma Jvotiba Phule, were to be moved to a lawn near Gate No 5 of the old Parliament building, which has been named as Samvidhan Sadan.

PARL SECURITY BREACH

Delhi LG Saxena grants sanction to prosecute 6 accused under UAPA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has accorded sanction to prosecute six persons under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for their alleged involvement in the Parliament security breach incident, Raj Niwas officials said Thursday.

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack, two persons had jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery and opened canisters that emitted a yellow-coloured smoke, triggering panic among the MPs

December 13 last year. Six persons -- Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Amol Dhanraj Shinde, Neelam Ranolia, Lalit Jha and Mahesh Kumawat -have been arrested in the case.

The Delhi Police had requested their prosecution under section 16 and 18 of the UAPA from the LG, who, having found sufficient material on record, granted prosecution sanction, the officials said



over him in southeast Delhi's Kalkaji area, police said. In the wake of the discovery, senior police officers reached the spot and a forensic team was called in to collect evidence. According to CCTV footage from the area, the man, who was later identified as Dhruv Mahajn, had come to the spot in his car around 3.30 am and a few minutes later there was a huge flame inside the car. Prima facie, it is suspected that Mahajan came to the spot wanting to commit suicide by setting himself on fire.

65.79% turnout recorded in LS polls

New Delhi: A voter turnout of 65.79 per cent was recorded in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections but the final figures may change as it does not include postal ballots, the Election Commission said Thursday. In the 2019 parliamentary polls, the turnout was 67.40 per cent. While in 2019, India had 91.20 crore voters and out of these, 61.5 crore had exercised their franchise, in the 2024 polls, the size of the electorate grew to 96.88 crore.

Gold smuggling foiled at airport

Pune: Customs sleuths have arrested a passenger after seizing gold paste valued at Rs 78 lakh concealed by him in a pipe under the seat of an aircraft at the Pune International Airport in Maharashtra, officials said Thursday. Based on profiling, the passenger arriving from Dubai Wednesday was intercepted but nothing objectionable was found in his personal search or baggage examination, they said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 6: A court here Thursday extended till June 10 the Special Investigation Team (SIT) custody of former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual abuse against several women.

He was produced before the special court for elected Representatives which had May 31 remanded him to SIT custody till June 6. The 33-year-old grandson of

JD(S) patriarch and former PM H D Deve Gowda had failed in his bid to retain the Hassan Lok Sabha seat in the recent polls.



The extension of custody was granted Thursday, with the court acknowledging the need for further investigation

The SIT sought additional time to gather more evidence and interrogate the accused comprehensively.

SIT officials arrested Revanna soon after he landed at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport from Germany May 31.

He was accused of sexually harassing a 47-year-old former maid. He is listed as accused number two, while his father and MLA, H D Revanna, is the primary accused.

Prajwal Revanna has been booked in three cases of sexual assault. There are also charges of rape against him.

AAP to go solo in Delhi Assembly polls PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi state convener

Gopal Rai Thursday said his partys alliance with the Congress was only for the Lok Sabha elections and hinted that the ruling party in the city will go solo in next year's Assembly polls here.

After a meeting of party MLAs and senior leaders at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence here, Rai told PTI that the party gave full support to the INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha polls. "The INDIA bloc was only for

contesting the Lok Sabha polls. Several parties fought elections

together and AAP was also a part of it. As of now, there is no alliance for the Delhi

Assembly polls," he told PTI. Rai said that at the meeting Thursday, it was agreed that people's mandate in the Lok Sabha polls was against "dictatorship".

"We fought the elections in the most adverse circumstances. Our top leaders are in jail. The victory margin has reduced on all the seats," he said.

Talking to reporters, Rai said there was disappointment among AAP workers after Kejriwal's arrest but the party remained united even in difficult circumstances and put up a good fight



against "dictatorship"

He asserted that the biggest advantage of the AAP-Congress alliance has been that the victory margins of the BJP candidates in Delhi have reduced.

"It was decided in the meeting

that June 8, we will hold a meeting with councillors and June 13, a meeting will be held with all party workers of Delhi. Since Kejriwal is in jail, our struggle will continue," the AAP Delhi convener said.

It was also decided that all party MLAs will hold meetings with workers Saturday and Sunday to speed up the development works since the Model Code of Conduct has been lifted.

The AAP-Congress combine drew a blank in the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, with BJP effecting a clean sweep on all seven parliamentary seats for a record third time.

"While the Delhi Police had requested for necessary prosecution sanction under UAPA, the Review Committee (Directorate of Prosecution, Tis Hazari, Delhi) May 30 this year had also gone through the entire evidence collected by the investigating agency and found the involvement of the accused in the case.'

"Accordingly, the Review Committee noted that prima facie a case was made out against the accused under UAPA," a Raj Niwas official said. The Delhi Police had registered a case at Parliament Street police station on the complaint made by a security officer in the Lok Sabha.

CRPF's historic promotions: Cooks, water carriers elevated

THE MOVE CAME AS A RESULT OF A PROPOSAL. PREPARED BY THE CRPF AND LATER APPROVED BY THE UNION HOME MINISTRY, TO ENSURE THAT THE ASPIRATIONS OF THESE PERSONNEL ARE TAKEN CARE OF AND THEY ARE PROMOTED LIKE OTHER CADRE PERSONNEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: A total of 2,600 cooks and water carriers, the lowest rung of constabulary that constitutes an essential backbone of the CRPF, have been promoted for the first time in the 85-year history of the country's largest paramilitary force.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has a total authorisation of 12,250 personnel for the two specialised cadres that handle the extensive network of kitchens, canteens and similar administrative works for the about 3.25 lakh men and women

strength force raised in 1939. Through an order, 1,700 cooks and 900 water carrier personnel have been promoted from their constable designation to the next rank of head constable Wednesday. This has happened for the first time in the 85year history of the CRPF, a senior

officer told PTI.

These personnel have been part of the force since its raising in 1939 in the British era. They were given specific cadre name of cook and water carrier in 2016 when the 7th pay commission recommendations were implemented by the Union government, the officer said.

A Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) officer said that these personnel, who were recruited in the lowest rung of hierarchy, could never be promoted and were made to retire in the same rank in which they were recruited even after serving for about 30-35 years on average. The cooks and water carrier

personnel form an essential part of the running of any force as they keep the troops in combat fed and nourished, the CAPF officer said

Each CRPF battalion has about 45 such personnel. The move came as a result of

a proposal, prepared by the CRPF and later approved by the Union

home ministry, to ensure that the aspirations of these personnel are taken care of and they are promoted like other cadre personnel, the first officer said.

The 2.600 personnel promoted as part of the latest order were recruited between 1983 and 2004, he said. The rest of these personnel will be promoted in due course, the officer said.

The CRPF, designated as the lead internal security force of the country, is primarily deployed in three combat theatres of left wing extremism (LWE) combat, counter-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and anti-insurgency operations in the northeast. Last year, a similar promo-

tion was undertaken for personnel working as cook, water carrier, barber, washerman and sweeper in the Indo-Tibetan — Border Police (ITBP), another CAPF.







national



BJP fought elections in the name of Modi's guarantee. People have rejected Modi's guarantee. The warranty of Modi's guarantee expired. People of the country have rejected Modi ji. Narendra Modi ji should guit immediately and he should not take up Prime Minister post again A REVANTH REDDY T'GANA CM

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED

India's unemployment rate decreased to 3.1 per cent in 2023, down from 7 per cent in 2022 amid robust government policies, a report showed Thursday





Our alliance's performance was good. Modi ji (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) used to say 400 paar, but (BJP) won just 240 seats. On the contrary, we (INDIA

bloc) have got a good number of seats (234) and it will give a new direction to politics in the days to come

KAMAL NATH SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER



The dangerous election results of Nagaon and Dhubri have again proved that the foundation of the social fabric of Assam is very weak... Rakibul

Hussain won by over 10 lakh votes. What does this signify? It shows the danger in front of our society and 'jatiya jibon' (national life)

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER





Cause of Many Issues Do You Think India Needs a Law to Limit Maximum Number of Children per Family?

@RAVISUTANJAN



K'taka Minister **Nagendra guits**

Bangalore: Karnataka Minister B Nagendra, facing allegations in connection with an illegal

Increase in cut off reflects NEET's competitive nature: NTA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The National Testing Agency (NTA) Thursday clarified that the increase in cut off and number of toppers in the NEET-UG reflect the competitive nature of the exam and maintained that the test's integrity has not been compromised.

The clarification came amid allegations of irregularities in medical entrance exam NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test) -- conducted May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 abroad -- and inflation of marks. The increase in cutoff reflects the competitive nature of the examination and the higher performance standards achieved by the candidates this year, a senior NTA official said. The number of candidates who appeared in 2023 was

20,38,596 while the number of candidates who appeared in 2024 increased to 23,33,297. The increase in candidates naturally

led to an increase in high scorers due to a larger pool of candidates, the official added. On the grace marks awarded to some students, the NTA said a few petitions were filed by the

NEET-UG before the high courts of Punjab and Haryana, Delhi and Chhattisgarh raising concerns of loss of exam time during the conduct of the test at some exam centres. The concerns raised by the candidates through the writ petitions and representations about loss of examination time was ascertained and 1.563 candidates were compensated for the loss of time, and the revised marks of such candidates vary from -20 to 720 marks. Amongst these, the score of two candidates also happens

Another student ends life over poor score Kota (Rajasthan): An 18-year-old NEET aspirant died

allegedly by jumping from the ninth floor of a building here, police said Thursday. The incident occurred a day after the National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the NEET-UG results, in which the victim, Bagisha Tiwari, scored 320 out of 720 marks This marks the tenth suspected suicide by a coaching student in Kota this year, they said. The

girl, hailing from Reva district in Madhya Pradesh, was reportedly depressed over her poor performance in NEET, according to the police.

Haryana.

Denying the allegations, the

NTA said the changes made in

NCERT textbooks and grace

marks for losing time at the ex-

amination centres are some of

the reasons behind the students

In a post on X, the Congress

said, "After the NEET exam, now

the NEET result is also in con-

troversy. After the NEET results

were declared, questions are

being raised on six students from

scoring higher marks.

to be 718 and 719 respectively due to compensatory marks, the official added.

On analysing CCTV camera footage, it was ascertained that the integrity of the examination was not compromised, the official asserted.

Several aspirants of the medical entrance exam have alleged inflation of marks which led to a record 67 candidates bagging the top rank, including six from the same exam centre in

the same centre getting 720 out of 720 marks. Apart from this. many other irregularities related to the NEET exam have also come to light.

First due to paper leak and now due to result error, the future of lakhs of youth of the country is getting ruined. It is clear that this government cannot get any paper done without leaking it. Sir claims to stop wars in foreign countries but he is unable to even stop paper leaks in the country, the party said, targeting the Narendra Modi dispensation.

Detailing the reason behind inflation of marks, the NTA said it received representations on the matter. Such cases and representations were considered by the NTA and the normalisation formula, which has been devised and adopted by the Supreme Court, vide its judgment dated 13.06.2018, was implemented to address the loss of time faced by the candidates of NEET (UG) 2024. The loss of examination time was ascertained and such candidates were compensated with grace marks. So, there marks can be 718 or 719 also, it said in a statement.

On allegations of unclear implementation of grace marks, the NTA official told PTI that the question paper was prepared using a new NCERT textbooks. However, some students had old NCERT textbooks.

We received a representation on this issue as well due to which NTA had to assign five marks to all students who had marked one of the two options. Because of this reason, marks of a total of 44 students increased from 715 to 720, which resulted in an increased number of toppers, the official said.

JD (U) may demand up to 3 Cabinet berths The backing of allies like the ID (U) and TDP is crucial

for the BJP to form the government at the Centre, as the saffron party could not reach the majority mark on its own in the Lok Sabha elections

THE NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 6: The JD(U) is

likely to demand "up to three" cab-

inet berths in the BJP-led NDA

government at the Centre, a sen-

ior leader of the Nitish Kumar-

With 12 MPs, the JD(U) is the

led party said Thursday.

second biggest BJP ally

after the Telugu Desam

Party's 16 in the NDA.

The backing of allies like

the JD(U) and TDP is cru-

cial for the BJP to form

the government at the

Centre, as the saffron

party could not reach the

majority mark on its own

in the Lok Sabha elec-

tions. "We are now eyeing up to

three cabinet berths...," the JD(U)

leader said. Another top party

leader said he was hopeful of a

"respectable" representation in

the Union Council of Ministers.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and our party chief Nitish

Kumar ii will decide the matter

In 2019, a "token representation" of just one berth had been turned down by Nitish Kumar.

According to the JD(U) sources, the party was keen on portfolios such as railways, rural development, agriculture, water resources and heavy industries. Among the frontrunners for ministerial berths

in the party include its Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay WITH 12 MPs, Jha, Rajiv Ranjan Singh THE JD(U) IS 'Lalan'. Kaushalendra THE SECOND Kumar, Ramprit Mandal BIGGEST BJP and Lovely Anand, they **ALLY AFTER TH** said FELUGU DESAN

Earlier in the day, party PARTY'S 16 IN leader K C Tyagi told reporters in New Delhi that

a review of the Agnipath scheme, and will "pursue" the caste census issue. He also said his party's support for the BJP was "unconditional".

There is no pre-condition. there is unconditional support. But it is in our mind and heart that Bihar should be given spe-



Security personnel and others douse a fire in a train at Kiul Railway Station in Lakhisarai district, Bihar

DA MPs to meet today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Newly elected MPs of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance are expected to meet Friday to elect Narendra Modi as their leader, paving the way for him to take oath as Prime Minister for a third term. The swearing-in majority. Shiv Sena sources said ministerial roles The Chief Minister has

that instead of his son and three-term MP Shrikant Shinde, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde wants other senior MPs to be considered for

Congress convenes CWC meet June 8 to discuss LS poll result

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: The Congress has convened a meeting of its working committee June 8 to discuss the Lok Sabha poll result

and future course of action. Votes of the Lok Sal



money transfer case involving a state-run corporation, Thursday announced his decision to resign from the Ministry, in a setback to the one-year-old Siddaramaiah-led Congress government. The Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister said he will be tendering his resignation letter to the Chief Minister at 7:30 pm today.

T'gana CM dials up Chandrababu

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Thursday spoke to TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu over phone and congratulated him over the TDP's resounding victory in Andhra Pradesh Assembly and the Lok Sabha elections. As Chandrababu Naidu is set to take over as the CM of Andhra Pradesh, Reddy expressed hope that the cordial relations between the two states will continue and pending issues will be resolved. Revanth Reddy's call to Naidu comes in the backdrop of several issues between the two states remaining unresolved even 10 years after the bifurcation of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Flood condition improves in Assam

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam showed significant improvement Thursday, although approximately 1.3 lakh people are still grappling with the aftermath across seven districts, an official bulletin said. According to the latest report from the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), more than 1.29.500 people continue to be affected by the floods in Cachar, Hailakandi, Hojai, West Karbi Anglong, Karimganj, Morigaon, and Nagaon districts.

of cabinet berths. But, it should be respectable," Shrawan Kumar, JD(U) leader and Bihar Rural Development Minister, told PTI. He also said the matter of representation in the Union cabinet should be decided keeping the

cial status. After bifurcation, the situation Bihar has faced can not be corrected without granting it special status," Tyagi said. The BJP bagged 240 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, 32 short of an absolute majority, while the



is likely to be held Sunday.

After Modi's election as the leader of NDA MPs. senior members of the alliance like TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar will join the Prime Minister for a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu to present her the list of Parliamentarians supporting him, some alliance members said.

He may be sworn in over the weekend, possibly Sunday, they added. The NDA has 293 MPs. comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, held deliberations through the day on Thursday as the party set in efforts amid a demand by a senior Janata Dal (United) leader that his party should receive respectable representation in the Union Council of Ministers.

"The matter of cabinet berths will be decided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and our party chief Nitish Kumar ji. But, it should be respectable,"Shrawan Kumar, JD(U) leader and Bihar Rural Development Minister, told PTI in Patna. There should be three ministerial berths for his party. another JD(U) leader demanded Another BJP ally and LJP(R)

leader Chirag Paswan, who is seen as a contender for a Cabinet berth, said his party's support to Modi is unconditional. stressing that it was under his leadership that the NDA has won a

son of a king should not necessarily become a king and whoever performs will become the king," the source said.

always maintained that the

Eknath Shinde has always maintained that merit should be prioritised over family connections, according to the source. All NDA constituents are likely to present letters of their support to the President for Modi as the new Prime Minister Friday, he added.

Asked about the JD(U)'s demand for a review of the 'Agnipath' scheme, Paswan quoted Modi as saying in the NDA meeting Wednesday that he was open to suggestions from allies on different issues. "He, in fact, encouraged us to speak,' the young parliamentarian said. without commenting directly on the issue

election were counted June 4.

The meeting has been convened by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and he will chair it. Congress leaders will discuss the outcome of the Lok Sabha election and the party's strategy going forward, sources said. The meeting will begin at 11 am at the Congress headquarters Saturday.

The Congress has emerged as the second largest party in the election and improved its tally to 99, from 52 in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll.

It will be after a gap of 10 years that the Congress will have the Leader of Opposition's position in the Lok Sabha, a post it failed to get as its tally was below the requisite 10 per cent of total seats in the House both in 2014 and 2019.

A section within the party wants former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi to take over as the leader of the party and Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The issue is likely to be raised in the meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) -the highest decision-making body of the party. Top Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, besides other leaders would participate in the deliberations.

The Congress has emerged as a strong force in Parliament now and the party hopes to corner the government on issues concerning the common people, including price rise and unemployment in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha



Climate change could raise ozone levels: Study ACCORDING TO RESEARCHERS, THE INCREASED OZONE IN THE AIR COULD WORSEN AIR QUALITY, POTENTIALLY AFFECTING LUNGS AND CAUSING INFLAMMATION IN THE BREATHING TRACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 6: Warmer temperatures, driven by climate change, could spike ozone levels on ground by 2050, a new research in the US has found.

According to researchers, the increased ozone in the air could worsen air quality, potentially affecting lungs and causing inflammation in the

breathing tract. "Climate change affects ozone formation through a complex set of factors but warmer temperatures are correlated with increases to ozone in polluted areas," first author James East, a PhD student at North Carolina State University, said.

While the ozone layer in the Earth's atmosphere is known to protect people from harmful radiations from the Sun, the ozone

gas on ground is often formed when air pollutants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides, interact. The gas can also naturally occur.

VOCs are released as gases from solids and liquids, such as paints, pesticides, cleaning supplies, building materials and furnishings, among others.

Levels of VOCs have been consistently shown to be higher indoors than outdoors and have adverse short-term and long-term effects on health. Nitrogen oxides are formed when fuel is burned. The findings, published in the journal Earth's Future, suggest

that areas already having higher levels of air pollution will likely see ozone levels rise as average temperatures go up, East said. 'What's more, climate change

is expected to increase naturally



occurring VOC emissions in some parts of the US, such as the Southeast, exacerbating the challenge," the author said.

While previous studies have established climate change to increase ozone pollution, the researchers said they have addressed the uncertainty around what this increase could look like in the US.

They looked at how far the increased levels of ozone would overshoot the air quality standards and how that might change by 2050.

In the worst case scenario, where carbon dioxide levels are high, ozone levels could go up by more than 2.3 parts per billion, whereas in the best scenario. the levels could go up by 0.3 parts per billion, the researchers found, which they said would mean more days of poor air quality for many parts of the country. "In practical terms, our study

finds that between 5 million and 13 million additional people will be exposed to dangerously high levels of ozone in 2050," East said.

The findings also suggest that current efforts directed at reducing emissions are less effective for helping meet ozone standards for many parts of the country (US), especially those already struggling to meet the air quality standards, the researchers said.







We have lost our passion for peace and the absence in this divided geopolitical world for political diplomacy to be the central part of how we end wars, which is something I deeply regret MARTIN GRIFFITHS | THE UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN CHIEF

EU ELECTION KICKS OFF

The world's largest general election having concluded with Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA winning a third term, the second biggest electoral exercise got underway Thursday as around 450 million European Union (EU) citizens began voting to choose 720 members of the European Parliament from 27 countries



uote

UNICEF flags 'severe' food poverty in children

state this, but the right to have a different opinion has ceased to exist in the European Union

It's cruel to

ROBERT FICO PM, SLOVAKIA

We are delivering a message from here to Hamas, Jerusalem is ours Damascus Gate is ours. And with God's help total victory is ours

BEN-GVIR MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY, ISRAEL



SHORT TAKES

PIO pleads guilty of defrauding

Washington: An Indian national Wednesday pleaded guilty in a New Jersey court to charges of defrauding various phone providers and insurance companies of millions of dollars by using fake identities. He submitted fraudulent claims for replacement of cellular devices and then reselling those devices outside the US a media release on the case said. Sandeep Bengera, 36, pleaded guilty before US District Judge in Newark federal court to a two-count indictment. He admitted that the total value of the replacement devices was more than \$9 million, it said.

Hate crime: Indian American charged

Washington: An Indian-American man from Texas has been charged with a federal hate crime and is accused of issuing interstate threats against employees of a Sikh nonprofit organisation. Bhushan Athale, 48, faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for interfering with federally protected activities by threatening to use a dangerous weapon, a statement by the Department of Justice said.

1 IN 4 CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 FACE FOOD POVERTY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

United Nations, June 6: More than one in four children under the age of five globally live in "severe" food poverty, UNICEF's 'Child Food Poverty: Nutrition Deprivation in Early Childhood' has warned, meaning more than 180 million are at risk of experiencing adverse impacts on their growth and development.

"Severe child food poverty describes children who are surviving on severely deprived diets so they're only consuming two or less food groups," Harriet Torlesse, a lead writer of the new UNICEF report published late Wednesday, told AFP. "It is shocking in this day and

age where we know what needs to be done."

UNICEF recommends that voung children eat foods daily from five of eight main groups, breast milk; grains, roots, tubers and plantains; pulses, nuts and seeds; dairy; meat, poultry and fish; eggs; vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables; and other fruits and vegetables

But 440 million children under the age of five living in about 100 low- and middle-income countries are living in food poverty, meaning they do not have access to five food groups each day. Of those, 181 million are ex-

periencing severe food poverty, eating from at most two food groups. Malnutrition can lead to ema-

ciation, a state of being abnormally thin that can be fatal. And even if these children survive and grow up, "they cer-

Children who consume just two food groups per day, for example, rice and some milk, are up to 50 per cent more likely to experience severe forms of malnutrition **CATHERINE RUSSELL** UNICEF CHIEF

tainly don't thrive. So they do less well at school," Torlesse

'When they're adults, they find it harder to earn a decent income, and that turns the cycle of poverty

"If you think of what a brain looks like and the heart and the

Severe child food poverty is concentrated in about 20 countries, with particularly dire situations in: Somalia, where 63 percent of young children are affected; Guinea (54 percent) and Guinea-Bissau (53 percent). India fares better

India has successfully narrowed the inequities in severe child food poverty between poorer and wealthier households in the last decade by at least 5 percentage points, according to the report.

The report showed that India is among 20 countries that account for 65 per cent of the total number of children living in severe child food poverty between 2018-2022. The other countries with severe

food poverty among children include neighbouring Afghanistan (49 per cent), Bangladesh (20 per cent), China (10 per cent), and Pakistan (38 per cent).

Sudan paramilitary forces attack village, kill at least 100

AGENCIES

Cairo, June 6: The Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces attacked a village in Gezira State Wednesday, killing at least 100 people, according to local activists.

If confirmed, the attack would be the latest in a string of dozens of attacks by RSF soldiers on small villages across the farming state after it took control of the capital Wad Madani in December.

A telecommunications blackout prevented Reuters from immediately reaching medics or residents to verify the death count.

"Wad Alnoura village ... witnessed a genocide on Wednesday after the RSF attacked twice, killing up to 100 people," the prodemocracy Wad Madani Resistance Committee said in a statement on social media late Wednesday.

Later it put the number of dead in the hundreds and said the Sudanese army had not heeded a request for help.

The RSF began fighting the army in April 2023 after disputes over the integration of the two forces and has since taken over the capital Khartoum and most of western Sudan. It is now seek ing to advance into the centre, as United Nations agencies say the people of Sudan are at "imminent risk of famine"

In a statement Wednesday, the RSF said it had attacked army and allied militia bases around Wad Alnoura but did not acknowledge any civilian casualties.

But the Wad Madani Resistance Committee accused it of using heavy artillery against civilians, looting, and driving women and children to seek refuge in the nearby town of Managil. It shared photos of dozens of bodies wrapped for burial in an open square among

large crowds of men. "The people of Wad Alnoura called on the army to rescue them, but they shamefully did not respond." the committee said.

The army-aligned Transitional Sovereign Council condemned the attack.

"These are criminal acts that reflect the systematic behaviour of these militias in targeting civilians," it said in a statement.

Putin may arm West's enemies REUTERS In a tit-for-tat move, Putin

warns that Russia could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

St Petersburg, June 6: President Vladimir Putin warned Germany Wednesday that the use of its weapons by Ukraine to strike targets inside Russia would mark a "dangerous step", and he said Moscow could in turn provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets.

Such action by the West will further undermine international security and could lead to "very serious problems", he said.

"That would mark their direct involvement in the war against the Russian Federation, and we reserve the right to act the same way," Putin added.

Because using such Western weapons for striking Russian territory involves military personnel of the respective countries controlling the missiles and selecting targets, Putin said, Moscow could take "asymmetrical" steps. That



our territory and create problems for us, why don't we have the right to supply weapons of the same type to some regions of the world where they can be used to launch strikes on sensitive facilities of the countries that do it to Russia. We will think

about it." he said. Germany joined the United States recently in authorizing Ukraine to hit some targets on Russian soil with the long-range weapons they are supplying to Kyiv. The deliveries of German tanks to Ukraine came as a shock

to many in Russia, he said. On Wednesday, a Western official and a US senator said Ukraine has used US weapons to

strike inside Russia under newly approved guidance from President Joe Biden. It allows American Cairo, June 6: Israel hit a Gaza school Thursday in an airstrike that it said targeted and killed Hamas fighters inside, while a Hamas official said 40 people including women and children were killed as they sheltered in the UN site. The strike took place at a sen-

sitive moment in mediated negotiations on a ceasefire agreement entailing the release of hostages seized by Hamas October 7 and some of the Palestinians held in Israeli jails Hamas seeks a permanent end to the war. Israel says it must destroy the Islamist group first.

The United States issued a joint statement with other countries Thursday calling on Israel and Hamas to make whatever compromises were necessary to finalise a deal as the two sides gave contradictory accounts of the school attack.

Ismail Al-Thawabta, the director of the Hamas-run government media office, rejected Israel's assertion that the UN school in Nuseirat, in central Gaza, had hidden a Hamas command post.

"The occupation uses ... false fabricated stories to justify the brutal crime it conducted against dozens of displaced people. Thawabta told Reuters. Israel's military said its fighter jets had carried out a "precise strike" and circulated satellite photos highlighting two parts of a building where it said the fighters were based.





already requested to join the case. The court has ordered Israel to immediately halt its military offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah but stopped short of ordering a cease-fire for

We're very confident in the

ing Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters of deliberately using UN facilities as operational bases. He said 20-30 fighters were located in the compound, and many of

Hamas puts out," he said.

rector, Juliette Touma.

She said she could not

Genocide case in ICJ:

The school, run by the UN have been hit several times, said the agency's communications di-

them had been killed, but had no precise details as intelligence assessments were being carried out.

Palestinian refugee agency, may

itary campaign in central Gaza

intelligence," military spokesperson Lt Col Peter Lerner told a briefing with reporters, accus-

"I'm not aware of any civilian casualties and I'd be very, very cau tious of accepting anything that

the enclave.

Dozens reported killed in strike on Gaza school that Israel says targeted Hamas

portant systems of the body that are so important for development, for protection against disease, they all depend on vitamins and minerals and protein.'

explained. immune system, all these im-

from one generation to the next,' the nutrition expert said. GENOCIDE ISRAE blasts UN shelter

could include giving such weapons to others to target facilities of respective countries elsewhere in the world, he added.

"If they consider it possible to deliver such weapons to the combat zone to launch strikes on

arms to be used for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. The official was not authorised to comment publicly on the sensitive matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

firm the death toll at this stage. Media in Hamas-run Gaza had earlier put the toll at 35-40. Thawabta and a medical source said 40 had been killed, including 14 children and nine women. Israel announced a new mil-

Wednesday as it battles fighters relying on hit-and-run insurgency tactics. It says there will be no halt to fighting during ceasefire talks, which have intensified since US President Joe Biden outlined a proposal Friday.



Modi's response to Lai's greetings irks China UNSC gets new non-permanent members

Train crash kills 4

Prague: A passenger train collided head-on with a freight train in the Czech Republic, killing at least four people on board, officials said early Thursday. At least 23 people were injured in the crash, Interior Minister Vít Rakušan said, adding that it took place late Wednesday night in the city of Pardubice, some 100 kilometers east of Prague. The passenger train belonged to the private RegioJet company, Rakušan said. Prime Minister Petr Fiala called the crash a big tragedy and offered his condolences to the relatives of those killed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 6: China Thursday protested to India over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's social media statement that he looked forward to having closer ties with Taiwan, insisting that New Delhi should resist Taiwan authorities' political calculations. China views Taiwan as a rebel

province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force. Modi's remarks came in re-

sponse to a congratulatory message from Taiwan President Lai

Ching-te on his election victory. Lai, elected as Taiwan's President last month, in a message posted on X said "My sincere congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi on his election victory. We look forward to enhancing the fast-growing #Taiwan-#India partnership, expanding our collaboration on trade, technology & other sectors to contribute to peace & prosperity in the #IndoPacific." In his reply posted on X, Modi

said, "Thank you @ChingteLai

for your warm message. I look



forward to closer ties as we work towards mutually beneficial economic and technological partnership".

Reacting to the messages, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said China has lodged a protest with India on this.

First of all, there is no President in the Taiwan region, Mao said, when asked for her comments at a media briefing here.

"On this question, China opposes all forms of official interactions between Taiwan authorities and countries having diplomatic relations with China, she said.

There is but one China in the world and Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China, she said. "China has protested to India about this," she said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, June 6: Pakistan, Somalia, Denmark, Greece and Panama were Thursday elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two-year term beginning 2025.

The five members were elected by a secret ballot in the UN General Assembly for a 2-year term starting January 1, 2025, until December 31, 2026.

In the two seats for African and Asia-Pacific States, Somalia got 179 votes and Pakistan 182.

In the Latin American and Caribbean States, Panama got 183 votes while in the Western European and other States. Denmark got 184 votes and Greece 182.

"Proud moment as Pakistan receives a resounding 182 votes and is elected to the United Nations Security Council for the term 2025-26," Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif posted on X.

He said Pakistan was looking forward to working with the international community to address pressing global challenges.

Relief for Trump

Washington: A Georgia appeals court Wednesday froze all proceedings in the election interference case against former US President Donald Trump and his codefendants in the southern state. Trump, 77, is accused in Georgia of involvement in a criminal conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election result in the state, where Democrat Joe Biden won by some 12.000 votes. In March. the judge hearing the case rejected a bid by Trump and several other co-defendants to disgualify the district attorney who brought the charges following revelations that she had a romantic relationship with the man she hired as a special prosecutor.

^{80TH ANNIV} OF D-DAY World leaders commemorate Normandy landings

REUTERS

ON 6 JUNE 1944, ALLIED FORCES LAUNCHED A COMBINED NAVAL, AIR AND LAND ASSAULT ON NAZI-OCCUPIED FRANCE DURING WWII

their presence.

in Ukraine on

Europe's borders, the an-

niversary of this turning point

in World War Two carries spe-

"Our admiration is eter-**Colleville-sur-Mer**, France, nal," Britain's King June 6: World leaders paid trib-Charles. in full miliute to veterans and pledged to tary uniform, said continue to stand for democracy at a British cereas they marked the 80th anmony in Ver-surniversary of the June 6, 1944, D-Mer which opened Day landings, when more than the day's tributes 150,000 Allied soldiers invaded "Let us pray such" France by sea and air to drive out sacrifice will never the forces of Nazi Germany. be made again." With war raging

With the numbers of veterans, many aged 100 or more, fast dwindling, this is likely to be the last major ceremony in Normandy honouring them in

cial resonance.

have set us an

example, which we'll

not forget. France will

never forget the British

troops who landed on

D-Day and all their

brothers in arms

EMMANUEL MACRON

PRESIDENT, FRANCE

It also takes place in a year of many elections, including for the European Parliament this week and in the US in November. Leaders are set to draw parallels with World War Two and warn of the dangers of isolationism You

and the far-right.

'We recall the les son that comes to us again and again across the decades: free nations must stand together to oppose tyranny," said Charles, who spoke in both French and English.

Some 200 veterans, most of them American or British, were taking part in ceremonies throughout the day on windswept



beaches that still bear the scars of the fighting that erupted on D-Day, history's largest amphibious invasion. Thousands of soldiers from Britain, the

d'Honneur award, France's highest honour, to Christian Lamb, a 103-year-old member of the wartime British female naval service who helped plan the landings, describing her as "a hero in the shadows"

"You have set us an example, which we'll not forget. France will never forget the British troops who landed on D-Day and all their brothers in arms," he said.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Queen Camilla, Britain's King Charles, President of France Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron attend the UK national commemorative event for the 80th anniversary of D-Day, held at the British Normandy Memorial in Ver-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, June 6, 2024.







nations were killed, as well as

Macron presented a Legion

French President Emmanuel

their German foes





business



(The government) can't keep taxing aviation as a rich man's product and expect low-cost services. (We) hope the new government won't be as bureaucratic as in our past experiences

AJAY SINGH | CHAIRMAN, SPICEJET

10 STARTUPS IN WEF'S TECH PIONEERS LIST

Ten Indian startups including Pixxel, Niramai and Sarvam AI have made to the World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2024 list published Thursday. The list has total 100 leading tech startups which are focused on applying new breakthroughs in AI to develop clean energy solutions, healthcare innovation and progress in biotech, space and neurotechnology





VIP Industries is a wonderful company, a creator of the luggage category in India and the market leader and I wish the

company much success in the years NISABA GODREJ

EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON, GODREJ CONSUMER

The soaring temperatures, the highest that the country has witnessed in decades, have boosted demand for

cooling solutions, with May alone seeing record-breaking figures. We anticipate this momentum to continue, projecting 30-40 per cent growth in volumes for the summer alone

SUNIL VACHANI PRESIDENT, CEAMA

Businesses are looking for unified solutions that help them optimise for value, maximise their

competitive advantages, and tap into new market opportunities amid tough economic conditions

SRIDHAR VEMBU CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, ZOHO CORPORATION

SHORT TAKES

Proptech firms' funding drops

New Delhi: Funding in proptech firms declined marginally 4 per cent last fiscal to \$657 million, reflecting resilience despite global economic uncertainties, according to Housing.com. In its report, Housing.com, one of the leading real estate listing platforms, highlighted that proptech firms have garnered a total of \$4.6 billion during 2010-11 and 2023-24 financial years, growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 40 per cent.

ZEE Ent plans to raise ₹2.000cr

New Delhi: Zee Entertainment



India's natural gas-fired power output in May swelled to highest levels since Oct 2018 due to sweltering heat and policy measures

SCORCHING HEAT

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 6: Sweltering heat and policy measures are fuelling a surge in the use of gas-fired power in India, with imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) forecast to rise sharply over the next two years, industry officials and experts say.

The country's gas-fired power generation doubled in April and May to 8.9 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) compared with the same period last year, data from Grid India showed, eating into the share of coal-fuelled electricity for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic.

More than 75% of India's power generation was from coal in 2023, while gas-fired plants have accounted for only about 2% in recent years, largely because of the high cost of gas relative to coal

In May, coal's share dipped to 74%, compared with 75.2% during the same month last year. while gas's share nearly doubled to 3.1% from 1.6%

An emergency clause invoked to force operation of idle gasfired power plants to avoid power cuts during the 43 day federal elections that ended last week also drove gas usage, industry officials said, as power outages have historically been a key electoral issue.

LNG IMPORTS TO RISE India's gas-fired power output is expected to grow by 10.5%

in the fiscal year ending in March 2025, following 35% growth the prior year. To meet that demand, LNG imports by the price-sensitive buyer swelled in May to the highest levels since October 2020,

data from analytics firms LSEG



The current growth of Indian power demand suggests the rising need for greater availability (of natural gas) and flexibility will remain a fixture in coming years JOACHIM MOXON | LNG ANALYST, ICIS

and Kpler showed, despite global prices up five-fold from the pandemic-hit lows of 2020.

Demand for LNG in India, the world's fourth-largest importer of the fuel, is set to increase by 19% in 2024, with imports forecast to reach more than 28 million metric tons in 2025, up from 22.1 million tons in 2023. according to ICIS.

"India's LNG imports will continue to be driven higher by the power sector in at least the next two years," said Victor Vanya, director at Indian power analytics

firm EMA Solutions. Industry officials and analysts have argued allocating more domestically produced gas could allow gas-fired generation to better compete with coal, but most local gas has gone to other sectors in recent years.

"The insufficient local gas

output is increasingly being used to supply the city gas network and fertiliser companies, and power generators will have to import," said a senior executive at a large Indian gas exchange who declined to be named because he was not authorised to speak to media.

Despite being cheaper, solar and wind are harder to control and forecast than gas, while coal and nuclear power cannot be ramped up or down as quickly in response to sudden demand spurts or dips.

Gas's flexibility and a 2022 federal regulation that provided a policy framework for operating more expensive gas-fired power plants have helped boost the fuel's use, industry officials and experts said.

"Until we have optimal, largescale battery storage solutions in India, peaking requirements such as ramping up and ramping down quickly will be met by thermal sources including natural gas," said Sadek Wahba, managing partner at Miamibased private equity firm I Squared Capital, which has invested billions of dollars in natural gas and renewables in India.

grows 5.1% in May

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 6: Domestic air passenger traffic grew 5.1 per cent year-on-year to an estimated 138.9 million in May and was significantly higher by around 14 per cent than pre-Covid levels, credit ratings agency Icra said Thursday.

Icra also said the outlook on the Indian aviation industry is stable amid the continued recovery in domestic and international air passenger traffic with a relatively stable cost environment and expectations of the trend continuing in FY2025. The airlines' capacity de-

ployment in the previous month increased 6 per cent year-onyear and about 2 per cent higher than April 2024, it added.

According to the agency, the domestic air passenger traffic for FY24 was around 154 million, with a year-on-year growth of around 13 per cent.

It thus surpassed the pre-Covid levels of around 142 million in FY2020, the ratings agency said, adding that the international passenger traffic for Indian carriers stood at around 29.68 million last fiscal, registering a year-on-year growth of around 24 per cent.

Moreover, the industry witnessed improved pricing power, reflected in the higher yields (over pre-Covid levels), it said.

The momentum in air passenger traffic witnessed in FY2024 is expected to continue into FY2025. However, further expansion in yields from the current levels may be limited, it added.

Average ATF price stood at ₹103.499/KL in FY2024. 14 per cent lower than ₹121,013/KL in FY2023 but significantly higher by 58 per cent than the pre-Covid levels of ₹65,368/KL in FY2020, according to Icra.

In Q1 FY2025, the average ATF price remained higher by 5.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis. In June 2024, it declined by 6.5 per cent sequentially, the agency said.

Air passenger traffic — MARKET RECOVERY — Investors' wealth climbs ₹21L-crore



REUTERS

New Delhi, June 6: Dalal Street investors became richer by ₹21 lakh crore in two days of a sharp rally in the stock market, where the BSE benchmark surged over 4 per cent.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 692.27 points or

0.93 per cent to settle at STOCK MARKETS 75,074.51 Thursday. In intra-day trade, the O 2ND DAY O benchmark soared 915.49 EASING points or 1.23 per cent to POLITICAL 75,297.73. VORRIES In two days, the BSE

SENSEX JUMP benchmark surged 693 PTS 2.995.46 points or 4.15 per cent after Tuesday's massive rout.

Thanks to the optimistic trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies climbed ₹21,05,298.11 crore to ₹4,15,89,003.38 crore (\$4.98 trillion) in two days.

"With the poll-related uncertainty now almost over and the NDA ready to form the government, the mood remained upbeat for the second straight session as Sensex crossed the psychological 75k mark on the back of a splendid all-round buying support. With the buoyancy returning to the market, the fear gauge volatility index also eased considerably and fell 11 per cent," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, State Bank

of India, NTPC, Infosvs. Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro emerged as the biggest gainers Hindustan Unilever,

Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle, IndusInd Bank and Sun Pharma were among the laggards.

The NSE Nifty climbed 201.05 points or 0.89 per cent to 22,821.40 Thursday.

As many as 3,009 stocks advanced while 834 declined and 102 remained unchanged on the BSE

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex cracked 4,389.73 points, or 5.74 per cent, to settle at 72.079.05 Tuesday. During the day, the benchmark tanked 6,234.35 points or 8.15 per cent to hit a nearly five-month low of 70.234.43.

RBI's monetary policy on Friday

The Reserve Bank of India has been holding the key interest rate (repo) at 6.5 per cent since February 2023

Central Bank and Bank of Canada have started reducing their respective key rates.

Das will announce the decision at 10 in the morning after deliberations of the RBI's rate-setting panel -- Monetary Policy

discussions on Wednesday

Committee (MPC) - which started

The MPC may also refrain

AGENICES

New Delhi, June 6: Fitch Ratings has maintained its assessment of India's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default

COALITION Fitch keeps India's rating at 'BBB-' with stable outlook

According to the Fitch Ratings, India is expected to remain one of the fastest-growing economies globally, with a projected GDP growth rate of 6.9% for the fiscal vear 2024

are significant strengths that support the country's rating

In the past coalition governments often resulted in slower decision-making processes and policy execution, but with the BJP dominating the new NDA coalition India's economic outlook remains positive. One of the key factors supporting India's rating is its strong growth outlook. The report also highlights that the improved health of the banks and corporate balance sheets should pave the way for a positive investment cycle. Sustained reform could support and boost growth prospects, but risks may arise from an uneven implementation record.



Thursday said its board has approved plans to raise ₹2,000 crore through various routes, including an equity share issue and qualified institutional placement (QIP). The said amount would be raised in one or more tranches, through a private placement, a qualified institutional placement, preferential issue or a combination of them. according to a regulatory filing from Zee Entertainment Enterprise Ltd (ZEEL).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, June 6: Reserve Bank

Governor Shaktikanta Das will announce the next set of monetary policy Friday morning amid expectations of a status quo on the benchmark interest rates

Experts are of the opinion that the RBI will maintain the status quo on interest rates as inflation remains a matter of concern, though the European

from rate cuts as economic growth is picking up, notwithstanding the elevated repo rate of 6.5 per cent prevailing since February 2023, experts said.

REUTERS

According to a SBI research paper, the central bank needs to continue the current stance of withdrawal of accommodation.

Rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook, despite the coalition government following the recent election results.

The affirmation of India's rating highlights Fitch's confidence in the nation's economic resilience and potential for growth, even in the face of political fragmentation.

Traditionally, coalition governments are perceived as unstable, often leading to slower policy implementation and economic reforms. However, India's

ndia offers \$500bn

in clean energy, other

69 sustainable infra projects worth over

\$23bn of investment

opportunities were

identified

sectors by 2030

investment opportunities



rating stability suggests that the country's underlying economic fundamentals are strong enough to withstand such political dynamics.

13 IPEF members ink clean, fair economy pacts

INDIA TO SIGN AFTER DOMESTIC APPROVA

On inflation in FY25, the report savs that RBI may cut its policy rate by 75bp in FY25.

Earlier this year, in January, Fitch Ratings assigned India a stable outlook, reflecting a positive assessment of the country's economic conditions and prospects. The recent elections, which culminated in a coalition government, have not altered Fitch's outlook. This decision highlights the agency's belief that India's robust economic growth and solid external financial position

BUSINESS SPLIT

Vedanta demerger gets nod from creditors, including SBI

NEW DELHI: Mining conglomerate Vedanta Limited has received approvals from the majority of its creditors for a proposed demerger of businesses, marking an important

step in the company's plan to split into six independent listed companies. "I am happy to let all of you know that we have received the 52 per cent plus the additional percentage, which is required for us to reach 75 per cent. We have crossed that threshold as well. Most of the lenders have approved it,' a senior Vedanta executive said in a recent bondholder conference call. The transcript of the call was reviewed by PTI. "Some are pending for their committee meeting and some are pending for their board meeting. So, as we speak, we have already received 52 per cent. The balance requirement will be met in a week or 10 days' time. And thereafter, we will file the application with the NCLT," he added. A major creditor - State Bank of India - had already granted its consent earlier, according to a banker aware of the development. This crucial approval is seen as the last major compliance requirement for the company, which was keenly watched by the market, and paves the way for the \$20 billion demerger.

ITC shareholders approve demerger of hotel business

NEW DELHI: Diversified entity ITC Thursday said it has received shareholders' approval to demerge ITC Hotels into a separate entity. Shareholders of ITC, in a virtual meeting held

Thursday through video conferencing/other audio-visual means, approved the resolution for the scheme of arrangement between ITC Ltd and ITC Hotels Ltd, the Kolkata-headquartered firm said in a regulatory filing. The proposal "has been approved and passed by the requisite majority of the Members, pursuant to Section 230(6) of the Companies Act, 2013," it added. Last year in July, ITC announced demerging its hotel business by incorporating as a wholly-owned subsidiary ITC Hotels Ltd. The scheme was approved a month after in August, which will create a new wholly-owned subsidiary ITC Hotels Ltd, to handle its hotels and hospitality business.

ernment Thursday said 13 IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) bloc members have signed fair and clean economy agreements, while India will ink the deal after getting domestic approval. 'India did not formally sign

New Delhi, June 6: The gov-

these agreements as domestic approval processes are still underway and will be completed after the formation of the new government," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

The government formation process in the country is on as the Lok Sabha elections got over this week.

India offers huge investment opportunities worth over \$500 billion, particularly in clean energy value chain including renewables, green hydrogen and EV, by 2030, the commerce min-

istry said Thursday. This was stated by Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal, who is in Singapore for the two-day meet of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum.

These agreements, talks for which concluded in November

last year, were signed in Singapore. Trade ministers and senior officials of the 14 member countries have gathered in Singapore for the ministerial meet.

The 14-member IPEF bloc was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region May 23, 2022, in Tokyo. Together, they account for 40 per cent of the world's economic output and 28 per cent of trade.

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean econ-

omy and fair economy. India has joined all the pillars except the trade

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam are members of the bloc.

On November 14, 2023, the IPEF declared a substantial conclusion of negotiations for a Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and the overarching agreement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.

nal legal procedures for ratifi cation, acceptance or approval.

Agreement on a clean economy intends to accelerate efforts of IPEF partners' towards energy security and transition, climate resilience and adaptation, GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions mitigation; find/develop innovative ways of reducing dependence on fossil fuel energy; promote technical cooperation, workforce development, capacity building, and research collaborations; and collaborate to facilitate development, access, and deployment of clean energy and climatefriendly technologies

This agreement will facilitate investments, concessional financing, joint collaborative projects, workforce development and technical assistance.

Further, the agreement on fair economy intends to create a more transparent and predictable business environment which can spur greater trade and investment in the markets of member countries; enhance efforts to prevent and combat corruption by strengthening anti-corruption frameworks, support efforts to improve tax transparency and exchange of information for taxpurposes between competent authorities.







After that, the IPEF partners

completed a legal review of the

text for these agreements and

these agreements which are first-

of-their-kind approaches to ad-

dressing 21st-century challenges

and strengthening economic en-

gagement across a critical re-

gion. India actively participated

in the signing proceedings and

the ministerial deliberations," it

These agreements will enter

into force after at least five IPEF

partners complete their inter-

said.

"Today, IPEF members signed

domestic approval processes.

OrissaPOST FRIDAY | JUNE 7 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR



Criticism grows over drop-in pitches

EXPERTS TERM THE WICKETS AT THE NASSAU COUNTY STADIUM 'UNSAFE' AND 'DANGEROUS'

AGENCIES

New York, June 6: Rohit Sharma's bruised bicep is expected to heal before the game Sunday against Pakistan but the Nassau County ground's track, which is 'bordering on danger ous with huge open cracks', has become a concern for stakeholders of the game trying to sell cricket in America through the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Rohit, who scored a half century in the successful chase against Ireland, was hit on his right bicep by pacer Josh Little and was forced to retire hurt. The ball that struck him suddenly took off from length on a pitch that offered a great degree of uneven bounce. Rishabh Pant was also hit on his left elbow during his unbeaten 36.

"Yeah, the arm is a bit sore, but I am sure will be ready for the game against Pakistan," Rohit said after the game Wednesday. "I don't think the wicket settled down even when we batted second. There was enough for the bowlers. When we prepare for the game against Pakistan, we will keep the pitch in mind. Everyone has to contribute on such pitches," Rohit.

Even though the BCCI assured that there is no cause for concern about Rohit's injury, a number of former players came down heavily on the drop-in pitches that are being used in the US.

'Player of the Final' from India's 2007 T20 World Cup triumph, Irfan Pathan, hardly minced words as he criticised the pitch. He called it 'unsafe'.

"Look, we definitely want to promote cricket in America, but this pitch is not safe for players. If we had a pitch like this in



India skipper Rohit Sharma has termed the Nassau County Stadium pitch as a difficult one to bat on

Pant to bat at No.3: Rathour

New York: India will continue with wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant at No. 3 in the T20 World Cup following his gritty performance against Ireland, batting coach Vikram Rathour said Wednesday. The Ireland match was Pant's first game for India since December 2022 when he was involved in a horrific car accident. "Yes, he has been batting really well. The two games (warm-up and Ireland) he has played, he has looked really good," Rathour told the media after the match here at the Nassau County Stadium. "Yes, at the moment he is our No. 3 and it helps that he is a left-hander," Rathour added.

lenging wicket as far as batting the criticism so far and the Indian is concerned but this is what we have. So we need to find ways to team management is unlikely to file any official complaint. But the displeasure is clear about deal with that," Rathour said.

the nature of the track, which according to some who saw, is 'unfit for T20 cricket' and 'bordering on dangerous'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 6: Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen produced a flawless effort to enter the men's singles quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament, beating Japan's Kenta Nishimoto here Thursday. Sen hardly batted an eyelid while securing a 21-9, 21-15 win over Nishimoto in his pre-quarterfinal match which lasted less than an hour.

The Japanese never managed to take the lead against the Indian in either of the games. Lakshya was always a step ahead of his opponent and sealed the last

An era ends with Sunil's exit^{$-\epsilon$}

Footballer ends glorious career with 94 goals from 151 matches in 19 years

AGENCIES

Kolkata, June 6: It was not the ending that Sunil Chhetri wanted. He wanted to go on a winning note in the World Cup Qualifiers against Kuwait at the Salt Lake Stadium here Thursday. The match, much to agony of Sunil, ended in a goalless draw, thereby jeopardizing India's chances of going into the third round of the World Cup Qualifiers, something they had never done before.

India currently have five points from four games with an away match against Qatar in hand. Kuwait have four points from the same number of matches. However, their next opponents will be Afghanistan, a comparatively weaker side in comparison to Qatar. It is not expected that India will either draw or win against the much-superior Qatar and hence one can assume that the campaign of the Blue Tigers is more or less unless a miracle takes place.

Forget the match, it was Chhetri's moment. Thousands and thousands packed the galleries for his final farewell. A usually stoic Sunil could not keep his emotions in check when his own teammates and support staff stood in a line to wish him the final goodbye. He hid his face in his hands to just hide the tears even as wife Sonam also shed a drop or two while watching from the stands.

The fans kept shouting; 'Sunil, Sunil', 'Vande Mataram' and his best chance in the first half came in the 11th minute, when Liston Colaco burst down the left wing, sending in a low cross. Chhetri was poised to score, but Hasan



Modric hails Chhetri's feat

Kolkata: Croatia captain and Real Madrid superstar Luka Modric has hailed India skipper Sunil Chhetri, who ended his international career Thursday. In a video message shared by Indian team's coach Igor Stimac, Modric said, "Hi Sunil, I iust want to say hello and wish you all the best in your last game for the national team. Congratulations on your career. you are a legend of this game and to your teammates, I hope you make his last game special and unforgettable," said Modric, the 2018 Ballon d'Or winner.

Alanezi's sliding clearance thwarted the attempt.

Coach Igor Stimac at the end

were not 100 per cent, as he would have liked them to be'. "We failed to open the game up. We could not create chances, the way we would have wanted to and that led to the draw. Stimac said after the game. The Indian coach was then

asked as to what made Chhetri so special. "Goals and goals," he said. "Many have the talent, but to convert them to goals like Chhetri did made him a verv special player indeed," Stimac pointed out. "Players like Rahim Ali are promising, but they have to convert their talent into goals,' Stimac added.

"The ones who have watched videos, the ones who have taken autographs, the old-time supporters, thank you everyone. These 19 years would not have been possible without each and every one of you," Chhetri stated.

SHORT TAKES

Ingolstadt (Germany): Sabrina Wittmann has been appointed the permanent head coach of German . third-tier club Ingolstadt, marking the first time a female coach has been given the role with a men's team in the country's top three national divisions. The 32-year-old Wittmann was put in charge of Ingolstadt for their last four games

of the season as interim coach and Wednesday the club said she had been appointed on a permanent basis. "When I took over the first team in May on an interim basis, I had hoped that it wouldn't just be a short adventure," Wittmann said in a statement. During her tenure Ingolstadt played four games winning two and the drawing the

Sarabjot bags gold in ISSF meet

WALT

Indian shooter beats World Champion en route to finish on top of podium

Munich, June 6: Sarabjot Singh opened Thursday, India's ac-count at the ISSF World Cup here with a gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event. He emerged triumphant in a field that featured a reigning World Champion and a four-time Olympian.

242.7 in the eight-man final, leaving behind his nearest competitor Bu Shuaihang of China by 0.2 points. Germany's Robin Walter won bronze.

Sarabjot had Wednesday shot a top score of 588 to qualify for the decider. The final had in its line-up reigning World Champion Bowen Zhang of China and fourtime Olympian Yusuf Dikec of Turkey, besides Bu and Walter. Under the circumstances, Sarabjot delivered a fine pillarto-post victory for his second individual ISSF World Cup medal, after his breakthrough gold last year in Bhopal.



Lakshya seals spot in quarters

Swiatek, Paolini set up final date



Paris, June 6: Iga Swiatek eliminated Coco Gauff 6-2, 6-4 in the French Open semifinals Thursday and stretched her winning streak at Roland Garros to 20 matches. The top-ranked Swiatek is trying to earn her fourth championships in five years in Paris and can become the first woman with three in a row here since Justine Henin from 2007-09



Iga Swiatek celebrates after her win

fourth successive French Open

semifinal with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 6-

4 win over Australian 11th seed

AP PHOTO

Thursday

The ICC has not reacted to

India, a match would never be

played there again for a very

long time," Pathan said on 'Star

Sports'. "This pitch is definitely

Rohit was also bewildered by

the track's behaviour and con-

ceded that he didn't know what

to expect from it against Pakistan.

The team's batting coach Vikram

Rathour was a shade more ret-

icent in his analysis. "It is a chal-

not good," he asserted.

1st lady coach for German men's side

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The 22-year-old Indian shot

other two.

Surgery successful

Paris: Novak Djokovic said Thursday the surgery on his right knee 'went well' after he was injured during the French Open and added that he hopes to return to competition 'as soon as possible'. Djokovic underwent surgery here Wednesday two days after he hurt the knee early in the second set of a five-set victory against Francisco Cerundolo in the fourth round. "I am happy to update you that the surgery went well. I am so appreciative of the team of doctors who have been by my side," Djokovic wrote on social media.

Warner's new feat

Bridgetown: Australian opener David Warner became the highest run-scorer for the country in T20 Internationals, as his team defeated Oman by 39 runs here Wednesday. Warner scored 56 in the game. It took his tally to 3,155 runs in 104 matches for Australia. Former skipper Finch had accumulated 3,120 runs in 103 matches. However, it was Marcus Stoinis who shone for Australia in the game. He scored 67 and then picked up three wickets when Oman batted. Australia scored 164 for five before restricting Oman to 125 for nine in 20 overs.

Aman in final

Budapest: Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat entered the final of the 57kg freestyle category with a 14-4 technical superiority win over Russian-Belarusian Aryan Tsiutryn in the Budapest Ranking Series here Thursday. Aman, the only Indian male wrestler to qualify for the Paris Olympics so far, will next face World Championships silver medalist Rei Higuchi of Japan for the gold medal. This tournament will help Aman to improve upon his ranking, and get a better a draw at the Paris Olympics.

The young Indian was the strongest off the blocks shooting three high 10s off his first five single shots to take an early lead. His consistent shooting continued and he never gave up the lead until Walter caught up with him at the end of the 14th single shot. A 10.8 for his 15th shot looked

to have settled the final as Walter wilted with an 8.6. After Zhang bowed out in fifth, Walter upset Dikec for the bronze.



Sarabjot Singh poses with his gold medal Thursday Photo NRAI X

Going into the final two shots. 1.4 points separated Sarabjot from Bu, who was till then enjoying the chase as the pressure told on Sarabjot. In the end, Sarabjot, who had topped the selection trials for the Paris Olympics, did well to hold on for a morale-boosting win. Sarabjot had won a bronze

in 10m air pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2023 in Changwon and had secured the first pistol quota for India in the Paris Olympics. At the Asian Games last year, Sarabjot won the gold medal with the men's 10m air pistol team and silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

eight spot quite comfortably.

However, it was curtains for Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand in the women's doubles. The Indian pair went down to Japan's Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara 21-19, 19-21, 19-21 after an intense round of 16 match. Had luck been on the Indian duo's side, they could have easily won the match, but that was not to be Thursday.

Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa also exited the tournament, bringing an end to India's campaign in the women's doubles. They were beaten by South Korea's Ha Na Baek and So-Hee Lee 21-13, 19-21, 21-13.

In another men's singles match played late in the evening, Priyansh Rajawat fought hard before losing to World Champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn 10-21, 17-21.

Jasmine Paolini in the final. Paolini defeated 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva of Russia 6-3, 6-1,

Swiatek will face 12th seed

Swiatek improved to 11-1 overall against No. 3 seed Gauff, the reigning US Open champion, and has defeated her at the clay court Grand Slam tournament three years in a row, including in the 2022 final and last year's

quarterfinals. Swiatek will definitely start a favourite in the final. Putting aside a three-set, second-round victory over four-time major champion Naomi Osaka when she was forced to save a match point, Swiatek has ceded a total of merely 17 games in her other five matches. She has been very dominant against all her other opponents.

played late Wednesday night, Alexander Zverev advanced to his

Alex de Minaur. Fourth seed Zverev will play Casper Ruud for a place in Sunday's final after the Norwegian received a walkover following Novak Djokovic's injury-enforced withdrawal. Germany's Zverev is on an 11-

Earlier in a men's quarterfinal

match winning streak after clinching the Rome title last month, but he has never reached the final at Roland Garros. Last year he lost to Ruud only in the semifinals. "I'm happy to be in another semifinal. Hopefully I can win one," said Zverev after the match.

Ironman titles for England look to end long wait Ranjan, Ranjit **COACH SOUTHGATE BANKING ON PLAYERS LIKE KANE, BELLINGHAM, FODEN AND PALMER** ASSOCIATED PRESS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 6: Dr Ranjan Kumar Sahoo and Ranjit Kumar Sahoo returned to the city Wednesday night amid great fanfare after winning the 'Ironman' titles in their respective categories. The tournament was held June 2 at Hamburg in Germany

Ranjan bagged his second 'Ironman' title with his personal best timing of 14 hours, 18 minutes and 19 seconds while Ranjit clinched his maiden crown with a timing of 15 hours, 03 minutes and 32 seconds.

In the events that drew competitors from around the globe, Odisha's athletes showcased remarkable endurance, strength, and perseverance to emerge as



the best in the competition. The 'Ironman' European

Championship, Hamburg is renowned for its gruelling course which includes a 3.8km swim, a 178km bike ride, and a 42.2 km marathon run. All the events tested the limits of human perseverance. Despite the challenges of pot-hole filled roads, head-

winds and severe cross winds, Odisha's triathletes rose to the occasion to emerge winners.

Manchester, June 6: With four of Europe's most-prolific scorers, England has the firepower to end a nearly 60-year wait for silverware. How coach Gareth Southgate deploys his riches could determine whether it is finally a glorious summer for the Three Lions or if the wait to add a trophy to England's lone World Cup — won in 1966 — drags on.

England will lean on record scorer Harry Kane yet again at the European Championships in Germany but will also look for contributions from Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Cole Palmer.

"There's definitely more options in the attacking areas, Southgate said here Wednesday. Southgate led England to the 2018 World Cup semifinals and



England will again depend heavily on the scoring prowess of Harry Kane

the final of the last Euros - losing to Italy at Wembley Stadium but he's has been accused of

Favourites win

Metz, (France): Kylian Mbappé scored late in his first game since joining Real Madrid to help France build momentum for the European Championships with a dominant 3-0 win Wednesday over Luxembourg. Kolo Muani (43rd) and Jonathan Clauss (60th) were the other scorers for France. In other friendlies played on the day, Christian Eriksen scored late to give Denmark a 2-1 win over Sweden at Copenhagen. Mikel Oyarzabal scored a hat-trick to help Spain rout Andorra 5-0 while Belgium earned a 2-0 win over Montenegro with Kevin De Bruyne scoring on his 100th appearance for the Red Devils.

being overly cautious. "We've got a pretty set style of playing, the players enjoy that and we've had good results doing that. So we are not going to move far away from what we've been,' Southgate stated.

In what could be his final tournament as England manager, Southgate has packed his squad with bold, attacking options. Kane finished his first season at Bayern Munich empty-handed but with a career-best 44 goals in 47 games to lead Germany's scoring chart. Bellingham, in his debut season at Real Madrid, scored 23 goals while Foden got 27 in all competitions for Premier League champion Manchester ২ City and was England's **p** 'Footballer of the Year'

Arguably the biggest bonus for Southgate is the emergence of Palmer, who was a fringe player at City before joining (Chelsea. He also scored 27 goals.

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