



Yami's philosophy

Actor Yami Gautam believes in embracing diverse roles, syncing with directors, and challenging herself to break the mold

LEISURE | P2



Israel's tactical pause

The Israeli military says it will hold daily tactical pauses in military activity to allow more aid to flow into the enclave

INTERNATIONAL | P10



FPIs return to equities

Foreign investors make a strong comeback with a net inflow of ₹11,730 crore (\$1.4 billion) in the week ending June 14

BUSINESS | P11



Easy win for India

Smriti Mandhana's resolute hundred and a disciplined bowling effort pilot India to a huge 143-run win over South Africa

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SHORT TAKES

'Replicate Kashmir strategy in Jammu'

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday directed security agencies to implement area domination and zero-terror plans in the Jammu division like they did in Kashmir to achieve success. He also said the Narendra Modi government is committed to set an example by cracking down on terrorists in J&K through innovative means. These were conveyed to officials by the Home Minister at a high-level meeting convened to review the security situation in J&K in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in the UT, sources said.

2 confess role in NEET paper leak

Patna: Two accused including an examination mafia confessed their role in the question paper leak in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), an official of the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar Police said Sunday. EOU has constituted a 9-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the NEET question paper leak case. Thirteen persons including six examination mafias, four students and three parents have been arrested in connection with the alleged question paper leak case. Meanwhile, the EOU officials claimed that new facts were coming to light every day during the investigation.

Diphtheria killing kids in Kashipur

Rayagada, June 16: Days after the death of five kids at Munshupadar village under Kashipur block in this district, the Health department Sunday confirmed the underlying disease to be diphtheria. The confirmation came after a laboratory examination of the collected samples by a team of World Health Organisation, Chief District Medical Officer Dr Lal Mohan Routray said. The dreaded ailment caused by bacteria mostly affects children who first experience pain in the neck. Swelling in the neck is followed by high fever in a later stage making it difficult for them to take food, which ultimately results in death. Health officials are conducting medical camps on regular basis and treating the affected children following the direction of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the CDMO said. Meanwhile, 60 anti-toxin injections have reached the district.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You need not waste time and energy travelling. In no time we can create photos of you hugging any world leader

WEATHER

BBSR	CTC
Max Temp 40.8°C	38.5°C
Min Temp 27.4°C	26.0°C
Humidity 64%	73%
Rainfall Nil	Nil

FORECAST
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY



RAGING INFERNO: Firefighters work against the advancing Post Fire Saturday in Gorman, California. The wind-driven wildfire burning north of Los Angeles exploded in size to 11,000 acres within 24 hours prompting evacuation of over 1,200 people.

MAMITA'S KIN DEMAND CBI INVESTIGATION

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Days after the BJP stormed to power, the demand for a CBI probe into the high-profile 2021 murder of school teacher Mamita Meher has resurfaced, with saffron party MLA Laxman Bag meeting her parents to discuss the issue. Kantabanji MLA Bag visited Mamita's parents at their residence in Jharni village Sunday. During the meeting, Mamita's father Surendra urged Bag to ensure that the case is handed over to the CBI, sources said. Surendra expressed frustration over the stalled progress of the probe after the death of main accused Gobinda Sahu in jail. Despite repeated appeals for a CBI probe, Surendra lamented that their requests had been ignored. "We request permission to meet CM Majhi to present our case," Surendra said. Tulasi, Mamita's mother, requested Bag's assistance in securing a job for their son, according to sources. Talking to reporters, Bag emphasised, "As the newly elected MLA of Kantabanji, my top priority is to ensure justice for Mamita. We have long demanded a CBI probe into this murder; but the previous BJD government did not pay heed to our demands. Now, with the BJP in power, we will again push for a CBI inquiry."

Why teach about riots: NCERT

New Delhi, June 16: Rejecting accusations of saffronisation of school curriculum, NCERT's director has said that references to Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teaching about riots "can create violent and depressed citizens." In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here Saturday, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) director Dinesh Prasad Saklani said the tweaks in textbooks are part of annual revision and should not be a subject of hue and cry. Asked about references to Gujarat riots or Babri masjid demolition being tweaked in NCERT textbooks, Saklani said, "Why should we teach about riots in school textbooks? We want to create positive citizens not violent and depressed individuals." "Should we teach our students in a manner that they become offensive, create hatred in society or become victim of hatred? Is that education's purpose?"



Should we teach about riots to such young children ... when they grow up, they can learn about it but why school textbooks. Let them understand what happened and why it happened when they grow up. The hue and cry about the changes is irrelevant," he said hinting that the same hue and cry is not made about 1984 anti-Sikh riots not being in textbooks. The comments by Saklani come at a time when new textbooks have hit the market with several deletions and changes. The revised Class XII political science textbook does not mention the Babri masjid but refers to it as a "three-domed structure". It has pruned the Ayodhya

“If something has become irrelevant... it will have to be changed. Why shouldn't it be changed. I don't see any saffronisation here. We teach history so students know about facts, not for making it a battleground”

DINESH PRASAD SAKLANI | DIRECTOR, NCERT

section from four to two pages and deleted details from the earlier version. It instead focuses on the Supreme Court judgement that paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the disputed structure once stood before it was torn down by Hindu activists in December 1992. The Supreme Court verdict was widely accepted in the country. The consecration of the Ram idol in the temple was performed January 22 this year by the Prime Minister. The latest deletions in the textbooks include BJP's 'rath yatra' from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya; the role of kar sevaks;

communal violence in the wake of the demolition of the Babri masjid; President's rule in BJP-ruled states; and the BJP's expression of "regret over the happenings at Ayodhya." "If Supreme Court has given a verdict in favour of Ram temple, Babri masjid or Ram janmabhoomi, should it not be included in our textbooks, what is the problem in that? We have included the new updates. If we have constructed new Parliament, should our students not know about it. It is our duty to include the ancient developments and recent developments," he said. Saklani, 61, who was head of the ancient history department at the HNB Garhwal University before taking charge as NCERT director in 2022, has faced criticism over the changes in textbooks, especially pertaining to historical facts. The NCERT is revising the curriculum of the school textbooks in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This is the fourth round of revision and updating of NCERT textbooks since 2014.

EVM DOUBT ELONGATED

New Delhi/Mumbai, June 16: A fresh political slugfest erupted Sunday over electronic voting machine (EVM) tampering claims with Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders citing a media report of EVM tampering in Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency and quoting a post by X boss Elon Musk in which he talked about eliminating EVMs and claimed the risk of hacking was too high. The concerned media report alleged that a relative of the Shiv Sena candidate in Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency was found using a mobile phone connected to an EVM during the counting of votes June 4. However, Vandana Suryavanshi, returning officer of the constituency, dismissed the report in 'mid-day' newspaper as false news and said a defamation notice has been issued to the publication. She asserted that the EVM is a stand-alone system, not programmable and has no wireless communication capabilities. The BJP hit out at the opposition leaders over the issue and demanded that the Election Commission should prosecute all those who amplified the lie by sharing the news report. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and others Sunday quoted an X post by Elon Musk in which he talked about eliminating EVMs and claimed the risk of hacking was too high. "We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high," Musk said while responding to a post by US politician Robert F Kennedy Jr alleging Puerto Rico's primary elections experienced hundreds of voting irregularities related to electronic voting machines. "EVMs in India are a 'black box', and nobody is allowed to scrutinise them. Serious concerns are being raised about transparency in our electoral process. Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability," Gandhi said in a post on X.

Fossils of enigmatic 'sea phantom' unearthed in Australia

CALLED HALISKIA PETERSENI, ITS REMAINS ARE THE MOST COMPLETE OF ANY FLYING DINOSAUR EVER UNEARTHED IN AUSTRALIA

Scientists have announced the discovery in the Australian state of Queensland of fossils of this creature, which lived alongside the dinosaurs and various marine reptiles during the Cretaceous Period. Called Haliskia peterseni, its remains are the most complete of any pterosaur ever unearthed in Australia. It had a wingspan of 15 feet and lived about 100 million years ago, making Haliskia a bit larger and older - by about 5 million years - than the closely related Australian pterosaur Ferrodraco, whose discovery was announced in 2019. Haliskia means 'sea phantom', and this creature may have been a frightful sight airborne above the waves. The Eromanga Sea was a massive inland sea covering large parts of Australia when this



pterosaur was alive, but both have vanished. The ghost of both of these is evident from the fossils found in the area, said Adele Pentland, a doctoral student in paleontology at Curtin University in Australia and lead author of the study published this week in the journal Scientific Reports. The fragile skeletons of pterosaurs do not lend themselves well to fossilisation. For Haliskia, 22% of the skeleton was unearthed, with complete lower jaws, the tip of the upper jaw, throat bones, 43 teeth, vertebrae, ribs, bones from both wings and part of one leg.

- Haliskia means 'sea phantom', and this creature may have been a frightful sight airborne above the waves
- The creature's name also honours Kevin Petersen, an avocado farmer who discovered its remains in 2021

Haliskia's remains are more complete than those of Ferrodraco. Both are members of a pterosaur group called anhanguerians known from remains found in China, the United States, Brazil, England, Spain and Morocco. The three other named Australian pterosaurs are known only from partial jaw bones, Pentland said. After dying, the Haliskia individual's body ended up buried under sediment at the bottom of the Eromanga Sea, allowing its fossilisation. The creature's name also honours Kevin

Petersen, an avocado farmer turned Kronosaurus Korner museum curator who discovered its remains in 2021. Pterosaurs were the first of three vertebrate groups to achieve powered flight, appearing about 230 million years ago. Birds appeared about 150 million years ago and bats around 50 million years ago. The pterosaurs were wiped out in the same mass extinction event that doomed the dinosaurs, aside from their bird descendants, 66 million years ago following an asteroid strike. Knowledge of Haliskia adds to the understanding of life in Australia during the Mesozoic Era, when dinosaurs ruled the land. This discovery is significant as it was presumed for many years that Australia had very few fossils from the age of dinosaurs, Pentland said.

leisure



TOM GLYNN-CARNEY ON HIS HOUSE OF DRAGON CHARACTER

Actor Tom Glynn-Carney, portraying King Aegon II in *House of the Dragon*, believed his character grappled with abandonment and guilt. He avoids judging Aegon, emphasising the need to understand and empathise with complex roles to portray them authentically.

CÉLINE BELIEVES RENÉ'S SPIRIT IS STILL IN HER LIFE

In her upcoming documentary *I Am: Céline Dion*, singer Céline Dion, who is currently battling Herfferson Syndrome, expresses her belief that her late husband René Angélil, who passed away from throat cancer in 2016 after 22 years of marriage, remains spiritually present with her.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will share wonderful moments with your beloved today. Go ahead and learn some musical instrument, suggests Ganesh. It's a beautiful way to convey emotions. And it provides a perfect means to woo someone anew.

TAURUS
It is highly unlikely that you will be emotional and sentimental today, predicts Ganesh. Adopt a laid-back attitude towards life to feel at ease. Public servants will have encouraging and affirmative results in their efforts. Your competency will be put to test at the work place.

GEMINI
If you have children, they will be a pampered lot today, says Ganesh. Your affection, however, may not have its desired impact. Children are known to be unpredictable, but keep an eye on their activities, especially today. You may entertain your loved ones with a sumptuous dinner tonight.

CANCER
Today, you will need to rise above your emotional leanings and will have to choose between doing the right thing and keeping your loved ones happy. So far, you have managed to strike a balance. It is about time that you learn to deal with your fears, suggests Ganesh.

LEO
Friendships are supposed to last forever. But it all depends on whether or not the friend is around when most needed. Today, your pals may turn to you for help, and sure enough, you will be there to extend all the support you can, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You are the banner carrier for those around you today, giving hope and inspiring. Clad yourself in robes of the perfect family man. This should spread warmth and love, and will work wonders in improving relationships.

LIBRA
Call it two sides of the same coin, but today, you shall have the uncanny desire to be your own master and servant. But this day is all set to be animated and eventful and full of life. Expect a few run-ins with the opposite sex, as you are bound to attract quite a few of them, mainly because of your killer good looks. Hitting the gym pays its dividends, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
You may find yourself sulking in your shell today, feels Ganesh. One event or another may lead you to shut out work. Hindsight and bitterness will not lead you anywhere, so Ganesh advises that you must steer clear of negativity. Soul searching and inner cleansing may best be complimented with meditation and yoga.

SAGITTARIUS
A nice, easy and pleasant day is on the cards. Your professional approach will bring you much appreciation, especially in the way you handle complicated problems. The way you balance people's opinions will help you make many friends.

CAPRICORN
Recognition and rewards are awaiting you at work, and unlike in most cases, colleagues won't be envious of your success. They will, in fact, provide the much-needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesh. For those of you looking to switch jobs, wait awhile, this may not be the right time.

AQUARIUS
Today, you social butterflies will set hearts fluttering! Also, whatever you have been working on will reach completion now. You do have a great vision, but you're lost when it comes to executing your plans. Ganesh assures success if only you are a little more practical!

PISCES
The focus today is on touching base with your near and dear ones, says Ganesh. It is likely that you will renew some old associations in a social function, or in matters related to business. You are likely to surge ahead of your competitors when it comes to work related matters.



Mumbai: Since the time she made her debut with a Hindi film like *Vicky Donor*, actress Yami Gautam Dhar has been picking up roles that are drastically different from her previous ones. In order to nail the process of doing something new on-screen, she said that an actor should sync well with the director. Shedding more light on her thoughts, the *Dasvi* actress tells us, "You always learn from your seniors and peers, and Aditya fosters this. He actively participates and gives feedback. Filmmaking is a collaborative process, and while the director has the final say, I review the first cut and provide input. There's no room for ego; our aim is to improve the product. Everyone, from editing to music and background score departments, relies on each other. We are all interdependent, working together to create the best possi-

'Breaking mold key to gain confidence'

ble outcome." About her choice of cinema Yami, who was last seen in *Article 370*, shared, "I've gained confidence through experience, understanding the importance of being aware of my work. When I join a film, I take it as my responsibility. The key is not to get complacent but to break the mold. It's not about sticking to a comfortable genre; it's about challenging myself, whether it's in the entire film, a single scene, or one line. It always has to be something different."



Sara finds silver linings in trolling

the way you look at things. Even if I'm being trolled, for instance, I tell myself that at least they're talking about me. Imagine being irrelevant. For an actor, that's death. So always look at it in such a way that you can tell yourself it could have been worse."

Talking about her grandmother Sharmila, the actress who was last seen in *Ae Watan Mere Watan* said, "My grandmother is my only living grandparent. She is the voice of reason for all of us. And I think that when things get hard, which they did in my life in 2020, period of time that was not very good for me, my daddy was there for me, all guns blazing. And she's there for my mom and brother. Of course, she's there for my father as well. She connects me to my traditional roots. She is also the voice of modernity. She also gives me good advice when it comes to boys, films, and social life. She's a champion."

On the work front, Sara has *Metro... In Dino*, alongside Aditya Roy Kapoor in her kitty.

Dolly's candid confession

Mumbai: Content creator and actress Dolly Singh recently opened up on Instagram about her struggles with body insecurities and weight fluctuations. She shared that her journey to accept her body is ongoing, with some days being so tough that she avoids social interactions to escape comments on her weight. In her post, she revealed she often feels shamed for her weight and finds comfort in only a few people and places—her home not being one of them.

Explaining why she decided to share her story, she mentioned that she has experienced a range of emotions towards her body, from acceptance to hatred. Recently losing weight, which attracts scrutiny, prompted her to reflect on how she avoids people to escape negative feedback. She emphasised the importance of safe spaces where appearance isn't constantly judged.

Dolly, who gained fame through social media, admits that accepting her body has been a challenging process. She recalls becoming aware of beauty standards at a young age and struggling for years to accept herself. Around the age of 25 or 26, she began to feel more comfortable with her appearance, though bad days still occur. Social media has played a significant role in boosting her confidence through supportive comments and body-positive content.

Discussing her biggest challenge, she also highlighted the difficulty of consistently picking herself up after setbacks and reminding herself of her body's worth. Viewing her body as a friend helps her combat negative self-talk. Despite the ongoing nature of this journey, she finds that with age and wisdom, navigating body image issues has become slightly easier, though it remains a rollercoaster.

B-Town celebrates Father's Day

Mumbai: Bollywood celebrities such as Karan Johar, Shilpa Shetty, Ananya Panday, Bipasha Basu, and others wished their dads on the occasion of Father's Day by sharing unseen photos on social media.

Filmmaker Karan Johar posted a photo on Instagram with his late father, Yash Johar, and captioned it: "Forever using your love, grace, ambition, humility, and compassion to guide me in every aspect of my life, papa... especially with Yashi and Roohi."

Shilpa Shetty, who was last seen in the web series *Indian Police Force*, shared a montage video on Instagram stories. The actress captioned the video, "Celebrating the incredible fathers in my life... My amazing husband, my late father, who watches over us, and my wonderful father-in-law. Your love and legacy continue to inspire us every day. Happy Father's Day."

Ananya Panday posted a photo



with her father, actor Chunky Panday on Instagram stories and wrote, "The best papa in the whole wide world."

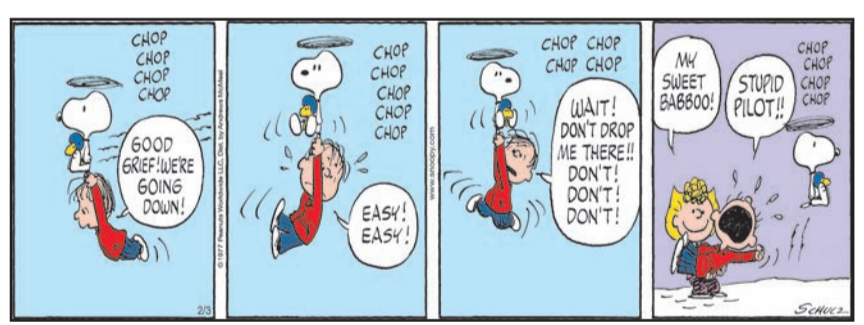
Bipasha Basu shared black-and-white photos with her dad, along with some celebratory pictures. She wrote, "No one like my Papa. Love you Papa. Happy Father's Day."

Yodha actress Raashii Khanna took to Instagram stories and shared a video of her and her father happily

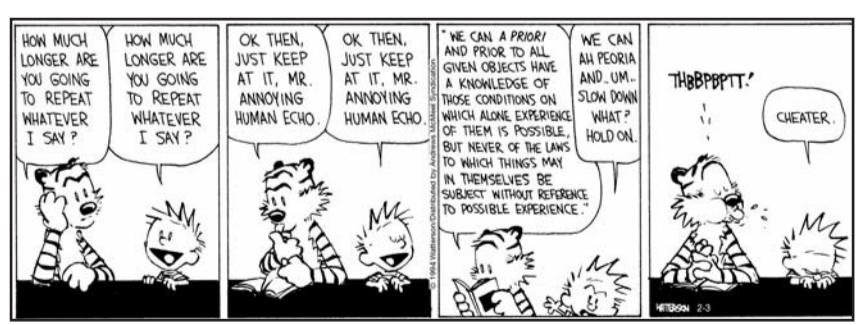
dancing and singing. The post is captioned: "From silly singalongs to cheering me on through life's performances. You're the melody to my heart, papa. Happy Father's Day. Today and every day."

Sonali Bendre shared a picture of her father and husband, filmmaker Goldie Behl, with the caption, "Happy Father's Day to the best dads ever."

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

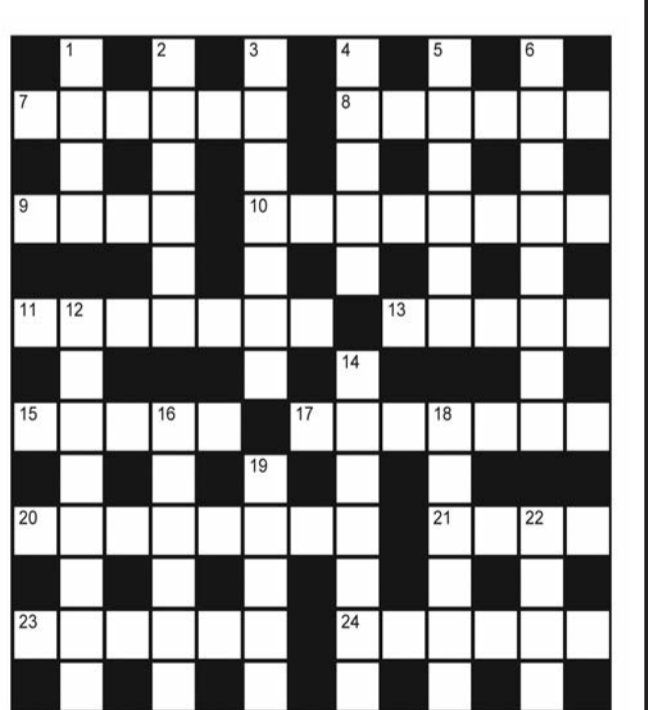


BREVITY



FUN post

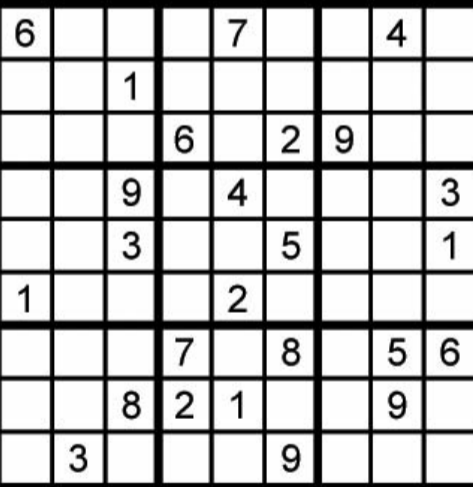
CROSSWORD



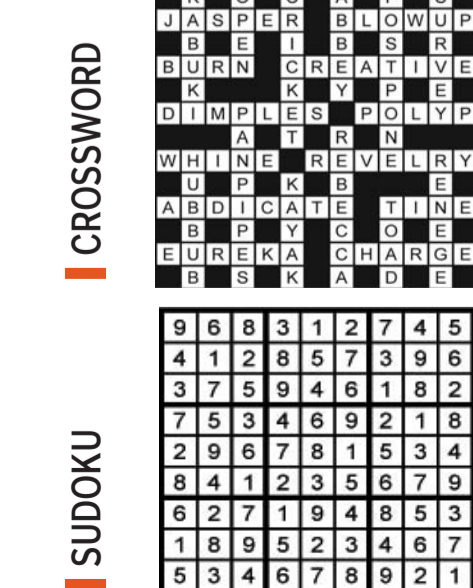
- Across**
- 7 Withdraw (3,3)
 - 8 Copyreader
 - 9 Island south of Borneo
 - 10 Japanese shipbuilding centre
 - 11 Clairvoyant
 - 13 Synthetic fabric
 - 15 Forth, for one
 - 17 Roadblock
 - 20 Sea captains
 - 21 Jezebel's idol
 - 23 Beethoven's "Moonlight"
 - 24 Ulceration
 - 4 Pigeon's perch
 - 5 Sonora snooze
 - 6 Banshees and vampires, e.g.
 - 12 Running noose
 - 14 Space gadget
 - 16 Formal headgear (3,3)
 - 18 Full of vigour
 - 19 Brougham
 - 22 Bath's county
- Down**
- 1 Carbonated drink
 - 2 Taurus is part of
 - 3 Part of a place setting

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

MUSICAL EVENING

Guests light the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate a musical programme organised by cultural outfit 'Sanskar' in memory of legendary singer Prafulla Kar at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



CM takes stock of Rath Yatra preps

Snana Purnima would be held June 22, followed by Rath Yatra July 7



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday convened a crucial meeting with senior government officials for the smooth conduct of the upcoming Snana Purnima and Rath Yatra in Puri.

State Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, Director General of Police (DGP) Arun Sarangi, Director of Intelligence Soumendra Priyadarsi, and other senior officials were present at the meeting held at the state guest house, acting as the temporary office of the new Chief Minister.

Briefing reporters, Harichandan said the Chief Minister was briefed about the

On rush at Srimandir, the Law minister said it was expected to continue for the next two days due to Raja festival and public holidays

ongoing preparations for Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra by the Chief Secretary, DGP and director, intelligence.

He emphasised that further consultations would be held with temple servitors and all stakeholders to ensure the smooth conduct of the Rath Yatra and associated rituals of the Srimandir deities.

Asserting the state government's commitment to uphold-

ing tradition and Jagannath culture, Harichandan expressed the importance of celebrating the Rath Yatra peacefully with the cooperation of all.

Chief Secretary Jena said Snana Purnima would be held June 22, followed by Rath Yatra July 7.

He mentioned that he had apprised the Chief Minister of necessary procedures for conducting these festivals and outlined plans for two forthcoming meetings. One meeting, chaired by the law minister, will precede the final meeting chaired by the Chief Minister himself.

On the rush of visitors to the Srimandir in Puri after the re-opening of three gates, Jena said it was expected to continue for the next two days due to the Raja festivals and public holidays.

He assured that measures were in place to manage the public darshan of Lord Jagannath, including the deployment of eight platoons of additional security forces at the temple. The Mangal Alati ritual was also conducted ahead of schedule to streamline proceedings.

"I was personally there in Puri for around five hours last evening. Additional DG (law and order) is camping there while director intelligence will also visit the town," the chief secretary added.



KODAK MOMENT: Girls take a selfie at State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, as the three-day long Raja festival concludes

OP PHOTO

CMRF aid, treatment for boy with rare disease

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday directed the district administration of Bhadrak to provide immediate health assistance to 14-year-old Babuli Barik, a boy suffering from a

rare disease, and asked the officials concerned to provide Rs 30,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to his family members, according to an official statement.

The development comes after the Chief Minister was informed about the poor boy's

health issues from various social media platforms and other media channels.

Babuli is suffering from a rare disease called "Traumatic Neuro Motor Disorder" and his parents are unable to pay for proper treatment of the minor, it said.

As per the direction of Majhi,

a team of doctors went to Babuli's village in Madhapur for a check-up, following which he has been referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for further treatment, the statement said.

The district administration has also been asked to be in touch with the family.

No liquor ban from August 15

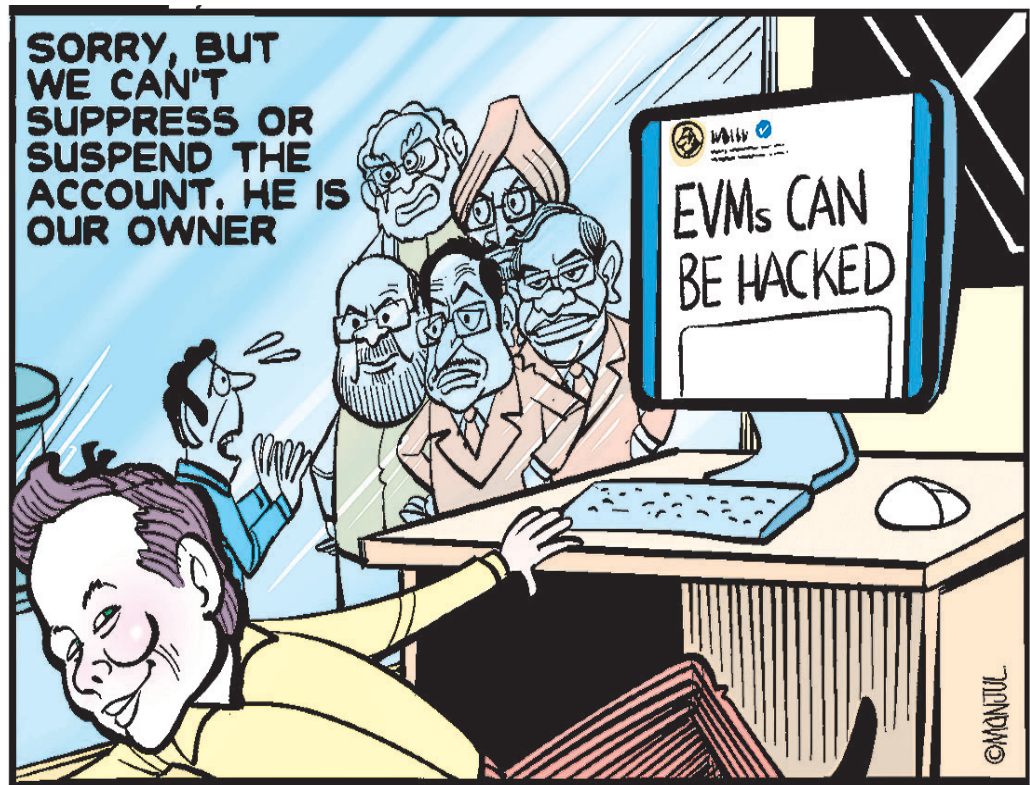
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: At a time when social media is abuzz with posts that the newly-formed BJP government is going to put a ban on sale of liquor in the state, the government has clarified this piece of information is fake.

According to sources, there were several posts in social media platforms saying the newly-elected Mohan Charan Majhi's government will put a blanket ban on sale of liquor in the state from August 15, 2024. However, Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department, in a post in X, June 15 has clarified that there is no such decision by the government as yet.

The I&PR department appealed to the citizens to be aware of such fake news and not get misled by such rumours. It also urged the citizens to rely on information provided by government sources only.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Majhi meets 1L people in 5 days

IN ODISHA, 50 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT WILL HAPPEN IN JUST 5 YEARS: CM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Newly sworn-in Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi has interacted with around 1 lakh people at the state Guest House, his current workplace, during the last five days. During his interaction with people, he has assured all that he would leave no stone unturned to meet the expectations of people from all the sections.

Majhi met Arjun Nayak, a laid-off computer teacher, who has lost one of his legs in an accident Sunday. He also offered Nayak a glass of water.

After meeting people at the Guest House, the CM said, "Our government will ensure 50 years of development in Odisha in just five years." Rapid development will take place in Odisha with the support of people, who expect a lot from the new government, Majhi told



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Sunday, met Arjun Nayak, a laid-off computer teacher, who has lost one of his legs in an accident. The CM also offered Nayak a glass of water

the media. There is a change of guard in Odisha after 24 years, said Majhi adding that in previous years, people suffered a lot as the government did not perform or deliver the way it should have.

"Earlier, the CM of the previous government used to distance himself from the people and seldom interacted with them over their grievances. Therefore, people wanted a change, and it happened," said Majhi while terming himself as a 'CM for the people'.

He said, "Since I'm from grassroots level, I can connect with people, and understand their issues better. The path to address their issues would be cleared once I meet the people and listen to them. I am receiving their valuable suggestions, and they have a lot of expectations from the new government to bring change in Odisha," the Chief Minister said, assuring to take the state to a new height.

'Heat index, redesigning modern cities need of the hour'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: India is grappling with unprecedented heat this summer and no one is prepared for the level of warming being experienced, leading environmentalist Sunita Narain has said, emphasising the need for a heat index and a complete overhaul of the way modern cities are designed.

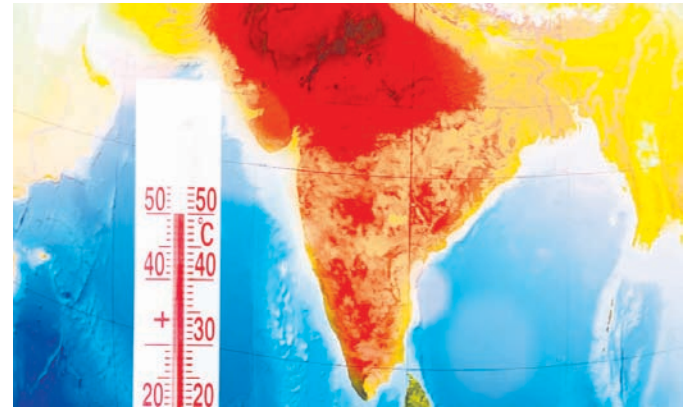
In an interaction with PTI editors here, Narain, the director general of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said the brutal heat scorching swathes of India is a result of naturally occurring El Nino phenomenon - an unusual warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean - and climate change.

"Nobody is prepared. Let's be very clear. 2023 was globally the hottest year on record. We have broken every record in the last 45 days with an unbroken (streak of) temperatures above 40 degrees. This is climate change. It

is compounded this year by the waning of the (2023-24) El Nino. This means we really need to get our act together. We need to ensure that vulnerable communities are less affected," she said.

Narain stressed the need to develop a heat index, which measures how the temperature feels to the human body when relative humidity is combined with air temperature. "We need a heat index similar to the air quality index we have on our phones. AQI tells you the level of air pollution and its impact on your health. This linkage is essential to know what actions need to be taken. Remember, heat is not only about temperature, it is also about humidity," she said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) began issuing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country



in April last year. The IMD officials said India will soon come up with its system now, a multi-parameter product called 'heat hazard score', which along with temperature and humidity will also integrate other parameters such as wind and duration.

Narain noted that heatwaves are turning modern glass buildings into furnaces, overheating the occupants and emphasised the need for new architectural science to address this heat.

"Your biggest challenge today is how to rebuild the cities. Look at Gurugram - it's all glass facades. Those glass buildings are

the worst thing you could have for a heating climate," she said.

India experienced multiple intense and prolonged heatwaves in April and May, testing the limits of human endurance and the country's disaster preparedness, as many states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha, reported heatwave-related deaths.

According to the IMD data, 14 of the 36 sub-divisions in the country recorded over 15 heat-wave days (when the maximum temperature is at least 40 degrees Celsius and 4.5 degrees above normal) from March 1 to June 9.

Studies show that rapid urbanisation has exacerbated warming in the urban areas, with outdoor workers and low-income households bearing the brunt of the impact.

Low-income households have limited capacity to adapt to extreme heat because of poor access to water and electricity. The design and construction of informal houses often mean there is poor ventilation and little shelter from extreme heat.

The heatwave in May saw several places across the country, including the hills of Assam, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, recording all-time high temperatures. The mercury breached 50 degrees Celsius in Rajasthan and neared this mark in Delhi and Haryana.

Similar heatwaves, which once occurred every 30 years, have become about 45 times more likely due to climate change, according to a 'World Weather Attribution', a group of leading climate scientists.

There are concerns that heatwaves in April and May played a role in the lower-than-usual voter turnout during the seven-phase general elections in India

which began on April 19 and ended on June 1, the second longest after the 1951-52 parliamentary elections.

The intense heat has already driven India's power demand to a record 246 gigawatts, with air conditioners and coolers in homes and offices running at full capacity.

According to the Central Water Commission, water storage in 150 major reservoirs in India dropped to just 22 per cent of their live storage last week, exacerbating water shortages in many states and significantly affecting hydropower generation.

India recorded nearly 25,000 suspected heat stroke cases and 56 deaths due to heat-related illnesses from March to May, PTI reported earlier, citing data from the health ministry.

According to data compiled by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), 46 of these deaths were recorded in May alone (till May 30). Between May 1 and 30, 19,189 suspected heat stroke cases were reported in the country.

The data does not include deaths from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi, and could just be the tip of the iceberg, officials said.

Youth nabbed for heckling minor girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Airfield police Sunday arrested a 19-year-old youth for forcing a minor girl to fall in love with him and later threatening her with acid attack as she didn't give in.

Airfield police station IIC Sashikanta Rout said the accused was identified as Susanta Bisoi, a native of Jankia area in Khurda district. Susanta, a daily wager, used to heckle the Class VIII student and force her to become his love interest whenever she leaves home for school. Besides, the youth threatened the victim to abduct and marry her forcefully.

"Following repeated denials by the victim, an infuriated Susanta barged into her house, Sunday, and asked her family members to send their daughter with him. As the minor's family protested, the accused threatened to kill them. Also, he issued threats of acid attack on the minor girl," said the IIC.

Police booked the youth under Sections 48, 354, and a host of other sections under IPC. Section 12 of POCSO Act has also been slapped against him.

HC mandates 1% transgender reservation in West Bengal

The state government adopted a policy of equal treatment in employment to transgenders, the court said the reservation has, however, not yet been made for them



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 16: The Calcutta High Court has directed the West Bengal government to ensure one per cent reservation for transgender persons in all public employment in the state. Noting that the state government adopted a policy of equal treatment in employment to transgenders, the court said the reservation has, however, not yet been made for them. Justice Rajasekhara Mantha directed the chief secretary of the West Bengal government to ensure one per cent reservation

for transgenders in all public employment. The high court order was passed on a petition by a transgender person, who succeeded in the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) 2014 and also in the TET 2022, but was not called for counselling or interview. In the order passed Friday, Justice Mantha noted that the Supreme Court had declared in a 2014 case that 'hijras' and eunuchs, apart from binary genders, be treated as third gender for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under Part-III of the Constitution.

The apex court had also upheld transgender persons' right to decide their self-identified gender, and directed the Centre and state governments to grant legal recognition of their gender identity such as male, female or as third gender. Justice Mantha also noted that the top court had directed the Centre and the state governments to take steps to treat them as socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, and "extend all kinds of reservation in cases of admission in educational institutions and for public appointments".

The West Bengal chief secretary had informed the high court that the state's Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare November 30, 2022, made a notification that transgender persons were entitled to equal opportunity of employment without any discrimination whatsoever. The court said it is clear from the notification that the state itself had adopted a policy of equal treatment in employment to transgender persons. Justice Mantha said the reservation has, however, not yet been made in the state for transgender persons in accordance with the Supreme Court order. He also directed the secretary of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education to arrange for interview and counselling of the petitioner as a special case.

Stalin calls NEET a 'scam', 'unfair to poor'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 16: NEET, 'masquerading' as a measure of merit, is a 'scam' and the Centre must stop defending the national test as it went against the interests of students and it is also against social justice and poor, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said Sunday. Stalin, also the president of the ruling DMK said in a post on X, "The ongoing controversies around #NEET highlight its fundamentally inequitable nature. In a society where education has been denied for thousands of years, we should offer more opportunities for advancement of the oppressed. On the contrary, NEET hinders the opportunities of such students."

He said, "Despite the Union Education Minister's defense of the National Testing Agency (NTA), recent events paint a different picture. The Gujarat Police have registered an FIR over allegations of invigilators tampering with OMR sheets in exchange for monetary benefits, involving cheques worth several crore rupees and eight blank cheques. This conspiracy, implicating a school principal, a physics teacher, and several NEET coaching centres, underscores the urgent need for systemic change."



From martyr Anitha to the countless students who have tragically taken their own lives, we have witnessed enough. NEET, an examination masquerading as a measure of merit, has repeatedly revealed itself as a pervasive scam affecting all levels of society. The union government must stop defending this anti-student, anti-social justice, and anti-poor NEET system MK STALIN | CM, TN

change for monetary benefits, involving cheques worth several crore rupees and eight blank cheques. This conspiracy, implicating a school principal, a physics teacher, and several NEET coaching centres, underscores the urgent need for systemic change."

Furthermore, the CM said, "From martyr Anitha to the countless students who have tragically taken their own lives, we have witnessed enough. NEET, an examination masquerading as a measure of merit, has repeatedly revealed itself as a pervasive scam affecting all levels of society. The union government must stop defending this anti-student, anti-social justice, and anti-poor NEET system."

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S Anitha, a Scheduled Caste Tamil girl, who knocked on the doors of the court to chase her dream to pursue a course in medicine ended her life in 2017. She is regarded as a crusader for justice by champions of social justice and mainstream political parties in Tamil Nadu.

The Kerala Congress on its twitter handle said, "This is the marks card of Anitha, a Dalit girl from Tamil Nadu's Ariyalur district who got 1176/1200 (98%) in her 12th standard but died by suicide after her fight against NEET failed after the Supreme Court dismissed her pleas. Today, when you see candidates who failed in Physics and Chemistry score 705/720 in NEET, you realise how unfair and one-sided the system is. Anitha is a martyr in this fight."

Extortion rackets thriving in Bengal, says Majumdar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 16: Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar Sunday alleged that extortion rackets were thriving in West Bengal, drawing parallels to the notorious activities of Dawood Ibrahim and Chhota Rajan gangs in Mumbai during the 1990s. He claimed that instances of shootouts and dacoities in jewellery shops over the last couple of months prove that the "law and order situation in the state is not good." Majumdar, also the state BJP president, alleged that these developments are reminiscent of past criminal activities in Mumbai, suggesting a worrying trend in West Bengal.



"I am reminded of the way Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Shakil, Chhota Rajan gangs used to operate extortion rackets in Mumbai in the 1990s. Similar rackets seem to have started in West Bengal," Majumdar said. He further alleged that opposition party workers have been subjected to attacks while such criminal activities continue unchecked.

Majumdar, who met with BJP workers claiming to be victims of post-poll violence perpetrated by supporters of the ruling party in West Bengal, highlighted an incident where motorbike-borne assailants shot at a businessman's car on the busy B T Road here Saturday.

In the early hours of Saturday, a shooting incident took place at Mirza Galib Street in central Kolkata. The incident stemmed from an altercation between two men, reportedly linked to a road rage incident the previous day. West Bengal Minister Firdah Hakim attributed the recent dacoities in jewellery shops, including the latest one at Raniganj a few days ago, to miscreants from neighbouring states. In this connection, two persons were arrested from Jharkhand in a coordinated operation conducted jointly by the police forces of both states, officials said.

TURTLE NESTING SEASON Record hatchlings released into Bay



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The forest department released 2,15,778 hatchlings this year, compared to last year's 1,82,917

Chennai, June 16: Tamil Nadu has released the highest number of sea turtles into the Bay of Bengal, as the nesting season for the marine species came to an end. Tamil Nadu, with the longest coastline of 1,076 km, is regularly visited by marine turtles including Olive Ridley, Green Turtles, Hawksbill, Loggerhead and Leatherback turtles during the season. Olive Ridley turtles are the more frequent visitors to the Tamil Nadu coasts. "The Forest department begins the preparations for the sea turtle season in November each year, which includes making temporary hatcheries for the turtles, orientation programme for staff and conducting inter-departmental meetings followed by night patrolling operations,

Additional Chief Secretary, Environment," Climate Change Supriya Sahu said. The conservation exercise by the department saw participation of the 185 field staff and 264 volunteers this year. During the current nesting season, the department established 53 hatcheries in 13 districts. A total of 2,363 nests were collected with 2,58,775 eggs, which were translocated to hatcheries set up by the department. Till date, the department released 2,15,778 hatchlings this year, compared to last year's 1,82,917. Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Chennai recorded a large number of hatchlings following the conservation exercise. The government has already announced the setting up of Sea Turtle Conservation Centres in Chennai and Nagapattinam districts to give impetus to the conservation efforts of these species.



Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari with victims of the post-poll violence in the state comes out after a meeting with State Governor CV Ananda Bose, in Kolkata, Sunday

BJP central team in Kolkata over 'post-poll violence' in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 16: A four-member central team of the BJP, including senior leaders Ravi Shankar Prasad and Biplob Kumar Deb, arrived here Sunday evening to take stock of the situation after alleged violence against saffron party workers in West Bengal after the Lok Sabha elections. Prasad claimed that the people of the state along with the BJP party workers were afraid and apprehensive over the alleged post-poll violence taking place in the state. "Elections were held across the country, but violence has taken place only in West Bengal," he told reporters at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport upon their arrival to the city on a two-day visit. "If Mamata ji believes in democracy, she has to reply to this," Prasad, a former Union minister, said. Deb, a former chief minister of Tripura, claimed that there has not been any political violence in the northeastern state since the BJP came to power there. "We will speak to the victims and take stock of the situation during our two-day stay in West Bengal," he said. The BJP has alleged that its workers and supporters were being subjected to violence and intimidation in different parts of West Bengal by ruling Trinamool Congress supporters after the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP has won 12 of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal, while the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC emerged victorious in 29 seats and the Congress bagged one.

Elections were held across the country, but violence has taken place only in West Bengal RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD | BJP LEADER

since the BJP came to power there. "We will speak to the victims and take stock of the situation during our two-day stay in West Bengal," he said. The BJP has alleged that its workers and supporters were being subjected to violence and intimidation in different parts of West Bengal by ruling Trinamool Congress supporters after the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP has won 12 of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal, while the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC emerged victorious in 29 seats and the Congress bagged one.

Cong to contest Raiganj, Bagda

Kolkata: The West Bengal Congress announced Saturday that it will contest two out of the four bypolls scheduled in West Bengal July 10, and support the CPI(M) candidates in the remaining two seats. A senior state Congress leader said that the party has decided to field candidates in Raiganj in North Dinajpur district, and Bagda in North 24 Parganas district, while the CPI-M will contest the bypolls at Ranaghat Dakshin in Nadia district and Maniktala in Kolkata. Incidentally, Friday night, the Left Front issued a statement announcing the names of the CPI-M candidates for Ranaghat Dakshin and Maniktala, and a nominee from the front ally All India Forward Bloc for Bagda. Now, the Congress' decision to field its candidate from Bagda will mean that the Congress-Left Front alliance will not be taking shape in Bagda.

PARANDUR PROTEST TN villagers plan relocation to Andhra over proposed airport

Chief Minister MK Stalin had in August 2022 announced that a second airport for Chennai would come up at Parandur at an estimated outlay of ₹20,000 crore that can handle 10 crore passengers annually

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 16: Residents of Parandur and neighbouring villages in Kanchipuram district have announced their decision to relocate to Andhra Pradesh to draw the Tamil Nadu government's attention to their nearly 700-day-old protest against the greenfield airport proposed to be established near here. The Tamil Nadu government issued the notification for acquisition of land for the Parandur airport soon after the results of

the Lok Sabha polls were declared. Chief Minister MK Stalin had in August 2022 announced that a second airport for Chennai would come up at Parandur at an estimated outlay of ₹20,000 crore that can handle 10 crore passengers annually. The government's decision did not go down well with the residents of 13 villages who immediately commenced their strike stating that the project would affect their livelihood as majority of their farm lands

would be acquired for construction of the airport. However, the state government has assured that the villagers would be 'adequately compensated'.

Nearly 15 protesters have planned to call on Chittoor district Collector June 24 and seek permission to move to Andhra Pradesh. "We have planned to meet him June 24 as our protests will enter 700th day. The Tamil Nadu government is not showing any interest to address our demands. Initially, about 15 members are planning to relocate," G Subramanian, secretary, Villagers Against the Parandur Airport Movement,

The agitation will enter its 700th day June 24

told PTI. "We want the Tamil Nadu government to invite us for talks. They should withdraw their proposal for the airport. We are firm in our decision," he added. Residents of Ekanapuram, Nelvoy, Valathur, Ediyarpakkam, Madapuram,



Akkammapuram villages surrounding Parandur have been on strike since August 2022 urging the government to withdraw its decision. Their agitation will enter its 700th day June 24. According to sources, the government has issued a notification

recently to initiate land acquisition, setting the ball rolling for the project. "As of now the government is proceeding with its plan to set up the airport. It has issued notifications as well. We want our demands to be addressed," Subramanian said.

Considering the growing passenger and cargo volumes, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO) took up the work for identifying the land for another airport as the current facility in Meenambakkam in Chennai can only handle upto 3.50 crore passengers. Whereas, the new airport will be able to handle 10 crore fliers annually. Four sites were selected for the airport and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) recommended two of them and finally Parandur was zeroed in on.



Many parts of south Delhi did not receive water this morning because the main pipeline was intentionally broken yesterday (Saturday). Step two, breaking water pipelines and disrupting supply. Step three, which was revealed today, was the BJP sending goons to the Delhi Jal Board office to create ruckus

ATISHI MARLENA | DELHI WATER MINISTER

DASTAK ABHIYAN TO BEGIN JULY 1 IN UP

To tackle health challenges due to water-borne diseases and other seasonal vagaries ahead of the monsoon season, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh will initiate the Communicable Disease Control Campaign statewide from July 1 to 31, a government spokesman said



of the day quote

Last year, the government ensured the sale and purchase of apples was mandatorily done on per kilogram basis



SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

Karnataka High Court's stay on BJP's BS Yediyurappa's arrest in POSCO case stating that the accused being a former CM is not going to go anywhere stands in contrast to the treatment meted out to another ex CM Hemant soren & sitting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal both behind bars since months on far lesser charges



MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

The BJP had tampered with Chhotanagpur and Santal Pargana Tenancy Acts, made attempts to wipe out our existence, did not pay attention to education and ignored Adivasis and Moolvasis during its long tenure in Jharkhand



CHAMPAI SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

POST OF THE DAY



Telangana was peaceful sans any communal violence for the last 9.5 years with KCR Garu at the helm of affairs. And now in the Congress Government, neither is there any Law nor any Order. Truly shameful that even a peaceful town Medak which never had any communal activity in the past has now become a mess

SHORT TAKES

13 arrested over communal clash

Hyderabad: Thirteen people were arrested a day after members of two communities clashed in Medak town of Telangana over alleged transportation of cows for slaughter ahead of Bakrid festival. The situation has been brought under control and remains peaceful, police said Sunday. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC were clamped by authorities after clashes broke out in the town on Saturday night. Stones were pelted and public property was damaged following which police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the rioters.

5 killed, 8 injured in road accidents

Dehradun: Two cars fell in gorges in different areas of Uttarakhand's Pauri district, killing five people and injuring eight Sunday, officials said. While one accident was reported from the Khirsu Chaubatta, the other occurred near Dudhrakhal in the Satpuli area, a day after 14 tourists were killed and 12 other injured after a tempo-traveller fell into a gorge in Rudraprayag district. In another incident, a car fell into a 150-metre-deep gorge near Dudhrakhal in the Satpuli area, killing one person and injuring five others, they said.

164 kg ganja seized; 6 held

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Police have seized 164 kg of 'ganja' (cannabis) and arrested six inter-state drug peddlers. Acting on credible information, the sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force, South West Zone Team, apprehended drug peddlers who were found in possession of a huge quantity of narcotic substance weighing 164 kg in Humayun Nagar and Bhavani Nagar police station limits.

Shah directs implementation of zero-terror plan in Jammu



Shah directed security forces to crush the emerging terrorism in the Jammu division of the Union Territory and prevent its revival in J&K while ensuring complete Amarnath Yatra which begins June 29 and ends August 19

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 16: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday directed security agencies to implement area domination and zero-terror plans in the Jammu division like they did in Kashmir to achieve success. He also said the Narendra Modi government is committed to set an example by cracking down on terrorists in Jammu

and Kashmir through innovative means. These were conveyed to officials by the Home Minister at a high-level meeting convened to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in the Union Territory, sources said.

Shah directed the agencies to replicate in the Jammu division the successes achieved in the Kashmir Valley through the area domination plan and the zero-terror plan, they said. He also reviewed the preparations for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, which is scheduled to begin June 29, in a subsequent meeting. The sources said the home minister was given a thorough briefing on the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir where security forces are expected to intensify counter-terrorism operations in the coming days. The operations against terrorists will be carried out in line with the Prime Minister's di-

- Top sources said that the Home Minister directed hard action against the supporters of terrorism
- He also advised 24x7 vigil and surveillance of highways, sensitive installations and vulnerable places so that the Amarnath Yatra, Mata Vaishno Devi and Shiv Khori temple pilgrimages are safe
- Shah assured all resources both material and in terms of manpower to the UT administration to deal a hard blow to terrorism and its supporters

rective, they said. Shah presided over the high-level meeting here at the North Block, three days after Prime Minister Modi held a similar meeting where he directed officials to deploy the "full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities" after a spate of terror incidents, including an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi district of the Jammu region. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, CRPF Director General Anish Dayal Singh, BSF Director General Nitin Agarwal, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain and other top security officials attended the meeting.

Row erupts as K'taka govt hikes fuel price



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 16: The Karnataka government's announcement of hike in petrol and diesel prices by ₹3 per litre and ₹3.02 per litre respectively has garnered strong reactions from Opposition leaders and residents.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Sunday defended the hike in petrol and diesel prices saying that it will ensure funding essential public services and development projects. With the opposition BJP and its ally JD(S) coming down heavily on the Congress government for increasing the petrol and diesel prices by ₹3 and ₹3.5 per litre respectively, Siddaramaiah said even after the hike, taxes on fuel remains low compared to most southern states. "The Government of Karnataka has increased VAT on petrol to 29.84 per cent and on diesel to 18.44 per cent. Even after this hike, our state's taxes on fuel remain lower than most South Indian states and similar economy-sized states like Maharashtra," the Chief

BJP to stage protests

The BJP will stage protests across Karnataka against the hike in petrol and diesel prices June 17, the party's state unit president B Y Vijayendra said Sunday. "We urge the Chief Minister to withdraw this decision immediately. Tomorrow we have organised protests across the state and we are not going to keep quiet till the hike is revoked," Vijayendra told PTI here in the district headquarters town of Hassan. He said the protests will take place in all the district headquarters of the state. Vijayendra charged that the 'desperate Chief Minister' hiked the petrol and diesel prices since he is unable to start any new programmes due to the five guarantees.

Minister said in a statement. According to him, the VAT on petrol is 25 per cent plus ₹5.12 additional tax, and on diesel in Maharashtra it is 21 per cent. Karnataka's revised rates are still more affordable, he pointed out. "Karnataka's VAT adjustment ensures we can fund essential public services and development projects. The state remains committed to balanced and responsible governance," Siddaramaiah emphasised.

SNIPPETS

U'khand accident: 3 kids among 5 killed

Dehradun: Two cars fell in gorges in different areas of Uttarakhand's Pauri district, killing five people, including three minor girls, and injuring eight Sunday, officials said. While one accident was reported from the Khirsu Chaubatta, the other occurred near Dudhrakhal in the Satpuli area, a day after 14 tourists were killed and 12 other injured after a tempo-traveller fell into a gorge in Rudraprayag district. Citing information received from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the officials said, in Khirsu Chaubatta, four out of seven people were killed after their car veered off the road and fell into a 200-metre-deep gorge. It is suspected that the driver lost control of the vehicle, the officials said, citing information received from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Personnel of the SDRF and police were sent to the site of the accident to rescue the victims.

NRI assault: Police register Zero FIR

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police Sunday registered a Zero FIR in connection with the alleged assault on a Punjab-origin NRI, who alleged that he was beaten by a group of men over parking in Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie. Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal also wrote to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, seeking his intervention for a thorough inquiry. The Punjab Police registered the Zero FIR under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 148 (rioting) of the Indian Penal Code. The case has been registered at the Ranjit Avenue police station in Amritsar. A Zero FIR can be filed at any police station, irrespective of the place of incident or jurisdiction, and can later be transferred to the appropriate police station.

'Amaravati works to be completed in 2.5 years'

Amaravati: Works relating to the development of Amaravati as Andhra Pradesh's capital will be completed in two-and-a-half years, said P Narayana Sunday after taking charge as the Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development. With the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) back in power, work is set to resume in Amaravati, where it had come to a standstill in 2019 after the YSR Congress Party government had announced its plans to build three state capitals. The TDP, which stormed to power along with its allies Jana Sena and BJP, has made it clear that Amaravati will be developed as the sole state capital as planned earlier. After assuming office at the state Secretariat, Narayana said the works in Amaravati would resume soon.

CRS to conduct 2-day inspection of rly line in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 16: Commissioner of Railways Safety (CRS) D C Deshwal will conduct a two-day inspection of the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section, which passes through the world's highest steel arch rail bridge over Chenab and major tunnels, an official said Sunday. This comes as railways successfully conducted an electric engine trial on the track Sunday,

they said. Chief Public Relations Officer, Northern Railway Deepak Kumar said the commissioning of this section depends on the CRS's inspection.

Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the 118 km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan

stretch in February, this year. With the commissioning of the 46 km Sangaldan-Reasi section, the work on only a 17 km stretch between Reasi and Katra remains pending which is likely to be completed by the year's end to connect Kashmir with the rest of the country by train - a dream project on which the work started in 1997 and has missed several deadlines given geological, topographical, and meteorological challenges.



Villagers use a temporary bamboo bridge to cross a river after the RCC bridge over it washed away in flood water, at Subankhata village in Baksa district, Assam

Mixed emotions linked to unique brain activity

THE RESEARCHERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, US, FOUND THIS ACTIVITY TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OBSERVED WHEN PEOPLE REPORTED EXPERIENCING A PURELY POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EMOTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Mixed emotions are found to be real, with a study finding unique brain activity when experiencing them.

Experiencing two or more conflicting feelings can explain mixed emotions. While monitoring the brains of people as they watched an animated short film 'One Small Step', researchers observed a heightened activity in their amygdala, which helps process emotions, and nucleus accumbens, which plays a role in pleasurable experiences. The researchers from the



University of Southern California, US, found this activity to be different from that observed when people reported experiencing a purely positive or

negative emotion. "Not only did we find brain activity that was correlated with mixed emotions, but we found that it held steady over time. You're not ping-pong

ing between negative and positive. It's a very unique, mixed emotion over a long period," Anthony Vaccaro, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Southern California and lead author of the study published in the journal Cerebral Cortex, said. Emotions are often thought to exist only on a range from negative to positive. However, even though mixed emotions are a common experience, they have been understudied scientifically, according to the researchers. It could be because it is easier to study one feeling at a time, they said. As part

of the study, the participants' brain activity was being monitored using MRI, as they watched the animated film the first time. The participants then rewatched the movie without MRI and indicated when they experienced positive, negative or mixed emotions. The researchers then compared these reports with the MRI imaging results. They also found that they could predict when an individual was going to shift emotions. Particular regions of the brain, like the insular cortex (involved while experiencing compassion and empathy and for percep-

tion) displayed significant changes as the participants reported an emotional transition, the authors said. "There's a certain sophistication that is required to sit with a mixed emotion and to allow yourself to feel positive and negative at the same time." "Looking into that more, exploring the benefits of being able to accept positive and negativity at the same time within yourself, is something we think is worth study," co-author Jonas Kaplan, an associate professor (research) of psychology at the University of Southern California, said.

international



He (Joe Biden) doesn't even know what the word inflation means. I think he should take a cognitive test like I did DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

1ST US PREZ DEBATE

The first US presidential debate between incumbent Joe Biden and Republican rival Donald Trump June 27 will include two commercial breaks, no props and muted microphones except when recognized to speak, CNN said



of the day quote

Hamas and the (Palestinian) groups are ready for a comprehensive deal which entails a ceasefire, withdrawal from the strip, the reconstruction of what was destroyed and a comprehensive swap deal ISMAIL HANIYEH | LEADER OF HAMAS

Inshallah, this will be the last IMF programme in Pakistan's history. We will stand on our feet and surpass our neighbouring countries in economic activity SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

The biggest challenge is to face the powerful rise of China, (which is) destroying the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and regards Taiwan's annexation and the elimination of the Republic of China as the great rejuvenating cause of its people LAI CHING-TE | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

SHORT TAKES

China, Oz to put aside differences

Melbourne: Chinese Premier Li Qiang's visit to Australia Sunday focused on positive aspects of the bilateral relationship including shared giant pandas and a rebounding wine trade after he urged both countries to put aside their differences. China's most powerful leader after President Xi Jinping arrived late Saturday in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia state, which has produced most of the Australian wine entering China since crippling tariffs were lifted in March that had effectively ended a 1.2 billion Australian dollar (\$790 million) a year trade since 2020.

Blasts near vessel off Yemen's coast

Cairo: The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said Sunday a vessel 40 nautical miles south of al Mukha in Yemen had reported two explosions nearby, adding that the vessel and its crew were safe and proceeding to their next port of call. Authorities are investigating, UKMTO said. Houthi militants, who are backed by Iran, have been targeting vessels off the Yemen's coast in what they said is a show of solidarity with the Palestinians being killed in Israel's war on Gaza.

TTP commander killed in Pakistan

Islamabad: A top militant commander of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was killed Sunday in an encounter with security forces in Pakistan's restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. TTP commander Waliullah was killed by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Bannu in an intelligence-based operation in the Lakki Marwat district in the province, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. The operation was conducted in Tajuri Road near Malang Adda following which the armed terrorists opened fire on the police.

Juneteenth shooting leaves two dead

Texas: A shooting in a Texas park left two people dead and several wounded Saturday, authorities said. The victims were shot shortly before 11 pm Saturday during a Juneteenth celebration at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock, about 30.5 kilometres north of Austin. An altercation began between two groups during a concert at the event and someone started shooting, Round Rock Police Chief Allen Banks said during a news conference at the scene.

PEACE SUMMIT

Nations for 'territorial integrity' of Ukraine

India, six other nations opt out of Ukraine declaration at Swiss peace summit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oburggen, June 16: Eighty countries jointly called Sunday for the "territorial integrity" of Ukraine to be the basis for any peace agreement to end Russia's two-year war, though some key developing nations at a Swiss conference did not join in. The joint communique capped a two-day conference at the Bürgenstock resort in Switzerland marked by the absence of Russia, which was not invited, but that many attendees hoped could join in on a roadmap to peace.

About 100 delegations, mostly Western countries but also some key developing nations, were on hand for the conference, and experts were on watch to see how and if at all they might line up behind the outcome document.

Participants India, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Indonesia and Mexico, which were represented by foreign ministers or lower-level envoys, were among those that did not sign onto the final document, which focused on issues of nuclear safety, food security and the exchange of prisoners.

Brazil, an "observer" country, did not sign on but Turkiye, which has sought to an intermediary between Russia and Ukraine, did. The final document said the UN Charter and "respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty ... can and will serve as a basis for achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine."

Viola Amherd, the Swiss President who hosted the event, told the final news conference that the fact that the "great majority" of participants agreed



to the final document "shows what diplomacy can achieve."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the "first steps toward peace" at the meeting, and said the joint communique remains "open for accession by everyone who respects the UN Charter."

Analysts say the two-day conference will likely have little concrete impact toward ending the war because the country leading and continuing it, Russia, was not invited for now. Russia's key ally, China, which did not attend, and Brazil have jointly sought to plot alternative routes toward peace.

The meeting also endeavoured to return a spotlight to the war at a time when conflict in Gaza, national elections and other concerns have seized global attention.

The three themes of nuclear safety, food security and prisoner exchanges featured in the final statement. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said they amounted to "minimum conditions" for negotiations with Russia, alluding to how many other areas of disagreement between Kyiv and Moscow will be

harder to overcome. Qatar's Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, noted a day earlier how his rich Gulf country hosted talks with both Ukrainian and Russian delegations on the reunification of Ukrainian children with their families that has so far resulted in 34 children being reunited.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, speaking to reporters at the resort Saturday, said it's "going to take work" and countries stepping up to build on efforts by nations like Qatar.

"It's going to take a spotlight from the international community, not just from only voices from the United States or Europe, but from unusual voices as well to say what Russia has done here is more than reprehensible and must be reversed," he said.

The Ukrainian government believes that 19,546 children have been deported or forcibly displaced, and Russian Children's Rights Commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova has previously confirmed that at least 2,000 were taken from Ukrainian orphanages.

Feasibility study on plan to establish land connectivity with India in final stages: SL Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 16: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe said Sunday that the feasibility study on a proposal to establish land connectivity with India is in its final stages.

Wickremesinghe, who was travelling in the northeastern district of Mannar to inspect the development work in the region, said that the preliminary work of the feasibility study was over and the final phase would be completed soon.

This proposal and the prospect of a power grid connection between the two nations are likely to be discussed during the visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Lanka this week.

Wickremesinghe said a commercial venture to sell the excess renewable energy to India would also be discussed during the minister's visit.

On Saturday, the Lankan foreign ministry here announced that Jaishankar would arrive in Colombo June 20.

However, there was no official announcement on Jaishankar's visit from India's Ministry of External Affairs.

If confirmed, this could be Jaishankar's first official stand-alone visit abroad after he was appointed India's External Affairs Minister in the new government early this month.

Officials here confirmed that all Indian projects in Sri Lanka, including the Adani group's wind power project in Mannar and the creation of an industrial zone in the eastern port district of Trincomalee, would be discussed during the visit.

Fisheries Minister Douglas Devananda has been quoted as saying in the local media that Sri Lanka would raise the contentious issue of illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters by Indian fishing, including bottom trawling.

The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.

Netanyahu decries army's decision to pause fight for aid

Rift between Israel PM, military out in the open



REUTERS

Jerusalem, June 16: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticized plans announced by the military Sunday to hold daily tactical pauses in fighting along one of the main roads into Gaza to facilitate aid delivery into the Palestinian enclave.

The military had announced the daily pauses from 05:00 GMT until 16:00 GMT in the area from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northwards. "When the Prime Minister heard the reports of an 11-hour humanitarian pause in the morning, he turned to his military secretary and made it clear that this was unacceptable to him," an Israeli official said.

The military clarified that normal operations would continue in Rafah, the main focus of its operation in southern Gaza, where eight soldiers were killed Saturday.

The reaction from Netanyahu underlined political tensions over the issue of aid coming into Gaza, where international organisations have warned of a growing humanitarian crisis.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who leads one of the nationalist religious par-

ties in Netanyahu's ruling coalition, denounced the idea of a tactical pause, saying whoever decided it was a "fool" who should lose their job.

DIVISIONS BETWEEN COALITION, ARMY

The spat was the latest in a series of clashes between members of the coalition and the military over the conduct of the war, now in its ninth month.

It came a week after centrist former general Benny Gantz quit the government, accusing Netanyahu of having no effective strategy in Gaza.

The divisions were laid bare last week in a parliamentary vote on a law on conscripting ultra-Orthodox Jews into the military, with Defence Minister Yoav Gallant voting against it in defiance of party orders, saying it was insufficient for the needs of the military.

Religious parties in the coalition have strongly opposed conscription for the ultra-Orthodox, drawing widespread anger from many Israelis, which has deepened as the war has gone on. Lieutenant-General Herzi Halevi, the head of the military, said Sunday there was a "definite need" to recruit more soldiers from the fast-growing ultra-Orthodox community.

Russian forces kill six IS-linked kidnappers at detention centre

REUTERS

Moscow, June 16: Russian Special Forces freed two prison guards and shot dead six inmates linked to the Islamic State militant group who had taken them hostage at a detention centre in the southern city of Rostov Sunday, Russian media said.

flag used by the Islamic State that bears an Arabic inscription, knocked out window bars and climbed down several floors by rope before taking the guards hostage with a knife and fire axe.

In video published by the 112 Telegram channel, one was shown brandishing a knife beside one of the bound guards in Rostov-on-Don. In negotiations with the authorities, they demanded free passage out of the prison.

But Russian Special Forces decided to storm the prison. Intense automatic gunfire could be heard in footage published on Russian Telegram channels. Video published by the 112 Telegram channel showed the six dead men in pools of blood.



Muslims offer Eid al-Adha prayers at the Moscow Cathedral Mosque during celebrations in Moscow, Russia, Sunday

Heatwave kills 19 hajj pilgrims

Amman: At least 19 Jordanian and Iranian pilgrims have died while on the hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, authorities from their countries said Sunday, as temperatures soar in the kingdom. "Fourteen Jordanian pilgrims died and 17 others were missing" during the performance of hajj rituals, Jordan's foreign ministry said in a statement. The ministry later confirmed the 14 had died "after suffering sun stroke due to the extreme heatwave". Iranian Red Crescent chief Pirhossein Kooolivand separately said "five Iranian pilgrims have lost their lives so far in Mecca and Medina during the hajj this year", without saying how they died. Temperatures have pushed well past 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) during the annual pilgrimage that around 1.8 million Muslims are taking part in this year. Saudi Arabia has not provided any information on fatalities.

UK polls point to 'electoral extinction' for Sunak's Conservatives

BRITAIN'S JULY 4 ELECTION IS FAST APPROACHING AND PRIME MINISTER SUNAK IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO CHANGE THE TUNE

REUTERS

London, June 16: Three British opinion polls released late Saturday presented a grim picture for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party, and one pollster warned that the party faced "electoral extinction" in July 4's election.

The polls come just over halfway through the election campaign, after a week in which both the Conservatives and Labour set out their manifestos, and shortly before voters begin to receive postal ballots.

Sunak surprised many in his own party by announcing an early election May 22, against widespread expectations that he would wait until later in the year to allow more time for living standards to recover after the highest inflation in 40 years.

Market research company Savanta found 46% support for Keir Starmer's Labour Party, up 2 points on the previous poll five days earlier, while support for the Conservatives dropped 4 points to 21%. The poll was conducted from June 12 to June 14 for the Sunday Telegraph.

Labour's 25-point lead was the largest since the premiership of Sunak's predecessor, Liz Truss, whose tax cut plans prompted investors to dump British government bonds, pushing up interest rates and forcing a Bank of England intervention.

"Our research suggests that this election could be nothing short of electoral extinction for the Conservative Party," Chris Hopkins, political research director at Savanta, said.

A separate poll by Survation, published by the Sunday Times,



predicted the Conservatives could end up with just 72 seats in the 650-member House of Commons, the lowest in their nearly 200-year history - while Labour would win 456 seats.

The poll was conducted from May 31 to June 13.

A third poll, by Opinium for Sunday's Observer and conducted from June 12 to June 14, also showed Labour on 40%, the Conservatives on 23% and Reform on 14%, with the two largest parties yielding ground to smaller rivals.

PARTY MANIFESTOS In the past week, both Conservatives and Labour have released their election manifestos, the detailed packages of promises that form the centrepiece of their pitch to voters.

The Conservatives focused on reducing immigration and lowering taxes, pledging 17 billion pounds (USD 22 billion) in tax cuts by 2030, to be paid for largely by slashing welfare costs.

Labour promised to get the economy expanding after years of sluggish growth by establishing a new industrial policy, investing in infrastructure, cutting planning red tape and building 1.5 million new homes. It has promised not to increase personal taxes, but the Conservatives say the tax burden will rise under Labour.

Critics say neither party is being upfront about the tax increases that would be needed to repair public services left threadbare after years of Conservative-led spending cuts, Brexit, a global pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis triggered by Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

UK's first Hindu PM Sunak, who has been in office for less than 20 months, insists he is still fighting to win

of the day quote

We would wait for our subsidiaries like SBI General Insurance and SBI Payment to further scale up their operations before monetising them

DINESH KUMAR KHARA | CHAIRMAN, SBI

On a sectoral basis, traditional sectors including retail and consumer and healthcare and pharmaceuticals are in the lead. We anticipate an upswing in the India markets, especially in small to mid-size M&A transactions and growth fundings

SANJEEV KRISHAN | CHAIRPERSON, PWC

Rural demand has picked up, and the consumption of mass market products has increased. Premium products continue to grow, but mass-market consumption is notable

KAMAL NANDI | BUSINESS HEAD & EXECUTIVE VP, GODREJ APPLIANCES

SHORT TAKES

Green plant: Essar to invest ₹ 30K-cr

New Delhi: Essar Group plans to invest ₹30,000 crore over the next four years in setting up a green hydrogen plant at Jamnagar in Gujarat as the metals-to-infrastructure conglomerate eyes clean energy as a key pillar for its new phase of growth. The conglomerate is looking to decarbonise its oil refinery in the UK, construct a green steel plant in Saudi Arabia, and build an LNG and electric ecosystem to decarbonise long-haul heavy trucks, Prashant Rula, director of Essar Capital, which manages the group's portfolio of investments, said. It is also considering an entry into mining of critical minerals, mainly used in electric vehicle batteries, solar panels and wind-turbine magnets.

Zomato to buy Paytm movies biz

Mumbai: Food delivery company Zomato has held talks to acquire Paytm's movie ticketing and events business as the Deepinder Goyal-led firm looks to double down on its 'going out' business, according to two people in the know. The discussions, which are in late stages of negotiations, may value Paytm's vertical at around ₹1,500 crore, said sources. Zomato's interest in buying the events and movie ticketing business fits in well with its push towards capturing consumer demand across categories like food, grocery and entertainment. If the transaction goes through, it will be the second largest buyout for Zomato after it acquired quick commerce platform Blinkit (then Grofers) in 2022 in an all-stock deal for ₹4,447 crore.

Coal import rises

New Delhi: India's coal import rose by 13.2 per cent to 26.10 million tonne (MT) in April 2024 as buyers took fresh positions amid early onset of summer. The country had imported 23.05 MT of coal in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company junction services Ltd. This comes amid coal and mines minister G Kishan Reddy stating that India should increase domestic production of the fossil fuel and reduce coal imports. "India's coal and coke imports in April 2024 through the major and non-major ports increased by 13.2 per cent over April 2023," the data showed. Of the total import in April, non-coking coal import stood at 17.40 MT against 15.15 MT in the year-ago month. Coking coal import was 4.97 MT against 4.77 MT.



Income tax relief for the people in the lowest slab may need to be considered in the upcoming full Budget for 2024-25 considering the high levels of inflation

SANJIV PURI | PRESIDENT, CII

RBI BAGS RISK MANAGER OF YEAR AWARD

The Reserve Bank of India Sunday said it has been awarded the 'Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024' by the London-based publishing house Central Banking. It was awarded the best risk manager for improving its risk culture and awareness, RBI said in a post on X. The award was received by Executive Director Manoranjan Mishra on behalf of the RBI, it said



FPIs make strong comeback

FOREIGN INVESTORS PUMP ₹11,730CR INTO INDIAN EQUITIES LAST WEEK ON POSITIVE MARKET CUES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Foreign investors made a strong comeback with a net inflow of ₹11,730 crore (\$1.4 billion) in the week ending June 14, driven by positive signals from domestic and global markets.

The net inflow was in stark contrast to the net outflow of ₹14,794 crore (\$1.77 billion) witnessed in the preceding week from June 3-7, data with the depositories showed.

With the latest flow, net outflow stood at ₹3,064 crore in the month so far till June 14.

"After the roller coaster ride in the market in the first week of June, stability has returned to the market as indicated by the sharp fall in India VIX from 27 on June 4 to 12.82 on June 14. This fall in India VIX indicates the return of stability and a likely consolidation phase in the market," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist,



"If the market continues to rally, FPIs may again turn sellers in India and buyers in other markets like Hong Kong, which are very cheap compared to India

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Geojit Financial Services, said.

Although in a coalition, the formation of the NDA government at the Centre for the third straight term fanned expectation of a continuation of policy reforms and economic growth, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

On the global front, lower-than-expected inflation numbers in the US also raised hopes

of one rate cut this year.

This also triggered a fall in the US treasury yield. These factors led to risk-taking sentiments among investors, resulting in increased flows into markets like India,

Srivastava added. In May, FPIs pulled out ₹25,586 crore from equities on poll jitters and withdrew more than ₹8,700 crore in April on concerns over

The net inflow was in stark contrast to the net outflow of ₹14,794 crore witnessed in the preceding week from June 3-7

Mcap of 5 of top-10 most valued firms jumps ₹85,582 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Five of the top-10 most valued firms together added ₹85,582.21 crore in market valuation last week, with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) emerging as the biggest gainer, in-line with positive trend in equities.

Last week, BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 299.41 points or 0.39 per cent. The 30-share barometer hit its all-time high of 77,145.46 on June 13.

While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and LIC were the gainers, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and ITC faced erosion from their market valuation. The five firms together lost ₹84,704.81 crore from market valuation.

The valuation of LIC jumped ₹46,425.48 crore to ₹6,74,877.25 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. The market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank rallied ₹18,639.61 crore to ₹12,14,965.13 crore.

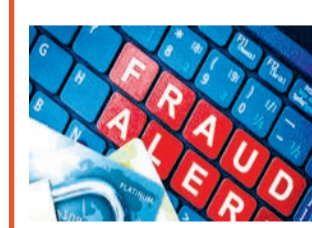
Reliance Industries added ₹10,216.41 crore, taking its valuation to ₹19,98,957.88 crore.

The mcap of TCS tumbled ₹22,052.24 crore to ₹13,86,433.05 crore and that of Infosys eroded by ₹18,600.5 crore to ₹6,18,030.37 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm in the pack of top-10 companies, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, LIC, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

BIZ BUZZ

CBIC warns public against frauds in the name of Indian Customs



New Delhi: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Sunday asked public to stay alert and discern the modus operandi of fraudsters committing fraud in the name of Indian customs. In a statement, the CBIC said various incidents have come to light through news portals/social media platforms of fraudulent persons posing as Indian Customs officers cheating the public of their hard-earned money across the country. These frauds are primarily done using digital means like phone calls or SMS, and are focused on extracting money through the 'purported' fear of immediate penal actions. In order to counter these frauds through public awareness, CBIC is mounting a multi-modal awareness campaign that includes newspaper advertisement, SMS/e-mails to the general public, social media campaign, besides awareness campaigns by CBIC field formations. The CBIC also advised the public to take measures to safeguard themselves from becoming a victim of such scams by discerning the modus operandi of fraudsters, protecting their information, verifying antecedents of caller and reporting such acts by staying alert.

No one suitable for HPCL top post

New Delhi: The government headhunter PESB has rejected all candidates it interviewed for the top job at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), the third instance in as many years that the board has not found any suitable candidate for the role in a state oil firm. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on June 14 interviewed eight candidates, including a director on the HPCL board and managing director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL), but rejected them all. The HPCL CMD post will fall vacant September 1, 2024, when the incumbent Pushp Kumar Joshi retires on attaining a superannuation age of 60 years. The PESB had previously not found anyone suitable for the top job at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). This led to the incumbent in IOC getting an additional year in office even after attaining superannuation age and a retired executive being given charge in ONGC.



FM to hold pre-budget meeting with industry chambers June 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to hold pre-budget consultations with industry chambers June 20, sources said.

The budget for 2024-25 fiscal is likely to be presented in Parliament in the second half of July.

Industry sources said the pre-budget consultation with Sitharaman would be preceded by a meeting with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra June 18.

The 2024-25 Budget is likely to lay out Modi 3.0 government's economic agenda.

The finance minister will have to look at measures to boost growth without hurting inflation as well as look for resources to meet the coalition government's compulsion.

The economic agenda would include steps to fast-track reforms to make India a \$5-trillion economy in near future and turn the country into a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

The Indian economy is pro-



jected to grow 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal on the back of improving rural demand and moderating inflation, as per RBI estimates.

The Modi 3.0 government inherits a strong economy with fiscal prudence in place. Icing on the cake is a bonanza from RBI which has announced the highest-ever dividend of ₹2.11 lakh crore for FY24.

The key policy priorities for the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government would include dealing with stress in the agriculture sector, job creation, sustaining capex momentum and pushing revenue growth to stay on the fiscal consolidation path.

Rating agency S&P has already given a thumbs up to economic policies followed by the Modi regime in the past 10 years by upgrading the sovereign rating outlook to positive. It also hinted at a possible rating upgrade in next 1-2 years provided the government sticks to its fiscal deficit roadmap.

While tax revenues seem to be buoyant, non-tax revenue remains a challenge as strategic disinvestment has almost been a non-starter with no big-ticket strategic sale, except Air India.

Startups' pink slip count falls to 10K amid funding blues

FLIPKART, PAYTM, SWIGGY LEAD LAYOFFS AS INDIAN STARTUPS FOCUS ON COST-CUTTING

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Jun 16: Indian startups have laid off around 10,000 employees so far in 2024, amid continued constraints

on funding and cautious hiring practices aimed at improving bottom lines early in their lifecycle.

The first half of 2024 has seen fewer layoffs compared to the last six months of 2023, when approximately 15,000 workers were dismissed, and the first half of 2023, which saw 21,000 job losses, according to data from Longhouse Consulting.

Despite this slowdown, industry executives and senior HR professionals warn that startups are not yet out of the woods.

Over the past six months, venture-funded firms such as Swiggy, Ola, Cultfit, Licious, PristynCare, and Byju's have cut jobs to reduce costs.

Major consumer internet companies like Flipkart and Paytm have also downsized their workforce. Earlier this year, Flipkart planned to cut 5-7% of its workforce, amounting to 1,100-1,500 employees, while Paytm has been consistently restructuring, lay-



ing off at least 1,000 workers. Swiggy let go of at least 400 employees, while IPO-bound Ola Electric is in the final stages of laying off over 600 workers, following the dismissal of around 200 employees by sister company Ola Cabs in late April. Layoffs across startups range from 7-15%.

The report added that the many layoffs this year have been

"A lot of the layoffs this year were also ones where higher paid resources were replaced by lower paid or less experienced resources, compared to last year where teams had to drastically scale down in one fell swoop"

ANSHUMAN DAS | COFOUNDER AND CEO OF LONGHOUSE CONSULTING AND CAREERNET

quieter and more gradual compared to last year. Anshuman Das, cofounder and CEO of Longhouse Consulting and CareerNet, noted that about 40-50% of this year's layoffs were 'silent layoffs,' where firms did not make official announcements or made cuts in smaller batches, often citing underperformance. This is a significant increase from last year's 20% silent layoffs.

Das also highlighted that many layoffs this year involved replacing higher-paid resources with lower-paid or less experienced ones, unlike last year's drastic team scale-downs. Companies have been using performance-based messaging to explain silent layoffs, helping to manage expectations for bonuses and

raises among retained employees and to contain negative sentiment that could lead to increased job anxiety.

However, the startup sector is showing signs of recovery. Das anticipates about 5,000 more layoffs in the second half of 2024, excluding those due to mergers and acquisitions.

"This market is much better, and we're even seeing early signs of competitive offers for high-value talent making a comeback," noted Ketan Parchure, managing partner at executive search firm VitoAltor.

In May, startup funding increased by 62% from a year ago to approximately \$817 million. In the March quarter, total venture funding stood at \$1.97 billion, compared to \$3.2 billion for the same period last year, according to data from Tracxn.

TON-UP SMRITI, SPINNERS HAND INDIA MASSIVE 143-RUN WIN OVER SOUTH AFRICA IN 1ST ODI

Smriti, spinners shine



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 16: Smriti Mandhana's resolute hundred and a disciplined bowling effort, led by spinners Deepti Sharma and Asha Shobana, piloted India to a huge 143-run win over South Africa in the first women's ODI here Sunday.

India now lead the three-match series 1-0, and the second game will be played here June 19.

Mandhana's sixth ODI century (117, 127 balls, 12x4s, 1x6) formed the fulcrum of India's competitive 265 for eight on a sluggish Chinnaswamy pitch.

Then the Indian bowlers worked their magic around the South African batters to bowl out the visitors for 122 as debutante leg-spinner Asha (4/21) led the show with a frugal spell and was well-supported by offie Deepti (2/10).

Pacer Renuka Singh (1/30) gave India the perfect start, dismissing the in-form South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt in the first over itself.

Wolvaardt had no answer for an excellent nip-backer from Renuka that clipped the top of her off-stump.

The Indians soon fetched the wickets of Tazmine Brits and Anneke Bosch as the tourists slumped to 33 for three.

The experienced Marizane Kapp (24, 39 balls), who hammered Renuka for successive four and six, tried to revive the innings with Sune Luus who fought well with a 33.

But their fourth wicket alliance of 39 runs consumed 68 balls as the asking rate climbed over seven which never really came down thereafter.

Asha ended that struggle when the leg-spinner had Kapp caught

at covers by Harmanpreet Kaur.

At five down for 74, South Africa were always facing the climb up the hill.

Earlier, India's script for victory was written by Mandhana, who thrilled the home crowd with a well-paced hundred.

Mandhana stitched two significant partnerships with the feisty Deepti (37, 48 balls, 3x4s) and Pooja Vastrakar (31 not out) to take India out of trouble after the hosts found themselves at 99 for five at one stage.

Mandhana and Deepti added 81 runs (92 balls) for the sixth wicket and Pooja, who had to leave the field later with a knee niggle while fielding, assisted the Indian vice-captain to make 58 runs (54 balls) for the seventh wicket.

Mandhana has a lot of flair in her batting.

But here she was forced to es-

chew that because of the team situation and the sluggish nature of the pitch to which India top-order batters like Shafali Verma (7), Harmanpreet (10) and Jemimah Rodrigues (17) failed to adapt, leading to their soft dismissals.

Mandhana was on 33 when India's fifth batter fell, and she had to preserve her wicket to take India forward.

Largely making her runs through those nips and tucks, Mandhana was also happy to free her hands when width was offered.

The left-hander's swivel pull off debutant pacer Anne Dercksen and a little shimmy down the track to deposit offie Nondumiso Shangase over mid-on had streaks of her elegance.



But credit should also go to Deepti in making Mandhana's job easier, playing a confident innings.

Deepti picked her bowlers and spots well to accumulate runs. The left-hander took a liking for Shangase, whom she swept for all her three boundaries.

Oz crush Scots; Eng in Super 8



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gros Islet (St Lucia), June 16: Australia did their arch-rivals England a massive favour with a five-wicket win over a gritty Scotland as the Richie Berrington-led side crashed out of the T20 World Cup Super Eight stage race here.

With England hammering Namibia earlier in the day in a rain-truncated game, all that Jos Buttler's side needed was Australia's win over Scotland to get a lifeline.

Australia scored 186/5 while chasing 181 in 19.4 overs after Scotland fought right until the end to keep their hopes alive.

After putting on a formidable total on board, Scotland had even reduced an edgy Australia to 60/3 at one stage but their most successful batters in this World Cup — Travis Head (68) and Marcus Stoinis (59) — delivered again.

"We spoke about sticking to our plans. Scotland are a good team, they have improved a lot and we certainly wanted to respect them," Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh said after the win.

"We just wanted to stay consistent and if we fail, we fail our way. Whenever our team is challenged, it brings the best out of

us. Today we were challenged and it was a good experience and a good game of cricket. We start fresh now," he added.

With Australia's chase appearing to be falling apart, the in-form Head and Stoinis joined forces to bring them back in the game.

On a wicket where batters could swing their willows without fretting much over the pace or movement off the surface, the two seasoned campaigners put the Scottish resolve to a stern test with a sturdy 80-run association for the third wicket off only 44 balls.

Head smacked four sixes and five fours to top score with 68 off a mere 49 balls but Stoinis was more aggressive, cracking nine fours and two sixes to make a quickfire 59 from a mere 29 balls.

Earlier, Scotland put their best foot forward in terms of setting a formidable total against the heavyweights, finishing at 180 for five after being asked to bat first.

ENGLAND BEAT NAMIBIA

England's defense of the Twenty20 World Cup title lived on for a few more hours after a must-win over Namibia in a rain-affected match Saturday.

To reach the Super Eight, England first had to beat Namibia in their maiden T20 match. Persistent showers almost ruined the chance, but the match started three hours late and was reduced to 11 overs, then 10 overs after another heavy shower.

England was made to bat first and rallied to 122-5. Namibia, given a rain-adjusted target of 126, managed only 84-3 and lost by 41 runs.



SHORT TAKES

Asian Team squash: Women finish fifth

New Delhi: India women finished fifth and their men counterparts sixth in the Asian Team Squash Championships which concluded in Dalian, China, Sunday. The Indian women's side beat Iran 2-0 in the match to decide the fifth and sixth positions with Rathika Suthanthira Seelan and Pooja Arthi Raghu scoring comfortable wins. However, the men's team lost to South Korea 1-2. Velavan Senthilkumar recorded a win before Suraj Kumar Chand and Om Semwal went down by narrow margins.

Hitaashee logs best int'l result

Singapore: India's Hitaashee Bakshi logged her best international result as she finished sole third at the \$100,000 Singapore Ladies Masters golf tournament, an event sanctioned by the China LPGA, here Sunday. It was the best result by an Indian at the event. Hitaashee shot 1-under 71, her second under par round, and totalled 4-under 212 for 54 holes at Laguna National Golf Resort Club. Hitaashee, who began the final day in Tied-5th place, displayed remarkable patience on a tough final day to finish third behind the winner, China's 17-year-old Runzhi Pang (72) at 7-under. Fellow Chinese Cai Danlin (74) was second at 6-under. It was the maiden pro win for the 17-year-old Runzhi, who started the final round one behind Cai, but finished one ahead to grab the title.

Randhawa loses

Hertfordshire: Indian star Jyoti Randhawa was eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Paul Lawrie match play on Legends Tour Europe as he lost to James Kingston, who is having a great season. Randhawa had won his first three matches to reach the quarters while Jeev Milkha Singh had lost in the second round. Randhawa's first three wins came against Thomas Gogele, Malcolm Mackenzie and Keith Horne, before he lost to Kingston, who is sixth in the MCB Road to Mauritius rankings of the Legends Tour.

FINAL OLYMPIC QUALIFIER Kaur bags individual quota with gold

INDIA HAVE SECURED INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS IN BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SECTIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antalya (Turkey), June 16: Bhajan Kaur clinched India an Olympic individual quota in style, winning a gold medal at the 'Archery In Paris Final Olympic Qualifier' here Sunday.

Premier archer Deepika Kumari put up a woeful show to exit in her first match, but the inexperienced Bhajan grabbed the limelight by stunning top-seed Mobina Fallah of Iran without dropping a set to clinch the gold.

The third seeded Bhajan showed exceptional shooting to go all the way. She defeated Mobina 6-2 (28-26, 29-29, 29-26, 29-29) in a one-sided final.

Her teammate Ankita Bhakat made a quarterfinal exit, but she also secured an individual Olympic quota by virtue of that last-eight entry.

The individual quotas are allotted to the top-eight nations. Each country gets one individual quota. India thus have secured individual quotas in both men's and women's sections.

Dhiraj Bommadevara had secured the men's individual quota from the Asian qualifying leg earlier. Bhajan, who got a bye into the round of 32, started off by overcoming Urantungalag Bishindee



of Mongolia 6-2 (29-27, 28-26, 26-29, 27-24). She later dropped one set but got the better of Urška Cavic of Slovenia 7-3 (28-22, 29-18, 28-28, 26-27, 27-24) to make the last eight where she outclassed Wioleta Myszor 6-0 (30-28, 27-24, 30-28), shooting two perfect sets.

In the semis, Bhajan toppled Alexandara Mirca 6-2 (27-26, 28-27, 26-27, 27-26).

DEEPIKA FALTERS

Earlier, Deepika, who qualified for this event as second seed, suffered an embarrassing opening round defeat to little known Yaylagul Ramazanova of Azerbaijan.

The former world No 1 won the opening two sets to lead 4-0, but

TEAM QUOTAS STILL ON RADAR

Indian men's and women's teams failed to seal the quotas from the Final Olympic Qualifier. The men's team had qualified as top seed but lost to Mexico in the quarterfinals. The women's team, who got fifth seed in rankings round, exited in the pre-quarters.

But it's a matter of time before they secure the team berths based on their rankings.

The top two nations from among the countries who have not got team quotas will make the cut for the Paris Olympics June 24 after the third stage of the World Cup beginning here Tuesday.

The world No 2 men's team and No 8 women's outfit are ahead in rankings among the non-qualified nations. The men's team have 238 points behind South Korea who have already qualified.

Chinese Taipei and Italy, who are behind India in the rankings, have already qualified.

India's nearest competitors are China (196 points), USA (175), Canada (170) and Spain (171) who cannot surpass India's rankings even if they secure gold at the World Cup Stage III.

The women's team is currently No 8 behind South Korea, China, Germany, France, Mexico, USA and Chinese Taipei -- all these seven nations have already got team quotas.

It means the Indian women's team with 185 points are at the top of the rankings race with Indonesia (179.5), Colombia (152), Italy (150), Vietnam (139), Brazil (139), Spain (137.5) and Japan (131.5) are also in the race.

Lovlina loses to Li Qian, bags silver in Grand Prix

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist boxer Lovlina Borgohain lost to China's Li Qian to settle for a silver medal in the women's 75kg contest at the Grand Prix Usti nad Labem in the Czech Republic.

The Paris Olympic-bound Borgohain lost by a 2-3 split verdict in her final bout against the reigning Asian Games champion late Saturday night.

Qian, who is a two-time Olympic medalist and has a three World Championships medals, including a gold under her belt, had defeated Borgohain in the summit clash of the Asian Games last year.

Lovlina said this will hold her in good stead going into the Paris Olympics. "Participating in this competition has been a very good experience for me. I won a silver this tournament before the Olympics was very important for me as far as my preparation is concerned. This will be beneficial to him. I thank the Boxing Federation of India, TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) and Government of India," Lovlina said in a video, which was posted by Mansukh Mandaviya.



Mandaviya lauded Lovlina for her performance.

"Congratulations to @LovlinaBorgohai for winning the Silver Medal at Grand Prix 2024. She displayed great skills. Her success in the boxing ring is an inspiration for upcoming athletes. Best wishes for future endeavours," the sports minister tweeted.

The tournament, being hosted under the aegis of World Boxing, featured four boxers in the women's 75kg category -- Borgohain, Cindy Ngamba of the Refugee Boxing Team, Qian and England's Chantal Reid -- and is being held in a round robin format.

The 26-year-old, who is the lone Indian competing in the tournament, is preparing for a second Olympic medal. She is one of six Indian boxers who have qualified for the Paris Olympics.

ICC's big American dream: Too many loose ends

Cricket in America has been ICC's pet project for a long time and having T20 included in the 2028 Olympics programme for the Los Angeles edition is a big leap in that direction. However the global body would be the first to admit that the teething problems associated with the logistics and organisational part did paint a sorry picture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Under-prepared drop-in tracks, poor ground conditions, over dependence on Indian TV audience, not factoring in weather and steep ticket prices were only some of the problems that didn't make America the most viable commercial destination for a global event like T20 World Cup, in first attempt.

However the only takeaway is United States' national team's stupendous show to beat

Pakistan and give India a run for their money before entering the Super Eights on its debut at the world stage.

There are only few things that money can't buy and the performances by Saurabh Netravalkar and Monank Patel were indeed priceless, something that would give the pin-striped suits of ICC sitting in Dubai, a chance to heave a sigh of relief despite lot of things that didn't go right during the course of two-and-a-half weeks. For any team sport to do well

OVER-DEPENDENCE ON INDIAN MARKET A BIG PROBLEM



and get popularity in a particular geographical region, it is imperative that there is some sense of nationalism associated with it and the H1B visa holders and Green Card acquiring Indians have given them that opportunity.

Let us take the example of the Nassau County Cricket ground in the Long Island, which is more than an hour's drive from the CBD (Central Business District) of the New York City.

It was a makeshift facility and by the time this article reaches the readers, the 37,000 seater portable stands would have been dismantled and no one knows what kind of cricket matches would be played at that ground henceforth. The drop-in pitch will be plucked out for sure.

The mouth-watering proposition of India vs USA in New York state (not City) however needed a bit more than just hype

and not testing the tracks was a juvenile mistake.

The pitch was pilloried for its uneven bounce during Indi's opening match against Ireland when balls were flying from length after hitting the cracks.

The groundsmen then rolled the track to cover the cracks and so much that the pitch became slow and teams found it difficult to chase down any target which was in the range of 115-120.

The low scores made the matches enticing but also took away the fun element from the whole process of coming to watch a T20 match where they would want to see more sixes being hit.

A total of 56 maximums were hit in 8 games and at an average of seven per game, which isn't the best advertisement for promotion of the game in an unchartered territory where the

viewership is dependent on Indian diaspora.

In one IPL match alone this season, 42 sixes were hit, which is the other end of the spectrum.

Coming back to the timing, if one wants regular series, matches need to be held in the evening unless it's just catering to the broadcasters' demand of 8 pm IST timing which means that on weekdays, you will not have big crowds in future.

The question arises that apart from the Asian community will ICC be able to attract the native Americans? The answer currently is an emphatic 'No'.

So unless ICC is keen on tying loose ends, cricket in America would be a sport played by South Asians, watched by South Asians and that certainly can't be called true globalisation of the game by any stretch of the imagination.