

SHORT TAKES

Regular school timing in state from June 22

Bhubaneswar: The state government Thursday said schools will revert to their regular timetable from June 22. In a statement, the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department said schools will operate from 6.30am to 10.30am June 21 due to hot and humid weather conditions forecast by the IMD. Most schools reopened June 17 and 18 after summer vacations.

Illicit brew claims 40 lives in Tamil Nadu

Kallakurichi/Chennai: The entire Karunapuram locality here in Tamil Nadu Thursday echoed with the wails of the family members of the victims of illicit arrack that claimed the lives of at least 40 people. About 100 others are undergoing treatment. Following the tragedy in the state's northern district, the Opposition lashed out at the DMK while the ruling party said it should not be assumed such issues happened only during its regime.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Being a beloved leader, I don't need a bulletproof car. Just give me a slipper-proof one



HONOURING THE CHAIR: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs Pravati Parida and KV Singh Deo, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, Congress leader Tara Prasad Bahinipati and other senior members of the House congratulate Ranpur MLA Surama Padhy on her appointment as the Speaker, at the state Assembly in Bhubaneswar, Thursday (Report P3)

SC notice on NEET cancellation

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: Amid unprecedented outrage over alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024, the Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre, National Testing Agency (NTA) and others on a slew of petitions, including those seeking scrapping of the all-India medical entrance test and a court-monitored probe, Thursday. While staying further proceedings on similar pleas pending before high courts, the SC made it clear that it won't come on the way of the counselling process. A vacation Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti issued notices to

Row rages further

The outcry against alleged irregularities in NEET-UG 2024 grew louder Thursday with student groups staging protests and Opposition attacking the government saying the paper leaks are expansion of the Vyapam scam and future of candidates who appeared in these exams is being destroyed.

the parties seeking their responses on four separate pleas filed by the NTA for transfer of some pending pleas, including those claiming paper leak, from HCs to the SC. It also dealt with several other petitions including the one filed by 20 aspirants who are seeking scrapping of the exam held

May 5. These 20 petitioners have sought a direction to the NTA and others to conduct the test afresh. The Bench said all the pleas would be heard July 8. The Bench, while refusing to stay the counselling, said, "All this has been argued from the beginning and they (some petitioners) have been wanting stay of counselling. We denied that." The Bench also issued notices to the Centre and the NTA seeking their responses on a plea by Sorting Hat Solutions Pvt Ltd, which operates 'Unacademy', seeking constitution of an independent committee to scrutinise the alleged irregularities and discrepancies in the results of NEET-UG 2024.

Paddy at ₹3,100/qtl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: A day after the Centre enhanced minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by 5.35 per cent to ₹2,300 per quintal for 2024-25 kharif marketing season, the state government Thursday announced that it would procure the crop from farmers at ₹3,100 per quintal as promised by the BJP in its election manifesto.

Addressing media, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said the BJP, in its election manifesto, had promised to implement 'Samrudh Krushak Niti' if voted to power in the state. "We kept the promise. As per the Samrudh Krushak Niti,

RICE ATM IN CITY

The state government has decided to set up a rice ATM in Bhubaneswar, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said, Thursday. "The rice ATM will be first set up in Bhubaneswar for PDS card holders within a week. Later, the facility will be extended to all districts of the state. The beneficiaries can insert their cards in the ATM and receive their monthly quota," Patra said.

crop," Patra said. He said the payment will be transferred to the farmers within 48 hours through DBT. The procurement will be done through electronic weighing machines in all mandis, eliminating the practice of 'katni-chhatni'. Patra said as promised, the first Cabinet of the BJP government June 12 decided to implement the scheme within 100 days. "A committee has already been constituted and it is working on implementation of the scheme," the FS&CW Minister added. Strict action will be taken against those who insist for 'katni-chhatni' during the procurement of paddy from the farmers in mandis.

KEJRIWAL GETS BAIL

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: In a huge relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a court here Thursday granted him bail in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged Excise scam. Special judge Niyay Bindu also declined the prayer of Enforcement Directorate (ED) to keep in abeyance the bail order for 48 hours so as to allow the Central agency to appeal against it in a superior court. The judge ordered Kejriwal's release on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. The court, however, imposed certain conditions on the AAP leader before granting him the relief.

Delhi heat kills 22 in 24 hrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: At least 22 persons succumbed to heat-related illnesses at Delhi's three premier healthcare facilities, including Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, in the last 24 hours, officials said, Thursday. Delhi has been battling searing heatwave conditions over the last few days. It got some relief Thursday morning due to light rain. Hospitals in Delhi have seen a rise in the number of casualties and patients owing to heatstroke. According to officials at the Safdarjung Hospital, 33 patients suffering from heat-related illnesses were admitted. Of them

13 died in the last 24 hours, they said. The Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital received 22 patients with a suspected heatstroke in the last 24 hours out of which four have died, a hospital source said. The Delhi government-run LNJ Hospital has 17 patients with heat-related illnesses admitted to its casualty ward. Five patients succumbed in the last 24 hours at the ward, an official source said. Meanwhile, the Health Ministry said the unrelenting heatwave sweeping large parts of the country has claimed at least 114 lives and left more than 40,984 people grappling with suspected heatstroke between March 1 and June 18 this year.

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY - 2024

21 June

"Yoga for Self and Society"

Practice Yoga Regularly and Stay Healthy

State Level | District Level | Block Level
Urban Local Bodies Level | Institutional Level

Sri. Mohan Charan Majhi
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

leisure



JENNIFER HUDSON DREAMS OF MEETING HER 27 SIBLINGS

Actress Jennifer Hudson recently opened up on a podcast that her father had 27 children and she wanted to meet them all. The 42-year-old shared that she discovered this at 16 and wants to explore her family further, reports *people.com*.



GOLDIE DESIRES TO MAKE A MOVIE WITH HER FAMILY

Oscar winning actress Goldie Hawn expressed her desire to work on a project with her famous family, stating it would be fun and crazy. The family members include her husband Kurt Russell and her children Kate Hudson, Oliver Hudson, and Wyatt Russell.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You will be very short-tempered today. Your temper is ready to burst at the drop of a hat, but, Ganesh says, it will be of no avail. It would be better to exhaust all that energy in some vigorous swimming or any sort of physical activity. Ganesh suggests that you actually run your way back to home.

TAURUS
You will find it difficult to keep up appearances. Be prepared, says Ganesh. Situations are likely to bring out your inner feelings, your true nature. If someone crosses or confronts you will neither take it lying down, nor be inclined to forget and forgive.

GEMINI
You will be in an extremely sensitive and emotional frame of mind today. While it is alright when it comes to family matters, you need to put your head over your heart when making decisions at the workplace. It is a good day to sign new contracts and to take up new projects, says Ganesh.

CANCER
A chance of misunderstanding likely with anyone, says Ganesh. Not the time to take a decision, whereby you repent later. Transfer to a new place, or auspicious function at home are indicated. Ganesh sends his blessings.

LEO
You will pay attention only to your work and will not be distracted by other issues today, says Ganesh. People involved in Research and Development related fields will find that their knowledge will come in handy for them today. Steps taken in the right direction will make your task very easy today.

VIRGO
From a tedious, weary morning, the day will gradually turn out to be very thrilling in the evening, says Ganesh. In the afternoon, though, you may hit a roadblock, and you will feel stressed out. However, all that stress will melt away in the evening in the company of your near and dear ones.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will try to maintain a place of pride and your status quo in society. You will be able to impress people with your speech and your wit. You will gain popularity amongst people because of your personality and your external appearance. Ganesh assures you that you will have a successful day today.

SCORPIO
Your career graph is gradually shooting up because of your incredible work. Your will power will help you achieve difficult targets. The confidence through which you handle all the unforeseen situations is worth appreciating, feels Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Celebrations galore, foresees Ganesh. Two different individuals may have different opinions, but that should not result into ugly arguments. Watch out for any mishap, warns Ganesh. Your near and dear ones become a priority in the evening.

CAPRICORN
Love is in the air for you, today. You will take your sweetheart out for a romantic dinner, shopping or anything of that sort and pamper him/her to the hilt. But, don't spend like a sailor as you have limited sources of income, advises Ganesh. Busy in social gatherings and parties, you will make a mark on everyone's mind with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS
Be appreciative of the achievements of others as it will inspire them to continue and put their best foot forward. Your amicable approach at work will create friendly environment and motivate your colleagues to perform better. You will be in the good books of everyone, says Ganesh.

PISCES
It is a great day to be social and catch up with friends and make travel plans with near and dear ones. You find peace, comfort and pleasure in any travel that you undertake today. There might be some reasons that might result in mild mental stress but if you are cautious and prepared than nothing will be able to usher you in harm's way.

Actors are just puppets: Pankaj



Mumbai: Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is known for *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Masaan* and several other projects, has said that actors are just puppets and do what writers or directors ask them. The actor attended the trailer launch of the third season of the fan-favourite show *Mirzapur* at a 5-star property in the Bandra area of Mumbai Thursday along with Ali Fazal, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Rasika Dugal, Vijay Varma, Anjum Shharma, Priyanshu Painyuli, Harshita Shekhar Gaur and Sheeba Chadha.

While the floor wasn't opened to the media for the interaction, Pankaj told the emcee, "We actors are just puppets. The writers and directors are puppeteers, they run the show and streamline the story. As actors, we do what we are told or briefed about."

The actor then made a minor correction in the statement as he looked at the media inside the Ballroom and said, "Chaliye, theek hai, upar waala humse karwa raha hai aur hum kar rahe hain..."

Produced by Excel Media & Entertainment, and directed by Gurmeet Singh and Anand Iyer, the series is set to stream on Prime Video from July 5.

SARA GETS CANDID

Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan recently bared her heart out at a show organised by a news portal. While the episode holds a plethora of revelations and interesting anecdotes shared by Sara, here's a little sneak peek from her meetings as she gets candid about her journey in showbiz, right from her debut with *Kedarnath* to her rapport with late actor Sushant Singh Rajput and what it's like to be born to famous parents - Amrita

Singh and Saif Ali Khan. Sara explained how she has always questioned why the paparazzi pursued her even before she made her big film debut. She said, "Haan, meri maa kalakar hain, father bhi actor hain, toh phir mere peeche kyun pade hain? (My mom is an artiste so as my dad. Then why do journalists are after me?)" Despite having two accomplished parents, she revealed that between her mother Amrit and father

Saif, she always took her father for a Parents-Teacher Association meeting. She further said her teacher often shared her admiration and said, "The teacher's like, 'Oh, she's amazing'." Sara made her Hindi film debut in 2018 with the film *Kedarnath*, co-starring Sushant Singh Rajput. Meanwhile, Sara's highly anticipated film *Metro... In Dino* is due to release November 29.



Zareen's wish to harness her true potential

Mumbai: Actress Zareen Khan has lauded the web series *Panchayat 3* and expressed her desire to work in stories and roles that bring out her true potential.

Heaping praise on the show, she said, "A show like *Panchayat* is such an escape from the usual thriller and action genres that are dominating the OTT space. We need more of these shows."

Hoping to find such unconventional roles, the actress said, "I hope I get to be a part of such a world. Getting to explore raw and unconventional roles that bring my true potential to the forefront is something that I would really like to get into!"

The 37-year-old actress, who has worked in Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu, and Tamil films, made her Hindi film debut in 2010 in the epic film *Veer* alongside Salman Khan.

On the work front, Zareen was last seen on screen in *Hum Bhi Akele Tum Bhi Akele*.

Taapsee on facing failures in life

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu shared her perspective about life during her guest appearance on cricketer Shikhar Dhawan's talk show, *Dhawan Karenge*.

On facing failures in life, she revealed, "I feel people here take themselves too seriously. They keep thinking, 'What will happen if I fail?' First of all, you aren't from a royal family. It's not like your kingdom would collapse if you failed. We are just a small speck of dust in the universe, but we ask too much of ourselves. This is the reason why I don't take myself seriously, but I do take my work seriously. People say no one will take you seriously if you don't take yourself seriously. I disagree. People see me for my work, which I am very serious about."

Talking about her professional career, Pannu began started off in 2010 with the Telugu movie *Jhummandi Naadam* and made her Hindi debut in *Chashme Baddoor*. She further gave her best performances in films like *Baby*, *Pink*, *Manmarziyaan*, *Judwa 2*, *Saand Ki Aankh*, *Mission Mangal*, *Thappad* and *Dunki*.

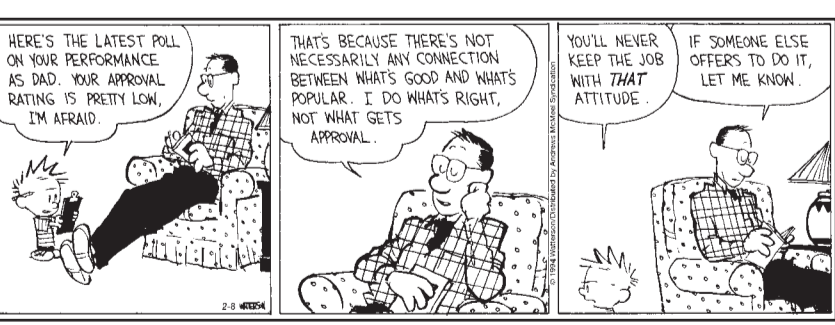
On the personal front, Taapsee married her longtime boyfriend and badminton player Mathias Boe in a private ceremony in Udaipur.



PEANUTS



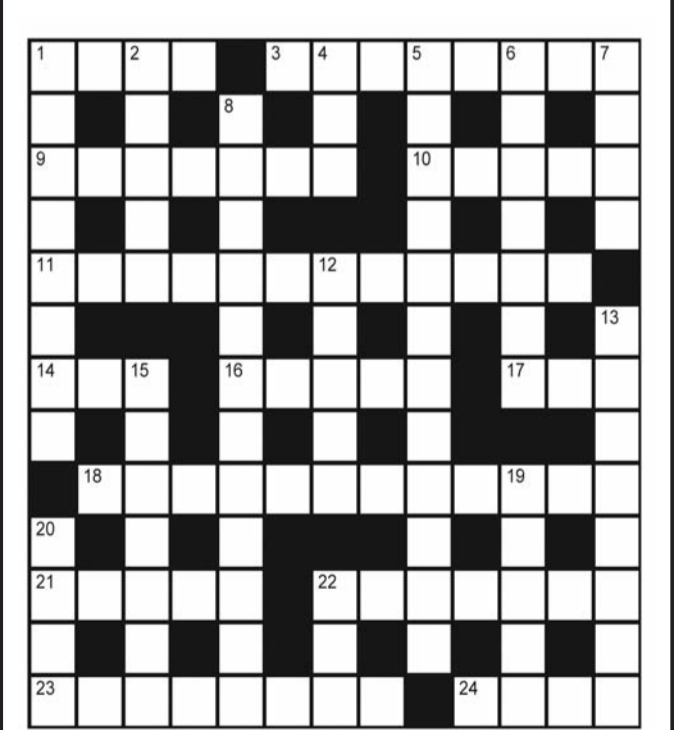
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



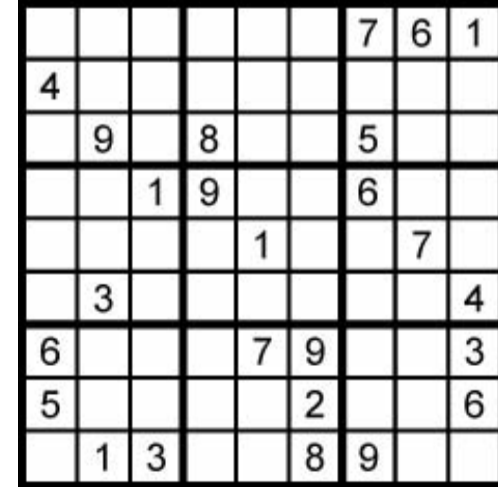
FUN post CROSSWORD



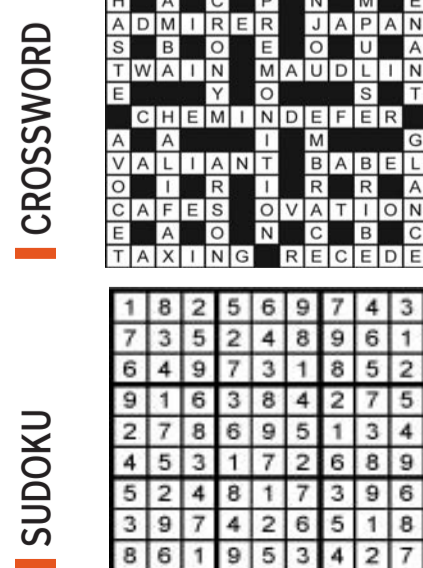
- Across**
- 1 Surefooted goat
 - 3 Squawk box
 - 9 Pak choi, e.g.
 - 10 Throng
 - 11 Indoor sporting venue (7,5)
 - 14 Preschooler
 - 16 Dog noise
 - 17 Acapulco aunt
 - 18 Present-day
 - 21 Thrush
 - 22 Billiards accessory (4,3)
 - 23 Pirate's target
 - 24 Eye affliction
 - Down**
 - 1 Prepare to hatch
 - 2 Macaroni shape
 - 4 Born
 - 5 Neutral spirits
 - (5,7)
 - 6 On the money
 - 7 Assemble
 - 8 Setts, e.g. (6,6)
 - 12 Dread
 - 13 Largest of Jupiter's satellites
 - 15 Difficulty
 - 19 Cravat
 - 20 Champagne designation
 - 22 Duffer's goal

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

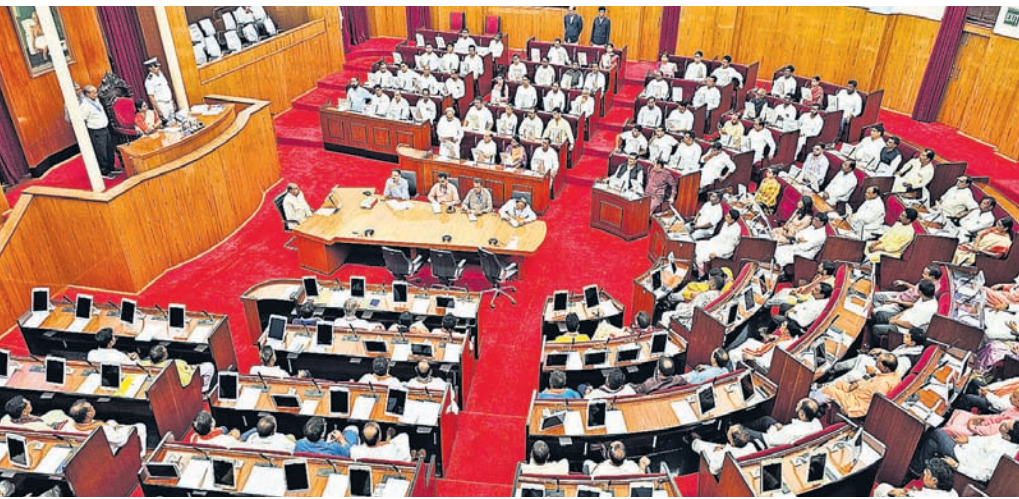
downtown

GOVERNOR, CM GREET PRESIDENT ON BIRTHDAY

Bhubaneswar: Governor Raghubar Das and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday extended their greetings to President Droupadi Murmu on her 66th birthday. "May she be blessed with good health and fortitude as she continues to guide our nation with grace and wisdom," the Governor said in a post on X. The CM in a post on X said, "Heartiest birthday greetings and congratulations to Honourable President Droupadi Murmu. Wishing you a healthy and long life."



Surama takes charge as Speaker



Bhubaneswar, June 20: Senior BJP leader Surama Padhy was Thursday elected unopposed the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly. Padhy, a two-time MLA from Ranpur in Nayagarh district, was the lone candidate for the post. She was elected unopposed as there was no other candidate in the fray.

Pro-tem Speaker Ranendra Pratap Swain announced her

election and handed over the charge to her in the special session of the Assembly.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs - KV Singh Deo, Pravati Parida - Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik and other members of the House greeted the new Speaker.

Padhy is the second woman to become Speaker of the Assembly after Pramila Mallik of BJD.

After her election, Padhy said: "I express my heartfelt gratitude

to all for electing me as the Speaker of this August House. I hail from a humble family and never thought of occupying such a prestigious post and responsibility. I am overwhelmed. It is our combined responsibility to maintain the dignity of this House. Therefore, I seek your cooperation. I will do my best to maintain neutrality with the cooperation of all."

The CM congratulated the new Speaker and sought the cooperation of all members in-

cluding those in opposition to cooperate with Padhy for the smooth functioning of the House.

Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik said, "I congratulate you (Padhy) as the speaker of the 17th Assembly. I am sure that during your tenure as Speaker, you will uphold the dignity of this August House. I also hope that the members will cooperate in the smooth functioning of the House."

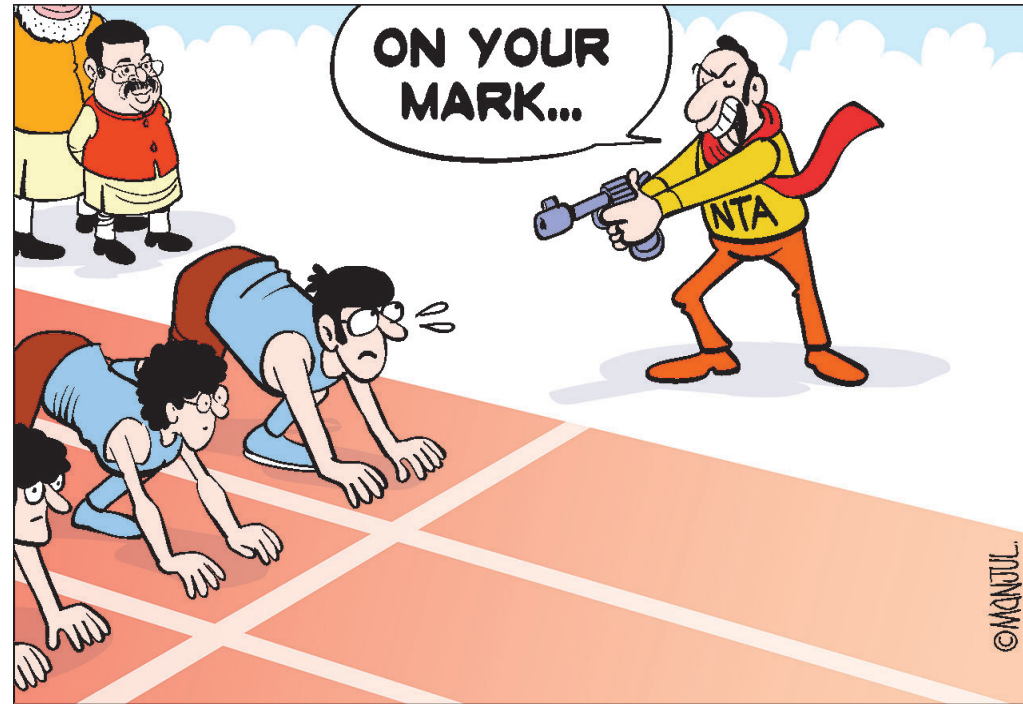
Congress Legislature Party leader Taraprasad Bahinipati and CPI(M)'s lone MLA Laxman Munda also congratulated Padhy on being elected Speaker of Odisha Assembly.

Sixty-three year old Padhy this time won the election from Ranpur assembly segment. She defeated Satyanarayan Pradhan of Biju Janata Dal by a margin of 15,544 votes.

In 2004, Padhy was elected from Ranpur and served as the Cooperation Minister in the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD-BJP alliance government.

In September 2023, senior BJD leader Pramila Mallik created history by becoming the first woman speaker of Odisha Assembly.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Open drain death: BMC asst engineer suspended

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Two days after a nine-year-old boy died after being swept away by the currents of an overflowing drain near Jama Masjid at Unit-III area here, the state government, Thursday, suspended the assistant engineer of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (Drainage No-5) and ordered disciplinary action against him. The action by the government came 24 hours after the civic body presented an audit report about the tragic incident.

Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra said junior engineer Santosh Kumar Das has been suspended for not erecting a barricade near the open drain. "The state government holds Das accountable for the



recent lapse in drain fencing works, which comes under Drainage Division No-5. Accordingly, Das is being suspended today on charges of dereliction of duty," the minister added.

Notably, Abu Bakr Shah, son of Sk Jumuti and Rukshana Bibi

of Masjid Colony, died after being swept away by surging waters of an open drain near Jama Masjid, Tuesday afternoon. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) faced flak from several quarters due to its alleged apathy in covering drains with barricades.

Interacting with the media, Mayor Sulochana Das said, the spot where the incident happened comes under the jurisdiction of Indian Railways. Though the civic body built walls around the drain, it was not barricaded as it is the responsibility of the Railways, she added.

"The civic body, meanwhile, started the construction of drain-covering works from today. Besides, the BMC is exploring other options to prevent such kind of mishaps in future", she added.

Rice ATM in City to start within a week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The state's first rice ATM (Automated Teller Machine) will be set up in the Capital City within a week's time to streamline Public Distribution System (PDS) for ration card beneficiaries, informed Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra, Thursday.

Patra, who took a review meeting of the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department earlier, said a card will be provided to each ration card beneficiary which can be used to get rice from such ATMs anywhere in the country.

Gradually such rice ATMs will be set-up at all district headquarters towns, he said.

"Currently, there are over 50 lakh ghost ration card beneficiaries. Each one of them will be identified and their names will be deleted from the list, and new



eligible beneficiaries will be added soon. An order in this regard has been issued to the concerned officials," Patra said.

Informing about procurement of paddy, the minister said the state government will start procuring paddy at ₹3,100 per quintal. "After the Centre hiked the paddy Minimum Support Price (MSP) to ₹2,300, our burden has reduced. We will have to pay

only ₹800 more instead of ₹917 per quintal," he said.

He said farmers henceforth will not face any 'Katni Chhatni' issue during the procurement of paddy and the money will be transferred to their accounts within 48 hours of procurement.

The minister warned of strict action against millers/dealers on receipt of complaints by farmers.

Mahtab appointed pro-tem Speaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Seventime parliamentarian Bhartruhari Mahtab was Thursday appointed pro-tem Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said.

He said Mahtab, a BJP member from Cuttack, was appointed pro-tem Speaker by President Droupadi Murmu under Article 95(1) of the Constitution to perform the duties of the Lok Sabha presiding officer till the election of the Speaker.

The newly-elected members of the 18th Lok Sabha will take oath or affirmation before the pro-tem Speaker, who will be assisted by a panel of chairpersons comprising Congress leader K Suresh, DMK leader TR Baalu, BJP members Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste and TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay. Notably, Mathab quit the BJD ahead of the Lok Sabha elections to join the BJP.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin June 24. The newly-elected members will take oath/affirmation June 24 and 25.

3 Maoist sympathisers surrender before cops



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Three Maoist sympathisers surrendered before Odisha Police in Malkangiri district Thursday, police said.

They were identified as Deva Madvi, 18, Adma Madkami, 24,

and Muka Sodi, 25, all natives of Sukma district in Chhattisgarh.

Police said the main reason for their surrender was increased police operations on both sides of the border.

Meanwhile, BSF jawans busted a Maoist dump near Dulagandi village under Kalimela police station in Malkangiri district and recovered three single-barrel muzzle loader (SBML) guns, one SBML barrel, four electric detonators, 98 gelatin sticks, two mines and other items.

The BSF was conducting combing and search operations in the area when the last report came in.



AT THE LORD'S SERVICE: Servitors drawing Pattachitra paintings of the presiding deities of Srimandir in the 'Anasara Gruha', Thursday

Kim gifts pair of Pungsan dogs to Putin

AGENCIES

Seoul, June 20: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gave a pair of Pungsan hunting dogs to Russian President Vladimir Putin as a gift after their summit talks in Pyongyang, state media Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, Thursday.

Kim presented the dogs to Putin while on a stroll in the garden of the Kumsusan Guest House after they signed an agreement on boosting their relations to a 'comprehensive strategic partnership' at their summit Wednesday, it said, adding Putin expressed thanks in return.

The Pungsan dog was the

breed that Kim had given to former South Korean President Moon Jae-in as a 'peace gift' when they had summit talks in Pyongyang in September 2018, a time when nuclear diplomacy was in full swing with Moon's peace drive, it said.

Moon had raised the two dogs at the Cheong Wa Dae Presidential compound before returning them to the government in November 2022, six months after his term ended, citing legal grounds and a lack of support.

Kim and Putin also rode together the Aurus luxury limousine, a gift from Putin to Kim, around the garden driveway, the



KCNA said.

Russian media reported Wednesday that another Aurus car was gifted to Kim by Putin, after the first one that he gave to Kim in February.

According to Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov, the Russian leader also

presented Kim with a tea set.

Ushakov did not specify what Putin received, but said they were also good gifts.

"They have already exchanged gifts. We gave an Aurus," Ushakov told Tass news agency without specifying the model.

"Yes, this is the second one, not the third [we have given to Kim], the second, for sure," he added.

Giving a vehicle as a gift to Kim constitutes a violation of UN Security Council sanctions banning the supply, sale and transfer of luxury items to North Korea, under Resolution 2397 adopted in December 2017, 'Yonhap News Agency' reported.

The KCNA said that Kim and

Putin had a friendly and sincere conversation while walking along the path in the rose garden and discussed important plans to further strengthen the strategic partnership and alliance between the two countries, as well as to safeguard the shared core interests.

Putin was also awarded the 'Order of Kim Il Sung', the highest order of merit in North Korea, for his great feats in developing the good neighborly relations, the KCNA said.

Kim personally awarded the order to Putin, who expressed deep thanks to Kim, the North Korean government and its people, the KCNA added.

Fire at apartment in Patia; none hurt

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Inmates of an upscale apartment near Patia Square here woke up to a scary morning Thursday when fire broke out at the eighth floor of the 11-storey building, though no casualty or injury was reported in the incident.

Deputy Fire Officer of Odisha Fire Service Abani Swain said the fire originated at KK Plaza on the eighth floor of the building. He also suspected that an electric short-circuit could have caused the inferno, which later spread to other flats of the apartment.

The Fire Service department received a complaint around 6:20am following which two teams - one each from Chandrasekharpur and Kalpana fire stations - were dispatched to the spot to douse the blaze. It took around 40 minutes to completely douse the inferno, he added.

Sources said two rooms of the flat were completely gutted while others suffered partial damage in the fire mishap.

An inmate said the flat owners were absent when the fire broke out, adding that the flat had been lying vacant for the last two months.

Another inmate, who stays in flat no. 801 of the apartment, said thick smoke was found billowed out of the flat's balcony when she woke up around 6am. "I was in total panic when I saw



the raging fire. I rang the apartment security, but to no avail. When I opened the main door, I saw the corridor filled with smoke," she added.

Minutes after the mishap, inmates from other floors were seen coming down on stairs as elevators have already been shut down. Fire Service personnel swung into action and rescued several elderly people from the top floors.

WFP will make Odisha nutritional hub: Patro



UNWFP Odisha chief Elisabeth Faure said the partnership between the state and WFP will continue to promote Odisha as a Centre of Excellence in the global market

tamin-enriched rice (fortified rice) helps in eradicating malnutrition in the state.

Faure said that the partnership will continue with WFP and will promote the state as a Centre of Excellence in the global market. During the discussion, special secretary Mohammad Quamrul Haque and other dignitaries were present.

The partnership will enhance the quality of food in regular diet of individual which will contribute to nutrition, improved living standards and better health benefits in the state.

All these know-how are readily available from other developed countries to the state in particular through WFP.

for achieving nutritional security in the state focused on empowerment, livelihood, and incomes of women," Patro added.

He said this while meeting with United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) Odisha chief Elisabeth Faure and WFO field chief officer Himanshu Bal.

The minister further said the state government's close collaboration with WFP will help the state to ensure that nutritious vi-



IN SYNC: Artistes perform during Nrutya Vinay Utsav at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	77478.93 ↑ 141.34
NIFTY	23567 ↑ 51
DOLLAR	83.4650 ↑ ₹0.16
EURO	89.6300 ↑ ₹0.90
GOLD	₹72,772 ↑ ₹1,040
SILVER	₹91,798 ↑ ₹2,323

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	38.7°C	38.8°C
Min Temp	28.4°C	27.5°C
Humidity	68%	70%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY WITH ONE / TWO SPELLS OF RAIN

Develop Capital city as global model: Mahapatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Develop the Capital city as a global model and make efforts to complete the metro project on schedule time, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra asked the department officials during a review meeting here, Thursday.

"People's welfare should be emphasised along with development work and budgeting will be done judiciously without unnecessary expenditure," the ministers said.

He directed the officials to prevent artificial flooding in urban areas and give maximum importance to water drainage system and urban development.

H&UD Additional Chief Secretary G Mathi Vathanan made a presentation on the 'Successful Journey of Urban Development' and detailed the achievements of various schemes and programmes.

Vathanan informed the minister about the state's recognition in the field of solid waste man-

agement, commendable performance at national level in cleanliness survey index and current progress of metro rail project among others.

"Odisha is the only state in the country to implement the 'Drink from Tap' scheme. Similarly, 179 food centers in 115 urban areas are managed by women self-help groups. Odisha has also received global recognition for its innovation in free food schemes as well," he said.

On the direction of the minister, a guideline has been issued by the department regarding rainwater/floodwater management in urban areas and all municipal officials of the state have been advised to strictly comply with it. The Minister has also directed to solve water logging and drainage problems in Capital city on a priority basis.

In the context of the recent outbreak of Jaundice in Sambalpur, Mahapatra has directed the WATCO CEO to visit the spot immediately and conduct an enquiry on the quality of drinking water.

'Anganwadi centres' infra development top priority

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Infrastructural development of all Anganwadi centres in the state should be the top priority of the department, said Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Pravati Parida in a review meeting with the department officials in Lok Seva Bhawan here, Thursday.

WCD Principal Secretary Shubha Sarma presented the achievements, future plans and challenges of the department at the review meet. Parida also advised the officials to reach grassroots and solve the issues in partnership with various departments.

The minister directed the department to provide regular training and insurance facil-



ities to members of the Anganwadis. She also emphasised on regular inspection of the food preparation, hygiene and quality of Chhatua served in the Anganwadi centres.

"Prepare guidelines for the Subhadra Yojana and implement it within 100 days," the deputy

CM said. She directed the department officials to increase the number of working women hostels in the state.

Parida directed the state women commission to settle the pending case related to crime against women within the time limit, through mutual understanding and camp courts.

SAloneers emerge as NEET, JEE toppers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: Students from SAI International School secured top ranks in Advanced Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET).

SAIoneer Keshav Ranjan has secured AIR 196 and state rank 2 in JEE Advanced. Himanshu Agarwal has secured AIR 161 and state rank 2 in NEET.

Additionally, three more students, Om Amrit Mohanty, Mohammad Zaid Khan and Pritam Patra secured AIR 215, 217, and 265 respectively in NEET.

Nineteen students from the institution have qualified in JEE Advanced and will be placed in esteemed IITs across the country.

All of the JEE and NEET achievers were studying under the 'Bijaya Kumar Sahoo Scholarship Programme'.

"The success stories of these meritorious students highlight the crucial role of a supportive environment, mentorship, and ample learning opportunities. At SAI International, we are dedicated to nurturing and empowering young talents who hold the potential to change the world," chairperson of SAI International Education Group Silpi Sahoo said.



CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Ranjita Kumari Sahu, D/o- Pratap Chandra Sahu, resident of Bhaktamadhu Nagar Lane-6, Gandamunda, P.O./P.S.- Khandagiri, Dist.- Khurda, PIN- 751030, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.-60, dtd. 17.06.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Ranjita Sahoo for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Vide. Sl. No.-620, date 22.02.2024

Deponent declares that "Bhagwati Sahoo", S/o. "Jawahar Prasad Sahoo" and "Bhagwati Prasad Gupta", S/o. "Jawahar Prasad Gupta" of at Barbil, Ward No.-5, Market, P.O./P.S.- Barbil, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha are belongs to one and same person.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Barbil, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha, vide Sl. No.- 722, date 29.02.2024, Deponent declares that "Arti Devi", W/o. Bhagwati Sahoo", "Arati Debi, W/o. Bhagawwagi Sahu", Arti Devi, D/o. Moti Chandra Gupta" and "Arti Gupta, D/o. Moti Chand Gupta" are belongs to one and same person of at Barbil, Daily Market, Ward No.-5, P.O./P.S.- Barbil, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The state government will observe the International Day of Yoga with community participation June 21 across the state.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will grace an event which will be held Friday at Kalinga Stadium.

Similarly, other ministers and MLAs will also be present in different districts headquarters, blocks and municipal areas to create awareness and further popularise Yoga.

On the occasion, **Orissa POST** talked to City-based yoga experts and tried to understand the effects of doing Yoga and how much Bhubaneswar citizens do it on a regular basis.

Priyanka Singhdeo a certified Yoga trainer said, "As per studies, practicing yoga regularly helps improve flex-

ibility, strength, and balance. It also reduces stress, anxiety, and depression by calming the mind and promoting relaxation. Yoga encourages mindfulness and better breathing, which leads to improved focus and mental clarity."

"In Bhubaneswar, yoga is becoming increasingly popular. Many people are joining yoga classes to stay fit and manage stress. Parks and yoga studios often have groups practicing together, especially in the mornings," she said.

"Healthier lifestyles improved well-being of the City's residents. Overall, yoga is making a positive impact in the lives of people in Bhubaneswar, both physically and mentally. To make it more fun,



Ankura Hospital launches facility for endometriosis

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The City-based Ankura Hospital recently unveiled a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence to provide advanced gynaecological care for endometriosis and laparoscopic surgeries.

"Inauguration of this centre underscores Ankura Hospital's commitment to enhancing women's health services and addressing complex gynaecological conditions with precision and expertise," said Ankura Hospital's director of Advanced Laparoscopy and



Endometriosis GSS Mohapatra. "New treatments for endometriosis, including minimally invasive surgery and advanced technology, offer hope for women suffering from endometriosis. The treatments allow for faster recovery with fewer cuts and scars. Advanced

laparoscopic surgeries with high-resolution technology help doctors perform complex surgeries with precision," he added.

The new facility is equipped with the latest technology and staffed by highly skilled gynaecologists, offering patients access to top-notch medical care in the region.

'Healthier lifestyles improved well-being among citizens'



there are new variations also coming up in the City like Aerial Yoga," she added.

Yoga and holistic wellness expert, **Pushpanjali Senapati**, said, "Yoga is not just for old and Sanyasis. It's very much for every individual. Consistence



practice of yoga brings consciousness. When we will be a conscious being, with self awareness and self discovery we can always spread positivity, growth, de-

velopment, happiness, harmony in the society."

"Being into yoga for more than 10 years, I have seen how people struggle with physical illness and mental, emotional challenges. I have got the opportunity to support and guide them with best of my knowledge where I try to inculcate the scientific and traditional approach of yoga and its impact," she said.

"In Bhubaneswar, yoga awareness is gradually increasing. Everyone is now reading, listening somewhere or other about the benefits of yoga. Even the care givers of the society i.e. doctors are suggesting yoga as a tool to maintain physical and mental health," she added.

Kajal Satpathy, a yoga instructor and founder of Namami Yoga Academy said,

"Yoga has a significant impact on both mind and body. It helps in stress reduction and helps in mental clarity and concentration. It not only reduces anxiety and depression but also helps overcome sleep disorder. It also aids in improved respiratory health, heart health and digestive health."

Pointing out benefits, health expert **Amrit Pattajoshi** said, "Regular yoga practice creates mental clarity and calmness, relieves chronic stress patterns and sharpens concentration.

"It helps in depression alleviation, stress reduction, anxiety management, improving insomnia, improving focus and concentration, mindfulness, coping skills and resilience," he added.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

6-hr curfew relaxation in Balasore from today

Man held for tusker's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, June 20: A day after the body of a tusker was recovered from an orchard near an Ashram School at Neudani under Soso police limits in Keonjhar district, Forest department sleuths Thursday arrested the orchard owner on charge of killing the animal by electrocution.

The accused was identified as Sangram Keshari Behera, 45, son of Satyendra Kumar Behera of Kanpur village. A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in the court.

Anandapur DFO Abhaya Dalei said the investigators have found credible evidences to substantiate the involvement of the accused in the electrocution of the elephant.

"The accused had put up a fence around the orchard with GI wires and had charged it with electric line. The animal, after coming in contact with charged wire, was electrocuted," he said.

Moreover, GI wires have also been seized from the accused person's orchard, he said. "The actual reason behind the death will be clear after we receive the post-mortem and sample testing reports," he added.

Locals, after spotting the tusker carcass had informed the Forest officials alleging it to have died of electrocution.

Notably, the distance between the place where the tusker's body was found, and the Hadagarh elephant sanctuary, is only around five km.



Balasore, June 20: Following Thursday's four-hour relaxation, the Balasore district administration has decided to further relax curfew in the town by two more hours from Friday in order to avoid overcrowding of shops.

Officials said that curfew will be relaxed between 6 am and noon from Friday.

The district administration had relaxed the curfew in the trouble-torn town by four hours - 7 am to 11 am - Thursday following improvement in law and order situation to allow people to buy essentials.

During this period, all shops and commercial establishments were permitted to remain open to allow people to buy items for their daily needs.

Schools and colleges will remain closed for two more days while internet services will remain shut till June 22, district Collector Ashish Thakare said. Landline services have been provided to facilitate urgent works, the Collector added.

SP Sagarika Nath said. The number of arrests might go up as she requested the residents not to take law into their hands and cooperate with police.

As many as 40 platoons of police forces have been deployed in Balasore town and the situation is being monitored closely. All roads connecting Balasore have also been sealed.

According to an order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Balasore, no public gathering or large-scale movement of people was allowed during the curfew relaxation period.

The administration will decide later on whether to extend the curfew in Balasore town.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has appealed to the people to maintain peace. He also asked the district administration to take all measures to restore normalcy in the town.



SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE: Artistes of Uttarsahi Chhau Nrutya Pratisthan perform Chhau dance at Sharada village in Banchhipada panchayat under Baisinga police limits in Mayurbhanj

Another diphtheria patient dies; toll rises to six

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The diphtheria death toll in Odisha rose to six with one more patient undergoing treatment at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur succumbing to the disease, an official said, Thursday.

A 10-year-old boy from Koraput district, who was undergoing treatment at the medical college died Wednesday night, said Suchitra Dash, Principal-cum Superintendent of the medical college and hospital.

Another three diphtheria patients are still under treatment at the medical college, he said.

Earlier five people had died due to diphtheria in Rayagada district over the last one week. Of them, four died at home and one in the hospital, Health officials said.

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | **Central Bank of India** | **G20**

Chander Mukhi, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021/
ଭବନୀ, ଚକ୍ରମ ଗ୍ରହ, ମୁମ୍ବାଇ-୪୦୦୦୨୧,
Ph: 022-66387680, FAX: 022-22044336, Website: www.centralbankofindia.co.in

CORRIGENDUM

RECRUITMENT OF SAFAI KARMACHARI CUM SUB-STAFF AND/ OR SUB-STAFF 2024-25

In the newspaper advertisement published in Orissa Post News paper dated 16.06.2024, Business figures of the Bank be please read as more than Rs.6,00,000 Crore instead of more than Rs.7,00,000 Crore.

MUMBAI
DATE: 18.06.2024
GENERAL MANAGER (HCM)

ଫରୋସନ ପତ୍ର
ପ୍ରଫେକ୍ଟ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ତଥା ପ୍ର-କ୍ଷାତ୍ର ଏକ/କିମ୍ବା
ପ୍ର-କ୍ଷାତ୍ର ୨୦୨୪-୨୫ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି

ଡା.୧୬.୦୬.୨୦୨୪ରୁ ଚୈଦିକ ଉପକ୍ରମଣ ପ୍ରମେୟରେ ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ବିଷୟରେ ବ୍ୟାଠକ ଉପକ୍ରମଣ ୭,୦୦,୦୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାକୁ ଅଧିକ କରିବାର ୭,୦୦,୦୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାକୁ ଅଧିକ ପଢ଼ିବାକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ।
ମୁମ୍ବାଇ
ତାରିଖ: ୧୮.୦୬.୨୦୨୪
ମହାପ୍ରବନ୍ଧକ (ଏଚ୍.ଏମ୍.ଏଚ୍.)

Abridged advertisement (in English) for the position as mentioned below for publication in English Newspapers (National Dailies)

भारतीय प्रद्योगिकी संस्थान खड़गपुर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR

Advt. No.: R/07/2024 dated June 05, 2024

Institute invites online applications from Indian Nationals for the following post:

(i) Professional Trainee (Finance & Accounts) - 10 Posts.

For details regarding educational qualification, age and updates visit : <http://www.iitkgp.ac.in/non-teaching-positions>

CBC-21255/12/0002/2425
कुलसचिव/Registrar

MAN DIES DUE TO SUNSTROKE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharakote, June 20: A man breathed his last Thursday due to suspected sunstroke at Muktapurji village under this police limits in Ganjam district. The deceased has been identified as Kishore Muni, 48, son of Mahendra Muni of Kishore Chandra Palli village.

Officials said that Kishore was returning to his native village when he collapsed on the road and became unconscious. Seeing him lying on the road, locals informed the police. Dharakote IIC Shradhanjali Subudhi rushed to the spot with reinforcements.

Kishore was rushed to local health centre, but doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. They added that he must have breathed his last when he collapsed on the road due to excessive heat and humidity. Police also suspected it to be a heat-related death.

However, the exact reason can only be ascertained once the post-mortem report comes in, added Subudhi.

MONSOON DELAY WORRIES FARMERS IN NAYAGARH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, June 20: Delay in monsoons has affected paddy cultivation and hit farmers hard in this district, sources stated here Thursday. Over 89 per cent of farmlands in the district are yet to be cultivated due to delay in arrival of rains. Farmers said that these days they are frequently witnessing lightning and thunderstorms, but those are not resulting in sufficient rains. The lack of irrigation facilities are worrying them also as they fear that their livelihoods will be affected.

Farmers informed that some of them have sowed paddy seeds, but that is only on 11 per cent of the farmlands. Kabuli Pradhan of Balugaon village said they are waiting for rains to arrive. "There has been erratic rainfall last week, but not in a regular manner, which is so essential for paddy cultivation," he stated.

Pradhan said that a few of them had sowed paddy seeds on dry farmlands expecting rains to arrive soon. "However, it now looks that the seeds have gone to waste," he said.

Other farmers opined that they were expecting rainfall after the 'Raja' festival, but that too has not happened, leaving them frustrated. Rabindra Barad of Raipur village under Nuagaon block said many like him are spending sleepless nights due to delay in arrival of monsoons. "Unless it starts raining we cannot cultivate paddy," he stated.

Abhimanyu Guman Singh of Chakradharprasad village under Bhapur block said that they will incur heavy losses due to the delay in arrival of monsoons. "We don't know when we can sow the paddy seeds. The delay in monsoonal rains has thrown a spanner in our cultivation plans. We cannot cultivate paddy on dry lands," he asserted. His observation was backed by Ganeshwar Mishra of Godipada village under Odagaon block and Gobinda Kahalsingh of Latar village under Ranpur block. "Fear of crop loss is haunting us now," both said.

When contacted, chief district agriculture officer Sanjay Kumar Dalei confirmed the situation. He however, said that paddy seeds are available in stores for farmers. Farmers however, pointed out that there will be no takers for the seeds till the rains arrive.

Drinking water kiosks go dry in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 20: With temperatures in Keonjhar district showing no signs of receding, the scorching heatwave conditions continue to disrupt daily life of people since the past few months.

To give some relief to the suffering mass, the administration had opened its coffers in providing drinking water by setting up a chain of water kiosks in Keonjhar town. However, as these kiosks are running dry since the last 10 days owing to lack of water supply, these measures have failed to bring about any succor to the public.

Sources said that one such kiosk was set up at Keonjhar Daily Market where villagers and forest dwellers from hilly areas come to sell their products. They mostly depended on the water kiosk for



quenching their thirst. Now with the kiosk running dry, their only source of drinking water has vanished.

Same is the case with a series of such kiosks opened at places like the district Collector's office premises, near courts, bus stops etc. All these citizen's facilitation water booths have become de-

funct due to lack of water supply. The residents of the city have demanded an investigation to find out why these kiosks, set up by spending lakhs of rupees, went dry a time when the heat is at its peak.

Sanjay Choudhury, a local businessman, said, "It is really sad to suddenly stop water supply in Keonjhar city though the government has directed the administration to remain vigilant to water supply issues to tackle heatwave conditions."

Similarly, many water tanks are found lying unused on the premises of the district Collector's office, even as several parts of the town are reeling under severe water scarcity.

Sources said that due to lack of rain this year, drinking water supply to different wards has stopped. This has put people to un-

told misery. "There has been no water at the drinking water service centre set up by the Keonjhar municipal corporation near daily market. Common people and traders coming to the city for various jobs, and people coming from distant tribal villages to the market are facing drinking water problems. No one is paying attention to their plight," said Anil Sonkar, a local fruit trader.

Similarly, many expensive trees planted on the divider island of roads for beautification of the city are browning off, or died, due to lack of regular water supply for which environmentalists have raised concerns.

Meanwhile, Executive Officer, Keonjhar municipal corporation, Basant Kumar Sethi said, "Steps are being taken to restore water supply soon".

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender No. G129-CATG-BALU-PF-01
Name of the Work: CATERING STALL THROUGH GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU) ON PLATFORM NO. 1 NEAR DR/RR AT BALUGAON (CATG-B) RAILWAY STATION FOR A PERIOD OF 05 YEARS.
Advertised Value: ₹ 10,92,000/-, EMD: ₹ 54,600/-

(2) Tender No. G129-CATG-GMU-KUR-PF-1
Name of the Work: CATERING STALL THROUGH GENERAL MINOR UNIT ON PLATFORM NO. 1 AT BHUBANESWAR END OF KHURDA ROAD STATION NEAR OLD BOOKING OFFICE.
Advertised Value: ₹ 14,56,000/-, EMD: ₹ 72,800/-

(3) Tender No. G129-CS-GMU-BAM-PF-2
Name of the Work: CATERING STALL THROUGH GENERAL MINOR UNIT (GMU) AT BRAHMAPUR STATION ON PLATFORM NO. 2/3 NEAR BETWEEN PILLAR NO. 8/9.
Advertised Value: ₹ 34,06,000/-, EMD: ₹ 1,70,300/-

Tender document cost: ₹ 2,950/- (for all tenders), Period of Completion: 5 years (for all tenders).

Tender closing date & time: at 1100 hrs. of 10.07.2024 (for all tenders).

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details & tender documents will be available at www.iireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road
PR-22/P/24-25

EAST COAST RAILWAY

No. SDCM/KUR/ATVM Facilitator/III
Date: 13.06.2024

Name of work: APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES & GENERAL PUBLIC FOR ENGAGEMENT OF ATM FACILITATORS ON KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR ISSUING OF UNRESERVED TICKETS THROUGH ATMS @3% BONUS BASIS. APPLICANT SHOULD CLEARLY MENTION THE NAME OF STATION OF HIS/HER CHOICE.

Station Name & No. of ATVM: (1) CUTTACK-5 nos., (2) BRAHMAPUR-3 nos., (3) DHENKANAL-2 nos., (4) JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD-1 no., (5) PARADEEP-1 no., (6) KHURDA ROAD-3 nos., (7) ANGUL-1 no., (8) TALCHER ROAD-1 no., (9) TALCHER-1 no., (10) PALASA-3 nos., (11) SOMPETTA-1 no., (12) ICHCHAPURAM-1 no., (13) CHATRAPUR (CAP)-1 no., (14) KHALIKOT-1 no., (15) BALUGAON-1 no., (16) BHUBANESWAR-8 nos., (17) BHADRAK-1 no., (18) DELANG-1 no., (19) PURLS-5 nos.

No. of facilitators (Three shifts): Sl. No.1:14 nos., Sl. No.2:9 nos., Sl. No.3:5 nos., Sl. No.4:3 nos., Sl. No.5:3 nos., Sl. No.6:7 nos., Sl. No.7:3 nos., Sl. No.8:2 nos., Sl. No.9:1 no., Sl. No.10:5 nos., Sl. No.11:2 nos., Sl. No.12:1 no., Sl. No.13:2 nos., Sl. No.14:2 nos., Sl. No.15:1 no., Sl. No.16:15 nos., Sl. No.17:1 no., Sl. No.18:3 nos., Sl. No.19:10 nos.

Total nos. of ATVMs: 41 nos., Total nos. of facilitators: 89 nos.

Last Date & Time for submission of Application form: Upto 1500 hrs. of 04.07.2024, Opening Date & Time of application form: at 1530 hrs. of 04.07.2024

The application form with detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in - Tenders or can be collected from the office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road in any working day.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road
PR-22/P/24-25

गुमशुदा की तलाश

श्री अंकुश कुमार, आशुलिपिक ग्रेड - II, केन्द्रीय मुमि जल बोर्ड, फरिदाबाद पुत्र स्व. सत्यपाल सिंह निवासी मकान न: 09 न्यु साकेत क्लोनी, राजगढ रोड हिसारा, हरियाणा - 125001, जोकि केन्द्रीय मुमि जल बोर्ड, भू-जल भवन, फरिदाबाद मे कार्यरत है वह दिनांक 27.02.2021 से लापता है, तथा उनके परिवार का पिता नेही है।
अतः यदि श्री अंकुश कुमार के बारे में कोई सुचना मिले तो निम्नलिखित पते पर सुचित करें।
निदेशक प्रशासन
केन्द्रीय मुमि जल बोर्ड
भू-जल भवन, एन एच - IV
फरिदाबाद (हरियाणा) - 121001
फोन न: 0129-2477120, 2477161

SASHI BHUSAN RATH GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S COLLEGE, BERHAMPUR

No.N-23
NOTICE

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW for empanelment of Guest Faculties for various subjects will be conducted for the session 2024-25. For details information visit the college website: www.sbrgautowomenscollege.ac.in

Sd./- PRINCIPAL
OIPR-11149/11/0002/2425

भारतीय खाद्य निगम / FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / REGIONAL OFFICE, BHUBANESWAR

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना / Notice Inviting e-Tenders

सहायक महाप्रबंधक (सीई) भा खा नि, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर निम्नलिखित कार्यो के लिए <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> पर खूब बोली प्रणाली के तहत भारतीय खाद्य निगम को ओर से ऑनलाइन प्रतियोगिता पर निविदाएं आमंत्रित करता है।
The Assistant General Manager (CE) FCI, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar invites on behalf of Food Corporation of India online percentage rate tenders under two bid systems at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for following works.

NIT NO. CE-01/2024-25. Name of Work- Providing Cement Concrete Road along with drains at FSD Balijhori. Estimated Cost Rs. 11,40,05,381/- (Rupees Eleven Crore Forty lakhs Five thousand Three hundred and Eighty one Only). Earnest Money- Rs. 22,80,110/- (Rupees Twenty-two lakhs Eighty thousand One hundred and Ten Only). Period of Completion 365 Days. Last time and date of submission of bid: 11/07/2024 upto 2:00 pm.

NIT NO. CE-02/2024-25. Name of Work- Providing Cement Concrete Road along with drains at FSD Jaleswar. Estimated Cost Rs. 3,55,32,608/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty-five lakhs Thirty two thousand Six hundred and Eight Only). Earnest Money- Rs. 7,10,655/- (Rupees Seven lakhs Ten thousand Six hundred and Fifty-five Only). Period of Completion 270 Days. Last time and date of submission of bid: 11/07/2024 upto 2:00 pm.

NIT NO. CE-03/2024-25. Name of Work- Providing Cement Concrete Road along with drain at FSD Dungiipalli. Estimated Cost Rs. 2,48,92,143/- (Rupees Two crore Forty-eight lakhs Ninety two thousand One hundred and Forty three Only). Earnest Money- Rs. 4,97,845/- (Rupees Four lakhs Ninety-seven thousand Eight hundred and Forty five Only). Period of Completion 180 Days. Last time and date of submission of bid: 11/07/2024 upto 2:00 pm.

बोली प्रपत्र एवं अन्य विवरण www.eprocure.nic.in के वेबसाईट से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.eprocure.nic.in.

नोट: किसी भी विवादित स्थिति में भूल अंग्रेजी पाठ ही मान्य होगा।

Live within; be not shaken by outward happenings.

SRI AUROBINDO



Libertarian Dilemma

The multimillionaire tech investor Balaji Srinivasan made his name as an anti-government crusader in 2013, when he gave a talk about Silicon Valley's "ultimate exit" from the United States - what he called the "Microsoft of nations." Perhaps most memorably, Srinivasan described America's "Paper Belt" - Washington with laws and regulation, Boston with higher education, Los Angeles with entertainment, and New York City with ads and publishing - as the modern-day Rust Belt.

In his view, Silicon Valley was usurping all four cities, previously the centers of power in postwar America, by outpacing regulation, scorning academic prestige, introducing streaming services, and reinventing direct-to-consumer marketing. In the years that followed, Srinivasan doubled down on his techno-libertarian message. He gave prolix speeches about his contempt for government and was combative with his foes, often waxing lyrical about a "network state" or a new kind of polity where all decisions were made through ownership, consent, and contract.

Then, in early 2017, Srinivasan deleted his Twitter history. Where had he gone? It turns out that the federal government had come knocking at his door, seeking his expertise. The newly elected president, Donald Trump, had tapped Srinivasan's friend and fellow libertarian, tech investor Peter Thiel, to help assemble his cabinet, and Srinivasan was under consideration to lead the Food and Drug Administration. Years' worth of strident anti-government pronouncements vanished the moment Srinivasan had a shot at old-fashioned political power.

This was far from an isolated incident. In fact, such hypocrisy is the new norm. In recent years, techno-libertarians have been queuing to attach themselves, remora-like, to the US government. What's happening? Is it simply disingenuousness, or does it reflect some deeper rationale?

The answer has become increasingly clear: leading Silicon Valley techno-libertarians are against the state only insofar as it is not enriching them personally. When faced with the prospect of the government becoming a major client, once-principled opposition to state power dissipates.

One can see this transformation in Thiel himself. In 2009, he declared that "the great task for libertarians is to find an escape from politics in all its forms." But by 2016, Thiel was fully engaged in partisan politics, speaking at the Republican National Convention. In the intervening years, Palantir, the data-analytics firm that he co-founded, has grown into a behemoth, benefiting from huge government contracts. It now draws nearly half its revenue from the public purse.

Another example is Marc Andreessen, a founder of the leading Silicon Valley venture-capital firm Andreessen Horowitz (known as a16z), where Srinivasan was briefly a partner. In October 2023, Andreessen wrote "The Techno-Optimist Manifesto," a much-discussed screed praising the Promethean power of free markets and entrepreneurial technologists. "Government" did not appear once in the 5,000-word text, while the only two mentions of the "state" positioned it as the enemy.

But the state is Andreessen's bread and butter. It paid for the land-grant university where he helped develop the first internet browser. And, as Bloomberg reports, a16z is a familiar face in Washington these days and spends significantly more on lobbying than other venture funds to push its "American Dynamism" initiative, which consists of backing firms that chase government defense, energy, and logistics contracts.

The internal logic of this shift can be explained by one of Thiel's pieces of public writing, which are now few and far between. In 2020, he wrote a new preface to James Dale Davidson and William Rees-Mogg's 1999 book, *The Sovereign Individual: Mastering the Transition to the Information Age*, which envisions the possibility of escape from the state, complete with cyber-currencies and the abandonment of conventional citizenship. Thiel identified two developments that the authors failed to account for: the rise of China and advances in artificial intelligence.

In the Silicon Valley of the 1990s, it was possible to suppress the fact that government funding was behind the biggest breakthroughs, and instead to cultivate the myth of the self-made genius. But the meteoric rise of China in the new millennium suggested that another ingredient was necessary for tech supremacy: a state that was willing to deliver reams of personal information about its citizens. Tesla CEO Elon Musk, like Thiel, was supposedly once opposed to forms of mass surveillance - a position he has since reversed, given his recent trip to China to secure precisely that sort of data.

While Tesla's stock valuation has been sliding, Musk can still rely on the more robust elements of his portfolio: SpaceX, now the primary launcher of US satellites, and Starlink, its satellite internet service that is currently underpinning Ukraine's war effort. These ventures, though, are more a reflection of the traditional military-industrial complex than a radical rethink of the relationship between a gifted cognitive elite and the state, as imagined in *The Sovereign Individual*.

Talk of Silicon Valley's exit from the US was always free-riding by another name, and now it is beginning to reach its ultimate, unvarnished form. Maybe techno-libertarians need a more accurate, if less glamorous, label. After all, they're not forging a mysterious world beyond politics on the far edge of the continent or in the world's oceans, let alone on distant planets, nor are they necessarily accelerating a descent into techno-feudalism. In fact, they're nothing more than techno-contractors, submitting the next invoice to the Paper Belt.

The writer is Professor of International History at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University.
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Music is the highest art and to those who understand, is the highest worship. **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**
- Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything. **PLATO**
- Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent. **VICTOR HUGO**

FOCUS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

ART & SCIENCE OF YOGA

The ancient art and science of healing 'Yoga' is the buzz word in health sector; the world over. Vast upcoming literature and magazines on Yoga are testimony to its growing popularity. Yoga was propounded by Maharshi Patanjali, who collated and fine-tuned its diverse aspects in his 'Yog Sutras'. Yoga practice emanates from the premise that we are all connected with the universal soul. Yoga addresses the physiological, mental, psychological, emotional and spiritual aspects of man resulting in holistic wellbeing of the individual. Lord Shiva is acclaimed as the Adi Yogi i.e. foremost of among Yoga gurus. Lord Krishna was next in row. Yoga works at the systemic level so that its impact is of abiding nature. No wonder, Yoga exercises have been incorporated in daily schedule of leading educational institutions and workplaces worldwide. At a juncture with the epidemic of loneliness looming large, as US Surgeon-General Vivek Murthy has warned, and mental sicknesses growing exponentially, it is time we espouse the Yoga cult of Indian origin in our own interest. Based on many comprehensive studies, last year, AIIMS New Delhi proclaimed, "Yoga not only promotes health but can also prevent the onset of diseases and can be used as an adjunct in the management of diseases."

In Oriental school of thought, keeping healthy is not an end in itself but a modality to attain spiritual enlightenment (Sharirmadyam dharm khalu sadhanam i.e. the body is the first essentiality to achieve the religious objectives). It is one's duty to maintain one's health so that the tasks ordained by God can be served. "To keep the body in good health is your duty," said Lord Buddha. The tenets of Yoga are intertwined with the lifestyle and philosophy advocated by



In the stress-ridden world we live today, Yoga comes as a ready help to enhance mental clarity, reduce anxiety levels, improve attention span, boost mood, induce quality sleep and enhance self-awareness

Ayurveda that has clear guidelines on keeping our body, mind and spirits in order through appropriate food intake, breath control, purity of thought, developing harmony with what Nature warrants, etc. It elaborates on the recommended quality, quantity and nature of food intake and emphasises survival on the minimal food intake, plea for incorporating utmost of local produce in daily diet, the specific posture and temperament to be adopted when ingesting food.

Although Yoga has been in practice by people of various faiths, global attention to espouse Yoga was rekindled after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposal at the UN General Assembly in 2014 to observe 21 June as International Yoga Day to promote global health, amity and peace was supported by an overwhelming majority of 177 member-states.

Yoga is a comprehensive system covering body fitness, and ultimately meditation and mindfulness, a stage when the individual soul is enabled to recognise itself as an integral part of

the universal soul to which it finally merges. The basic tenets of Yoga consist of physical postures including asanas; breathing techniques; meditation; and finally, mindfulness. For many years, AIIMS New Delhi has been conducting studies on the effects of Yoga on disorders of heart, respiratory system, musculo-skeletal system and other ailments, and it has proclaimed that many medical issues can be significantly mitigated via the Yoga route. A recent 6-week study by AIIMS Delhi on the effect of yoga on fertility outcomes concluded that "Yoga is a mind body medicine and results in a significant improvement of both mental and physical health and improvement in all domains of quality of life." It also brought to fore that "Regular Yoga practice with improvement in sperm parameters and improvement in both nuclear and mitochondrial DNA integrity may aid in couples to conceive spontaneously... by reducing incidence of pregnancy losses, implantation failures and significant morbidity and mortality in the off-

spring."

Yogic asanas particularly Surya Namaskar have demonstrated significant benefits in arthritis and bone problems. Anulom-vilom and deep breathing brought immense benefits in asthma and other respiratory disorders. Todasan or tree postures provide enough relief to people with complaint of lower back pain. Uttanasana has shown significant advantages in curbing depression, triangular poses have yielded favourable outcomes in those living with diabetes. Patients of liver, polycystic ovaries and other chronic medical conditions also report satisfaction in Yoga exercises.

The mainstay of Yoga exercises is on controlling the breath. At higher echelons, Yogis are known to survive without breathing for days, weeks, months even longer. The direct, long-term benefits accruing to the Yoga practitioners are multi-fold. In the stress-ridden world we live today, Yoga comes as a ready help to enhance mental clarity, reduce anxiety levels, improve attention span, boost mood, induce quality sleep and enhance self-awareness. It has rejuvenating and renewing impact. Yoga gurus like Tirumalai Krishnamacharya, Swami Sivananda Saraswati, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Swami Rama, BKS Iyengar, Krishna Pattabhi Jois, Paramahansa Yogananda, and most recently Baba Ramdev who have contributed to the richness of the Yoga cult. The Yogashrams in Rishikesh and Pune are being consistently thronged by seekers, mostly foreigners. That many of these are working on commercial lines should not impinge on the advantages we can derive from Yoga. We Indians should not be left behind.

The writer, a freelancer & blogger, writes on health, social, and human interest issues.

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

Human intelligence in era of algorithms

In the ever-evolving landscape of financial markets, the debate surrounding the role of human intervention versus automation has intensified. With the advent of advanced algorithms, artificial intelligence, and 'robo-advisors', there's a growing perception that human involvement in investing is becoming obsolete. However, a closer examination reveals that human intervention remains indispensable, offering unique qualities and insights that algorithms alone cannot replicate. Trust remains the most important thing in financial decision making, whether you trust your own instincts and acumen, human experts or technology itself. Managing one's finances is akin to managing life; one must always maintain a 'balance'.

Algo-trading is a buzz word in the modern investment ecosystem. It means that technology will determine when to buy and when to sell. But how many people are aware of the underlying parameters being used to design the algorithm? Can a retail investor comprehend such unknown mechanism? So, in order to democratise investment to the bottom of the pyramid, financial literacy should precede retail investment at the grassroots level. You need a community centric approach to achieve this goal. Hence India

is still not ready to assimilate the modern investment practices.

The edifice of artificial intelligence and machine learning is based on the quantum and diversity of data fed to the system. Hence the system may not be able to gauge the occurrence of black swan events like tCOVID-19 and geopolitical conflicts. This is the reason why no technology was able to avoid the market crash of 2020 and many such events.

Recently, there was a report stating that the stock recommendations made by Chat-GPT outperformed the top fund managers of the world. But these results occur when the markets behave normally. It will be a herculean task for the technology to predict market aberrations.

Financial institutions in India are very much aware of the indispensable nature of human interaction and connect with their clients and customers. With the advent of technologies like quantitative AI, block chain technology, etc. it is imperative for these institutions to train their workforce to be well versed with the modern technologies in the financial sector. Data analysis using modern technology by the trained workforce will create absolute customer satisfaction. There has to be a harmonious balance between human intelligence and AI, complimenting as well as supple-

menting each other.

One of the most significant contributions of human intervention to investing lies in emotional intelligence and behavioural finance. Human investors can gauge market sentiment, interpret non-verbal cues, and understand the psychology behind market movements. They are adept at recognising patterns, detecting anomalies, and adapting their strategies based on changing market dynamics.

Another parameter to be discussed is the 'ease of onboarding'. In today's scenario, when the internet is filled with over information, gaining superficial knowledge is not that difficult as compared to the previous era, wherein access to data and information was not easy. Most of the middle-class population in India is aware of equity, bonds, and stock market. But, the challenging part is how does one transform the theoretical knowledge into practical applicability.

How does one invest in financial products like stocks, bonds, and mutual funds is the million-dollar question. There are multiple platforms which allow investors to invest in financial products. But the onboarding process involves sharing one's confidential data. Hence to get onboarded onto such digital platforms, one needs a trustworthy

human being to aid the individual. There is no guarantee that the information provided will be safe or not. We have all seen the data privacy issues witnessed in big organisations like Facebook.

While human intervention remains essential in investing, the rise of technology has led to a hybrid approach that combines human expertise with machine intelligence. Advanced algorithms, data analytics, and machine learning algorithms complement human decision-making.

The role of human intervention in investing is far from obsolete; it is, in fact, more critical than ever. As financial markets continue to evolve, the synergy between human expertise and machine intelligence will drive innovation, resilience, and sustainable growth in the investment landscape. Investing is not just about numbers and algorithms; it's about understanding human behaviour, assessing qualitative factors, and making informed decisions that align with investors' goals and values. By embracing human intervention and leveraging the power of technology, investors can navigate the complexities of financial markets.

The writer is the founder and CEO of fintech startup FinCist.



Sourajeet Pradhani

HUMAN INTERVENTION REMAINS INDISPENSABLE, OFFERING UNIQUE QUALITIES AND INSIGHTS THAT ALGORITHMS ALONE CANNOT REPLICATE

Divided dressing room

Sir, Except for the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Pakistan cricket team has never presented a picture of a happy and united dressing room except during the tenure of the irrepressible Imran Khan. After he hung up his boots, Pakistan cricket was never the same again. Although skipper Wasim Akram carried the team to the final of the 1999 One Day International World Cup, team infighting has turned from bad to worse. The Pakistan head coach Garry Kirsten has lamented about the lack of unity in the team after its early exit from the ongoing T20 World Cup. Kirsten's remark that he has not seen such situation in any team as a coach, underscores the mess the team is in. However, what has shocked the game's connoisseurs is the coach's take on the present Pakistan team as lagging "far behind" the skill levels compared to rest of the world. Those who know cricket will vouch for the cricketing talent in Pakistan.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Soul-soothing activity

Sir, There is nothing in the world like the sound of your favorite song coming on, it just gets right into your head and your body and makes you move. Or maybe it takes you on a journey to a faraway place and time, where you languish in a memory of times gone by and people who are no longer present. Some of our favourite songs can lift us up out of depression and worry, and make an otherwise horrible day suddenly seem like it is not so bad. The World Music Day on 21 June celebrates music in all its forms and the impact it has had on the world and the human spirit. The World Music Day needs to be celebrated far and wide without a doubt! The next time you are in a bit of a funk, crank up your favourite song (close your curtains) and dance like nobody is watching. It is a soul soothing activity that should always be your go-to saviour. After all, music is for enjoyment.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

CHESS FOR FREEDOM

Pune jail inmates match wits with FIDE players

The three-day event, organised in collaboration with the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and IndianOil, got underway inside the jail June 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, June 20: A gold medalist team of the Yerwada Central Prison here Thursday played chess with players and officials of FIDE as part of the second 'Chess for Freedom' conference.

The three-day event, organised in collaboration with the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and IndianOil, got underway inside the jail June 19.

Officials and chess players from FIDE and IndianOil interacted with the prison's chess



team and played with them, said an official of the Maharashtra

prisons department. "The idea is to build confidence

among inmates, showing them that they possess valuable skills that can help them live with dignity in society after their release from prison," said the official.

Amitabh Gupta, additional director general (prisons), said similar chess teams would be formed in every prison in Maharashtra, and the inmates, including women, would be encouraged to participate.

Special remission was granted to the members of the gold medalist team of the Yerwada prison as an encouragement, he noted.

Chess was introduced at the

prison as an experiment last year, Gupta said.

"Within a year, it led to the organization of this international conference," he said.

Now, some 200 male and female inmates are learning chess as part of IndianOil's Parivartan program. The prison houses more than 6,500 inmates.

Mikhail Korenman, social commission counselor, FIDE, appreciated the effort.

"We are privileged to start our conference by meeting the winning team," he said.

Heavy rains in Thane; Surya river in spate

THANE CITY HAS RECEIVED 228.93 MM RAINFALL THIS MONSOON SEASON SO FAR COMPARED TO 50.70 MM IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR



casting very heavy showers over the next three hours, Kadam said.

"Due to the heavy rains, the search operations for an excavator and its operator undertaken by various agencies at Sasun Navghar in Palghar have been stopped for now," he said.

The excavator and its operator were buried in a tunnel of an upcoming water project May 29 after the soil there caved-in.

"The neighbouring Thane city and district also experienced heavy downpour overnight," another official said.

The city received 35.51 mm rainfall in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am Thursday, Thane Municipal Corporation's disaster management cell chief Yasin Tadvi said.

There were sporadic incidents of fall of tree branches in the city, he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, June 20: Heavy rains lashed Maharashtra's Thane and neighbouring Palghar districts overnight and authorities issued a 'red alert' for Palghar Thursday morning, predicting very heavy showers, officials said.

"Due to flooding of the Surya river in Palghar, a bridge in Manor was submerged and the movement between Wada and Manor remained affected," district disaster management cell chief Vivekanand Kadam told PTI.

"The high tide further aggravated the situation," he said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a 'red alert' for Palghar at 10 am, fore-

Kelu to replace Radhakrishnan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 20: Mananthavady MLA OR Kelu will be inducted as a minister in the CPI(M)-led LDF government in Kerala, sources said here Thursday.

The 54-year-old CPI(M) leader from the tribal community in Wayanad will replace K Radhakrishnan, who resigned as Minister for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Parliamentary Affairs and Devaswam after being elected to the Lok Sabha from the Alathur seat.

Kelu has been recommended by the CPI(M) state committee to be inducted as a minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF ministry, they said.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) has sought the convenience of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan for the oath-taking ceremony of Kelu Sunday afternoon, sources added.

Although there is a clear indication that Kelu will get the

I have been working closely with the SC/ST community and understand the issues they face. So, the effort will be to carry forward the plans of the party for these communities

OR KELU | MANANTHAVADY MLA

portfolio of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST), sources said that there will be a minor shuffle in the portfolios held by Radhakrishnan.

Addressing the media, Kelu said he does not feel anything special about his roles, as they are decided by the party.

"I have been working closely with the SC/ST community and understand the issues they face. So, the effort will be to carry forward the plans of the party for these communities," he said.

A state committee member of the CPI(M), Kelu said as a minister from Wayanad, issues like the human-animal conflict, a chronic issue in the district, will be given special focus.

Kerala FM asks Opposition UDF to fight for state's rights

The UDF had stayed away from the Left government's demand for a joint protest against the Centre for alleged financial strangulations, citing the Lok Sabha elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 20: Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal Thursday told the Assembly that the state government was yet to pay the social welfare pension for five months and asked the Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) to stand with them to demand the dues from the Centre.

Balagopal, while rejecting the UDF's demand to adjourn the House proceedings and discuss the issue of pending social welfare pensions, said the dues will be cleared soon and the disbursal for the month of June has started.

Moving the motion, MLA PC Vishnunath, said the government says there is no fund to pay for the social welfare pension, but there was enough funds for extravaganzas like Nava Kerala Sadas and other matters.

In his reply, the minister said currently around ₹900 crore per month is being disbursed as social welfare pensions in the state.

"We have already discussed the same matter in the last session. We all know about the financial strangulation by the Central government. In the last three months, four installments



of welfare pensions were disbursed. ₹8,000 has been given to each of the around 60 lakh beneficiaries," Balagopal told the House.

He said the Left government has given pensions for 109 months within the last 96 months, which includes the pending amount from the previous Congress-led UDF government.

Balagopal said the UDF had stayed away from the Left government's demand for a joint protest against the Union Government's alleged financial strangulations, citing the Lok

Sabha elections.

"Now that the elections are over and you (UDF) have won, we would like to know whether you are ready to fight for the rights of the state," Balagopal asked.

He was referring to IUML leader and MLA PK Kunhalikutty's earlier statement that the UDF was staying away from the protest due to the Lok Sabha elections.

Based on the explanation given by Balagopal, the Speaker denied permission for the Opposition's adjournment motion.

Protesting against the denial of permission to adjourn the House, the Opposition staged a walkout.

Leader of Opposition, VD Satheesan, said the Left government had cheated the people by claiming that they would increase the social welfare pension to ₹2,500 from ₹1,600.

"Not only have that you (the Left government) failed to give pensions for the past six months, you have also cheated the people by claiming that the pension will be increased to ₹2,500," he said.

Satheesan said the state government does not have enough money to pay the pensions.

"We will continue to raise our voice for the poor and down-trodden in society. We will continue to fight against the government, which is not prioritising the people and the pension," he added.

MUTHALAPOZHI RESIDENTS PROTEST UNFULFILLED VOWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 20: Frequent accidents and resultant deaths at Muthalapozi here, where the sea meets a river and a lake, prompted the residents of the coastal area Thursday to hold a protest march towards the state assembly carrying a coffin.

Muthalapozi at Perumathura is a place where the Vamanapuram river and Kadinamkulam lake meet the Arabian Sea and has become a death trap for fishermen while going to sea and also when returning to shore.

The protestors, led by the Kerala Latin Catholic Association (KLCA), marched from Palayam here to the Assembly, but the police set up barricades to prevent them from getting close to the state legislature. They then placed the symbolic coffin before the barricades and shouted slogans against the government.

They cited the death of a fisherman during the wee hours of the day while returning to shore after fishing. They also cited a second accident, in which no lives were lost, that occurred at Muthalapozi during the day and said that despite the state government being informed again and again that the area was a death trap, nothing was being done.

The protestors claimed that last year, after the death of four fishermen at Muthalapozi, the state government had promised to fulfil several demands of fishermen and residents of the coastal area.

More than a year has gone by, but the government has not fulfilled even one of the promises, they alleged.



COASTAL TURMOIL

Members of Kerala Latin Catholic Association (KLCA) stage a protest near the Kerala Legislative Assembly over fishermen deaths at Muthalapozi, in Thiruvananthapuram, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

AHMEDNAGAR LS SEAT

Maximum 'burnt EVMs', ECI asked to recheck

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 20: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has received applications from six states for checking/verification of "burnt memory/microcontroller of EVMs" used in the recently held Lok Sabha elections, an official statement said Thursday.

From the six states, the complaints originated from 92 polling stations spread in eight LS seats, including one from Maharashtra's Ahmednagar constituency.

The ECI said that in the Ahmednagar LS seat, there were a total of 40 such instances of burnt mem-

ory/microcontroller of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in all six Assembly segments.

They include - Shrigonda, Parner (10 each), Karjat-Jamkhed, Ahmednagar City, Rahuri and Shevgaon (5 each), totaling to 40. This is the highest among all the eight LS constituencies spread in six states, and Bharatiya Janata Party sitting MP Sujay Vikhe-Patil - who was trounced by Nationalist Congress Party (SP)'s winner Nilesh D. Lanke - has now applied for checking/verification of the concerned (40) EVMs in his constituency.

While Lanke secured

624,797 votes and romped home, Vikhe-Patil polled 595,868 votes and lost, with a margin of 28,929 votes - shocking BJP circles.

The complaints were received as per the Standard Operating Procedures of the ECI announced June 1, said the statement.

Apart from Maharashtra, similar pleas have been received from Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh - 02 EVMs affected), Kanker (Chhattisgarh - 04 EVMs), Faridabad and Karnal (Haryana - 06 EVMs), Vellore and Virudhnagar (Tamil Nadu - 20 EVMs), and Zahirabad (Telangana - 20 EVMs).

<p>Indian Bank</p>	<p>ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR At: Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur - 768003</p>	<p>APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immoveable property)</p>											
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Concerned Branch for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon.</p> <p>The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</p>													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor</th> <th>Amount Payable as on specified date</th> <th>Date of Demand / Possession Notice</th> <th>Description of the Immoveable Property</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ANGUL BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s Swoyam Trading Co. (Proprietorship Firm), At/PO.: Pallahara, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759119 / Proprietor-cum-Mortgagor: Mrs. Snigdha Pattanaik, W/o: Mr. Prabhat Ranjan Mohanty, resides at: Sikhyakpada, Near Siridi Sai Temple, PO/PS.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122 / Guarantor: Mr. Chittaranjan Pradhan, S/o: Mr. Govind Chandra Pradhan, resides at: Rajkishorpara, Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122</td> <td>₹95,29,662/- as on 19.04.2024 + interest and cost thereon</td> <td>20.04.2024 / 20.06.2024</td> <td>All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mrs. Snigdha Pattanaik, W/o: Mr. Prabhat Ranjan Mohanty, At: Sikhyakpada, Near Siridi Sai Temple, PO/PS.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122 having Khata No.: 542/1429, Plot No.: 372/2550/3666, Area: Ac.0.170 Dec, Mouza: Ranigoda Jungle, PS/Tahasil: Angul, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122, Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 372, East: Manorama Mohanty, West: Manorama Mohanty.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAMBALPUR BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s. Bhavya Textiles (Proprietorship Firm), At: Gujarati Colony, Near Ashapali School, Sambalpur-768001, Prop.: Mrs. Komal Murjani, W/o.: Mr. Dipak Kumar Murjani (Borrower/Proprietor), At: Mamata Bhawan, LIC Office, Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004 / Guarantors/ Mortgagors: 1) Sri Prem Murjani, S/o.: Ramesh Chandra Murjani, 2) Madhu Murjani, W/o.: Ajay Murjani, Both are At: Mamata Bhawan, LIC Office, Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004</td> <td>₹2,56,12,318/- as on 05.03.2024 + interest and cost thereon</td> <td>06.03.2024 / 14.06.2024</td> <td>All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mr. Prem Murjani and Mrs. Madhu Murjani, at Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 14, Danipali, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 733/421, having Plot No.: 2117, Area: Ac.0.070 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, Bounded by North: Road, South: Road, East: House of Sriharsa Majhi, West: Road</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immoveable Property	ANGUL BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s Swoyam Trading Co. (Proprietorship Firm), At/PO.: Pallahara, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759119 / Proprietor-cum-Mortgagor: Mrs. Snigdha Pattanaik, W/o: Mr. Prabhat Ranjan Mohanty, resides at: Sikhyakpada, Near Siridi Sai Temple, PO/PS.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122 / Guarantor: Mr. Chittaranjan Pradhan, S/o: Mr. Govind Chandra Pradhan, resides at: Rajkishorpara, Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122	₹95,29,662/- as on 19.04.2024 + interest and cost thereon	20.04.2024 / 20.06.2024	All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mrs. Snigdha Pattanaik, W/o: Mr. Prabhat Ranjan Mohanty, At: Sikhyakpada, Near Siridi Sai Temple, PO/PS.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122 having Khata No.: 542/1429, Plot No.: 372/2550/3666, Area: Ac.0.170 Dec, Mouza: Ranigoda Jungle, PS/Tahasil: Angul, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122, Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 372, East: Manorama Mohanty, West: Manorama Mohanty.	SAMBALPUR BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s. Bhavya Textiles (Proprietorship Firm), At: Gujarati Colony, Near Ashapali School, Sambalpur-768001, Prop.: Mrs. Komal Murjani, W/o.: Mr. Dipak Kumar Murjani (Borrower/Proprietor), At: Mamata Bhawan, LIC Office, Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004 / Guarantors/ Mortgagors: 1) Sri Prem Murjani, S/o.: Ramesh Chandra Murjani, 2) Madhu Murjani, W/o.: Ajay Murjani, Both are At: Mamata Bhawan, LIC Office, Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004	₹2,56,12,318/- as on 05.03.2024 + interest and cost thereon	06.03.2024 / 14.06.2024	All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mr. Prem Murjani and Mrs. Madhu Murjani, at Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 14, Danipali, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 733/421, having Plot No.: 2117, Area: Ac.0.070 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, Bounded by North: Road, South: Road, East: House of Sriharsa Majhi, West: Road	<p>Place: Sambalpur, Date: 20.06.2024</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank</p>
BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immoveable Property										
ANGUL BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s Swoyam Trading Co. (Proprietorship Firm), At/PO.: Pallahara, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759119 / Proprietor-cum-Mortgagor: Mrs. Snigdha Pattanaik, W/o: Mr. Prabhat Ranjan Mohanty, resides at: Sikhyakpada, Near Siridi Sai Temple, PO/PS.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122 / Guarantor: Mr. Chittaranjan Pradhan, S/o: Mr. Govind Chandra Pradhan, resides at: Rajkishorpara, Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122	₹95,29,662/- as on 19.04.2024 + interest and cost thereon	20.04.2024 / 20.06.2024	All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mrs. Snigdha Pattanaik, W/o: Mr. Prabhat Ranjan Mohanty, At: Sikhyakpada, Near Siridi Sai Temple, PO/PS.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122 having Khata No.: 542/1429, Plot No.: 372/2550/3666, Area: Ac.0.170 Dec, Mouza: Ranigoda Jungle, PS/Tahasil: Angul, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122, Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 372, East: Manorama Mohanty, West: Manorama Mohanty.										
SAMBALPUR BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s. Bhavya Textiles (Proprietorship Firm), At: Gujarati Colony, Near Ashapali School, Sambalpur-768001, Prop.: Mrs. Komal Murjani, W/o.: Mr. Dipak Kumar Murjani (Borrower/Proprietor), At: Mamata Bhawan, LIC Office, Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004 / Guarantors/ Mortgagors: 1) Sri Prem Murjani, S/o.: Ramesh Chandra Murjani, 2) Madhu Murjani, W/o.: Ajay Murjani, Both are At: Mamata Bhawan, LIC Office, Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004	₹2,56,12,318/- as on 05.03.2024 + interest and cost thereon	06.03.2024 / 14.06.2024	All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mr. Prem Murjani and Mrs. Madhu Murjani, at Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 14, Danipali, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 733/421, having Plot No.: 2117, Area: Ac.0.070 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, Bounded by North: Road, South: Road, East: House of Sriharsa Majhi, West: Road										

national



New scam in the market in the series of scams! Cancellation of UGC-NET due to compromised integrity of the examinations
BRATYA BASU | WEST BENGAL EDUCATION MINISTER

CRACKDOWN ON CRIMINALS

The Uttar Pradesh Police have once again intensified its crackdown on criminals. Over the past 15 days, after the conclusion of the Lok Sabha polls, police have conducted 79 rapid operations, dealing a significant blow to criminal activities across the state



of the day quote

Under the BJP rule, the paper mafia is rigging every exam, one after the other. This could also be someone's big conspiracy against the country

A vow must be made that no language other than Kannada is spoken in the state. Kannadigas are generous. That is why there is an environment in Karnataka where even those who speak other languages can live without learning Kannada. The same situation cannot be seen in Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Kerala. They speak only in their mother tongue

The state government is committed to providing adequate employment opportunities to the youth in government service. In the coming time, the vacancies will be filled by conducting recruitment examinations in a phased manner

The state government is committed to providing adequate employment opportunities to the youth in government service. In the coming time, the vacancies will be filled by conducting recruitment examinations in a phased manner

40 dead in TN hooch tragedy

The entire Karunapuram locality in Kallakurichi Thursday echoed with the wails of the family members of the victims of illicit arrack that claimed the lives of at least 40 people. About 100 others are undergoing treatment

AGENCIES

Chennai, June 20: The death count in the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district is steadily climbing while those battling for life in the hospitals are complaining of vision problems.

According to reports, the number of persons who have lost their lives consuming the killer drink has touched 40 and over 100 persons are undergoing treatment in various hospitals with many battling for their lives.

Chief Minister MK Stalin Thursday morning announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the 34 families who had lost their loved ones.

In a statement issued here, he also said the government has also appointed a one-man commission under retired High Court Justice B. Gokuldas to look into the issue and recommend measures to prevent such occurrences in the future. He said the orders have been issued to pay ₹10 lakh to the families of the dead and

₹50,000 out of the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to those getting treated in the hospitals.

He said four persons have been arrested in this connection and action will also be taken against those who had supplied methanol for making the illicit liquor.

The CM said the CBCID (Crime Branch-CID) has been asked to investigate the source of methanol. According to him, action has been taken against the police officials concerned and the District Collector has been transferred. Meanwhile, Stalin's son and Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin visited the affected people in the hospital and later distributed the ₹10 lakh compensation to the families who had lost their loved ones.

Meanwhile, AIADMK General Secretary and former Chief Minister K Palaniswami demanded the resignation of Stalin accepting responsibility for the death of several people after consuming the illicit liquor. He alleged that the illicit liquor was being sold in the centre of the Kallakurichi district with the authorities turning a blind eye.

Palaniswami said the party MLA from Kallakurichi M. Senthilkumar had complained to the police about the sale of illicit liquor and had even brought a calling attention motion in the Assembly earlier on the issue. But the DMK government led by Stalin did not do anything, Palaniswami charged.



Firefighters douse a blaze which broke out in the empty coaches of a train parked near Secunderabad railway station in Secunderabad, Telangana

KANCHANJUNGA ACCIDENT

Initial probe blames goods train crew lapses

At least 10 people were killed, including the passenger train's guard and the pilot of the goods train, after it rammed into the stationary Sealdah-bound Kanchanjunga Express in West Bengal's Darjeeling district Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The initial probe into the June 17 Kanchanjunga Express accident has suggested there were lapses by the operating department of the New Jalpaiguri Rail Division and the crew of the goods train that hit the passenger train.

At least 10 people were killed, including the passenger train's guard and the pilot of the goods train after it rammed into the sta-



tionary Sealdah-bound Kanchanjunga Express in West Bengal's Darjeeling district Monday. The collision occurred near Rangapani station, 30 km from New Jalpaiguri station, causing four rear compartments of Kanchanjunga Express to derail due to the impact by the goods train's locomotive at 8.55 am, the official said.

Soon after the accident, Railway Board chairperson Jaya

Varma Sinha said the collision took place because the goods train disregarded the signal. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has started a probe into the cause of the accident.

The railways also set up a probe team of six senior officials who have filed their preliminary report which has been seen by PTI. While five officials have blamed the goods train driver for violating signals as

well as the speed restriction, one has given a dissenting note suggesting that the operating department of the New Jalpaiguri Rail Division failed to take adequate measures to safeguard the route between Ranipatra (RNI) and Chatter Hat Junction (CAT).

The majority view is that the rear-end dashing of the Kanchanjunga Express by the goods train may have occurred due to the failure of the goods train crew (driver, assistant driver and guard) to obey the rule of "passing the automatic signal at danger position" and also "keeping the excessive speed of the train".

In such a situation, the whole section (route between RNI and CAT) should have been converted into an Absolute Block System (a system to allow only one train at a time between RNI and CAT), the official further said referring to the railway rules.

SHORT TAKES

Tillu Tajpuriya gang shooter held

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested an alleged sharpshooter of the Tillu Tajpuriya gang from Rohini following a brief encounter, an officer said Thursday. Sumit had jumped parole in a murder case registered at the Kanjhawla Police Station and was also wanted in another murder case lodged at the Alipur Police Station. Police said he also allegedly murdered an active member of the Gogi gang in April after jumping parole.

Twenty fall ill after eating hostel meal

Agartala: At least 20 students of a government-run Girls' Higher Secondary School fell ill after allegedly consuming meal at a hostel in Tripura. The students were hospitalised after they complained of severe stomachache and chest pain, officials said. A teacher of the Bodhjung Girls' Higher Secondary School here said that the girls suddenly fell ill during the school's prayer session and they were immediately taken to Government-run Govind Ballabh Pant Medical College and Hospital.

NIA searches 19 places in J'khand

New Delhi: The NIA has conducted extensive searches in the last two days at the premises of various suspects of a banned Maoist outfit in Jharkhand, as part of its probe in a case related to the collection of levy by Naxals in the state. These searches were conducted Wednesday and Thursday at 19 different locations spread across Giridih and Bokaro districts of Jharkhand, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said in a statement. The probe agency had registered the case June 30 last year after taking over the investigation from the local police.

Fuel price hike stir: BJP leaders detained

Bengaluru: Several BJP leaders were detained here Thursday as they staged a bicycle rally and tried to go to the Assembly to protest against the recent fuel price hike by the Congress government in Karnataka. BJP state president and MLA, Vijayanendra said, "We are protesting to condemn the hike in petrol and diesel prices in the state."

SNIPPETS

Court extends police custody of Darshan

Bangalore: A Bangalore court Thursday extended police custody of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and three other accused in the Renukaswamy murder case by two days. Dhanaraj, Vinay and Pradosh are the other three whose police custody was extended. Thirteen other accused, including the actor's friend Pavithra Gowda, were remanded to 14 days' judicial custody. A total of 17 people are accused in the murder case. All the accused were produced before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Judge Vishwanath C Goudar as their police custody ended Thursday. According to police sources, Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor, had sent obscene messages to Gowda, which enraged Darshan, allegedly leading to his murder.

Jarange questions govt's intentions

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Activist Manoj Jarange Thursday alleged that the Maharashtra government's stand that inclusion of "sage soyare" term in the Maratha reservation notification will not stand legal scrutiny indicated that it was against such a provision. Speaking to reporters a day before, minister Girish Mahajan had said that Jarange was demanding reservation for 'sage soyare' (those related by birth or marriage) of Marathas who possess the Kumbi caste certificate, but it will not stand legal scrutiny if challenged in the court. "As far as I know, such a reservation cannot be given, but if there is a workable solution, the government will pursue it," the BJP leader had said. Reacting to the statement, Jarange told reporters here that he was firm on his stand that Marathas should get reservation in the Other Backward Class (OBC) category.

AP means Amaravati, Polavaram, says CM Chandrababu Naidu

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu, Thursday visited Amaravati capital region to get first-hand information about the status of the capital's development work and said Andhra Pradesh stands for Amaravati and Polavaram. A week after assuming office as Chief Minister, he went around Amaravati where work on the capital came to a grinding halt in 2019 after the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government decided to develop three state capitals, reversing the decision of the earlier TDP government to build Amaravati as the sole capital. CM Naidu began his visit from Praja Vedika, a building demolished by the previous government headed by Jagan Mohan Reddy in 2019. He saw the debris of the structure built by him close to his official residence when he was the Chief Minister between 2014 and 2019.

77% of Indians want stronger climate action: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Amid a crippling heatwave affecting large parts of India, a new survey released Thursday showed 77 per cent of Indians demand stronger climate action, and 33 per cent have recently experienced extreme weather events. The Peoples' Climate Vote 2024 survey, conducted by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the University of Oxford and GeoPoll, collected responses from over 75,000 people across 77 countries, representing 87 per cent of the global population.

The survey reveals robust support for stronger climate measures among the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters. Majorities in these countries favour increased climate action, including 66 per cent in the US and Russia, 67 per cent in Germany, 73 per cent in China,



77 per cent in South Africa and India, 85 per cent in Brazil, 88 per cent in Iran, and up to 93 per cent in Italy.

Women in five major emitting countries - Australia, Canada, France, Germany, and the US - show even higher support for stronger climate commitments compared to men.

Globally, 72 per cent of respondents support a rapid tran-

sition away from fossil fuels, even among the top producers of oil, coal, or gas. Only 7 per cent globally believe their country should not transition at all. At the United Nations COP28 climate change conference in December last year, world leaders reached a historic agreement to transition away from planet-warming fossil fuels. The survey shows climate anx-

Patna HC strikes down Bihar's quota hike from 50 to 65 pc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 20: In a setback to the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, the Patna High Court Thursday struck down its last year's decision to raise quotas for Dalits, backward classes and tribals from 50 to 65 per cent.

A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran passed the order on a bunch of petitions which had opposed the legislation brought by the state government in November 2023.

The quotas were increased following a comprehensive survey of castes which gave a fresh estimate of the population of SCs, STs, OBCs and extremely backward classes (EBCs) in Bihar.

The Nitish Kumar government November 21 last year issued gazette notifications for raising the quota for deprived castes from 50 to 65 per cent in state government jobs and educational institutions.

"On our plea that the amendments violated Articles 14, 16 and 20 of the Constitution, the court had reserved its judgment in March. Today, the court allowed the petitions," said Ritika Rani, one of the counsels who appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

These articles deal with equality before the law and equal protection of the laws (Art 14), equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment (Art 16) and safeguarding certain rights in criminal proceedings (Art 20).

Another Bangladeshi citizen goes missing in Kolkata amid concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 20: Close on the heels of the disappearance and suspected murder of a Bangladeshi MP in Kolkata, a youth from the neighbouring country, went missing from the city, prompting a police investigation.

According to a senior police officer, 23-year-old Mohammad Delwar Hossain had come to the city for medical treatment and was staying at a hotel on Mirza Ghalib Street in central Kolkata. The management of the hotel concerned revealed that Hossain, who was accompanied by his relatives on his visit to Kolkata, is likely to have sneaked out of the premises late last night.

The incident follows the disappearance and suspected murder of Bangladeshi lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar, who was also in Kolkata for medical reasons and went missing a day after his arrival May 12

The relatives lodged a missing persons complaint with the Park Street police station Thursday morning. "We are currently reviewing CCTV footage from the hotel and nearby areas as part of our investigation," the officer informed PTI.

The incident follows the suspected murder of Bangladeshi lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar, who was also in Kolkata for medical reasons and went missing a day after his arrival May 12. Authorities suspect that Anar was killed by a group of people inside an apartment in the city's New Town area, where his body was reportedly mutilated. As of now, police have apprehended two suspects in connection with Anar's murder.

national

of the day quote

However, solar power, welding, electrification — these curriculums must be taught in the laboratories and once the permanent campus is ready by next year, we shall start these courses as well

Nearly 10 lakh people had written UGC-NET... Will they be compensated? What steps is the government taking to prevent paper leaks in future?

We will mention to the Supreme Court that this election is unconstitutional and illegal and the polls must be stayed

X POST OF THE DAY

27Andhbhakt are vandalizing the houses of Muslims for Slaughtering Cow on Bakra Eid. Meanwhile India is the 2nd Largest Exporter of "BEEF" in the world

SHORT TAKES

Subramani to be next Vice Chief of Army Staff

New Delhi: Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani is set to be the next Vice Chief of Army Staff with the government clearing his appointment to the post, official sources said Thursday.

Atishi to sit on strike from today

New Delhi: Delhi Water Minister Atishi said she will sit on an indefinite hunger strike at Bhogal in south Delhi from Friday noon to press on her demand for getting 100 million gallons of water per day from Haryana.

YouTuber gets K'taka Police notice

Noida: A Noida-based YouTuber was Thursday issued a notice here by the Karnataka Police to join its probe over a video he shot with reference of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in it.



You deserve to be felicitated for it... now time has come that people of Jammu and Kashmir elect its own government through your votes. For that, preparations are being made for holding Assembly elections

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

MID-AIR TRAGEDY AVERTED

A Hyderabad-Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Airlines flight that took off in the early hours of Thursday from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here made a turn around after the pilot noticed a technical snag in the engine mid-air



OPPN ATTACKS GOVT

THE CANCELLATION OF UGC-NET, AMID THE RAGING ROW OVER NEET, LED TO QUESTIONS BEING RAISED OVER NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY'S (NTA) CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT EXAMS OF LARGER MAGNITUDE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: The outcry against alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET grew louder Thursday amid the raging row over NEET, led to questions being raised over National Testing Agency's (NTA) capability to conduct exams of larger magnitude.

The Ministry of Education said it is waiting for a report of Bihar Police's Economic Offences Unit on alleged irregularities in conduct of NEET in Patna and will take further action on basis of that.

The ministry also summoned NTA DG Subodh Kumar Singh to discuss the issue further. The ministry Wednesday cancelled UGC-NET conducted by the NTA following inputs that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held a press conference and launched a scathing attack on the government over the alleged irregularities in NEET and cancellation of UGC-NET and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "psychologically collapsed" post-elections and will struggle to run a government like this.



A policewoman detains a member of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) during a protest outside the residence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET-UG and UGC-NET examinations issue, in New Delhi

RSS and paper leaks will not stop unless that is reversed.

"It was being said Prime Minister Modi stopped the Ukraine-Russia War and Israel-Gaza war, but he is either not able to stop exam paper leaks or doesn't want to," Gandhi said.

He claimed that during his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, thousands complained about paper leaks. "There has been an expansion of idea of Vyapam to rest of country," he said of the recent controversy while referring to the Vyapam examination and recruitment scam in Madhya Pradesh.

"Nothing should be done in arbitrary manner; rules that apply to one paper should apply to another," Gandhi said.

More than two dozen students from different universities and members of various students' groups were detained Thursday while they were protesting against the cancellation of the UGC-NET examination and irregularities in the NEET. The students were detained from outside the Ministry of Education as well as the Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's residence here in central Delhi.

Bihar Dy CM drags Tejayshwi's name

PATNA: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha Thursday claimed that the arrested prime suspect in the NEET "paper leak" is linked to officials associated with RJD leader Tejayshwi Yadav, prompting the party to dismiss the allegation as a "bundle of lies" meant to divert attention from the demand to cancel the May 5 exam.

Centre to take immediate steps to resolve the crisis in the NTA, saying its "repeated incompetence" in conducting exams such as NEET and the UGC-NET cannot be accepted.

Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale said the examination process in the country has crashed and the lives of students are being destroyed. He accused the NTA of being complicit.

Kejriwal gets bail

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: In a huge relief to embattled Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a court here Thursday granted him bail in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge Niyay Bindu also declined the Enforcement Directorate's prayer to keep in abeyance the bail order for 48 hours to allow the central agency to avail legal remedies like moving a superior court in appeal.

The judge ordered Kejriwal's release on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh but imposed certain conditions before granting him the relief, including that he will not try to hamper the investigation or influence the witnesses.

The judge had reserved the order earlier during the day after hearing the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which sought to link Kejriwal to the alleged proceeds of crime and co-accused, and the defence that claimed the prosecution has no evidence to nail the AAP leader.

However, the grant of regular bail to the AAP national convenor will give his Aam Aadmi Party and its allies a stick to beat the Modi government with as, according to Section 45 of the stringent Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), bail can be granted only if the judge is prima facie satisfied that the accused has not committed the offence and that he is unlikely to commit any offence while on bail.

Monsoon advances, covers Vidarbha & Ch'garh

The IMD said conditions were favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Gangetic and sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and east Uttar Pradesh during the next three to four days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Southwest Monsoon started northwards Thursday after a 10-day lull, covering parts of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and large tracts of Vidarbha, bringing relief to the parched regions that were reeling under hot weather conditions.

India Meteorological Department data showed the country has received 17 per cent deficient rainfall than normal this monsoon season - 77 mm as against the normal of 92.8 mm

between June 1 and 20.

"Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Northwest Bay of Bengal, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and some parts of Bihar," the weather office said.

The IMD said conditions were favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Gangetic and sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and east Uttar Pradesh during the next



A groom along with his family members use a boat to reach the wedding venue during floods, at Kamrup in Nagaon district, Assam



three to four days. After reaching the Indian mainland two days earlier than usual and swiftly covering many other states, the rain-bearing system made no significant progress between June 10 and 19, extending the wait for north India, which is reeling from a sweltering heat wave. Since June 1, northwest India has recorded 14.2 mm of rainfall (63 per cent less than nor-

114 heatwave deaths in India

Uttar Pradesh is the worst-affected having reported 37 deaths followed by Bihar, Rajasthan and Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: The unrelenting heatwave sweeping large parts of the country has claimed at least 114 lives and left more than 40,984 people grappling with suspected heatstroke between March 1 and June 18 this year, Health Ministry sources said Thursday.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda Thursday asked officials to visit Central government hospitals to see if separate arrangements have been made for heatwave affected patients regularly.

According to the data, June 19, there have been four deaths due to heatstroke. Swathes of northern and eastern India have been in the grip of a heatwave, increasing heatstroke casualties and prompting the Centre to issue advisory to hospitals to set up special units to cater to such patients.

Nadda Wednesday directed that special heatwave units be set up in all Central government hospitals to cater to those falling ill due to heat.

The health minister also asked officials to ensure all hospitals are prepared for providing the best healthcare to the affected as he reviewed the situation across the country and preparedness of hospitals to deal with it.

Under the directions of Nadda, an advisory for state health department on 'Heat Wave Season 2024' has been issued by the health ministry.

The advisory asked state nodal officers under the National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) to start submitting the daily data on heatstroke cases and deaths and total deaths from March 1 besides reporting under Heat-Related Illness and Death Surveillance.

It called for maintenance of digital line list of heatstroke cases and deaths (suspected/confirmed) at health facility/hos-



pital level in given formats and undertaking. They have been asked to ensure dissemination of National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses (HRI) to all districts and strengthening of health systems preparedness for HRI.

It stressed on dissemination of early warning of heatwaves issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and said forecast for the next four days should be disseminated to health facilities and vulnerable populations.

The advisory also directed for health facility preparedness for prevention and management of severe HRI and procurement and supply of adequate quantities of ORS (oral rehydration solution) packs, essential medicines, IV fluids, ice-packs, and equipment to support management of volume depletion and electrolyte imbalance, etc.

It also called for ensuring availability of sufficient drinking water at all health facilities, general cooling appliances in waiting and patient treatment area and their functioning, and stressed that cases with suspected heatstroke should be rapidly assessed and actively cooled using standard treatment protocols.

Telangana urges Centre to allot coal blocks to singareni without auction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, June 20: The Telangana government Thursday urged the Centre to allocate all the coal blocks located near Singareni Collieries to the state-run mining company without going through the auction process.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the state government would meet Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy, who is also the BJP state chief, with the request. There are also plans to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi with an all-party delegation, he added.

Coal production is now going on in about 40 mines, and about 22 coal mines will have to be closed down by 2032-33 as coal would be exhausted there, he said.

Telangana Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the state government would meet Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy

There are estimates that the coal production would fall to 17.28 million tons by 2060 from the 70 million tons at present, he added. Singareni has to acquire new coal mines in the interest of its future, he said.

Vikramarka's comments urging allotment to Singareni came a day ahead of the launch of auction of the coal mines to be held by the Centre here June 21 for commercial mining.

international



With regard to contact and negotiations between the central government of China and the 14th Dalai Lama, our policy has been consistent and clear. The key is that the 14th Dalai Lama must fundamentally reflect on and thoroughly correct his political views
LIN JIAN | SPOKESMAN AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHINA

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY
Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts came together to observe the International Yoga Day at an event that was addressed by India's Deputy Ambassador to the US Sripriya Ranganathan. The event began with prayers and Indian classical dance performances



of the day quote

I'm truly delighted to be able to make a visit to Britain this time. I would like to reflect on the long history of exchanges fostered between Japan and Britain
NARUHIITO | EMPEROR, JAPAN

We hope to receive positive feedback and be accepted as BRICS member as soon as the next summit to be held in Russia
NIKORNDÉ BALANKURA | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, THAILAND

When people are more or less like you, it's always easier. The new normal should be to welcome all people from everywhere like Ukrainians (were welcomed)
JOHAN FRIESTEDT | EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION AGAINST RACISM AND INTOLERANCE

SHORT TAKES

Klaus drops bid for NATO chief

Brussels: Romania's President has withdrawn from the race to become NATO's next secretary general, leaving outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte all but certain to head the world's biggest military organisation from October. The office of President Klaus Iohannis said in a statement that Romania's Security Council has backed Rutte's bid. It also said that Iohannis had informed NATO late last week that he intended to pull out. His withdrawal removes the last real hurdle Rutte might face.

Abandoned after mishap, PIO dies

New Delhi: The Indian Embassy in Italy has expressed its condolences following the tragic death of an Indian national in the city of Latina, Italy. The worker, identified as Satnam Singh, died Wednesday after being left by the road following an accident that severed his arm. The Indian embassy confirmed that it is coordinating with local authorities and making efforts to reach out to the family to provide consular assistance.

Woman on trial for Ukraine donation

London: A Russian-American woman arrested earlier this year while visiting family in Russia went on trial for alleged treason Thursday after authorities accused her of raising money to send to the Ukrainian army. Karelina, who was born in Russia but had built a new life as an aesthetician at a Los Angeles spa after immigrating to the United States over a decade ago, faces a sentence of 12 years to life in prison if found guilty. Her trial will be held behind closed doors, as is customary in such cases in Russia. Treason acquittals are rare there.

Newly sworn-in MP suspended in SA

Ohanneburg: South Africa's Democratic Alliance (DA) suspended Thursday a newly sworn-in member of parliament after an old video of him calling for the killing of Black people resurfaced on social media. A snippet of a video resurfaced on social media platforms Wednesday, where a young Renaldo Gouws, who is white, could be seen and heard making the anti-Black remarks. In the video, he said that he did not mean any of his racially-charged remarks and that he was giving context on then-African National Congress youth leader Julius Malema singing an apartheid-era song that called for the killing of white farmers.

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

Scorching heat roasts millions

London, June 20: Dangerous heatwaves are scorching cities on four continents as the Northern Hemisphere marks the first day of summer, a sign that climate change may again bring about record-breaking heat that could surpass last summer as the warmest in 2,000 years.

Countries around the Mediterranean have endured another week of blistering high temperatures that have contributed to forest fires from Portugal to Greece and along the northern coast of Africa in Algeria, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth Observatory.

In Serbia, meteorologists forecast temperatures of around 40 degrees Celsius this week as winds from North Africa propelled a hot front across the Balkans. Health authorities declared a red weather alert and advised people not to venture outdoors. Belgrade's emergency service said its doctors intervened 109 times overnight to treat people with heart and chronic health conditions.

In neighbouring Montenegro, where health authorities also warned people to stay in the shade until late afternoon, tens of thousands of tourists sought refreshment on the beaches along its Adriatic coast.



Europe this year has been contending with a spate of dead and missing tourists amid dangerous heat. A 55-year-old American was found dead on the Greek island of Mathraki, police said Monday, the third such tourist death in a week.

Parts of the US Northeast and Midwest are also wilting under a heat dome, with more than 86 million people under a heat alert Thursday, according to the National Weather Service.

Under its heat emergency plan, New York City said it would open its cooling centers for the first time this year.

Meteorological authorities also issued an excessive heat

warning for parts of Arizona, including Phoenix, Thursday, with temperatures expected to reach 45.5 C.

COUNTING THE DEAD

India's summer period lasts from March to May, when monsoons begin slowly sweeping across the country and breaking the heat.

But New Delhi Wednesday registered its warmest night in at least 55 years, with India's Saffarjung Observatory reporting a temperature of 35.2 C at 1 am.

Temperatures normally drop at night, but scientists say climate change is causing nighttime tem-

peratures to rise. In many parts of the world, nights are warming faster than days, according to a 2020 study by the University of Exeter.

CLIMATE CHANGE FUELLING HEAT

Human-caused climate change dialed up the thermostat and turbocharged the odds of this month's killer heat that has been baking the Southwestern United States, Mexico and Central America, a new flash study found. Sizzling daytime temperatures that triggered cases of heat stroke in parts of the United States were 35 times more likely and 1.4 degrees Celsius because of the warming from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, World Weather Attribution, a collection of scientists that run rapid and non-peer reviewed climate attribution studies, calculated Thursday. "It's an oven here; you can't stay here," 82-year-old Margarita Salazar Pérez of Veracruz, Mexico, said in her home with no air conditioning. Last week, the Sonoran Desert hit 51.9 degrees Celsius, the hottest day in Mexican history, according to study co-author Shel Winkley, a meteorologist at Climate Central. Climate change made nighttime temperatures 1.6 degrees Celsius warmer and unusual evening heat 200 more times more likely, she said.

Gang violence in Haiti displaces close to 6L

Over 2,500 people killed or injured across Haiti in the first three months of the year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port Au Prince, June 20: Surging violence in Haiti from clashes with armed gangs since March has displaced nearly 5,800,000 people, according to a new report from the UN migration agency, a sobering figure that underscores the magnitude of the Caribbean nation's crisis.

Haiti has long faced unrest but at the end of February, gangs unleashed coordinated attacks with gunmen taking control of police stations, opening fire on the main international airport that remained closed for nearly three months and stormed Haiti's two biggest prisons.

A report released Tuesday by the International Organisation for Migration said the displacement of more than half a million is mainly due to people fleeing the capital of Port-au-Prince for other provinces, which lack the resources to support them.

In March, the agency reported more than 3,62,000 internally displaced people in Haiti. Since then, the violence has more than doubled the number of internally displaced in the southern region — already ravaged by a 2021 earthquake — from 1,16,000



to 2,70,000.

Nearly all those internally displaced are currently hosted by communities already struggling with overburdened social services and poor infrastructure, raising further concerns about tensions with the potential to spark further violence, the report said.

With more than 2,500 people killed or injured across Haiti in the first three months of the year, Haiti's National Police, understaffed and overwhelmed by gangs with powerful arsenals, has been unable to bring the situation under control.

With the gangs in control of at least 80 per cent of Port-au-Prince and key roads leading to the rest of the country, many are living in makeshift shelters, including schools and learning institutions that are now hosting more than 60,000 people.

The gangs have also been charging fees for those wanting to use the highways or black-mailing drivers to get their hijacked trucks back on the roads, where police presence is scarce.

Israel political, military rift widens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, June 20: The Israeli army's chief spokesman Wednesday appeared to question the stated goal of destroying the Hamas militant group in Gaza in a rare public rift between the country's political and military leadership.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted Israel will pursue the fight against Hamas, the group running the besieged Gaza Strip, until its military and governing capabilities in the Palestinian territory are eliminated. But with the war now in its ninth month, frustration has been mounting with no clear end or postwar plan in sight.

"This business of destroying Hamas, making Hamas disappear — it's simply throwing sand in the eyes of the public," Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, the military spokesperson, told Israel's Channel 13 TV. "Hamas is an idea, Hamas is a party. It's rooted in the hearts of the people —



whoever thinks we can eliminate Hamas is wrong."

Netanyahu's office responded by saying that the country's security Cabinet, chaired by the prime minister, "has defined the destruction of Hamas' military and governing capabilities as one of the goals of the war. The Israeli military, of course, is committed to this."

The military quickly issued a clarification, saying it was "committed to achieving the goals of the war as defined by the Cabinet" and that it has been working on this "throughout the war, day and night, and will continue to do so".

There have already been open signs of discontent over the handling of the war by Netanyahu's government, a coalition that in-

cludes right-wing hard-liners who oppose any kind of settlement with Hamas.

Benny Gantz, a former military chief and centrist politician, withdrew from Netanyahu's war Cabinet earlier this month, citing frustration over the prime minister's conduct of the war. And early this week, Netanyahu expressed displeasure with the army's decision to declare a "tactical pause" in the southern Gaza city of Rafah to help deliver humanitarian aid to the besieged territory. An aide said Netanyahu was caught off guard by the announcement, and Israeli TV stations quoted him as saying "we have a country with an army, not an army with a country".

US, India to expand space collab

INDIA MATTERS

Washington: NASA administrator Bill Nelson has said that the US space agency will expand collaboration with India and it will include a "joint effort" aboard the International Space Station with an Indian astronaut. Nelson's comments came after a fact sheet issued by the US and India after the ICET Dialogue between US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Monday said they were working toward commencing advanced training for ISRO astronauts in the US. "Building on my visit to India last year, NASA continues to further the United States and India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology for the benefit of humanity. Together we are expanding our countries' collaboration in space, to include a joint effort aboard the International Space Station with an ISRO astronaut," Nelson, wrote on X.

Jaishankar, Wickremesinghe formally commission MRCC

Colombo: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday called on Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe here and jointly unveiled the virtual plaque to mark the formal commissioning of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre built with a \$6 million grant from India. Jaishankar arrived here early Thursday, his first visit here in his second consecutive term in office. The two leaders met at the Sri Lankan President's House, the President's Media Division (PMD) said. President Wickremesinghe and Jaishankar jointly unveiled the virtual plaque to mark the formal commissioning of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Sri Lanka under a \$6 million grant from India. This includes a centre at Navy Headquarters in Colombo, a sub-centre in Hambantota and unmanned installations at Galle, Arugambay, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kallarawa, Point Pedro and Mollikulam.

Sunak's party hit with election date betting allegations

MARRED BY CONTROVERSIES, UK'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY FACES FRESH DISPUTE DAYS BEFORE POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 20: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party is facing a series of allegations Thursday involving his bodyguard and aides over betting around the general election date, which is scheduled for July 4.

The Metropolitan Police initially suspended an officer from Sunak's personal security detail and later arrested the individual on suspicion of misconduct in public office.

Soon after, it emerged that the UK's Gambling Commission was investigating several individuals linked to the governing Tories over allegedly betting on the timing of the election. While betting is legal in the UK, any bets placed with the advantage of insider in-

formation could fall within the purview of illegality.

"The matter was immediately referred to officers in the Met's Directorate of Professional Standards, who opened an investigation, and the officer was also removed from operational duties," the Met Police was quoted by the BBC as saying.

"The officer was subsequently arrested Monday 17 June on suspicion of misconduct in public office. He was taken into custody and bailed pending further enquiries," the Met Police said.

Last week, the 'Guardian' newspaper reported that Sunak's close parliamentary aide, Craig Williams, placed a GBP 100 bet with Ladbrokes at a five to one odds on a July election just three days before the British Indian leader had sur-



prised the country with a summer election, as opposed to a widely expected autumn date later in the year. Williams, 39, is the Tory candidate for Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr in Wales. In a statement, he said his "flutter" on the election

had prompted some "routine inquiries" and that he would "fully cooperate with these".

"I don't want it to be a distraction from the campaign. I should have thought through how it looks," he said.

It has since emerged that a

second Conservative candidate, who is married to the party's Director of Campaigns, who would be expected to have knowledge of election matters, is also facing an investigation over allegedly betting on the timing of the general election. While Laura Saunders, the Tory candidate for Bristol North West, is reportedly among those being looked into by the Gambling Commission, her husband Tony Lee is said to have taken "a leave of absence" from his role.

"The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in the in-

terests of consumers and the wider public," a commission spokesperson said.

"Currently, the commission is investigating the possibility of offences concerning the date of the election. This is an ongoing investigation, and the commission cannot provide any further details at this time. We are not confirming or denying the identity of any individuals involved in this investigation," the spokesperson said.

Under Section 42 of the UK's Gambling Act 2005, it is an offence to cheat at gambling or to do anything that allows someone else to cheat. The Conservative Party has said that the Gambling Commission being an independent regulatory body, it would not be "proper to comment further, until any process is concluded".

of the day quote

Wifi is a key to providing affordable connectivity and in India we still continue to lag behind in public wifi penetration in a significant manner despite several efforts made by the government and the operators

ABHAY KARANDIKAR | SECRETARY, DST

We've suggested that since NBFC credit has grown and RBI has flagged over-dependence on banks, allocation of funds from SIDBI and NABARD could increase for refinancing of NBFCs

RAMAN AGGARWAL | DIRECTOR, FIDC

This partnership reflects JSW MG India's commitment to offer innovative EV ownership solutions to augment the adoption of electric vehicles in India

GAURAV GUPTA | CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER, MG MOTOR

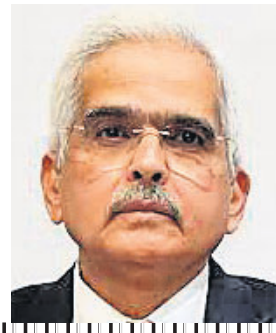
SHORT TAKES

Ola Electric gets Sebi's nod for IPO

New Delhi: Electric two-wheeler company Ola Electric Mobility's proposed ₹5,500 crore IPO has received the go-ahead from Sebi, paving way for the company to tap the market with a significant part of the proceeds to be used on capacity expansion of its cell manufacturing plant and revving up R&D. Ola Electric as well as Bain Capital-backed Emure Pharmaceuticals received Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs), an update with the markets regulator showed Thursday. Ola Electric's proposed IPO is a combination of fresh issue of equity shares up to ₹5,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 9.52 crore equity shares by promoters and investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Contrabands worth ₹3,500cr seized

New Delhi: Revenue Intelligence officers have seized contrabands worth ₹3,500 crore in 2023-24 fiscal, with narcotic drugs and gold seizures constituting a major chunk, a top official said Thursday. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence Principal DG Mohan Kumar Singh said infiltration of supply chains has emerged as a significant challenge in curbing smuggling. Also, growing use of air passenger, courier and postal cargo for smuggling of drugs and other contrabands remains a concern. According to sources, DRI has seized 1,658 kg of gold in 2023-24 fiscal, about 35 per cent more compared to a year ago.



Indian financial system is now in a much stronger position, characterised by robust capital adequacy, low levels of non-performing assets, and healthy profitability of banks and non-banking lenders, that is NBFCs

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

GLOBAL FDI FLOWS SLIP 2% IN '23

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 2% last year to \$1.3 trillion, the UN trade body said Thursday, citing increasing geopolitical tensions amid a slowing global economy. However, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said a return to modest FDI growth in 2024 was possible, citing "the easing of financial conditions and concerted efforts towards investment facilitation"



Indians' funds in Swiss banks dip 70%

FUNDS BY INDIANS AND FIRMS IN BANKS OF SWITZERLAND AT ₹9,771CR OR 1.04BN SWISS FRANCS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

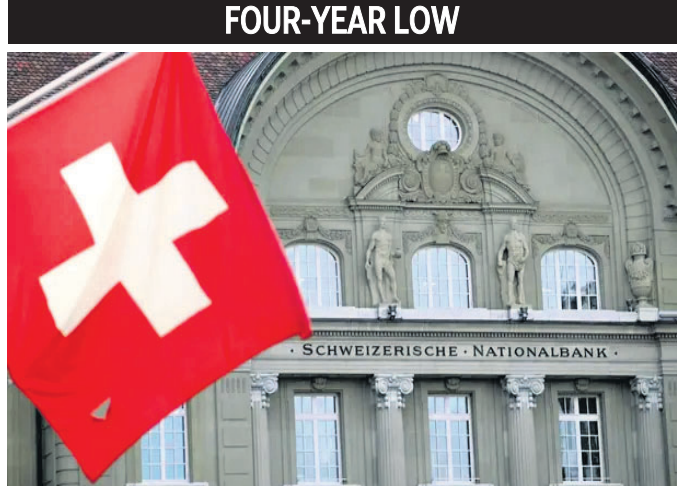
New Delhi, June 20: Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through local branches and other financial institutions, fell sharply by 70 per cent in 2023 to a four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (₹9,771 crore), annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed Thursday.

The decline in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks for the second consecutive year, after hitting a 14-year-high of CHF 3.83 billion in 2021, was largely driven by a sharp plunge in funds held through bonds, securities and various other financial instruments.

Besides, the amount in customer deposit accounts and funds held through other bank branches in India also declined significantly, the data showed.

These are official figures reported by banks to the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland.

These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities.



The total amount of CHF 1,039.8 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients at the end of 2023, included CHF 310 million in customer deposits (down from CHF 394 million at 2022-end), CHF 427 million held via other banks (down from CHF 1,110 million), CHF 10 million (down from CHF 24 million) through fiduciaries or trusts, and CHF 302 million as other amounts due to customers in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments (down from CHF 1,896 million). According to the SNB, its

data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises.

This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities.

On the other hand, the 'locational banking statistics' of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), which have been described in the past by Indian and Swiss authorities as a more reliable measure for deposits by Indian individuals in Swiss banks, showed a de-

The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5bn Swiss Francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2021

cline of nearly 25 per cent during 2023 in such funds to \$70.6 million (Rs 663 crore).

It had dropped by 18 per cent in 2022 and by over 8 per cent in 2021, after rising by nearly 39 per cent in 2020.

This figure takes into account deposits as well as loans of Indian non-bank clients of Swiss-domiciled banks and had shown an increase of 7 per cent in 2019, after declining by 11 per cent in 2018 and by 44 per cent in 2017.

It peaked at over \$2.3 billion (over ₹9,000 crore) at the end of 2007.

Swiss authorities have always maintained that assets held by Indian residents in Switzerland cannot be considered as 'black money' and they actively support India in its fight against tax fraud and evasion.

The overall funds of foreign

clients, including institutions, declined to CHF 983 billion (over ₹92 lakh crore) in 2023, from CHF 1.15 trillion at the end of 2022.

In terms of assets, Indian clients accounted for CHF 1.46 million at the end of 2023, marking a decline of 63 per cent from the previous year and the lowest level in over two decades.

This included dues from Indian customers worth about CHF 188 million, up from CHF 164 million at the end of 2022.

While the UK topped the charts for foreign clients' money in Swiss banks at CHF 254 billion, it was followed by the US (CHF 71 billion) at the second spot and France (CHF 64 billion) at the third place.

These three were followed in the top 10 by West Indies, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore, Luxembourg and Guernsey.

India was placed at 67th place, down from 46th place at the end of 2022.

Pakistan also saw a dip to CHF 286 million (from CHF 388 million), while Bangladesh witnessed a sharp plunge from CHF 55 million to CHF 18 million.

Just like in India, the issue of alleged black money in Swiss banks has been a political hot potato in the two neighbouring countries as well.

EPFO adds record 18.92L net members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added a record 18.92 lakh net members in April, payroll data released Thursday showed.

The addition during the month is the highest since the first payroll data was published in April 2018, a labour ministry statement said. An increase of 31.29 per cent was registered in net member addition during April as compared to March 2024, it stated.

According to the statement, EPFO's provisional payroll data released Thursday highlights that it has added 18.92 lakh net members in April.

Further, the year-on-year analysis reveals a growth of 10 per cent in net member addition.

The surge in membership can be attributed to various factors, including increased employment opportunities, a growing awareness of employee benefits, and the effectiveness of EPFO's outreach programmes, the statement said.

The data indicates that around 8.87 lakh new members have enrolled during April 2024.

The payroll data highlights that about 14.53 lakh members exited and subsequently re-joined EPFO.

A gender-wise analysis of payroll data unveils that out of 8.87 lakh new members, about 2.49 lakh are new female members.

ROBUST FI INFLOWS D-St scales fresh peaks

RALLYING FOR THE SIXTH STRAIGHT SESSION, STABLE GLOBAL CRUDE PRICES EXTENDED SUPPORT TO CAPITAL MARKETS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 20: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty soared to new lifetime highs Thursday, fuelled by intense buying in market heavyweights Reliance, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank amid a recent surge in foreign capital inflows.

Rallying for the sixth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 141.34 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 77,478.93. During the day, it surged 305.5 points or 0.39 per cent to 77,643.09.

As many as 2,282 stocks advanced while 1,571 declined and 128 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The BSE benchmark has jumped 1,022.34 points or 1.33 per cent in the last six days.

The NSE Nifty rose 51 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at its fresh closing high of 23,567. Intra-day, it soared 108 points or 0.45 per cent to 23,624.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Asian Paints were among the biggest gainers.

In contrast, Mahindra &



FIIs have been net buyers in Indian equities for the last three days and have bought ₹12,600 crore, which includes a few large block deals

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD (RETAIL RESEARCH), MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mahindra, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Wipro, State Bank of India and Power Grid were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1 per cent, and the midcap index rallied 0.55 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 1.97 per cent, commodities climbed 1.88 per cent, metal rallied 1.87 per cent, energy surged 0.90 per cent and

industrials (0.50 per cent). Telecommunication, utilities, auto, power and teck were the laggards.

Rising for the fifth straight session Wednesday, the BSE benchmark climbed 36.45 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 77,337.59. However, the Nifty ended at 23,516, down 41.90 points or 0.18 per cent. Intra-day, it rose 106.1 points or 0.45 per cent to 23,664.

₹ falls to record closing low of 83.65 against \$

The Indian rupee fell to a record low Thursday, pressured by likely outflows and strong dollar demand from local importers. The currency declined to a lifetime low of 83.6650 against the US dollar in the latter half of the trading session and ended at a record closing low of 83.6525. It had closed at 83.4550 in the previous session. A stronger dollar, along with weakness in the Chinese yuan, also hurt the rupee, traders said. Its decline below the previous all-time low of 83.5750 triggered stop-losses, exacerbating the fall, a trader at a foreign bank said. The rupee has been hovering around record lows for weeks despite strong growth in the Indian economy, pressured by equity outflows and importers' dollar demand. While foreigners have sold a net of \$2.6 billion of local equities so far in 2024, inflows into the debt markets have been strong at \$7.5 billion ahead of India's inclusion in the JPMorgan Emerging Market bond index at the end of June. RBI, however, has held the rupee in a tight band, preventing sharp appreciation amid inflows and tempering depreciation during times of outflows. That support was largely absent Thursday, allowing the currency to fall, three traders said.

Vedanta leads in wealth creation in FY25 so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: Vedanta Group comprising Vedanta Ltd and Hindustan Zinc Ltd, have generated the maximum wealth for investors on the Dalal Street in the current fiscal so far, with the combined market valuation of both firms surging by ₹2.2 lakh crore.

The market capitalisation of the Vedanta Group surged by over ₹2.2 lakh crore between March 28 and June 20, 2024, according to stock exchange data.

This is higher than the market cap growth witnessed by leading Indian businesses like Reliance Industries, Mahindra Group, and the Tata Group during the same period.

Share prices of Vedanta and Hindustan Zinc have doubled from their 52-week lows, backed by multiple positives, including the proposed demerger, the management's consistent focus on deleveraging, and significant improvement in earnings, as per stock exchange data.

In comparison, Adani and Mahindra groups saw their market cap rise by ₹1.4 lakh crore each.

While Tata Group's market cap rose by over ₹60,600 crore, heavyweight RIL's market valuation declined by more than ₹20,656.14 crore during this period.

India Inc's wishlist for Budget: Lower income tax, higher capex



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 20: India Inc Thursday pitched for lowering income tax burden on common man, increase in capital expenditure, and firm steps to contain food inflation in their nearly two-hour long interaction with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman ahead of the Union Budget.

During pre-Budget consultation with Sitharaman, the industry leaders and associations also urged the government to focus more on infrastructure development with a view to maintaining the economic growth momentum.

The industry leaders also laid stress on boosting the MSME (micro, small, and medium enterprises) sector, considered a backbone of the Indian economy and main employment generator.

President of industry body CII Sanjiv Puri put forth eight points for consideration for the finance minister.

These include relief in in-

come tax at the lower end of income slabs, streamlining of employment linked incentive schemes like Production Linked Incentive (PLI), and promoting ease of doing business. CII also made recommendations for agriculture and rural development.

Recommendations of Ficci centred around capex drive, innovation and tax simplification.

During the meeting, Subhrakant Panda, former Ficci president, made a case for supporting growth momentum by energising demand, laying thrust on infrastructure development, taking further measures to rein in food inflation, supporting MSMEs and prioritising innovation and research and development in the country.

"We touched upon broader issues (like) primarily what can be done to maintain India's growth momentum and impart further impetus to it. So broadly private sector capex is picking up and the numbers are very encouraging in this regard," Panda said.

Another leading industry body Assocham expressed confidence that the Narendra Modi 3.0 government would proceed with a strategic focus on capital expenditure, prioritising investment in infrastructure, education and healthcare in Union Budget for 2024-25.

The full Budget 2024-25 is expected to be presented in Parliament next month.

Record drop witnessed in future unicorns

FUNDING WINTER, REGULATORY ACTIONS BITE STARTUP VALUATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 20: There has been a record drop in the number of future unicorns, with 25 startups slipping out of the list because of funding winter, actions by financial regulators and also a bias towards profitability of ventures, a report said Thursday.

The number of unicorns -- startups valued at over \$1 billion -- slipped by one to 67 in 2023. The unicorns had grown by three to 68 last year, as per the ASK Private Wealth Hurun Indian Future Unicorn Index.

There were "record dropouts" in future unicorns at 25, including five companies valued at over \$500 million that were likely to turn unicorn in

three years (called gazelles) and 20 entities valued at over \$200 million likely to turn unicorn in five years (called cheetahs), the report said.

The country is now home to 67 unicorns, 46 gazelles and 106 cheetahs, as per the list. It also added that there were 38 new entrants to the list, including seven gazelles and 37 cheetahs.

ASK Private Wealth's Chief Executive and Managing Director Rajesh Saluja said the startup valuations were hit by the ongoing funding winter, which has seen a slow-

down in bets as the higher interest rates pulls investors to fixed income.

There were also other issues, including regulatory actions by financial sector watchdogs, which put question marks over some fin-techs' valuations like in the buy now pay later (BNPL) segment and also growing insistence on profitability by the external investors, he said.

Hurun India's Chief Researcher Anas Rahman Junaid said the uneven consumption growth may also have impacted valuations in some cases.

Venture funds are preferring to hold on to cash due to lack of sufficient opportunities, Saluja said, adding that the industry is witnessing only 35-40 per cent of committed amounts being drawn down

for bets on companies by funds.

However, higher play by high net worth and ultra high net worth families has helped minimise the impact of funding winter on the ecosystem, Saluja said, adding that 2023 saw \$8 billion investments in startups as against

\$38 billion earlier. Peak XVPartners continues to be the most active investor in the list with 47 bets, while Anand Chandrasekaran is the leading angel investor with stakes in 20 future unicorns, it said.

The report said 35 Indian future unicorns have overseas headquarters, which includes 31 in the US, two in Singapore, and one each in the UK and Vietnam.

Bangalore continues to be the future unicorn capital of the country, being home to 46 such companies, and is followed by Delhi-NCR at 29 and 19 in Mumbai.

The country is now home to 67 unicorns, 46 gazelles and 106 cheetahs



EMISSIONS RISE

Fossil fuel usage rise 8% in 2023

For the first time, more coal was used in India than Europe, North America combined

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, June 20: Fossil fuel consumption in India rose 8 per cent in 2023, accounting for almost all demand growth, while its share of overall consumption stood at 89 per cent, according to a report.

According to an Energy Institute (EI) report, for the first time, more coal was used in India than Europe and North America combined. EI and co-authors KPMG and Kearney Thursday released the 73rd annual edition of the Statistical Review of World Energy, presenting for the first time full global energy data for 2023.

The report suggests that five key stories emerge from the 2023 data, starting with record global



energy consumption, with coal and oil pushing fossil fuels and their emissions to record levels.

"Global primary energy consumption overall was at a record absolute high, up 2 per cent from the previous year to 620 Exajoules (EJ). Global fossil fuel consumption reached a record high, up 1.5 per cent to 505 EJ (driven by coal up 1.6 per cent, oil up 2 per cent to above 100 million barrels for first time, while gas was flat)," said the report.

As a share of the overall mix they were at 81.5 per cent, marginally down from 82 per cent last year. Emissions from energy increased 2 per cent, exceeding 40 gi-

gatonnes of CO2 for the first time. Solar and wind push global renewable electricity generation to another record level. Renewable generation, excluding hydro, was up 13 per cent to a record global high of 4,748 TWh, it said.

This growth was driven almost entirely by wind and solar and accounted for 74 per cent of all net additional electricity generated.

As a share of primary energy use, renewables (excluding hydro) were at 8 per cent, or 15 per cent, including hydro. Meanwhile, the ongoing Ukraine conflict has cemented gas rebalancing in Europe.

European gas demand fell 7 per cent, following a fall of 13 per cent the previous year. Russia's share of EU gas imports fell to 15 per cent, down from 45 per cent in 2021, with LNG imports outflanking piped gas to Europe for a second year in a row. Dependence on fossil fuels in major advanced economies is likely to have peaked.

SKY, Bumrah derail Afghans

INDIA BEGIN SUPER 8 CAMPAIGN ON A WINNING NOTE AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

AGENCIES

Bridgetown, June 20: Suryakumar Yadav's (53, 28b, 5x4, 3x6) brilliant knock and the Jasprit Bumrah-led bowlers' clinical show helped India defeat Afghanistan by 47 runs and start their Super 8 campaign in the T20 World Cup on a winning note here Thursday. SKY's, as Suryakumar Yadav is popularly known, half century and his partnership of 60 runs for the fifth wicket with Hardik Pandya (32, 24b, 3x4, 2x6) helped India post a competitive score of 181 for eight. Then Bumrah (3/7), Arshdeep Singh (2/36) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/32) worked in tandem to restrict the Afghans to 134 for nine. The two other wickets were shared by Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja.

SKY held the Indian innings together after they were in a bit of discomfort at 90 for the loss of four wickets. Suryakumar was back to his nonchalant best and picked the boundaries at will on a track where the other batters struggled to get going. The other notable contributions came from Rishabh Pant (20, 4x4) and Virat Kohli (24). It was a good omen for India as Kohli looked quite focused in the middle.

Rashid Khan (3/26), who had not picked up a wicket against India prior to this game, struck in his first three overs to put pressure on the opposition. He was well supported by pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi (3/33), who has been having a wonderful World Cup.

Rashid brought himself on right after the power play with India on 47 for one. The star spinner sent back the danger-



Jasprit Bumrah



Suryakumar Yadav

ous Pant in the seventh over. The southpaw once again was not afraid to employ the sweep and audacious reverse sweep against the spinners before eventually falling to Rashid.

After Kohli was caught at long-off in Rashid's second over, India felt the heat. Suryakumar eased the tension with a flurry of sweeps against Rashid before the spinner got his third scalp in the form of Shivam Dube (10), who was trapped in front after

the ball turned back in sharply and crashed into his back leg.

Surya kept finding the big hits from the other end. He outrageously whipped a wide full toss from Azmatullah Omarzai to deep square-leg before a six and four off Farooqi took him to a well made half century.

After Surya's departure, Hardik then got into the act and hammered the ball into the stands on couple of occasions. His straight six off left-

arm spinner Noor Ahmed was all brute power, almost shattering the window of the press box. In the end, India did well to post their highest total at the historic venue.

Brief scores: India 181 for 8 (Suryakumar Yadav 53, Hardik Pandya 32, Rashid Khan 3/26, Fazalhaq Farooqi) beat Afghanistan 134 for 9 (Jasprit Bumrah 3/7, Kuldeep Yadav 2/32, Arshdeep Singh 2/36) by 47 runs.

Salt show sinks Windies



IN BELLIGERENT MOOD: England opener Phil Salt hits out in the game against West Indies, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gros Islet (Saint Lucia), June 20: Opener Phil Salt (87 n o, 47b, 7x4, 5x6) played a belligerent knock as defending champions England began their T20 World Cup Super 8 campaign with a crushing eight-wicket win over co-hosts West Indies here Wednesday. West Indies amassed a competitive 180 for four, but England waltzed to 181 for two in 17.3 overs in their Group 2 match.

Salt led the 'Three Lions' charge with a bruising innings. The right-hander received copious help from Jonny Bairstow (48 n o, 26b, 5x4, 2x6). The two put on an unbeaten 97-run stand for the third wicket to knock the wind out of the West Indies' sails.

But equal amount of credit should be given to the English bowlers for producing as many as 51 dot balls with Jofra Archer (1/34) and Adil Rashid (1/21) accounting for 22 of them in

their tidy spells after Jos Buttler opted to field.

Their win with 15 balls to spare took the net run-rate of England to 1.343, putting them ahead of South Africa who posted a win over tournament co-hosts USA earlier Wednesday.

"That's a really good performance from us, we executed well with both bat and ball. I thought we bowled really well to restrict such a powerful batting line-up, still we had to chase it down, but smart play from us. The partnership between Salt and Bairstow was great," Buttler said after the game.

West Indies skipper Rovman Powell said that they were 15-20 runs short from what they got and it cost them dearly.

"When you look from the batting perspective, we were 15-20 runs short. We could have given

a better display with the ball," Powell said.

Salt made full use of his reprieve by Nicholas Pooran on seven to cart the Windies bowlers around in the company of Bairstow. He killed the contest hitting three sixes and three fours in a 30-run 16th over bowled by Romario Shepherd.

Earlier, Windies got off to a splendid start as Brandon King (23) and Johnson Charles (38) opened with authority. However, they were guilty of not converting their starts. Even Pooran (36) and Powell (36) threw it away when the England bowlers were at their mercy.

Brief scores: West Indies 180 for 4 (Johnson Charles 38) lost to England 181 for 2 in 17.3 overs (Phil Salt 87 n o, Jonny Bairstow 48 n o) by 8 wickets.

Defending champs England canter to 8-wicket win over hosts

SHORT TAKES

FIDE team to visit Chennai today

Chennai: A two-member team of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) will be here Friday as part of their inspection for the World Championship venue. "FIDE's Planning and Development Commission Secretary, Kermen Goryaeva, and FIDE's Head of PR, Anna Volkova, will be on duty for this," sources stated here Thursday. Chennai is one of the three cities, with Delhi and Singapore being the others, that are in the race to host the World Championship encounter from November 20 to December 15, with defending champion Grandmaster Ding Liren of China locking horns with GM Dommaraju Gukesh of India.

Indian-origin Sahil hits fastest T20 ton

Mumbai: India-born Estonia batter Sahil Chauhan has called Rohit Sharma his inspiration after smacking the fastest ever T20 century, which came off a mere 27 balls, against Cyprus. The 32-year-old Chauhan clattered 18 sixes and six fours to make a whirlwind 41-ball 144 not out Monday. He broke the record for the fastest century in all T20 cricket, held by Chris Gayle who had made a 30-ball ton in the IPL, as well as Namibia's Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton's record of fastest T20 International century (off 33 balls). "I've been a big Rohit Sharma fan since I watched him play, he's a brilliant player who doesn't take any pressure," Chauhan was quoted as saying by 'FanCode'.

Murray doubtful for Wimbledon

London: Andy Murray retired from his second round match at Queen's Club because of a back injury Wednesday, raising doubts about what is expected to be his final Wimbledon appearance. The 37-year-old Murray stopped playing while trailing Jordan Thompson 1-4. The two-time Wimbledon champion, who has signalled his intention to retire later this year, said he "wouldn't know" about whether he'll be ready when play starts July 1 at the All England Club.

EB retain Cleiton

Kolkata: East Bengal captain Cleiton Silva has signed a one-year extension that will run until the end of the 2024-25 season, the Super Cup champions announced Thursday. Cleiton was the top-scorer in East Bengal's triumphant Super Cup campaign earlier this year and has scored the most goals for the Red & Golds in the ISL.

Barabati to host India-Eng ODI

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 20: The Barabati Stadium in Cuttack will host the second India-England ODI which will be played February 9, 2025, the BCCI said in a release Thursday. In fact, the BCCI announced the home itinerary of the Indian cricket team who will play five Tests as part of their World Test Championship campaign. The BCCI announced its senior men's team's itinerary from September 19 to February 12.

India will be playing two Tests against Bangladesh at Chennai and Kanpur and will then host New Zealand for a three-match series in Bangalore, Pune and Mumbai.

Apart from these five Tests, India will also play eight T20Is and three ODIs at home. Against Bangladesh, they will play three T20Is while against England there will be a full-fledged series of five T20Is and three ODIs from January 22 to February 12.

In fact, the last ODI against England would conclude 'India Cricket's' (home season) as the team will then leave for Champions Trophy which is expected to be played in 'Hybrid Model' as the Rohit Sharma-led squad is unlikely to travel to Pakistan.

India's home international

Bangladesh		
1st Test:	Chennai	Sept 19-23
2nd Test:	Kanpur	Sept 27-Oct 1
1st T20I:	Dharamsala	Oct 6
2nd T20I:	Delhi	Oct 9
3rd T20I:	Hyderabad	Oct 12
New Zealand		
1st Test:	Bangalore	Oct 16-20
2nd Test:	Pune	Oct 24-28
3rd Test:	Mumbai	Nov 1-5
England		
1st T20I:	Chennai	Jan 22, 2025
2nd T20I:	Kolkata	Jan 25
3rd T20I:	Rajkot	Jan 28
4th T20I:	Pune	Jan 31
5th T20I:	Mumbai	Feb 2
1st ODI:	Nagpur	Feb 6
2nd ODI:	Cuttack	Feb 9
3rd ODI:	Ahmedabad	Feb 12

season starts September 19 in Chennai and the second Test in Kanpur begins September 27. The three T20Is will be played in Dharamsala (October 6), Delhi (October 9) and Hyderabad (October 12).

The New Zealand series starts with opening Test in Bangalore (October 16-20) followed by games in Pune (October 24-28) and

Mumbai (Nov 1-5).

After the series there will be a gap in home assignments as India will embark on a seven-week marathon tour of Australia.

After returning to home soil, India will host England for five ODIs and three T20Is. The five-match T20I series against England starts in Chennai January 22.

Archers zero in on Paris quotas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antalya (Turkey), June 20: Indian recurve archery outfits produced a sloppy show and failed to win a medal in the World Cup Stage 3 here Thursday, but they closed in on Paris Olympics team quotas based on world rankings.

In the Stage 3 competition, Indian women finished fourth while men progressed till the last 16 and now they will have to wait till Monday for the official list based on the rankings to be announced by the World Archery.

The Indian men's team are World No. 2, behind South Korea who have already qualified. The women are No. 8, with the top seven countries (South Korea, China, Germany, France, Mexico, USA and Chinese Taipei) having already secured their quotas from the Qualifiers.

The women's trio of Bhajan, Deepika Kumari and Ankit Bhakat almost assured their qualification, defeating Ukraine 5-3 (53-52, 53-54, 57-54, 53-53) to enter the semifinals. In the semis, they lost to France 4-5 (52-59, 56-57, 58-55, 57-53) (25-28) in the shoot-off. In the bronze medal play-offs, the Indians lost to Japan 0-6 (51-55, 53-54, 53-54).

The men's team of Dhiraj, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav lost to Netherlands 1-5 (58-58, 53-54, 57-58) in the pre-quarterfinals.

Ex-India bowler falls from 4th floor, dies

POLICE SUSPECT IT TO BE A CASE OF SUICIDE

AGENCIES

Bangalore, June 20: Former India pacer David Johnson has died after falling from the balcony of his fourth-floor apartment here and an investigation is being conducted to figure out if it is a case of suicide, a police official said Thursday. He was 52 and is survived by his wife and two children.

As per currently available details, Johnson, who was running a cricket academy near his home, had not been keeping well in recent times. "We were informed that he had fallen from the fourth floor of his apartment building. He was taken to a hospital but the doctors declared him brought dead," a Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) official told this agency.

In his prime, Johnson, who played two Tests and 39 first class matches, was a member of a formidable Karnataka bowling unit that also featured Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad and Dooda Ganesh.

"It is a shocking news as we had played together from our tennis cricket days for a club called 'Jai Karnataka'," Ganesh,



Johnson's long-time friend said.

In fact the entire cricket fraternity in India condoled the death of Johnson. The Indian cricket team wore armbands in honour of former fast bowler in the T20 World Cup game against Afghanistan.

Sachin Tendulkar led the tributes for former India fast bowler describing him as someone who was 'full of life' and 'never gave up on the field'. "Deeply saddened by the passing of my former teammate, David Johnson. He was full of life and never gave up on the field. My thoughts are with his friends and family," Tendulkar wrote on 'X'.

Kumble also paid his tribute on social media. "Saddened to hear the passing of my cricketing colleague David Johnson. Heartfelt condolences," he said.

Eves finish runners-up



POST NESW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 20: The Odisha junior girls (U-18) rugby team finished runners-up in the two-day long National Junior Rugby 7s Championship, which concluded Thursday in Pune. In the final, the Odisha girls lost to Bihar 0-17. The Bihar girls were much superior and dominated the game throughout. Earlier in the semifinals, Odisha

edged out Rajasthan 17-12.

A total of 27 teams, divided into nine groups participated in round robin format with the top team from each group qualifying for the knockouts. Odisha topped Group A, the other teams being Jharkhand and Punjab. Odisha Rugby Football Association secretary Upendra Mohanty congratulated the team and thanked the Odisha government for its support.

Stunning Shaqiri strike saves Swiss

AGENCIES

Cologne, June 20: Switzerland moved within touching distance of a place in the last 16 at Euro 2024 as Xherdan Shaqiri's stunning strike earned a 1-1 draw against Scotland here Wednesday.

Murat Yakin's side trailed to an early Scott McTominay goal that took a hefty deflection off Swiss defender Fabian Schar. But Shaqiri produced one of the goals of the tournament so far as the former Liverpool forward punished Anthony Ralston's woeful backpass with a brilliant curler from 20 yards. With honours even here, the Swiss sit in second place in Group A with four points, two behind Germany after the hosts beat Hungary 2-0 earlier Wednesday.

Switzerland, who defeated Hungary 3-1 in their opener, are not mathematically certain to advance to the knockout stages but they are in a strong position heading into their last game



Xherdan Shaqiri celebrates with teammates after scoring against Scotland in the Euro Championships

PHOTO X

against Germany. "Shaqiri proved tonight (Wednesday) that he lives and breathes for moments like that," Yakin said. "He really de-

serves that magical moment. He did the only thing he could do with that wonderful strike. It's (qualification) is still very open. We will do everything

we can to make it out of the group," he added.

With the best four third-placed teams qualifying for the last 16, Scotland remain in the hunt to reach the knockout rounds of a major tournament for the first time.

Steve Clarke's team restored their pride with a battling display that erased the bitter taste of a wretched 1-5 loss to Germany in the tournament opener.

Scotland have only one victory in their last 11 games, but a historic last 16 berth is still a possibility if they can improve their goal difference with a big win against Hungary.

"It was a good reaction to a disappointing night against Germany," Clarke said. "Heart-breaking moment for Ralston but if it falls to any other Swiss player I don't think they score. I believe if we get three points against Hungary, we'll go to the next stage. We're a good team and we're still alive."