

Yami's philosophy Actor Yami Gautam believes in embracing diverse roles, syncing with directors, and challenging herself to break the mold LEISURE | P2

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 77 | www.orissapost.com

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

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY JUNE 17, 2024



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

MAMITA'S KIN

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.

Mamita's parents at their resi-

dence in Jharni village Sunday.

During the meeting, Mamita's father Surendra urged Bag to en-

sure that the case is handed over to the CBI, sources said. Surendra expressed frustra-

tion 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 ig-nored. "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

Talking to reporters, Bag em-

phasised, "As the newly elected

MLA of Kantabanji, my top pri-

ority 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."

their son, according to sources.

Kantabanji MLA Bag visited

DEMAND CBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

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 Eligibilitycum-Entrance Test (NEET), an official of the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar Police said Sunday. EOU has constituted a 9member 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.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, June 16: Days after the death of five kids at Munushpadar village under Kashipur block in this district, the Health department Sunday confirmed the underlying disease to be diphtheria.

The confirmation came



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. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fresh political slugfest over FVM tampering claims; **IG**A Defamation notice issued to newspaper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, June 16:

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.

Why teach about riots: NCERT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: Rejecting accusations of saffronisation of school curriculum. NCERT's director has said that references to Guiarat riots and Babri masiid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teach-



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

communal violence in the wake of the demolition of the Babri masjid; President's rule in BJPruled 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 masiid or Ram jan-

a laboratory examination of the collected samples by a team of World Health Organisation, Chief **District Medical Officer Dr** Lalmohan 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

WFATHFR

VVLAIIIL	Π	
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	40.8°€	38.5℃
Min Temp	27.4°C	26.0°⊂
Humidity	64%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		M
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY	Ĉ	ð

ing about riots "can create violent and depressed citizens.' In an interaction with PTI ed-

itors 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 crv 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

DIRECTOR, NCERT section from four to two pages and deleted details from the ear-

making it a battleground

DINESH PRASAD SAKLANI

lier 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; mabhoomi, 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.

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.

A fresh political slugfest erupted

Sunday over electronic voting

machine (EVM) tampering

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 standalone system, not programmable and has no wireless communi-

cation capabilities.

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 REUTERS Brisbane, June 16: Long ago in the skies above the shallow Eromanga Sea, which once cov-

ered what is now arid inland Australia, soared a formidable pterosaur - flying reptile - boasting a bony crest at the tip of its upper and lower jaws and a mouthful of spike-shaped teeth ideal for snaring fish and other

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 mas-

sive 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.





marine prey.











elsure



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 Stiff Person 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.



Sara finds

yourself it could have been

Talking about her grand-

mother Sharmila, the actress

who was last seen in Ae Watan

Mere Watan said, "My grand-

mother is my only living grandparent. She is the voice of rea-

son for all of us. And I think

that when things get hard, which

they did in my life in 2020, pe-

riod 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 tradi-

worse.'

FORTUNE FORECAST



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

TAURUS

It is highly unlikely that you will be emotional and sentimental today, predicts Ganesha. 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 Ganesha. Your affection, how ever, 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 keep ing 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 Ganesha

LEO

Friendships are supposed to last forever. But it al 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 Ganesha.

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.

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-

Breaking mold key to gain confidence'

said that an actor should sync well with the director. Shedding more light on her thoughts, the Dasvi actress tells us,

You alwavs

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-

screen,

she

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

thing dif-

AGENCIES

ferent."

scene, or one line. It always has to be some-

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

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan, in an interview, spoke about being trolled and how she finds her silver lining in it. The Zara Hatke Zara Bachke actress said, "I think you have to have an

inner conviction because everybody is going to try to drag you down, especially if you give them the opportunity to. First, just be grateful. Practising gratitude helps because it could always be worse than it is.

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

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

not being one of

them

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 support ive 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. AGENCIES

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-inlaw. 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-andwhite photos with her dad, along with some celebratory pictures. She wrote, "No one like my Papa. Love you Papa. Happy Father's Day."

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 cap-

tional roots. She is also the voice of modernity. She also gives me good advice when it comes to boys, films, and social

It's always about

life. She's a champion.' On the work front, Sara has *Metro.... In Dino*, alongside Aditya Roy Kapoor in her kitty.

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 Ganesha.

Expect a few run-ins with the opposite

SCORPIO

You may find yourself sulking in your shell today feels Ganesha. One event or another may lead you to shut out work. Hindsight and bitterness will not lead you anywhere, so Ganesha advises that you must steer clear of negative ity. 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 prob lems. 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 suc-

cess. They will, in fact, provide the much needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesha. For those of you looking to switch jobs, wait awhile, this may not be the right time.

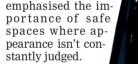
AOUARIUS

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. Ganesha assures success i only you are a little more practical!

PISCES

The focus today is on touching base with your near and dear ones, says Ganesha. It is likely that you will renew some old associa tions 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.

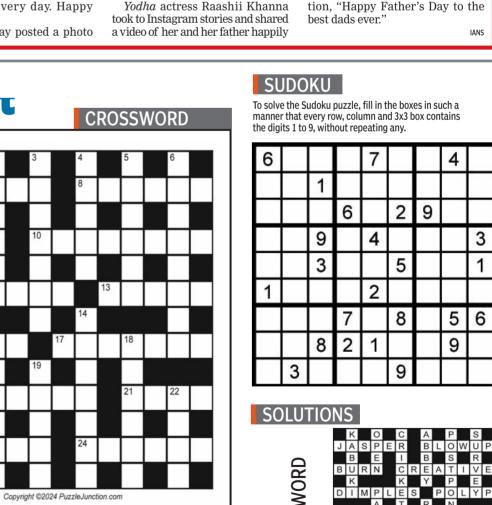
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PEANUTS



FUN



4 Pigeon's perch

5 Sonora snooze

6 Banshees and

12 Running

noose

16 Formal

14 Space gadget

18 Full of vigour

22 Bath's county

19 Brougham

vampires, e.g.

headgear (3,3)

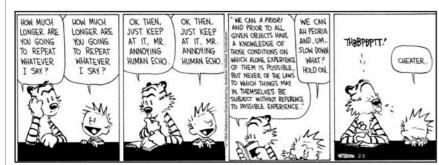
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CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY

THESE GAS-DISCHARGE LIGHTS SMELL FUNNY AND ARE MAKING ME CRY!

THEY'RE ONEON



24

20 Sea captains

21 Jezebel's idol

23 Beethoven's

24 Ulceration

Down

it

"Moonlight

1 Carbonated drink

2 Taurus is part of

3 Part of a place

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

setting

tion, "Happy Father's Day to the best dads ever." IANS

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.

6				7			4	
		1						
			6		2	9		
		9		4				3
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	3				9			



Across

7 Withdraw (3,3)

9 Island south of

shipbuilding

13 Synthetic fabric

15 Forth, for one

17 Roadblock

8 Copyreader

Borneo

10 Japanese

centre

11 Clairvoyant







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 Maihi 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 Prithivirai 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 Julv 7.

He mentioned that he had ap-prised 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 reopening 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

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

treatment of the minor, it said.

As per the direction of Majhi,

village in Madhapur for a checkup, following which he has been referred to SCB Medical College disease called 'Traumatic Neuro and Hospital in Cuttack for further Motor Disorder' and his parents treatment, the statement said. are unable to pay for proper The district administration

has also been asked to be in touch with the family

a team of doctors went to Babuli's

OP PHOTO

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 newlyelected Mohan Charan Maihi's



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 waterces. 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



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.

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 vet.

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 bv government sources only.



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

'Heat index, redesigning modern cities need of the hour' Youth nabbed for heckling minor girl

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 mod-

ern 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 tem-CSE

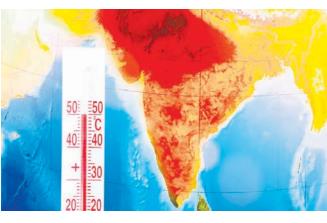
perature feels to the human body director general when relative

Sunita Narain noted humidity is combined that heatwaves are with air temturning modern glass perature. "We need buildings into furnaces a heat index

overheating the occupants similar to the air qualand emphasised the need ity index we for new architectural have on our phones. AQI science to address

tells you the level this heat 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 heatwaverelated deaths

According to the IMD data, 14 of the 36 sub-divisions in the country recorded over 15 heatwave 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 lowincome 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 '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 sevenphase 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.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Airfield police Sunday arrested a 19-yearold 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.







downtown

Rain likely during next 4-5 days

Hot and humid weather is expected to prevail at many places as monsoon is set to further advance into more parts of state



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Rain with thundershowers is likely during next four to five days as southwest monsoon progressed in the state, said reports from the

OrissaPOST

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weather department Sunday. Hot and humid weather is expected to prevail in many parts of the state during the period as monsoon is set to further advance into more parts of the state during the next four to five days, the Indian Meteorological Centre here said in a bulletin.

There will be no large change in maximum temperature (day) during next three to four days and the mercury may fall by two to three degrees Celsius thereafter at many places Light to moderate rain/thun-

dershower may occur in some districts of north coastal Odisha, south Odisha and one or two places over the north interior region in next 24 hours.

Yellow warning of thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty surface windspeed reaching 30-40 kmph likely at

visits ICAR-CIFA

some places of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gaiapati. Mavurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts during the period, the Met said.

At the same time, heatwave condition likely to prevail at one or two places over Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Subarnapur, Bolangir, and Bargarh districts.

Similarly, hot and humid weather may prevail at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati during the period.

According to Met centre, thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty surface windspeed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely to occur Monday at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Khurda, Mayurbhanj

and Keonjhar.



FEST AHEAD: Maharana servitors preparing chariots for upcoming Rath Yatra in Puri, Sunday

CP collects over 89K from traffic violators

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Intensifying the crackdown against traffic violators, the Commissionerate Police claimed to have collected a fine of ₹89,100 from the seizure of 143 vehicles, Friday and Saturday night.

Police Twin-City Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda here Sunday, said the drive was carried across 50 vulnerable points in the City, leading to 87 vehicles being seized for drunk driving, 50 for driving on wrongside and six for using mobile phones while driving.

Following the seizure, the RTOs have been directed for the cancellation of driving licenses, said Commissioner Panda, adding that the violators will have to pay the fine to get their vehicles back.

Meanwhile, the Traffic police station-I has seized 18 four-wheelers, while 35 four-wheelers and six two-wheelers were seized by Traffic police station-II. Over 22 police stations in the Bhubaneswar Urban Police District (UPD) took part in the enforcement drive.

Naveen condoles demise of former **Governor Bhandare**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Union Minister of State, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, SP Singh Baghel reviewed freshwater aquaculture research activities being carried out by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) here, Sunday.

On the occasion, the minister planted a tree sapling on the institute premises and visited CIFA farm facilities ICAR-CIFA director PK Sahoo,

welcomed the minister and presented an action plan for next 100 days of the institution. Sahoo also briefed him about the ongoing research activities and the 'Vision 2047'

Baghel appreciated the efforts by the institution in rearing more than 23 different fish varieties, like genetically improved

'Jayanti' Rohu, Catla, Scampi, minor Carps, different breeds of Catfish, Murrel, Anabas and Pearl Mussel. He also reviewed different aquaculture practices, such as pond culture, Biofloc and Aquaponics. Different gadgets, feed formulations and therapeutics developed by the institute were also exhibited.

The minister reviewed the work progress of central schemes on animal husbandry and fisheries operated in the state. Officials from the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department attended the

review meeting. Baghel laid emphasis on transfer of advanced technologies to the farming community and stressed the need for more research on farming practices which will play a significant role in making India a developed country in agriculture.



Odia diaspora celebrates Union Minister Baghel Raja with festive fervour

in a land which is far off from Odisha," she said.

prominent Odias of UAE from various sectors like shipping, banking and finance, consumer products, medicine, science and

London (OCAL) organised a host of activities where people gathered, had fun at the swing and enjoyed odia delicacies like pitha and pana.

Odia community in USA also celebrated the festival. Manjarika Mishra, who lives in California said, while celebrating the festival, we try to re-live our childhood days. The swings brought us together, bridging the gap between our current lives and our roots in Odisha.

We clicked photographs, savoured traditional snacks, and relished the company of fellow Odias. In that moment, the swing became a symbol of our connection to our heritage and our community," she said.

"I'm thankful for the serendipitous experience of the swing, for the laughter and memories we created, and for the warmth of our Odia community here in the USA," she added.

Association of Odi

Principal Secy Singh meets **RD** minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Rural Development department principal secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh paid a courtesy visit to the newly-appointed Rural Development Minister Rabi

Narayan Naik here, Sunday. Singh briefed the minister on important issues and strategic steps laid down to advance the



He said that the department attaches great importance to the implementation of ongoing projects, new policy initiatives aimed at increasing rural infrastructure and participation of stakeholders in achieving the Sustainable **Development Goals.**



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Odia diaspora celebrated the 3-day Raja festival with pomp and gaiety at many countries including UAE, UK, USA, and Australia among others.

A group of non-resident Odias living in Dubai celebrated the occasion with great enthusiasm. A rich array of traditional foods like Manda Pitha, Poda Pitha and Chakuli (among various other dishes) was lined up during the celebration. Dressed in traditional attire, women enjoyed the vibrant and joyous festival with great fervour. Various traditional games were

Odia Cultural Association London (OCAL) organised a host of cultural activities where people gathered, had fun at the swing and enjoyed traditional odia delicacies

the festival, said the festival underscores the importance of women in society and acknowledges their vital role within the family and outside.

"Raja showcases the rich cultural tapestry of Odisha, highlighting the celebration of na-

The gathering comprised technology.

Odia Cultural Association

rural development agenda.

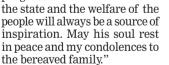
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 16: Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik has expressed his profound grief over the demise of former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare

Taking to X, Naveen said, "I am saddened to learn of the demise of Shri Muralidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, the former Governor of Odisha and

veteran politician

His humble and innocent nature along with his dedica tion to the progress of



Bhandare lived a full life dedicated to the cause of the people. An erudite scholar and a legal luminary, he left his mark in the field of law and public service, the BJD president said

He passed away Saturday at the age of 95. He was a senior Congress leader from Maharashtra and a former Rajya Sabha member for three terms. He also practiced as a senior advocate at the Supreme Court and served as Governor of the state from August 2007 to March 2013.



played and folk songs known as 'Raia Geeta' were sung. Anukta Patnaik, who hosted

womanhood, and ture, agriculture. We are lucky to be able to gather and celebrate it,

Australia (ORIOZ) also celebrated the festival in Victoria with great fervour.

Naik is also in charge of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water departments.

Understanding small intestine microbiome for better gut health

esearchers have studied what is most readily avail-▲able – stool rescued from a flush down the toilet - but has been missing the microbial masterminds upstream in the small intestine. Until recently.

Likened by some scientists to another human organ, the microbiome is collectively the tens of trillions of microorganisms that live in interconnected populations on and in

the body. They serve as miniature sentinels that help protect body's surfaces from pathogenic invaders. In the upper intestine, distinct microbial populations also aid in digestion, metabolism and even immunity. Advances in technology are

helping scientists investigate the small intestine microbiome and the promise it holds for better understanding and treating many diseases.

Certain members of the small intestine microbiome are linked to obesity and overweight, while other microbial members are linked to a healthy metabolic state. Indeed, small intestine microbes aid in digestion by

turning certain simple carbohydrates into the molecular building blocks of a healthy gut and body.

While analogous in function to the colon, small intestine metabolites can be quite distinct from the fiber-derived metabolites of the large intestine microbiome. Some small intestine metabolites help regulate the upper gut's production of GIP, a sister molecule to the lower gut hormone GLP-1, which makes up the weight loss and type 2 diabetes drugs Wegovy and Ozempic. Together, with another lower gut hormone called PYY, this triumvirate is critical for coordinating the body's response to food by regulating appetite

and blood sugar. Monjaro is an incrementally more powerful combination of GIP and GLP-1 compared with Wegovy and Ozempic. The full complement of these hormones is naturally stimulated by the breakdown of products from both the large and small intes-

tine microbiome. Research has linked a disrupted small intestine microbiome to diseases of the gut. These include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO), Crohn's disease and Celiac disease.

These diseases are thought to arise partly from disturbances in the way the microbiome breaks down food. Celiac disease, for example, is associated with the small intestine microbiome's decreased ability to di gest gluten. IBS and SIBO are linked to the opposite: the small intestine microbiome's ability to too readily ferment fibers and sugars.

Foods like wheat, garlic, onion beans and certain processed products that are high in FODMAPs-a set of fermentable short-chain carbohydrates have been shown to contribute to symptoms in individuals with SIBO and IBS. Lactose-rich dairy is a high FODMAP food group implicated in lactose intolerance and linked to an overzealous small intestine microbiome.

Studies have linked inflammatory changes in the small intestine microbiome to type 1 diabetes, where the body's circulating immune cells attack



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dvances in technology are helping scientists investigate the small intestine microbiome and the promise it holds for better understanding and treating many diseases

insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, and to the extra-intestinal symptoms of Celiac disease, where immune cells can lead to destructive processes in the body's eves, skin and joints. Newly developed technolo-

gies are removing the need for sedating medications and unique anatomical situations by allowing scientists to more easily sample the furthest

reaches of the gut.

Such technologies include camera capsules tethered to angel-hair-thin filaments and other even more streamlined devices that create minimally invasive direct lines of access to the small intestine.

Researchers have also developed capsules with sample compartments that open when they reach certain acidity

levels in the body.

These new sampling techniques have unlocked unprecedented access to the upper gut, paving the way for new insights and therapies.

Therapies based on early understandings of the gut microbiome have included approaches ranging from probiotics to fecal transplants and prebiotics to fermented foods

But new treatments for gut health are still in their early days. Studying the small intestine could provide insights to improve therapeutic develop ment. A couple of promising future possibilities include partnering small intestine bacteria with their preferred prebiotics and personalised combinations of low FODMAP prebiotics designed to avoid small intestine fermentation.

Treatments that partner food and the microbiome are likely early harbingers of what's to come in the rapidly developing field of microbiome medicine. Researching the small intestine might just be microbiome medicine's most pioneering upstream start.

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state

Coastal erosion wreaks havoc in Kendrapara

OST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, June 16: People for centuries have gravitated toward shores, building their lives in proximity to major waterways for easy access to trade, seafood and recreation.

However, climate change continues to create conditions that chip away the malleable geological structures, robbing the residents living near coastlines of their life and livelihood.

The seaside villages in Kendrapara district are a classic example of this phenomenon where rise in tidal waves and constant erosion of the coastline are wreaking havoc on the life and properties of the residents

According to reports, around 28 km, of the total 48 km, coastline of the Bay of Bengal in Kendrapara district, are facing serious threats of erosion due to frequent ingress of tidal waves into seaside villages.

On June 6 when residents of the seaside Tanda village in Mahakalapara block were celebrating the Sabitri Amavasva on the new moon day - tidal waves crossed the coastline and gushed into the village. Such frequent flooding, resulting in coastal erosion, has sparked unprecedented fear among inhabitants of all seaside villages in the district.

Same is the situation in the sea-ravaged Satabhaya panchayat, under Rajnagar block, where tidal waves have devoured around 40 metres of the coastline in the past one year.

Things have come to such a pass that the ancient Panchubarahi temple and Barahipur village in the pan-



chavat are likely to be consumed by the sea during this rainy season with coastal erosion is ruining the area.

Meanwhile, the sea appears to have set its eye on the Sunei-Tupei jungle on the coastline and threatening to erase the

green cover. Experts said given the alacrity of the situation, it has become necessary to create more mangrove forests on the remaining land mass in Satabhaya panchayat. This is the only way through which the tidal waves can be checked from entering seaside villages, and erode the land mass, they said.

Sudarshan Swain, a native of Barahipur village in Satabhaya panchayat, who is currently re-

habilitated at Bagapatia, said that the panchayat consisted of seven revenue villages. However, these seven villages have been gobbled up by the sea in the last five decades, while hamlets like Magarkanda, Adhasal are slowly moving towards extinction, he

said. The rapid erosion of the villages has forced the inhabitants to shift to Bagapatia. After four years of struggle, 571 families have been shifted and rehabilitated at Bagapatia. Towering tidal waves are constantly lashing the coastline and have posed extinction threat to the Sunei-Rupei jungle, of late.

Swain demanded a long term solution to the advancing tidal waves and erosion of the land

mass. In the absence of some concrete measures, people living in seaside villages will be always under threat, he added.

Environmentalists Hemant Kumar Rout also echoed the demands of converting the rest of the farmland in Satabhaya into mangrove forests. He said the geo-synthetic tube wall which was constructed along Pentha coast by the state government has failed to stand to the onslaught of the rising tidal waves.

The huge stones in the gabion boxes set up along the coast of Pentha village have been washed away into the sea after the tidal waves tore up the iron mesh of the boxes. Even the stone embankment constructed to protect the geo-tube wall is facing the

wrath of rising tidal waves. Water-level in the sea is rising due to climate change and increase in global warming. The tidal waves on the full moon day and new moon day are also crossing the saline embankment and gushing into seaside villages. There is a need to create more mangrove forests which can act as a shield against the tidal waves, Rout said.

However, freshwater which is a must for the growth of mangrove forests is unable to reach this wetland. The wetland requires at least 40 per cent freshwater, while only 15 per cent reaches the area during the summer season, he said.

Social activist Pramila Mallick of Rajnagar said that the Agarnasi island was earlier seven km long and acted as a shield for Tanda area against the tidal waves. However, the island has been washed away into the sea since 2022. As a result, areas like Tanda, Suniti and Babar panchayats under the block have been exposed to the threat of tidal waves.

The seawater is entering their villages on full moon days, new moon days, and during cyclonic storms. This has caused the residents to perennially live under constant fear and spend time in trepidation.

When contacted, Forest ranger, Pradosh Moharana, said efforts are on for creation of more mangrove forests along the coastlines, while mangrove saplings have been planted at Satabhava and Pentha coasts. "Experts have been apprised of the issue of coastal erosion and remedial steps will be taken as per their advice," he said.

Man shot dead by brother-in-law during poaching



POST NEWS NETWORK

Parlakhemundi, June 16: A man was allegedly shot dead by his brother-in-law while they were on a hunt for wild animals at Bhaliagani village, under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district, late Saturday night. The deceased has been iden-

tified as Kailash Nayak and the accused Udava Navak. According to reports, Kailash, along with his brother-in-law Uday, and some other youths of the village had gone to a forest

in the vicinity of the village to hunt wild animals on the occasion of the Raja festival. However, Kailash received gunshot injuries after a bullet was allegedly fired by his brotherin-law Uday during hunting. He

died on the spot. On being informed, a team from Mohana police reached the spot and recovered the body which was later sent to a hospi-

tal for post-mortem. Police seized a country-made firearm from Uday's possession and detained him at the police station for questioning. Police also Uday and Kailash had gone to the forest for poaching. Uday fired at an animal and the bullet accidentally hit Kailash leading to his death on the spot

went to the village of the deceased for investigation.

Meanwhile, Kailash's wife alleged that her husband and Uday were not in good terms for a long time. She claimed Uday intentionally fired at Kailash, resulting in his death.

Following preliminary investigation, police learnt that Uday and Kailash had gone to the forest for poaching. Uday fired at an animal and the bullet accidentally hit Kailash leading to his death on the spot.

SDPO, Ashwini Nayak said a murder case (No-119/24) has been registered at Mohana police station in connection with the incident and further investigations are on.

Hopes soar high as double engine govts take charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur/Padmapur, June 16: Hopes for construction of the proposed Gunupur-Therubali rail route has soared high after the BJP formed governments both at the Centre and the state, a report said.

This is on account of the fact that Aswini Vaishnaw, representing Odisha, has once again become the Union Railway Minister. He is well aware of the proposed rail route, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a road map of 100-days to his ministers for implementa-

tion of pending projects. Residents believe that Vaishnaw will take note of the

The Centre had made a plan outlay of ₹935.72 crore in the Railway Budget. However, though six years have passed since then, the project has remained a non-

starter The Centre even included the rail route under PM Gati Shakti Yojana, but the fate of the project is still mired in uncertainty. Meanwhile, the project cost has increased to ₹1.398 crore with

Property dispute: Man kills brother POST NEWS NETWORK

Morada, June 16: A man brutally killed his younger brother allegedly over a land dispute at Lunichati village under Nalagaja panchayat and Rasagobindpur police station limits in Mayurbhanj district, Sunday. The deceased has been iden-

tified as Jayant Mahana, while the accused happens to be his elder brother Arun Mahana, both residents of Lunichati village.

Sources said Arun and Jayant were locked in protracted landrelated disputes since a long time which led to frequent altercations.

Jayant was trying to erect a fence to demarcate the boundary of his house Sunday morning to which Arun objected. This re-



pending rail route project and work towards it in his 100-days of joining office.

Earlier, the project was hanging fire and was caught in a slugfest between the Centre and state. The previous state government had agreed to provide land free of cost, but did not commit on bearing half of the project cost. As a result, the project failed to take off and remained a non-starter.

Meanwhile, with the saffron party in power at both the Centre and state, observers expect that both the governments will give due importance to the project as per the demands of the residents.

Meanwhile, a detailed project report (DPR) has been prepared for the Gunupur-Therubali rail route project. The Centre had mentioned about the project in the 2017-18 Railway Budget which will be of 73.62 km in length.

the passage of time. In the meantime, the Centre has been sanctioning small amounts of funds in the budget every year in the name of Naupada-Gunupur-

Therubali rail route project. Experts said the fate of the project is hanging in balance as no big funds are being sanctioned for its implementation.

Earlier, the residents of Gunupur took out a bicycle rally and submitted a memorandum to the Union Railway Minister during his visit to Rayagada.

Reports stated that the Centre had listed the rail route project for approval by the Union Cabinet before the election. When constructed, the rail route will usher in development in the tribal dominated district and help in connecting Rayagada with Berhampur and other areas. It is said that the Railway will also make profits from this route when the project takes shape.

sulted in a fierce altercation between the brothers, they added.



An enraged Arun attacked Jayant with a sword, following which the latter fell on the ground. Arun then repeatedly hacked Jayant on his neck, lead ing to his death on the spot.

After being informed about the incident, Rasagobindpur police station in-charge Sukanti Kerai, with her team arrived at the crime scene. However, by then, Arun had allegedly fled from the spot. A murder case has been registered against Arun at Rasagobindpur police station and efforts are on to arrest him, Kerai said.



SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE: Artistes perform Odissi at cultural event 'Megha Mallhar' organised by Rourkela Steel Plant at Civic Centre in Rourkela on the occasion of Raja festival, Sunday OP PHOTO

Scientists find new snake eel species in Odisha



Rajabati wedding on Raja festival

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, June 16: On the concluding day of the three-day-long Raja festival, thousands of people, mostly women, witnessed the marriage of deity 'Rajabati' in Harsapur, Sendkap and other villages in Keonjhar district, Sunday.

Various rituals were performed before Rajabati, a village deitv made of clay by the women and girls at Raja ground in these villages. The marriage ceremony of the deity was solemnised at the Doli ground in Sendkap village amid festivities. A big procession was taken out in the village to the marriage venue which was decorated with colorful light and gates.

Prasanna Kumar Mohapatra, a servitor in Sendkap village said, "This is Radha-Krishna's marriage. Mother Radha or Mother Earth is menstruating. Therefore,

UNIQUE TRADITION



for three days, young women and girls in the village do not work. They worship the idols made of clay and play on a swing for three days. That is why it is called as Rajabati Vivah which is organised during the Raja festival."

People believe if Rajabati is happy, people in the village and the area will live happily and there will be good harvest. People from far and wide come to the village and participate in Raja festival and

the unique wedding ceremony. It maintains unity in the village and creates a vibrant atmosphere. On this day, girls and young women play on swings, called Raja doli, which is also an integral part of the wedding rituals. "We are trying to maintain this tradition" said Ranjan Behera, an organiser at Sendkap village

According to the villagers, on the first day of Raja festival, the idol of the deities - a male and a female - called Rajabati (Mother Earth) are made from clay, and a swing is also installed at the festival ground. On the second day - Raja sankranti - the idols are dressed in colorful wedding attires and brought to the marriage pandal at the festival ground in a

big procession from the village. On the third day, the marriage of the two idols are organized which is followed by a grand feast. The idols are taken in a big procession before they are immersed in the water on the fourth day, which is the Basumati Snana.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, June 16: Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India's (ZSI) regional centre at Gopalpur in Ganiam district have discovered a new species of snake eel from different estuarine ecosystems in the state, an official said.

The new species is named 'Ophichthus Suryai' to honour Surya Kumar Mohanty, former joint director of state fishery department, the official said.

At least six specimens have been collected from the Subarnarekha river at Talasara in Balasore district, Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, and

The species is named 'Ophichthus Suryai' to

Bahuda river near Sunapur in Ganjam district at different

"After conducting deep studies and various tests, including DNA at the ZSI's laboratory, we confirm that it was a Mohapatra, senior scientist,

Man arrested for poaching wild boar

POST NEWS NETWORK

department personnel here Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) of ZSI, Gopalpur: arrested a man for allegedly poaching a wild boar, and seized the carcass of the animal from The new species can be dis-

his possession, Sunday. The arrested poacher has been identified as Prahallad Pradhan. 60. a resident of Matia Sahi of Usakana village under this police limits in Dhenkanal district.

Bhuban, June 16: Forest



According to information, the Forest department received a tip off about a man who was carrying the carcass of a wild boar after poaching it from Bharati hill area near Bhuban in the wee hours of Sunday. Acting on the tip off, a Forest team, including Bhuban ranger Rakesh Kumar Dalei and forester Kalpana Behera, went on the poacher's trail and nabbed him with the kill.

The seized carcass of the wild boar was buried in a pit dug up inside Kanchanbahal nursery premises after post-mortem. A case in this regard has been registered and the accused was produced in a court for remand, Sunday.

honour Surya Kumar Mohanty, the former joint director of state Fishery department

times last year.

new species," said Anil





13 this year.

teeth patterns consisting of

multiple rows on both maxilla

and mandible, said Mohapatra,

He said on initial examina-

tion, they were found to belong to the genus Ophichthus.

Examination of morphologi-

cal, meristic, and molecular

characters confirmed the spec-

imens are unique and described

The detailed characteristics

of this new species of

Ophichthus Suryai were pub-

lished in the Bulletin of Marine

Science, an international jour-

nal on its latest edition of June

Mohapatra was one of the

co-authors in the research paper

published in the journal. The

other authors of the research

paper are Rajesh Kumar Behera,

Subhendu Kumar Mishra and

Smrutirekha Acharya.

as a new species, he added.

who led the discovery.



All existence is a nanifestation of God.

power post

FOCUS CURRENCY

SRI AUROBINDO

Iran's Choice

he stage is set for Iran's farcical presidential election to be held on 28 June. The vote has been brought forward from 2025 following the death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash last month. The ultimate head of the Iranian state is the unelected Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The President is the second-most powerful position and as such his role is primarily to implement decisions formulated and approved by Khamenei. The task of selecting the right person suitable for the post of President is made easy by the Guardian Council which oversees the election process and approves and rejects candidates as it thinks best. For this reason the system is regarded by critics of Iran as anything but democratic.

This time, six candidates have been approved to run for the presidency, their chief qualifications being that they are all ultimately supportive of and loyal to the Supreme Leader and the Iranian political system. The candidates were chosen by the Guardian Council from 80 registered hopefuls. Of the six candidates, five are considered hardliners and only one is from the reformist camp. Among those not allowed to contest is the firebrand populist and former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The fact that no women have been approved as candidates shows the regime's rigidity and anti-feminine character. This is only expected as the nation was in turmoil after its womenfolk protested against a brutal crackdown on them by the orthodox regime headed by the former President Ebrhim Raisi whose death in an air crash necessitated this election. Four women also registered to run, but were disqualified. This has been the case in every presidential election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Others, including the moderate former speaker of parliament, Ali Larijani, and Vahid Haghanian, a former commander in Iran's Revolutionary Guard, were also barred from running.

The selection of candidates and the suitability of the most probable winner are guided by the national and international situations Iran is facing. The country has been already sucked into the vortex of war between Israel and Hamas as it has allegedly been helping the Houthis and Hezbollah launch attacks on Israel. Its own embassy in Syria has also faced missile attacks leading to several casualties. At the same time it is plagued by an economic crisis that is fuelling popular resentment in addition to the harsh treatment meted out to the country's women unwilling to submit themselves to the dogmatic, orthodox and repressive regime.

In such a trying situation, Iran needs a leader who can be both hardline Islamist and skilled in running the administration in a manner acceptable to large swaths of the population. Judged from these angles Parliament Speaker Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf, a former Tehran mayor with close ties to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, remains the most prominent candidate.

Other candidates include Saeed Jalili, former chief nuclear negotiator, Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, the ultraconservative chairman of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, Mostafa Pourmohammadi, Islamic scholar and a former interior and justice minister, and Alireza Zakani, the current mayor of Tehran. Only one reformist candidate, Massoud Pezeshkian, a lawmaker representing Tabriz in the Iranian parliament, appears to be the odd man out. But, critics point out he has been approved by the Guardian Council because he is near certain to lose the contest. His inclusion in the list is intended to provide the fig leaf that the Council is ready to accommodate moderate voices.

The composition of the Guardian Council leaves no one in doubt about what is expected of the election. It consists of 12 Islamic clerics and jurists, half of whom are elected by parliament and half of whom are appointed by Khamenei. It decides on the constitutionality of laws and the qualifications of candidates in elections. As a result, voters can only choose from a group of candidates loyal to the system.

The last presidential election, in 2021, saw the lowest ever turnout, with only 48% of electors bothering to cast their vote. So the regime needs to look credible, and to re-engage at least parts of the public. Reformists had threatened an election boycott if none of their candidates were allowed to run. However, the reformist movement in Iran is too weak politically to pose any challenge to the religious regime and the outcome is known as that will reflect what the Supreme Leader wants.

No Room For Dissent

NEW PETRODOLLAR REGIME

ndians are hopeful of a new petroleum pricing regime with Saudi Arabia refusing to renew the 50-year-old US-Saudi Petrodollar Agreement that expired early June. Indeed. there may be a new agreement with Saudi Arabia, but expecting a cheaper deal is to remain a dream as the Rial is pegged to the dollar.

ternational trade and allowed the

US government to control the

nificant departure from the long-

standing financial arrangement

between the two nations that

was established in 1974. The

arrangement to recycle petrodol-

lars positioned the US dollar as

the primary currency for inter-

The crucial decision to not

renew the contract enables Saudi

in multiple currencies, includ-

US dollar. Additionally, the po-

tential use of digital curren-

cies such as Bitcoin may also be

outgo would remain the same.

A better option available to India

is trading with Iran in rupee. The

forced India to scuttle its ties

The original petrodollar agree-

ment was signed on 8 June 1974

by the US Secretary of State

Henry Kissinger and Prince

Fand Ibn Abdel Aziz of Saudi

Arabia. It was a period marked

by the aftermath of the Arab

oil embargo and a notable spike

in international oil prices. Under

the agreement, Saudi Arabia

considered.

with Iran.

national oil transactions.

The Saudi decision marks a sig-

world's energy market.



Shivaji Sarkar

IN THE **CHANGED** SITUATION, IT **WOULD BE INTERESTING TO** WATCH WHETHER THE **VALUE OF THE**

DOLLAR **CHANGES OR NOT**



In the immediate context, India cannot expect lower value of the dollar. That is why the Reserve Bank of India is gradually shifting to gold as a parallel currency for international trading

agreed to price its oil exports exclusively in US dollars and invest its surplus oil revenues in US Treasury bonds, and in return it was promised US military, security, and economic development assistance.

Arabia to sell oil and other goods Although the agreement was ing the Chinese RMB, euro, and signed by the Saudi governven instead of exclusively in ment, almost all OPEC countries use the US dollar to sell their oil in the international market. Though the agreement was meant to stabilise the oil The benefit to India could be market, this never happened. minimal. The Saudis want a The petrodollar influenced deal in rial or dollar and not so the global economic dynamics. much in rupee. Even a rupee It was a clever US ploy to create deal if hypothetically agreed a constant demand for US dolwould not help India as the lars as the currency was required for oil transactions. The value of the US dollar increased significantly, and it reinforced Iranian crude is supposed to be the currency's status as the prione of the best. The US has mary reserve currency of the

world. It allowed the US to run larger trade deficits and maintain lower interest rates than would otherwise be possible. In the changed situation, it

would be interesting to watch whether the value of the dollar changes or not. In the immediate context, India cannot expect lower value of the dollar. That is why the Reserve Bank of India is gradually shifting to gold as a parallel currency for international trading. The gold despite appreciating has less market cost than the dollar. If the dollar falls, which at present looks improbable, gold would provide the cover.

According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy and the Bank of Baroda. Saudi Arabia accounted for about 16.6% of India's crude oil imports. India imported \$170bn crude petroleum in 2022, becoming the third largest importer in the world. In the same year, crude was the most imported product in India.

India's trade with Saudi Arabia in 2022-23 amounted to \$52.76bn, with exports at \$10.73bn and imports at \$42.04bn. As such. India had a trade deficit of \$31.31bn with Saudi Arabia in the last financial year.

India imports crude petroleum primarily from Iraq (\$37.1bn), Saudi Arabia (\$32.7bn), Russia (\$25.5bn), UAE (\$14.8bn), and the US (\$10.8bn). The fastest growing import markets in crude for India between 2021 and 2022 were Russia (\$24.6bn), Saudi Arabia (\$14.8bn), and Iraq (\$12bn)

The benefit of refined Russian crude to Europe is pocketed by

two private refineries. Now as the new Saudi system unfolds, India's import bills are not likely to come down. Major commodities of export from India to Saudi Arabia include engineering goods, rice, petroleum products, chemicals, textiles, food products, ceramic tiles. Whereas major commodities of import for India from Saudi Arabia are crude oil, LPG, fertilizer, chemicals and plastic. India and Saudi Arabia have begun discussions on settling their trade in local currencies.

Over the past year, India has pushed the use of the rupee globally, with the RBI announcing the setting up of a mechanism to settle global trade in rupee in July 2022. Early use of this system was seemingly for the purchase of discounted oil from sanction-hit Russia following its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. However, the mechanism has not taken off with reports emerging that negotiations over the settlement of bilateral trade in rupee between India and Russia had been suspended after Russia had accumulated billions of rupees in Indian banks which it could not use.

In recent months, India has entered into bilateral agreements to settle trade in local currencies with an MoU to set up a Local Currency Settlement System being signed with the UAE in July 2023. Discussions with Indonesia to settle cross-border transactions in local currencies have too begun. It is trying to have talks with Brazil, Argentina, South Africa Senegal, and Tanzania. Not much progress is made.

India would have to continue with the present system and may have little relief in terms of global trade. International petroleum prices are unlikely to soften. The forex outgo would continue at the present level till the rupee attains an international status and Indian consumers would have to pay do-

mestically a higher price.

Can AI foster a global consciousness?

of angry gods. But it is only recently that we have developed the capacity to do ourselves in, whether from climate change, nuclear weapons, artificial intelligence, or synthetic biology. Although our ability to cause harm on a planetary scale has increased exponentially as a result of our technology, our means of responsibly managing these newfound powers have not. This must change if humanity is to survive and thrive. Today's deeply interconnected world demands that we develop a collective consciousness and purpose to address common challenges and ensure that technological advances serve everyone. So far, zero-sum competition between countries and communities has posed an insurmountable obstacle to mitigating global risks. But the same technologies that are ripe for misuse also have the potential to help foster a shared sense of responsibility. Technological development has shaped religious belief for thousands of years. Domesticating plants and animals made civilization – and thus all religions (other than animism) - possible, while the in-

the world-ending wrath parchment and later paper, helped

ur ancestors long feared vention of writing, followed by competition in Seoul. This astounding display of technolog-

In the second game between AlphaGo and Lee, the algorithm

'n what appears to be a heavy clampdown on the right to freedom of speech and expression, as guaranteed by our Constitution, and blatant misuse of law, renowned author and activist Arundhati Roy is all set to be prosecuted under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly making incendiary speeches at an event 14 years ago.

The Lt Governor of Delhi VK Saxena has accorded sanction to prosecute the Man Booker Prize winner and Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a former professor of the Central University of Kashmir, on the basis of an FIR registered on the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi. The FIR was registered over a complaint lodged by Kashmiri activist Sushil Pandit on 28 October, 2010. The complaint centred around Roy's statement regarding Kashmir not being considered an "integral part of India." It also accused her and others of delivering speeches supporting the secession of Kashmir from India at a conference organised under the banner of "Azadi - The Only Way" on 21 October, 2010 at LTG Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi. Other speakers at the conference included late Kashmiri separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani, SAR Geelani (the conference anchor and an accused in the Parliament attack case) and poet-activist Varavara Rao.

Ever since gaining worldwide fame with her first book, "The God of Small Things," in 1997, Roy, 62, has been actively engaged in advocating for various causes, the independence of Kashmir being one among them, and has been one of the boldest critics of the current dispensation at the Centre, particularly regarding its laws affecting minority groups and human rights. Her remarks at the event had led to a hue and cry back then with protesters gathering outside her residence in Delhi. Scores of activists of the BJP's women's wing had urged Roy to either withdraw her remarks or leave the country.

Critics argue that the UAPA is unconstitutional and undemocratic as it reverses the normal principle of criminal law by requiring the accused to prove their innocence rather than the prosecution to prove their guilt. This law, originally intended for combating terrorism, is being frequently deployed by the government at the Centre to stifle dissenting voices - activists from Kashmir, students from the national capital and numerous lawyers, writers, civil society members and anybody who speaks truth to power.

Meanwhile, the decision to prosecute Roy has been condemned by several political parties such as the Communist party of India (Marxist), the National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party, all of whom have stressed the urgency to uphold the fundamental right of every citizen to free speech as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Constitution. "Shocking that Arundhati Roy, world-renowned author and a brave woman who has emerged as a powerful voice against fascism, has been booked under the draconian UAPA," PDP chief and former Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti wrote on social media platform X. Similarly, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said in a statement: "Condemnable. The Delhi LG has granted permission to prosecute Arundhati Roy under the draconian UAPA [Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act] for a speech reportedly made 14 years ago - in 2010. Defies logic except the fascist kind. Timing is suspect since courts are on vacation, as are lawyers.

Roy may have become a polarising figure in India for her outspokenness and anti-establishment views, yet she is immensely respected the world over for taking up causes that affect the minorities and other disadvantaged communities. The decision to prosecute her once again shows that room for dissent is being squeezed in our democracy.



Iamie Metzl

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

WE SHOULD PROMPT THE BROADER AI SYSTEMS, BEING TRAINED ON THE **CULTURAL CONTENT THAT HUMANS HAVE GENERATED OVER THOUSANDS OF** YEARS, TO HELP US **IMAGINE A BETTER PATH FORWARD**

these belief systems spread through holy books like the Torah, Bible, Quran, and Bhagavad Gita. The success of Protestantism can be largely attributed to the printing press.

Now companies are building large-language-model chatbots – such as GitaGPT, Quran GPT, and BibleChat-that people can use to receive automated personal advice inspired by traditional religious texts. Given that the Talmud, an interpretation of sacred texts, has itself become sacred in Judaism, it is not inconceivable that AI-generated interpretive texts might someday take on a sanctified status.

This suggests that while powerful technologies like AI can cause harm, they could just as easily have a positive influence on the continued evolution of social traditions and belief systems. Specifically, these technologies could help people incorporate a global consciousness and a greater awareness of how to meet the collective needs of society into their traditional identities.

In 2016, AlphaGo, an algorithm developed by Google's DeepMind, defeated Go grandmaster Lee Sedol by four games to one in a

ical prowess underscores AI's transformative potential. The success of AlphaGo, which had been trained on digitised games played by thousands of Go masters, was, in fact, a profound victory for humanity. It was as if all those human masters were sitting across the table from Lee. their combined wisdom channeled through the algorithm. On that day, a computer programme, in many ways, represented the best of us.

Today many people regularly engage with generative AI bots, whether using the predictive text function in Gmail or querying ChatGPT. Computer systems in cars alert drivers when they veer into another lane, while those in planes warn pilots when they make an error. Soon, seamless natural-language interfaces will plan our vacations, write computer programmes based on prompts from people who can't otherwise code, suggest treatment options to doctors, and recommend planting strategies to farmers. AI systems will end up playing an outsize role in many critical life decisions, so it will make sense

It's our move for us to programme a concern for the common good into them.

made a move that human experts saw as a mistake. By existing metrics, the move had a one in 10,000 chance of being beneficial. But it turned out to be an optimal move that no human had previously considered. Instead of undermining human players, AlphaGo ultimately made them better by introducing new ways of playing the game. All of this can be credited to humans, who invented these technologies and Go itself. Humans also created the AlphaZero programme, which defeated its predecessor, AlphaGo, after learning the game only by playing against itself.

Technology, in other words, is us, so it must be developed for us.

We should prompt the broader AI systems being trained on the cultural content that humans have generated over thousands of vears to help us imagine a better path forward, as AlphaGo and AlphaZero did for Go players.

The clock is ticking to develop a global framework for addressing the dangers we are generating.

The writer is Founder and Chair of OneShared. World. **OPROJECT SYNDICATE**



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 101 requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Step in right direction

Sir, The government is the largest litigant in the Supreme Court and one of the largest in High Courts. Obviously, the governments of the day, in inconvenient and unfavourable cases, may be quite averse to their quick disposal. When a government that is expected to aid smooth justice delivery at various points in the system, itself becomes a roadblock towards the same, something has to be done. Also, the stakeholders are seized of the burdensome legal cost for the litigants, and lack of access to appeals. Against this backdrop, the National Litigation Policy of the NDA government appears to be a step in the right direction. The Union Law Ministry has finally approved the policy document that will be placed before the Cabinet soon. However, it is intriguing that such an important policy matter that could have been a game changer in the Indian judicial system has been drafted and redrafted over the years with no concrete consensus.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Labour rights

Sir, The devastating blaze in Kuwait which claimed the lives of 49 people, predominantly Indians mostly from Kerala, is perhaps the worst incident of its kind involving migrant labourers in West Asia in decades. This incident underscores the substandard living conditions under which these guest workers live in GCC countries which are overcrowded with inadequate safety provisions. This tragic event is a grim reminder of the ongoing exploitation of migrant labourers. The preliminary investigations done by the Kuwaiti authorities point towards overcrowding of accommodation and the violation of fire safety provisions. These workers have substantially contributed towards the development of massive projects like airports, sea ports, highways, and skyscrapers, but their living conditions are deplorable. It is our bounden duty to see the well being of these workers. Labour attachés in Indian missions in GCC countries should have adequate staff who should visit the labour camps of these migrant workers to see their living conditions. Besides, their complaints should be immediately addressed by the Indian mission.

Ramesh G Jethwani, BANGALORE





Stalin calls NEET a 'scam', 'unfair to poor' **HC mandates 1% transgender** reservation in West Bengal PRESS TRUST OF INDIA has repeatedly revealed itself

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 govern-

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

Justice Rajasekhar Mantha directed the chief secretary of the West Bengal government to ensure one per cent reservation

Extortion rackets thriving in Bengal, says Majumdar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 16: Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar Sunday al leged 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 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 counseling 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 gen-

der 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 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 counseling of the petitioner as a special case.

Chennai, June 16: NEET, 'mas querading' 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 opportuni ties 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 ex-



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.

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.'

OrissaPOS

MONDAY | JUNE 17 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAI

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.



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 Cong to contest Raiganj, Bagda 'post-poll violence' in Bengal Kolkata: The West Bengal Congress announced Saturday that it will

TURTLE NESTING SEASON Record hatchlings released into Bay



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 1990's. Similar rackets seem to have started in West Bengal," Majumdar said.

He further alleged that oppo sition 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 Firhad 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.

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 be-

gins 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.

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 re-

leased 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.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 16: A four-member central team of the BJP, including senior leaders Ravi Shankar Prasad and Biplab 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

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

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 ii 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.

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.

recently to initiate land ac-

quisiton, setting the ball rolling

is proceeding with its plan to set up the airport. It has issued

notifications as well. We want our

demands to be addressed,'

Considering the growing pas-

senger 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.

Subramaniyan said.

"As of now the government

for the project.

PARANDUR TN villagers plan relocation to Andhra over proposed airport PROTEST

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 acguisition 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 The 24as our agitation protests will enter 700th will enter its day. The <u>700th day</u> Tamil Nadu government is June 24 not showing any

interest to address our demands. Initially, about 15 members are planning to relocate," G Subramaniyan, secretary, Villagers Against the Parandur Airport Movement,



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. Ediayarpakkam, 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

Four sites were selected for the airport and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) recommended twoof them and finally Parandur was zeroed in on.











national



We have the experience that **BJP** betrays the people who support it SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

GANGA DUSSEHRA

More than 15 lakh devotees took holy dip in the Ganga in Haridwar on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra Sunday, officials said. A huge crowd gathered at the Ganga ghats of Haridwar for the bathing festival and the administration had made adequate security arrangements for the occasion



said the company.

'We received 31 requests re-

lated to general questions about

accounts during this reporting

period." it added. Most com

plaints from India were about

ban evasion (6,881), followed by

hateful conduct (3,763), sensi-

tive adult content (3,205), and

Between March 26 and April

25. X banned 1.84.241 accounts in

the country. The microblogging

platform also took down 1,303 ac-

abuse/harassment (2,815).

X bans over 2L accounts in India in May

The BJP has been ruling Haryana for nearly 10 years now. They have pushed the state backward on

developmental parameters. You have to take their failures to every home. You have to expose their lies, falsehood and corruption which took place

of the uote

during this regime BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA CONGRESS LEADER

CR Paatil is a responsible 100 Del person in the central government and is the minister of the Jal Shakti ministry. Therefore, the people of Delhi expect that if he plays the role of a guardian and

does inter-state coordination, two crore people of Delhi will get water in this scorching heat DILIP PANDEY SENIOR AAP LEADER

Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability

RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Union Coal minister meets Assam CM

Guwahati: Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy Sunday met Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here to discuss harnessing the state's mineral potential. "Had a detailed deliberation on the roadmap to harness the rich potential of various minerals in the state and their optimum utilisation towards growth with sustainable practices," Reddy said. The two ministers have decided to appoint a high-level committee to take this preliminary discussion forward to extract the minerals in Assam, he posted on X.

Train runs over three

Ghaziabad (UP): Three people were killed after allegedly being run over by a train in the

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 16: Elon Muskrun X Corp has banned 2,29.925 accounts in India between April 26 and May 25, mostly for promoting child sexual exploitation and non-consensual nudity.

The microblogging platform, going through churning under Musk, also took down 967 accounts for promoting terrorism on its platform in the country.

In total, X banned 2,30,892 accounts in the reporting period.

nation is to be held in future.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

over the issue, saying if the

testing system in any examina-

tion becomes corrupt then it is

"not really neat for the PM to

Agency (NTA) has really bun-

gled and corruption has been

brought to light on media plat-

forms, such as providing solu-

tions for question papers for

something like becoming a doc-

tor," Sibal, who was the Human

Resource Development (now the

October 29, 2012, said.

"The present National Testing

remain silent"



The microblogging platform, in its monthly report in compliance with the new IT Rules, 2021, said that it received 17,580 complaints from users in India in the same time frame through its grievance redressal mechanisms.

NEET ROW

The microblogging platform, also took down 967 accounts for promoting terrorism on its platform in the country

In addition, the company processed 76 grievances which were appealing account suspensions. "We overturned 0 of these account suspensions after reviewing the specifics of the situation. The remaining reported

accounts remain suspended,'

counts for promoting terrorism on its platform.

FIRING AT SALMAN'S HOME

New case registered, **Rajasthan man held**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 16: The Mumbai Police registered a new case in connection

with firing outside actor Salman Khan's residence here in April and arrested a 25year-old man from

Rajasthan on charges of criminal intimidation, an official said Sunday,

The accused, identified as Banwarilal Laturlal Gujar (25) hailing from Bundi in Rajasthan, was brought to the metropolis where a court remanded him in police custody till June 18, the Crime Branch official said.

Gurjar had allegedly uploaded a video on his YouTube channel in which he said "Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar and other gang members are with me and I am going to kill Salman Khan as he has not apologised as yet", the official said. The accused made the video on a highway in Rajasthan and uploaded it on his channel. Considering the seriousness of the case, a team was sent to Rajasthan for investigation and it apprehended the accused, the official said, adding the case has been registered at a cyber police station in Mumbai.

CRPF troopers deployed in Manipur's Jiribam district

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, June 16: As tension still prevails in Manipur's mixedpopulation Jiribam district, additional CRPF troopers have been deployed in the interior areas of its Borobekra subdivision to maintain peace and tranquillity, officials said Sunday.

The Borobekra subdivision of Jiribam, adjoining southern Assam, had been badly affected after the killing of 59-year-old farmer Soibam Saratkumar Singh June 6.

Around 900 tribals belonging to the Kuki and Hmar communities took shelter at the homes of relatives and friends in two villages - Haokippunji and Hmarkhawlienin - in the Cachar district of southern Assam, after violence broke out.

The Jiribam district administration Sunday distributed cooking gas cylinders and other necessary items in the seven relief camps, where around 1,000 people, mostly belonging to the Meitei community, have taken shelter after the violence. Officials in Imphal said that

the district health officials have been providing healthcare services round the clock to the villagers The Education Department

has also started lessons from Classes one to eight for around 100 children taking shelter in the camps at the Bidyanagar Multipurpose Sports Complex in the district headquarters. A headmaster and 23 teachers were posted in the temporary school

Textbooks and notebooks have already been provided to the students

Similar temporary schools will also be set up in nearby relief camps as and when necessary.

Movement of goods trucks and LPG-carrying vehicles has commenced along the Imphal-Jiribam National Highway (NH-37) from Saturday under the protection of a CRPF convoy. Tension still prevails in Jiribam, inhabited by Meiteis,

The Borobekra subdivision of Jiribam. adjoining southern Assam, had been badly affected after the killing of 59-yr-old farmer June 6

Nagas, Kukis, Muslims and non-Manipuris, where a wave of violence broke out after the killing of Saratkumar Singh, who belonged to the Meitei community. A senior police official said that two police checkposts, a forest beat office, and at least 100 houses were set afire in Jiribam by attackers June 7 and 8.

Meanwhile, the Opposition⁻ Congress has demanded an immediate end to the ethnic crisis in Jiribam, which has led to the displacement of about 1,600 people.

A meeting of the state unit's Political Affairs Committee, chaired by state chief K Meghachandra Singh, was held at Congress Bhawan Saturday and resolved to appeal to the Central and state governments to control the situation in Jiribam district immediately, a Congress leader said Sunday.

New Criminal Laws will – take effect from July 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rijiju meets Kharge PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, June 16:

post.Assuming charge of the ministry last week. Rijiju had

for the nation," he said in the

Court-appointed officials into allegations of irregularities and called on the government to have a thorough consultation with all states as to how this exami-In an interview with PTI, the are a matter of great national Rajya Sabha MP also hit out at

concern. I think NTA should answer some of these very serious questions," he said.

Sibal said what is even more surprising and disappointing is that whenever something like this happens and there is corruption under the aegis of the present government, the "andh bhakts" start blaming the UPA for it and that is most unfortunate because they don't seem to be fully educated before mak-

2010 by the Medical Council of India (MCI) through its board of directors.

"Some of these incidents in istry of health and not under

ing statements of this nature. He pointed out that the NEET regulation was introduced in

portfolio is Education) minister from May 29, 2009 to The MCI was under the min-

Gujarat have perplexed me and

Sibal demands probe by SC-appointed officials

the ministry of education.

"So, I as the minister of HRD had nothing to do with this. The medical council of India board of governors introduced a regulation, saying there should be a national eligibility test for students getting admitted to MBBS course. The regulation was challenged by writ petitioners and it was struck down by the Supreme Court July 18, 2013, saying the MCI has no legislative competence to introduce NEET which is an all India eligibility

entrance test." he said "So, after this was struck down, April 11, 2014, a review petition was filed. The review was al lowed and the order of 2013 was withdrawn," he said.

"The BJP government came to power and April 28, 2016, a writ petition was filed in Supreme Court, saying since the order striking down the NEET regulation has been withdrawn, why isn't the regulation issued by MCI under board of governors, not being implemented," Sibal said.

Thereafter, August 4, 2016, the then BJP government introduced section 10D and the Indian Medical Council Act was amended, he noted





Loni area of this Uttar Pradesh district in the early hours of Sunday, police said. "The bodies of Asif (26) and Guddu (20), both residents of Sangam Vihar of Loni Border police station area, and Devesh (26) of Dadri town of Gautam Budh Nagar district were found on the railway track on the Delhi-Shamli route," Assistant Commissioner of Police Ankur Vihar Bhaskar Verma said.

Abhishek undergoes minor surgery

Kolkata: Senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee Sunday underwent a minor surgery on his back at a Kolkata-based hospital and his condition is stated to be stable, authorities of the medical establishment said. The 37-year-old Diamond Harbour MP, who is also the nephew of West **Bengal Chief Minister** Mamata Banerjee, was later discharged from the hospital after which he returned home, they said. "Abhishek Baneriee underwent a surgical procedure and he is now hemodynamically stable. an official of the hospital said. The official said that Baneriee underwent a minor plastic surgery on his back.

Farmers hold protest

Ludhiana (Punjab): A group of farmers Sunday held a protest at the Ladhowal toll plaza in Punjab's Ludhiana against a recent hike in toll fee and forced the authorities not to charge commuters. The protest was led by the Bharatiya Kissan Mazdoor Union and the Bharatiya Kisan Union. Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Jagdish Singh said the charges at the Ladhowal toll plaza are the highest in the state.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Sunday, a week ahead of the first session of the new Lok Sabha.

Rijiju met Kharge at the Congress chief's 10, Rajaji Marg residence in what was said to be a courtesy call. The minister later shared a picture of the meeting in a post on X.

"I had a pleasant courtesy meeting with Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress party president Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji. He shared with me about many valuable experiences of his life. Together, we all will work

said there was no need for the government or the opposition to pull each other down on the basis of numerical strength and asserted that he would reach out to everyone for smooth functioning of Parliament.

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin June 24 during which new members of the Lower House will take oath and the speaker elected.

President Droupadi Murmu will address a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha June 27 and is likely to outline the new government's roadmap for the next five years.



The Indian Air Force's Rafale fighter jets carried out complex missions along with F-16 and F-15 combat aircraft at a multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska in the US The key takeaways from participating in the Red Flag exercise for the IAF included insight on interoperability with international partners and a collaborative understanding of missions in a multinational environment, the defence ministry said Sunday

India opts out of Ukraine peace summit communique

Besides India, several other countries, including Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, Armenia, Libya, Indonesia, Bahrain, Colombia and the United Arab Emirates, have also refrained from signing the final communique of the Peace Summit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 16: India Sunday said that it has decided to "avoid association with the joint communique or any other document" emerging from the two-day 'Summit on Peace in Ukraine' being held at Burgenstock near Lucerne in Switzerland

"Our participation in this summit and continued engagement with all stakeholders is with a view to understanding different perspectives, approaches and options to find a way forward for a sustainable resolution of the conflict," said Pavan Kapoor, Secretary, West, at the Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) who led the Indian delegation at the event Kapoor also made these points during his remarks at the summit. PTI reported on Friday that Kapoor will represent India at the summit."In our view, only those options ac-



ceptable to both parties can lead to abiding peace," Kapoor, India's former Ambassador to Russia, added

Around 100 delegations, including 57 heads of state and government, attended the summit which aimed at initiating the process for a lasting and just peace in Ukraine. Eighty countries and four European institutions signed the final

ioint communique. In his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit in Italy's Apulia Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reiterated that New Delhi continues to encourage peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

"Had a very productive meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky. India is eager to further cement bilateral relations with Ukraine. Regarding the ongoing hostilities, reiterated that India believes in a humancentric approach and believes that the way to peace is through dialogue and diplomacy," PM Modi posted on X after meeting Zelensky.

Last year, India had abstained from a vote at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a resolution titled 'Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine',

citing that it "lacked basic concepts" for achieving a sustainable peace in the region.

PM Modi has also consistently advocated that no solution can ever be arrived at the cost of human lives and that escalation of hostilities and violence is in no one's interest. "India shares the global concerns over the situation in Ukraine and supports any collective desire to facilitate peaceful resolution of the conflict,' the MEA Secretary said in Switzerland Sunday.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on multiple occasions.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

At the summit, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy sought support for his 10-point peace plan that he first outlined in 2022.

"The Prime Minister conveyed that India continues to encourage peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, and reiterated that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful solution," the MEA said after the meeting.

Kolkata, June 16: Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal Sunday said the new Criminal Laws will be introduced from July 1, dismissing Opposition allegations of not being consulted before the decision was made.

Meghwal said the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Evidence Act will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Act.

He added that necessary training programmes and infrastructure development for implementing the new laws are already underway

"The three new laws will be implemented from July 1 for providing timely, speedy, and error-free justice," Meghwal said during the inaugural session of 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System' held here Sunday. Meghwal addressed allegations of inadequate consultation, saying, "Some people claim they were not consulted. This is untrue. The demand for change of colonial laws has been long-standing, and the process began long ago.

The minister explained that although suggestions were sought from all states, only 18 states and six Union Territories responded.

"Even the Chief Justice of India, chief justices of 16 high courts, five law academies, and 22 law universities provided their suggestions," he said.

We contacted all MPs, but only 142, including members from both houses, responded. Suggestions were also requested from all MLAs nationwide, with only 270 responding. We consulted widely, but not everyone pro-vided feedback," Meghwal added.





national



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



Shah directs implementation Shah directs implementation of zero-terror plan in Jammu

and Kashmir through innova-

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,

Shah directed the agencies

The operations against ter-

rorists will be carried out in line

with the Prime Minister's di-

tive means.

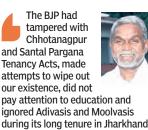
sources said.

apples was mandatorily done on per kilogram basis SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU HIMACHAL CM

Karnataka High Court's stay on BJPs 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



CHAMPAI SOREN JHARKHAND CM





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

@KTRBR

SHORT TAKES

13 arrested over communal clash

Hyderabad: Thirteen people were arrested a day after



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 begins June 29 and

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 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 Manoi 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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 16: The Karnataka government's announcement of hike in petrol and diesel prices by ₹3 per litre ₹3.02 per litre and 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. Vijavendra 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. Vijavendra

> 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.

stretch in February, this year.

With the commissioning of

the 46 km Sangaldan-Reasi sec-

tion, 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.

Cong slams govt over relocation of statues in **Parliament complex**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: The Congress Sunday slammed the move to relocate statues within the Parliament premises as "arbitrary and unilateral", with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying such decisions made without proper discussion are against the rules and traditions of Parliament.

The Opposition party has claimed that the idea behind relocating the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji among others is to ensure they are not in a prominent place where the MPs could conduct peaceful and democratic protests.

Rajya Sabha chairperson and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Sunday inaugurated the 'Prerna Sthal' in the Parliament complex which now houses these statues of national icons and freedom fighters that were earlier at different places on the premises.

While the Congress criticised the decision to remove the statues from their existing place, the Lok Sabha secretariat said their earlier placement had made it difficult for the visitors to see them properly.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also told reporters that discussions were held from time to time with different stakeholders on the issue and added that "there is no need to indulge in politics on this".

In a statement on the relocation of statues of major leaders in the Parliament House Complex, Congress president Kharge said removing the statues arbitrarily, without any consultation, violates the basic spirit of democracy.

"The statues of many great leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, have been removed from their prominent places in the Parliament House Complex and relocated to a separate corner. Removing these statues arbitrarily, without any consultation, violates the basic spirit of our democracy,' he said.

There are about 50 such statues or busts throughout the entire Parliament House, he noted.

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

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. ends August 19 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 min-

ister 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.

security for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra which

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 was 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.

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 Puniab 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 Raniit 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.

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

into a gorge in Rudraprayag district. Citing information received from

Chaubatta, four out of seven people were killed after their car veered off

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.

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

the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the officials said, in Khirsu

after 14 tourists were killed and 12 other injured after a tempo-traveller fell

'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.



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,

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-ponging 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' activity brain 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 perception) 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.

📕 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

Force, South West Zone Team,

who were found in possession

of a huge quantity of narcotic

substance weighing 164 kg in

Humayun Nagar and Bhavani

Nagar police station limits.

apprehended drug peddlers

information, the sleuths of

the Commissioner's Task



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





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

PEACE SUMMIT

Nations for 'territorial integrity' of Ukraine

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

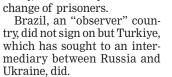
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obburgen, 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 ex-



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 standalone 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

Heatwave kills 19 hajj pilgrims

Amman: At least 19 Jordanian and ranian 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 Koolivand 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.

Russian forces kill six IS-linked kidnappers at detention centre

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 Taiuri 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.

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.

State media said that some of the men had been convicted of terrorism offences and were accused of affiliation with the Islamic State militant group. which claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on a Moscow concert hall in March.

The six hostage takers, one of whom wore a headband with the

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 **AP/PTI PHOTO**

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 vear 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 davs 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.

In percentage terms, the Survation poll had Labour on 40% and the Conservatives on 24%, while former Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage's Reform UK party, a right-wing challenger to the Conservatives, was on 12%.

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 yield UK's ing ground to smaller

rivals. PARTY MANIFESTOS

PM Sunak, who In the past week, both Conservatives has been in office and Labour have for less than 20 released their election manifestos, the months, insists he 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 sav 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.











first Hindu

is still fighting

to win



business



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

a tweak in India's tax treaty with

Mauritius and a sustained rise

Before that, FPIs made a net

investment of ₹35,098 crore in

March and ₹1,539 crore in

February, while they took out

and the eagerness of retail in-

vestors to buy every dip in the

market will force FPIs to reduce

However, if the market con-

tinues to rally, FPIs may again

turn sellers in India and buy-

ers in other markets like Hong

Kong, which are very cheap com-

pared to India, Geojit's

On the other hand, FPIs in-

vested over ₹5,700 crore in the

debt market so far this month (till

Market experts believe that

the long-term outlook for FPI

flows into Indian debt is posi-

tive due to India's inclusion in

global bond indices. However,

near-term flows are being im-

pacted by global macroeconomic

uncertainty and volatility.

The resilience of the market

₹25,743 crore in January.

in US bond vields.

their selling.

Vijayakumar said.

DEBT MARKET

June 14).



FPIs make strong comeback

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 Ruia, 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 Pavtm movies biz

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

The

net inflow was in `

preceding week

from June 3-7

of one rate cut this year.

This also triggered a fall

in the US treasury

yield. These fac-

ments

tors led to risk

taking senti-

among in-

vestors, re-

sulting in in-

India,

creased flows

into markets

like

Geojit Financial Services, said. Although in a coalition, the formation of the NDA govern-

ment at the Centre for the third straight term fanned expectation of stark contrast to the a continuation of polnet outflow of ₹14,794 icy reforms and economic growth, crore witnessed in the Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar

Investment Research India, said. On the global front, lowerthan-expected inflation numbers in the US also raised hopes

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 FM to hold pre-budget meeting with industry chambers June 20 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 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Reliance Industries added New Delhi, June 16: Finance uation to ₹19,98,957.88 crore. Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is The mcap of TCS tumbled 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

Srivastava added. Overall, FPIs withdrew a net In May, FPIs pulled out ₹25,586 amount of ₹26,428 crore from crore from equities on poll jitters equities in 2024 so far. However, and withdrew more than ₹8,700 they invested ₹59,373 crore in crore in April on concerns over the debt market. **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 d executive being given charge ir nnuati

FIRST TWO MONTHS OF FY25 MF industry adds 81L new accounts

Mutual fund folios stood at 18.6cr in May-end, a surge of 4.6% from 17.78cr registered at the end of March

Mutual FUNDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 16: The mutual fund industry has added over 81 lakh investors' accounts in the first two months of the current fiscal (FY25), mainly due to consistent marketing efforts, celebrity endorsements and dedicated work of the distribution network.

Additionally, changing perceptions about fixed deposits, which no longer offer competitive returns compared to mutual funds, and the rise in income levels and accessibility to financial markets have also contributed to the rise in new investors, Trivesh D, COO of stock trading platform Tradejini, told PTI.

Going ahead, the outlook for mutual fund folios remains strong, supported by the ongoing bull run in the stock market, solid risk management practices, continuous investor education, and consistent marketing efforts, he added.

Moreover, the industry will continue to see decent growth as savers increasingly look for alternative avenues to create wealth for their long-term goals, experts said.

"As India's per capita income grows, investors will look to save money in asset classes, which have the potential to beat inflation and create wealth. As the penetration of mutual funds increases, this will translate into a higher folio base at the industry level." Abhishek Tiwari, CBO, PGIM India Mutual Fund, told PTI.

According to the latest data with the Association of Mutual

Funds in India (AMFI), mutual

While mutual funds are gaining traction for the convenience, diversification and ease of investing, we still have a long way to go ABHISHEK TIWARI CBO, PGIM INDIA MUTUAL FUND

fund folios of the industry stood at 18.6 crore in May-end, a surge of 4.6 per cent from 17.78 crore registered at the end of March. This suggests an addition of

over 81 lakh folios. In May, the industry saw an addition of 45 lakh folios compared to 36.11 lakh folios added in April. In 2023, the average monthly addition of folios was 22.3 lakh, making the latest figure more than double this average.

This impressive growth was fuelled by consistent marketing efforts, celebrity endorsements, dedicated work of the distribution network, robust returns given by equities and ease of investing, experts said.

Folios are numbers designated to individual investor accounts. An investor can have multiple folios.

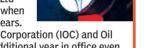
Interestingly, the majority of the new investors are taking the route of digital channels to enter into the mutual fund space. Over the last few years, the surge in mutual fund folios has been led by Gen-Y and Gen-Z investors. Overall, the total number of

unique PAN and PAN-exempt KYC reference numbers stood at 4.59 crore as of May 2024. Of the total 81 lakh folios, eq-

tion of 61.25 lakh units during the

uity-oriented mutual fund schemes experienced an addi-

period under review.



Mumbai: Food delivery company Zomato has held talks to acquire Pavtm's movie ticketing and events business as the Deepinder Goval-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 Pavtm'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 allstock 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 ecommerce company mjunction 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.

₹10,216.41 crore, taking its val-

₹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

Parliament in the second half of July. Industry sources said the prebudget consultation with

Sitharaman would be preceded by a meeting with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra June 18.

Despite this slowdown, in-

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

lavoffs com-

Consulting.

pared to the last

six months of 2023,

dustry executives and senior Mumbai, Jun 16:Indian start-HR professionals warn that startups have laid off around 10,000 ups are not yet out of the woods. employees so far in 2024, amid Over the past six months, vencontinued constraints ture-funded firms such The on funding and cauas Swiggy, Ola, first half of 2024 tious hiring prac-Cultfit, Licious, tices aimed at has seen fewer layoffs PristynCare, improving botand Byju's compared to the last six tom lines have cut jobs early in their months of 2023, when approx to reduce lifecycle. costs. 15.000 workers were The first Major half of 2024 dismissed, and the first half has seen fewer

consumer internet comof 2023, which saw 21,000 panies like Flipkart and iob losses Paytm have also when approximately downsized their work-15,000 workers were dismissed, force. Earlier this year, Flipkart

and the first half of 2023, which planned to cut 5-7% of its worksaw 21,000 job losses, according force, amounting to 1,100-1,500 emto data from Longhouse ployees, 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. Lavoffs across startups range from 7-15%

The report added that the many layoffs this year have been 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

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

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 scaledowns. 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 highvalue 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 billionfor 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

Oz crush Scots; Eng in Super 8 Smriti, spinners shine

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

Namibia earlier in the day in a

rain-truncated game, all that

Jos Buttler's side needed was

Australia's win over Scotland

chasing 181 in 19.4 overs after

Scotland fought right until the

After putting on a formida

ble 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) — de-

our plans. Scotland are a good

team, they have improved a lot

and we certainly wanted to respect

them," Australia skipper Mitchell

"We just wanted to stay con-

sistent and if we fail, we fail our

way. Whenever our team is chal-

lenged, it brings the best out of

Marsh said after the win.

"We spoke about sticking to

end to keep their hopes alive.

Australia scored 186/5 while

With England hammering

Eight stage race here.

to a get a lifeline.

livered again.



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.

leave the field later with a knee But their fourth wicket alniggle while fielding, assisted liance of 39 runs consumed 68 the Indian vice-captain to make 58 runs (54 balls) for the seventh balls as the asking rate climbed over seven which never really wicket. Mandhana has a lot of flair in came down thereafter. Asha ended that struggle when her batting.

the leg-spinner had Kapp caught

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 midon 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.

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-from 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 matchup. 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 heat Iran 2-0 in the match to decide the fifth and sixth positions with Rathika Suthanthira Seelan and Pooia Arthi Raghu scoring comfortable wins. However, the men's team lost to South Korea 1-2 Senthilkumar recorded a win before Suraj Kumar Chand and Om Semwal went down by narrow margins.

FINAL OLYMPIC 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 al-

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 Borgohain lost by a 2-3 split verand No 8 women's outfit are ahead in rankings among the non-qualdict in her final bout against the ified nations. The me's team have reigning Asian Games cham-238 points behind South Korea who have already qualified.

Lovlina loses to Li Qian, bags silver in Grand Prix

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. June 16: Tokvo Olympics bronze medallist 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.



Mandaviya lauded Lovlina for her performance.

"Congratulation

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 17year-old Runzhi, who started the final round one behind Cai, but finished one ahead to grab the title.

Randhawa loses

Hertfordshire: Indian star

eliminated in the guarter-

Jyoti Randhawa was

Legends Tour.

lotted 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 legearlier. 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 Urska 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

at covers by Harmanpreet Kaur.

Africa were always facing the

climb up the hill.

At five down for 74, South

Earlier, India's script for vic-

tory was written by Mandhana,

who thrilled the home crowd

Mandhana stitched two sig-

nificant 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

Mandhana and Deepti added

81 runs (92 balls) for the sixth

wicket and Pooja, who had to

But here she was forced to es-

99 for five at one stage

with a well-paced hundred.

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 her shooting went horribly wrong in the next two where she scored 23 and 24 points respectively, landing five of her six arrows in the outer rings.

She shot thrice in the eightpoint red ring, once in the sevenpoint red ring and while another hit the outer six-point ring as Yaylagul gleefully brought it level at 4-4.

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.

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.

pion late Saturday night. Qian, who is a two-time Olympic medallist and has a three World Championships

medals, including a gold under

her belt, had defeated Borgohain

in the summit clash of the Asian

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 ben-

eficial 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.

Games last year.

The Paris Olympic-bound

@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.

viewership is dependent on

season, 42 sixes were hit, which

is the other end of the spectrum.

one wants regular series, matches

need to be held in the evening un-

less it's just catering to the broad-

casters' demand of 8 pm IST

timing which means that on

weekdays, you will not have big

The question arises that apart

In one IPL match alone this

Coming back to the timing, if

Indian diaspora.

crowds in future.

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

finals of the Paul Lawrie match play on Legends Tour New Delhi, June 16: Under-Europe as he lost to James prepared drop-in tracks, poor Kingston, who is having a ground conditions, over degreat season. Randhawa had pendence on Indian TV audiwon his first three matches to ence, not factoring in weather and reach the guarters while Jeev steep ticket prices were only Milkha Singh had lost in the some of the problems that didsecond round. Randhawa's n't make America the most viable first three wins came against commercial destination for a Thomas Gogele, Malcolm global event like T20 World Cup, Mackenzie and Keith Horne, in first attempt. before he lost to Kingston, However the only takeaway who is sixth in the MCB Road to Mauritius rankings of the is United States' national team's

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 pinstriped 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



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 pro-

motion of the game in an un-

chartered territory where the

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.

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stupendous show to beat



