

Determined Pashmina
Actor Pashmina Roshan says she overcame depression and numerous rejections before landing her debut role
LEISURE | P2

SA gets new Prez
South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected by lawmakers for a second term after a historic deal to form a coalition govt
INTERNATIONAL | P10

Electronics sector hit
Escalating tensions between India and China have cost Indian electronics manufacturers ₹1.25 lakh crore in production losses
BUSINESS | P11

First win for NZ
New Zealand put up a clinical performance to notch a consolatory nine-wicket win over minnows Uganda in the T20 World Cup
SPORTS | P12

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SHORT TAKES

Former Guv Bhandare passes away at 95

Bhubaneswar: Former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare passed away at the age of 95, Saturday. He was in charge for six years starting 2007. Expressing his condolence in an X post, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi wrote, "I am deeply saddened to hear about the demise of former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare. His contribution during his tenure as Governor was very significant. I pray for the eternal peace of Bhandare's soul and express my condolences to his family and friends." Governor Raghubar Das also mourned the death.

3 women killed in landslide

Koraput: Three women died after a dump of murrum caved in on them on the banks of Kolab dam in this district, Saturday. The deceased were identified as Purni Badnaik, 18, Sanmati Jani, 17, and Champa Badnayak, 18, of Salmanguda village. The mishap occurred when they went to the hill to dig murrum at Kerenga panchayat under Koraput block. A sudden landslide occurred and the three died after getting buried under the dump.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, none of us cleared our medical entrance in 2024. Why are you asking?

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	37.8°C	38.0°C
Min Temp	27.6°C	27.0°C
Humidity	70%	68%
Rainfall	32mm	Nil

FORECAST
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

CM ALLOCATES PORTFOLIOS

The much-awaited distribution of portfolios in Mohan Majhi government was finalised, with the Chief Minister keeping key departments like Home, Finance, I&PR and Planning and Convergence. His two deputies have been allotted plum ministries like Energy, Agriculture, Mission Shakti and Tourism, among others. Western Odisha strongman Suresh Pujari has also been given the crucial Revenue and Disaster Management portfolio while young leader Suryabanshi Suraj will hold the charge of Higher Education, Sports and Youth Services and Odia Language, Literature and Culture, as per a notification issued by Raj Bhawan, Saturday.

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday allocated portfolios to his Council of Ministers, keeping Home, Finance and several other departments to himself, according to an order issued by the Raj Bhawan. Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo was given the charge of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Energy departments. The other Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, a debutant MLA and the lone female in the 16-member Council of Ministers, has been assigned Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Tourism departments. Majhi was sworn in as the state's first BJP Chief Minister

here Wednesday. The other departments which are also held by the CM are General Administration and Public Grievances, Information and Public Relations, Water Resources and Planning and Convergence. Veteran BJP leader Suresh Pujari was allocated Revenue and Disaster Management, while Rabi Narayan Naik, a farmer leader, was given Rural Development, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water departments. Tribal leader Nityananda Gond got School and Mass Education, ST&SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare, Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities departments, the statement said. While Krushna Chandra Patra

was given Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, Science and Technology departments, Prithviraj Harichandan was allocated portfolios like Law, Works and Excise. Bibhuti Bhusan Jena got Commerce and Transport departments along with Steel and Mines, while Krushna Chandra Mahapatra was given Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprise departments. From among the Ministers of State (Independent Charge), Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia was given Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Labour & Employees' State Insurance while Suryabanshi Suraj, a young engineer, is made the Minister for Higher Education, Sports & Youth Services, Odia Language Literature & Culture departments.

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI (Chief Minister)

- Home
- Finance
- General Admin and Public Grievance
- Information & Public Relations
- Water Resources
- Planning & Convergence

KANAK VARDHAN SINGH DEO (Deputy Chief Minister)

- Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment
- Energy

PRAVATI PARIDA (Deputy Chief Minister)

- Women and Child Development
- Mission Shakti
- Tourism

COMPLETE LIST PAGE-3

Plea in SC to scrap NEET-UG exam

New Delhi, June 15: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking scrapping of the NEET-UG 2024 examination and an apex court-monitored probe by the CBI or any other independent agency into the alleged irregularities in the test held May 5. The petition, filed by 20 students who had appeared for the medical entrance exam, has also sought a direction to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and others to conduct the test afresh. While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024, the apex court Friday had sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam. The fresh plea stated that in view of 'rampant irregularities and fraudulent practices', re-examination would only help in short-listing deserving students to get admission in medical institutions. "Because the sanctity of the examination is questionable in view of the confirmed cases of leakage of question paper, with respect to which FIRs have been lodged and several persons have been arrested, as per the media reports," the plea, drawn by advocate Dheeraj Singh, said.



CAREER AT STAKE: Students clash with security personnel during a protest over the NEET-UG exam issue, in Patna, Saturday

14 tourists killed as vehicle plunges into Alaknanda

Rudraprayag, June 15: Fourteen tourists were killed and 11 injured when a tempo traveller skidded off the road and fell into Alaknanda river in Badrinath national highway in Uttarakhand here Saturday, officials said. Garhwal Inspector General of Police KS Nagnyal said that the victims of the accident were tourists on the way to visit Chopta. Nagnyal said 26 people were in the vehicle and most of them were residents of Delhi. Fourteen people died in the accident, the IG said. On Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's instructions, seven persons seriously injured in the accident have been admitted to AIIMS, Rishikesh through heli-ambulance, while others are being treated at Rudraprayag district hospital, he said. District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the accident happened around 11 am, and police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams rushed to the spot and started relief and rescue operations. He said that the vehicle fell on the banks of Alaknanda river about 250 meters below the road.



Taking to X, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "The road accident in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand is heartbreaking. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones." In a post on X in Hindi, President Droupadi Murmu said, "The news of the death of several people in a road accident in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand is sad. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured." Union Home Minister Amit Shah said: "My condolences are with the families of those who lost their lives in this accident. The local administration and SDRF teams are engaged in relief and rescue work and all possible help is being provided to the injured. I pray to God for the speedy recovery of the injured."

'Hello from the Melodi team'

Bari (Italy), June 15: "Hi friends, from #Melodi", this is how Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni captioned a small selfie video showing her camaraderie with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two leaders met Friday towards the end of Prime Minister Modi's day-long visit to Apulia, southern Italy, during which he thanked the Italian Prime Minister for the invitation to attend the G7 Summit. This was his first foreign visit after assuming charge for a historic third term as the Prime Minister.

The five-second video was shared by Meloni on her X account Saturday. "Hello from the Melodi team," the 47-year-old Italian leader, the country's first woman Prime Minister, said in the video, in which Modi, 73, was seen laughing behind her. Prime Minister Modi re-shared the video and wrote, "Long live India-Italy friendship!" Earlier Saturday, a selfie of the two leaders at the G7 Summit went viral. In December last year, the two leaders had clicked a selfie on the sidelines of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai. Sharing the picture, Meloni wrote in the caption, "Good friends at COP28, #Melodi."

During their bilateral talks here Friday, the two leaders reviewed the progress of the bilateral strategic partnership and agreed to strengthen co-operation in global fora and multilateral initiatives, including the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. "Had a very good meeting with PM @GiorgiaMeloni," Prime Minister Modi wrote on X. "We discussed ways to further cement India-Italy relations in areas like commerce, energy, defence, telecom and more. Our nations will work together in futuristic areas like biofuels, food processing and critical minerals," he said after the meeting.

New Delhi, June 15: The Sahitya Akademi Saturday announced the names of 23 writers including Sanjay Panda from Odisha, who will receive the prestigious Yuva Puraskar across many languages. The National Academy of Letters also announced the names of 24 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2024. Manas Ranjan Samal from Odisha is among the nominees. Panda, a young writer from Balasore will get the Yuva Puraskar for his book *Hu Baia* while Samal will get the honour for his book for children titled *Gapakakali*. The winner of the Yuva Puraskar in Sanskrit will be announced at a later date, the Akademi said in a statement.

Akademi honour for two Odias

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TWAIN PERFORMED FOR DRUNK MEN TO PLEASE HER MOM

Canadian singer-songwriter Shania Twain has revealed that she would get out of bed to sing for drunk men in bars as a kid. The singer said that she did so to make her mother happy, which left her with stage fright for decades, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

GWYNETH LOVES TAKING INTENTIONAL HOLIDAYS

Opening up about her desire for breaks from life, actress Gwyneth Paltrow has said she loves taking intentional holidays. The actress said she loves taking breaks with female friends who find themselves stressing out about their lives and as an antidote to today's capitalistic culture.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You may feel empty, and completely down-and-out today. Ganesh says that this may make you feel a bit more inclined to spirituality. Meditation and prayer will engage more of your attention. You will also make considerable material progress.

TAURUS
You are likely to be in a mood to get away from the daily grind and take a much needed break. You would naturally try to stay free from future concerns and commitments and keep all your woes and worries aside for the day.

GEMINI
Today, you may encounter unusual challenges, says Ganesh. You will come up with new thoughts and tactics, which will bring about positive changes and results. Avoid any confrontation with those living around you. Ganesh advises you to keep your cool during the day.

CANCER
Financially, you may be in a bit of a bother today. Payment of bills, taxes and loans may keep you busy for most part of the day. You may even contemplate borrowing money to meet the demands. However, you are likely to receive one of your pending payments, which will be enough to get you out of the fix.

LEO
Today, Ganesh advises you to keep the Bhagavad Gita's verses in mind, and persist in fulfilling your duties without bothering about the fruits of your labour. Put in some extra effort to finish off whatever you undertake today. Patience bears its fruits and they are always sweet.

VIRGO
You better identify your worth in the realms of emotions, feelings and sentiments. You shall warm up to and about everything - from play to colleagues to family. Simultaneously, you may realise where your limitations are. Ganesh predicts that the artist in you will flourish beginning today.

LIBRA
Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening.

SCORPIO
A creative thought or an innovative idea may spice up your routine work. Apparently, you may seem all worked up and disorganised, but actually you may be quite systematic when it comes to your work. Keep the enthusiasm in you alive to make life happier, tips Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Going to private parties is a high probability today. All in all, make the most of it as you get nostalgic with old friends and make plans with new ones. Moreover, relatives will be pleased to meet you after a long time.

CAPRICORN
Whatever field you are in, your career matters will top your priority list. You will put your personal life on the back burner for a while. This change of places will surely bring you great rewards as your performance will drastically improve and everyone will appreciate your efforts. Credit goes to your family members and well-wishers for believing in you in the toughest of times and supporting you along the way, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Aim. Shoot. Achieve. Today, you will concentrate your energies to execute your plans with precision. Naturally, your work progresses by leaps and bounds. By sundown, you will achieve far more than everyone's estimation.

PISCES
You will have difficulty in interpreting the behaviour of your life partner today. It is better to bring transparency in your relationship rather than to doubt it. Speak freely about your problems and communicate with your spouse.

'Following someone's style doesn't satisfy me'

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Madan, who featured in *HT City Showstoppers*, discussed her unique fashion sense and international acclaim.

She stated, "I've always worn what I wanted, disregarding trends and feeling uneasy when imitating others. Even now, following someone else's style doesn't satisfy me. I express different facets of myself through fashion," shared the *Pataakha* actress.

Madan acknowledged that her style gained attention with *Shiddat*, but it wasn't intentional. She explained, "I enjoyed Sarika's glasses in *Angrezi Medium* and Supri's stole in *Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota*. *Shiddat* was well received, but upping the glamour wasn't the goal." However, she noted that her look in the song 'Chitta' did become trendy. Transitioning from TV to film, the 29-year-old actress found the journey challeng-

ing, admitting, "It was tougher for an outsider. I faced insecurities and setbacks but stayed patient." Her debut film, *MKDNH*, introduced her to film festivals, an unfamiliar territory for someone raised on mainstream Bollywood hits like *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* and *Kal Ho Naa Ho*. She credited directors Vasan Bala, Vishal Bhardwaj, and Homi Adajania for shaping her career. Reflecting on her journey, Madan admitted to struggles with self-doubt and low periods. She remarked, "There are days when getting out of bed is tough, but those times are a gift. They lead to more mature performances, driven by renewed fire and zeal."



Sethupathi goes all praise for SRK

Chennai: Actor Vijay Sethupathi recently spoke about Shah Rukh Khan, his *Jawan* co-star. During an interview with an media agency, the actor called Shah Rukh a great storyteller.

Vijay spoke about the praise Shah Rukh Khan showered on him. The actor also talked about his equation with Shah Rukh during *Jawan's* filming. He further revealed what he learned from the *Dilwale* actor. The actor quoted, "I have been surprised to hear Mr Shah Rukh Khan's voice. He is a great storyteller. His mind is very versatile. I told him in an interview that he is more attractive as a person than a star."

He also said, "I learn something from everyone. What I learned from SRK is that his energy levels never go down. One day, during the shoot, he was unwell, but you just can't figure it out unless he tells you. That's an amazing quality he has. He shared a lot of things about me, which I felt very happy about. Even what Rajinikanth and Vijay have said about me makes me really happy. I felt happy that they noticed so many aspects about me and my performances."

On the work front, Vijay's 50th film, *Maharaja*, was released, June 14. AGENCIES

Pashmina reflects on battling rejection

Mumbai: Hrithik Roshan's cousin, Pashmina Roshan, who is debuting in *Ishq Vishk Rebound*, shared her past struggles with depression and rejection before getting her break.

In an interview with *ANI*, she recalled feeling confused about her acting abilities despite doing theatre in school. She had even applied for marketing courses in the UK, but felt artistically unfulfilled and spent her summer holidays feeling depressed while her friends partied. To explore her potential, she did a photoshoot and showed the pictures to her father and uncle, who encouraged her to refine her skills. She then immersed herself in acting and dance classes, learning Bharatanatyam and other forms. Despite facing numerous rejections and constantly seeking feedback from her family, her perseverance paid off when she finally got the role in *Ishq Vishk Rebound*.

Pashmina also reminisced about visiting the sets of *Koi Mil Gaya* as a child, where her interest in films began. She fondly recalled enjoying the recreated town of Kasauli at the film city and how a dedicated theatre teacher further fueled her passion for acting.



Kat shared secret behind chemistry with Salman

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif shared the secret behind the strong chemistry she shares with Salman Khan.

In an old interview, when asked if Salman is strict or fun on the sets, she quickly responded, "Salman is fantastic on set. He doesn't take himself or anything else too seriously. He lives for his work, and he's also a very generous human being. This combination makes him very amusing for everyone around him. Everyone on set is always entertained."

Katrina mentioned that having Salman around on set always brings a smile to everyone's face. She noted, "The crew is always smiling when he's around. I think now he is very attached to the 'Tiger' character. He knows the world of the movie well and is always ready to create something special in every scene. We had a fantastic time together, especially while working on the *Tiger* franchises."

The actress also highlighted how their relationship has evolved over the years, allowing them to understand and complement each other effortlessly. She explained, "We play off each other; we know each other so well now. We're able to kind of read each other. And I think that shows on-screen, and it makes for great chemistry."

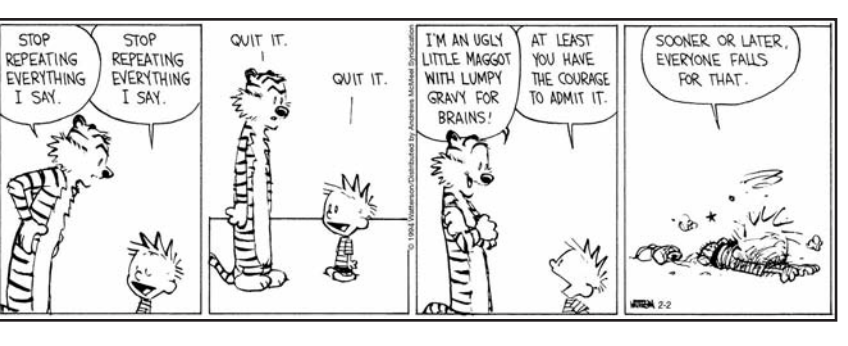
Katrina and Salman have a long history of working together. They have shared the screen in movies like *Maine Pyar Kyun Kiya?*, *Partner*, *Hello*, *Yuvraj*, the *Tiger* franchise, and *Bharat*. AGENCIES



PEANUTS



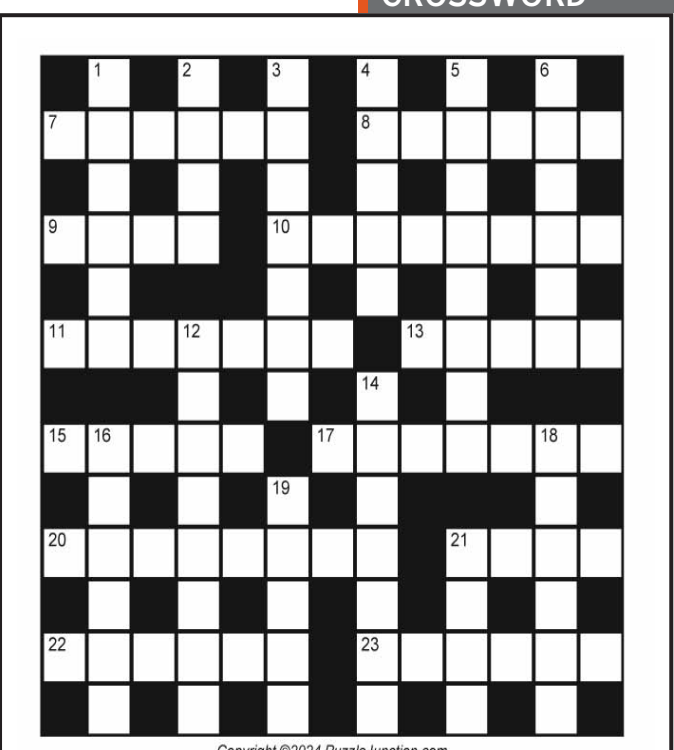
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



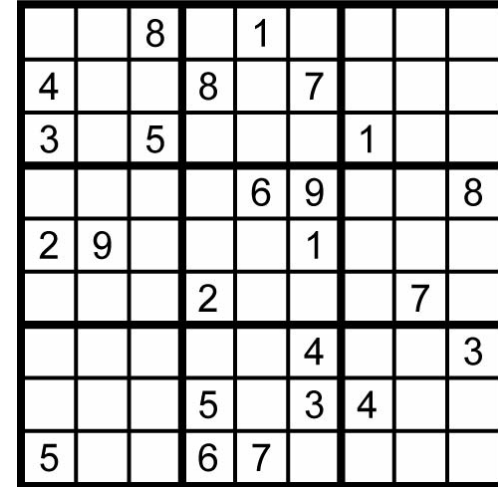
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Quartz variety
 - 8 Detonate
 - 9 Incinerate
 - 10 Like most artists
 - 11 Cheek or chin features
 - 13 Small vascular growth
 - 15 Snivel
 - 17 Merry-making
 - 20 Renounce power
 - 21 Prong
 - 22 Shout of satisfaction
 - 23 ___ d'affaires
 - 4 Monk's home
 - 5 Suspend
 - 6 Q&A study
 - 12 Primitive wind instruments
 - 14 Actress
 - 16 Uproar
 - 18 Weasel out
 - 19 Whitewater craft
 - 21 Natterjack
- Down
- 1 Form of Japanese theatre
 - 2 Dentist's request
 - 3 Leaping insect

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	I	P	C	S	S
U	G	A	N	D	A
E	T	S	A	O	S
A	S	S	E	S	O
R	O	M	C	H	E
O	M	I	N	O	U
S	R	H	I	N	E
O	T	H	S		
R	U	M	B	A	
E	N	R	B	O	
E	T	N	A	U	N
A	H	I	G	M	U
D	I	S	M	A	L
N	A	D	W	P	N

SUDOKU

















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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Artistes perform during an event organised to celebrate Raja festival at Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



downtown

Chief Minister	Dy Chief Ministers	Cabinet Ministers	Ministers of State (Independent Charge)
 <p>Mohan Charan Majhi Home, Finance, General Administration and Public Grievances, Information and Public Relations, Water Resources and Planning and Convergence</p>	 <p>KV Singh Deo Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Energy</p>  <p>Pravati Parida Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Tourism</p>	 <p>Suresh Pujari Revenue and Disaster Management</p>  <p>Rabi Narayan Naik Rural Development, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water</p>  <p>Nityananda Gond School and Mass Education, ST&SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare, Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities</p>  <p>Dr Mukesh Mahaling Health and Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs, Electronics & Information Technology</p>  <p>Prithviraj Harichandan Law, Works and Excise</p>  <p>Dr Krishna Ch Mahapatra Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprises</p>  <p>Dr Krishna Ch Patra Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, Science and Technology</p>  <p>Bibhuti Bhusan Jena Commerce and Transport, Steel and Mines</p>	 <p>Gokulananda Mallik Fisheries & Animal Resources Development and MSME</p>  <p>Suryabanshi Suraj Higher Education, Sports & Youth Services, Odia Language Literature & Culture</p>  <p>Sampad Chanran Swain Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education</p>  <p>Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Labour & Employees State Insurance</p>  <p>Pradeep Bal Samanta Co-operation, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts</p>

CM to cops: Listen to people's grievances



Bhubaneswar, June 15: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday asked the police to listen to the grievances of the people.

The CM's direction came during his meeting with the state police top brass, including Director General of Police (DGP) Arun Kumar Sarangi, to review the law and order situation in the state.

"The Chief Minister has instructed us to provide quality services and listen to the grievances of people coming to police stations," Sarangi told reporters after emerging from the meeting.

Majhi's direction assumes considerable significance in the backdrop of repeated allegations of highhandedness and lack of empathy by officials towards aggrieved citizens visiting police stations to seek justice.

The DGP meanwhile, said the Chief Minister was apprised of several law and order issues and the functioning of the police force in the state.

Apart from Sarangi, additional director generals (ADGs) Sanjay Kumar, RK Sharma, Arun Bothra and Amitabh Thakur and several other officers were present in the meeting.

Significantly, the meeting took place a day after the DGP spoke about the state police's preparations to implement the new criminal laws, July 1 when they come into force.

"The three laws, enacted in 2023, will be implemented July 1. Accordingly, we are making preparations for it. There are many provisions in the new laws requiring notifications which will be issued by the state government. The preparations had slowed down a little for the elections, but we are now expediting it. All police personnel are being trained for this purpose," Sarangi said Friday.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023; and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023, are going to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860; the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

Flesh-eating bacteria spreading in Japan

New York, June 15: A disease caused by a rare 'flesh-eating bacteria' that can kill people within 48 hours is spreading in Japan after the country relaxed Covid-era restrictions.

Cases of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) reached 977 this year by June 2, higher than the record 941 cases reported for all of last year, according to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, which has been tracking incidences of the disease since 1999.

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) typically causes swelling and sore throat in children known as 'strep throat,' but some types of the bacteria can lead to symptoms developing rapidly, including limb pain and swelling, fever, low blood pressure, that can be followed by necrosis, breathing problems, organ failure and death. People over 50 are more prone to the disease.

"Most of the deaths happen within 48 hours," said Ken Kikuchi, a professor in infectious diseases at Tokyo Women's Medical University. "As soon as a patient notices swelling in the foot in the morning, it can expand to the knee by noon, and they can die within 48 hours." Other countries have experienced recent outbreaks. In late 2022 at least five European nations reported to the World Health Organization an increase in cases of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) disease, which includes STSS. The WHO said the rise in cases followed the end of Covid restrictions.

Bodies of two Kuwait fire victims brought to village

Bhubaneswar, June 15: The mortal remains of two persons from Odisha, who died in the Kuwait fire incident, reached their native villages for the last rites, Saturday.

Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida received the bodies of Muhammad Jahur and Santosh Kumar Gouda at Biju Patnaik International Airport here and paid floral tributes.

The bodies were later taken to their native villages where their family members would perform the last rites.

Expressing condolences to the bereaved families, Singh Deo said that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced an ex-gratia compensation of ₹4 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased. Parida said, "It is extremely sad that two very young Odias, who went to another country for their livelihood, lost their lives in the devastating fire incident. This might cause fear among Odias residing in other countries. But, I want to convey that our government is always there and will be there for every Odia."

Pro-tem Speaker Ranendra Pratap Swain, minister Prithviraj Harichandan and Health Secretary Shalini Pandit also paid tributes to departed souls.

Gouda hailed from Ranajhalli village in Purosottampur block of Ganjam district, while Jahur was a native of Karadapalli village under Tigiria police limits in Cuttack district.

They were working for a private company and residing in the seven-storey apartment building in Mangaf in southern Kuwait where the fire broke out early Wednesday morning.

Jahur's family members said he was married for only two years and his wife was seven-month pregnant. He had been working in Kuwait since 2017 and had visited his village only a month ago.





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- Pressure Tactics-** Fraudsters impersonating as Customs/Police/CBI officials demand payment of Customs duty/clearance fees for packages/gifts which are received from a foreign country and supposedly require Customs clearance. Target individuals are asked to make payments for the release of their goods.
- Demand of Money-** Targeted persons are informed that their package has been seized by Customs due to illegal contents (such as, drugs/foreign currency/fake passport/contraband items) or violations of Customs regulations. Fraudsters threaten legal action or fines and demands payment to resolve the issue.

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Duo held for killing friend



DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 15: The Chandaka police here, Saturday, claimed to have arrested two men on the charges of strangulating their friend to death over a trivial issue.

IIC of Chandaka police, Pradeep Kumar Jena said the deceased has been identified as Sushant Kumar Tudu, a student of the Nalanda Institute of Technology, here. The accused duo Rajendra Hansda, 29, and Mohan Marandi, 32, both residents of Kanakdurga Sahi, are found to be close friends of deceased Sushant, Jena added.

Giving more details, IIC Jena said on the fateful day of June 11, Tuesday, the trio planned to consume country liquor at Chodangagada in Chandaka forest. While they were heading to the destination, Sushant's scooter ran out of petrol in an isolated area. This left the trio stranded in the middle of the forest. As Hansda and Marandi got livid over the sudden inconvenience, an altercation broke out between them. In a sudden fit of the rage, the duo took out the gamcha and stran-

The accused duo Rajendra Hansda, 29, and Mohan Marandi, 32, both residents of Kanakdurga Sahi, are found to be close friends of deceased Sushant Kumar Tudu

gulated Sushant to death. In a bid to avoid any suspicion, they disposed of Sushant's body in the forest and parked the scooter in a nearby area.

A day later Sushant's body was found out by the locals after his parents failed to establish contact with him, said IIC Jena, adding that the cops, however, arrested the duo after the CCTV footages of the nearby area was scanned.

During investigation, the cops found inconsistencies in the duo's statement which confirmed their involvement in the crime, Jena said.

The Chandaka police have booked the duo under Sections 302, 201 and 34 of IPC and have

Cops arrest chain-snatchers

Bhubaneswar: The Badagada police here arrested three miscreants for allegedly looting a woman's gold chain near the Megheswar Temple area Saturday.

Seven gold chains, one mobile phone and a motorcycle have been seized from the possession of the accused, said a senior cop at the police station.

IIC Trupti Ranjan Nayak said the accused were identified as Pabi Prasad Sahoo and Sudhakar Mohapatra, both aged 34 years, and Suresh Kumar Bhoi, 36. They are native of Govindpur village under Cuttack district. The miscreants had been booked earlier in criminal cases.

According to IIC Nayak, the complainant woman was returning to her home in a scooter, June 7, when the trio followed her with a bike, and snatched her gold chain near Megheswar temple area. She lodged a case at the Badagada police station. The cops, later, launched an investigation into the case and arrested the accused.

According to preliminary investigations, miscreants sold the ornaments at a shop in their area.

The Badagada police have booked the trio under Sections 392 and 34 of IPC and have produced them before a local court Friday.

produced them before a local court Saturday.



AT LORD'S ABODE: Devotees form long queue for 'darshan' of deities in front of Srimandir, Saturday

OP PHOTO

MoU inked to boost research on semiconductors

The collaboration between IIT-Bhubaneswar and SiCSem Private Limited will contribute significantly in line with India Semiconductor Mission, Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar signed a

Memorandum of Agreement with SiCSem Private Limited for collaborative research in the field of compound semiconductors here, Saturday.

The foremost project to be carried under the agreement is to indigenise Silicon Carbide (SiC) crystal growth at IIT-Bhubaneswar. Estimated at a cost of ₹45 crore, this project would solve the basics of high volume production of 150mm and 200mm SiC wafers.

Director of IIT-Bhubaneswar Shreepad Karmalkar said, "The



collaboration will promote innovation and self-reliance in SiC crystal growth, and will represent a major industry-academia

partnership for the university. The collaboration will contribute significantly in line with India Semiconductor Mission, Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives."

SiCSem Private Limited plans to establish a SiC process fabrication and ATMP plant in the state. This will help the state to become self-sufficient in power semiconductor devices for advanced technologies such as electric vehicles (EVs), fast chargers, green energy, PV inverters, motor controls, and beyond 5G communications.

Symposium on wildlife grant at NZP June 18

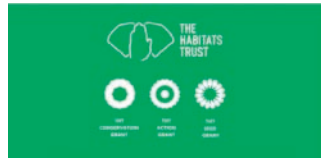
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: The Habitats Trust (THT), a non-profit organisation dedicated to the protection and conservation of natural habitats and native species, is set to organise its grants symposium at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) in the City June 18.

THT will address queries of the conservationists and help them in refining and strengthening their proposals for seeking institutional support.

"Odisha, characterised by diverse coastal and forest habitats, is pivotal for biodiversity conservation. It is home to Asia's largest brackish water lake, Chilika, renowned for harbouring critically endangered Irrawaddy Dolphins and also hosts the mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles. Its varied ecosystem makes the state essential for conservation and protection of these species," said Rushikesh Chavan, head of the THT.

"However, rapid urbanisation and development have posed significant threats to this region. This symposium is essential for local organisations to identify and



The Habitats Trust will address queries of the conservationists and help them in refining and strengthening their proposals for seeking institutional support

address regional conservation issues, equipping them with the skills to write effective proposals and secure funding to tackle these challenges."

THT's application portal for its annual THT Grants will remain open till July 1 and can be accessed at <https://www.thehabitats.org>. The grants, worth ₹2.75 crores, aims to support holistic, innovative, and replicable projects dedicated to the conservation of India's endangered wildlife and natural habitats.

'Govt to ensure competition among corporates not stifled'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Congress Saturday said it is the government's responsibility to ensure that competition among corporates is not stifled, oligopolies or monopolies do not emerge and corporate takeovers are free and fair.

It is also the government's responsibility to ensure that undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said.

His comments came after the Adani Group acquired Penna Cements while strengthening its share in the cement sector in southern India.

"Aap chronology samajhiye (understand the chronology): September 2022: Adani acquires Ambuja Cements and ACC, to become country's second largest cement player. August 2023: Adani acquires Sanghi Industries, India's largest single-location cement unit. June 2024: Adani acquires Penna Cements, giving it substantial market share even in the last remaining region of South India," he said.



It is also the government's responsibility to ensure that undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised

JAIRAM RAMESH | GENERAL SECRETARY, INC

"Adani is exploring the acquisition of Saurashtra Cement, Vadraj Cement, and the cement business of Jaiprakash Associates," Ramesh claimed in a post on X.

Quoting former RBI deputy governor Viral Acharya, he said the noted financial economist had established that the five big conglomerates, including the Adani Group are building monopolies in 40 sectors, includ-

ing in the cement sector. "This growing monopolisation is linked to India's shaky economic growth, unemployment crisis, and high inflation. In 2015, when a common man used to spend ₹100 on goods, ₹18 would go as profit to the business owner. In 2021, the owner now gets ₹36 in profits," Ramesh claimed.

"Firms must grow. Companies must expand. But at the same time, the government has a responsibility to ensure competition is not stifled, oligopolies or monopolies do not emerge, takeovers are free and fair, and undue advantage arising out of access to political power is not exercised," the Congress leader said in his post.

'Arrogance, pride crushed into dust'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 15: Hailing the Lok Sabha elections as that of 'protest, resistance and revenge', senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee said the poll results have "crushed BJP's arrogance and pride into dust".

He also accused the saffron party of "abusing central agencies, corrupting the judiciary, gagging the media and manipulating the Election Commission to cling to power".

In a Facebook post late Friday night after meeting party workers and common people in his Diamond Harbour constituency, from where he was re-elected by a record margin of over 7 lakh votes, the TMC national general secretary said that the 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be etched in golden letters in history as 'jonogoner gorjon' (people's roar).

"The 'jonogoner gorjon' (people's roar) will be etched in golden letters in the history. This Lok Sabha election was one of 'protibhad, protirodh and protirodh' (protest, resistance and revenge). BJP's arrogance, pride,

and backbone have been crushed into dust," he said.

Although the BJP-led NDA returned to power for a third consecutive term, the saffron party failed to secure a majority on its own, and has to rely on the support of key allies Telugu Desam Party and JD (U) for continuance in power.

On the TMC's performance in West Bengal, where it bagged 29 of the 42 seats, improving its tally by seven seats as compared to the 2019 polls, Banerjee, the de facto number two in the party, said, "Bengal and the country witnessed a new dawn June 4."

He thanked the people of Diamond Harbour for giving him a huge mandate.

"Your support and prayers have bound me in a debt of love, a debt I vow to repay with transformative development," he said.

He also accused the BJP of uprooting the democratic rights of the people. Banerjee, who has been interrogated by central agencies several times in the past in connection with alleged coal and cattle scams, slammed the Narendra Modi government of "abusing central agencies".

Initiative to celebrate entrepreneurial spirit

Cuttack: PNV Foundation announced the launch of its 'Udyami Odia-Made in Odisha' on the auspicious occasion of Raja Mahostav at Cuttack Club here, Saturday. The initiative aims to recognise entrepreneurs and businessmen in PR, entertainment business, events and mentoring programmes, who have created employment opportunities, economic value and a credible business ecosystem in the state. "PNV Foundation has partnered with TIE, Rotary Club, Cuttack Club, Prelude, My City Links and MoTv. We hope to garner more partners and entrepreneurs to make this initiative sustainable and successful," said PNV Group director Satyabrata Ratho.

People with bipolar disorder can find happiness in life

Mood changes, even momentary ones, could profoundly heighten the brain's response to pleasure in people having bipolar disorder, according to a research.

People having this mental condition, marked by extreme shifts in moods and energy levels, are more prone to this 'mood bias' - the term researchers used for when one's good mood tends to make them view everything more favourably and hence "gain momentum" in mood.

"Imagine going to a new restaurant for the first time. If you happen to be in a fantastic mood, you're likely to perceive the experience as being even better than it actually is," said Liam Mason, University College

London's Psychology and Language Sciences, co-lead author of the study published in the journal Biological Psychiatry Global Open Science.

The findings could help understand why people with bipolar disorder get stuck in a "vicious cycle" in which their mood escalates, sometimes making them take bigger risks than usual, the researchers said.

For the study, the researchers scanned the brains of participants while playing a computerised version of the Roulette game - 21 of them with bipolar disorder and 21 without. Playing the game involves making a gamble as to which compartment of a revolving wheel a small ball will come to rest in.

Using the functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) brain scanning technique, the researchers tracked the brain responses of the participants while winning and losing. They measured how the 'reward signals' in the brains were being influenced by mood changes in a matter of seconds, using computer models. The team found intense activity in the brain's anterior insula - involved in changing moods - in both the groups of participants during the game.

However, only the participants having bipolar disorder showed a heightened influence of 'mood bias' on their perception of wins and losses. In the brain scans, the researchers observed intense activity in the participants' striatum - the region responding to pleasurable experiences.



"In the control group, insula and striatum are both firing up in union, suggesting that participants were better able to keep their 'mood in mind' when per-

ceiving rewards in the task." "Meanwhile, participants with bipolar disorder showed the opposite; when there was higher momentum, they were less able to set this aside from how exciting they found the rewards

to be," said co-lead author Hestia Moningka from the University College London's Psychology and Language Sciences.

The team also found a weaker communication between these brain regions - the anterior insula - in the participants with bipolar disorder. The findings could help us move beyond existing interventions aimed at regulating mood often at the cost of dampening down exciting experiences, according to Moningka.

"Instead, new interventions that help people with bipolar disorder to better decouple their mood from their perception and decisions are an avenue we are looking into," said Moningka.

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No green gold rush in Jharsuguda

KENDU LEAF, ALSO CALLED THE GREEN GOLD OF ODISHA, IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME FOR TRIBALS SINCE IT IS THE MOST PROMINENT MINOR FOREST PRODUCE OF THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, June 15: Kendu leaf business in Jharsuguda district stares at an imminent closure as climate change and rapid industrialisation have resulted in a sharp decline in collection of the important minor forest produce in this western district. 30 years back, the district was in great demand in terms of collection of kendu leaf but climate change and rapid industrialisation have impacted its production to the extent that the once-profitable business may shut down completely in coming days.



FILE PHOTO

Jharsuguda district.

Role of seasonal workers, munis, chaurasi checkers, binding checkers, circle checkers and head checkers is important in kendu leaf trade.

Reports said six kendu leaf range offices function under the Jharsuguda kendu leaf division office. These offices are at Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Kadamdih, Kanika, Duduka and Gopalpur in the district.

Kendu leaf trade was taken up departmentally with effect from January 1973 when Nandini Satpathy was the Chief Minister of Odisha.

There are 19 kendu leaf divisions in the state including at Jharsuguda. Over thousands of kendu leaf pluckers and hundreds of seasonal workers are engaged in the business under Jharsuguda division as they eke out a living out of it.

Unseasonal rainfall, hailstorm, cloudy weather, industrialisation, environmental pollution and mindless tree felling are behind the sharp decline in kendu leaf production

However, the decline in kendu leaf production here has sparked concern. Every year thousands of men and women go into the forests with the hope of earning some bucks by collecting kendu leaves. The kendu leaf season starts in March, bush cutting in April, repairing of the kendu leaf depots in May, while plucking of leaves starts from June, the binding of kendu leaf for manufacturing bidis

continues till October.

The seasonal workers are employed during the kendu leaf season and the entire process is supervised by kendu leaf rangers, deputy rangers, foresters and forest guards. The Jharsuguda kendu leaf division has 308 depots and gone are those days when the demand for kendu leaf was very high in Jharsuguda district.

Collection has declined to a great extent in Jharsuguda district after lakhs of trees were chopped off in 2000 to make way for establishment of industrial plants.

Lack of a favourable atmosphere is attributed as the main reason behind the decline in availability. As a result, thousands of men and women have been deprived of employment.

Bush cutting has started from February 20 this year but it is feared that the production may reduce further due to unseasonal rainfall plaguing the district.

Moreover, villagers engaged in collection of Mohua flowers are setting fire to the forest. It is also alleged that kendu leaf is being smuggled in frequent basis from the Bagdih railway station three months back is a case in this point.

The state government pays bonus to the kendu leaf pluckers and seasonal workers from the profit it earns from the trade.

Miscreants loot ₹10L from church, attack priests duo

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, June 15: Unidentified miscreants physically assaulted two priests and looted ₹10 lakh from a catholic church in Sundargarh district, police said Saturday.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Rourkela Zone 3) Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra said, "The incident occurred late Friday night in the Jharbahal area about 25 km from Rourkela town. The unknown miscreants attacked the fathers and looted money."

After breaking open the main gate, the miscreants proceeded to the father's room and attacked them. The injured fathers were identified as Alois Xalxo (72), and Nirial Bilung (52). They received injuries on their back, legs, arms and neck, police informed.

The injured fathers were admitted to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) and underwent treatment. The health condition of the two fathers is reported to be stable, said Dr Ganesh Dash, Director, RGH.

The SDPO said the amount of cash looted was ₹10 lakh. The cash was inside the church after collection from hostel and other places. He said there were 10-12 persons who attacked the fathers with lathis and iron rods.

Father Xalxo said, "We were asleep when the miscreants barged into the church after breaking open the grill door."

"There were 10-12 persons. They tied us and when we shouted, they attacked and injured us. They looted the money kept in church after collection from the hostel and school," Father Bilung said.

Stranded in Sikkim, tourists from state plead for rescue

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 15: At least 12 persons from the state including five from Mayurbhanj district have been stranded for the last five days in Sikkim as landslides and heavy rain impacted the Himalayan state severely, damaging properties, disrupting road connectivity, power and food supplies and mobile networks in several areas.

Multiple landslides at various stretches in between Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, and the Chinese border (ice point or zero point) besides collapse of the vital Sanklang suspension bridge, resulted in the severing of connectivity to North Sikkim, leaving around 1,200-1,500 tourists from across India stranded.

Tapas Behera from Bisoai area of Mayurbhanj district came in contact with this correspondent after mobile network services resumed partially and urged the state government for help.

He said over phone that more than 12 natives of Odisha were among the tourists trapped in the northeastern state for the last five days. Due to disruption in road communication, severe shortage of food has led prices of essential items to skyrocket. So much so, said Behera, that they had to spend ₹50 to buy food items worth ₹10. Lack of money has also come as an impediment



for their return.

Behera said he along with his wife Monalisa Sethi, son Abhigyan, his colleague Mayadhar Mahanta of Jashipur area and his wife Dharnika Mahanta was in Sikkim for summer vacation. However, on their way back, they were forced to stay in a hotel in Lachung for more than five days owing to inclement weather and landslides.

"People are saying that stranded tourists will be airlifted to Gangtok by helicopter. But we are worried because of the inordinate delay," said Tapas.

With the schools set to reopen June 18 after the summer vacation, Monalisa and Dharnika, who are teachers, are worried about how to reach and join the school. Therefore, they have appealed to the Chief Minister and the state government to take appropriate measures to rescue them.

176 live turtles rescued; 4 held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharigaon, June 15: Forest department officials here in Nabarangpur district arrested four wildlife smugglers Friday night as they rescued 176 live turtles from their possession. The turtles were illegally being smuggled from Kalahandi to Nabarangpur district.

The arrested wildlife criminals were identified as Digambar Gopal, 29, of Gotamunda village under Amapani police limits, Dharam Chalan, 40, Trilochan Chalan, 38, and Gaganeswar Nayak, 36, who are residents of

Sargiguda village under Jayapatana police limits in Kalahandi district.

Acting on a tip-off about the illegal activities in Kangra forest area under Jharigaon Forest department, a team of Forest officials including Jharigaon forest ranger Gobinda Chandra Nayak, forester Gupta Prasad Mohanty and forest guards M Babaji Rao and Ramakanta Sahu conducted a night patrol Friday night. Around 8:30pm they found four youths carrying something in sacks on two bikes (CG 04-DP-6241 and OD 08-R-3265) and stopped them.

During checking the Forest officials rescued 176 live turtles from their possession. They were then brought to Jharigaon forest office for interrogation. On the other hand, ranger Gobinda Chandra said that investigations are on to find the network of the smuggling racket as it is suspected that rare turtles are being smuggled to other states.

Fishermen venture into sea for fishing as govt lifts ban

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, June 15: Buzz of activities by marine fishermen started early Saturday at several fishing jetties of Kendrapara district as after a gap of six and half months, the Marine Fishery department lifted the ban on fishing within 20 km outside the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

The state Fishery (Marine) department had imposed a ban on fishing from November 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024. The ban was imposed to protect the endangered Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha up to 20 km off the sea coast in Bay of Bengal.

Ban on fishing was also imposed at sea from April 15, 2023 to June 14, 2024 keeping in mind that it would affect not only the breeder fish but also the breeding process as trawlers use fishing nets with small gaps.

As the fishing season commenced,

the mechanised boat owners and trawler owners of coastal district worshipped their boats and the sea God 'Varuna' on the auspicious Raja Sankranti and later ventured into the sea for fishing along with their equipment, Maa Ramachandi Boat Owners' Association Secretary Tushar Sardar said.

He said more than 25 to 30 fishing vessels have ventured into the sea on the first day of lifting of fishing ban at Bay of Bengal.

The department has asked all the fishermen community to take the registration certificate, license of their mechanised boat or trawler and biometric identity card before entering into Bay of Bengal for fishing.

The fishermen were however, asked not to catch fish by trespassing into the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary with the help of trawlers, as the Forest department generally imposes a fishing ban within the sanctuary round the year.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 to Tender Notice No. ETCECONIVBBS2024020, Dtd.: 17.05.2024

The following modification has been made against above tender notice which may please be noted.

Tender closing date & time: As published - at 1200 hrs. of 18.06.2024. Now to be read as: at 1200 hrs. of 02.07.2024.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

For details, the intending tenderer(s) are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ PR-26/CH/24-25 Bhubaneswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. SDCCM-KUR-HHT-311-24

Name of the Work: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 311 NOS. HAND HELD TERMINALS FOR THE PERIOD OF 2 YEARS.

Advertised Value: ₹ 5,90,893.78, EMD: ₹ 11,800/-, Tender document cost: ₹ 1,180/-, Period of Completion: 24 Months.

Bidding start date: 14.06.2024, Tender closing date & time: at 1530 hrs. of 28.06.2024.

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 website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, PR-213/P/24-25 Khurda Road

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Date and Venue:

Wednesday, 19th June 2024; 6:30 p.m. onwards, at Hotel Radhika Regency, Bistra Road, Rourkela - 769 001, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.

Registration is compulsory.

The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

No walk-ins will be allowed.



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Visit [https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-compliate-a-one-time-know-your-customer-\(KYC\)-requirement-to-invest-in-mutual-funds](https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-compliate-a-one-time-know-your-customer-(KYC)-requirement-to-invest-in-mutual-funds). Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMC's, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMC's they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.gov.in>. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMC's or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://sebi.ordr.in/odrp>.

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HOW ROURKELA OVERCAME WATER CRISIS THIS SUMMER



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, June 15: Given the protracted and hard summer days this year, the Steel City would have gone through major water crisis. However, advance planning and implementation of some prudent measures by the water supply unit of Town Engineering (TE) department of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) saved the City from an imminent crisis.

Learning from the harrowing experience of 2016 when the City witnessed an unprecedented water crisis, the water supply unit began implementing its plans to construct embankments on Koel river, from where the steel major draws water for its captive township, since March this year.

"To address any emergency this year, the TE (Water Supply) department initiated meticulous planning and execution. One of the pivotal measures was the construction of a cofferdam by the first week of March 2024," said an official.

The dam increased the flow of

river water to the intake pumps, maintaining the water level throughout the summer. The department ensured proper supervision of the dam to prevent any man-made or environmental damage, he said.

Another critical step was ensuring the availability of pumps at the intake well. The Intake Complex in Sector-20, equipped with three wells and 36 MGD pumping capacity, underwent timely overhaul and preventive maintenance before the summer. "The Met department gave an early warning, so we became proactive to ensure that the pumps operated smoothly without failures during the peak demand period," said the official.

The regular cleaning of the intake was also prioritised for floating materials in the river which could have restricted the water flow to the pumps. The department conducted frequent removal of these materials, ensuring an uninterrupted water supply to the intake, the official said. Additionally, the operation of recycle pumps at BWWSector-8 and WPP-Hilltop played a crucial

role in water management. These pumps facilitated the reuse of wastewater from filter beds and valve leakages. "Strategically, we took a very important step. By operating these pumps at regular intervals, the department significantly reduced water wastage," he informed.

To further minimise wastage, regular inspections of drinking water distribution network were conducted. Any reported leaks were promptly addressed, ensuring the efficient use of water. The department's responsiveness to public reports of leakages also contributed to the overall conservation efforts, he added.

However, despite these measures, occasional complaints about water shortages were reported by residents. "We mitigated these temporary issues by supplying drinking water through tankers to the affected areas as and when it was necessitated," explained the official. Additionally, Jalachhatras (water kiosks) across the township were regularly replenished with drinking water to ensure public access.

All these comprehensive measures not only ensured a stable water supply for residents but also supported the township's parks and gardens, thus providing comfort to the residents during the hard summer.

In 2016, the water table of Koel river fell to an all-time low, while Brahmani too almost ran dry. To meet the demands of the captive township, the RSP then had laid huge pipes to bring water from Tarkera to the water treatment plant at Sector-20.

UCO BANK POSSESSION NOTICE For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the UCO Bank, Collectorate Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, Collectorate Branch for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon.

COLLECTORATE BRANCH / Name and Address of the Borrowers	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Gaurang Behera, S/o.: Mr. Gurnani Behera, 2) Mr. Gurnani Behera, S/o.: Mr. Shyam Sundar Behera, Both are at Address: Mangala Lane, Chhatra Bazar, Cuttack-753012	₹74,76,956/- as on 29.01.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	21.02.2024 / 12.06.2024	1) All that part and parcel of Land and Building at Plot No.: 286, under Khata No.: 372/189, At: Mangala Lane, Near Chhatra Bazar High School, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 34 Dolamundai, P.O.: Dolamundai, P.S.: Madhupatna, Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack-753012, Total Area: 2870.11 Sqft., Standing in the name of Mr. Gurnani Behera, Vide Deed No. T.S Case No.: 447/1994, Dated: 29.03.1996, Bounded by North: Parsu Pradhan, South: Chaiji Jena, East: Road, West: Purna Pradhan, 2) All that part and parcel of Land and Building at Plot No.: 280/500, under Khata No.: 372/189, At: Chhatra Bazar Market, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 34 Dolamundai, P.O.: Dolamundai, P.S.: Madhupatna, Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack-753012, Total Area: 609.84 Sqft., Standing in the name of Mr. Gurnani Behera, Vide Deed No. T.S Case No.: 447/1994, Dated: 29.03.1996, Bounded by North: Road, South: Purna Pradhan, East: Chaiji Jena, West: Kokila Bewa

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 14.06.2024 Authorised Officer, UCO Bank



Take Truth for your force; take Truth for your refuge.

THE MOTHER



New & Old Cabinet

India's new government has a new Cabinet which is the old Cabinet. The ministers for Home, Finance, Foreign Affairs and Defence will be the same. These four are considered the most important by the government, which classifies them as comprising the committee on security. And so once again it will be Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh. Road and Highways will again be managed by Nitin Gadkari, Railways will be run again by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Commerce and Industry again by Piyush Goyal, Law again by Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Even where portfolios have been shifted, ministers have been retained and readers will not be unfamiliar with names like Kiren Rijju, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Giriraj Singh and so on. Some famous names are gone, like Smriti Irani and Rajiv Chandrashekhar, at least for now, but this is because they lost in high-profile contests.

No reason has been given for moving around those ministers who have been retained but shifted, but presumably this has been done to accommodate allies like the Telugu Desam Party (Civil Aviation), Janata Dal Secular (Steel), Janata Dal United (MSME), LJP (Food Processing), Shiv Sena (Ayurveda and Yoga). Or done to bring in former BJP Chief Ministers like Shivraj Singh Chauhan of Madhya Pradesh (Agriculture) and Manohar Khattar of Haryana (Housing).

Overall it resembles not so much a new Cabinet as one that has undergone a minor reshuffle. In the old days, when most newspapers reported news, this would have been reported "below the fold" as it were, meaning not on the top half of the newspaper. The question is why does 3.0 look like 2.0? The obvious reason is that there is nothing to change because everything is going well. Change is necessary only if there is a need to correct course, and because the BJP won the election, there is no such need.

But defeat, meaning sitting in the Opposition, would have meant no BJP Cabinet at all so perhaps it is unclear what the middle ground would be in such a line of thinking and what conditions would trigger change. It is unlikely then that 'all is well' is the reason. What else could it be? One possibility is that there is weak bench strength, that there are not enough talented individuals in the party to be given the important jobs and the Prime Minister is stuck with the small set he has. This is not the likely reason because under this Prime Minister, the PMO functions as a mini Cabinet and intervenes on critical issues as the defence, finance and foreign ministries know.

There is a third possibility and that is the reluctance or inability to concede that something has in fact gone wrong. The Prime Minister made a speech in the Lok Sabha on 5 February that has been uploaded on his YouTube channel. As he concludes it, he says the following: "Mr Speaker, normally I don't get into the issue of numbers. But I have observed the mindset of the nation. It will certainly take the NDA beyond 400, but it will also definitely (avashya) give the BJP 370 seats." At this point the treasury benches are thumped and the chant of 'Modi! Modi!' rises. The Prime Minister repeats: "370 seats for the BJP and beyond 400 for the NDA". The thumping and chanting continues.

As we now know, this did not happen. The BJP did not get 370 and it did not even get 270. For the first time in his career, the Prime Minister is leading a minority government. Is this a defeat? If you look at the Opposition and its voters they are behaving as if they have won. The fact that the new government is shaky and dependent on external support is not lost on them. As Yogendra Yadav has said, the acceptability and prestige that was there in the last decade is gone. The invincibility is gone and gone forever.

For this very reason many of the BJP's supporters and especially the Prime Minister's following remain despondent. Externally things have changed. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is again expressing itself on issues concerning the government's functioning after a decade of silence. The NDA partners are asserting themselves.

It is possible to be blind to this and pretend to carry on as if nothing has happened but that will not change the reality. The voter has told the Prime Minister he is less popular than he was in 2019 and less popular than in 2014. The voter has also told him that it is okay with an NDA government but not a BJP one.

To pretend we are still in February is to lie to oneself. There is no question that the performances of key ministries, including finance and perhaps even home, were the reason for the defeat. Carrying on without change is to continue with the damage. But who in the party can tell him that? Not those who are returning to their positions surrounding him. Not those who know they will be punished for speaking the truth.

For those who are opposed to the BJP, this being in denial is not a bad thing because nothing good will come of it as the coming months will show. The world does not change itself to align with one's delusions.

WISDOM CORNER

Man is fond of counting his troubles, but he does not count his joys. If he counted them up as he ought to, he would see that every lot has enough happiness provided for it.

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

Man is condemned to be free; because once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

It is necessary to help others, not only in our prayers, but in our daily lives. If we find we cannot help others, the least we can do is to desist from harming them.

DALAI LAMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1903: The Ford Motor Company was founded by Henry Ford and 11 associate investors.

1911: International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), a leading American computer manufacturer, was incorporated.

1932: The Lausanne Conference, held to liquidate Germany's payment of reparations to the former Allied and Associated powers of World War I, opened.

1963: Soviet cosmonaut Valentina V. Tereshkova became the first woman to travel in space, having been launched into orbit aboard the spacecraft Vostok 6, which completed 48 orbits in 71 hours.

1976: South African police kill hundreds of protesting school-children. An estimated 20,000 youth were protesting against the introduction of Afrikaans as the languages of instruction in their schools when police officers started firing into the crowd. The "Soweto uprising" is today commemorated on Youth Day each year.

FOCUS CROWD MANAGEMENT

FOR A SMOOTH 'DARSHAN'

The newly-elected Odisha government has reopened all four gates of Srimandir in Puri, allowing devotees to go inside the 12th century shrine through all four entrances. The temple's doors were initially closed for the public in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with only one door reopening in December 2020. Despite most activities returning to normal, three of the gates remained closed, partly to accommodate the beautification work done under the Heritage Corridor Plan. The reopening of all four gates will facilitate smoother entry for devotees, but it may not fully resolve the issue. Even before the pandemic, when all four gates were open, the temple experienced several stampede incidents, for example in November 2006, September 2008, and July 2015. Since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the temple has witnessed a significant increase in visitors, with numbers going extremely high during special occasions like 'Kartika Panchuka', 'Chandan Yatra', and 'Sankranti'. With space inside the temple remaining limited, the increase in devotee turnout results in both long wait time and overcrowding inside. A number of stampede incidents in recent times suggest that the temple requires a more effective management system beyond reopening all four gates. In this regard, the following are some of the important aspects that require to be attended. The first is an estimation of number of people likely to visit on a given day, the second devising a system for entry inside Natamandap and Jagamohan and the third syncing number of devotee entering and exiting the shrine at any given point of time.

Unlike other prominent temples such as Tirumala Tirupati, or Mata Vaishno Devi, the Jagannath temple adheres to a system that does not utilise tickets or registration, allowing devotees to enter at any time and as many times as one wishes to



With space inside the temple remaining limited, the increase in devotee turnout results in both long wait time and overcrowding inside

when the temple is open. This practice is helpful for example for those not having internet access or not familiar with mobile phones or for that matter having the freedom to walk into the temple without going through such formal procedures. On the other hand, in the absence of a registration system, the authorities have no means to estimate the number of visitors on a given day which is important to assess if the number has surpassed safe capacity limits, allowing them to restrict further entry and prevent overcrowding. Knowing the expected visitors' number, particularly for important days, is useful to allocate resources, such as staffing of security personnel to manage queues, regulate entry in batches, provision of additional wheelchairs and attendants, and emergency action plans. Further, absence of registration leads to an increase in devotee turnout during certain hours of the day due to the concurrent arrival of trains, buses and other vehicles, especially those coming from other parts of Odisha intending to have a darshan of Mahaprabhu and return home by night. An uneven devotee influx is generally dealt through a slotting system which

would regulate entry for a fixed number of devotees in a given slot, thereby spreading the entry uniformly over available darshan period.

The main challenge in this regard, however, is ensuring a smooth darshan inside Natamandap and Jagamohan, where there is no barricade and it often becomes unmanageable, resulting in pushing and pulling. Senior citizens and infants are the worst affected and often, family members, especially children, get lost in the crowd. These issues are likely to persist even after all gates are reopened as most visitors will converge at the main temple for the Lord's darshan. A number of technological measures can be taken in this regard for example, deploying CCTVs equipped with computer vision software to be strategically placed to capture inside and outside footage, which is then processed on real-time basis by complex algorithms capable of counting the number of devotees, assessing crowd density, and alerting authorities if it exceeds safe limits. Additionally, these systems can perform behaviour analysis to identify any suspicious activities within the monitored areas. The same sys-

tems can be useful to keep track of the overall number of people present inside the shrine at any point of time and providing scope to cap entry if required.

Generally, long queues and extended waiting times have been attributed to delays in conducting rituals at the temple. These delays can stem from various reasons, and they place additional management challenges due to accumulation of a number of devotee waiting both inside and outside the temple. A communication plan providing real-time update along with ritual schedule on display boards will help to an extent. Providing facilities such as drinking water, shades and canopies over as many places as possible instead of a few selected areas with large coolers will serve to make darshan a little more peaceful. The recent Chandan Yatra tragedy that resulted in over a dozen deaths and several injuries highlights significant shortcomings in the temple's emergency response capabilities. A comprehensive contingency plan is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of devotees, especially during special occasions. Such a plan includes protocols for handling medical emergencies, crowd control measures to prevent stampedes, and procedures for evacuating the premises in case of sudden onset of disasters or other emergencies. Thus, to ensure a smooth darshan at the temple, the management should take into consideration if there is a requirement of a registration system, and at the same time develop mechanism involving advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence to regulate inward and outward devotee flow. To augment these measures further, authorities should provide adequate real-time communication and ensure adequate facilities inside and outside the temple.

The authors are from BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Fighting the far-right surge

Far-right populist parties performed exceptionally well in the European Parliament elections, finishing first in France, Italy, and three other countries. They won nearly a quarter of the seats in the Parliament, just behind the center right. With Europe already reeling from the war in Ukraine, the threat of a second Donald Trump presidency in the US, stagnant living standards, strained welfare systems, and extreme weather events, nationalists pose a severe threat. These parties are often sympathetic to Russian President Vladimir Putin and downright hostile to green policies, migrants, and EU institutions.

Mainstream pro-European parties have three broad options for responding: complacency, co-optation, or counterattack. Let's start with the case for business as usual. Many Europeans believe - incorrectly - that EU elections are inconsequential. Turnout is much lower than in national elections, and many people cast protest votes, often against governing parties. Even so, pro-EU parties will still command a majority in the next Parliament. The center-right European People's Party (EPP), led by European Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen, actually gained seats.

Moreover, far-right parties are deeply divided. They are split between two rival parliamentary groups, and some are unattached. They disagree on the Ukraine war, economic policy, LGBTQ rights, and, crucially, whether to work within the EU system or against it. Inevitably, such rifts dilute their influence. But complacency is dangerous. The center held only because it is defined ever more broadly, encompassing not only the EPP and the Socialists and Democrats, but also the classical and social liberals of Renew Europe and the Greens.

The second option, then, is to accommodate the far right, a common outcome at the national level. Many center-right parties adopt the far right's language and policies, notably on migration (as do some center-left ones). In several member states, they even govern together: Witness von der Leyen's wooing of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who has fashioned herself as a traditional conservative, despite the neo-fascist roots of her Brothers of Italy (FdI) party, and raised her profile by working with, rather than against, EU institutions. The risk

is that the far right co-opts the center right, rather than vice versa. Consider how the EU's approach to asylum-seekers has shifted from then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel's welcoming policy in 2015 to near-universal hostility now.

Above all, embracing the far right can backfire spectacularly. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Fidesz party, for example, once sat in the EPP; now he is a pro-Putin renegade who treats the rule of law and democratic rights with contempt. And while Meloni may be palatable to some centrists, no one seems eager to work with France's National Rally, much less Germany's AfD.

That leaves the third option: fight the far right. Macron has opted to pursue this course by calling a snap legislative election. This is widely viewed as a high-stakes gamble, given Macron's unpopularity and the electorate's hostile mood. France could conceivably elect a far-right prime minister in a run-off vote next month. In that case, Macron would become a lame duck for his remaining three years in office. But his position was severely weakened in any case, and his governing

coalition, which lacks a parliamentary majority, was at risk of losing a no-confidence vote. By dissolving the National Assembly, Macron has regained the initiative, creating two possible paths for defeating the far right. More plausibly, Macron could set up the far right to fail. Populists tend to perform best when they are outsiders challenging established parties, not wielding responsibility.

If the National Rally wins a majority, or ends up leading a broader right-wing coalition, it would likely struggle with the harsh responsibilities of governing - such as difficult fiscal decisions, and whether and how to cooperate with EU institutions. Moderating its headline policies could erode its anti-establishment edge; enacting them could plunge the country into crisis. Either way, this could undermine the popularity of its leader, Marine Le Pen, ahead of her likely presidential run. Better a far-right prime minister in 2024 than a far-right president in 2027.

The writer is a former economic adviser to the president of the European Commission.

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Philippe Legrain

MAINSTREAM PRO-EUROPEAN PARTIES HAVE THREE BROAD OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING: COMPLACENCY, CO-OPTATION, OR COUNTERATTACK

Prime issues

Sir, The newly formed Assembly in Odisha needs to address important development issues such as: construction and redevelopment of cold storage units, availability of year-round irrigation facility, drinking water, electricity etc., establishment of medical colleges in all districts, enhancing renewable energy capacity, redevelopment of closed industries, employment creation, better education system, waste management, better communication and emphasis on biodiversity.

Nabnit Panigrahi, RAYAGADA

Saving is a virtue

Sir, Savings is a good habit and one should cultivate the same on a regular basis. Small drops of water make an ocean. And if you save something for the day then you can very well bank on that during hard times when expenses go above your neck. You are in a good job, earn a fat salary and have a bright future. Yet, none of this is evident when you look at your savings. This is because young people often find it difficult to save in the initial years of their careers. Studies reveal that discretionary spending can be as high as 18-20% of the income for young people. A 2021 study by ASSOCHAM revealed that almost 35% of the urban youth spend up to ₹25,000 a month on clothing alone. This is one of the reasons most young people have such low savings. Experts recommend some extreme measures for serious shopping addicts. Some say you should just note down the card details and then cut the card into pieces so that you can't use it anymore. Others suggest you keep the card in a paper sleeve and stick pictures of your kids or spouse on it. You will be reminded of the other goals you may be jeopardizing when you swipe the card for an unnecessary purchase. Wait and watch approach serves as the best tool. The usage of plastic money puts you in a tight situation when the 45 days stipulated time gets over. It is better to be on a safer side and cultivate saving habits. Save today for a better tomorrow.

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

Orissa POST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Yediyurappa to appear before CID June 17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 15: Senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, facing a POCSO charge, returned to Bengaluru Saturday and said he will appear before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) June 17 for questioning.

The former CM returned a day after the Karnataka High Court had restrained the CID from arresting him in connection with the POCSO case.

It also directed the veteran BJP leader to appear before CID, which is probing the case, June 17.

Addressing reporters, Yediyurappa said, "I had gone to Delhi for a pre-scheduled programme. I had informed in advance in writing that I will appear for an inquiry June 17. The High Court has given an order restraining CID (from arresting). I'm appearing for an inquiry Monday. Unnecessarily some tried to create confusion, I don't want to blame anyone, everyone knows the fact. People will teach a lesson to those indulging in conspiracies."

A court here Thursday had issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Yediyurappa in the case registered against him under the Protection of Children



from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act March 14 this year.

The Special Investigation Team of the CID had moved the First Fast Track Court seeking an arrest warrant against him since he failed to appear for questioning Wednesday. According to police, Yediyurappa has been booked under the POCSO Act and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the

POCSO CASE

mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting February two this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony here.

Yediyurappa, who has denied the charge, said he would fight the case legally. He has filed two separate petitions in the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail and quashing the FIR.

The victim's mother, who had levelled the charge against Yediyurappa, died at a private hospital here last month, due to lung cancer.

Earlier this week, the victim's brother had moved the court alleging that though the case was registered March 14, no progress has been made in the investigation. The petitioner prayed the court for a direction to the police to arrest Yediyurappa and interrogate him.

After the Sadashivanagar police registered the case in March, the Karnataka Director General of Police Alok Mohan had issued an order transferring it to the CID for further investigation.

In April, the CID collected the voice sample of Yediyurappa after summoning him to the office.

Bommaï resigns as MLA after becoming MP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 15: BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who was elected as an MP in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election, Saturday resigned as a member of the Assembly.

Speaking to reporters here after submitting his resignation from the Shiggaon Assembly seat, Bommai said, "Our national leaders have made certain decisions for this reason. I will work in Parliament to find solutions for interstate water disputes such as those involving the Krishna and Cauvery rivers, which impact irrigation projects." He urged the state government to process the application according to the laid-down procedures to secure central funds for the Upper Bhadra project.

"I have submitted my resignation from the Shiggaon seat as I have been elected as the Haveri MP. I thank the people of the Shiggaon constituency for electing me for four consecutive terms to promote development. I have carried out many development works in the constituency. I have also spoken to CM Siddaramaiah about further development," Bommai added.



New tourism policy to attract investments in Karnataka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 15: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar Saturday said that the state was planning to come out with a new tourism policy to attract investments into the industry.

Speaking at the event 'Dakshin Bharat Utsav' jointly organised by Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Karnataka Tourism Department, he said, "A good tourism policy will be able to attract industrialists and investments. When industrialists do well, the government gets more revenue, more jobs are created for the people and the industry grows."

"There are many representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Telangana. I request them to share their experiences here. Karnataka is looking to develop its 300-km long coastline. Bengaluru can become a tourist hub besides being the IT capital," he added.

He said the government will also be inviting new tenders for a sky deck (an observation deck) in Bengaluru.

"Cubbon Park and Lal Bagh were traditional tourist places in Bengaluru. In order to cre-

Tenders for Sky Deck Project to be floated in next 10 days



The GST of 18 per cent is killing the tourism industry. If businesses lose more than half the money to taxes, they will not be motivated enough to invest more. It is important that the people and the industry raise these issues

D K SHIVAKUMAR | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

of Disney land. Budgetary allocations have been made in the last budget for this," he said.

"The GST of 18 per cent is killing the tourism industry. If businesses lose more than half the money to taxes, they will not be motivated enough to invest more. It is important that the people and the industry raise these issues," Shivakumar said.

He urged the investors and industrialists in the tourism industry to submit their demands in writing to the government.

"We need you to walk with us in our journey to improve tourism in the state", he added.

MP: 11 houses razed after cops find beef

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mandla, June 15: Houses built on government land by 11 persons were demolished in tribal-dominated Mandla in Madhya Pradesh as part of action against the illegal beef trade in the state, a police official said Saturday. The action was taken after a tip off was received that a large number of cows had been held captive for slaughter in Bhainwahi area in Nainpur, Mandla Superintendent of Police Rajat Saklecha told PTI.

"A team was rushed there and we found 150 cows tied in the backyards of the accused. Cow meat was recovered from the refrigerators in the homes of all the 11 accused. We also found animal fat, cattle skin and bones, which were stuffed in a room," he said.

"The local government veterinarian has confirmed the seized meat is beef. We have also sent samples to Hyderabad for secondary DNA analysis. The houses of the 11 accused were demolished as they were on government land," the SP said.

The SP said an FIR was registered Friday night following the recovery of the cows and beef, adding that one of the accused has been arrested while a hunt was on for the remaining 10.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during 'Jal Ganga Samvardhan' campaign, in Ujjain, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

NEET UG PROTEST

K'taka CM calls for re-exam, criticises grace marks policy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 15: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Saturday that a re-examination for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) should be conducted.

"Students have been treated unfairly in NEET exams. Many have been assigned ranks, which is a great injustice to those who had worked hard," he said.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, CM Siddaramaiah said, "Grace Marks should not be given to pass students. Granting grace marks is a bad practice that should be avoided. I have already made my statement in this regard."

"I have demanded an investigation into this matter and also called for a re-examination. NEET and the National Testing Agency (NTA) have not conducted the exams properly, and students should not suffer injustice," he added.

When asked about the eight cabinet portfolios allocated to South India by the BJP-led NDA to expand its base in South Karnataka, Siddaramaiah stated, "Regardless of their efforts, BJP will not gain support in South India due to the influence of RSS. BJP is the political face of RSS, but the southern part of India will not support BJP."

Regarding allegations of targeting political opponents using



I have demanded an investigation into this matter and also called for a re-examination. NEET and the National Testing Agency (NTA) have not conducted the exams properly, and students should not suffer injustice

SIDDARAMAIAH | CHIEF MINISTER

agencies like ED and CBI, CM Siddaramaiah commented, "In this context, people have not given them a majority. BJP has been using ED and CBI to target individuals since the beginning."

Responding to questions about alleged vendetta politics by Congress, particularly in relation to warrants issued against former CM B.S. Yediyurappa, Siddaramaiah argued, "When cases are filed against us, isn't that also targeting? What do you call the cases filed against me, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, and Rahul Gandhi? What about cancelling Rahul Gandhi's membership? Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal was sent to jail - is this politics of love or hatred?"

'Shift Hindu kids from madrasa to regular schools'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, June 15: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairperson Priyank Kanungo Friday urged the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government to ensure that Hindu students in the state are not sent to madrasas and that they receive education at regular schools.

Interacting with the media, Kanungo said the madrasas -- where Islamic studies are imparted -- are not included under the provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

He said the NCPCR was told that at least 9,714 Hindu students were studying in the 1,755 registered madrasas in Madhya Pradesh.

Kanungo said that most of the madrasas lack basic amenities, standard infrastructure, and lack proper security arrangements.

He also said that as per the information available with the NCPCR, the teachers in the madrasas don't have the required degrees like B.Ed.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

Bhopal's 'Chipko' movement to save trees

OVER 27,000 TREES, SEVENTY PER CENT OF THEM HERITAGE ONES, ARE GOING TO BE CHOPPED FOR A HOUSING PROJECT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, June 15: Hundreds of Bhopal residents have joined hands to save over 27,000 trees that they fear would be chopped to make space for VVIP bungalows in the city, even mulling to launch a protest akin to the 'Chipko Andolan'.

A top Madhya Pradesh government official, however, said Saturday that no such plan has been finalised.

For the past ten days, citizens, students, and green activists have been campaigning against what they call a plan by the MP Housing Board to construct bungalows for MLAs and bureaucrats by clearing trees at Shivaji Nagar and Tulsi

Nagar, one of the greenest patches in the city.

Many of them, including women and a BJP MLA, worshipped and clung to trees Friday vowing to protect them.

MP Housing and Urban Development Principal Secretary Neeraj Mandloi said nothing will happen to the trees immediately.

"It was a concept floated by the Housing Board before the Urban Development Minister. As of now, there is no approval or final proposal before the government. The government is fully sensitive to the protection of trees. There is no proposal to cut the trees as of now," he said.

Environmental activist Dr Subhash C Pandey, who is among those leading the campaign, said they will wait for the government's reaction to their movement. "In the meantime, we are mulling to launch a massive protest akin to Chipko Andolan if the government does not act," he said.

Launched in the 1970s in



Uttarakhand (then a part of Uttar Pradesh), Chipko Andolan was a movement wherein people clasped to the trunk of trees to stop them from being felled by loggers.

"There are indications that over 27,000 trees, seventy per

cent of them heritage ones, are going to be chopped for the (housing) project," he said.

Pandey said their delegation met MP Housing Board Commissioner Chandramauli Shukla and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya over the

issue, but was told that compensatory saplings would be planted if such a project comes up. "Not a single sapling planted to compensate for the felling of trees for the metro train project, Smart City and a private concern's huge complex in the

Chipko Andolan was a movement wherein people clasped to the trunk of trees to stop them from being felled by loggers launched in the 1970s in Uttar Pradesh

past in Bhopal has survived," he said.

Pandey said he would also move the National Green Tribunal to save the trees.

South-West Bhopal BJP MLA Bhagwan Das Sabnani, who worshipped trees in his constituency and publicly supported the campaign Friday, did not respond to phone calls. A local Hindi daily quoted him as saying that development should not be at the cost of greenery.

A similar campaign had been launched when the same stretch of green tract was picked up for the Smart City Project but it was shifted to TT Nagar following public outburst.



The Indian Navy is continuously becoming stronger, factored by growing industrial infrastructure. Our shipyards are expanding, aircraft carriers increasing, and our Navy is emerging as a new powerful force. We will give momentum to our efforts in this tenure as well

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

BLISTERING HEAT SWEEPS HARYANA, PUNJAB

There was no respite from the prevailing heatwave conditions in Punjab and Haryana Saturday, with Abohar in Fazilka district recording a maximum temperature of 47.1 degrees Celsius. Chandigarh, the joint capital of the two states, too experienced sweltering heat as the maximum temperature settled at 43.8 degrees Celsius, according to the Met Department's weather report



of the day quote

If you look at the statistics, you will understand that crime is at its peak in Bihar and linked with caste. The Chapra incident of firing was one of them

TEJASHWI YADAV | RASHTRIYA JANATA DAL LEADER

The Congress tried to spread lies by saying that the Constitution and reservation will end

NAVYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

We had started the rules' drafting work around December. DPDP rules drafting is in very advanced stage. We will start the industry consultation now and go as extensive as we can

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

No question of taking back rebels: Uddhav, Sharad



Upbeat after the Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) "victory" in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said it was only a beginning and the Opposition alliance will maintain its winning streak in the coming Assembly elections in the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of the Sena (UBT), NCP(SP) and Congress, first after the Opposition alliance outperformed the ruling coalition in the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra. An MLA of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, however, pooh-poohed the assertion, stating that nobody was interested in going back.

During the press conference here, both Thackeray and Sharad Pawar said "there is no question of taking rebel leaders back".

Reacting to the statement, Sanjay Shirsat, an MLA of the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, said Thackeray should first take care of his own flock.

"Who is going, in the first place? It is not that anybody from our side went to 'Matoshree' (Thackeray's residence) and was thrown out. We have no interest in going back there. They should take care of their people," he said.

The Shiv Sena split in June 2022 after Eknath Shinde re-

belled along with 39 MLAs and toppled the Thackeray-led MVA government. Shinde then became chief minister by joining rebel leaders back.

One year later, the Nationalist Congress Party also broke into two factions as Ajit Pawar joined the government along with eight MLAs.

But after the MVA won 30 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra in the recent general elections, there was speculation that some leaders may return to the parties led by Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, respectively.

Notably, Parner MLA Nilesh Lanke left the Ajit Pawar-led NCP just before the Lok Sabha elections. Lanke contested from Ahmednagar seat on the NCP (SP) ticket and defeated sitting BJP MP Sujay Vikhe Patil.

Bajrang Sonawane also left the Ajit Pawar-led NCP and contested the Lok Sabha polls from Beed on NCP (SP) ticket. He defeated former state minister and BJP candidate Pankaja Munde. There is reportedly discontent within the NCP and the Shiv Sena, allies of the ruling BJP, over the allotment of portfolios in the Centre.

The Ajit Pawar-led party was offered only a Minister of State post with independent charge, which it refused, while only one Shiv Sena MP - Prataprao Jadhav - was included in the Union government as MoS (independent charge) though the Shinde-led party has seven MPs.

Eight Naxalites, one STF jawan killed in encounter in Ch'garh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Narayanpur, June 15: Eight Naxalites and a jawan of the Special Task Force (STF) were killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district Saturday, police said.

Two other STF personnel sustained injuries in the incident, they said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said his government is fully committed to eliminating Naxalites, and it will not sit quiet till it achieves the goal.

The gunfight broke out at around 7 am in the forest of Abhujmad, where a joint team of security personnel from four districts - Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon - was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj P said.

The operation was launched June 12 based on information about the presence of cadres belonging to Maad division and PLGA company no. 1 of Maoists in forests of Kutul, Farsebeda and Kodtameta villages under Kohkameta police station area of the district, he said. Personnel from the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and STF, along with the 53rd battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 135th battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), were involved in the operation, he said.

The exchange of fire broke out when security personnel were cordoning off the area, followed by intermittent firing till the afternoon in the forests of Kutul, Farsebeda and Kodtameta villages, he said.

EXCISE POLICY CASE

Remove recordings of Kejriwal's hearings: HC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Delhi High Court Saturday ordered removal of a video recording of court proceedings related to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case from social media platforms.

In the video, Arvind Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor, is seen addressing a trial court. A bench of justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Amit Sharma issued notices to six people, including Sumita Kejriwal, and social media intermediaries X (formerly known as Twitter), Meta and YouTube on a petition alleging violation of the video conferencing (VC) rules of the Delhi High Court.

"Prima facie it is observed that the court proceeding recording is violative of Rule 3(vi) of Delhi High Court Video Conferencing Rules, 2021 and cannot be permitted to remain in public domain," the bench said in its 6-page order.

The high court directed the social media intermediaries to

The high court directed the social media intermediaries to forthwith take down the audio or video recording from their respective platforms

forthwith take down the audio or video recording from their respective platforms.

During the hearing, the bench asked the respondents, including the six individuals, to take down the content from social media platforms. However, the order uploaded on the court website said, "The social media platforms namely X (formerly 'Twitter'), Meta (formerly 'Facebook'), Instagram and YouTube are hereby directed to remove forthwith the audio/video recording from their respective platforms". The court also mentioned the list of URLs to be removed and said it should be ensured that the audio/ video is not re-uploaded on their platforms till further orders.

SHORT TAKES

Arunachal CM allocates portfolios

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu Saturday allocated portfolios to the council of ministers keeping hydropower, PWD, general administration and some other departments with himself. The Chief Minister gave the Finance, State Lotteries, Power and Non-Conventional Departments to Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein while Home and Inter-State Border Affairs and some other departments went to Mama Natung. Chief Minister Khandu along with 11 ministers took the oath of office Thursday. He took charge as the CM of the 3rd BJP government in a row in Arunachal Pradesh.

Punjabi NRI assaulted in HP

Chandigarh: A Punjab-origin non-resident Indian (NRI) Saturday alleged that he was assaulted by a group of men after an argument over parking when he was visiting Dalhousie in Himachal Pradesh. Kawaljit Singh, who is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Amritsar, claimed that he was targeted as he was Punjabi, but Himachal Pradesh police denied it and said the incident is not linked to any "interstate or inter-community dispute". Singh alleged that he was attacked by a group of around 100 people following an argument over some parking issue. He also alleged police apathy in the matter.

Court grants bail to Shabir Shah

New Delhi: A Delhi court has granted bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah in a money laundering case related to alleged terror funding in Jammu and Kashmir. The court noted that Shah was in custody for six years and 10 months in the case in which the maximum punishment was seven years.

Four Naxalites held in Bijapur district

Bijapur: Four Naxalites including two women, one of them carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on her head, were arrested Saturday in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said. Explosives were also recovered from them, said an official here. The development came on a day when eight Naxalites and a jawan of the police's Special Task Force were killed in an encounter in neighbouring Narayanpur district of the state. The arrested Maoists were identified as Gallo Vekko and Samila Uika (both women), Bomda Kawasi and Sukko Kunjam.

SNIPPETS

Major fire erupts near Manipur CM's bungalow



Imphal: A major fire broke out at an abandoned building near the Manipur secretariat complex close to Chief Minister N Biren Singh's official bungalow here Saturday evening, police said. Three fire tenders were pressed into service and they put out the blaze within an hour, an official said. No damage was caused to the Chief

Minister's bungalow where security was tightened following the fire incident, officials said. The reason for the fire in the private abandoned building is yet to be ascertained, an official said. The building belonged to the family of late IAS officer T Kipgen, former chief secretary of Goa. The house has been abandoned since violence broke out in Manipur last year, officials said. Manipur has remained gripped by recurring bouts of violence since ethnic clashes between Kuki and Meitei communities erupted May 3, 2023. Over 219 people have been killed in the violence.

Court extends Bibhav's judicial custody till June 22



New Delhi: A court here Saturday extended till June 22 the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar. Kumar is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal May 13 at the chief minister's official residence. Kumar was produced through video conferencing before the duty metropolitan magistrate, who extended the custody and directed the Delhi Police to produce him June 22. Earlier Friday, the court had extended Kumar's custody by one day after noting that the investigating officer (IO) was not present. Kumar was arrested May 18. He was sent to police custody for five days the same day by a magisterial court, which observed that his anticipatory bail plea had become infructuous because of his arrest.

J&K Police asks people not to pay heed to rumours



Jammu: A video showing a Bolero vehicle with plain-clothes men carrying weapons went viral triggering panic among people, thereby prompting the police to clarify that the vehicle was ferrying the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel. Some people shared a video on Facebook and other social media platforms questioning security for allowing such a suspicious vehicle with armed men on board with number plate hidden by a newspaper piece. "As confirmed the vehicle in the video was carrying the CAPF personnel and some social media handles unnecessarily try to create panic among general masses and spread misinformation," said a police spokesman.

MISLEADING EXIT POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Trinamool Congress has written to the Securities and Exchange Board of India, alleging "stock market manipulation" through "misleading exit polls", and sought an appointment with

TMC seeks meeting with SEBI chairperson

SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch to discuss the issue.

According to TMC sources, a delegation of party leaders will go to the SEBI office in Mumbai at 11.30 am June 18 for which they have sought the appointment. The sources said the four-member TMC delegation -- con-

sisting of MPs Kalyan Banerjee, Sagarika Ghose, Pratima Mondal and Saket Gokhale -- will be accompanied by one representative each from the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Nationalist Congress Party (SP).

Several other INDIA bloc parties, including the Congress,

have alleged a stock market "scam", questioning its steep rise following the exit poll results, and the crash after the official results came.

Exit polls broadcast June 1 predicted a massive win for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Army prepares for future drone wars with 'Nagastra-1'

'Nagastra-1' is a type of "loitering munition", where the aerial weapon is designed with an in-built warhead, designed to loiter around an area until a target is located and then crash into it

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 15: When tech billionaire Elon Musk says that future wars will be won by nations with the most effective drones, he is not bluffing at all.

The Indian Army has received the first batch of 'suicide drones' called 'Nagastra-1' which can strike enemy training camps and launch pads in border areas with precision and save soldiers' lives.

According to reports, these high-tech drones are made in

India by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), a subsidiary of Solar Industries in Nagpur. The Army placed an order of 480 such drones and at least 120 of them have reportedly been delivered.

What are these 'suicide drones'?

'Nagastra-1' is a type of "loitering munition", where the aerial weapon is designed with an in-built warhead, designed to loiter around an area until a target is located and then crash into it.



These indigenously developed drones offer more selective targeting as the attack can be changed mid-flight or even aborted. In a 'kamikaze mode', the drone can neutralise any threat with a GPS-enabled precision strike with an accuracy of 2 metres.

Weighing around 9 kg, the fixed-wing electric unmanned Ariel vehicle (UAV) has an endurance of 30 minutes, a man-in-loop range of 15 km and an autonomous mode range of 30 km.

It can apparently carry a 1 kg warhead up to a range of 15 km and an upgraded version can

carry a 2.2 kg warhead up to 30 km distance.

In case a target is not detected or if the mission is aborted, the suicide drones can be called back and make a soft landing with a parachute recovery mechanism, enabling them to be reused multiple times.

Drone-based wars are now frequent worldwide. Earlier this month, Ukraine attacked Russian targets with a total of 25 combat drones, with one drone said to have reached deep into the Russian Caucasus.

Yemen's Houthi group also claimed fresh attacks on the US aircraft carrier Eisenhower, another US warship and four commercial cargo vessels in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea via drones earlier this month.

Since November last year, the Houthi group has launched anti-ship ballistic missiles and drones targeting what they said were Israeli-linked ships transiting the Red Sea to show solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden last year announced a slew of defence and technology deals, including armed SeaGuardian drones.

The two leaders welcomed India's plans to buy General Atomics' armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs, which will be assembled in India.

The drones will enhance the ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) capabilities of India's Armed Forces across domains.



The policies of the BJP government are anti-poor and anti-farmer, and have been made for the capitalists
AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

AMIT SHAH TO REVIEW J&K SECURITY SITUATION TODAY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will take stock of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir Sunday in the wake of the recent terror attacks there and is expected to give broad guidelines to intensify counter-terror operations, sources said. The Home Minister will also review the preparation for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage set to start June 29



of the day quote

The 'jonogoner gorjon' (people's roar) will be etched in golden letters in the history. This Lok Sabha election was one of 'protibaad, protirodh and protishodh' (protest, resistance and revenge)

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | SENIOR TMC LEADER

Modern warfare is a dynamic and ever evolving landscape. It is no longer solely a physical domain. It is increasingly influenced by complex data networks and advanced cyber technologies. As leaders, you all need to adapt, innovate and leverage technology effectively for proving decisive in winning wars

MARSHAL VR CHAUDHARI | IAF CHIEF AIR CHIEF

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been sent to jail. Should that be called hate politics or love politics? It is they who indulge in vindictive politics. We will never do vindictive politics.... I have not done it so far. I have not come to politics yesterday or today. It (vindictive politics) is BJP's job

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

X POST OF THE DAY

#NEETRow clear indication that a lot still remains to be done on corruption front. Everyone claps seeing big cash being confiscated from corrupt politicians. However, their lives are affected directly by low rank corruption every day. Need to act before crucial assembly election

@PIYUSHGUPTAD

SHORT TAKES

Fire at two adjoining factories, no casualty

Noida: A fire broke out at a garment factory here and spread to an adjoining pharmaceutical factory, officials said Saturday. Chief Fire Officer Pradeep Kumar said no one was trapped in the multi-storey building and there were no casualties in the incident. The fire was reported from the garment factory building located in Sector 67 at 12 noon, he said.

Death toll in Nagpur factory blast rises

Nagpur: The death toll in the blast at an explosives factory in Maharashtra's Nagpur district reached eight Saturday after another worker succumbed to her injuries at a private hospital, an official said. Shradha Vanraj Patil (22), who was undergoing treatment in Nagpur city, succumbed to her injuries, Dr Pinak Dande, director of Dande Hospital, told PTI. Another injured worker, Pramod Chavare, is undergoing treatment. With this, eight workers, including six women and two men, have lost their lives due to the explosion that occurred Thursday.

Narco-terror module busted

Srinagar: Security forces have busted a narco-terror module in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district by arresting three persons and recovering arms, ammunition and contraband from their possession, police said Saturday. A trap was laid by the police and army in Karnah area of north Kashmir district on an input that a person was trying to find purchasers for heroin, said a police spokesman.

Delhi asks Haryana to discharge water

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 15: In view of the water shortage in the national capital, the Delhi government has appealed to Haryana to discharge additional water into the Yamuna on humanitarian grounds, senior AAP leader and minister Atishi said Saturday.

Delhi's water minister also told a press conference here that the capital is facing a shortage of 70 million gallons per day (MGD) in production due to a lack of raw water in the Munak Canal and Wazirabad reservoir.

The normal water production of around 1,002 MGD in Delhi June 6 went down to 932 MGD Friday because of a lack of raw water, she said. "The Delhi government has appealed to Haryana to release additional water for the people of the city on humanitarian grounds," the minister said, adding that issues related to the share of Yamuna water can be discussed after heatwave conditions abate.

Delhi's water production has dropped to 932 MGD due to insufficient inflow from Haryana. The water level at the Wazirabad Barrage has plunged by six feet to 668.5 feet, and the water re-



People collect drinking water from a tanker of Delhi Jal Board on a hot summer day as water crisis continues, at a slum in Geeta Colony area, in East Delhi

ceived from Munak Canal has decreased to 902 cusecs, she said.

The water level at Wazirabad Barrage should be 674.5 feet but it is only 668.5 feet right now. The water at Wazirabad Barrage has almost finished and no water is coming at all, said the minister. "On the other hand, Delhi is also not getting enough water from the Munak Canal. Delhi received 925 cusecs of water from Munak Canal June 10, which decreased to 919 cusecs June 11, decreased to 903 June 12, reached 906 13 June, and decreased to 902 cusecs

June 15," she stated.

The minister said no solution to the water crisis in Delhi could be found during the meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board Friday. Himachal Pradesh is ready to provide the water that was not used by it to Delhi, she claimed. "I spoke to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on the phone and he assured me cooperation," the minister said.

Atishi said the calculation of data on the availability of water from Himachal Pradesh is yet to be done by the Board. In a meeting with Delhi Jal Board offi-

WATER CRISIS

RENUKASWAMY MURDER CASE

Court extends police custody of Darshan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 15: A court here Saturday extended the police custody of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa along with his friend Pavithra Gowda and eleven others, who are accused in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, by five more days.

They were produced before the court as their six-day police custody will end Sunday. As the court would be shut Sundays and Monday (Bakrid) - a public holiday, the police decided to produce them before Judge Vishwanath C Goudar.

With this, Darshan, Gowda and



others will continue to be in police custody till June 20. The advocates of Darshan and others requested the court to send them to judicial custody. However, the investigation team requested the court that crucial evidence and equipment used to torture the deceased needs to be recovered and hence extend the police custody.

After hearing both sides, the 21st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court granted police custody. Darshan, popularly known as "Challenging Star" and 12 of his close associates were arrested Tuesday for the murder of 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor.

Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga, allegedly commented on the social media account of Gowda, a small-time actress, accusing her of creating a rift between the actor and his wife. He also allegedly used "indecent language" and posted offensive messages, according to police sources.



Goats being sold at a livestock market ahead of the Eid al-Adha festival in New Delhi

Heavy rain in NE states: Several trains cancelled

AGENCIES

Guwahati/Agartala, June 15: In view of the heavy rain and the red alert sounded by the meteorological department for the next two days in the Lumding-Badarpur Hill section, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Saturday cancelled eight express trains between Silchar and other cities of Assam for Sunday.

A NFR spokesman said that the authorities have yet to cancel all the trains in the Lumding-Badarpur Hill section, which is a connecting railway route to south Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram.

"Depending on the intensity of the rains and condition of the railway tracks, we would decide on the running of the trains Monday onwards," the spokesman told IANS over phone from the NFR headquarters in Guwahati. He said that as a precautionary measure, the authorities have cancelled and rescheduled some trains pass-



ing through this section. The Met department said that due to cyclonic circulations, Assam and other northeastern states are set to receive heavy rain in the next few days. Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms has been lashing various places in Assam including the southern part of the state since Friday night. Train services have been cut off between Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, southern Assam and the rest of the country for the last few weeks as most railway tracks remained

waterlogged and damaged owing to the landslides in the Lumding Division of the NFR because of the incessant rain before and after Cyclone Remal.

Every year during the monsoon, several northeastern states, especially Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and southern Assam, remain cut off from the rest of the country for weeks owing to landslides, waterlogging and damage to railway tracks, leading to hardship for the people of the region.

Petrol, diesel to get costlier in Karnataka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 15: Karnataka government Saturday hiked sales tax on fuel which will make petrol and diesel costlier.

According to official sources, petrol will now go up by ₹3 and diesel by ₹3.5 per litre. In a notification issued by the Finance Department, the government has hiked sales tax on petrol by 3.92 percentage points, from 25.92 to 29.84 per cent. On diesel, the hike is 4.1 percentage points, from 14.34 to 18.44 per cent.

This notification shall come into force with immediate effect, it said. The decision comes days after the Lok Sabha poll results, in which NDA got 19 out of 28 seats in Karnataka, with BJP winning 17 and JD(S) with 2. The ruling Congress in the state has won nine seats.

The move, aimed at resource mobilisation, comes after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is also the finance minister, reviewed the state's revenue generation and fiscal position. During the meeting, the CM asked officials to work harder towards meeting revenue collection targets. According to sources, the hike is expected to generate ₹2,500-₹2,800 crore during the financial year.

Hitting out at the government, Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra urged the Chief Minister to roll back the hike in petrol and diesel prices, as he

threatened a state wide protest by the party Monday, at all district centres. "Faced by defeat in Lok Sabha polls, the chief minister is not ready to accept that the financial situation of the state has deteriorated, but the hike in fuel prices proves it. The government is unable to run the administration because of guarantees, they are unable to get proper resources....The government should withdraw this decision (of fuel price hike)," he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka said this "anti-people" government is taking revenge on Kannadigas for voting BJP in the Lok Sabha elections.

Siddaramaiah has set aside ₹52,009 crore for his government's flagship five guarantee schemes this year. The Congress government's five guarantee schemes are - 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), ₹2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), payment of cash-in-lieu of the additional 5 kg of rice to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), ₹3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and ₹1,500 for diploma holders for two years (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti).

Sikkim CM visits landslide hit village

AGENCIES

Gangtok: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang Saturday visited landslide affected Majhua village in Namchi district and talked to the affected people, an official said. The CM interacted with the affected villagers at a relief camp set up at the Tourism Centre at Yangang helipad, the official said. At least three people were killed and several houses were destroyed when landslide hit the village earlier this week. The CM said that half-acre cultivable land will be given to those families whose houses were completely swept away by the landslide.

He also gave away cheques of Rs 5 lakh for an ex-gratia payment to the families of the victims. Tamang also directed the Roads and Bridges Department to restore road connectivity to Majhua village at the earliest and assured that the affected families would get all necessary assistance from the state government till normalcy returned.

BJP forms panel of 4 MPs to look into WB post-poll violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kolkata, June 15: BJP president J P Nadda Saturday formed a four-member committee to look into the alleged political violence in West Bengal, as the party accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of remaining a mute spectator.

The committee includes Biplob Kumar Deb, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Brij Lal and Kavita Patidar; all BJP MPs, with Deb as its convener. In a jibe at the saffron camp, Trinamool Congress spokesperson and former Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen said the BJP is now hunting for excuses after being rejected by the people of West Bengal in the Lok Sabha polls. Of the 42 Lok Sabha seats, the TMC won 29, the BJP 12 and the Congress 1. The saffron party said the Lok Sabha elections were held across the country and no instance of political violence was reported from anywhere except West Bengal.

Fasting can help immune system better fight cancer

The new study in mice from researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in New York revealed that fasting may help the body defend against cancer, starving cancer cells of the nutrients they need to grow

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 15: Fasting has a myriad of benefits, and now, a team of researchers has claimed that it can even reprogramme the metabolism of natural killer cells, helping them to survive in the harsh environment in and around tumours while also improving their can-

cer-fighting ability. The new study in mice from researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in New York revealed that fasting may help the body defend against cancer, starving cancer cells of the nutrients they need to grow.

"Tumours are very hungry. They take up essential nutri-



ents, creating a hostile environment often rich in lipids that are detrimental to most immune

cells," according to immunologist Joseph Sun, the study's senior author.

Fasting reprogrammes these natural killer cells (a type of white blood cell) to better survive in this suppressive environment, he said in a paper published in the journal Immunity. For the study, mice with cancer were denied food for 24 hours twice a week, and then allowed to eat freely in between fasts. Just like humans, the mice saw a drop in their glucose levels and a rise in free fatty acids, which are lipids released by fat cells that can serve as an alternative energy source when other nutrients are not present, according to Rebecca Delconte,

lead author of the study. During each of these fasting cycles, natural killer cells learned to use these fatty acids as an alternative fuel source to glucose. This optimised their anti-cancer response because the tumor microenvironment contains a high concentration of lipids, and now they were able to enter the tumour and survive better because of this metabolic training, the authors noted. While more research is needed, the results suggest fasting could be a strategy to improve immune responses to make immunotherapy more effective.

international



You have my husband Joe, who you all know, who has integrity, he's strong, he's steady, he's a leader. He's smart. He's energetic, or you have chaos
JILL BIDEN | US FIRST LADY

KATE'S PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Britain is putting on a display of birthday pageantry Saturday for King Charles III, a military parade that will be the Princess of Wales' first public appearance since her cancer diagnosis early this year



of the day quote

Indian Americans account for only 1.5 per cent of the US population, yet they continue to have an outsized and positive impact across different aspects of US society
MR RANGASWAMI | FOUNDER, INDIA SPORA

Naval visits to a country are usually the result of an invitation, and this was not the case. Obviously we do not like the presence in our territory (of a submarine) belonging to a power (US) that maintains an official and practical policy that is hostile against Cuba
CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ DE COSSÍO | VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, CUBA

The authorities have developed an initial roadmap to relax restrictions on the importation of motor vehicles by 2025, starting with public passenger and special purpose vehicles in 2024 Q3, followed by goods transport vehicles in Q4 2024 and the rest in 2025
RANJITH SIYAMBALAPITTA | STATE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, SRI LANKA

G7 to promote IMEC

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is seen as an initiative by like-minded nations to gain strategic influence in the face of China's Belt and Road Initiative which has faced increasing criticism over lack of transparency



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bari, June 15: The Group of Seven industrialised nations have committed to promoting concrete infrastructure initiatives such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in the G7 Summit Communiqué issued at the end of the three-day G7 Summit, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Communiqué was issued Friday evening after the customary "family photo" at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia, where the G7 also reiterated a commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific" based on the rule of law.

Prime Minister Modi attended the G7 Summit at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the host.

"We will further promote concrete G7 PGI (Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment) initiatives, flagship projects, and complementary

initiatives to develop transformative economic corridors for quality infrastructure and investment, such as the deepening of our coordination and financing for the Lobito Corridor, the Luzon Corridor, the Middle Corridor, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, also building on the EU Global Gateway, the Great Green Wall Initiative, and the Mattei Plan for Africa launched by Italy," reads the communiqué.

Billed as a path-breaking initiative, the IMEC envisages a vast road, railroad and shipping network among Saudi Arabia, India, the United States and Europe to ensure integration among Asia, the Middle East and the West.

The IMEC is also seen as an initiative by like-minded nations to gain strategic influence in the face of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has faced increasing criticism over lack of transparency and disregard for sovereignty of the nations.

The BRI is a mega connectivity project that connects China

with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Russia and Europe.

The IMEC initiative was firmed up on the sidelines of the G20 Summit hosted by India in Delhi last year.

About the Outreach session Friday on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean addressed by Modi, the Communiqué reads "In a spirit of shared responsibility, we warmly welcome the participation of the Leaders of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Turkiye, and the United Arab Emirates."

"We will step up our efforts to enhance interoperability amongst our AI governance approaches to promote greater certainty, transparency and accountability while recognizing that approaches and policy instruments may vary across G7 members. We will take a risk-based approach in these efforts as we seek to foster innovation and growth, inclusive, and sustainable growth."

Among the other priorities of

the summit's agenda, the communiqué registers "unwavering support" for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia.

It notes "With a view to supporting Ukraine's current and future needs in the face of a prolonged defence against Russia, the G7 will launch Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) Loans for Ukraine, in order to make available approximately \$50 billion in additional funding to Ukraine by the end of the year."

"Therefore, without prejudice to possible other contributions and standing together, the G7 intends to provide financing that will be serviced and repaid by future flows of extraordinary revenues stemming from the immobilisation of Russian sovereign assets held in the European Union and other relevant jurisdictions. To enable this, we will work to obtain approval in these jurisdictions to use future flows of these extraordinary revenues to service and repay the loans."

Pope Francis became the first pontiff to join the participants of the G7 hosted by Italy, US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel.

Ramaphosa re-elected as South African Prez



South African foes unite in uneasy coalition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, June 15: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has been reelected by lawmakers for a second term after his African National Congress and the Democratic Alliance struck a historic deal to form a coalition government by setting aside their rivalry.

Ramaphosa's ANC lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in 30 years in last month's elections. It got 40 per cent of the vote, while the Democratic Alliance (DA) came second with 22 per cent.

The new government of national unity combines Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-right DA and smaller parties.

Ramaphosa, 71, easily won the late Friday vote against Julius Malema, leader of the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). Ramaphosa got 283 votes

and Malema just 44.

Parliament earlier in the day also elected Thoko Didiza of the ANC as Speaker and Annelie Lotriet of the DA as Deputy Speaker.

Ramaphosa is expected to announce his new Cabinet after his inauguration Wednesday. In his victory speech Ramaphosa hailed the new coalition, and said voters expected the leaders to "act and to work together for the good of everyone in our country".

His election, which ended days of speculation, came close to midnight Friday with last-minute inter-party discussions to establish a government of national unity (GNU). The Parliament session witnessed frequent interruptions and long voting processes.

The ANC teamed up with the largely-white DA, and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), which came fifth, as well as the minority party Patriotic Front (PF), drawing mixed reactions from both members of their respective parties and citizens.

SHORT TAKES

Slovak's new Prez Pellegrini sworn in

Bratislava: Peter Pellegrini was sworn in as the President of Slovakia Saturday in a ceremony that took place amid heightened security following an assassination attempt on his close ally, populist Prime Minister Robert Fico, a month ago. Pellegrini called for national unity in his speech at a special session of Parliament that took place at the seat of the Slovak philharmonic, becoming Slovakia's sixth President since it gained independence after the disintegration of Czechoslovakia in 1993. "We are one nation, one society, one Slovakia," he said.

Rare trip: Chinese Premier visits Oz

Melbourne: Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrived in Australia Saturday on a relations-mending mission with panda diplomacy, rock lobsters and China's global dominance in the critical minerals sector high on the agenda. His visit is the first by a Chinese premier in seven years and is expected to pave the way for President Xi Jinping's first journey to Australia since 2014. This is the second leg of his tour after New Zealand, and will end in Malaysia.

US military targets Houthi radar sites

Dubai: The United States military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels over their assaults on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said Saturday, after one merchant sailor went missing following an earlier Houthi strike on a ship. The attacks come as the US Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying to counter the Houthi campaign, attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

US delegation to visit India

Washington: A powerful bipartisan US congressional delegation, led by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaulis, is visiting India to strengthen bilateral ties and to meet the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. The delegation includes former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Gregory W Meeks among other leaders.

BREAKTHROUGH DEAL

Sweden, Iran swap prisoners

AGENCIES

Dubai, June 15: Iran and Sweden carried out a prisoner swap Saturday that saw Tehran release a European Union diplomat and another man for an Iranian convicted in Stockholm of committing war crimes over his part in 1988 mass executions in the Islamic Republic.

The arrest of Hamid Nouri by Sweden in 2019 as he travelled there as a tourist likely sparked the detentions of the two Swedes, part of a long-running strategy by Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution to use those with ties abroad as chip in negotiations with the West.

As Iranian state television claimed without evidence that Nouri had been "illegally detained," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson described the

detentions of diplomat Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi as a "hell on earth" the two men faced.

"Iran has made these Swedes pawns in a cynical negotiation game with the aim of getting the Iranian citizen Hamid Nouri released from Sweden, Kristersson said. "It has been clear all along that this operation would require difficult decisions, now the government has made those decisions.

Oman, a sultanate on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, mediated the release, its state-run news agency reported. Oman long has served as an interlocutor between Iran and the West.

In 2022, the Stockholm District Court sentenced Nouri to life in prison over his role in the executions.



People hold a banner that reads "against the far right, on the street and at the ballot box", during a demonstration against the French far-right National Rally (Rassemblement National - RN) party, ahead of early legislative elections in Paris, France

World leaders take part in Ukraine summit

Over 90 countries will take part, but China's absence in particular has dimmed hopes the summit would show Russia as globally isolated

REUTERS

Buergenstock, June 15: World leaders gathered at a Swiss mountain resort Saturday to try to build support for Ukraine's peace proposals at a summit skipped by US President Joe Biden, shunned by China and dismissed as a waste of time by Moscow.

More than 90 countries will take part, but China's absence in particular has dimmed hopes the summit would show Russia as globally isolated, while recent military reverses have put Kyiv on the back foot. The war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas has also diverted the world's attention from Ukraine.

The talks will focus on broader concerns triggered by the war, such as food and nuclear security.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has trumpeted the summit's wide attendance as a success and predicted "history being made", adding that agreements stemming from it will be part of the peacemaking process.

"Ukraine never wanted this war. It's a criminal and absolutely unprovoked aggression by Russia," he said alongside Swiss President Viola Amherd, who



said the conflict had brought "unimaginable suffering" and violated international law. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called the gathering an important step to discuss peace and security questions.

Eid al-Adha reminds families in Gaza of war's punishing toll

Gaza was impoverished and isolated even before the war, but people still managed to celebrate by hanging up colorful decorations, surprising children with treats and gifts, and purchasing meat or slaughtering livestock to share with those less fortunate

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah, June 15: Last summer, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip celebrated the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha the way it's

supposed to be with large family feasts, meat shared with those less fortunate, and new clothes and gifts for children.

But this year, after eight months of devastating war between Israel and Hamas, many families will eat canned food in stifling tents. There's hardly any meat or livestock at local markets, and no money for holiday treats or presents, only war, hunger and misery with no end in sight.

"There is no Eid this year," said Nadia Hamouda, whose daughter was killed in the war and who fled from her home in northern Gaza months ago and is staying in a tent in the central town of Deir al-Balah. "When we hear the call to prayer, we cry over those we lost and the things we lost, and what has



happened to us, and how we used to live before."

Muslims around the world will celebrate the four-day Eid al-Adha, the Feast of the Sacrifice, early in the week. It commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail, as recounted in the

treats and gifts, and purchasing meat or slaughtering livestock to share with those less fortunate.

"It was a real Eid," Hamouda said. "Everyone was happy, including the children."

After Hamas' surprise attack into Israel October 7, in which Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people and took another 250 hostage, Israel launched a massive air and ground assault.

United Nations agencies have warned that over a million people, nearly half the population,

could experience the highest level of starvation in the coming weeks.

In early May, Egypt shut down its crossing into the southern

Gazan city of Rafah after Israel captured it, sealing the only route for people to enter or leave the territory. That means virtually no Palestinians from Gaza will be able to make the annual Hajj pilgrimage that precedes the Eid.

In Gaza after the war, a kilogram of meat costs 200 shekels (around \$50). A live sheep, which could be bought for as little as \$200 before the war, now costs \$1,300, if it's even available.

After Israel war much of Gaza is in ruins and most of the 2.3 million Palestinians have fled their homes

of the day quote

We remain focused on expanding our brownfield for which we already have a plan of 40 MTP. Penna's 14 MTPA is on top of what we were doing. It only accelerates our journey

AJAY KAPUR | CEO AND WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR, AMBUJA CEMENTS

We rolled out the ₹10-50 lakh model in December and I am happy to share that we have already sanctioned around 20,000 loans through this process and this is working very smoothly. Now, we are escalating it to ₹5 crore

SURENDRA RANA | DEPUTY MD, SBI

People are building massive data centres in the US to manage this requirement. And that's a huge market opportunity. I think even in India, a very large number of data centres are coming up

PRASHANT RUIA | DIRECTOR, ESSAR CAPITAL

SHORT TAKES

US court fines TCS

New Delhi: A US court has ruled that Tata Consultancy Services is liable for misappropriation of trade secrets and levied penal charges of around \$194 million on the IT major, a regulatory filing said Friday. TCS, however, said it has strong arguments against the judgement and is taking necessary steps to protect its interest through review or appeal. The order has been passed against the company in a case filed by Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) -- now merged with DXC Technology Company (DXC) -- alleging misappropriation of its trade secrets before United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. "The court ordered that the company is liable to CSC for \$56,151,583 in compensatory damages and \$112,303,166 in exemplary damages. The court also assessed that the company is liable for \$25,773,576.60 in prejudgment interest through June 13, 2024," the IT major said in the filing.

Windfall tax cut

New Delhi: The government has reduced windfall tax on domestically-produced crude oil to ₹3,250 per tonne from ₹5,200, with effect from Saturday. The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED). SAED on export of diesel, petrol and jet fuel or ATF, has been retained at 'nil'. The new rates are effective from June 15, an official notification said. India first imposed windfall profit taxes July 1, 2022, joining a host of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

Airtel pre-pays dues

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel said it has prepaid ₹7,904 crore to the Department of Telecom (DoT) to clear high-cost deferred liabilities for spectrum acquired in 2012 and 2015. In a stock exchange filing, the company said that it has fully prepaid all deferred liabilities for the years 2012 and 2015 which were at the highest interest cost of 9.75 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. In January this year, the company prepaid ₹8,325 crore to the government to clear part of its deferred liabilities for the spectrum it acquired in 2015. In the 2015 auction, Airtel acquired 111.6 MHz of spectrum for ₹29,130.20 crore and had paid ₹7,832.58 crore upfront as per the rules. In July last year, Airtel prepaid ₹8,024 crore to clear liabilities for spectrum acquired in 2015.



India's gems and jewellery sector has shown remarkable resilience and adaptability despite global headwinds

VIPUL SHAH | CHAIRMAN, GJPC

INDIA'S BIGGEST: HYUNDAI FILES IPO PAPERS

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL), the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to launch an initial public offering (IPO) Saturday and is looking to raise at least \$3 billion (around ₹25,000 crore) through it. The company's IPO, if it goes through, would be the largest in India, surpassing LIC's share-sale of ₹21,000 crore



INDIA-CHINA TENSIONS

Electronics take ₹1.25L-cr hit

THIS COMES AMID PROTRACTED DELAYS IN ISSUING VISAS TO CHINESE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT PROBES INTO CHINESE COMPANIES OPERATING IN INDIA

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 15: Escalating tensions between India and China have cost Indian electronics manufacturers ₹1.25 lakh crore in production losses as well as 100,000 jobs in the past four years, as per reports.

In submissions to various ministries, the electronics manufacturing industry said India has also lost out on ₹83,550 crore export opportunity besides \$2 billion in value addition loss, according to the reports.

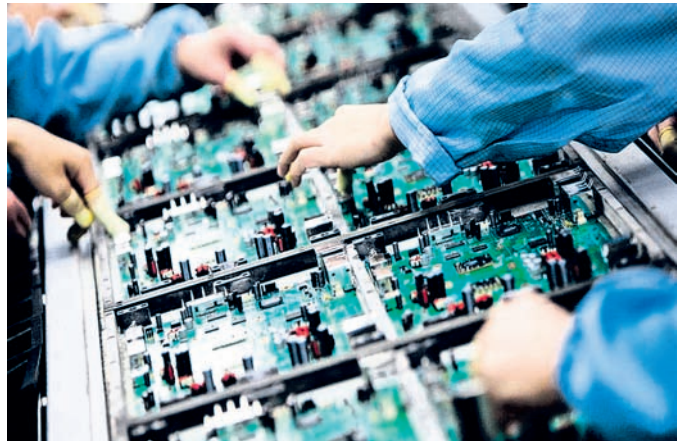
According to industry executives, 4,000-5,000 visa applications of Chinese executives are currently awaiting government go-ahead, hindering the Indian electronics manufacturing industry's expansion plans.

This is despite India setting up a mechanism to clear business visa applications within 10 days.

The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) and Manufacturers Association of Information Technology (MATT) lobby groups are urging the Centre to hasten visa approvals for Chinese executives that are currently taking more than a month.

These executives are needed for technology and skills transfer, installing and commissioning production units, setting up efficiency processes, and conducting maintenance, executives said. Also stuck in the backlog are visa applications for leadership teams of Chinese firms invited to set up manufacturing units here in partnerships with local companies, the executives said.

"Our Domestic Value Addition (DVA) plan has been impacted se-



verely. When the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme for mobiles was launched (in 2020-21), it was expected that the supply chain would shift from China. But due to this standoff and Press Note 3 (mandating greater scrutiny of investments from countries sharing land border with India), shifting of the supply chain has got severely curtailed," ICEA said.

The association represents top mobile brands and manufacturers such as Apple, Oppo, Vivo, Dixon Technologies, and Lava, according to reports.

ICEA estimates that normal business activity between India and China would have resulted in value addition to Indian firms rising from the current 18% to 22-23%, leading to an additional ₹15,000 crore annual contribution in the domestic mobile phone ecosystem.

While India has offset several disadvantages and become more competitive, it is still suffering a new form of disadvantage against nations like Vietnam, Malaysia, and Mexico which

have free access to capital, technology and skills from China.

Industry executives said even Chinese nationals are apprehensive of coming to India, fearing arrests and interrogations.

"If there is a requirement of 50 engineers to come to India to help set up a factory, only 10 or so are willing to come," an industry executive said, on condition of anonymity.

He added that since 2020, due to the worsened geopolitical situation and intense scrutiny of businesses run by Chinese enterprises, these companies have stopped further investments in India, hampering further development of the supply chain.

"If these companies decide to leave India, it will have a major impact on availability of products and services to the consumers, and loss of employment and shutting of large manufacturing capacities," the executive added.

For instance, a large Chinese manufacturer had committed to build a plant in India to make Apple iPads, but eventually shifted to Vietnam where it is cur-

We are cautiously optimistic that a balanced resolution which will alleviate the concerns of the industry and balance national security interests. The industry is not requesting to kowtow to any nation, but to recognise that the path to Atmanirbharta depends upon moving up a China-dominated value chain

PANKAJ MOHINDROO | CHAIRMAN, ICEA

rently producing ₹66,840 - ₹83,550 crore worth of iPads per year; according to the report.

Chinese smartphone brands are also wary of participating in India's flagship mobile PLI scheme, resulting in loss of business opportunity, say executives.

"If Chinese companies would not have been deterred from participating in the mobile PLI, we (India) could have generated additional export revenue of at least ₹41,775 to ₹58,485 crore since 2020," another executive said.

The need for Chinese executives for setting up production units in India is set to rise further if the government approves a PLI scheme for electronics component manufacturing, the report read.

The electronics manufacturing industry has sought a ₹30,000-35,000 crore PLI package for making components and sub-assemblies, along with capital expenditure backup, to support an expected ₹6.26-6.68 lakh crore demand for electronics components by 2026 for reducing heavy reliance on imports and improving the country's trade deficit with China.

EQUITY MARKET CAP

Stock mkts breaking global benchmarks

In a new feat, India has reclaimed the fourth-biggest global equity market tag from Hong Kong

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 15: As Indian stock markets continue to touch fresh new highs almost every day post the formation of the new government, they are also breaking global benchmarks.

In a new feat, India has reclaimed the fourth-biggest global equity market tag from Hong Kong. The country's market capitalisation soared 10 per cent to reach \$5.2 trillion (BSE-listed companies).

In comparison, Hong Kong's equity market cap is \$5.17 trillion, down 5.4 per cent from the high of \$5.47 trillion this year.

On a price-to-book basis, India trades at 3 times, while Hong Kong is at just one time.

This comes as the Indian stock market has seen a significant rally in recent months and is now attracting global funds which are going to accelerate in the near future.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) benchmark Nifty surged nearly 6 per cent in the last month and 11.84 per cent in the last six months. According to market analysts, Nifty is expected to reach 25,816 in the next 12 months.

The Prabhudas Lilladher experts anticipate that the BJP-led NDA government will sustain its focus on capital expenditure-driven growth, particularly in sectors such as production-linked



India's market capitalisation soared 10% to reach \$5.2tn (BSE-listed firms)

Nifty surged nearly 6% in the last month and 11.84% in the last six months

incentives (PLI), infrastructure development, including roads, ports, aviation, defence, railways, and green energy.

This expectation is supported by a 20 bps reduction in the fiscal deficit for FY24, normal monsoon forecasts, and an anticipated dividend of ₹2.1 trillion from the RBI.

The analysts expect the NDA government to increase focus on farmers, rural, urban poor and middle class to arrest the impact of new social engineering-cum-freebies led reversal in certain states in recent elections

Meanwhile, the stock markets have emerged as a favourite investment destination for retail investors.

According to experts, the major driving forces in this bull market are the Indian retail investors, including HNIs, and big selling by the FIIs is getting eclipsed by the aggressive buying of DIIs and retail investors.

Insolvency process begins against Supertech Realtors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered initiating an insolvency proceeding against Supertech Realtors, which is developing a residential apartment, office, retail and luxury hotel at its Supernova project.

A two-member Delhi bench of NCLT admitted the insolvency plea filed by the Bank of Maharashtra over a default of ₹168.04 crore and appointed Anju Agarwal as interim resolution professional (IRP), suspending the board of Supertech Realtors, a step-down subsidiary of Supertech.

Supertech is also facing a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

Supertech Realtors is developing Supernova project at a cost of ₹2,326.14 crore on a land admeasuring 70,002 square metres at Sector 94, Noida.

As per the plans, Supernova project will have 80 floors and will be the tallest building in Delhi-



NCR at a height of 300 metres.

For the project, Supertech Realtors approached a consortium of lenders led by Union Bank of India seeking a financial assistance of ₹7,35.58 crore. Out of this, it had also requested for a credit facility of ₹150 crore, which was granted by Bank of Maharashtra.

In December 2012, a term loan of ₹150 crore was granted. The term loan was repayable in quarterly installments in the consolidated door-to-door tenor for 10 years and 4 months by March 2023.

However, Supertech Realtors failed to maintain financial discipline and defaulted in properly maintaining the said accounts in addition to committing other breaches and violations of the credit limit, leading to accumulation of huge outstanding.

S&P Global Ratings puts 6 Tata Group firms on credit watch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: S&P Global Ratings Friday said it has placed credit watch ratings with positive implications on six Tata Group entities, citing possible increase in group support.

The companies are Tata Steel Ltd, Tata Motors Ltd, Jaguar Land Rover Automotive PLC(JLR), Tata Power Co Ltd, TML Holdings Pte Ltd and ABA Investment Co Pte Ltd, S&P Global Ratings said. The rating actions came ahead of a review of the relationship between the group's holding company, Tata Sons Pte Ltd (unrated), and its subsidiaries, it added.

S&P Global Ratings said its review will assess whether the potential of extraordinary support for the group entities from Tata Sons is greater than what it previously factored.

"This is due to increasing operational and management linkages within the group," the rating agency said, adding that Tata Sons has a record of supporting group entities in events of stress.

Amul enters Rourkela market

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 15: The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) Ltd, the leading producer of milk under the brand name Amul, announced the launch of its operations in Rourkela.

Amul has entered Odisha in fresh milk category by launching in Sambalpur earlier in the month of April and is getting good response from consumers.

Jayen Mehta, Managing Director of GCMMF said, "We have identified Rourkela as an opportune market for our fresh product offerings. We would be selling Amul Pouch Milk, Dahi, Buttermilk, Lassi, Paneer in fresh products category to the consumers of Rourkela who are brand conscious and are willing to associate themselves with strong brand of Amul."

The milk range available will be Amul Gold, Amul Shakti, Amul Cow milk and Amul Taaza Milk.

Amul Gold is full cream milk with minimum 6.0 % fat (₹32 for 500ml). Amul Taaza has a



minimum of 3.0% fat and is easy to digest, (₹26 for 500ml). Amul Shakti has a minimum of 4.5% fat (₹28 for 500ml). Amul Cow Milk has a minimum of 4.0% fat (₹27 for 500ml).

The milk range is available in 500 ml & 1L packs at retail shops. The economy pack of 6L is also available for hotels, restaurants, and tea stalls.

Amul Masti Curd pouch will be available (₹34 for 400gm, ₹72 for 1kg), cup (₹10 for 85 gm, ₹22 for 200gm). Sweet Lassi is priced at ₹10 for 150ml and Probiotic Tadka Chaach at ₹10 for 270ml has also been launched.

The entire range of fresh

milk and products will be available in Rourkela market from early morning of June 17.

Amul as a policy passes on almost 80 paise of every rupee paid by consumers for milk and & milk products to the milk producers. The milk is locally procured from over 200 milk societies, 6,000 milk producing farmers of Odisha.

This launch will ensure remunerative prices to local dairy farmers and high-quality products to consumers at affordable prices. It will be packed at highly automated plant situated near to the market which offers hygienic products with quality standard.

Tesla CEO's fan base cheers approval of \$56bn pay package

REUTERS

San Francisco, June 15: Elon Musk's army of small-investor allies took a victory lap Friday as the Tesla CEO won a critical shareholder vote for his \$56 billion pay package despite opposition from major institutions.

Mom-and-pop investors, who hold an unusually high share of the electric-vehicle maker, are typically apathetic toward voting.

But in an unusual show of support, many had been campaigning on social media for weeks for the celebrity billionaire CEO's pay to be reinstated after a Delaware judge voided it in January because she found that Musk had improperly controlled the process.

Backing from retail shareholders along with support from some big institutional investors was key to turning the vote in Musk's favor, a source familiar with the preliminary tally told Reuters, after the CEO tipped

off on social media platform X that the proposal was garnering huge support.

"Tesla's retail shareholders aren't just passively adding shares to their portfolio. They're participating in running and advancing the company," said Omar Qazi in a post on X from the handle @WholeMarsBlog. "They vote. They tell their friends. It's not just about investing. It's a movement," said Qazi who has more than 476,000 followers.

Institutional investors have been divided on the issue.

While some supported Musk's pay, others such as California Public Employees' Retirement System and proxy firms Glass Lewis and Institutional Shareholder Services urged shareholders to reject the pay package, calling the compensation excessive.

"When both the institutions and the proxy advisory firms are leaning in one direction, it's very rare for the vote to come out



We have the most awesome shareholder base. Hot damn, I love you guys

ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA

the other way," John Lawrence, a partner at law firm Baker Botts, told Reuters. "It shows in this case the company's understanding of the power of social media."

"WE HAVE YOUR BACK" Musk enjoys a global fan base for transforming Tesla from a

startup to a behemoth and for innovation at his other companies including rocket maker SpaceX. But standing up to powerhouse investors who voted "no" on the pay package required more than just a fan base.

Social media has been abuzz

Social media campaign helps garner rare small-investor support

Win for Musk despite opposition from major institutions

for weeks with many users, such as Alexandra Merz, who posts on X as @TeslaBoomerMama, calling on people to vote. The efforts prompted some non-US banks and brokerages to allow Tesla investors to vote, which was not previously the case.

"Don't mess with Tesla Retail Shareholders," Merz, who attended the meeting and received a standing ovation from investors for her endeavors, posted on X. "Your votes will help to remedy a true injustice."

Musk himself has also been actively wooing their support with regular social media posts. He had set up a separate website to educate investors on the proposals, which also included incorporating the company in

Texas, and on how to vote.

The company's board sent regular letters to shareholders highlighting Musk's importance to Tesla and alluding to the risks of losing his involvement if the pay package was rejected. Musk even offered tours of Tesla's factory to some investors who voted.

The plan worked. About 90% of the retail investors who voted were in favor, Musk said in a post on X over the weekend.

The approval is critical as Musk faces an uphill legal fight to convince the Delaware judge who said the Tesla board was "beholden" to him, while Tesla might also field fresh lawsuits over the latest vote. Still, small investors assured their continued support.

"Shareholders have spoken, again, and hopefully now our votes can officially count," X user Alicia said in a post. "@elonmusk, we've always believed in you and will continue to do so. We have your back!"

T20
WORLD
CUP

First triumph for Kiwis

NEW ZEALAND HAMMER UGANDA BY 9 WICKETS



Left-arm pacer Trent Boult (2/7) and fellow veteran quick Tim Southee (3/4) wrecked havoc as Uganda folded up for a mere 40 in 18.4 overs, missing the lowest total in the T20 World Cup by just a run.

Uganda had been bowled out for the joint-lowest team total of 39 against West Indies last week. The gulf between them and top nations has been pretty evident in the tournament.

Opener Devon Conway (22 not out off 15, 4x4s) then fuelled New Zealand's first win of the tournament with the Kiwis knocking off the target in 5.2 overs.

Having lost their opening two games to Afghanistan and hosts West Indies, New Zealand finished outside of the semifinals for the first time in 10 years.

"It was obviously a pretty clinical performance, nice to get a win. Extremely disappointed to play ourselves out of the tournament," player of the match Southee said.

"You look at the side, plenty of experience and we were not at our best in the first two games. We have a proud record in World Cups in the last 10 years and it has now come to an end," he added.

The Kiwis flexed their muscle against debutants Uganda, whose batters continued to struggle in the tournament.

The African side has not gone beyond the 80-run mark in the

tournament and conclude with three losses and a win.

"It has been a wonderful experience for us. Obviously, being here first time at this level, just the exposure to the quality players... it has done wonders for the game back home. The whole country has been following our progress, staying up late to watch games. Hopefully, it is a platform we can build on," Uganda skipper Brian Masaba said.

"I have tried to interact as much as I can with the top players, trying to pick their brain. Asking questions like what they did to get better. We are looking forward to what happens next for us, and hopefully this can help get it done," he added.

With the ball swinging prodigiously in the powerplay, New Zealand made the most of it, giving away just 9/3.

Boult set the tone of the match with twin strikes in the first over. He swung the ball away from a clueless Simon Ssesazi to trap him leg before wicket on the third ball of the innings.

Boult then knocked over Robinson Obuya's stumps on the very next delivery. The 34-

year-old, however, was denied a hat-trick by Alpesh Ramjani, who negotiated an out-swinging yorker.

Southee claimed Uganda's third wicket fell in the fourth over, as he trapped Ramjani in front of the wickets.

Wickets continued to tumble for Uganda as spinners Mitchell Santner (2/8) and Rachin Ravindra (2/9) joined in on the action.

Southee then returned in the 18th over to claim two more wickets, trapping Fred Achelam and Juma Miyagi leg before wicket

South Africa edge Nepal

Nepal came within a whisker of achieving its best-ever win in cricket, losing by one run to powerhouse South Africa. Nepal needed two runs from the last ball of the match to win, one run to match South Africa's modest total of 115-7 and force a Super Over. But teenager Ghulshan Jha was run out at the non-striker's end attempting a single from the final ball and South Africa held on to win a thrilling match. The Nepal players were disconsolate. They seemed to be headed for Nepal's first win in 12 attempts against an ICC full member nation when they needed 22 runs from the last 24 balls. They needed 18 runs from 18 balls but lost three wickets for one run within six balls including two wickets to spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and the equation changed. Gulshan was unable to score from the first two balls of the last over, bowled by Otneil Baartman. He then slashed a four through the off side and Nepal needed four runs from three balls. Gulshan ran two with Sompal Kami and Nepal needed 2 from two balls. The fifth ball was a dot ball — no runs were scored — and Gulshan was run out next ball to end the match. "We were very close and yet so far," Nepal captain Rohit Paudel said. "I think in crunch moments we did well and the way we fought was very good. If we can play top teams more regularly then next time we will be on the winning side."

on consecutive deliveries. But like Boult, he too was denied a hat-trick.

Kenneth Waiswa (11) was the only Ugandan batter to reach a double digit score with four of them returning to the dugout without opening their account.

India vs Canada match called off

Despite washout against Canada, India wind up T20 WC group stage positively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Lauderhill (USA), June 15: Inclement weather hindered India's hopes of reinforcing their preparation for Super Eight through a match against Canada here Saturday, but they will travel to the Caribbean as a confident unit after a robust T20 World Cup group stage campaign.

India's final Group A league match against Canada was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to a wet outfield.

Both teams shared one point each, as India advanced as Group A toppers with seven points. USA (five points) were the second team to qualify from the Group. Canada finished third with three points.

India's confidence primarily stems from the pacers' effort in three group matches. Lead quick Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya and Mohammed Siraj combined to bag 20 wickets among them.

Of course, they had a spiteful, double-paced drop-in pitch for assistance at the Nassau County stadium in those matches, and they will have traditional surfaces to play on in the West Indies for the rest of the ICC showpiece.

But if their outings in New York can be taken as an indication, then the opposition will have a lot to worry.

Pitch certainly played its part, but the Indian pacers also showed the technical nous and understanding of conditions to exploit what was on offer to them.

None displayed it better than Arshdeep. The left-arm quick made the ball curve back from over the wicket into Shayan Jahangir to trap the USA batter plumb in front.

A few balls later, the ultra-aggressive Andries Gous could not negate a short-pitched ball that skidded on to him at a fair clip. Those two deliveries would have potentially fetched him wickets on any kind of pitch.

The runs from skipper Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav is another positive sign but for different reasons.

Both Rohit and Suryakumar had an underwhelming IPL 2024, and here they showed some sparks that they would like to ignite further in the Super Eight.

In contrast, Pant had some fruitful outings in the IPL while leading Delhi Capitals, but a lot of people would have been keen to know his readiness for the rigours of top-of-the-draw cricket.

However, everything is not rosete. The spinners, except Axar Patel to a certain extent, hardly got any game time in the group matches, courtesy the nature of the pitch in the Big Apple.

Other spinners in the squad, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal will enter the Super Eight with zero game time under their belt.

SHORT TAKES

Bedi passes away

New Delhi: Veteran sports journalist Harpal Singh Bedi, who covered several highs and lows of Indian sports in a career spanning over four decades, served as the national Olympic contingent's press attache in 2012 and charmed the media box with his inimitable wit and warmth, died after prolonged illness here Saturday. He was 72 and is survived by his wife



Revathi and daughter Pallavi. The former sports editor of the United News of India (UNI) was among the tallest figures in Indian sports journalism and was working as a consulting editor of the Statesman newspaper for the last couple of years. His awe-inspiring work experience included on-ground coverage of eight Olympic Games, "hard to count" Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games, World Cups of cricket and hockey, and world and national championships of athletics and other major Olympic sports.

Boult to quit T20

Tarouba: Veteran pacer Trent Boult has confirmed the ongoing T20 World Cup will be his final appearance for New Zealand in the marquee-tournament. Since his debut in 2011, Boult has been a key member of the BlackCaps' golden generation, participating in



multiple finals across all three formats for New Zealand. Additionally, the left-arm pacer has featured in four editions of the T20 World Cup since 2014. "Speaking on behalf of myself, this will be my last T20 World Cup. That's all I have to say," Boult said at the press conference after New Zealand's nine-wicket win over Uganda. Whether Boult will continue to play for New Zealand in any capacity remains uncertain as he had opted out of a central contract in 2022, choosing to play T20 franchise cricket around the world instead.

SNIPPETS

Indian women's TT team bag bronze

New Delhi: India clinched their first medal at the ongoing BRICS Games in Kazan with the women's table tennis team comprising Poyamantee Baisya, Moumita Dutta and Yashini Sivasankar clinching a bronze medal. Indian women's TT team lost to China 1-3 in the semi-final to settle for a bronze in the Russian city Friday. Yashini won 11-7, 4-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-2 in the first game but China came back strongly to win their remaining three rubbers to make the final. Newly-appointed Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya congratulated the women's TT team. "Heartiest congratulations to Womens #TableTennis team for winning the Bronze Medal at #BRICS Game. This is our first medal at the event. You have made the nation proud! I wish you continued success and glory in all your future endeavors," he posted on his official X handle.

Indian men's archery team lose in quarters in Final Olympic qualifier

Antalya: Indian men's archery team followed its women compatriots in failing to secure an Olympic quota from the Final Qualifier and will now have to rely on rankings to qualify for the quadrennial showpiece slated next month. A day after Indian women suffered a shock defeat to Ukraine in the pre-quarters, the world No 2 men's team exited in the last-eight stage, going down to Mexico in the shoot-off in a dramatic fashion. The top-seed India lost 4-5 (57-56, 57-53, 55-56, 55-58) (26-26*). The men's team event offered Olympic quotas to the top-three on the podium. The loss came as a rude reality check for the Indian Olympic medal hopefuls as they were leading 4-0 after winning first two sets comprehensively. Needing just a draw in the third set to advance into the semi-final, India lost by a point as Mexico went on to level four-all after winning the fourth set and sealed it by shooting closer to the centre in the shoot-off.

Odisha junior kickboxing team shine at national championship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 15: The Odisha junior kickboxing team delivered an impressive performance at the Junior National Kickboxing Championship held at Siliguri, West Bengal.

The team secured a commendable total of 39 medals, including 8 golds, 11 Silver, and 20 bronze medals. The total 35 participants brought glory to Odisha by winning 39 medals.

The team administration expressed their gratitude for the support provided by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Odisha.

The kickboxers are also short-listed for the WAKO Youth Kickboxing Championship at Budapest, Hungary.



MESSI SHINES IN COPA AMERICA WARM-UP



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Landover, June 15: Lionel Messi scored twice and assisted on another goal in his first international start since November and Argentina outclassed Guatemala 4-1 to complete its 2024 Copa America preparations.

Messi went the full 90 minutes for manager Lionel Scaloni after playing 35 off the bench in a 1-0 win over fellow Copa America contenders Ecuador Sunday in

Chicago. He previously missed a pair of international friendlies in March with a hamstring issue that has also contributed to his half-dozen absences for Inter Miami in MLS play.

But his sharp performance Friday — in which he also struck the woodwork with a free kick and contributed to a sequence leading to a penalty kick goal — should ease Argentine concerns ahead of next Thursday's group play opener against

Canada in Atlanta.

Lautaro Martinez also scored twice for the defending Copa America and World Cup champions against a Guatemala side that sits 108th in FIFA's world rankings. That included Argentina's goal from the penalty spot, a role Messi typically assumes during tournament play.

Guatemala took a surprise lead in the fourth minute when Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez redirected a chance resulting from a free kick only as far as defender Lisandro Martinez, who inadvertently bundled the ball across the goal line.

The lead lasted only eight minutes before Messi tied it when Guatemala goalkeeper Nicholas Hagen's errant pass found the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner directly in front of an open goal about 12 yards out.

In the 38th minute, Messi's feed sprung Valentin Carboni into the right side of the penalty area, forcing Guatemala defender Nicolas Samayoa to haul down the winger with a sliding challenge that resulted in Lautaro Martinez's penalty.

Groupings within Pak team behind disastrous WC campaign

DEFEATS TO MINNOWS USA AND ARCH-RIVALS INDIA COST PAKISTAN DEARLY AS THEY WERE KNOCKED OUT OF THE TOURNAMENT FRIDAY, FAILING TO EVEN REACH THE SUPER EIGHT STAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, June 15: Pakistan's shock early exit from the T20 World Cup is being blamed on "groupings" within the team and non-performance of senior players during critical moments and it could lead to "major changes" not just in the team but also in the PCB.

According to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sources, the biggest challenge before Babar Azam on his comeback as captain was to unite the team but he could not do so because of the groupings.



well aware of the problems in the team even before the World Cup and had been briefed by his right hand, national selector and senior manager, Wahab Riaz.

"Naqvi held two meetings with all the players in private and gave them pep talks asking them to put their issues aside and all-focus on winning the World Cup and he would remove all misgivings in the team later on but

apparently things didn't work out.

"I am not defending Babar but what is a captain supposed to do when your premier bowler can't even defend 15 in the final over against a weak USA side and concedes a boundary and six on full tosses. Or when an all-rounder brought out of retirement to help win the World Cup sits out with fitness issues."

Pakistan cricketers face the risk of having their central contracts reviewed and their salaries potentially reduced by the PCB following their early exit from the T20 World Cup

The role of outside elements including agents of players and some former players who ran social media campaigns also have not helped ease the simmering tensions in the team.

Naqvi has now hinted at making changes in the national team but another well-informed source made it clear that changes would now also be made in the cricket board.

"The Chairman obviously is going to clean up things in the team but already he has started a process of performance related appraisals of senior and mid level employees in the board," the source claimed. "You will see major changes in the

team and at management level in the board now," he said.

"Naqvi is himself facing problems as he is not the ruling government's choice to head the board. He is also now facing criticism for the WC debacle and there are calls for his head as well," said another PCB source.

Several reliable sources have also confirmed that Naqvi will not be making an immediate call on Babar Azam's captaincy since Pakistan now plays its next white ball series in November.

"The one good thing for Naqvi is that Pakistan now has two test series lined up at home against Bangladesh and England and with Shan Masood already the test captain and a new head coach in Jason Gillespie and he doesn't have to worry about immediate changes."

Usually in Pakistan cricket a failed World Cup campaign means that heads roll and the board tends to search for scapegoats but this time even the cricket fans and critics are pushing the PCB to take steps to stop the fall of the team.